



LUMMI ISLAND
HERITAGE TRUST

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



In February of last year, we gathered together for the Lummi Island Heritage Trust's annual meeting. It was my first annual meeting, and the first one our new staff experienced together. It was also the first time the LIHT community had been able to celebrate the year's accomplishments, inside and in person, since 2020. Being together in the same room, sharing our plans and passion for the place we are all lucky enough to call home, inspired us in a way that has stayed with us. It kindled our energy and deepened our commitment to do the meaningful, valuable, and lasting conservation and restoration work that our community believes in.

It also drove home the realization that LIHT's mission, priorities, and goals broadly align with the personal priorities held by all of you. It left me feeling deeply grateful – for being able to conserve, care for, and connect to the land that is entrusted to us, for the spectacular place we are working together to protect, and for you, the community of members and supporters, who have sustained our work for more than 25 years.

For many years, supporters like you have provided the invaluable resources, courage, and vision that have enabled us to enact our long-term goals and to seize the exciting opportunities that occasionally arise, such as acquiring Reflection Woods. That significant acquisition was only possible because so many of you had supported LIHT for so many years. Without those resources and the commitment that had raised them, we could not have been nimble enough to assemble an offer. We would have lost that land, with its stands of old growth and rare wildflowers, to an off-island logging company. Acquiring Reflection Woods depleted that fund, and today, as we survey the island's threats and transitions, the need to refill those coffers has a particular urgency. In order to be ready to act the next time such an opportunity arises, replacing those resources is one of our biggest priorities in 2024.

Replenishing our acquisition fund also allows us to deepen our investment in one of the best climate technologies we have: conserving land. Continuing to protect this beautiful place keeps our water clean, supports wildlife, and makes us happier and healthier. It makes us more resilient, and it safeguards the carbon that the majestic trees around us have sequestered for centuries. We may be blips in planetary time, but what we do in this time matters to those who will come after us. We have already done so much together in our 25 years to protect many important natural places that keep our ecosystems intact. I invite you to join me in celebrating all of the wonderful things you've made possible and to work with us to meet the challenges ahead.

Susan

Hey, Hummer!

We hosted a series of educational talks and workshops in 2023. One of our favorites featured North Cascades Audubon Society's Chris Brewer and her presentation on the mighty hummingbird! With their show-stopping acrobatics, ability to fly backwards, and understated rumbling arrivals, we learned a lot about hummingbirds – the ones that make the arduous 2,700-mile solo migration and the ones that share our island ecosystem all year. Programs like this help us fulfill our mission to educate our community about the wonderful creatures around us.



VICTOR BURGETT

Community Forest

If there is a more inspiring way to spend a weekend than planting 800 tiny trees with neighbors and friends to restore a spectacular place, we haven't heard about it. What we saw last spring was our community's commitment to helping a beloved place to heal. Thanks to each and every one of you who drove a spade into that hard earth to help us plant a forest. Special thanks to the Whatcom Million Trees Project for their commitment, enthusiasm, and muscle.



EDWARD OWEN
PHOTOGRAPHY

Grow Another Row

We successfully piloted Grow Another Row this year, a program funded by the Whatcom Community Foundation, that allowed us to work with generous island gardeners who grew extra produce to share with their island neighbors. By working with the Ferndale Food Bank, the Beach School, and the Lummi Island Congregational Church, we distributed fresh produce to an average of 19 households for 19 weeks, a cooperative venture in building our community's resilience.





EDMUND LOWE
PHOTOGRAPHY



The Opening

Aiston has finally opened, the culmination of a years-long effort that began with a vision that was executed by so many of you. The opening was a huge accomplishment, one that gives our community shoreline access, new hiking trails, and an awe-inspiring view. We hope it also affirms both our ability to work together and the importance of ambition. Aiston will continue to serve as a reminder that through determination and effort, we can heal what has been damaged.

Forest Fest

On a splendid Saturday in July, we re-launched our community picnic, Forest Fest, and spent a sunny afternoon eating burgers and hot dogs, listening to Queens Bluegrass, creating art and getting temporarily tattooed, pining after pies, and hanging out in the gorgeous Otto Meadow. We also got to thank Paul Davis for keeping the meadow beautiful by mowing it summer after summer for so many years. And we were thrilled to thank all of you for the love, support, and passion you've fed into LIHT for 25 years. You're the best!



The Mighty Betties

It's no secret that our stewardship manager, Jamie Hedrick, has a tendency to get carried away with his work. This was the story one Saturday in July when the mighty Bellingham Roller Betties came out to cut a new trail through Reflection Woods. The Betties are a force on the roller derby track and they're equally formidable in the forest! In fact, they made so much progress through some very tough terrain that we anticipate we'll be able to open a new hiking trail this summer!

Explore the Outdoors

We had a great crew this year for Nature Explorers, our environmental education program for kids between six and twelve. What a blast we had together! Where else but Lummi Island could we have such stellar and accomplished volunteers lead our kids on educational outings that achieve a perfect balance of play, exploration, and games in LIHT's preserves. We were also lucky to be able to spend a session learning at Full Bloom Farm.



Phenomenal Fungi

The glorious autumn rains made the Heritage Trust's annual Mushroom Foray a particular success this year. A large contingent of islanders was joined by volunteers from the Northwest Mushroomers Association who set out to collect and identify mushroom samples from the four Heritage Trust Preserves. As often happens, it was staggering to see the diversity of species found on a relatively small island tumbled across a table and satisfying to see them identified and categorized.



Traditions and Tidings

Thanks to a group of volunteers led by LIHT Board Member Mary Ross, LIHT once again helped the island celebrate the winter holiday season by handmaking wreaths and selling them as a fundraiser. The wreaths are made from the munificent island greenery either donated by islanders or carefully selected from our preserves. Volunteers then artfully design the wreath each family has ordered. We are incredibly grateful for our talented volunteers, and to be part of celebrating the season.



Small Forest, Big Impact

How can a small land trust on a small island make a difference in fighting climate change?

We know that trees in forests grow by taking carbon dioxide from the air. We also know that carbon dioxide has increased to levels in the atmosphere not seen for tens of thousands of years. This extra carbon dioxide is causing the earth's temperature to rise, its glaciers to melt, and its oceans to become more acidic. Our island forests can play an important role in drawing down that extra CO₂.

The Lummi Island Heritage Trust has conducted two forest inventories, one at the Otto Preserve in 2019, and one completed last year at Reflection Woods, our new 120-acre addition to the Aiston Preserve. Both of these forests are entering their peak years for carbon sequestration and will continue to store carbon in their trunks, branches, and roots for decades to come.

The inventory brought together a number of volunteers, all of whom had scientific expertise in disciplines as diverse as biology, botany, forestry,





CHRISTIAN CO

geology, geography, environmental science, and physics. We surveyed 219 trees in 34 separate plots, taking measurements that included tree diameter and height when feasible. To determine tree ages, we took increment cores from over 40 trees. This forest was last logged in the 1940s and 50s. Although most trees were 75 to 80 years old, we found some trees that have been growing for over 300 years.

We used statistical methods to determine how many trees per acre were in the entire Reflection Woods forest. From there we were able to calculate the weight of the biological material, or biomass, in the trees and how much carbon dioxide these trees could remove from the air.

Trees in Reflection Woods absorb 27,426 pounds of CO₂/ acre/ year - that's a whopping 9,133 pounds of CO₂ absorbed every day or more than three million pounds/ year across the forest's 120 acres! This forest also releases 6,640 pounds of precious oxygen each and every day, which allows all of us to breathe easier. Without a doubt, Reflection Woods is truly a "working forest!"

For comparison, the Whatcom Chief burns about 60,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year, putting about 3,600 pounds of CO₂ into the air daily.

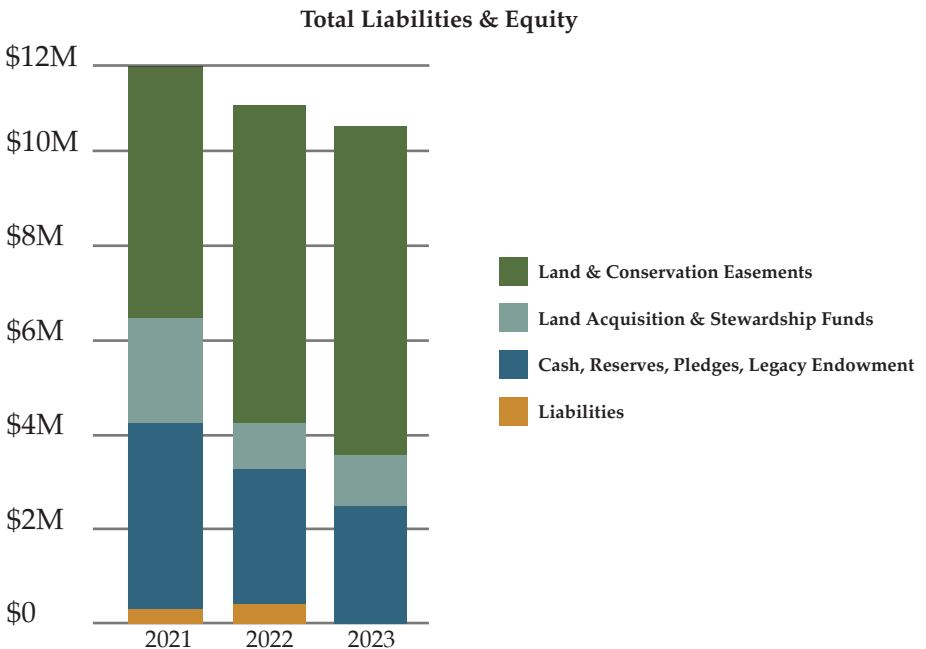
Our finalized forest inventory report will come out soon and we will use it to help us better understand the role the forests on our small island can play in ensuring a healthy future for people and wildlife.

2023 Financial Overview

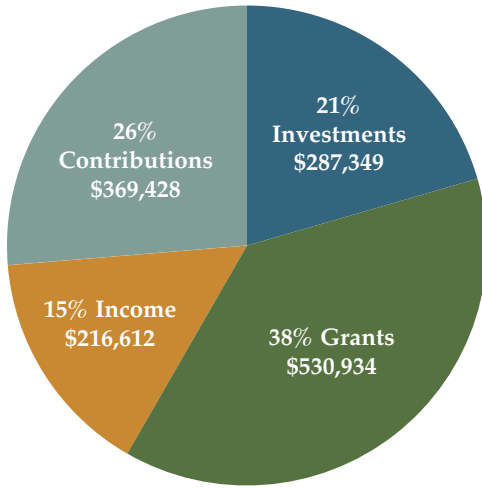
The close of 2023 finds the Trust ready to acknowledge the year's achievements and prepared for the challenges of the coming years.

The Trust was successful in achieving program goals set for the year, and did so in close adherence to the year's budget. As anticipated, completing several aspects of the restoration at the Aiston Preserve required dipping significantly into the Trust's financial reserves to close the gap between grant funding and final restoration expense. In spite of those expenditures, we end the year financially stronger with an increase to Net Assets of over \$300,000 as a consequence of stock market gains, grant funding, and the generosity of donors and supporters of the Trust.

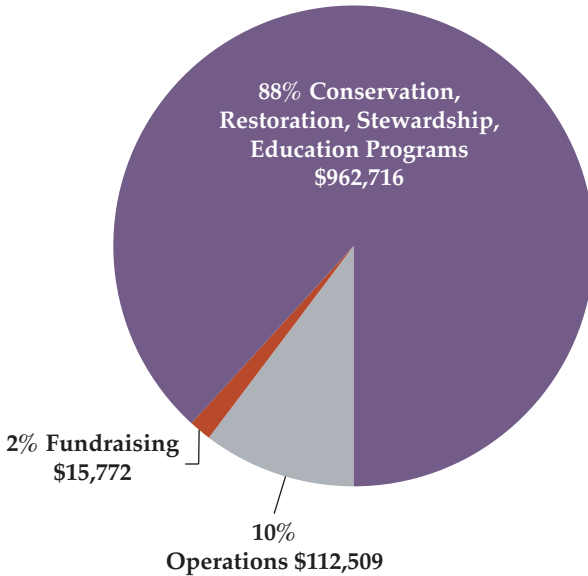
Purchase of the Reflection Woods property in 2022 was possible because of the strong cash position of the Trust at that time. While the Trust's net assets did not decrease with that purchase, the Trust's liquidity did. As we enter 2024, we look ahead to a year of strengthening our cash reserves so that if and when additional opportunities to protect more land occur, we will be able to take advantage of those opportunities. The Trust continues to appreciate the support of the community as it joins us in that effort.



2023 Revenue
\$1,404,323



2023 Expenses
\$1,090,997



Lummi Island Heritage Trust's investments are actively managed by Trillium Asset Management, LLC. The financial statements for 2023 will be reviewed in 2024.

THANK YOU!

Your financial support makes our work possible. Your donations propel everything we do to protect the wild places, natural environment, and extraordinary beauty of Lummi Island. This list represents donors who made financial and in-kind gifts during 2023. If you discover that we have made an error, please contact us at 360-758-7997 or admin@liht.org, so that we may make the correction.

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We wish to express our heartfelt thanks

to the following people who donated their time and skills to help us carry out our mission this year.

Joe Anderson • Keith Anderson • Joe Arnett • Mary Barstow • Lorraine Batra • Pat Beaton • Darlene Beckett • Woody & Jennifer Bernard • Sean Berry • John Bethune & Cheryl Spector • Bellingham Roller Betties • Owen Bettis • Mary Boire • Anne Bonaparte & Judd Williams • Sam Bowman • Jim Boyle • Chris Brewer • Barbara Brock • Guy Brooks & Laurie Shierk • Lisa Kremer Brown • Kathy & Nina Buford • Judy Bush • David Canterman & Laurie Hawkins • Trish Cary • Edward Chasteney & Maureen Sullivan • Lauren Christensen • Thurid Clark • Tristan Co • Cassa Cole • Isaac Colgan & Bremyhr MacLaren • Lane Davis-Coury • Jerry & Becky Crawford • Lynn Dee • Leslie Dempsey • Dawn Dietrich & Bill Stopoulos • Brent & Ruth Drouillard • Peter Earle • William Enoch • Molly Forman • Annie Franzmann • Carrie Garde & John Tolomei • Kathy Geppner • Christine Green • Molly Harding • Trish Harding • Linda Hayes • Alika Herreshoff • Daniel Herreshoff • Art Hohl • Bobbie Hutchings • Susan Hutton & Michael Byers • Kathy Imlay • Bruce Jensen • Doug Johnson • Scott Josiah & Debbi Barnes-Josiah • Reena Kawal • Joan Keiper • Eileen Kiera • William & Karin Kelley • Elizabeth Kilanowski & Bert Rubash • Irene Kilanowski • Barbara &

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The following individuals have included the Heritage Trust in their estate plans. Their planned gifts will help us preserve land on Lummi Island in perpetuity. We are deeply grateful. If you have included the Heritage Trust in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may thank you during your lifetime.

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