



LCLT

LOPEZ COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

NEWSLETTER FALL 2011

From the Director: Next Steps--Seed Library, a Fifth Neighborhood, Solar Panels, Percy Schmeiser and more!



Sandy Bishop

The summer has flown by and, once again, we have begun construction -- this time to accommodate the seed library and solar panels for our office and two rental apartments. We expanded the D'Juana shed and pump house, so the solar panels now sit on top of the expanded shed and the seed library is safely held inside. Board member, Dave Zapalac, designed and installed a passive cooling system and we have a slab floor and an area for milling and storing the seed cleaner and mill.

We eagerly anticipate our 13th Annual Harvest Dinner with renowned guest speaker Percy Schmeiser. We have also arranged for him to speak at Huxley College in Bellingham.

On November 19th, LCLT will host a seed saving workshop by Ana Malinoff, who makes her living selling saved seed grown in her garden on Lopez. We are more persuaded than ever that we must save seed for our future generations. Corporations such as Monsanto are shrinking the

seed market so fast, we don't have a moment to lose, and there is so much diversity and strength found in local seed. Our garden grew fabulous cilantro from seed saved last year and, of course, many of us have been saving our bean, garlic, potato and other seed for years. We have much to learn, however, from more experienced seed savers in our community.

Although the economic downturn continues, LCLT received several significant grants and an award last year specifically for use in our net-zero energy efforts in affordable housing. We are proceeding slowly with land clearing and some design alterations. Four local households have been chosen for the new homes and the neighborhood has been temporarily named Common Field. We feel fortunate to be surrounded by young families and, between the Common Ground neighborhood and this fifth project, there will be 16 children. They are our future.

The neighborhood, just northeast of Common Ground, will be comprised of two duplexes, similar in design. We will continue with solar hot water,



Seed Library in Process

grid-tied solar electric power, earthen plaster and passive solar design. These homes will be highly-insulated. Construction will begin in the spring if we are able to secure the necessary funding.

As more young people look for meaning in their work lives, they show interest in both sustainable agriculture and communities that care about one another. Lopez offers both, and we are seeing a significant increased interest in young people returning to Lopez or discovering it for the first time. They need housing, jobs and farming opportunities. LCLT continues to dream of hostel-type housing for interns and

other young working people, as well as a secure way for these young people to gain access to farmland.

LCLT needs you!

Memberships Help Sustain Our Programs

Annual membership dues start at \$10. When you give \$10, \$100, or \$10,000 please know that it makes a difference. Membership funds, in addition to other support, offer LCLT a greater on-going financial stability to carry out successful programs. Additionally, memberships show other funders that we have strong support from our local community. Please join or renew your membership today.

EXCITING SARD SUMMER

sustainable agriculture and rural development

With a total of seven interns serving nine local farms and an additional three new farms in our intern program this year, it was a memorable summer. Our first intern started in February, and the last will finish in late October. Three interns moved into paid positions after their six-week internship. Another expressed a wish to return next year, and two more are contemplating staying on Lopez through the winter. A generous donation from the Heller family allowed LCLT to supply interns throughout the summer for the LIFE Garden and Farm program at the school.



Barbecue for interns at Watmough Head

On one beautiful summer evening, several board members, staff and members of the SARD committee gathered for a barbecue at the Charnley family property at Watmough Head. The evening was memorable for the sheer beauty of the place and because of the generosity of these young people who join our community for a time and offer their labors.

Here's some of what they told us: "My expectations have been blown out of the water. This internship with LCLT was unique because I have been fully welcomed into an entire community rather than just a job." "The emphasis on all aspects of community makes LCLT unique. I also realized LCLT was in no way separate from the rest of Lopez but, rather, very much at the heart of it."

Our February Food Charrette spawned the GMO-free group which has been active in the Saturday Market, signing up 187 parcel owners who pledged

to never knowingly plant genetically modified seed. Board members Faith Van De Putte and David Zapalac, members of the GMO-free group, have been spearheading some of the activities.

The Grain CSA had a successful growing season and the grain is in. Ken Akopiantz and Kathryn Thomas of Horse Drawn Farms grew 1,400 pounds of wheat, enough for everyone who signed up to get a 25-pound sack with 200 pounds left as seed for next year's planting. Threshing took place at Peter and Betsy Currie's farm. A grain mill, donated by Beverly Zapalac, is housed at our office and available for those who need it. CSA subscribers rave about the added flavor of the locally-grown grain.

The Lopez School LIFE Garden and Farm program hired two part-time gardener/farmers: teacher Valerie Yukluk and LCLT member Suzanne Berry. Funding for the positions

was made possible through generous donations from those who contributed to Kay Keeler's bicycle-fundraising adventure; the spring Lamb and Wool Festival, hosted by Maxine Bronstein and Debbie Hayward; and by the Heller family. This big step forward for the school's program contributes much more produce to the school lunch program.

Our sustainable agriculture efforts have had a huge impact on people's lives, whether from using the mobile processing unit, being listed in the Farm Products Guide or life-changing experiences as interns. Each year brings new opportunities and we thank you for your support.



LIFE farm to school Intern Andy Dockstader on lunch break

LOPEZ

A poem by Ellie Brown,
LCLT Intern 2011

*Little rock island
bounded by the sea
catcher of driftwood, travelers, souls
farmers' hands
artists' hands
laborers' hands
building and crafting
community, food, love, beauty, truth
woven together with
stories, laughter, time.
Growth like a tree
down
deep into earth-dark, solid, rich
roots anchoring, reaching out
expanding up
through branches of a central trunk
connected in purpose and function
support, perennial, evolving
becoming grounded
on this floating rock in water.*



ABOVE: Threshing 2011 wheat for Grain CSA, BELOW: Suzanne Berry in the school garden

INTERNS 2011

- Ellie Brown
- Adam Baker
- Katie Burkhalter
- Claire Lagerwey
- Kim Smith
- Andy Dockstader
- Rachel Breitweiser

STAFF

- Sandy Bishop, *Executive Director*
- Rhea Miller, *Assistant Director*
- Michelle McDarmont, *Administrative Assistant*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sue Roundy, *Chair*
- Faith Van De Putte, *Vice Chair*
- Cynthia Moffitt, *Secretary*
- Chom Greacen, *Treasurer*
- Kay Keeler
- Clive Prout
- Read Langenbach
- David Zapalac

Center Road Property Sold to our New SchoolPrincipal!

LCLT completed the sale of the Center Road property to our new school principal Lisa Shelby, her husband Rob and son Tristan. The sale helps make Nate Porter's dream of providing educator housing a reality and permits us to pay off our debt on the property.



Horse Drawn Farm Grain CSA Harvest

Spokesman for Farmers' Rights



Percy Schmeiser

Saskatchewan, Canada, farmer Percy Schmeiser specializes in breeding and growing canola. When his canola fields were contaminated with Monsanto's GMO Round-Up Ready Canola, Schmeiser spoke out for independent farmers' rights and regulating transgenic crops. During his protracted legal battle with the agricultural company, he became an international symbol.

"I have always campaigned on the right of a farmer to save and re-use his own seed," Schmeiser said. "This is what I have been doing for the last 50 years. I will continue to support any efforts to strengthen the rights of a farmer to save and re-use his own seed."

Monsanto asserted it didn't matter how their canola ended up in Percy's field and that he must pay Monsanto their technology fee of \$15/acre. But the Supreme Court agreed with Percy, not Monsanto. In an out-of-court settlement in March of 2008 on a subsequent lawsuit between Percy and Monsanto, Monsanto agreed to pay all clean-up costs of the Roundup Ready canola that contaminated Schmeiser's fields. The agreement stated there was no gag-order on the settlement and that Monsanto could be sued again if further contamination occurred. Schmeiser was the subject of the 1999 film "David Versus Monsanto."

In 2000, Schmeiser received the Mahatma Gandhi Award for working for the good of humankind in a non-violent way. In 2007, he and Louise Schmeiser were named winners of the Right Livelihood Award (also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize) "...for their courage in defending biodiversity and farmers' rights and challenging the environmental and moral perversity of current interpretations of patent laws."

Board Profile: KAY KEELER



Kay Keeler, who joined the board in 2009, is full of creativity and gusto for life! If she sees a program or project that excites her and needs help, she pledges to support it with creative fundraising ideas. When she saw that the LIFE Garden and Farm program needed funds, she celebrated her 75th birthday by taking pledges and bicycling over 30 miles during the Tour de Lopez. The \$6,000 she raised for the program helped hire an additional farmer to keep produce coming year-round into the school cafeteria. When Kay saw islanders needed to protect heirloom seeds appropriate to island soils and climate, her idea was to raffle off the cute yellow electric car to raise funds for the seed library. Our best "hawker" or pitchperson at the Saturday Market LCLT booth, her favorite phrase is "Help support the 'forces of good by purchasing raffle tickets!'"

A retired senior program leader with Landmark Education, Kay is also mother of four, and wife to George Keeler, a family physician and homeopathist, for 50 years. With her Master's in Secondary Education, she has served on national and local boards; coached H.S. rowing; worked as a management consultant to non-profits; directed a non-profit; and mentored at a seminary. An avid rowing and tennis fan, Kay also keeps her iPad at the ready into the wee hours. We need energy to keep up with Kay!

LCLT Harvest Dinner

October 22, 2011

Percy Schmeiser speaks at 7:10

The doors to Lopez Center open at 5:30 p.m.

Judging ends at 6:00. Dinner begins soon after.



Tribal Canoe Journey

LCLT was a major organizer for the 2011 Tribal Canoe Journey stopover on Lopez in July. Approximately 250 tribal members, including crews of 12 canoes, joined Lopezians in a dinner at Odlin Park, followed by First Nations dances and tributes by the various canoe families. The 12 canoes and their support crews from Heiltsuk, Kakawinchtitl (Ahousaht), Bella Bella, Clayoquot, Cowichan, Songees, Tsawout, Victoria, Kwmut Ielium and Lummi Nations traveled through the San Juan Islands en route to joining 66 other canoes and thousands of people at the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in La Conner for a week of traditional dancing, singing and celebration. The annual Tribal Canoe Journey only stops occasionally in the San Juans, and only once before on Lopez. Friends of the San Juans, the only non-tribal host, sponsors and oversees the island stopovers. The more than 100 participating volunteers from our Lopez community included: members of the local Lutheran congregation, Friends of the San Juans, the Cloud Community, Blossom Grocery, LCLT, the Conservation Corps, and many other individuals, particularly Pamela Maresten, Dixie Budke, George Lawson and San Olson. LCLT was honored to be a part of this effort in support of the Coast Salish culture.



Tribal Canoe Journey Arriving on Lopez July 2011

Mayor of Moscow, ID

Mayor Nancy Chaney of Moscow, Idaho, home of the University of Idaho, visited LCLT and our Lopez community in August. Dedicated to making a sustainable Moscow, she came to gain new ideas and insight into sustainable community. Mayor Chaney is also president of the Association of Idaho Cities and serves as chair of the University Communities Council Steering Committee of the National League of Cities. She is pictured here discussing community solar ideas with Common Ground residents Chom and Chris Greacen.



Mayor Nancy Chaney visiting Common Ground.



Paddle stack

Drawing for Electric Vehicle To Be Made at Annual Harvest Dinner



Join us for our annual
Harvest Dinner
Saturday October
22, 2011

Lopez Center for
Community & the Arts
at 5:30PM

Prizes are awarded for best
presentation of a dish of
local foods, and for best use
of local foods. Everyone is
asked to bring their own
plates and cutlery and a
potluck dish of local foods.

Raffle tickets for the electric car are still available.

Contact LCLT or purchase yours at the Harvest Dinner and help us reach our \$6,000 goal to support the Seed Library. Special thanks to

Nancy Nordhoff who generously matched all contributions from last year's Harvest Dinner so we could begin the Seed Library. We're almost there!

National Conference of Community Land Trusts to be held in Seattle

LCLT is blessed with the **National Conference of Community Land Trusts** being held this year in downtown Seattle, October 24-27. Fifty participants from all over the country will be visiting LCLT and Common Ground

on a special Lopez tour Monday October 24th. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the conference in Seattle. Keynote speaker will be Ron Simms. For more info: <http://www.cltnetwork.org>.



LCLT



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