



Newsletter
SPRING 2019

...it was love at first sight and this magic place, having called me, now owned me.

- Ferdi Businger

A CONSERVATION FIELD OF DREAMS

all photos courtesy of Ferdi Businger

Whatever wild hair originally propelled Ferdi Businger to sell his home in the San Juan Islands to buy the remote, land-locked piece of shrub-steppe now called Spiva Butte Nature Preserve, we're glad he did.

Thanks to Ferdi and the support of our members, Spiva Butte is now protected forever for the wildlife that depend on it, like threatened Greater Sage-Grouse and rare butterflies.

Ferdi recently shared with us how Spiva Butte captured his heart, and how he came to realize that it was more than just a beautiful place:

"It was more an excuse to go on a road trip than any serious intention to buy a 1000-plus acre 'rattlesnake ranch' as one incredulous friend dubbed it. As I and the listing agent walked it, I asked him how much he had paid the hawks, ducks, and herons to put on a good show for me that day. He laughed.

Needless to say, it was love at first sight and this magic place, having called me, now owned me.

But how to buy it. I had no money in the bank, but owned two properties on a remote island in the San Juan Islands. One of those, my primary residence, was a beach cabin I had built. So I needed to borrow money for the down payment and then sell both properties to make it work. When I told my family and friends of my decision, they thought I had lost my mind.

In spite of my lifelong interest and work in conservation, I did not initially set out to create a wildlife preserve. I didn't know it was prime sage grouse habitat or even that sage grouse were a threatened species. All I knew was what I saw, an exquisite landscape, appealing first and foremost to my aesthetic sensibilities."

But over the next few years, Ferdi learned that the land was valuable wildlife habitat. Ferdi began to think of ways that the place could be protected even after he could no longer care for it. He had had good experiences with land trusts in the past, so he got in touch with CDLT.

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Ferdi Businger at Spiva Butte.

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BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

*Curt Soper
Executive Director*

*"Big Red" near
Nason Ridge has
been a hiking
destination for
generations of
families.*

I just have to share a couple of stories that I hope will make you feel as good about the future of conservation as they made me. Twice in the last few months, we've gotten a special gift that warms my heart. Last November, 5-year old Nolan stopped by the office to donate his \$91 of birthday money. When we asked him why, he replied, *"to help the birds."*



*Curt Soper
Executive Director*

A couple of weeks ago, one of our members and her 2 children came into the Land Trust office. Mom said, *"Tell them why you're here."* Will, 9 years old, had come to give the money from his birthday and his hot chocolate stand to the Land Trust. The future is in good hands!

There is so much to be grateful for. I am continually inspired by your passion for conservation and your willingness to support the Land Trust so generously. When you look back and reflect on all the conservation successes of 2018, I hope you feel a sense of pride in knowing that you made all of this possible:

- Permanent protection of **Nason Ridge** above Lake Wenatchee;
- conservation of salmon habitat and a functioning floodplain at the new **Lower Sleepy Hollow Preserve** on the Wenatchee River;
- restoration of salmon habitat at one of our **Nason Creek** preserves;
- expansion of **Jacobson Preserve** in the Wenatchee Foothills, protecting a connection to Saddle Rock Natural Area;
- **two miles of new trail** on Horse Lake Reserve to enjoy.

2019 promises to be full of projects that mean big wins for the waters, wildlife, and beautiful lands of North Central Washington. There will be work on new trailheads at Cashmere Canyons and in the Foothills; conservation projects to help salmon and sage grouse; and that's just to name a few – stay tuned!

None of these things can happen without your support and we are so grateful!

With gratitude,

Curt Soper

SPIVA BUTTE NATURE PRESERVE (continued from page 1)

Because his life savings were tied up in the land, he couldn't donate it outright. Fortunately, Ferdi's enthusiasm and his incredible photographs brought in support from CDLT members, friends, grant funders, acquaintances and even perfect strangers.

William Crosetto, an Othello rancher with a passion for Sage Grouse and the shrub-steppe, heard about the project and loved what we were doing. He left a generous donation from his estate and the 4-acre lake on the preserve is named *Crosetto Lake* in his honor.

In December 2018, the Land Trust was able to purchase Spiva Butte from Ferdi. Because of his generosity of spirit and the support of our members, this unique and rich preserve will remain a high-quality natural area for an amazing diversity of plants, birds and wildlife – forever!

Over the next few years, the Land Trust will learn more about the property's ecology and develop a stewardship plan that will allow opportunities for our members and the public to visit that are compatible with its conservation purpose. 📷



Along with the Greater Sage Grouse, there are other species with "special status" on the property: Sandhill cranes, white-tailed jackrabbit, silver-bordered fritillary (a butterfly).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

October 2018 through February 2019, these individuals & businesses have joined the Land Trust. Thank you for your generous support!

Alpine Lakes High Camp
Katie & Mark Anderson
Penny Baker
Thomas J & Patricia Baranouskas
Annika & Kevin Bibby
Richard Bouche
K.H. Bray
James Bryan & Daniel Monda
Mark & Tiffany Buerk
Butte Brand LLC
Mario & Elizabeth Cantu
Vincente Ceja
Rachel Clement & Tucker Jackson
Tim Clement & Caroline Woolmington
Jim & Rachel Clifton
JoAnne & Chuck Cox
Victoria Cussen
Susan Daley
Dan Damyanovich
Gayle de Frutos
Tara deArrieta
Hannah Dewey

Barbara Doane
Rick Doane
Maureen Dougherty
Barry Dowsett
Betsy Dudash & Ted Crum
Frank & Shelly Ess
Stephanie & Donnie Etherington
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance - Central
Dominick & Marybeth Ferraro
William & Lisa Flint
Daniel & Bonnie Florek
Frederick Forsyth
Donald France
Andrew Goodrich
Laurie Griffith
Fredrick Guimond & Carol Kasper
Karla Gustaffson
Patrick Haggerty & Lacy Tipton-Haggerty
Edwin Heller & Ellen Kipper-Heller

Robert & Sue Hooson
Rick Hourigan
Carolyn Johnson
Stephanie Jones
Terri Jump
Jessica Kendall & Colin Forsyth
Lauren Kendall
Gary Knell
Carmen Knoke
Norbert & Kimberly Kusters
Kirk Laird
William & Molly Lapatra
Nolan Lee
Shirley Meriwether
Randy Meyerson
Keith Minard
Meg Nelson
Christy Nielsen
Mary Pekich
Peter Petesch
Pamela Pomeroy
Dee & Dave Riggs
Katja Rowell

G Thomas Ruebel
Suzanne & Ron Russ
Darlene Schoenwald
Adrianna Shepard
Elaine & Daniel Sivey
Gary Skinner
Julie Smith
Zak Steigmeyer
Camille Stemm
Leigh & Greg Sutton
David Tapia
Theresa & Jeff VerWey
Kim Veverka
Memory & Brian Visscher
Deb Wadkins
Colleen Ward
Kathleen Ward
Gary & Birgit Weeks
Everett White
Gary & Nancy Willis
Tim & Jan Worcester
Adonis Zelaya

A WELCOME AND A SPECIAL FAREWELL

We are so pleased to welcome **Aimee Sheridan** to the staff as our Director of Philanthropy. Aimee's first day on the job was March 1st and we are delighted to have someone of her caliber joining the team. Of course, this means that we say farewell to the longest serving employee in Land Trust history, **Sharon Lunz**.

Sharon has been at the heart of the organization's success for 17 years and leaves a legacy of accomplishment and strength in our fundraising, communications, staff development, and finance programs. We'll miss seeing Sharon at the office every day but know she will remain engaged as an active member.



Aimee Sheridan and Sharon Lunz

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Meet local taxidermist, **Dan Yedinak**, owner of *Four Points Taxidermy* in Wenatchee.

Dan generously prepared and donated local native mammal skulls and skins to the Land Trust to use for education and outreach.

Thank you, Dan!



OUTINGS & EVENTS

Visit us online for added outings, details & to sign-up: cdlandtrust.org or call 509-667-9708

MARCH

- 20 Invaders in our Foothills: Help Stop the Weeds!
5:30-7:30 PM @ Wenatchee Library

APRIL

DATE TBA

Foothills Trails Opening Day
Opening date will be dependent on mule deer counts & trail conditions.
More info. coming soon!

- 6 Gold Mining History Tour
1-3:30 PM @ Saddle Rock & Dry Gulch
- 11 Upper Valley Nature Walks
2-5 PM @ Leavenworth Ski Hill
- 14 Early Wildflower Walk at Sam Hill
1-4 PM @ Sam Hill Property
- 20 Hike for Health Third Sat.
9-11 AM @ Chelan River Trail
- 22 Earth Day Scavenger Hunt for Families
4-6 PM @ Jacobson Preserve

- 23 Wildflower Walk in the Foothills
5:30-7 PM @ Jacobson Preserve
- 25 Wildflower Walk in the Foothills
5:30-7 PM @ Balsamroot Trail
- 26 Upper Valley Nature Walks
2-5 PM @ Leavenworth Ski Hill
- 27 6th Annual Horse Lake Trail Run
7 AM-2 PM @ Horse Lake Reserve

MAY

- 7 Upper Valley Nature Walks
2-6 PM @ Leavenworth Ski Hill
- 8 Sam Hill Walk for Families
10 AM-12 PM @ Sam Hill
- 9 Caring for our Forests Walk
5:30-7:45 PM @ Mountain Home
- 11 Nason Ridge Family Walk to Big Red
9:30 AM-12 PM @ Nason Ridge TH
- 13 Sleepy Hollow Riverside Ramble
5:30-7 PM @ Lower Sleepy Hollow

- 16 Red Star & Blue Star Defeat Spexman - A Reading at Saddle Rock
5:30-7:30 PM @ Saddle Rock TH
- 18 Hike for Health Series Third Sat. Hike
9-11 AM @ Apple Capitol Loop Trail
- 20 StoryWalk® Family Outing
5:30-7 PM @ Jacobson Preserve
- 30 Upper Valley Nature Walks
2-6 PM @ Leavenworth Ski Hill
- 30 Sam Hill Wildflower Walk
6-8:30 PM @ Sam Hill Property

JUNE

- 4 Foothills Wildfire Preparedness
5:30-6:15PM @ Jacobson Preserve TH
- 6 Mountain Home Birds & Blooms
6-8:30 PM @ Mountain Home
- 15 Hike for Health Third Sat. Hike
9-11 AM @ Lake Clara
- 28 Up & Over Saddle Rock Evening Hike
7:00 PM @ Saddle Rock

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Visit www.cdlandtrust.org for added opportunities and updates!

**Field work parties are weather & conditions dependent. Cancelled work parties will be rescheduled as possible.*

MARCH

- 23 Trail Work Party
9 am-1:30pm @ Jacobson Preserve

APRIL

- 6 2nd Annual SageFest
co-sponsored by Central WA EMBA
9am-3pm @ Sage Hills & Horse Lake Reserve
- 11 Community Science eBirding
6-11:30 AM @ Horse Lake Reserve
- 13 Sat. Trail Work Party
9am-1:30pm @ Wenatchee Foothills (TBA)
- 18 Community Science eBirding
6-10:30 AM @ Mountain Home

- 18 Trail Work Party
3 - 6pm @ TBD location

LATE APRIL:

Weed Work in the Foothills
Email olivia@cdlandtrust.org
or 509-667-9708

- 22 Help w/Earth Day Scavenger Hunt
2-6:30pm @ Jacobson Preserve
- 25 Trail Maintenance - Prep for Annual Horse Lake Trail Runs
3-6pm @ Horse Lake Reserve

MAY

- DATES TBA: Wire fence removal @ Horse Lake Reserve. Email olivia@cdlandtrust.org or 509-667-9708

- 2 Trail Maintenance
3-6 pm @ Horse Lake Reserve

- 16 Community Science eBirding
6-11:30 am @ Horse Lake Reserve
- 23 Community Science eBirding
6-11:30 AM @ Mountain Home

JUNE

- 8 Trails and stewardship work party
9 am-1:30 pm @ Upper Valley location TBD
- 20 Community Science eBirding
6-11:30 AM @ Horse Lake Reserve
- 27 Community Science eBirding
6-11:30 AM @ Mountain Home

Officers:

Suzanne Hartman
President
John Lehmkuhl
Past President
Steve Jacobs
Secretary/Treasurer

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Randy Asplund
Celeste Barry
Ron Feld
Bill Gaines
Cody Gillin
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A WHITE RIVER GIFT

The White River is a special place. Its cold, clean waters, fed from glaciers and snowmelt, flow into Lake Wenatchee. The river provides some of the best spawning habitat for sock-eye salmon, one of only two remaining stocks in the Columbia Basin. Three at-risk fish species – endangered spring Chinook, endangered steelhead, and threatened bull trout – use the White River for migration, spawning, and rearing.

The Van Dusen property is a 40-acre gem along the White River that has an active floodplain, wetlands, cedar upland forest - all healthy land for fish, wildlife, and migrating birds.

Sally Van Dusen originally bought this property in 1995 to ensure it stayed in its natural state. In 2012, she worked with CDLT to put a conservation easement on the property.

When Sally recently moved from the area, she generously gifted her property to the Land Trust, including stewardship funds to care for the land into the future.

We are humbled and inspired by this incredible gift!



White River Van Dusen property dressed in autumn colors.

AN EASY WAY TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

If you want to ensure that the natural areas you love are protected and cared for in the future – there is an easy way. It doesn't require an attorney, and doesn't require that you have a will.

It's as simple as naming the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), pension or life insurance at a percentage you choose.

With the Land Trust as a beneficiary, you still have access to the funds while you need them, and you can be assured that your legacy gift will be impactful in the future. Whether you designate the Land Trust at 10% or up to 100%, every gift makes a difference to a cause that has been important to you during your lifetime.

If you want information about how you can make an impact now and in the future through a gift to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, call Aimee Sheridan at 509-667-9708.

