

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LAND TRUST

SPRING 2021 · VOL 31 · NO 1

FOR EVERYONE. FOREVER.

COMING EVENTS

FREE Invasive Weed Disposal
Sunday, April 18 and Sunday, April 25
10 am to 4 pm at Bainbridge Disposal
Transfer Station, 7215 Vincent Rd

First Wednesday Work Parties
May 5 and June 2, 9 to 11 am

**Using Camera Traps to Understand
Wildlife Behavior on Bainbridge
Island:** Online Presentation
Online, May 19, 6 to 7 pm

Native Plant Sale: Save the Date!
Friday, Oct. 2 for Members Only
Saturday, Oct. 3 for the Public

**Check our website for details, and
more! www.bi-landtrust.org/events**

Top: The forest of Rockaway Bluff Preserve
provides refuge for both wildlife and people.
Photo: Sue Larkin

THE FINAL PUSH TO 100 ACRES: OUR COMMUNITY'S DETERMINATION TO PROTECT WHAT WE LOVE



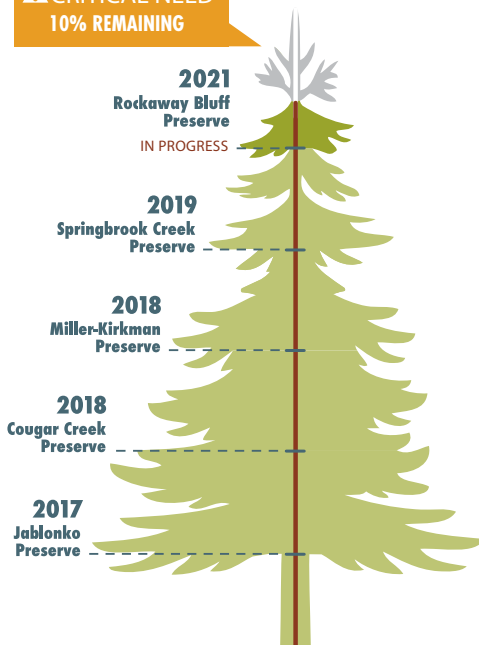
When the Land Trust launched the *Stand for the Land* Campaign, we had a vision in mind: to protect some of the last intact sensitive habitats on Bainbridge Island before it was too late.

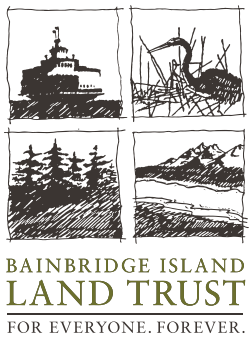
We began the campaign with the protection of the 14-acre Jablonko Preserve. We are now approaching its culmination with the 35-acre crown jewel, the Rockaway Bluff Preserve. The Bainbridge Island community continues to rally around this vision. We now stand near the pinnacle of a truly astounding accomplishment. With the opportunity to permanently protect Rockaway Bluff Preserve, we will have conserved over 100 acres of sensitive habitats on the Island forever. That is a remarkable feat and one that would not be possible without your support.

But we're not finished. With under 10% remaining in our total fundraising goal for *Stand for the Land*, we need you. Let's reflect on what we have all accomplished so far. **In 2017**, conserving the Jablonko Preserve kicked off the campaign with its magnificent, forested ravines and connections to the Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve. Next, Cougar Creek Preserve was identified for protection **in 2018** for its sensitive wetlands, seasonal stream, forested habitat, and towering western red cedar trees. That same year, Miller-Kirkman Preserve was the third property unveiled in the campaign, with its 13-acre saltwater estuary, shoreline habitat, and annual return of salmon—a place critical to helping with the recovery of salmonids in Puget Sound. **In 2019** we added Springbrook Creek Preserve with a cold, spring-fed fish stream, wetlands, upland forest habitat, and opportunity for a public access trail all in one property! **And finally, in 2020**, we announced the opportunity to conserve the largest property of the campaign; a 35-acre forested plateau, the Rockaway Bluff Preserve, epitomizes the bold conservation vision we all see for this Island. ■

Five unique properties, each different in their ecological function and importance. Collectively, These properties represent the best of this Island—biodiverse, scenic, restorative to our human nature and values. Together we will achieve this vision.

▲ CRITICAL NEED
10% REMAINING





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WELCOME

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Ben Klasky is the Founder and Principal of Seismic Philanthropy, which advises foundations and families on philanthropic strategy. For over a decade, he served as the CEO of IslandWood. Ben was formerly the CEO of Net Impact, cofounded Camp Galileo, and worked at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help turbocharge the giving of some of the world's wealthiest individuals. Ben has taught graduate courses on Social Entrepreneurship and Nonprofit Management at the University of Washington. He began his career as a Teach For America corps member in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He has served on over a dozen boards including PCC Community Markets; KUOW; and the Japanese-American Exclusion Memorial. He and his wife Lisa keep up with their two boys, Jake and Eli.



Maradel Gale grew up in Washington and worked for two summers on forest service lookouts on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. That experience, and camping and hiking with her family, nurtured a desire to protect the environment from corporate and industrial mismanagement and overuse. After five years in Michigan, Maradel returned to the PNW and became active with the effort to protect Oregon's coastal beaches for public use. She went on to the U of Oregon Law School, as women were beginning to enter the field in significant numbers. Maradel's primary career was as a Professor at the University of Oregon, teaching courses in legal issues in planning and public administration, environmental law, and leadership skills. Upon retirement, she returned to our area, settled on the Island, was appointed to the city's Planning Commission where she served for 11 years, and founded Sustainable Bainbridge.



Mark Goodman is passionate about his community and continuing its legacy of preservation and environmental stewardship. He is a Senior Project Manager at Heartland LLC, a Seattle-based real estate advisory and investment firm where he engages in a broad range of services including asset management, brokerage, strategic planning and financial analysis. He previously was a consultant for an economic development consultancy, leading the firm's urban planning practice. He served as a land use planner in Sun Valley, ID where he deepened his appreciation for the value of public open space and outdoor recreation. Mark has a BA in Economics from the University of Puget Sound and a Certificate in Commercial Real Estate from the University of Washington. A Portland native, Mark lives on the Island with his wife and sons who explore the Island's many parks, beaches, and forests. ■



THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE WORK

THE SEATTLE URBAN CARNIVORE PROJECT ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND YIELDS THRILLING EARLY RESULTS

Last fall we announced that the Seattle Urban Carnivore Project was expanding to Bainbridge Island. Staff from the Land Trust and Woodland Park Zoo have been working since January with 15 volunteers to conduct trainings and deploy motion-triggered cameras on Land Trust properties to gather data about Island wildlife. The effort builds on the Land Trust's own past camera-trap studies.

Nature-loving community members already know this Island still has some wild places. We were reminded of our ecological riches when community members began reporting sightings of a cougar in early 2021.

We were elated to see extraordinary images of this animal collected by one of our volunteer teams when they made their very first camera check in February. Traversing the snowy understory was the rare and elusive cougar—in the Cougar Creek Preserve, no less! The Preserve was protected by the ongoing *Stand for the Land* campaign, identified for conservation as part of the Land Trust's broader efforts to maintain, protect, and expand an unfragmented network of forest, stream, pond, and wetland habitats. Confirming this Island visitor was using this forested property was thrilling and gratifying, and an excellent indication that our habitat network strategy is working.

With a large carnivore like a cougar traveling through our Island landscape, conflicts can arise. But as community members commit to co-existing with our wild neighbors, we need to be mindful that cougars live on the Kitsap Peninsula and occasionally visit the Island—and that we can co-exist with them when we take appropriate precautions.

When visiting on properties accessible to the public, we recommend that you hike in small groups, keep children close, and walk pets on a leash. If a cougar (or a black bear) is known to be spending time on the Island, let them know that you're coming down the trail by making a little noise. Be especially sure to make some noise if you're exploring alone.

This spring, let's remember how lucky we are that our Island is home to such an impressive diversity of wildlife. For tips and guidelines on living with cougars, please visit bi-landtrust.org for a list of resources for learning more about how to coexist with these animals. ■

Join us online May 19 when we'll share additional findings from our camera studies in an online presentation, *Using Camera Traps to Understand Wildlife Behavior on Bainbridge Island*— see the Events calendar! Thank you to Bainbridge Community Foundation for supporting this amazing effort through a grant!

Cougar Creek Preserve was protected as part of our strategic efforts to conserve contiguous forest habitat and wildlife corridors. Our camera trapping and their results reinforce this strategy.

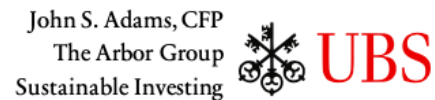


Top: Senior Conservation Scientist and Director Robert Long, of the Woodland Park Zoo, demonstrates how to set up a camera trap to Land Trust volunteers. Bottom: This cougar was caught traversing the snowy understory of Cougar Creek Preserve on a wildlife camera maintained by our volunteers.

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Cougar Creek Preserve's lush overstory. Photo: Sue Larkin

OUR 2021 LAND TRUST AWARD HONOREES

PHYLLIS YOUNG AWARD RECIPIENT: CRAIG TRUEBLOOD

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.

Craig Trueblood, an environmental and natural resource real estate attorney with K&L Gates, has helped the Land Trust navigate

many different projects over the past decade. His efforts have helped protect over 200 acres of new conservation lands, such as Miller-Kirkman Preserve. Behind the scenes, Craig works and consults with the Land Trust, the seller, and the seller's attorney in an incredibly respectful manner to ensure the permanent protection of such an amazing property. ■

JO SCHAFFER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: SANDY SCHUBACH

Each year, the Land Trust awards the Jo Schaffer Volunteer of the Year award to an individual who has helped the organization on a wide array of



conservation matters. Sandy Schubach has been involved with the Land Trust for so many years, and in a year that called for adaptability and creativity, Sandy rose to the challenge. From volunteering her talents of videography, photography, and outreach, Sandy has

assisted the Land Trust in a variety of roles. Sandy was an instrumental member of the Preservation Partners Summer Celebration, also taking charge of filming components for the virtual program. ■

SPRING CLEANING: TACKLE YOUR YARD WITH FREE INVASIVE WEED DISPOSAL!

Sundays April 18 and 25, 10 am to 4 pm
Bainbridge Disposal Transfer Station
7215 NE Vincent Road



The Land Trust helps you get your own environment 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 other noxious weeds on Kitsap County's "Dirty Dozen" list.

Invasive plant species are one of the leading causes of vegetation biodiversity loss. They spread quickly, 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 easier to steward while making room for native plants come fall and winter when the weather is best for planting! Please note that masks or facecoverings will be required at drop off site.

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

Do you have new neighbors? It's been a rough year to move to a new community! Welcome newcomers by passing along (or forwarding) this newsletter to them, or email them a link to the website where they can explore our conserved lands and learn about Land Trust events like Preserve tours — and the opportunities in April to dispose of invasive weeds for free. Thank you!

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

ASK THE LAND TRUST: HOW DO WE WORK?

Q: What are the Land Trust's conservation priorities?

A: The Bainbridge Island Land Trust has worked since 1989 to conserve special and sensitive habitats on the Island including forests, wetlands, shorelines, streams, riparian corridors, and wildlife networks. We adopted our first Strategic Conservation Plan in 2012; we updated it in 2018, bringing two new focal landscapes to guide our work: habitat networks and shorelines. As part of the 2018 update, we developed a Conservation Values Index (CVI), which examines the Bainbridge Island landscape through the lens of high priority ecological functions, further anchoring our priority protection and restoration actions in science. Our analysis of the diminishing acres of undeveloped and unprotected land accelerated our protection efforts, as illustrated by the over 100 acres protected in the past five years through the *Stand for the Land* campaign.

Q: The Rockaway Bluff Preserve acquisition opportunity has been really exciting to learn about—particularly its large size. How many other large unprotected and undeveloped properties are left on Bainbridge Island?

A: Rockaway Bluff Preserve is one of the last few largely undeveloped parcels over 20 acres in size and it has been a priority for the Land Trust's conservation efforts for some time. Through support of our donors, it is now close to having permanent protection. When it is permanently protected, only nine undeveloped and unprotected parcels over 20 acres remain. We still need your help!

Q: How long are newly acquired properties held for research and stewardship prior to being opened for public access?

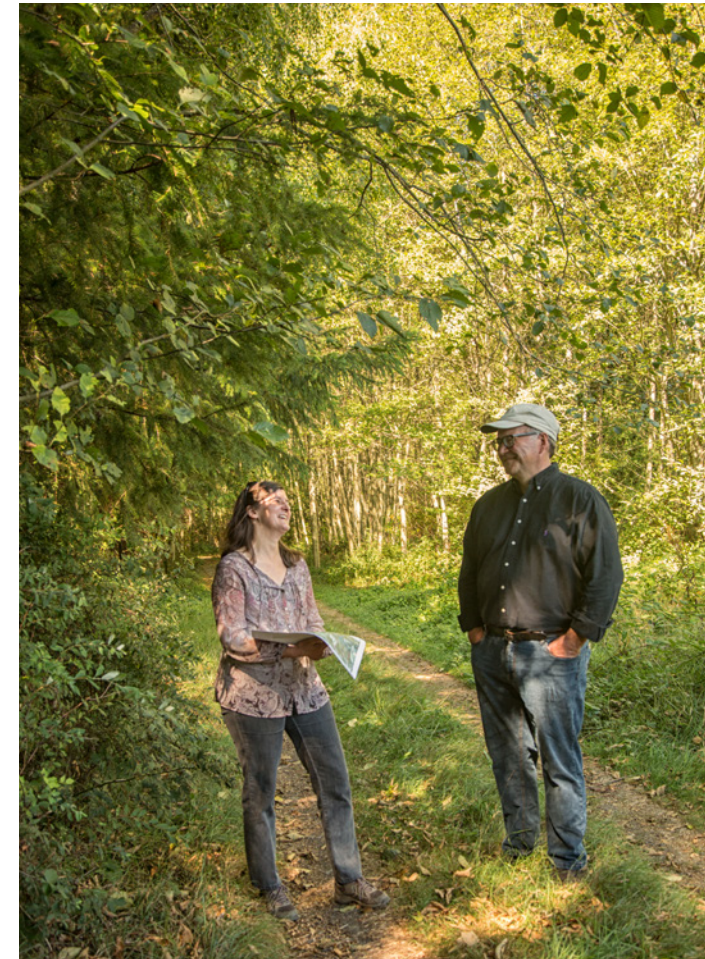
A: It depends. After a property is acquired, our conservation and stewardship staff get to work to ensure a management plan is crafted that provides a framework to conserve the most sensitive ecological values and define the best (and safest) way for the public to enjoy the land. It takes time to study ecological values, species using the land, and ecological attributes we want to manage. This work also allows us to determine the best approach to public access; sometimes there are safety hazards on a property that need to be addressed before allowing public access. So there isn't a set timeframe, since each property has different needs and priorities. And a few properties may not be opened for public access due to the sensitivity of their ecological values. ■



Earlier in the year, we asked members to submit questions about our conservation efforts. We sat down to answer some of your questions, hoping to provide more context for how the Land Trust makes conservation decisions on Bainbridge Island.

Land Trust volunteers work with staff guidance, following carefully developed property-specific conservation plans, to restore and maintain Land Trust properties. First Wednesday work parties have resumed!

Land Trust Conservation Director Brenda Padgham and Ray Stevenson of Jefferson Fine Home Builders began discussions in 2016 regarding the protection of portions of the Quitslund land. At the end of 2020, the transfer of over 19 acres to the Land Trust was successfully completed. Photo: Paul Brians



CONSERVING HABITAT IN A GROWING REGION: THE QUITSLUND PRESERVE AND ADDITIONS TO THE TED OLSON NATURE PRESERVE

The Land Trust has a long history of working with landowners and our community to protect the places we all depend on for natural habitat, clean water and air, and our physical and mental health. Two exciting partnership-based conservation efforts came to fruition in 2020!

In partnership with the Land Trust, neighbors of the Ted Olson Nature Preserve led a successful fundraising drive to expand the beloved park and save critical habitat on the brink of development. Another multiyear partnership, between the Land Trust, the Quitslund family, and Jefferson Fine Home Builders, enabled the conservation of more than 70 percent of a multigenerational family farm.

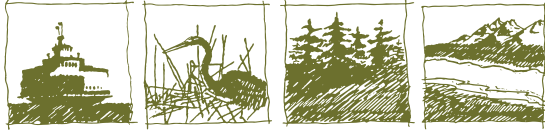
These are just the latest success stories in our efforts to protect sensitive habitats on the Island by developing science-based solutions and working through strong partnerships with stakeholders and neighbors. Through this framework, the Land Trust works to balance conservation with the pace of community growth.

Testaments to our community's support for conservation, both efforts were accomplished in the face of a tough year that was full of unforeseen challenges. But like the natural world, our Island community remains resilient in the face of challenges!

We thank the neighbors, supporters, and leaders of the Friends of Ted Olson Nature Preserve, the Quitslund Family, and Jefferson Fine Home Builders for their forward-thinking as we pursue a shared vision for these important places. Very soon, the Island community will be able to enjoy the wonders within each of these special places—we can't wait for you to share in yet another win for conservation on Bainbridge Island! ■



The community team and Land Trust staff celebrate progress on expanding the Ted Olson Nature Preserve during a Zoom meeting.



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Your ongoing support is helping to expand protected areas on Bainbridge Island. Visit www.bi-landtrust.org to learn more about recent land acquisitions in the **Stand for the Land** campaign!

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A Lorquins Admiral butterfly, *Limenitis lorquini*. Photo: Don Willot

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust's mission is to conserve and steward the diverse natural environments of Bainbridge Island for the benefit of all.

