



*A Dream of Houses*

Diana Luhn Bower

# LCLT

LOPEZ COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

NEWSLETTER FALL 2014

## Looking Back, *Moving Forward*—25 Years!



*Sandy Bishop*

In our spring Annual Report we looked back at 25 years of involvement and empowerment in building sustainable community. Now, as we launch our 25th year, we are moving forward. This summer our sixth housing project has begun. Three small homes will be nestled just to the north of our office. Our new entry, Salish Road, will soon be lined with three homes, planted with their own flourishing flowers, gardens and fruit trees. Cam's Garden will be even more of a gathering center, and enclosed with lush vegetation.

The current economic climate has had consequences for many Lopez citizens and for our organization. Our next project is smaller, due to the lack of funding from the Housing Trust Fund and the lack of money in the pockets of working people. We are building two tiny cottages and another two bedroom flex unit for a family, and we have begun to install the infrastructure for further housing along the new access point on Salish Road.

This year has also brought unexpected recognition and rewards. We were asked to participate in a conference call about the new economy. As we talked, we realized that we were speaking with one of our earliest consultants, Chuck Collins, now an author and a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC, where he directs the Program on Inequality and the Common Good. In our very first years, we consulted with Chuck who was then the Executive Director of the Institute for Community Economics. Shortly after that call, we were contacted by the Capital Institute requesting that we be interviewed for a field story on regenerative economics. This has been published online. The author, Susan Chang, spent two months weaving the story together. You can view the story at: <http://fieldguide.capitalinstitute.org/lopez-land-trust.html>.

We have much to be proud of in 25 years of accomplishments, but we are sobered by the fact that single parents, the elderly and young families are entering our office doors in search of affordable housing that we don't yet have. We have young farmers seeking stable housing and farmland. We have college graduates who can't find jobs, and have chosen to intern with us doing meaningful work, rather than sitting idle or working for minimum wage or for corporations that challenge their personal integrity. We see students in our school systems loving local food, and yet realize they are shortly to be catapulted into a world where government-subsidized,



*Salish Road construction*

genetically engineered foods are the cheapest to buy on their already debt-burdened fledgling incomes. We have much work to do.

What keeps us going is your generosity to this organization, the children's smiles as they bound down the road outside our office window, the small businesses of homeowners in our affordable housing neighborhoods that nurture community on Lopez and the faces of our interns as they grow empowered and hopeful for their own futures.



*kids in the neighborhood*

# Bee-Safe San Juan County

Chris and Chom Greacen realized that Chris' aunt, Molly Greacen, had started a Bee-Safe Neighborhood Campaign in Boulder, Colorado, that had gone viral. Since Molly was coming to visit Lopez, they asked her if she would do a couple of public speaking engagements. That was the spark for us to initiate our own Bee-Safe Campaign. Chom inspired the SARD committee and other folks, including Ken Akopiantz and Marney Reynolds, to take a closer look at the role of pollinators and what we can do to create a more thriving environment for them. Marney Reynolds designed a stunning logo and flyer with Rhea compiling the information, based on content from Molly and the Living Systems Institute in Boulder, Colorado. Rhea designed a website, [www.bee-safesjc.org](http://www.bee-safesjc.org), flyers were sent to the County Fair, and Molly did presentations on Lopez and Orcas, which were well attended. She was joined by bee keeper Eric Hall on Lopez – the room was abuzz with excitement.

One-third of food crops eaten by humans every day depend on pollinators, especially bees. The biggest shock in investigating the bee dilemma is the fact that home garden centers, such as Home Depot and Lowes, have been selling “bee friendly” garden plants only to find out that they have been treated with neonicotinoids (neonics).

Neonics are systemic killers, working system-wide, entering the seeds, roots, trunk, branches, stems, leaves, flowers, pollen, and nectar of the plants - essentially making the plant poisonous to bees and other pollinators.

The bee-safe research led us to another problem that threatens not only our bees, but the seawater off our shores. Pyrethroids now constitute the majority of commercial household insecticides used widely in home insect-control products. Aside from the fact that they are toxic to beneficial insects, such as bees and dragonflies, pyrethroids are toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. At extremely small levels, such as two parts per trillion, pyrethroids are lethal to mayflies, gadflies, and invertebrates that constitute the base of many aquatic and terrestrial food webs here in San Juan County and the Pacific Northwest.

Furthermore, pyrethroids have been found to be unaffected by secondary treatment systems at wastewater treatment facilities, meaning that they appear in the effluent, which in the Northwest is often dumped directly into the sea, usually at levels lethal to invertebrates. Pyrethroids can be particularly lethal to bees, cats, and fish and are known to be toxic to humans and dogs. In humans, the chemicals can harm the nervous system, and high



amounts can cause headaches, difficulty breathing, nausea, and vomiting. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that the pyrethroid permethrin is likely to be carcinogenic to humans.

Bayer CropScience, Syngenta and Dow are among the manufacturers of neonics. You can help by not buying off-the-shelf neonics, demand neonic-free vegetable and bedding plants from suppliers, plant neonic and pesticide-free bee-friendly plants. You can also help by not buying pyrethroids. Check out the website for alternatives to these insecticides: [www.bee-safesjc.org](http://www.bee-safesjc.org).



## 4th OF JULY

We celebrated LCLT's 25th anniversary by entering a float in the Fourth of July Parade and winning the 2014 Chamber of Commerce Award. Ty Paniloff joined us on his towering stilts, Read Langenbach drove his 1953 International Harvester truck, Chris Greacen supplied the solar panel, and Ryan Muir, Sprout Plankton and Alice Ornellas built the little house. Best of all, a lot of children, board members and friends joined us, and we had a great time!



Chamber of Commerce 4th of July award



LCLT'S 4th of July entry



# HOUSING UPDATES

Tierra Verde has its final siding, thanks to the efforts of Scott Trounson, Ty Paniloff, and Sprout Plankton. The pastel colors form the backdrop for playgrounds, gardens, and lawns. There are now ten children living at the four-unit Tierra Verde neighborhood. We continue remediation work on Common Ground through the efforts of Sprout Plankton. The walls are stabilizing into normal moisture range, and the new lime render and techniques seem to be working. We will continue monitoring through next year and applying additional lime washes. Dr. Jim Carfrae, both a researcher and practitioner from England, has been generously willing to continue consulting with us via Skype.

This year as part of our continued effort to reduce carbon emissions, LCLT worked with households to install 10 ductless heat pumps – exchanging wood stoves, resistance heating and propane for heat pumps. People report that they are very pleased with these new efficient heat pumps. They are quiet, easy to operate, filter the air, and create a comfortable whole house temperature while reducing monthly operating costs. We are grateful for the collaboration between the households, the Opportunity Council's *Community Energy Challenge* program, the OPALCO rebate and a private grant from an anonymous donor that made this possible. As we build new homes we will be installing more heat pumps along with solar electricity and hot water heat pumps. Small steps can ultimately lead to big changes. We encourage others to look into the Community Energy Challenge at: <http://sustainableconnections.org/energy/energychallenge> or call: 866.444.5028.

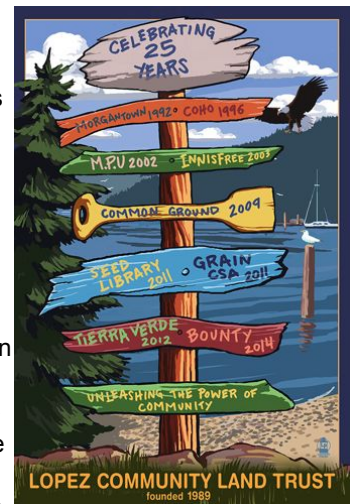
*Tierra Verde homes*



## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LCLT BOARD MEMBERS

About 40 people, representing past and current Board members and their family members, gathered on September 12, 2014, to commemorate LCLT's 25th year. This is just one of many events to mark this auspicious year. In particular, LCLT honored Mitch Hoyt who helped put the very first neighborhood, Morgantown, on the ground. Mitch was remembered for telling us that our "foundations must be better than perfect!" Many in attendance had been with the organization since the founding years. Tears and laughter flowed freely as we remembered and we honored the courage, vision and steadfastness it took to set such a robust organization on a firm foundation. So many forces were against us in the early days, including a backlash of public opinion, market forces and our inexperience. But persevere we did, and now there is much to celebrate.

Background keyboard music was provided by Sara Greacen, 10 years old. Each Board member received a poster in color, which will also be on sale at the Harvest Dinner. A Garry Oak tree has been selected and will be planted in honor of all the Board members. A bronze plaque on stone will be placed at its feet. Deceased Board members Rod Morgan, Len Kanzer, Ted Bower and Cam DeVore were also recognized for their outstanding work. LCLT has had working Boards all its life, and we are grateful to all Board members who have helped us reach where we are today. Diana Bower shared a Rumi quote during the gathering: ***Stay together, friends/ Don't scatter and sleep/Our friendship is made/of being awake.*** Rumi



***Your contributions of time, talent and dollars are what enable this work of unleashing the power of community to be accomplished. Please keep us moving forward! Thank you!***

# INTERNS 2014



*Clockwise beginning with beekeeper Morgan Wade, Ezra Fradkin, Blythe Carter, Alice Ornellas, Ashley del Campo*

We've been blessed once again with a wonderful group of interns. This summer we have been working with five interns in both sustainable agriculture and construction. Here is some feedback in their own words:

**Alice Mascarenhas Ornellas from Brazil:** "I really want to live in a place like Lopez one day, with that special spirit of community. One of the things I learned working with construction is using my body and knowing that I am able to use my force."

**Ashely del Campo from Idaho :** "Even though this internship was geared toward sustainable agriculture and I could put out an entire list of everything I learned about farming, I think the most rewarding thing was gaining confidence and inspiration from spending time with Suzanne and Christine and the entire Lopez community."

**Ezra Fradkin from Vermont** [from his blog]: *Good work speaks for itself.* It is the motto of the Hummel House [where I stayed], but it could be the motto for the island, a community of people pursuing their passions while working together to create a sustainable island life. You can describe the work, you can describe the impact it has had on the community, you can describe the people who make the work happen, but in the end the work speaks for itself.

The island of Lopez has a strong sense of community. This is a place of neighbors helping neighbors, of potlucks and shared resources. A local poet described how "there are no wrong numbers on Lopez," because everyone has a reason to talk to everyone whether they called them by accident or not. Everybody waves from car to car (it's rude not to), and community functions and events invite long-time friends and first-time residents to celebrate their island home together. Much of what gives Lopez such a strong sense of community is necessitated by it being an island. Because resources are limited and trips off-island are expensive, people call on their neighbors and create practical social networks that reduce the need to leave. (con't. p. 6)



# BOUNTY:

## LOPEZ ISLAND FARMERS, FOOD AND COMMUNITY

This year as we celebrate our 25 years as an organization, we join with the Lopez Locavores to honor the farmers in our community at the **Annual Harvest Dinner**. Instead of a guest speaker, we will be treated to a photo-journal screen presentation celebrating Lopez farmers, food, and community. The photographs have been taken by three of the island's outstanding photographers: Steve Horn, Summer Moon Scriver, and Robert Harrison

Sue Roundy created the idea for "Bounty" that will feature twenty-seven Lopez Island farms. She feels that Lopezians are fortunate to have access to fresh, healthy, local food and wanted to thank these farmers for their hard work and delicious food! She imagined a three-year project, and we agreed that it was a great idea.



*Schools' LIFE Garden & Farm Harvest with gardener Valerie Yukluk and intern Morgan Wade*

In the project's first year, the photographers will document these farmers, their land and the food they produce. These stunning photographs will premier in a color slide show to celebrate the LCLT's 25th anniversary at the organization's Harvest Dinner on October 25, 2014. The slide show also will be shown at the 2015 San Juan County Agricultural Summit in February. In Fall 2015, framed black-and-white portraits of farmers will be exhibited first at Lopez Center in conjunction with the LCLT Harvest Dinner, then at Lopez Library and the Lopez Post Office. In year three, we hope to have a book published with these photos and stories. For more of the story, see: <http://lopezbounty.org>.

## LOPEZ BOUNTY FOOD EXPERIMENT

Inspired both by the Bounty project and Whidbey Island author Vicki Robin's reading from her latest book, *Blessing the Hands that Feed Us*, a few of us decided it would be worthwhile to engage in The Lopez Bounty Food Experiment – a project also sponsored by Lopez Community Land Trust and Lopez Locavores. Participants have chosen a month (or more) to dedicate themselves to eating locally. The experiment started September 1, 2014.

Just as with any food system in any culture in any place on the planet, there are always items that must be traded or bought. During this experiment we'll all learn of special ways of eating locally to help us expand our own journey into local foods. The participants of the month will report back on how their experiment is faring and what foods they have exempted from their experiment. Each week we'll learn what challenges they have had to meet in order to put food on the table, what surprises, what new local food they have discovered, who they can turn to for help, and what they have had to can/freeze/dry in another season to make it through the season they are in.

Go to the website: <http://lopezbounty.org/the-bounty-food-experiment/> and see what local food your neighbor of the month is putting on the table!



*Henning Sehmsdorf with their S & S Homestead cheese*

(**Interns** con't. from page 4) Yet Lopez also seems to be a place where communities are created out of thin air. The term for this is "emergent community." It refers to a type of community that is created spontaneously out of the shared experience of a group of people in a time and a place. These communities are made up of strangers who find connection for a brief period of time. As one internet source stated, "The community emerges as if by design but there is no deliberate design effort." These communities just happen; the only necessity is the shared experience of being there.

So what are the qualities of these emergent communities?

Food is important. They call them "Lopez Potlucks" and they happen all the time on every corner of the island. Show up, bring something to share (or not), and experience other's company for a few hours. In that span of time, a community is created from nothing more than a table and some home-cooked food. Maybe the connections you make at a Lopez Potluck will outlast the evening, but in the moment, the community only exists in that meal. Food is central to almost every community on the planet, and it is often the very force building such communities. At a potluck, each individual's contribution composes a meal that is stronger than its parts, mimicking the way the individual members of a community all contribute to its synergy.

**Morgan Wade from Seattle:** I was surprised that I could do everything I was asked to do. The hardest part was not doubting myself. I loved everyone I worked with and would like to include growing plants with the kids in my teaching.

**Blythe Carter from North Carolina:** You can think, "Oh, someone else will do it." And then you realize that there is no one else to do it. "I am the one to do it!"



## JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL LCLT HARVEST DINNER

**OCTOBER 25, 2014**

***Bounty: Lopez Island Farmers, Food, and Community***

Photo screen presentation by Steve Horn, Summer Moon Scriver, and Robert Harrison

Lopez Center for Community and the Arts

Doors open at **5:00 p.m.** and ***Silent Auction*** begins.

Judging of dishes ends at 6:10 Dinner begins soon after.

Special Presentation of ***Bounty*** at 7:30 Dance at 8:30

Everyone is welcome! Please bring your own plates and cutlery and a potluck dish of local foods. Prizes are awarded to dishes for best presentation of local foods and best use of local foods.

*Unleashing the Power of Community* Content and Layout: Board and staff Copy Editor: Diana Sheridan  
Linoleum Block Prints: Diana Luhn Bower Photos: Staff and friends

### Board of Directors

Kay Keeler, Chair  
Eleanor Parks, Secretary  
Chom Greacen, Vice Chair & Treasurer  
Scott Finley  
Read Langenbach  
Cynthia Moffitt  
Diana Sheridan  
Natalie Wilson  
David Zapalac

### Staff

Sandy Bishop, Executive Director  
Rhea Miller, Assistant Director  
Michelle McDarmont, Administrative Ass't.  
Ken Akopiantz, Seed Librarian  
Charlie Behnke, Seed Librarian



LOPEZ COMMUNITY LAND TRUST  
*Building a Sustainable Island Community*  
P.O. Box 25  
Lopez Island, WA 98261

360.468.3723

[LCLT@rockisland.com](mailto:LCLT@rockisland.com)

[www.lopezclt.org](http://www.lopezclt.org)

**NEWSLETTER FALL 2014**

Printed on  
recycled paper

