

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Whidbey Island Rallies to Save Trillium

From artists to builders, more than 75 businesses and organizations have joined to support the Whidbey Camano Land Trust's effort to preserve Whidbey Island's 664-acre Trillium property. The Land Trust is leading the drive to raise \$4.2 million by June 10 to buy the island's largest remaining contiguous forest.

"We are delighted by the spontaneous generosity of the community," said Elizabeth Guss, Land Trust development director. Besides the wonderful gifts already received, we have gifts promised by larger donors and we are actively seeking financial support from the Whidbey Island community. This project is huge and we'll announce fundraising results later this week. It takes all of us working together to save this big, beautiful property."

Local author Ann Linnea is among those supporting the campaign. She pledged a copy of her new book, "Keepers of the Trees," to anyone who saves an acre by donating \$6,500. Another supporter, Maureen Freehill of Momobutoh Dance Company, raised \$4,000 at "Trees and Memories," an artistic event she organized to celebrate her birthday. "Save the Trees," an organization formed years ago to help preserve another forest on Whidbey, also stepped up and is matching donations it collects up to \$500.

Frontier Lumber in Freeland pledged a multi-year gift to establish a maintenance fund for the property so the Land Trust "can remain focused on the current goal of raising funds" to buy the property. Chuck Posey, general manager of Frontier Lumber, thanked the Land Trust for its preservation efforts and referred to Trillium as a crown jewel. "Unless we all pull together, these priceless gems may not be available for our grandchildren's enjoyment," he said in a letter to the Land Trust.

Members of the equestrian community also are passionate about preserving riding trails on the Trillium tract. Back Country Horsemen, M-Bar-C Ranch and Knight Riders 4-H Club all have organized rides, collected pledges, and used various media to seek support. The Equine Land Conservation Resource says lands with horse trails are disappearing rapidly around the nation, making preservation of the Trillium property even more critical.

"I'm dedicated to preserving these trails, some of which my parents helped build," said Kim Olmstead, a horse wrangler at M Bar C Ranch. "The ranch has been at this for generations, since the 1970s. I've carried on the tradition and even recruited my daughter. We have to save the Trillium property so children have a safe place to ride instead of on the main roads."

M Bar C Ranch will host a fund-raising trail ride, Sunday, May 23. Mountain bikers and hikers also are invited to the event, which will include a ranch-style lunch and a presentation by Land Trust representatives. Arrival time at the M Bar C Ranch is 9 a.m. The Ranch is located at 5264 Shore Meadow Road near Freeland. To reserve your place call Jerry Lloyd at (206) 730-2519 or e-mail Jerrytoy@whidbey.com.

To donate to the Save the Forest Now campaign, or for more information, visit www.savetheforestnow.org, call (360) 222-3310, or send your donation to the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Attention: Save the Forest Now, 765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201, Greenbank, WA 98253.



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