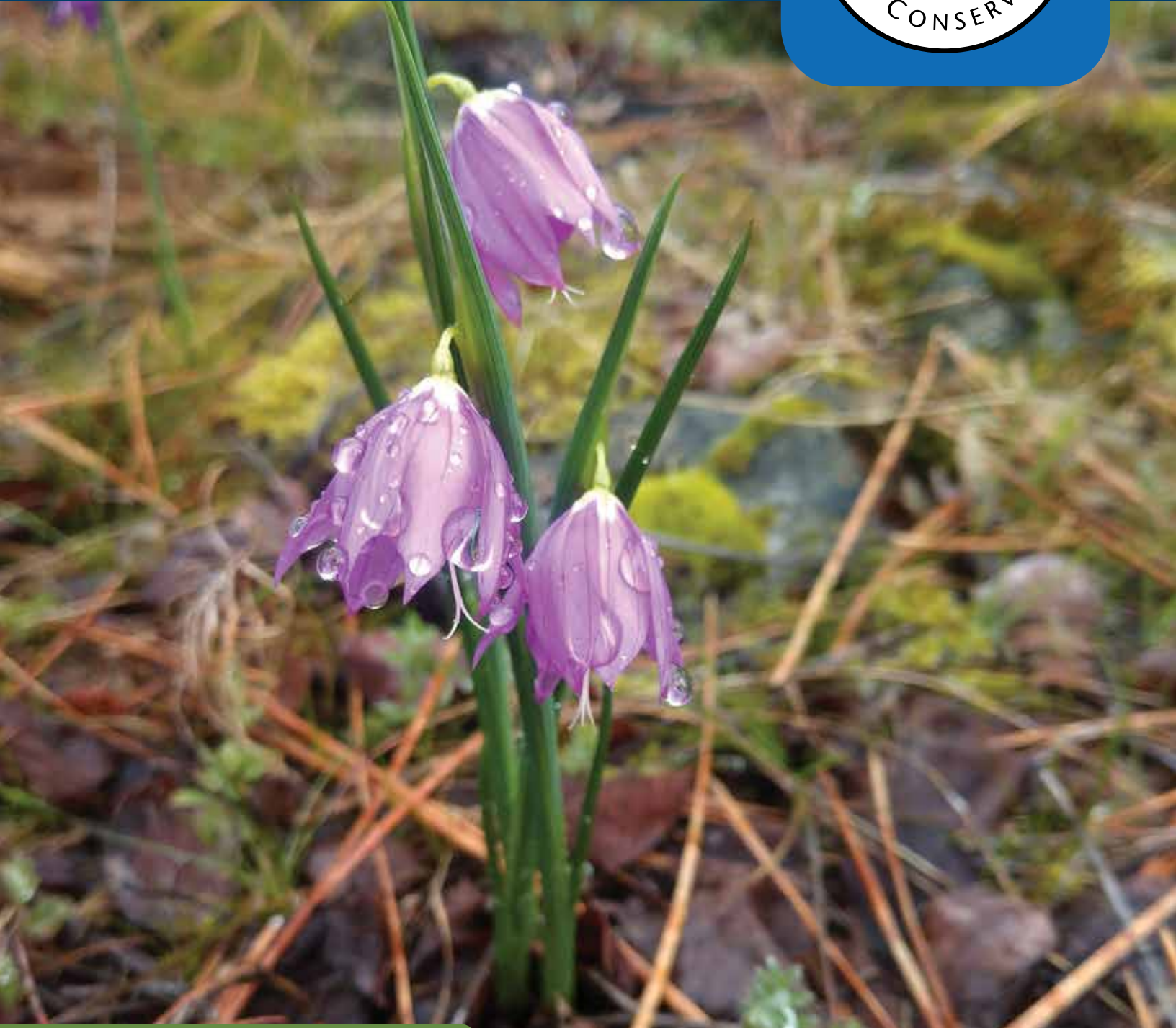


SPRING 2021 | Vol. 30, No. 1

InLandNEWS



Fall in love with nature
all over again . . . Page 6

Spring grass widows near the
Phillips Creek Trail in Spokane Valley

Relationships with the Natural World

This past year I've grown to appreciate the value of relationships, and what we lose when we can't see, be with, and share experiences with those we hold dear. The reciprocal exchange of support, ideas and energy is hard to re-create by phone or Zoom. This is one reason why I'm energized by the coming of spring and the increasing distribution of COVID vaccines – it feels like we can begin gathering again with our community of friends.

Relationship is central to the work we do as a community of conservationists. Our relationships with each other along with our relationships with the natural world sustain, feed, and support us. For me, our work to protect regional lands and waters is a loving act of reciprocity in my relationship with nature – a way to demonstrate my gratitude for the Earth. And I am moved by the many ways in which you, our community, nurture your relationships with nature through your generous support of the Conservancy's work.

This issue of our newsletter highlights some of the ways that our friends are deepening their own enduring relationships with nature. Conservation landowners like Kirk and Madeline David, volunteers like our Land Protection Committee members, and legacy donors like Alice Clausen are a handful of the many folks who are strengthening their relationships with nature, and each other, through their contributions to regional land and water conservation.

As spring unfolds and we return to meeting in person, I look forward to the many relationships that will re-emerge around us in support of each other and the natural world that sustains us.

Thank you for the relationships you nurture in our conservation community right here in the Inland Northwest.

Sincerely,
Dave Schaub, Executive Director



Build your relationship to the natural world with Rocks to Roots Podcast

The Conservation Conversation Project
Produced by the Spokane Conservation District, this podcast series is intended to share education and resources related to landmanagement, conservation practices, and to celebrate some of the great stewards of land here in our region.

RockstoRoots.org



Sunset from Steptoe Butte, overlooking the Palouse Prairie

Palouse Champion Leaves a Legacy

By Heidi Lasher, Conservancy Volunteer and Strategic Communications & Policy Consultant

For most of Alice Clausen's life, she saw the sun rise and set over the Palouse. Her home near Spangle, Washington south of Spokane had been her husband's childhood home. She spoke passionately about the farmland and the pockets and seams of brush and tall grasses that she shared with birds and wildlife. While appreciative of farming, she despaired of changing practices that degraded the soil and wildlife habitat. She described once being able to drink from the creeks that flowed across the property, which now ran with "brown froth." Watching the lands around her farm subdivided and sold into smaller and smaller pieces, she recognized that once the land was carved up and converted to development, it would be forever lost. In 2018, Clausen worked with the Conservancy to place her 1,100 acres of rich Palouse farmland into conservation easements, preventing its subdivision and development.

Later, she initiated a series of conversations with the Conservancy, her attorney and banker about making a planned gift upon her death. "Planned giving" refers to any major charitable gift made as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning," explains Conservancy executive director Dave Schaub. "These gifts can include equities, life insurance, real estate, personal property or cash." In Clausen's case, the gift to the Conservancy was half of her retirement account, worth more than \$400,000.

Legacy gifts to the Conservancy's endowment funds are an important component of the Conservancy's financial sustainability.

Alice Clausen passed away peacefully in her home under the vast Palouse sky last fall. Her generous gift made a substantial addition to the Conservancy's endowment

funds, which are managed by the Innovia Foundation, a community foundation serving Eastern Washington and North Idaho. "Our endowments are managed so that the earnings support our ongoing conservation work," Dave explains. "This way the donor's legacy gift keeps protecting vital lands and waters far into the future."

"Alice wanted to see more land protected for wildlife," said Chris DeForest, conservation director at the Conservancy. "She wanted to restore the health of the land." Conservancy staff member Rose Richardson met with Clausen a year ago. Rose describes a pond that Alice wanted to show her. "It was a little pond, maybe 20 feet across, and we stayed there a long time talking about wildlife, local kids who tried to fish in it, game trails that came and went. Some trees she had planted with her husband had recently died, and she was excited to replant them for the birds." The Conservancy intends to honor Clausen's passion for the land and wildlife. Her legacy gift will be used in part to support the Volunteer Land Steward program, to restore habitat, and conserve wild places throughout the Palouse and the Inland Northwest.

Planned gifts to the Conservancy's endowment funds are an important component of the Conservancy's financial sustainability. For more information about how your contributions can support regional conservation success far into the future please reach out to executive director Dave Schaub, contact the Innovia Foundation, or discuss with your attorney or tax advisor how to make a planned gift to Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. ■

5%
INVESTED
FULLY
COMMITTED

By 2029 in the Inland Northwest, \$42 billion will transfer from one generation to the next. Just 5%, \$2 billion, of that could transform our region.

Learn more at InlandNWLand.org/get-involved

Four Decades of National Parks Experience for the Inland Northwest

By Caroline Woodwell, Conservancy Volunteer, Life Coach & Writer

After 40 years in the National Park Service, Tom Bradley thought he would retire to Sheridan, Wyoming. Then he discovered Spokane. With easy access to the outdoors for him, and a city full of historic buildings for his wife, who teaches historic preservation, it seemed like the perfect place.


There was just one more small question to answer: Tom wanted a place with a vigorous local land trust. He contacted the Conservancy and talked with the staff and board. In moments, he knew he had found a home. He and his wife bought a Craftsman bungalow and Tom has been volunteering with the Conservancy ever since.

Today he is bringing his range of experience in land stewardship to his new position as president of the board and active member of the land protection committee*. Beginning as a park ranger, Tom did law enforcement, rescue, public outreach, and education. When he realized that his daily tasks were reactive – “we would wait to see what would happen” – he became a manager so he could lead, instead.

From there, Tom did just about everything a person can do in the care and protection of public land. He was Superintendent of Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis. He was Deputy Superintendent of the Statue of Liberty National Monument where his son and daughter, who now live in Colorado, rode the ferry to school in New York City. He worked for the National Park Service all over the country and in the Caribbean, partnering with politicians, state and local governments, and national land conservation organizations. He helped raise hundreds of millions of dollars from public and private sources.

At the Conservancy, he says, “working with small communities is similar. It’s getting people interested in what you’re doing.” He notes that the Conservancy has grown and so, “when people see a thorny problem in land use, they say, ‘Let’s talk with INLC.’” Now, with a record of national land conservation behind him, Tom is eager to strengthen the land trust in his new hometown. As president of the Conservancy board, he says, “I want to build capacity. I think INLC is doing great work and we just need more.” ■

*Read more about the Conservancy’s all-star Land Protection Committee—professional biologists, geologists, hydrologists, educators, and marketers—on page 8.



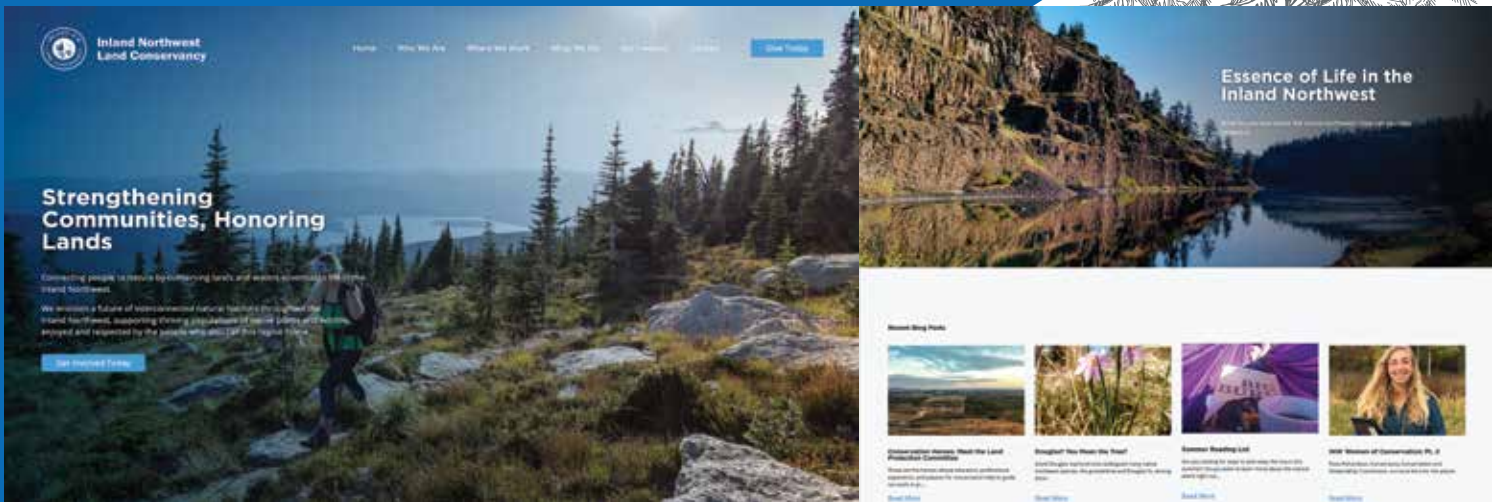
Left: Incoming Board President, Tom Bradley, discusses local geology with Land Protection Committee Chair, Lindsay Chutas at the new Saltese Expansion project area in Spokane Valley.

Right: Then Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewel, and Bradley talk with a reporter at the grand opening for Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis.



We've had a digital facelift!

Visit our new website at **InlandNWLand.org** to see maps of our project areas, information about our public preserves you can visit, and ways you can help protect our natural world for the future.



A line drawing of a large pile of books and several sheets of paper flying through the air.

A simple line drawing of a sun with rays.

Summer Reading List

Visit our blog to see a list of recommended reading from Rose Richardson, our Conservation & Stewardship Manager. The books on this list will help you become familiar with the local plants, animals, and natural history of the Inland Northwest.

www.inlandnwland.org/summer-reading-list/

Here are a few examples of the Reading List...

	Plants of the Inland Northwest & Southern Interior British Columbia by Ray Coupe, Roberta Parish, Dennis Lloyd		Amphibians of the Pacific Northwest by Lawrence L.C. Jones		Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter by Ben Goldfarb
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Room to Roam at Saltese

By Jon Jonckers, Conservancy Volunteer, Professional Photographer & Writer

Most Inland Northwest residents know about Liberty Lake near the Idaho-Washington border, but few are aware that an even larger lake once existed only a few miles west. Named after Chief Andrew Seltice, the Saltese Lake was completely drained beginning in the 1890s by Spokane Valley pioneer Peter Morrison, who homesteaded the area and drained the lake to make more pastures for his cattle. In recent decades the cattle have largely gone as suburbs have expanded.

In the midst of these changes, the Conservancy and other groups are restoring Saltese Lake marsh lands for wildlife and people to enjoy. Spokane County Environmental Services Department acquired several hundred acres of the Saltese Flats in 2010 and have been successfully restoring the historic wetlands and creating a network of

trails. Restored wetlands in that area will provide multiple community benefits including delaying runoff to recharge the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, which in turn, could increase flow in the Spokane River during late summer months.

The adjacent Saltese Uplands Conservation Area is home to songbirds, upland game birds, birds of prey and a multitude of terrestrial wildlife. Covering over 550 acres, the area features miles of multiuse trails for hiking, trail running, horseback riding and bird watching. Since the County's initial Uplands acquisition back in 2011, Saltese has quickly become a favorite location for all kinds of nature exploration. The good news is that Saltese Uplands are poised to become even better.

Inland Northwest Land Conservancy is raising money to buy an adjacent 55-acre property for public enjoyment of nature instead of residential development. It's on the western side of Carlson Hill, which most users recognize by the water tank on the summit. This property is situated in an area of rapid development and will now be protected from being developed. With the 55 additional acres, the public will have access to roughly 607 acres, which means more trails, more experiences with nature, and more sweeping sunset views.

Since 2018, the number of daily users at Saltese Uplands has increased by 119%. Illustrating just how popular and crucial this area is for inspiring a love of nature. The Conservancy secured a very generous purchase and sale

continue to page 7 >



Photo by Aaron Theisen



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agreement from a conservation minded seller. We need the community's help to raise \$500,000 by the end of the year to secure and own the land. Once purchased, the land will be open for hiking, mountain biking and other non-motorized uses. Future trail development will be in partnership with the Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department to enhance the already well designed and much-loved trail system. These 55 acres (about 42 football fields in size) are a key element toward finalizing a conservation area with a healthy wildlife system and preserving some beloved trails that might otherwise become another suburb.

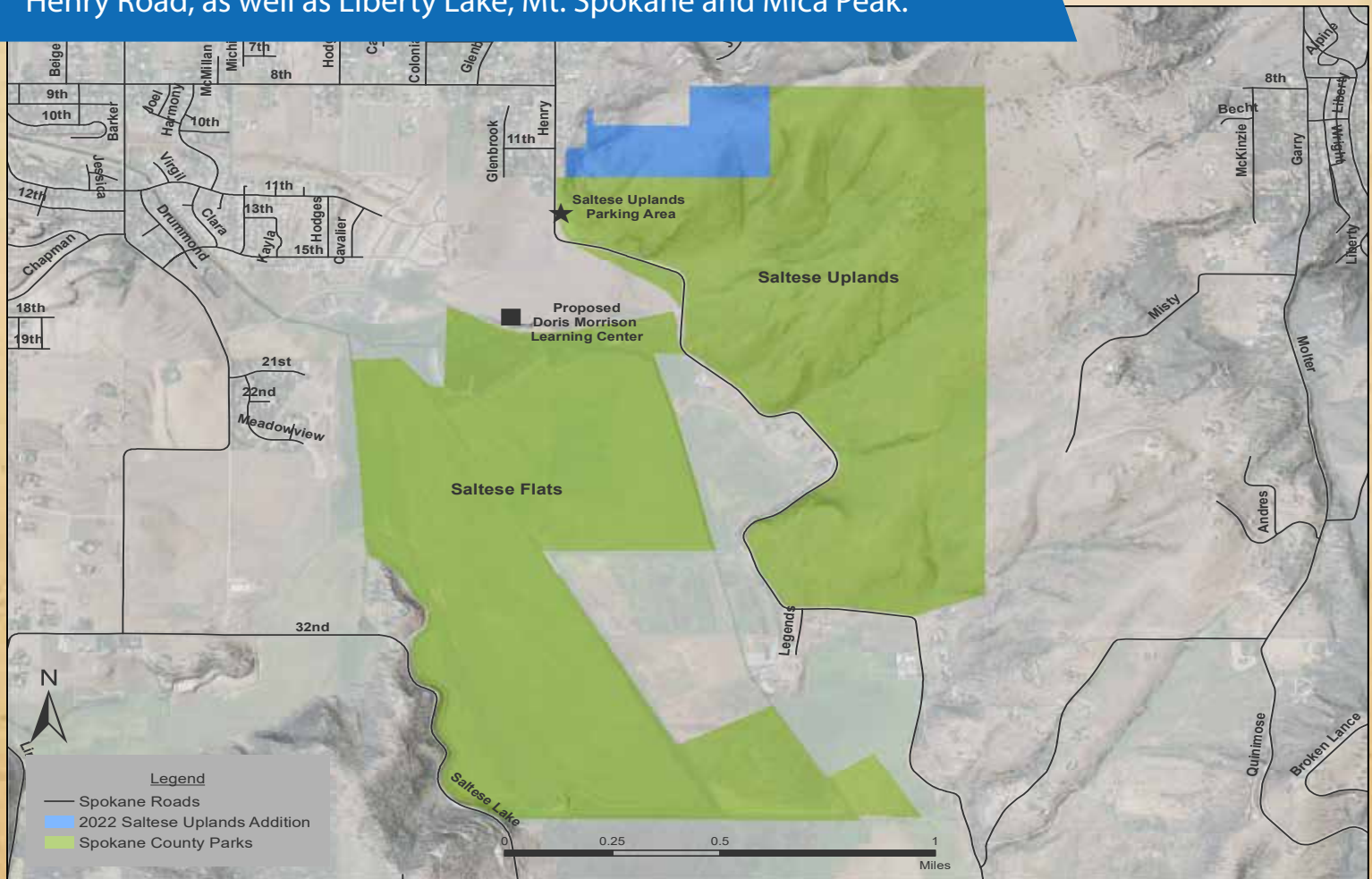
Todd Dunfield, the Conservancy's Community Conservation Program Manager, says, "This is one of a myriad of ways that we continue to connect people with the land essential to life here in the Inland Northwest. With the addition of these 55 acres conserved at Saltese Uplands,

the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene community will now have a 600-acre natural space to enjoy meandering trails, gorgeous sunsets, and picturesque wildlife for generations."

With its conservation partners, your Conservancy has created a mosaic of rich habitat from the Liberty Lake Cedar Grove, to Mica Peak, through the Saltese Lake area and into the Dishman Hills. Protecting lands and waters for the health and future of our community, the natural world, and the climate, is at the center of our work. With your help, we can protect this beautiful pocket of green space to help foster a love of nature for generations to come! ■

Please visit **InlandNWLand.org/Saltese-Expansion** to find out how you can invest in this project today.

Historic views from our expansion area (highlighted in blue) would have included a lake that encompassed much of the area west of Henry Road, as well as Liberty Lake, Mt. Spokane and Mica Peak.



Conservation Heroes: Meet the Land Protection Committee

By Caroline Woodwell, Conservancy Volunteer Writer

Lindsay Chutas grew up playing golf and basketball in Walla Walla. **Rebecca Brown** went to the Olympic trials in white water slalom racing after years of kayaking with her family on the rivers of southeastern US. **Carl Griffin** spent his career in Colorado as an IBM executive in management and marketing. They didn't know each other until they, along with nine others who have diverse backgrounds, skills and perspectives, sat down together as members of the Land Protection Committee at the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. There they found a group of people who are equally committed to land conservation in the Inland Northwest.

Formally, the Land Protection Committee "provides guidance and expertise to the conservation staff and to the Board, and it ensures that the Conservancy's land protection work fulfills the Conservancy's mission," according to its charter. In less formal language, the committee is "the brain trust, the red-light green-light for all projects," says Conservation Director Chris DeForest, who staffs the committee. "It's at the heart of the Conservancy's work."

A group of people who are equally committed to land conservation in the Inland Northwest.

Members of the Land Protection Committee are responsible for reviewing all land protection projects, recommending those that will move forward, proposing conservation strategies, reviewing land protection tools and processes, project selection criteria, reviewing and recommending projects with partner organizations, and reviewing management plans. They report to the full board, which draws heavily on the expertise and recommendations of the Land Protection Committee to make its own final decisions about projects.

It should be no surprise then, to learn that members of the Land Protection Committee are selected for their expertise, skills, community connections, their scientific knowledge. When the whole committee sits down at a table (or populates the squares at a Zoom meeting), the Conservancy has a range of talents, tools, world views and local perspectives about land and community at its disposal.

Eric Erikson, for example, began a career as a marine geophysicist when there were no electronics. Maps and graphics were drafted by hand. When the first Geographic Information Systems became available for mapping layers of data about land and land use in 1995, Eric retired from his job and became a GIS consultant. Today he makes all the maps for the Conservancy. It's simple for Eric: "I love maps and I love being able to make maps." In addition, he says, he appreciates the "intent" of the map: land protection. Eric has volunteered at the Conservancy for more than ten years – long enough to have his own office in the Conservancy's suite of office in Spokane. Being there at the heart of the Conservancy's work "gives me a sense of accomplishment and community."

Judy Stafstrom also finds a sense of community at the Conservancy. This lawyer-turned-teacher, came to Spokane when her husband retired, both to be near family and because of the access to the outdoors. Raised in Wilmington, Delaware with time spent in the lakes region of New Hampshire, she credits years of teaching high school students for her ability to pay attention to the process and the details as she and the Land Protection Committee evaluate projects.

Members of the committee often bring the voices of those they serve. **Rebecca Stevens** has a personal commitment to land and water protection in the Coeur d'Alene Basin

continue to page 9 >



The Land Protection Committee visits Saltese Uplands to discuss taking on this land acquisition.

that fills her professional life. Rebecca is Lake Management Restoration Coordinator for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. A biologist by training, she first worked with a native tribe, the Ojibwe Community around Bemidji, Minnesota, while she was in college. Now she finds consonance between the tribe's goals and that of the Conservancy, for preserving land in the Lake Coeur d'Alene watershed, the aboriginal territory of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

Paul Knowles also brings his personal passion and his professional knowledge to the Land Protection Committee. As Manager of Special Projects for Spokane County Department of Parks and Recreation, and with a masters degree in urban and regional planning, he brings questions about the landscape scale. Paul grew up on the Tallulah Reservation in Graham County, Washington, cementing an interest in the outdoors by wandering the beaches and forests around his home. As someone who focuses on public land in his day job, Paul brings a public use lens to the Conservancy. "How do we engage the community in this project?" Paul asks of projects like Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve.

Protecting habitat for waterfowl, songbirds, and migratory birds is part of the Conservancy's mission.

Part of the Conservancy's mission is to protect habitat, including rivers and lakes for waterfowl, forests and grasslands for songbirds, and undeveloped land for migratory birds. **Lisa Langlier** knows birds. Retired from a career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Lisa was most recently manager of three national wildlife refuges that merged into one (Little Pend Oreille, Kootenai and Turnbull National Wildlife Refuges). She has spent her career and her free time studying birds. Twice a year Lisa and a friend do two raptor counts in the Coeur d'Alene Basin, looking for birds of prey: red tail hawks, kestrels, bald eagles, ruff legged hawks, northern harriers. Lisa knows what it takes to manage land for habitat and public use.

Tom Bradley, who is chair of the Conservancy board, also spent his career managing public lands. Beginning as a park ranger, he spent 40 years in the National Park Service, retiring from a position as Park Superintendent at Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis, Missouri. He and his wife moved to Spokane for the outdoors, the inventory of historic buildings, and because there was a vibrant land trust. Like Lisa, Tom brings an understanding of the federal, state and local players that can breathe life into a land protection transaction.

Carl Griffin's career in marketing and management taught him how to bring complex ideas together into an action plan. Carl has the added benefit of six years on the board. He saw an evolution from a small organization with a focus on private land owner conservation deals to a growing team that works with projects like Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve, and Rimrock to Riverside, to create more opportunity for the public to experience nature. Today Carl brings history of the organization and the momentum of someone who can cut through complexities by asking

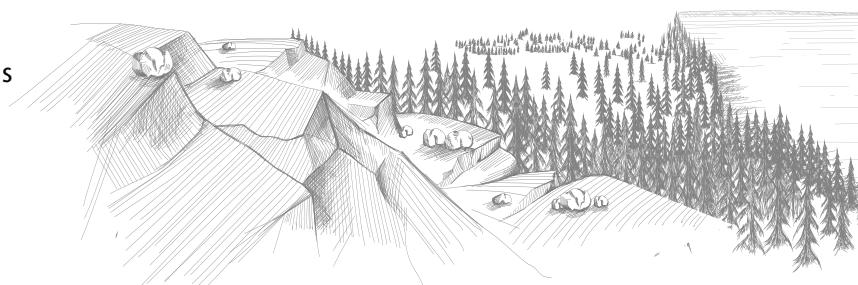
what he calls "the dumb questions." But, as he notes, there is value in those questions. Sometimes, the simple questions show the clear path forward.

Becky Brown, avid whitewater kayaker and now Chair of the Biology Department at Eastern Washington University, got involved in the Conservancy's work through a personal connection to a single piece of land. She and her family moved to Palisades Park when they came to Spokane for her job as a professor. Their neighbor, Craig Volosing, had a vision for expanding the Park and when several parcels in his plan came on the market, he persuaded Rebecca and her husband to buy one. Then the Conservancy got involved in consolidating and purchasing parcels, moving the Rimrock to Riverside vision forward. As a restoration ecologist, she brings a sense of priorities to the Conservancy's land protection projects, drawing on information from the state's Natural Heritage Program where she serves on the advisory committee.

Lindsay Chutas, who chairs the Land Protection Committee, is also an avid outdoor adventurer. As a student majoring in geology at the University of Washington, she got an introduction to the great outdoors. When she moved to Spokane she volunteered at the County Conservation District then landed a job as Riparian Program Leader. Like others on the Land Protection Committee, she brings both her work and passion to the table. These days, in her spare time, Lindsay can often be found roped into a pitch on a rock cliff overlooking protected lands. As a user of protected lands, she brings an awareness of how groups and individuals interact with the land, and she brings professional expertise in restoration and management.

Peggy O'Connell is the longest serving member of the Land Protection Committee, a former member of the Conservancy board, and a professor of biology at Eastern Washington. She and her husband do biodiversity assessments for the tribes, the Conservancy, and others in the region. A strong proponent of protection of the *full* diversity of habitats, she has been known to remind Conservancy staff who are occasionally enamored of forests, that "we are not the Inland Northwest Forest Conservancy!"

As Waikiki Springs and Rimrock to Riverside take shape, and the Conservancy develops Olmstead 2.0, with its goal of a connected network of parks, paths, and protected lands, the Land Protection Committee brings community connections, scientific expertise, and resources to ambitious land protection goals and a community eager to be in love with nature for the long haul. ■



Foresters and Their Own Forest, Forever

By Kirk & Madeline David, Idaho forest landowners

“Buy land. They ain’t makin’ any more of the stuff.” –Will Rogers.

If you have purchased land for any reason, you know the wisdom of that statemnt. If you possess “undeveloped” land and are like most conservation-minded folks, you feel you have acquired not only the privilege of ownership, but also a responsibility of stewardship beyond personal reasons.

Of course, personal reasons are pretty much the place where we all start. As a degreed forester, from the beginning I (Kirk) felt that every true forester should own at least a little bit of forest of his or her own to manage, observe, learn from, and “practice what they preached.” After completing my paper chase, I bit the bullet and purchased my first twenty acres. With a forester’s eye, I found a bit of paradise that I was convinced, “had it all.” Even during the first task of creating a small log house on a postage stamp-sized corner of the land, I was sizing up and engaging in some hands-on work (with mules!) to make minor stewardship touches I learned in training.

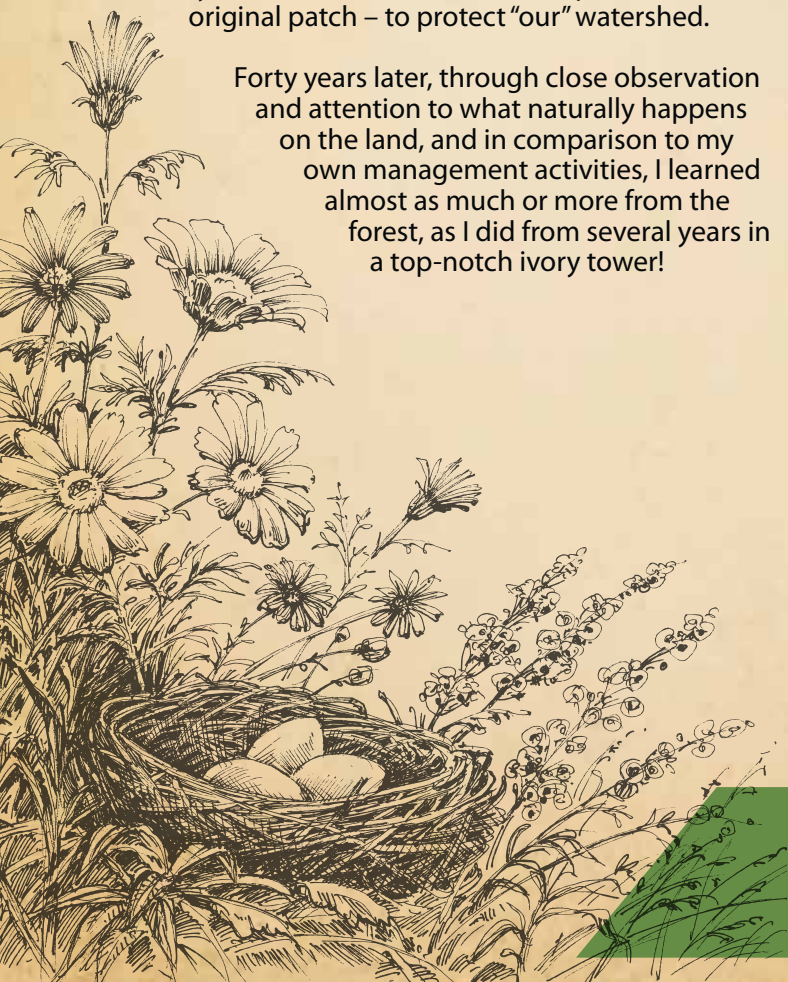
Within a few years, my wife and I had the opportunity to obtain another 135 acres uphill of the original patch – to protect “our” watershed.

Forty years later, through close observation and attention to what naturally happens on the land, and in comparison to my own management activities, I learned almost as much or more from the forest, as I did from several years in a top-notch ivory tower!

Our intention with the land is that it is a working forest. For us, this is a distinction between preservation and conservation. Preservation means that nothing ever changes. But the biotic world is renewable, recyclable, and all the other environmentally positive attributes. Madeline and I believe our job as divinely blessed stewards is to wisely conserve and perpetuate those valuable resources as best we can.

We don’t have a conventionally “modern” life here on Cedar Mountain. We heat with wood. Our small patch of native grass can’t remotely be called a lawn, and domestic flowers don’t grow well in the shade of the pines and fir. But we are treated each year to an ever-changing pageant of wild violets, Solomon’s seal, side flowered mitreworts, wild roses, ocean spray, syringa, wild strawberries, fairy slippers, self-heal, Queen’s cup bead lily, paintbrush, pearly everlasting, showy aster, goldenrod, pine drops, the occasional Indian pipe and wild ginger. And oh the fungi we have found!

continue to page 11 >



“Utilize your property rights, ensure that the land is given permanent protection against unwanted subdivision and development.”

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In the process of working the land to assist its health and productivity, we have witnessed a turkey hen incubate her poults on a nest out the back door, a moose raise her newborn calf out our front door, a bobcat queen parade her kittens past the kitchen window, cougars investigate the front porch, a raccoon examine the back porch, and elk and deer herds constantly graze their way through the brush. It's been a while, but I have been surprised (so was it!) several times by the sudden appearance of a black bear on the trail. Snowshoe hares, pileated woodpeckers, porcupines, rubber boa snakes, mallard ducks, the list grows. After a thoughtful day of working in the woods and earning that healthy-tired feeling from all our efforts, moments like these are ample reward. Our adjoining landowners are a mix of rural farmers and industrial forest owners, so our individual-tree-selection harvesting maintains habitat that all those animals utilize to their (and our!) advantage.

In regards to forests, size matters! A tree is a tree, but a multitude of trees becomes a forest. Keeping forests as forests means not fragmenting and parceling out the landscape so much that the attributes and advantages of a forest are lost. Our forest is located in Kootenai County, Idaho, which recently received the dubious honor of having the fastest increase in development of any county in the entire United States. One way to "give your land a seat at the table" when deciding its fate is to utilize your property rights, ensuring that the land is given permanent protection against unwanted subdivision and development. Inland Northwest Land Conservancy provides that valuable tool for landowning stewards to

protect their land for present and future generations of humans and wildlife.

Kirk and Madeline David sealed the conservation of their Cedar Mountain Working Forest with Inland Northwest Land Conservancy in December 2015. The conservation easement ensures that their 155 acres will never be subdivided or developed, and can remain a healthy working forest and a haven for wildlife, with abundant streams that replenish the Rathdrum Prairie Spokane Valley Aquifer. ■



Kirk and Madeline David introduce Conservancy Executive Director, Dave Schaub to some of their forest offspring.



Spring rains glisten on syringa blossoms.



Paintbrush sport red leaves, instead of petals.



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Leave a Conservation Legacy

Including Inland Northwest Land Conservancy in your estate planning is a great way to ensure that your legacy will live on in our community, resulting in clean water and air, homes for native plants and animals, and the ability for people in our community to learn to love nature like you have. Ask us about making a planned gift today!

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Your financial support makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the Inland Northwest every day!



Approximately
90%

of households in Spokane & Kootenai counties live within view of lands INLC has helped protect



125+

miles of
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MILLIONS

of gallons of clean water flow
through protected lands and
into the aquifer every day



22,000+

acres of land protected