



ACROSS

- 4. KELLET BLUFF'S HOME
- 6. HARBOR OR STRONG WINE
- 7. SEA AND SEEDS
- 9. 54 MILES OF \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. PRESERVE USER'S HALLMARK
- 13. SHORT FOR FARM OR SILVER
- 14. OUR HOME REGION
- 16. AWARD OR SAN JUAN PRESERVE
- 17. EPONYMOUS HILL ON LOPEZ
- 19. LB FOR SHORT
- 20. SURROUNDS ISLANDERS
- 21. COMMISSIONERS' FULL HOUSE
- 25. "WHO'S A GOOD BOY?"
- 26. FRESHWATER OR SALTWATER
- 29. ISLAND MARBLE BUTTERFLY'S GO-TO SNACK
- 30. SALMON SPAWNING CREEK ON ORCAS

DOWN

- 1. NUMBER OF LAND BANK PRESERVES
- 2. EVERY YEAR
- 3. SPENCER IS ONE OF MANY
- 5. CONSERVATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. DETAILED ACCOUNT
- 10. CAREFUL PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF A RESOURCE
- 12. POND AND NOB ON ORCAS
- 15. FIRST NAME OF 16 ACROSS
- 18. ENCLOSED BY 20 ACROSS
- 22. WESTERN MAPLE
- 23. MACABRE BAY ON SAN JUAN
- 24. \_\_\_\_\_ OAK
- 27. LOPEZ PRESERVE UP RIGHT NEXT TO FERRY LANDING
- 28. TURTLE \_\_\_\_\_





F R O M

## the Chair

Why a crossword puzzle on the cover? Puzzles of all kinds have enjoyed a surge of popularity because they're a balm in times of stress. And these are stressful times indeed!

Another proven soul-soothing activity is time spent in nature. There we disengage with the fast-paced digital world to slow down and become present, reminding ourselves we're part of a larger web of life. Our perspective broadens and we reconnect to an ancient rhythm that still beats inside us.

A more modern beat is the ticking clock of climate change. In 1990, when the San Juan County "Citizens Conservation Land Bank" was created to maintain residents' quality of life by investing a 1% tax on real estate purchases to preserve land, climate change wasn't on the radar. Today, the organization has taken on new relevance as part of a global solution by protecting undeveloped land as a carbon sink and by enlarging habitat corridors to mitigate climate effects on wildlife. The Land Bank's four acquisitions in 2021 expand existing preserves both to benefit wildlife and to offer new opportunities for humans to experience nature.

As the Land Bank has matured over the past three decades, so has our approach to stewardship. We began with an emphasis on acquiring new land and maintaining it as-is. Now, in addition to protecting as much critical land as possible, we're increasingly focusing on habitat enhancement. In 2021 we planted thousands of native seeds and seedlings propagated at the Salish Seeds Project nursery, a joint program of the Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust.

Recognizing the growing job of the Land Bank—and considering many newcomers are unfamiliar with us—last year we were inspired to reintroduce the word "conservation" to our name and logo. It's a 12-letter word that describes our mission to protect special places in beautiful San Juan County for the benefit of all.

**SANDI FRIEL, CHAIR**  
San Juan County Conservation Land Bank



2021

## Acquisitions

All the properties purchased in 2021 connect to and expand existing preserves.



SALMONBERRY (ABOVE)  
SKUNK CABBAGE (RIGHT)



### ▲ LOPEZ HILL PRESERVE ADDITION (LOPEZ ISLAND)

Rocky outcrops, wetlands and huge cedars define this 75-acre property, and provide a much needed buffer for Lopez Hill. To the north the Lopez Community Land Trust (LCLT) is creating farmsteads to feed islanders. The San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) will hold a conservation easement on the addition and the farms, helping to preserve the mixture of rural and wild that make the island so magical.

### ◀ RICHARDSON MARSH (LOPEZ ISLAND)

Your Land Bank partnered once again with SJPT to conserve more of Richardson Marsh, purchasing 24 acres on the eastern edge. Nearly 5 acres of apostrophe-shaped forested upland will offer great opportunities for wildlife viewing. The marsh is now roughly 85% protected.



### BEAVERTON MARSH TRAIL CORRIDOR (SAN JUAN ISLAND)

In 2019, Geof and Anne Barker were instrumental as lead donors in the 325-acre acquisition of Beaverton Marsh and its adjacent uplands. Two years later the Barker family continue building their conservation legacy with the gift of this 5-acre property. Strategically located, this parcel connects John O. Linde Park to Beaverton Marsh Preserve and helps to create future access from town to the largest freshwater marsh in the County.

### CADY MOUNTAIN PRESERVE ADDITION ► (SAN JUAN ISLAND)

Over nearly 20 years, the Land Bank has endeavored to conserve portions of Cady Mountain. In four separate transactions from 2003–2018, nearly 300 acres were protected. This 142-acre property expands the Land Bank's conservation corridor within central San Juan Island to almost 450 acres.

Identified by The Nature Conservancy as an important climate resiliency area, the new addition boasts high diversity wildflower areas along with extensive Madrona/ Douglas-fir forest and several intermittent streams. This is a key parcel in providing a future trail connection from Cady Mountain Preserve to the National Historical Park's English Camp.



SEA BLUSH (ABOVE); TURKEY TAIL MUSHROOM (RIGHT)  
PHOTOS: TOM SMALL & SHANNON KELLEY



# Preserves and Conservation Easements

**OUR MANDATE**

To preserve in perpetuity areas in the county that have environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic or low-intensity recreational value and to protect existing and future sources of potable water.



WESTSIDE PRESERVE, SAN JUAN ISLAND

“About the annual “cost” of the Land Bank—the estimated financial impact per citizen is equivalent to buying around three fancy coffee drinks per year. What a terrific value our San Juan County Conservation Land Bank is!”

JANET ALDERTON, ORCAS ISLAND

- Land Bank Preserves
- Conservation / Historic Preservation Easements

Labeled preserves provide public access.





## SPOTLIGHT

# Haying at Zylstra Lake Preserve, San Juan Island

In 2021, Sara and Adam of Oak Knoll Farm, and Bruce Gregory of Mitchell Bay Farm were awarded the two-year lease of the haylands (approximately 70 acres) at Zylstra Lake Preserve incorporating a trial process for preserving the grass—Haylage.

The main difference between hay and haylage is the way that the grass is preserved. Dry hay is cut later in the season, when grass is mature and left to dry in the field before being baled and stored. Haylage tends to be cut earlier in the season when the grass has higher nutrient value, then wrapped airtight and fermented; grasses can regrow before the period of summer dormancy arrives.

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS:

After harvest began, partnerships with eight small farms developed—exchanging product for labor—and an informal community hay school emerged. People learned to drive tractors, operate equipment, troubleshoot problems, and read the grass to determine readiness for baling. Beginning farmers with no land or capital had an opportunity to learn valuable skills—an amazing by-product of this trial process!

View the full report at  
[sjlandbank.org/publications](https://sjlandbank.org/publications)

OAK KNOLL FARMERS  
SARA AND ADAM AND FAMILY  
PHOTOS: OAK KNOLL FARM



# 70 acres



## 24 Acres Mowed (August)



## 48

### Acres Hayed (May–July)

roughly 1.15-1.5 tons hay/acre  
roughly 15% haylage, 85% dry hay





# YOUR TAXES

## Impact & Value



ROBIN EGGS NEST, SAN JUAN ISLAND

We are often asked if the Conservation Land Bank acquisitions “take land off the tax rolls,” resulting in higher property taxes for other landowners. To answer this specific question, yes, but very little.

To begin, the taxable value of Land Bank Preserves is about one half of one percent of the total taxable property in the County (roughly \$40 million of the total \$9.76 billion). If this amount were added back to the total, and the tax rate adjusted to keep the total amount collected the same, it would reduce the annual tax on a \$500,000 property by just \$15.00.

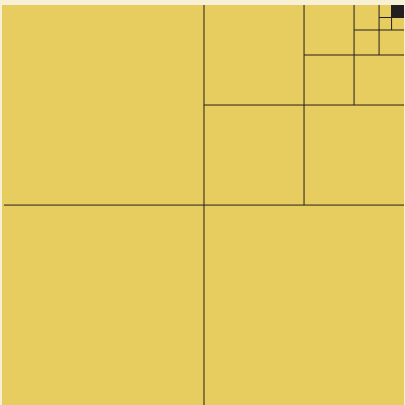
These are the numbers for today. But we think further questions warrant discussion such as, are there other tangible benefits that our preserves provide? And how will we come to quantify the impact and the value of conserving open spaces and other species in the future?

FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DETAILS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SJCLANDBANK.ORG/ABOUT/FINANCIAL-INFORMATION](http://WWW.SJCLANDBANK.ORG/ABOUT/FINANCIAL-INFORMATION).

## By the Numbers

2021 REAL ESTATE  
EXCISE TAX (REET) **\$6.7M**

TOTAL TAXABLE  
VALUE IN COUNTY<sup>1</sup>



TAXABLE VALUE  
OF LAND BANK  
PROPERTY

**.4%**

**\$9,765,313,494**

AVG. TAX ON  
\$500,000  
PROPERTY

**\$3,670**



TAX SAVINGS<sup>2</sup> OF

**\$15**

SPENDING TIME IN  
NATURE HAS BEEN  
SHOWN TO IMPROVE  
MOOD, MENTAL HEALTH  
AND EMOTIONAL  
WELL-BEING.



<sup>1</sup> SJC Assessor / 2021 Tax Year  
Statement of Assessments

<sup>2</sup> \$3.00 per \$100,000 in value, adjusting the  
tax rate to yield the same total tax figure.



**BIRD SPECIES**  
IDENTIFIED BY  
CHANNEL PRESERVE  
VOLUNTEER  
MONITORS

**1,000 HOURS**  
OF GARRY OAK HABITAT  
**RESTORATION**

PERFORMED  
ON SAN  
JUAN  
ISLAND



**400 TONS**  
OF **GRAVEL**

PURCHASED LOCALLY  
FOR PARKING LOTS,  
ROADS AND TRAILS

**# OF RESPONDANTS** **408**  
TO POL.IS SURVEY RESULTS

# STEWARDSHIP! BY THE NUMBERS

**10**

NEW  
NATIVE SEED  
SPECIES  
AVAILABLE  
TO THE  
PUBLIC  
FROM THE  
**SALISH  
SEED  
NURSERY**

**ACORNS**  
PLANTED ON  
TURTLEBACK  
MOUNTAIN PRESERVE



**3,400 NATIVE**  
SEEDLINGS PLANTED  
ON ORCAS ISLAND



**JUNIPER LOGS**  
USED BY THE YCC TO BUILD TRAIL  
TURNPIKES AT ZYLSTRA LAKE PRESERVE

SPECIES OF SALMONIDS  
(CHINOOK, COHO, AND  
COASTAL CUTTHROAT  
TROUT) RECORDED IN  
CASCADE CREEK



**100**

MINIMUM HOURS  
A LAND BANK  
COMMISSIONER  
VOLUNTEERS  
ANNUALLY





SAN JUAN COUNTY  
CONSERVATION

LAND BANK

(360) 378-4402  
sjclandbank@sjclandbank.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
sjclandbank.org/about/annual-report  
FOR PUZZLE ANSWER KEY!

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Friday Harbor,  
Washington 98250

### Commissioners 2021

Miles Becker, District 3, position 3  
Christa Campbell, at large, position 7, Vice-Chair  
Sandi Friel, District 2, position 2, Chair  
David Meland, at large, position 6  
Jim Skoog, District 1, position 1  
Douglas Strandberg, at large, position 5, Finance Officer  
Brian Wiese, at large, position 4

### Staff

Lincoln Bormann, Director  
Shauna Barrows, Field Assistant  
Charlie Behnke, Agricultural Program Coordinator & Field Steward  
Margo Thorp, San Juan Island Seasonal Nursery Assistant  
Peter Guillotzet, Orcas Island Preserve Steward  
Eliza Habegger, Land Steward  
Erin Halcomb, Stewardship Coordinator  
Doug McCutchen, San Juan Island Preserve Steward  
Aaron Rock, Office Manager/Fiscal Clerk  
Kayla Seaforth, Field Assistant  
Amanda Wedow, Lopez Island Preserve Steward  
Jacob Wagner, Field Assistant  
Tanja Williamson, Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator

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