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# Land trust saves Camano's only salmon stream

## *Celebration highlights two major conservation successes*

By BRIDGET BUDBILL  
Staff Reporter

Money can actually buy love, said Floyd Jones, smiling in jest.

That seems to be true for supporters of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust (WCLT), who gave Jones hugs, praise and a standing ovation for his role in securing 3,160 acres of tidelands in Camano Island's Livingston Bay, the largest conservation project in 22 years. Jones, of Seattle, matched a \$400,000 grant from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board with a private donation.

The donation was in memory of his late wife, Delores, whose family, the Sundins, were early Swedish settlers, who first farmed near Livingston Bay in 1905 and still own property there today.

"I'm delighted to have been a part of this," Jones said, who feels the tidelands

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The largest conservation project in the 22 years of Whidbey Camano Land Trust was made this year on Camano Island with the preservation of 3,160 acres of tidelands at Livingston Bay, located on the island's south east side made possible through a local man's matching donation.

# Land trust

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will provide a pristine place for children to enjoy as well as saving critical habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife.

Jones was one of many who attended a celebration of recent WCLT successes earlier this year at Four Springs Lake Preserve.

As explained by Patricia Powell, WCLT executive director, making conservation happen is an effort that never ends.

"We're an entity that permanently protects the special land on Whidbey and Camano islands," Powell said to a room brimming with supporters. "When we asked Camano islanders what parts of this island they wanted to save, they pretty much circled the whole map."

Although her comment drew audience laughter, WCLT is serious about getting Island County land protected before it is developed.

During a scenic slide show presentation, Powell also highlighted the 2.5-acre acquisition of Kristoferson Creek last December, the only salmon spawning stream on Camano Island.

Powell said that the stream land, purchased with a Conservation Futures grant from Island County, has documented spawning chinook, chum and coho salmon.

WCLT, a member of the National Land Trust Alliance, is dedicated to purchasing land in Island County for the permanent preservation of natural habitats and rural lands.

Deals are often negotiated with private landowners, public agencies and the broader community, and purchases are made possible through grant and private donation funding.

Often this requires allocating hundreds of thousands of dollars quickly enough to buy land potentially sold on the market for future development.

Powell said that the speed with which land is developed in one reason WCLT works with such urgency to conserve what is left.

"It's scary to see so much land go on the market," said Powell, who happily added that the organization is overwhelmed with projects.

"We have about 45 lined up," she said. "Lots of grants are underway."

Lisbeth Cort, director of outreach and development, noted while Island County is one of the state's smallest counties, it is also the fourth-fastest in growth.

"We feel that pressure as a land trust," Cort said. "Conservation just can't wait."

Ivan Miller, a new WCLT board member who spent 40 years with the National Parks Service said he is thrilled with saving land on Camano.

"The Land Trust is full of great people," Miller said. "I joined because I agree with the principles of this organization."

*For more information about WCLT, call (360) 222-3310 or visit [www.wclt.org](http://www.wclt.org).*

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