



LUMMI ISLAND
HERITAGE TRUST



2023 FALL NEWSLETTER

Rolling Through the Woods

For years, a typical day in Lisa Wochos's life included a stroll through the Otto Preserve. "I'd get my dog and we'd head out into the woods," she recalls. "It was a wonderful part of my day." A health condition had put a stop to this routine, but lately Lisa has resumed her outings in one of the Heritage Trust's two all-terrain wheelchairs.

Lisa is one of the Lummi Islanders who uses Blue Sapphire, the all-terrain wheelchair at the Otto Preserve, to go out into the forest. "I really enjoy being out in the greenery and tranquility," she says. "It's invigorating, like exercise."

"It's also a very smooth ride," she adds. "It is surprisingly comfortable going over roots and rocks. And the chair has a seatbelt, so it helps you feel secure."

Calvin Shillington, a seasoned mountain bike rider who frequently pushes Lisa on her rides, agrees. "It has a lot of the same parts that a mountain bike has," he explains. "You steer the chair using a handle that attaches from behind, and you squeeze hand brakes to stop—like on a bike. It's super easy and intuitive. And because it uses disc brakes, it stops fast without having to squeeze really hard. And it has good suspension and good shock absorbers. It's very user friendly."

Though it is easy to use, Lisa and Calvin both agree that having an attendant push the chair is a necessity. "The chair's wheels have push rims, but you really get your hands dirty if you use them," Lisa laughs. "It's a lot better to just keep your arms on the arm rests instead."

Having a companion with you in the woods also helps you catch special moments. On a sunny morning in October, Calvin and Lisa helped each other to see two barred owls that had swooped from one tree to another a short distance off of the trail. "What a delight," Lisa sighs. "That really lifted me up today."

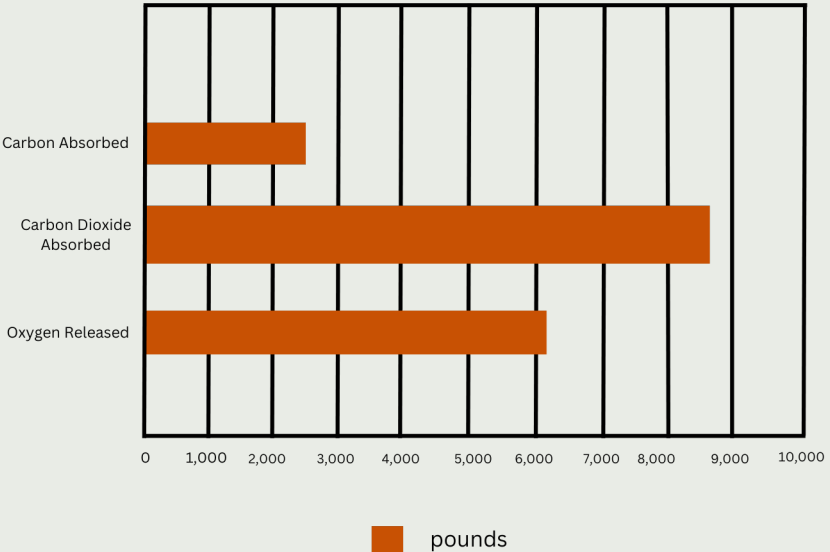


Taking Inventory at Reflection Woods



This spring LIHT staff and volunteers conducted a forest inventory at Reflection Woods, the 120 acres we added to the Aiston Preserve in 2022. The inventory gathered data about Reflection Woods’ trees—their health, age, species, and their carbon-storage capacity. The preliminary data about the trees’ carbon storage are in!

An Average Day in Reflection Woods



How do trees store carbon?

Forests sequester carbon by capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and transforming it into biomass through photosynthesis. In the Reflection Woods inventory, we calculated biomass from a tree's volume, which we estimated using equations based on the tree's height and its diameter at breast height (dbh). These equations are a common and cost-effective method of estimating carbon storage, and this is how we estimated how much carbon is sequestered in Reflection Woods.

Most of Reflection Woods has not been logged in the last 75 years, and the trees are, on average, between 75 and 80 years old. To determine a tree's age, we use increment borers to extract wood cores. In Reflection Woods, however, we found that some of the legacy Douglas fir trees were too large for our increment borers to reach the center! In these instances, we used statistical methods to figure out where the center would be and then estimated the trees' ages. We found one tree that has 307 rings, which means it got started somewhere around 1716. Talk about old timers!

On average, young trees pull more carbon from the atmosphere than the stately, old-growth forests we revere, but mature and old-growth forests, like those found in Reflection Woods, hold what scientists describe as irrecoverable carbon. Irrecoverable carbon is sequestered carbon that is susceptible to human activity, such as logging. If this sequestered carbon were lost, it could not be recaptured and stored quickly enough to meet our critical climate goals. This is why protecting these mature and old-growth forests is essential. In the longer term, though, it's also important to plant new trees. We're doing this in the Curry and the Aiston Preserves so that they can become middle-aged and, eventually, old-growth forests themselves. Protecting mature forests and nurturing new ones are two of the Heritage Trust's highest priorities.



Aiston Preserve — the Journey

In 1902, Whatcom County sold what we now call the Aiston Preserve to Henry Slade at a foreclosure auction for \$914 in gold coin.

In 1906, Henry Slade sold this land to Kenzo Kunimatsu, who established the Japanese American Fish Fertilizer Co. The company was said to have smuggled Japanese men in to work in the fertilizer plant, which is why we now call it Smuggler's Cove.



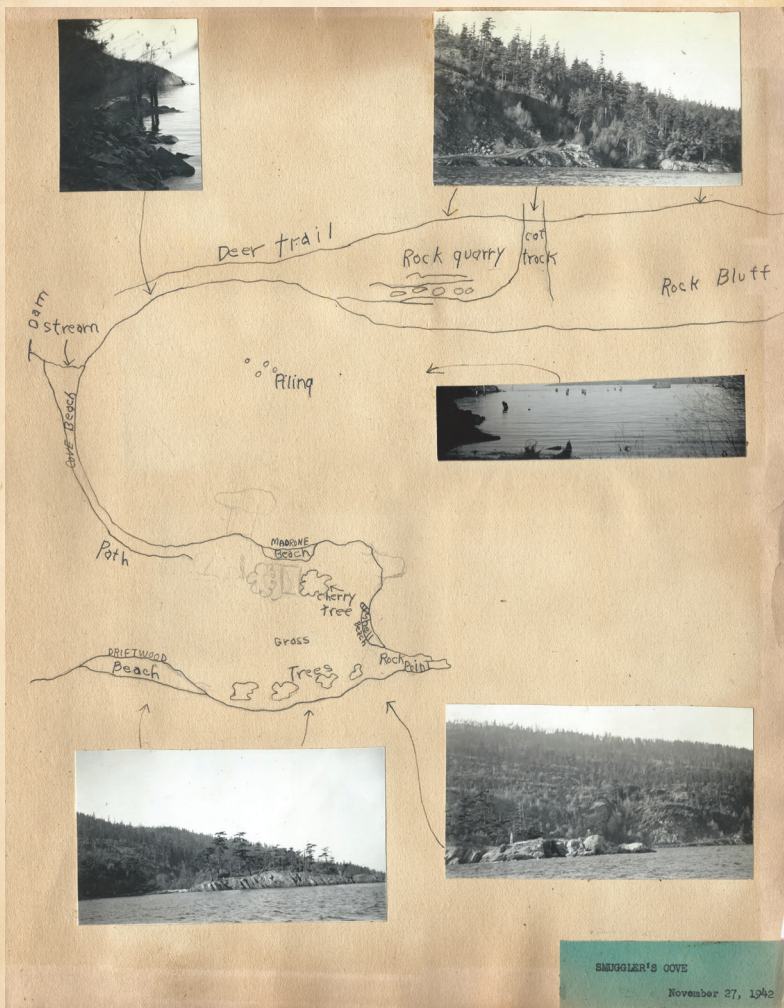
(Left) Japanese American Fertilizer and Fisheries Company's tugboat, Lavinia, and three operators on deck passing Abner Point (1910).

(Right) Japanese American Fertilizer and Fisheries Company's buildings and boat at dock (1910).



In 1929, Kenzo Kunimatsu sold the land to the Anacortes Ice Company. Between 1933 - 1934, the company housed workers on Abner Point who mined 50,000 tons of rock for the breakwater at Squalicum Creek in Bellingham.

In 1942, Anacortes Ice Company sold the land to Homer and Marguerite (Peggy) Aiston.



Beginning in the 1950s, quarry activity became regular and continued until LIHT bought the quarry property in 2015. Restoration work began in 2016.



(Left) Volunteers gathered the remnants of the ruined cabin on Abner Point and (below) brought them to the quarry floor for disposal.



(Left) In November, 2022, Strider Construction arrived to begin the last phase of restoration. (Below) In one weekend, 80 volunteers planted more than 800 trees in the mine floor.



The Lummi People are the original inhabitants of Washington's northernmost coast and southern British Columbia. From time immemorial, they lived in villages throughout this territory and continue to have an ongoing relationship with their ancestral lands. They celebrate life on their land, their waterways, and the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands and waterways of their People to perpetuate their *schelangen*, their traditional ways of life.



This is why it was a privilege to have the Westshore Canoe Family bless the Aiston Preserve when it opened in July with songs that echoed off the quarry's rock face and across the water.

We celebrated the Aiston Preserve opening with our community, our partners, and our government officials.



And we dedicated a bench to Rebecca Rettmer to honor her work "*Preserving the nature of Lummi Island.*"

#GivingTuesday is November 28!

Giving Tuesday is a worldwide generosity initiative that encourages people to invest in their communities and create a positive impact. When you support LIHT on November 28, your donation will go farther because it will be matched.

On Lummi Island, these impacts have transformed a quarry that had desecrated a mountain into a healthy, healing, and beautiful place. They have protected a legacy forest forever. We have cleared trails, restored native habitat, and created opportunities for our community to connect with the island's special, wild places.

Please support the Heritage Trust on November 28!

**Make a donation today
by scanning this QR code
and help us save paper!**



Your IRA's Required Minimum Distributions

The end of 2023 is approaching. Have you decided how to handle your IRA's required minimum distributions (RMDs)? If you are at least 73 years old, you are subject to RMD rule requirements. Many people find that using their RMDs to support charities like the Lummi Island Heritage Trust can also provide tax savings.

Starting in 2023, donors can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) and reduce their taxable income. The transfer must go directly from your IRA to LIHT before your RMD deadline. For more information, please consult your financial advisor.

HERITAGE CIRCLE

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.

Anonymous (3) • Bob & Julie Anderson • Karin Ahlstrom Bean* • Pete Cameron* • Leslie Comstock* • Megan Crouse & Chris Morton • Paul Davis • Lorraine Dukes • Bob Fodor* • Warren Jamison* • Scott Josiah & Debbi Barnes-Josiah • Bob & Colleen MacGilchrist • Ted Mork • Lyne Morris* • Rebecca Rettmer • Bert Rubash & Elizabeth Kilanowski • Steve Schneider • Linda Sheek • Nancy Simmerman • Mary Smith* • Glenn & Ellen Voyles

**indicates deceased Heritage Circle members*



DAL NEITZEL

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

This list represents tribute gifts received to date for this year. If you discover that we have made an error, please contact our office at 360-758-7997 or admin@liht.org so that we may make the correction. Thank you.

Clark Blake • Karin Ahlstrom Bean • Anne Bonaparte & Judd Williams • Jan Bonaparte • Margaret & Jack Bethune • Pete Cameron • Lauren Christensen • Susan Conrad • Wayne Dodge • Constance Drake • Conservation Ecology • Charles Allison (Bud) Granger • Melzar & Lucy Granger • Louis Green • Joshua Gregg • Howard & Helen Jones • Tom Kennedy • Ben Kuiken • Alf Lonseth • Al & Sheila Marshall • R. Montag, Daesener Families • Mother Nature & her children • Dave Nerad • Jan Power • Linda & Mark Sheek • Joanne Shierk & Judy Nelson • Lila, Abigail & Mia Perry • Nick Saling • Doug Southworth • Ben Rogers • Karen Trautmann • Robin Vaccarino • Paul Washington • Norm Wolf

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