Our landscape is fragmented. Cities and roads break up the landscape for flora and fauna, turning the wild areas into little habitable islands.

Unfortunately, islands cannot hold as much biodiversity as a large landscape. Smaller islands tend to have less variety of species. Not only do they have less niches, but they have less resources, and can only support small populations. While this makes for interesting biological study, it is not ideal for our species who thrive in large landscapes.

Conservation work is great because it makes sure that we at least have islands for habitat that will stay forever. However, it’s also important that we conserve lands on a landscape scale. That we try to create the largest islands possible, so we can support the most species.

Our land trust works hard to conserve on a landscape scale. We put emphasis on properties that either border properties we already own, or properties conserved by other organizations. That’s why you’ll see us working so hard in the Grays Harbor area, as we have a large number of holdings in that area and the best opportunity to conserve a landscape. As opportunities arise we’ll look to other areas of the basin, keeping our eye on the prize of landscape scale conservation.
Drones and Video and Land Trust, OH MY!
by Keith Muggoch

The Chehalis River Basin Land Trust (CRBLT) has purchased a drone, too cool! The drone is a DJI Mavic Pro 2 and it carries a Hasselblad camera capable of 4k video and 20 megapixel stills. This gives us much more access to the land we steward. The CRBLT does a land review on 4500 acres every year; we walk it, paddle it and now we can fly it.

Current Freshwater Wetland -- Dominated by Douglas Spirea

For example, CRBLT is restoring a fresh water wetland to its original tidewater slough state. In the above still (extracted from drone video) the line of alder on the right delineates an old log rail grade that dammed the original slough and stopped the tidal action.

The next picture is taken from video while on the river. The piling is to be removed in front of the culvert which will also be removed, restoring tidal action to the slough and restoring about 0.5 miles of stream (other culverts on this property will also be removed gaining a total of a little over 4 miles of stream access for fish). The final steps include planting of native species to restore the site; meeting our mission in two ways.

As the project proceeds we will be able to use the drone to monitor the project and compare the new video with the old, it will be exciting to see how the drainage responds! Over the years we will fly it periodically to monitor the changes and progress and adjust accordingly. This same concept can be used for many of our properties where access is limited. The drone provides a very efficient and quick overview of lands under our stewardship. We look forward with enthusiasm to using this drone in our endeavor to be good caretakers.

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All About Volunteers
by Pete Hammer

The Chehalis River Basin Land Trust is a small non-profit organization with a huge mission to protect the natural state of the Chehalis River for the sake of the salmon, other species, and clean water. This mission can only become a reality through the tireless efforts of a team of dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers range from school children to technical, accounting, and scientific professionals and everyone else in between. The children get a fun field trip and to be outdoors. For the other volunteers -- what motivates them?

For me it started with a general concern for the environment and the effects of global climate change. I became politically active in order to be the change I sought, but I found myself feeling that strategy was not as direct as I wanted it to be. So I thought, what is something one person can do to help the planet? Plant a tree! It was as simple as that. As a teacher, I had the opportunity to work with students to plant trees along the Nisqually River. Closer to home I found the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust and decided to get involved. My first action with CRBLT was planting trees and preparing planting areas for school kids. I’m sure there are as many different stories as there are volunteers. Read on:

Chehalis River Basin Land Trust board member Kylea Johnson describes her motivation this way, “I volunteer for the CRBLT because I believe we can make the biggest impact in our own community. It is a great feeling to see

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
a problem and take concrete steps to rectify it.” Like many of us, Kylea sees protecting lands and easements as an immensely satisfying and tangible way to be part of the solution.”

Kathy Tennyson shares her thoughts as follows, “There is a well-kept secret about volunteering and it is this: It is so much fun! Volunteers are an upbeat group with can-do attitudes. Some are likely to become life-long friends. The Land Trust offers both outdoor and indoor activities and work that helps the environment. What could be better? Working together for the betterment of our local environment is highly rewarding socially, personally, and spiritually.

Finally, Kiana Sinner, a community outreach assistant for the Thurston Conservation District eloquently describes it like this, “I volunteer because it's important to take care of our earth. I appreciate that our earth is able to provide for us, and I want to return the favor. I genuinely enjoy being outside and have a strong appreciation for the natural world. I love helping our native plants thrive through ecological restoration work. I also enjoy encouraging others to learn about our natural world, and I treasure the opportunity to help others take actionable steps through volunteering. I take a strong interest in how people connect with the land that surrounds them, and I am passionate about helping my community build a strong and sustainable relationship with their environment.” It is apparent that volunteering is close to Kiana’s heart, as it is with so many of our volunteers.

So if you volunteer or want to support our work, share your story with your friends, family, and neighbors. If you haven’t had a chance to help out yet, maybe other’s stories will inspire you to action. Each and every one of us can make a difference in our own way in our communities.

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Quick, what are the names of your great, great, great Grandparents? Borst? Gonzales? Schaefer? Want to have a positive impact on your local lands and be remembered 3 generations from now? It’s easier than you might think; just set up a lasting legacy through the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust. A comprehensive legacy allows you to create a win-win for you, your family and the River Basin.

Look at some ways to help save land and impress family.

- Include the Land Trust in your will.
- Name the Land Trust a beneficiary of your IRA, 401k, and 503b plan.
- Give appreciated socks and bonds, or mutual fund shares and realize larger tax savings.
- Receive quarterly payments for life from a Charitable Gift Annuity.
- Donate property and get a tax break.
- Give your required minimum distribution to the land trust and get a tax break.

Don’t take my word for it, ask your trusted financial advisors; they can look at both financial and legal issues to determine what is right for you.

**Planned Giving, think about it.**
To get started or for more information email or call us
Dave at D.Herzog@chehalislandtrust.org or 360-807-0764

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**Impressing the Dickens out of your Great, Great, Great Grand Kids!**
by Dave Herzog
Partnerships Make It Happen  
By Jan Robinson  

Some days it seems we can never complete our tasks. Other days I realize that every task will be completed, every event will be successful, every newsletter will get written. Those are the good days.

I want to tell you how a partnership is making many good things happen in the Chehalis basin. The partnering organization is the Great Old Broads for Wilderness (Broads or Broadband), a national nonprofit whose main office is in Colorado. But Broadbands are well organized with 8,500 Bands (and Bros) across the nation engaged in education, grassroots leadership training, outdoor education, and advocacy.

A local Broad from Vancouver (who also happens to be a Land Trust member) is organizing 4 virtual events concerning climate education, and a 3 day restoration event at the Discovery Trail near Centralia. Her team of Broads from Portland to Port Angeles has been meeting twice monthly since May. I have been at most of the virtual meetings that organize, promote, and present these events and I know the Broads are very capable and are working hard to meet the objectives of their project.

The virtual events will focus on the value of rivers, wetlands, and watersheds in a changing climate, Tribal perspectives on the Chehalis River and climate change, and threats and opportunities for restoration. The next event will be September 23rd featuring Lee First, River Keeper.

The restoration events will be Nov. 4, 5 and 6; it has been named ‘Pull ‘em and Plant ‘em’ – we will be removing invasive plants and planting more native trees and shrubs. Perhaps you will join us to meet some of the Broads.

The CRBLT extends sincere appreciation to our corporate sponsors:

- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound
- Port Blakely Tree Farms
- The City of Centralia
- Green Diamond
- Washington Orthopedic Center
- Pacific Corp

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Chehalis Basin Board – Next Steps  
By Jan Robinson

Every year our Chehalis River has its ups and downs; high water during winter rains and low water during the hot summer months; a natural system that impacts the lives of our human and wildlife communities. In 2016 the State legislature created the Office of Chehalis Basin (CBB) and dictated a 2-part strategy to make reduce flood impact and improve aquatic species habitat.

This spring many residents commented negatively to an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed flood retention facility. Now the CBB is developing early steps to move forward; doing nothing is not an option.

Senator John Braun wrote a column for our local newspaper with a recap of past work and a balanced goal of ultimate success that will provide a ‘win-win’ acceptable to communities and the Native Tribes. This means more years of work, cooperation, collaboration, and change for everyone. The cost will be high – in dollars, effort, and change.

The implementation and success of the strategy is not a simple task. The River has been flowing millions of years, our communities have been in place over 100 years, and the habitat has both nurtured and suffered. If we can’t learn to live in a way that supports aquatic
species, clean water, and clean air our children will never see the ‘evergreen’ state and the wildlife we now enjoy. We also need our local communities and family-wage jobs.

Can everyone win? That will depend on the CBB, State legislature, community leaders, and every person living in the basin. Do your part to limit climate change. Be as involved with the process as you can, and be ready to make the change. The CBB and its partners are working on a very difficult problem. Losing is not an option! Let’s all be part of the win-win solution.

Membership Application
Annual membership dues are a key part of our financial support and are used to manage conservation easements and to develop future projects. To become a member or to renew your membership please complete this form, enclose check, and mail. Or, renew your membership online via PayPal at www.chehalislandtrust.org/membership. Thank you!

Chehalis River Basin Land Trust
Membership Form  please print

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City _________________________________
State, Zip _____________________________
Phone ______________________________
e-mail ______________________________

The CRBLT is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership level:
☐ $500  Golden Steward
☐ $100  Benefactor
☐ $50  Patron
☐ Other  You Decide

Please complete form, enclose check and mail to:  Chehalis River Basin Land Trust
P.O. Box 563
Centralia, WA 98531

VOLUNTEER OF 2020
KIANA SINNER
Kiana and her friends worked valiantly to remove invasive weeds during several work parties during the year. Dirty, sweaty, work….digging out blackberry roots! We love our volunteers!
TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS ~ ~ ~ OUR WORK IS HARD, FUN, BEAUTIFUL