



CASCADE LAND CONSERVANCY

2005-2006
CONSERVATION REPORT





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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends,

To save a . . .

How many people does it take to . . . save a park? A farm? A forest?

And the answer is – how many people do you have? Because whether it is one dedicated person determined to save the wetland across the street or a professional, sophisticated land trust implementing a huge vision and an ambitious agenda, it is people who make conservation happen on every level.

And the people doing conservation work are as varied a group as any you are likely to find. We are Republicans, Democrats, Green Party members and Libertarians (note I am not naming names here). People in suits at board meetings, people in jeans whacking ivy on the trail. Dreadlocks at the Fremont fair and Rotary T-shirts at Salmon Days. From the main-stream churches who take to heart the message of being good stewards of this earth to the happy pagans who believe trees and fields have spiritual value in and of themselves, people hold this common value whatever the language they use to express it.

And translating that value into a protected landscape takes you and me and our neighbors and colleagues and friends – and all the people we will never meet doing the same things for their neighborhoods and communities across this region and across the country. People make conservation happen.

So I am baffled when some critics of conservation say we care more about “furry critters” than about people. Throughout recorded time and across the planet, people have demonstrated a deep visceral tie to the land and the need to do something about it. There is something in us that responds to the sight of productive farmland, ancient forest, clear water and distant mountains. It isn’t even necessary to have access to a landscape to feel the tranquility of an unspoiled view and the peace of knowing some corners of our land will be unchanged forever. People save land for themselves, for future generations and to honor their past.

Conservation is in large part about caring for people. And though I feel the furry critters in my neighborhood – those would be the bears, the cougars and the raccoons – do very well without my personal protection, I am happy to look after their habitat, too . . . if only to keep them home in the woods rather than going through my garbage.

With the projections of future growth that predict a doubling of our population, it is clear we are going to have more people than ever living here very soon. And with the huge leap in home prices and property values that happened over the last year, the bad news is that land will be more scarce, more expensive and therefore more precious.

The good news is that we will have even more people to help us! Even now the staff here at the Conservancy is growing so fast it seems we have new, eager young faces at every board meeting. Our trustee groups are growing into their role as the grass-roots ambassadors and hands-on stewards in their communities, and our newest group in Mason County has hit the ground running and appears to be accelerating.

Our development team is reaching out to new donors who understand that preserving such regional icons as our mountain

views, our working forests, our myriad waterways and our close-in farms is one of the cornerstones, along with support for the arts, education and social causes, of a great city and a cosmopolitan society.

I recently had an experience that made real to me the numbers of people involved in preserving the best qualities of our regional landscape. In April one of our daughters was sworn in as an American citizen at a ceremony in the Los Angeles Convention Center. The judge leading the newly minted Americans in the oath of allegiance remarked that there were 3,506 people achieving citizenship that day. I looked over that sea of faces and thought “that’s how many people we talked to during the Cascade Dialogues process.”

Over 3,000 hearts and minds came to the table and shared with us their hopes, dreams and fears for the lands of this region. It’s all about those people, and the millions more who will come here and, in gratitude to those who kept this region great, work in their turn to pass the same heritage to future generations.

This report names more than 2,000 people who have dug deep and given gifts to the Cascade Land Conservancy because they recognize that we share their values and make conservation happen both on a landscape scale and in their city park. We couldn’t do it without all of you – so Thank You and on we go together towards another great year on the land.

Maryanne Tagney Jones, Chair



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Photo by Jeff McGraw/McGraw Media

Dear Friends,

The only constant? Change

Just after we launched *The Cascade Agenda* in 2005, I was asked to support the Seattle Art Museum’s new Olympic Sculpture Park. I was pleased to do it because such projects are key to making our cities wonderful places to live.

Now the sculpture park is nearly finished and will open in January as a centerpiece of Seattle’s waterfront. Remember, the sculpture park has gone from a polluted, vacant lot to a wonderful place we all expect to be a world-class destination.

I thought at the time how much the park goes to the core of what is necessary to advance *The Cascade Agenda* – a city rich in things to do and places to go that serves as a magnet for people. We turn things around with The Agenda – a city as magnet means more conservation, not less.

The Cascade Land Conservancy had its own “ground-breaking ceremony” about the same time last year, announcing the formal beginnings of *The Cascade Agenda* at the annual Conservation Awards Breakfast. The road to our goals is a bit longer than for the sculpture park. We have a long way to go but we also have already done much.

I am struck by how much *The Cascade Agenda* already has become a part of the fabric of regional policy initiatives and solutions. It has provided the opportunity for a monumental sea change in the way conservation is perceived, discussed and implemented in the five-county area served by The Agenda.

The Agenda has also become part of the Cascade Land Conservancy, the organizing principles of *The Cascade Agenda* now guide us as we think about the future and what it might hold for us. The ideas must work in the market place and with our constituents – developers, land owners, government and conservationists.

If Boeing makes the airplane the market wants, it succeeds and its fortunes soar. The Agenda has the same opportunity to create the product the region wants, and if it does then our futures soar.



Photo courtesy of Metro Parks Tacoma



At staff meetings I am fond of saying that the only constant at the CLC is change. We have faced constant change this year from a growing staff to shifting responsibilities.

One of our most recent land acquisitions was not some wooded vista in the foothills of the Cascades, but an overgrown acre of blackberries in West Seattle. We’ll hold the property for the City of Seattle and eventually the land will become part of the Longfellow Creek Greenway, a ribbon of forested parkland along the hillside only 10 minutes from Downtown Seattle. When we talk about *The Cascade Agenda* and livable cities, this is a great example of what we mean.

The Cascade Agenda team also is working in our rural lands, developing the concept of rural villages, clusters of homes in a rural area that might provide housing for those who want to live closer to the land while actually conserving the land they want to be near.

So it has been a year of change for us. We have grown and become more regional as we are adding an office in Mason County. We remain rooted in the land while strengthening our local roots through our county trustee groups.

For us the only constant is change. Can we really change how business is done in this region? Margaret Mead once said that we should “never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Gene Duvernoy, President

Studying a green frog at the Tacoma Nature Center

CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

The Cascade Land Conservancy was busy in 2005-06 with a number of conservation transactions and stewardship projects. Here are just a few:

Photo by Keith Lazelle/Keith Lazelle Nature Photography

Mid-Fork Snoqualmie: The CLC has been long involved in this important landscape. During the past year, the Moore property was transferred to the Forest Service, ensuring its preservation. The CLC continues to work on a number of other projects in the region.

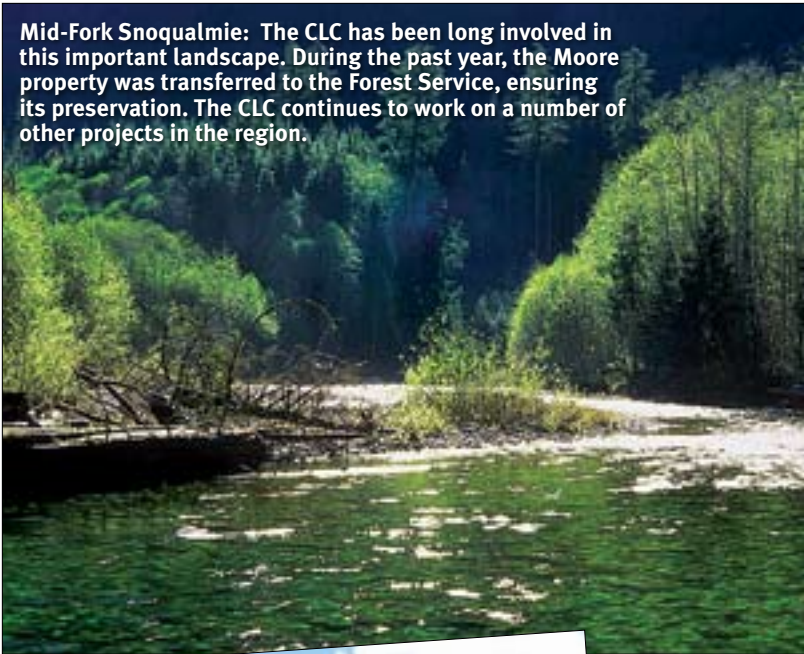


Photo courtesy of Green Seattle Partnership

Green Seattle Partnership: One of the signature projects of *The Cascade Agenda*, the partnership is a plan to restore 2,500 acres of forested parklands in Seattle by 2025. More than 175 volunteer events were held last year to push forward with the goal to remove invasive plants and restore native trees and shrubs.

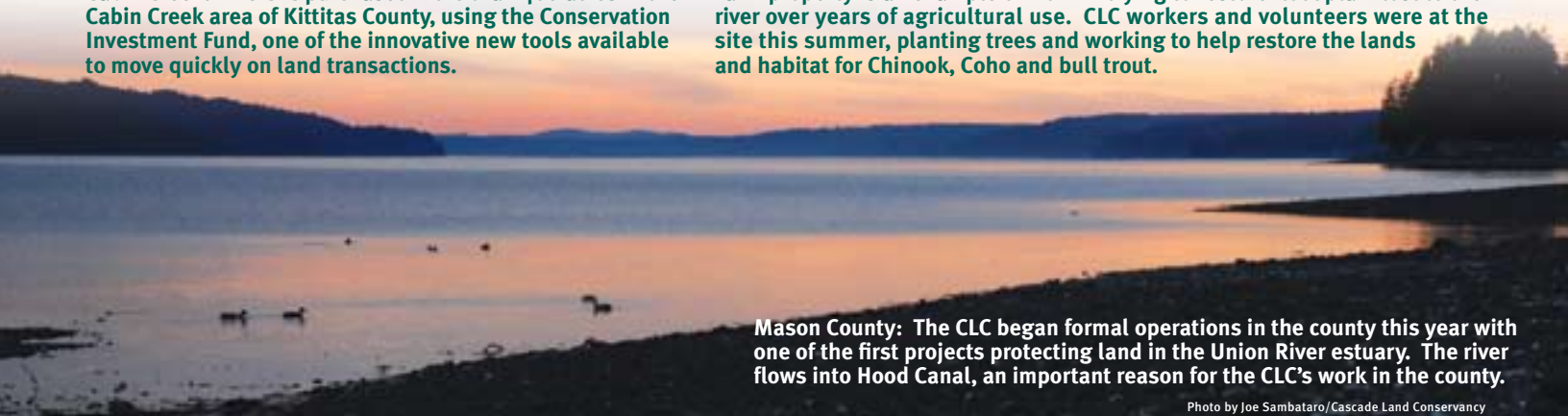


Photo by Joe Sambataro/Cascade Land Conservancy

Cabin Creek: The CLC purchased more than 400 acres in the Cabin Creek area of Kittitas County, using the Conservation Investment Fund, one of the innovative new tools available to move quickly on land transactions.



Smoke Farm: Along the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River, the Smoke Farm property is an example of work in trying to restore floodplain lost to the river over years of agricultural use. CLC workers and volunteers were at the site this summer, planting trees and working to help restore the lands and habitat for Chinook, Coho and bull trout.



Mason County: The CLC began formal operations in the county this year with one of the first projects protecting land in the Union River estuary. The river flows into Hood Canal, an important reason for the CLC's work in the county.

Photo by Joe Sambataro/Cascade Land Conservancy

Photo by Jeff McGraw/McGraw Media



People make conservation happen.

What could be more true. This Conservation Report is really about people and conservation. It is about the thousands of contributors, large and small. It is about the Board of Directors, County Trustees, Council of Advisers, Green Seattle Partnership Forest Stewards, volunteers who take weekends to pull ivy or plant trees, the 30 plus CLC staff members. A lot of people.

Today we profile a few of those people. They would be the first to say “don’t single me out because there are many more who do so much.” The profiles try to capture a sense of the organization, why people contribute and what we are all about:

Phyllis Campbell, a community leader who sees the links between conservation and a vibrant livable region. **Mette Hanson**, an artist who brings her work to bear on the work of the CLC. **Jon Fitterer**, a board member from Kittitas County who goes about his quiet support of the goals of the CLC. **Gerry Johnson**, the first Chair of the Board of Directors, and **Nora**, his daughter, representing two generations of CLC supporters. And a **trio of leaders** from government and business who came together to work with us to achieve what is most important – significant, landscape-scale conservation.



Phyllis Campbell

The Cascade Land Conservancy’s Evening of Thanks for its Conservation Circle donors was well under way. Phyllis Campbell, the President of the Seattle Foundation and the evening’s speaker, was near the middle of the room, talking with a couple about various topics of interest.

Another couple Phyllis knew passed by and she immediately spoke to them, drawing them into her conversation and introducing them to the original couple. A few moments later, Phyllis excused herself to speak to yet someone else. The original two couples continued chatting.

A simple act, perhaps, but a signature one for Phyllis Campbell. She has long been a “connector,” one of those people who make things happen in Seattle by putting people together. Add to that her own abilities as a business executive, leader and philanthropist and you have an unbeatable combination.

For the Cascade Land Conservancy, Phyllis has been that perfect combination – friend, donor, counselor, helper. When she was asked to speak at the evening event, she agreed immediately, especially given the work of the CLC on *The Cascade Agenda* earlier in the year.

The visionary program that links large-scale conservation with vibrant cities and a strong economy is reflected well in the Seattle Foundation’s own Healthy Communities program.

The Healthy Communities program amplifies *The Cascade Agenda*. Today’s donors want more data, the Foundation says, more context and more strategies for addressing the issues that vex our community. At the same time the issues facing King County — and their solutions — are increasingly varied, complex and often national or global in scope.

“Community issues cannot be addressed — or solved — in a vacuum,” Phyllis once said. “Rather, the health of our region depends on the way its elements are working together in concert. We cannot address education separate from health, the environment apart from the economy. Instead, we must consider the far-reaching and inclusive regional dynamic in which all of these community elements are inextricably connected. Doing so helps us to discover places where donors can make a positive, enduring impact in many ways at the same time.”

The Cascade Land Conservancy and the Seattle Foundation are on the same page.

Mette Hanson

Mette Hanson has the unusual distinction of being both one of the strongest shapers of our brand yet one of the quietest members in the ranks of our leadership family. Mette is the woodcut artist and naturalist who does the woodcut prints that grace many, many walls throughout the region.

Not bad for someone known as “The Cockroach Lady” at one fabric store in town because she came in a couple of times to buy fabric to construct insect and spider internal organs for an educational exhibit about invertebrates for kids.

Mette’s relationship with the Conservancy began about eight years ago designing interpretive signage for Hazel Wolf Wetlands. Since then Mette has created the woodcut prints that the CLC presents as awards and thank-you gifts honoring members of our community. “I love knowing that my artwork is going out to people throughout our region who are doing such great conservation work,” Mette said.

Mette graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, with a double major in Art and Biology, then earned a Master of Science degree from Oregon State University in Corvallis with an emphasis in Plant Ecology.

Mette said she has always been into art and learning about the fascinating intricacies of nature, “although as a teenager I was horrified by the giant slugs we saw on a camping trip out to the Northwest.”

Slugs have since found their way into her artwork on a number of occasions, however, in all their slimy gracefulness.

“I’m eager to support the CLC’s efforts because they combine a passion for protecting natural landscapes with the innovation and pragmatism necessary to actually succeed,” Mette said. “I am grateful for their efforts to protect pristine wild places and also the working forests, farms and city parks that sustain both humans and wildlife. I am reminded how essential this is when my research for each new print takes me to yet another uniquely beautiful place that they, in concert with other local community members, are working to protect.

“The challenges we all face in our efforts to protect our environment are daunting. Yet, each spring I leave the Conservation Awards Breakfast inspired and renewed by the important work being done by so many in our region and the daring, forward-thinking plans being developed for the next 100 years.”

Looking back at the woodcuts Mette has done for the CLC over the years, it’s wonderful to see how she has developed as a printmaker — right alongside the CLC as it has grown in its skills and scope as a conservation organization.





Jon Fitterer

Kittitas County is changing.

Farming, ranching and a rural quality of life continue to be the defining aspect of the county, but there is a new wind blowing across the brush steppe landscape. In 1954, more than 600,000 acres were in farming in the county. By 2002, that had shrunk to slightly more than 225,000 acres.

But despite the change, there are many who have planted roots in Ellensburg. Yakama Indians who hunted and fished in the valley, the first settlers in the early 1860s, trading post owners John Alden Shoudy and his wife Mary Ellen Stewart, whose name would become the “Ellen” in Ellensburg.

In 1889, Ellensburg was under serious consideration to become the state capital because of its central location, and the castle on Third Avenue was built as the governor’s mansion. But the big fire on July 4, 1889, ended the bid with the nod going to Olympia.

Jon Fitterer is another person who has spent a while in Ellensburg. If you know Ellensburg you know about Fitterer’s Furniture, a fixture in downtown Ellensburg since its founding in 1896. It is now a 4th generation family-owned and operated full-line home furnishings and floor coverings retailer in Central Washington, managed by Jon and his cousin Brad.

Jon is also one of the Kittitas County members of the Cascade Land Conservancy’s Board of Directors, providing important insight into how things work in Kittitas County for the CLC.

Jon has seen the valley change in recent years as population grew. The upper valley has become a popular place for summer homes, and big new projects such as Suncadia are changing the landscape.

“When you’ve been here as long as my family has, you gain a tremendous respect for the land,” Jon said. “The region is changing and I see my role with the Conservancy as trying to conserve some of the best that’s still here.”

Jon also is an avid outdoorsman and horseman who enjoys hunting and snowmobiling. Both pursuits become harder as population increases and the availability of land begins to diminish.

Perhaps one thing that has helped make Fitterer’s stand out as a strong family business today is what Jon calls the “emphasis and respect this business places on its history and traditions.” That respect carries over into the lands and is one of the reasons Jon is part of the Cascade Land Conservancy.

Gerry Johnson and Nora Johnson

After years of serving as what she termed the “kid prop” in innumerable conservation ballot proposition campaigns, it was hardly surprising that Nora Johnson chose to volunteer for the Cascade Land Conservancy during her final term at Seattle Academy. She also was well familiar with the CLC’s work through her dad. Gerry Johnson was the CLC’s first Board Chair and that spring was heavily engaged in the eventually successful effort to preserve Weyerhaeuser’s Snoqualmie Tree Farm as a working forest.

In her months of volunteering for CLC, Nora took on numerous intern-type assignments including helping with early work on CLC’s Green Cities program and staffing the annual Conservation Breakfast, an event that her dad has emceed since its inception.

Gerry and his daughter represent the way the work of the CLC is being passed from generation to generation. “When we started working on *The Cascade Agenda* and thinking 100 years out, I realized that we were really talking about Nora and her children,” Gerry said. “That really brought it home to me.” Gerry continues to provide leadership with the implementation of *The Agenda*, particularly on new financing tools for the conservation of working landscapes.

Gerry has been around the CLC as long as anyone, having been involved in the creation of the Seattle-King County Land Trust in the late 1980s. Gerry was there at the beginning and remains deeply involved as the chair of the CLC Council of Advisors.

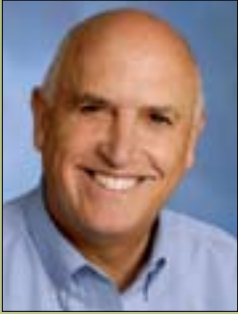
Like his public service, Gerry’s law practice as a partner at Preston Gates & Ellis focuses on major community-building projects, particularly those involving the participation of both the public and private sectors. Among the more notable are the development of the Pacific Place vertical retail mall and relocation of Nordstrom’s flagship store that are credited with revitalizing the Seattle retail core; development of Safeco Field; development of the downtown Seattle Art Museum and Museum of Flight; redevelopment of Tacoma’s central waterfront along the Foss Waterway, and most recently expansion of the Seattle Art Museum as part of Washington Mutual’s new headquarters building.

“In my work I see how much we can accomplish when public and private interests work together,” Gerry said. “That’s one reason I am so involved with the Cascade Land Conservancy. The CLC and *The Cascade Agenda* make the connection between sustainable and attractive city life and large scale regional conservation.”

Nora remains an ardent conservationist. Now a junior at Dartmouth, she is majoring in geography and environmental studies. In her spare time, she is the co-captain of the women’s Ultimate Frisbee team, volunteers for the Outing Club and does community service working with inner-city teens.



Steve Reynolds



The White River begins where the Emmons and Fryingpan glaciers meet on the side of Mt. Rainier, flows 68 miles to the west and then joins with the Puyallup River near Sumner before eventually reaching Puget Sound.

The White River drains almost 500 square miles, forms much of the boundary between King and Pierce counties and is home to salmon, bull trout, soaring eagles and literally hundreds of different bird, animal and plant species.

This is what the Cascade Land Conservancy is talking about when we say we are trying to protect and conserve precious landscapes in the region. But achieving this kind of conservation takes leadership. That key ingredient was readily visible earlier this year when a pristine, 10-mile section of the river became available.

Steve Reynolds, chairman, president and CEO of Puget Sound Energy (PSE), is one leader in the effort. When PSE closed its White River Hydropower Project in 2004, almost 2,500 acres of undeveloped project lands near the Lake Tapps reservoir were no longer needed by the utility. Reynolds and PSE saw the land's potential and contacted the Cascade Land Conservancy to help preserve it.

"Puget Sound Energy has been a steward of this White River land for almost a century," said Reynolds. "We are pleased to help protect this pristine riverfront land for the benefit of future generations."

John Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive, is another leader in this effort. "This is conservation at its best," he said when an agreement between the CLC and PSE was announced. "We're not just protecting a few hundred feet of riverfront," he said. "This plan puts thousands of acres and miles of river aside for generations to come. I'm looking forward to working with the Cascade Land Conservancy to make it happen."

John Ladenburg



Ron Sims



King County Executive Ron Sims' strong leadership rounds out this important trio. Of any elected official in the region, Sims brought his long-standing commitment to preserving lands and natural areas in the county to the table, helping to seal the initial agreement around the White River lands.

"The Cascade Land Conservancy is the right group to be involved with this vital and far-reaching project," said Sims. "I know the CLC will bring all the parties together and come to a solution that works for all people of the region."

Leadership makes things happen. Three leaders in this region are helping to make the preservation of an important part of the region along the White River happen.

And this kind of leadership means a vital area for the elk, deer, bears, cougars, bald eagles, great blue herons, wood ducks and other wildlife that frequent the property's forests, wetlands, canyons and meadows will be preserved – for people to enjoy.

The White River flows slow and languid in places.

Our Supporters

Cascade Land Conservancy would like to thank all of our individual, corporate and foundation contributors. Your support is essential to our work protecting and caring for our region's natural, recreational and resource lands.

Individual, Corporate and Foundation Contributors



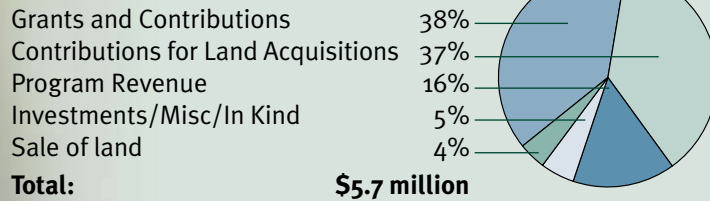
(Names removed from this online version to protect the privacy of our donors.)

2005-2006 Financial Summary

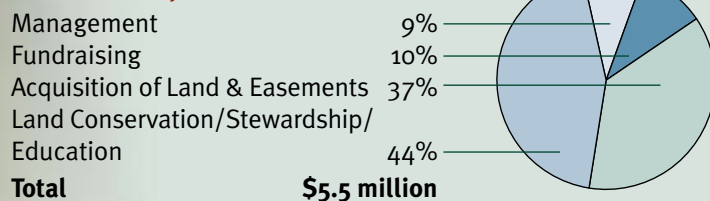
For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006

The financial report for the Cascade Land Conservancy shows the organization continues to be in good financial condition, thanks to your generous support. Here is a quick look at where things stood at the end of the fiscal year in June.

Where our funds came from:



Where we spent our funds:





Ann Lennartz

In the spring of 2004, just before Earth Day, the Cascade Land Conservancy and the City of Seattle announced with great fanfare the Green Seattle Partnership. There were stories in the newspapers and on television about this “green” program to restore more than 2,500 acres of Seattle’s forested parklands and greenways.

It was a wonderful day for the CLC, the chance to put into action our growing conviction that we must take care of the land, that the land will not just take care of itself. One of the chief architects of that growing conviction was Ann Lennartz. Through her contributions, her knowledge and her own convictions about stewardship and caring for the land, she showed the CLC that stewardship was as important as the projects that saved land in the first place.

Ann was all about stewardship and one of those people who put their convictions into practice, without pretense, without show.

Many of us at the Conservancy recall meeting her at the Starflower Foundation, located in a modest building on a busy street. Ann clearly was putting resources into action, not show.

Another example is Ann’s role as one of the founding members of the Seattle Urban Nature Project, an organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life in the Puget Sound region by engaging communities to improve urban forests.

SUNP was founded in 1998 to survey and map the vegetation and wildlife habitat on Seattle’s public land. These maps and data were made available for study and research, leading to the awareness that Seattle was in danger of losing most of its forested parklands if something was not done.

“You have been so instrumental in getting this program off the ground, and we thank you for your tremendous leadership,” the CLC wrote to Ann earlier this year about the Green Seattle Partnership. “Our success is a direct result of your passion and drive to improve the health of our region’s open space.”

Ann also played a key role in advancing the idea of taking care of the trees and green spaces that grace our cities.

She was a key to the Forest Renewal Demonstration Project, a program to complete a successful, highly visible, demonstration project of urban forest restoration techniques which will result in sustainable habitat dominated by native species. The CLC worked to help locate the Forest Restoration Demonstration Project in Watershed Park in Kirkland.

In many ways this project formed the basis for the CLC’s Green Cities Program, an effort to extend the lessons learned in the Green Seattle Partnership to other cities around the region. The CLC continues to work with Kirkland and has recently begun working with Tacoma on similar programs – again all from the passion and commitment to Stewardship of Ann Lennartz.

CLC was saddened to hear of her passing in September. She has been a great friend of the CLC and a generous contributor. But most of all she has been a guiding light showing us the way toward greater stewardship of our lands. Love is not too strong a word to use regarding Ann’s feeling about our lands and how we need to treat them.

We will continue to honor her memory and feel the gentle pressure she exerted on us to be the best stewards of our lands that we know how to be.





Cascade Land Conservancy Staff

Send staff e-mail to the recipient's first name and last-name initial @cascadeland.org. Gene Duvernoy's e-mail, for example, is gened@cascadeland.org

For staff phone numbers, the main line to CLC is 206-292-5907. Extensions are listed with staff names.

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