



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LAND TRUST

SPRING 2020 . VOL 30 . NO 1

FOR EVERYONE. FOREVER.

WITH TIME RUNNING OUT, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Thanks to the support of more than 1,250 Islanders, **STAND FOR THE LAND** has safeguarded nearly 66 acres of spectacular Bainbridge Island habitat. A group of supporters is helping position us to protect another large, significant parcel. Through a special Challenge Grant, they'll match every dollar we raise by spring 2020, up to \$1,000,000.

We need your help to reach the finish line.

ANNOUNCING A FOURTH STAND FOR THE LAND PROPERTY: The 23-acre Springbrook Creek property!

BY CULLEN BRADY AND MATT STEINWURTZEL

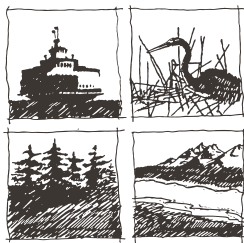
We updated you last spring on the exciting news that the Bainbridge Island Land Trust — working with our partners the Wild Fish Conservancy, Bainbridge Island Watershed Council, City of Bainbridge Island, and Washington Department of Ecology—had completed the Springbrook Evaluation and Feasibility (Assessment) Project. Now we bring to you yet another exciting update: Using the completed watershed assessment, the Land Trust was able to identify and is now in the process of acquiring the 23-acre Springbrook Creek Preserve as the fourth property in our *Stand for the Land* campaign! Thanks to the study, the Springbrook Creek Preserve has been recognized as a high-priority area for acquisition and protection. Springbrook Creek, which flows through the property year-round, provides cool and clear water for critical native fish species, amphibians, birds, and mammals. The year-round nature of the creek contributes to the health of the entire Springbrook watershed and builds resiliency for a changing climate. With glorious wild land of mixed conifer uplands, resplendent creek-side alder forest, native flowering plants, and an astounding array of wildlife, it's no wonder those who have toured the property with us fall in love with it. The protection of this land is a top priority for the Land Trust. But we need your continued support to enable us to continue to conserve properties like Springbrook Creek Preserve—

For everyone. Forever. ■

Interested in touring the property? Sign up for an upcoming tour online at bi-landtrust.org/stand/ stand-for-the-land-tours, or call us at 206-842-1216.



Top: A group touring Springbrook Creek Preserve last November. Photo: Staff
Left: The creek's cold clear waters flow year-round. Photo: Thomas Schworer



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
LAND TRUST
FOR EVERYONE. FOREVER.

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A non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation

MEET THE NEW FACES AT THE LAND TRUST

We said goodbye last fall to a wonderful team member, our former Community Engagement Associate **Sinclair Ball**, a part of the Land Trust since her Teen Conservation Crew days in high school. We wish Sinclair all the best in her new adventures and will miss her spirit and dedication.

NEW STAFF

But now we happily announce the arrival of **Matt Steinwurtzel** as our new Community Engagement Coordinator! He comes from a similar position at the Wood River Land Trust in Hailey, ID. Matt has a degree in environmental studies from Franklin & Marshall College and has worked in the conservation field for several organizations in the US and abroad. He is already making a positive impact and we look forward to seeing his energy and insights continue to push the organization's community engagement efforts to new heights.

The Land Trust added **Cullen Brady** to the staff as Development Director. Many know him from his work on the Land Trust Board of Directors. Cullen decided to step down from his Board seat to immerse himself more deeply in the Land Trust. With an M.M.A. in Marine and Environmental Affairs from the UW, Cullen has held positions with The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, and as Maritime Policy Fellow within the Washington State Department of Commerce for the Governor's Maritime Sector Lead.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

With a B.S. in zoology and a law degree, both from Duke University, **Jenny Lange** and her husband have been on the Island since 1997 and raised their two teen boys here. Jenny has worked in Government Relations at the Seattle office of The Nature Conservancy, pursuing public partnerships in conservation and helping protect natural areas at the state and federal levels, and for years has been an active volunteer with the Land Trust and Grace Church.

Merle Montani relocated to Bainbridge 20 years ago, attracted by the Island's natural splendor and efforts towards land preservation. She spent her professional career as a school administrator, college psychology instructor, and consultant emphasizing organizational structures and design. Both her Master's Degree in Psychology from Rutgers University and her Doctoral work at Columbia University have supported her work.

After years in corporate finance, in 2015 **Mark Frank** and his wife Patti escaped city life to settle on the Island and be closer to outdoor spaces that support his hiking and kayaking hobbies. In 2018 he brought his background in planning, forecasting and capital management to the Land Trust Finance Committee where his skills have been a great asset to the organization.

Born and raised into a farming family in western Oregon, **Steve Jennings** and his wife Linda moved to Bainbridge in 2017 after more than 30 years in Washington D.C. as a congressional staff person and healthcare lobbyist. Prior to that he was a newspaper, magazine and wire service reporter on both the east and west coasts. During college at Columbia University, Steve worked four summers as a US Forest Service firefighter in the Pacific Northwest. ■

SPRINGBROOK CREEK WATERSHED: AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE THREATENED PUGET SOUND STEELHEAD A BOOST

BY MATT STEINWURTZEL AND BRENDA PADGHAM

In late 2018, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust and our partners—Wild Fish Conservancy, Bainbridge Island Watershed Council, City of Bainbridge Island, and Washington Department of Ecology—completed the Springbrook Evaluation and Feasibility (Assessment) Project. Through this assessment, we learned that the Springbrook Creek watershed provides 4.7 miles of habitat for native fish species, and is listed by the federal government as critical habitat for one of our state’s most iconic fish species, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, also known as steelhead trout. The insights from the assessment guided us in our decision to acquire and conserve the 23-acre Springbrook Creek Preserve as part of the *Stand for the Land* campaign and our efforts to support bringing steelhead back to Springbrook. Listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2007, steelhead continue to be the subject of local and regional conservation efforts as the species faces population declines across the Pacific.

Recently, Wild Fish Conservancy took samples in the saltwater / freshwater interface of Springbrook Creek and Fletcher Bay and, using a powerful tool called environmental DNA (eDNA), detected the presence of *O. mykiss*—either steelhead trout or their resident counterpart, rainbow trout.

So what is eDNA exactly? eDNA allows researchers to determine with confidence whether fish species of interest are present at sampling sites. This is determined through lab analyses of water samples to identify DNA recently shed from target species at or upstream from the sampling location. According to eDNA analysis conducted by Wild Fish Conservancy, steelhead are believed to be present in Springbrook Creek.

This revelation provides further evidence that our actions here on Bainbridge Island can provide a regionally-threatened species like steelhead a boost for survival. Through partnerships like that with Wild Fish Conservancy, the Land Trust will continue to support scientific analysis in our efforts to conserve critical remaining habitat on Bainbridge, for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and our community. ■



Research shows that Springbrook Creek supports threatened native steelhead. Photo: Lindsey Toler

Now is the time to be bold.
Join in the effort to do more, faster.
We’re at a critical step in the
Stand for the Land campaign.
Join your friends and neighbors in
helping to sustain and enhance as
much critical habitat and natural
Island places as possible. Together
we can help protect and conserve
more acres of forestland, wetlands,
and shorelines on Bainbridge Island.
Achieving this bold vision requires
bold investment—from everyone.

LAND TRUST AND BAINBRIDGE ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM TEAM UP at the Library to talk about the long history and environmental stewardship of the Meigs properties. Wednesday, April 22 at 7 pm

At 7 pm on Wednesday, April 22 the Land Trust will participate in the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum's regular *At the Library* talk at the Bainbridge Public Library. Often standing-room only events, the Land Trust is grateful to collaborate with the Museum on this effort.

The Meigs family has a long history on Bainbridge Island, but the land that bears its name has been around a lot longer. When did the Meigs arrive on the scene? Who were they and how did they use the land? Who was there before them? What is the ecological significance of that land? Why was it chosen for protection? Who was responsible for the first ecological protections on the land? These are just a few of the questions we'll answer during the presentation, beginning as far back as possible and continuing up to the present day. The properties now under the Land Trust's protection and stewardship are located to the southwest of the intersection of Hwy 305 and Koura Road.

The event is free with no tickets or reservations needed, but plan to be on time as space is limited. ■



Above: The now-protected Meigs properties and their extensive wetlands have a long history—beginning with the Suquamish. An easy (often wet) trail leads south into the property from a small parking area on Koura Road just west of Hwy 305. Left: The wetlands on the Meigs property vary season to season— and have also changed dramatically over the decades. Photos: Thomas Schworer



This photo portrays the original proposed impact site of the 305 roundabout project.

Below: A property tour of one of the cluster of protected properties near the site. Photo: Sue Larkin

UPDATE ON THE HIGHWAY 305 ROUNDABOUT and the Land Trust's affected conservation easement.

BY BRENDA PADGHAM

For over a year, Bainbridge Island Land Trust has been aware of and has been working diligently to address the Washington Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) plans to construct a roundabout at the corner of State Route 305 and Day Road. The Land Trust holds a conservation easement—our first one—on nearly 24 acres in the vicinity of this project, and all of WSDOT's plans have called for building a portion of the project on the conservation easement. The Land Trust, upon accepting a conservation easement, has the legal obligation to defend the easement and conservation values from being violated or disrupted, and/or to reduce threatened impacts. WSDOT's plans violate the terms of the conservation easement.

The Land Trust and landowner have worked to defend this conservation easement, track the project, and educate WSDOT, State and local leadership—including the City of Bainbridge Island (COBI)—and other decision-makers about the conservation easement and the protective values of the land. We have attended many meetings, hosted site visits, and have provided feedback to WSDOT and COBI leadership and staff on all plans presented to us. We have provided alternatives and have asked WSDOT and COBI to look at all the options, including asking WSDOT to utilize their existing right of way as extensively as possible so that impacts to neighboring properties' owners can be minimized or not needed, and consult with Washington Department of Ecology on storm water issues. The designs that avoid or minimize impacts to neighboring properties use vaults for storm water management—but the designs are not supported by WSDOT, even though other jurisdictions such as the City and Kitsap Transit seem willing to manage and maintain the vaults after construction.



Over the year, all WSDOT designs have shown some level of impact to the conservation easement, from a maximum of nearly 4 acres to a design dated January 27, 2020—Option 6—showing about .43 acres of impact in the NW corner of the CE; this was presented to the Land Trust and landowner as a WSDOT design they felt was viable.

At the Jan. 31, 2020, SR305 Working Group meeting, the Land Trust and the landowner, after much discussion and guidance from our attorney, indicated that we would continue working with WSDOT on implementing the Option 6 design. However, the SR 305 Working Group decided not to pursue this design and continues to research and work on alternatives, including those which would have larger impacts to the conservation easement.

As the community experiences increased traffic congestion, it is clear a solution is needed. As members of the Island community, the Land Trust and the landowner recognize the need to address traffic and safety concerns on SR305, while also providing the ability for public transit and non-motorized routes. We will continue our efforts to protect the easement, ask WSDOT to continue efforts to fully maximize their right of way, stormwater alternatives, and review designs, which will hopefully reduce impacts to all surrounding landowners.

For more information on Day Rd/SR305 Roundabout go to: <https://www.bi-landtrust.org/impacts-of-proposed-day-road-roundabout/> ■



Phyllis Young Award Recipients Judy and Don Willott

PHYLLIS YOUNG AWARD RECIPIENTS: JUDY & DON WILLOTT

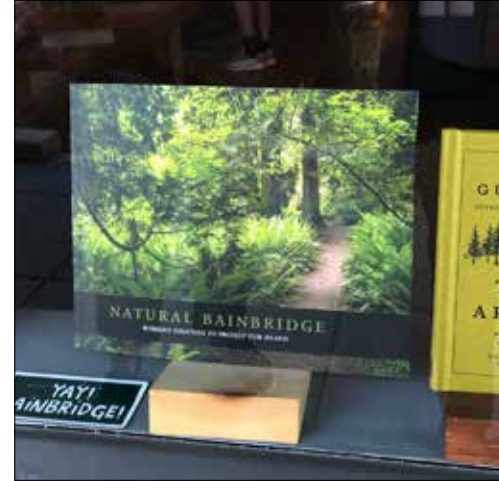
The Phyllis Young Award is given annually to a person(s), or entity whose actions embody the mission of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust. The award is named for Phyllis Young, who took the bold step over 30 years ago to donate the first recorded conservation easement to the Land Trust.

Judy and Don Willott, longtime Island residents and regional local conservation heroes have worked tirelessly over the years towards a shared vision of inclusion, access, and conservation. Their efforts and successes in bringing diverse interests together from all walks of life through a love of the outdoors are why they were chosen as this year's Phyllis Young Award Recipients. Over the years, the Willotts have spearheaded collaborations within the greater community to increase awareness and support of multi-modal trails (such as the Sound to Olympics trail network), and to steward and protect some of our island and our region's most sensitive areas—such as the 3,200 acre Kitsap Forest and Bay Project. Many organizations and entities have benefited from their involvement, including the Land Trust, Kitsap Audubon, Great Peninsula Conservancy, North Kitsap Trails Association, and the City of Bainbridge Island, to name a few. “Over the years, we have found that collaboration between people with different interests allows us to come together around common goals. The Land Trust excels at this. We believe it is important for people to get outdoors, and that everybody has access to our natural areas. We are all connected through the places we live and recreate,” say Judy and Don. We are incredibly fortunate to have the Willotts reside within our community and remain thrilled to work with them as partners in community conservation. To Judy and Don, we say thank you. ■

JO SCHAFFER VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR: THE NATURAL BAINBRIDGE TEAM

What started as a modest book about the Island's natural environments grew to actively engage Land Trust staff, board members, a local artist, a photographer, and numerous contributing writers for over two years. The all-volunteer book *Natural Bainbridge* was released in July 2019. Its goal: to encourage exploration and appreciation of our Island's many protected places, and urge residents to work towards protection of additional ecologically valuable areas. With illustrations by Cameron Snow and photography by Paul Brians and others, and writing by local authors and experts, the publication is a testament to all that is worth protecting on our island. For their incredibly hard work, the *Natural Bainbridge* team—producer Zan Merriman, editor Hilary Hilscher, project manager Erin Kellogg, designer Cheryl Tlam, principal photographer Paul Brians, and illustrator Cameron Snow—were named the 2019 Bainbridge Island Land Trust Jo Schaffer Volunteers of the Year. *Natural Bainbridge* is available at the Eagle Harbor Book Co. ■

Above: When the book appeared—at long last!—in the shop window of Eagle Harbor Book Company in July 2019, the entire book team celebrated.



The team sincerely
thanks all the
people who helped
make the book
happen—and those
who have bought
a copy or three!



**FREE SPRING INVASIVE WEED DISPOSAL
SUNDAYS APRIL 19 AND 26!** See our
website for more Earth Month events

**Sunday, April 19 and 26 from 10 am to 4 pm
Bainbridge Disposal Transfer Station, 7215 NE Vincent Rd**

The Land Trust is here once again to help you get your personal environment in order with two days of free invasive weed disposal! Bring your weeds to us and the Land Trust pays disposal fees.

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 Kitsap 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 in the fall when the weather is best for rain-water planting— our Native Plant Sale will be on October 2 and 3, 2020!

Special thanks to Bainbridge Disposal and the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program for supporting this program. For more information about this and other Earth Month related events in April, visit our website! ■



Follow us on social media and check the Land Trust website for exciting Earth Month announcements—like a native plant walk with everyone's favorite guide, John van den Meerendonk!



Above: John van den Meerendonk leads a plant walk. Photo: Paul Brians

Top and right: Much better than that crop of invasives lingering at the back of your property: Western sword fern and native dwarf dogwood. Photos: Sue Larkin

THANKS TO OUR 2019 PRESERVATION SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

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SUPPORTERS



PROFILE OF A PRESERVATION PARTNER

TIM FLYNN OF ASPECT CONSULTING, A LAND TRUST PRESERVATION PARTNER

Tim Flynn is President of Aspect Consulting, LLC, an earth science and engineering firm providing environmental, water resources, geotechnical, stormwater, and information management services throughout the Pacific Northwest. Aspect started on Bainbridge Island in 2001, and has grown to about 110 staff in eight offices across Washington and Oregon. Tim is a hydrogeologist (groundwater specialist) so in addition to management duties, he works on a wide range of water supply and environmental projects. Tim and his family have lived on the Kitsap Peninsula for the past 25 years, and enjoy outdoor activities across all seasons.



Tim Flynn of Aspect Consulting

How did local giving become part of who you are?

Supporting our communities with our time, expertise, and financial support has always been important to me, and a big part of Aspect's values and culture. Being involved in earth and water-related work provides us a unique opportunity to have a positive impact on our communities and the environment we all share. In addition to providing financial support to organizations like the Land Trust, our Aspect Community Team promotes hands-on involvement by staff in local projects—from building recreational trails and rain gardens to tree planting for habitat restoration.

Why has the Land Trust become a local cause that you support?

The Land Trust's efforts to preserve natural lands and provide public access to open spaces contributes to making the Island such a wonderful place to live and work. It is also connected to Aspect's earth and water focus. From my vantage point, the Land Trust has been very effective, and has a committed team of staff and volunteers. And Jane Stone, its Executive Director, whom I've known personally for a long time and have the highest regard for.

What would you like the community to know?

Engaging young people in community-focused organizations and philanthropy at an early age is important. Providing opportunities for our youth to get involved can encourage a lifelong passion for giving back to one's community. ■

KIMBRIL MOORE OF FIRST FEDERAL, A LAND TRUST PRESERVATION PARTNER

Kimbril Moore is a Branch Manager, AVP, with First Federal, a community bank headquartered in Port Angeles for over 97 years. Kimbril is on the Board of Directors for the Kids Discovery Museum on the Island, and will be inducted to the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce board during their upcoming Honors and Awards Gala; Kimbril's First Federal branch was awarded the Chamber



Kimbril Moore of First Federal

of Commerce's middle-sized business of the year award during last year's celebration.

Kimbril is a lifelong Washingtonian who loves working in the community and supports the Land Trust because he

feels that it's important to preserve the natural environment of Bainbridge Island—for now and generations to come. Kimbril enjoys family life with Amy, his wife of eighteen years, his children, Lance and Kayla, and his one-year-old granddaughter who he nicknamed Lady Bug.

How did local giving become a part of who you are and what you do? Local giving has been part of my DNA since I was very young. My oldest sister, 18 years older, worked as a foster mother for the State of Washington. Over the years she adopted 11 special needs children. Seeing the love and support that she provided for her kids, and the help that she received from local agencies, left a lifelong impression on our whole family. I recognized very early the importance of helping people in the community where you work and live.

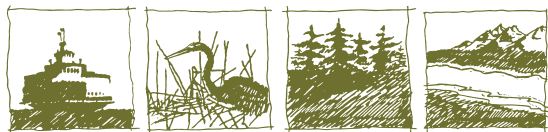
Why has the Land Trust become a local cause that you support? From the first day that First Federal opened our doors on Bainbridge Island I wanted to be a part of this great community. One of my bankers that lived here on the Island suggested that I reach out to Jane Stone to learn about the Land Trust. Jane's passion for the preservation of pristine areas of land on Bainbridge Island, coupled with her caring personality were infectious and made me want to *Stand for the Land*. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 2020 PRESERVATION PARTNERS PARTY

The Preservation Partners Party is the Land Trust's annual fundraising event. The proceeds allow us to act when conservation opportunities arise, and provide capacity to maintain a strong land preservation and stewardship program.

The 2020
Preservation
Partners Party
is on July 18

Our 2020 event will be held outdoors on a mid-island estate property surrounded by forests and wetlands. This Land Trust supporter-owned property is adjacent to the Murden Cove wetland complex and offers bucolic scenery of hidden natural treasures of the Island. If you would like to participate, please contact Laura O'Mara at (206) 842-1216 or laura@bi-landtrust.org.



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Have you explored the newest property
in the **STAND FOR THE LAND** campaign?
Visit our website to sign up for a tour of
Springbrook Creek Preserve!

CALENDAR

Wednesday Work Parties

Mar. 4, Apr. 1, and May 6, 9 to 11 am

ABC Environmental Conference

Sunday, March 15 | 12:30 to 4:30 pm
at IslandWood.info / registration at
<https://islandwood.org/event/abc-environmental-conference-2020/>

FREE Invasive Weed Disposal

Sundays, April 19 & 26 | 10 am to 4 pm
Bainbridge Disposal Transfer Station
7215 Vincent Rd

Meigs Farm: Past, Present & Future

Wednesday, April 22 | 7 pm
Bainbridge Public Library
See page 4 for details. Free.

Stand for the Land Property Tours

Various dates!
Register at www.bi-landtrust.org/stand

See www.bi-landtrust.org/news-and-events/events for details and more information on any event listed above—and other events!



The biodiversity within conserved properties like the Jablonko Preserve provides wonders to all who visit these special places. Photo: Sue Larkin

