



## BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LAND TRUST

FOR EVERYONE. FOREVER.



**Celebrating 30 Years!** Thirty years ago, it was the end of the 1980s, and the decade was certainly going out with a bang.

Pro-democracy movements and free elections were occurring across the globe from Russia to Asia with indelible images of the fall of the Berlin Wall and students in Tiananmen Square forever etched into our collective consciousness. Up north, the Exxon Valdez ran aground

and dumped 11 million gallons of oil into Prince William Sound. And a young company called Microsoft released its Office software suite.

Things were less volatile closer to home, but events in 1989 would create ripples on Bainbridge Island that can still be felt. Still an entity of the county in 1989, Bainbridge Island had a population of about 16,000 residents but there were rumblings of annexation of rural areas with the city of Winslow.

1989 also marked the birth of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust. The land trust movement in the country was burgeoning at this time, and our founders recognized that this new and unique tool could help accomplish local conservation goals. Reflecting on the last 30 years, it's with tremendous appreciation that we look back on all that we have accomplished with the help of so many dedicated Island residents.

With a handful of initial volunteer board members, the first-ever Land Trust conservation easement was recorded in 1990 on a nearly 24-acre property at the corner of Highway 305 and Day Road that had been slated to be developed as a golf driving range. Soon after, Phyllis Young placed a conservation easement on her Battle Point Spit property and the momentum had begun to build.

From there, the Land Trust played a role in habitat protection projects across the Island from the Grand Forest to the Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve and subsequent expansions including our new Jablonko Preserve (adjacent to Gazzam Lake); Meigs Park and the adjacent Wildlife Corridor; Blakely Harbor; and the recent Stand for the Land acquisitions of the Cougar Creek and Miller-Kirkman Preserves.

Thirty years of dedicated work has resulted in the permanent protection of nearly 1,400 acres of vulnerable forestlands, wetlands, meadows, shorelines, agricultural lands, scenic vistas, and land near lakes, ponds and streams, | *Continued on page 3*

### COMING EVENTS

#### First Wednesday Work Parties

March 6, April 3, and May 1  
9 to 11 am  
[www.bi-landtrust.org/work-parties](http://www.bi-landtrust.org/work-parties)

#### ABC Environmental Conference

Sunday, March 10  
12:30 to 5:30pm at IslandWood  
Info & Registration at  
<https://islandwood.org/event/association-bainbridge-communities-environmental-conference>

#### Tree Pose for Trees

Saturday, March 16  
11:30 am–1 pm at Island Center Hall  
Info & Registration at  
[www.bi-landtrust.org/tp4t](http://www.bi-landtrust.org/tp4t)

#### Coexisting with Carnivores

Thursday, April 18  
6:30 pm at IslandWood  
Information at [www.bi-landtrust.org](http://www.bi-landtrust.org)

#### FREE Invasive Weed Disposal

Sundays April 21 and 28  
10 am to 4 pm at Bainbridge Disposal  
Transfer Station, 7215 Vincent Rd

## The Springbrook Creek Evaluation and Feasibility Project is Complete!

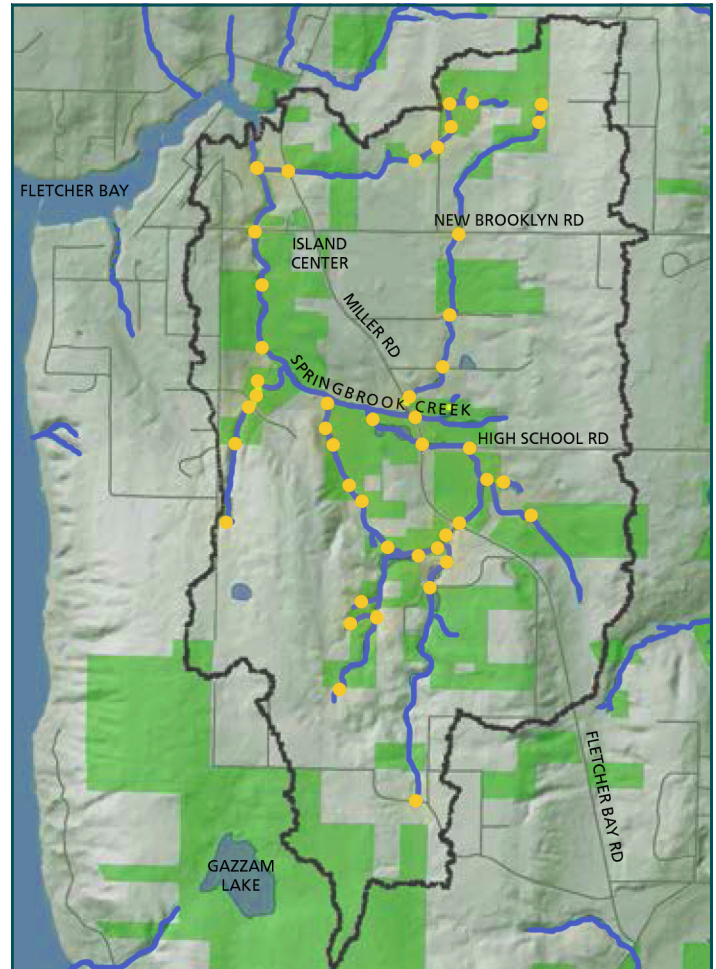


A portion of Springbrook Creek that was surveyed during the project.

**The Land Trust and our partners—Wild Fish Conservancy, Bainbridge Island Watershed Council, City of Bainbridge Island, and Washington Department of Ecology—are excited to announce the completion of the Springbrook Creek Evaluation and**

Feasibility Project! In this project, we assessed the health of Springbrook Creek and its 999-acre watershed. Springbrook Creek is one of the Island's most productive fish-bearing streams, supporting cutthroat trout, coho, sculpin, lamprey, and chum, and designated as critical habitat for steelhead. The project was funded by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Recovery Funding Board and significant in-kind support from project partners, landowners, and area stakeholders.

The project identified factors impacting ecosystem functions; conducted a project feasibility analysis; and identified and prioritized potential projects to address ecological health and fish passage barriers. A strong emphasis of the project was to visit with landowners to learn about the stream on their property and physically assess the stream and associated habitats. In addition, Wild Fish Conservancy mapped over 7 miles of stream in the watershed, and identified 4.7 miles as fish habitat. However, numerous culverts impede fish passage and this study found 1.8 miles of potential fish habitat that fish cannot access. Fish passage was just one of the opportunities identified to improve conditions. Others included restoring native vegetation to protect streambank stability and instream temperatures; outreach to landowners on caring for streams, wetlands, and associated vegetation; and acquiring property to protect intact watershed health and habitat. With the assistance of landowners, Wild Fish Conservancy and City of Bainbridge Island engineers, conceptual designs were developed for five potential projects.



### Springbrook Creek Watershed Surveyed Parcels and Sites

- Surveyed Parcel
- Surveyed Culvert
- Watershed Boundary
- Roads
- Streams
- Water

The Springbrook Creek watershed is part of the larger Fletcher Bay Watershed that drains into Fletcher Bay.

The engagement of many landowners in the watershed was instrumental to the effort's success. The next steps include sharing the assessment's findings with the community, working with partners to find funding to implement projects, and assisting homeowners in protecting the resources we are so lucky to enjoy on Bainbridge.

**Please visit <https://www.bi-landtrust.org/protected-spaces/springbrook-creek/> for the assessment report.**



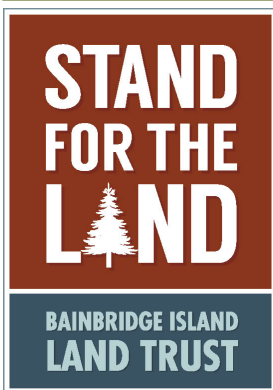
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**Thirty Years** *Continued from page 1* | the majority of which are open to the public. Our 48 conservation easements—42 on private property and six on public lands—encompass 763 acres, with an additional 146 acres owned by the Land Trust. Through Land Trust acquisitions or with Land Trust assistance, over 1,000 acres are preserved as public parks and natural areas.

Even in the face of ongoing development and population growth to over 24,000 residents, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust and its partners have continued to preserve and steward the diverse natural environment on the Island for the benefit of all.

This kind of conservation doesn't happen by accident. Clearly, Islanders value local natural areas and the work of the Land Trust to protect and nurture them. For 30 years, thousands of Islanders have worked alongside us and have been more than generous in both time and money to ensure that the scenic beauty and rural character of Bainbridge Island remains.

**As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust thanks you for playing a vital role in our history, and we are committed to continuing this good work with you for many more years to come.**



## Stand for the Land Update

### We're Gaining Ground

Recognizing that mounting development endangers the remaining natural areas of Bainbridge Island, the Land Trust set an ambitious goal—to protect multiple ecologically rich properties while the opportunity remains. The response? Enthusiastic and encouraging.

In just over one year, donors have committed more than \$3 million to the *Stand for the Land* campaign, making possible the acquisition of three outstanding properties, via down payment. Adding to the tapestry of protected forest lands surrounding Gazzam Lake is the 14.17-acre Jablonko Preserve, with inviting trails connecting to adjacent public parklands. After Jablonko, the Land Trust announced the creation of a 15-acre preserve at Cougar Creek, protecting stream habitat and majestic red cedars near other protected lands. Finally, at Miller-Kirkman, the Land Trust secured a spectacular 13-acre saltwater estuary including rare undeveloped shoreline critical to salmon, eagles, herons, and many other aquatic species. In the next year, we expect to announce additional projects that reflect the Land Trust's conservation strategy and priorities.

**The Land Trust gives special thanks to the small group of generous donors who presented a challenge match for gifts up to \$500,000.** The Land Trust successfully completed the challenge by the end of January, and now has \$1,000,000 to protect more forests, streams, shorelines, and wetlands. As we move toward our larger goal, every gift is a lasting contribution toward the future of Bainbridge Island and cause for celebration. **Thanks to the Bainbridge Island community** and beyond for being a part of this and helping us reach a major campaign milestone.

To tour one of the properties, or to learn more about *Stand for the Land*, please visit: [www.bi-landtrust.org/stand](http://www.bi-landtrust.org/stand).

Tour Stand for the Land properties—Register at [www.bi-landtrust.org/stand](http://www.bi-landtrust.org/stand)

Cougar Creek, one of our *Stand for the Land* properties.  
Photo: Shaun Swalley



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## Breaking News!

Inspired by the generosity of our community, a couple stepped forward to offer an additional \$100,000 challenge. Thank you for supporting *Stand for the Land*!

## HELP WANTED: CONSERVATION-MINDED TEENS FOR LAND TRUST WORK CREW

**Know a teenager looking for summer work? Are they conservation-minded and passionate about working in the outdoors? Then we have the job for them!**

The Land Trust is once again hiring a small crew of teens aged 14 and older to work on conservation lands this summer. The Land Trust Teen Conservation Crew provides a unique opportunity for students to earn money while performing valuable conservation work such as invasive plant removal, property clean up, and other stewardship items on Island conservation lands during the 2019 summer season.

Members will work three days a week for 6 weeks beginning June 24. A commitment to work all days is highly preferred. Rate of pay for crew members will be \$12/hr. Work is out-of-doors, regardless of weather conditions. Transportation to and from worksites and food for the day is the crew member's responsibility.

Applicants need to fill out and submit an application form by April 15. Go to <https://www.bi-landtrust.org/about-us/job-opportunities/> for more information and to access



the application form. Questions can be directed to Andrew Fraser, Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator, [andrew@bi-landtrust.org](mailto:andrew@bi-landtrust.org).

If selected, crew members will be asked to attend a short after school or evening orientation session this spring to learn more about the crew and get to know each other.

Above: 2018 Crew members  
Mia Peebles and Josie Meier pose by  
a large stump being cleared of ivy.

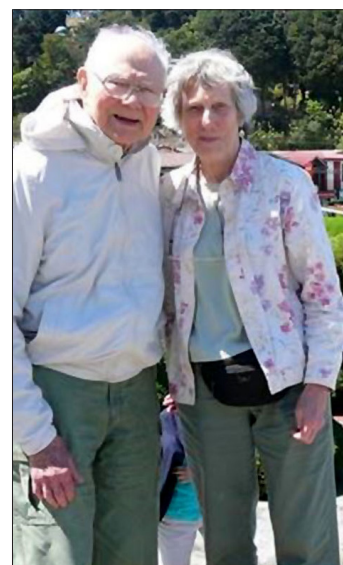
## PHYLLIS YOUNG AWARD: MARADEL K. GALE

The Phyllis Young Award is given annually to a person or entity whose actions embody the mission of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust. Maradel has spent her years on Bainbridge doing just that through her work as a 11½ year member of the City of Bainbridge Island's Planning Commission and by working with the City on the Shoreline Management Plan in a way that reduces impacts to our tidelands and shorelines from industrial aquaculture. Among her many pursuits, Maradel helped found Sustainable Bainbridge and continues as a board member, is involved in a number of scientific studies related to sea creatures, and as a Beach Naturalist, she shares the beauty of these species with the public through low tide walks and other offerings. She has advised the Land Trust on many shoreline/tideland protection projects. Thank you, Maradel!



## JO SCHAFFER VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR: GEORGE & EVIE STEGE

George & Evie joined the Land Trust in 1990 and got to work volunteering right away. George served on the Board in the early 2000s and was fearless in his pursuit of information—even if it meant getting on the ferry and knocking on a landowner's door whom he had never met. Evie spent years baking pies and cookies to sell as auction items at the Annual Meeting, creating a Pie-of-the-Month club that allowed the lucky winner to receive sweet treats throughout the year. George and Evie have both been active participants at the Land Trust's First Wednesday Work Parties, which began in 2014. Armed with a weed wrench and some loppers, there is no holly or scotch broom too big for George & Evie. We are happy to honor these two dedicated individuals with this well-deserved award.





## Conservation Easement Highlight: Battle Point Spit

**"I would!"** These two simple words, spoken by Phyllis Young in 1989 forever changed the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, giving rise to our mission to protect natural spaces across Bainbridge Island.



Back then, none of the founding members were sure if anyone on the Island would be willing to protect the natural resources on their private property from future development. Phyllis' simple words and commitment to preserving the natural beauty of her land led to the creation of the Battle Point Spit Conservation Easement, the Land Trust's second easement. Guided by Phyllis's passion and dedication, the Land Trust continues to work with Island landowners to place voluntary conservation easements on their properties and protect natural areas forever. The Land Trust currently holds 48 conservation easements across the Island.

The Battle Point Spit conservation easement protects an iconic piece of property on the western shore of Bainbridge Island. Owned by the Young family since

1906, the property provides a glimpse into the historic look and feel of the Island. The property—decorated by many mature and unusual rhododendron and azaleas planted by Phyllis and her husband George—houses historic structures, unarmored shoreline, and intact nearshore and tideland habitat now rare on Bainbridge and in Puget Sound. The core of the easement is a large sand spit that reaches out into Rich Passage with a healthy intertidal zone full of over 59 species including hermit crabs, mussels, and sea stars. Extensive grassy areas make it a popular nesting site for a variety of shore birds.

The property is owned by Phyllis's three children, Dallas, Douglas, and Melissa who continue her legacy and stewardship of the land by supporting high school and volunteer work parties, the Teen Conservation Crew, and regularly attending Land Trust events and programs. The property is enjoyed by the whole family, including Phyllis's grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Above: Phyllis Young. Photo courtesy of Joan Prater.  
Below: The Battle Point Spit today. Photo: Tom Fenwick



### BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LAND TRUST

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web: [www.bi-landtrust.org](http://www.bi-landtrust.org)

### 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### OFFICERS

Presidents: Ray Victorine  
and Erin Kellogg  
Vice President: Ed Gilbert  
Secretary: Cullen Brady  
Treasurer: Asha Rehnberg

#### BOARD MEMBERS

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Nicole Bavo  
Grant Blackinton  
Gregory Geehan  
Sally Hewett  
Zan Merriman  
Matt Otepka  
Phil Rockefeller  
Deb Rudnick  
Gene Seligmann

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Conservation Director:  
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Laura O'Mara  
Conservation Project Lead:  
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Andrew Fraser  
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Debbie Rimkus  
Community Engagement  
Associate:  
Sinclair Ball  
Project Associate:  
Barbara Shane  
Logo drawings: Nate Thomas  
We are a non-profit 501(c)(3)  
corporation.

## PRESERVATION PARTNERS PARTY SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT Q&A: SUSAN WIGGS

The Land Trust gathers support from the community in so many different ways. Some give time, effort, and money as individual Islanders, while others donate as local business owners and leaders. One local supporter is #1 *New York*



Land Trust supporter Susan Wiggs.  
Photo © Jim and Stephanie Sutherlin

*Times* best-selling author, Susan Wiggs. For the last decade, Susan has generously sponsored our annual Preservation Partners Party fundraiser.

In addition to her writing, she has been featured in the national media, including NPR and *USA Today*. A former teacher and Harvard graduate, Susan spends much of her leisure time enjoying the outdoors on Bainbridge and beyond.

**Q. How and why did regular local giving become**

**part of who you are and what you do?**

**A.** Because I am SUCH a local! Getting me to leave Bainbridge would be like prying a barnacle off a rock. I've lived on the Island for many years and seen a lot of change, so the more open spaces we can preserve, the better quality of life we'll enjoy. We're lucky to live in this beautiful corner of the world.

**Q. Why has the Land Trust become one of your chosen local causes to support?**

**A.** Well, they throw excellent parties, for one thing. And their maps are groovy. Also—seriously—it's a well-run organization with a clear mission and passionate people. As a fiction writer, I'm very preoccupied with passion!

**Q. What is your favorite Land Trust property and why?**

**A.** If I told you, then I'd have to kill you. I'm keeping it ALL TO MYSELF. Let's just say it's a place where I can go on a challenging hike with my dogs, and if I time it right, I'm unlikely to meet another human being. Some people might think being a writer means sitting and writing. But in fact, some of my best writing is done when I'm out on the trail. That's where the ideas flow and the magic happens.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 BUSINESS SPONSORS

We are looking forward to another special evening "out on the land" as we begin planning our 2019 Preservation Partners Party fundraiser! This year, the Party will be held on July 20, at the home of Bart and Esme Freedman, longtime Land Trust members and conservation easement landowners. Their 5-acre property includes a scenic grassland, wetland, and fish stream. A legacy of the Island's agricultural past, this easement is adjacent to a nearly 24-acre conservation easement, and across from a third 8.5 acre conservation easement. If you would like to participate, please contact Laura O'Mara at (206) 842-1216 or [laura@bi-landtrust.org](mailto:laura@bi-landtrust.org).

**Special thanks to the 2018 sponsors and supporters:**

### Lead Sponsors

Jen Pells Real Estate  
Windermere Real Estate  
John S. Adams, The Arbor Group at UBS  
Aspect Consulting  
First Federal  
Sally Hewett, DDS  
Susan Wiggs— Laugh, Cry, Dream, Read

### Sponsors

Town & Country Markets, Inc.  
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Brant O. Greene  
Law Office of Cynthia Hall  
Roby King Galleries

### Supporters

Carney Cargill, Inc.  
Law Office of Lynda McMaken  
Bainbridge Senior Living  
The Number Factory, Inc.

**Proceeds from the Preservation Partners Party allow us to act when conservation opportunities arise, and provide capacity to maintain a strong land preservation and stewardship program.**

Our 2018 Preservation Partners Party was held at Hilltop.  
Photo © Silver Island Photography.





## Word Search:

Find the native plants!



Extra credit: This small tree has flowers that look a bit like something you might find where there is a lot of sea surf. Its name is in the list below. Photo: Paul Brians



Find the name of this native plant that you will find in the shade!  
Hint: It has a four-letter name.

Photo: Paul Brians

T A R G S K V P K M A Q Q B N  
N R E F T I E H Q R W X A F I  
N R V P Z N P M T M N O R W N  
C R V O S N S O U Q R H H Y E  
X E W R N I T N P R O B A T B  
C W Z V P C L N O D Y R L H A  
P O H B X K Y K O W P V A R R  
S L Z P D I D D O S B Z P I K  
J F Q Z E N E A N Q E E P W Q  
T M M S U N L A D L Y C R Z N  
Y A P G D I E X N U L U H R W  
U O G R Q C V U X V C X Q G Y  
M F O E O K T W Q B K R B N Y  
G N Y R R E B E L K C U H Y K  
S T R A W B E R R Y A J A J A

FOAMFLOWER  
HAZELNUT  
HUCKLEBERRY  
KINNICKINNICK  
NINEBARK  
OCEANSPRAY  
RHODODENDRON  
SNOWBERRY  
STRAWBERRY

## Spring Cleaning: Tackle your yard with FREE Invasive Weed Disposal!

Sundays April 21 and 28, 10 am to 4 pm  
Bainbridge Disposal Transfer Station  
7215 NE Vincent Road

### The Land Trust is here to help you get your yard in order with two days of FREE Invasive Weed Disposal!

Bring your weeds to the Bainbridge Disposal Transfer Station and the Land Trust will cover the cost of disposal. Invasive plant targets are Scotch broom, English holly, English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, tansy ragwort, and English laurel as well as the noxious weeds on the county's "Dirty Dozen" list.

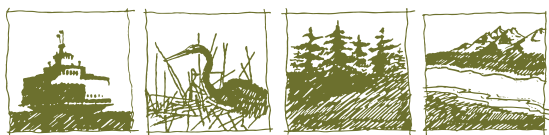
Invasive plant species are one of the leading causes of vegetation biodiversity loss. They spread quickly and can displace native plants, prevent new native plant growth, and create monocultures. Lack of diversity among native plants reduces the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat. Remove your invasives now while the ground is soft and make room for native plants come fall and winter when the weather is best for planting! Save the Date for our Native Plant Sale on October 4 (members only) and 5 (everyone).

For more information about this and other Earth Month related events taking place in April, visit our website!

Special thanks to Bainbridge Disposal and the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program for supporting this program.

If pulling the ivy wasn't enough of a workout, load up the wheelbarrow and walk your weeds to the transfer station!





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Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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SPRING IS MEMBERSHIP SEASON  
AT THE LAND TRUST!

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Photo: Sue Larkin

THE MILLER-KIRKMAN PRESERVE ON  
LITTLE MANZANITA BAY: IS THAT A SALMON?

