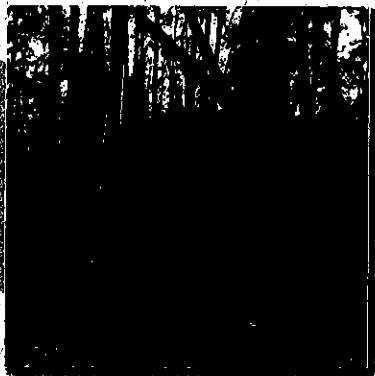


MARK SHEEHAN

#### HOYPUS HILL ADDITION

This 52 acre addition to Deception Pass State Park was funded by the Island County Conservation Futures Fund, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington Recreation and Wildlife Program, and community donations. The addition provides a critical buffer for old-growth forest in the Hoypus Hill unit and will provide an opportunity to build loop trails for horseback riding, bicycling, and hiking.



CHERYL LOWE

#### BOOSE CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The Boose conservation easement protects 10 acres of mature lowland forest that provides wildlife habitat, enhances aquifer recharge, and protects open space and scenic views. Adjacent to Saratoga Woods County Preserve, the protected property provides a permanent refuge for wildlife and protects the forest viewshed and serenity enjoyed by hikers on the Saratoga trail system.



SWPRD

#### STATE TRUST LAND TRANSFER

Through efforts by the Land Trust and its members, the Washington Department of Natural Resources transferred 315 acres in five ecologically significant parcels to Island County and the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District. The properties include mature forests, important wetlands and riparian areas, and undeveloped coastal shorelines.

## Managing the Land

The Land Trust is managing its properties responsibly. In 2007, we completed our stewardship program and filed a full site land stewardship plan and management of our properties and conservation agreements. On properties we own, and others we helped secure, we worked to steward and restore ecological values and manage the lands for appropriate public use. We also partnered with landowners on the 30 conservation easements we held to ensure their properties continue to provide scenic views, wildlife habitat, shoreline, and other important public benefits.



Volunteers are the key to the successful management and care of our properties.

The Land Trust is continuing to provide habitat restoration at the Niles Tract, while expanding one of the last old populations of golden pondlilies (*Sparganium angustifolium*) in the world. In 2007, we completed a golden pondlily management plan to guide restoration and recovery efforts on the Niles Tract and began implementing the plan with help from volunteers and contractors.



Wildlife restoration continues at the Niles Tract. This time, the planting, weeding, and clearing are done with the guidance of the Golden Pondlily Management Plan.

Our management plans are being developed for the Hammonds and Old Harbor Forest Properties. These plans will outline efforts to conserve, enhance, and restore high priority natural values and identify multiple uses appropriate to the site's conservation objectives.

*"When we realized the ten acres made a perfect wildlife buffer zone for Saratoga Woods we asked the Land Trust to help us provide permanent protection...A natural forest is a special place where there are vistas for eyes, birdsongs for ears, and quiet for the soul."* — Joani Boose, conservation easement donor, December 2007