



Stewarding the Future

Report to the Community 2022

Matsuda Farm photo by Susan White

"All the time my family was detained,
the thought of one day returning to our
farm was what helped to keep us
going."

- Mary Matsuda Gruenewald

Looking Like the Enemy



Photo by Jeff Dunicliff

The Land Trust and Islanders received a special gift in 2022 when Ray Gruenewald donated “Ray’s Forest” at Matsuda Farm – now named for his mother, Mary Matsuda Gruenewald. With this addition to Matsuda Farm, the Land Trust now stewards all the original farmland where Mary was living when she was torn away from high school and her community and imprisoned during WWII. We are honored by the responsibility to hold up this story and to be the “forever” stewards of this place.

Letter from the President:

My efforts as a gardener have made me a humble believer in nature's pure and abundant genius. Nature is a great teacher as it turns out, with change as her enduring lesson and opportunity as one of her greatest gifts.

I've learned a lot about change and opportunity over the past year as the Land Trust's board president. I have been amazed by our terrific staff and overwhelmed by the sheer volume of "moving parts" that go into the smooth functioning of a small, community-based nonprofit. I now have a better understanding of the nature of resiliency and the power of community when people come together for the greater good.

Nature gives, and it is our responsibility and our promise to give back. This requires that we learn and share the stories of our human history and work to repair the relationships that were damaged along the way. These stories include those of the s̓xwəbabs, the Swift Water People, the original inhabitants of Vashon, as well as those of the Japanese Americans who farmed Vashon lands before they were interned without cause.

Through this work we build resilience in a time of great change. Land stewardship is the promise a land trust makes to care for the land (and her stories) forever. We hope you enjoy the stories in this report, because your support is what brings them to life.

With Gratitude,



Sara Van Fleet
Board President



Sara (right) with founding board member,
Yvonne Kuperberg.

P.S. Please join us for an open house to celebrate our accomplishments in 2022.
Stop by the Land Trust at 10014 SW Bank Road on Friday, April 7 from 5:00 - 7:00PM

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Tom Dean - *Conservation Director*
Ryan Jones - *Matsuda Farm Manager*
Colie Southerland - *Matsuda Farm Coordinator*
Jenny Stamper - *Operations Manager*

**Special Thanks to our 2023 retiring board member,
Linda Crayton**



A New Preserve, Yet to be Named

At long last, King County has secured a large portion of the old Misty Isle Farm – 109 acres along Old Mill Road. Congratulations to King County for acquiring the headwaters of Fisher Creek, Ernst Pond, and the Sheepdog Trial Field. Misty Isle Farm first went on the market nearly 20 years ago. King County’s acquisition was a compromise, and a good one at that – leaving the high-value structures behind and focusing on high ecological value: forest, creek, and field.

The Land Trust was involved early on, encouraging King County and the community to look at the opportunities for habitat conservation, trails, and farming. We convened a group of stakeholders and met for two years, exploring options and drawing attention to this large landscape and the threat of development. We engaged a class from the University of Washington in a “design studio” to help us brainstorm solutions. Our efforts brought focus to the landscape and led directly, years later, to this success.

By the time this goes to press, the community will be in conversation about the best uses of this property (and what to name it!). We look forward to joining the deliberations around the Vashon Sheepdog Classic, off-leash dog use, and opportunities for farming. In the meantime, it has been fun to see folks hit the trails to explore it. The protection of the watershed and all those big trees (and their carbon) is gratifying. We are grateful for our talented partners at King County who pulled off the most challenging acquisition since the Glacier Mine.



Photos provided by Dana Schuerholz of the Vashon Green School, Vashon's own outdoor elementary school serving children 6-11 yrs old.



Perpetuity

“Land stewardship is the promise a land trust makes to care for the land forever. Its work is not done once it acquires land. It agrees to take care of the land it protects for the long term.”

-The Land Trust Alliance

Our time on this planet is finite, but the Vashon Maury Island Land Trust and its mission will exist in perpetuity. To commit to stewarding these lands for the long arc of time is a great responsibility as well as a great honor and a privilege.

The impact of our work spreads out like ripples in a pond. Decades of restoration in Judd and Shinglemill Creeks, or last year’s thinning of the Johnson Pond Forest help us to build healthy ecosystems where creatures of all kinds, human and non-human alike, can thrive. Our internship program brings in young people each year who learn all about Pacific Northwest ecology by engaging in hands-on trail and restoration projects. After their summer is over, they are off to share their knowledge and build their careers.

Our incredible volunteers, who turn out rain or shine, help us to build trails, pull invasives, and plant native trees and shrubs. Even more, they are building a community that is not afraid of getting a little dirty in pursuit of a vision of vibrant forests, clear-running creeks, and healthy shorelines.

The important work of the Land Trust – and the strong conservation community on this island that supports it – makes stewarding the future not a daunting task, but a loving nod to the place we call home and the shared stories and lives that bring us all together.

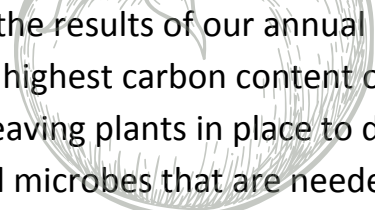


From left to right Abel Eckhardt, Bryan Thompson, Lauren Voss, Cameron Rhoden, and Keller Cyra

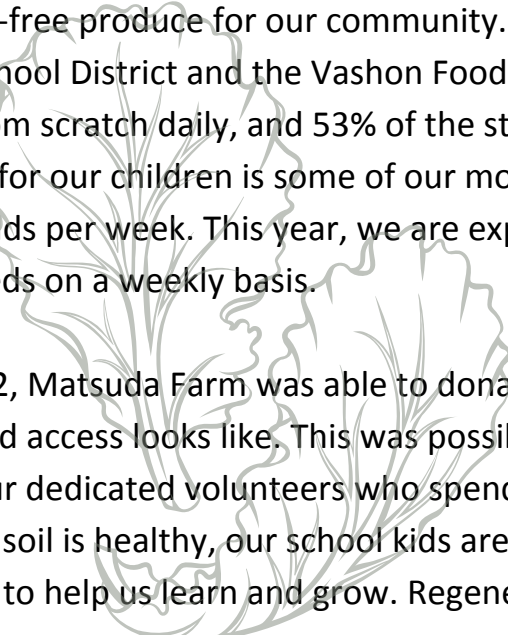


Dirt Made My Lunch

Good food comes from healthy soil. Healthy soil feeds healthy people but it also feeds a lot of other important critters. Shortly after breaking ground on Matsuda Farm in 2018, the Land Trust decided to use no-till practices to keep the soil alive and healthy. Billions of beneficial organisms live in soil, and continual tillage destroys their home. When they die, the soil loses the structure and nutrients that keep pests at bay and feed the crops. No-till practices reduce both fertilizer and water use.



In 2022, the results of our annual soil test were better than we could have dreamed. We have some of the highest carbon content on the island. Paying attention to crop rotation, using cover crops, and leaving plants in place to decompose has led to a high concentration of the organic material and microbes that are needed to grow nutritionally rich crops. No-till also helps us reduce the amount of water needed. In 2021 we cut our water use in half over the previous year. In 2022 we used even less. This decline in water usage is evidence that our soil is thriving and healthy.



One of the most important benefits of having healthy soil is being able to grow nutrient-dense, chemical-free produce for our community. This year our two biggest customers will be the Vashon Island School District and the Vashon Food Bank. At the School District, the wonderful kitchen staff cooks from scratch daily, and 53% of the students eat school lunches. Providing fresh and nutritious produce for our children is some of our most critical work. The Food Bank serves an average of 250 households per week. This year, we are expanding to grow additional “staple crops” that the food bank needs on a weekly basis.

In 2022, Matsuda Farm was able to donate nearly two tons of produce to our community! That’s what food access looks like. This was possible thanks to the patience and hard work of our Farm Team, our dedicated volunteers who spend their Friday mornings at Matsuda Farm, and of course, you. Our soil is healthy, our school kids are eating high-quality produce, and our community is coming together to help us learn and grow. Regenerative Agriculture regenerates us all.



New Faces at the Land Trust



Kristyn Irizarry

Matsuda Farm Veteran Intern

Kristyn hails from Puerto Rico and has lived in Washington State since 2017. She comes to us thanks to the Veteran's Conservation Corps, where she spotted a Land Trust Instagram post in Spanish for Vashon's Latin Market. This led her first to the Land Trust volunteer Fridays, then to join our internship program. Matsuda Farm's history and mission to provide food to local schools and food banks aligns with Kristyn's passions and touches on her childhood experiences with food insecurity.

Kristyn has worked at Kitsap Harvest (a local food distribution non-profit) and the local Veteran's Garden. She sees her work at the Land Trust to be reciprocal for other families going through food insecurity. Before becoming a VCC Farm steward, she worked in the medical field as an X-ray/CT Tech, both in civilian and military hospitals. She is grateful for the Farm Steward program for hands-on opportunities to be involved with the full lifecycle of food production - truly from seed to table.



Colie Southerland

Matsuda Farm Coordinator

Colie (Coal-ee) hails from the distant land of West Seattle where she was born and raised -- though she has been exploring Vashon since she was a wee child.

Colie has been involved in sustainable agriculture since 2012, spending a year learning the trade before moving on to Seattle Tilth's Youth Garden Works program in 2013.

Since graduating from the program, Colie worked in a number of farm and horticulturally related fields. She hopes to share her passion with the Vashon community while continuing to learn from those around her and those who have come before her. Her motto: Know farms, know food; no farms, no food!



Jenny Stamper

Operations Manager

Jenny is originally from Southern California, where she was fortunate to live with rare open space in her backyard. A nature lover at an early age, she watched bobcats, deer, and coyotes roam (always with her trusty 1990's Audubon field guide at her side). She graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in Literature and began steadily moving north until she landed on Vashon in 2017.

Jenny brings nine years of experience running operations at a small start-up to the Land Trust. She hopes this experience will aid in the organization's ability to stay nimble and to protect and share the very special wild places this island has to offer.

2022 Impact Report



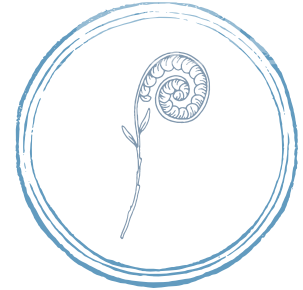
890 hours:

of volunteer time on
preserves, trails, and farm



3,858 lbs:

of produce donated to
local food banks and schools



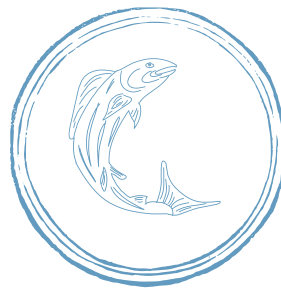
9 miles:

of public trails
maintained



2,000:

native trees and
shrubs planted



4,255 ft:

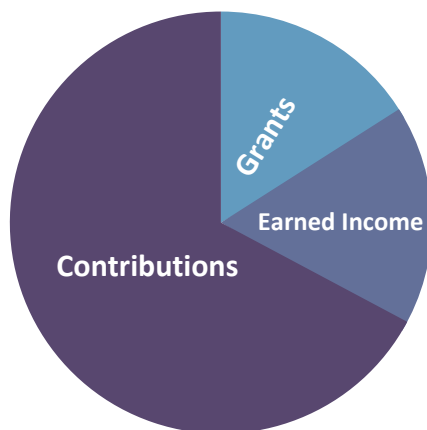
of creek habitat
preserved



257 acres:

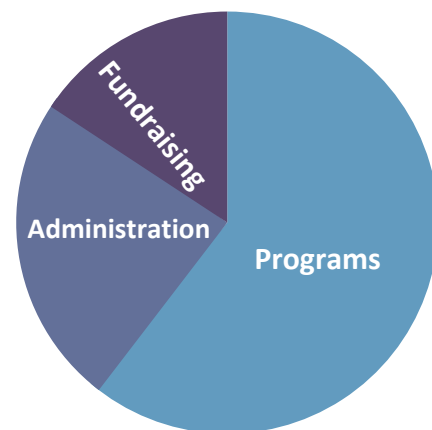
of land preserved

2022 Financials



Revenue

Grants and Contracts: \$151,117
Contributions from Supporters: \$635,865
Earned Income: \$159,079



Expenses

Programs: \$563,642
Administration: \$222,461
Fundraising: \$146,887

These represent pre-audit numbers

Thank you - 2022 Contributors

If we have missed your name, you are in our hearts

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**JOIN US
 FOR OUR ANNUAL
 OPEN
 HOUSE**

**April 7, 2023
 5:00 - 7:00PM**

**Refreshments and treats
 provided.**

**Updates and open Q&A at
 6:00PM**

In Honor, In Memory

Glen Fisher in memory of Doris Moots
 The Matsuda Family in memory of Ed Swan
 Stephen C. Lehman in memory of Robert Sanford Luke
 LeRoy Kuehl in memory of Laurel Kuehl
 Matt R. Strom in honor of Matt Strom
 Pinnacle Gardens Foundation in honor of Mike Kollins
 Thomas Spring in memory of Myrla Dean
 James Jerome in memory of Myrla Dean
 Pamela Wayne in memory of Myrla Dean
 Karen Dee Keltz in memory of Myrla Dean
 Richard D. Schwieren in memory of Myrla Dean
 Edna & James Dam in memory of Myrla Dean
 Rebecca A. Fox in memory Myrla Dean
 Edward Rose in memory of Sid Goss
 Phyllis Kaiden in memory, of Wayne Holt
 Ellucian in memory of Wayne Holt
 Miriam Marcus-Smith in memory of Wayne Holt
 Karen Blair in memory of Wayne Holt
 Karen Houchins in memory of Wayne Holt
 Fionnuala Sinclair in memory of Wayne Holt
 Pamela Wayne in memory of Wayne Holt
 Lisa Sprouse in memory of Wayne Holt
 Charlynda Winkley in memory of Wayne Holt
 Josh Dietrich in memory of Wayne Holt
 Susan Diane Harmon in memory of Wayne Holt
 Pamela H. Mcdonald in memory of Wayne Holt
 Gwen Hanson in memory of Wayne Holt

2022 Volunteers

Alana Bass	Katie Doan
Annie Brale	Ken Miller
Barbara Johns	Kendra Johnson
Barbara Tapia Salvans	Kim Kambak
Baruch Roter	Lander Fontaine
Beverly Skeffington	Lauren Voss
Brian Robles	Linda Biederman
Bush School kids & chaperones	Luke Tapia
Cameron Rhoden	Lynette Beles
Carter Doan	Marina Gill
Carter Rapp	Megan Irizarry
Catherine Johnson	Melinda Doan
Catherine Montaño	Mica Adkins
Chuck Weinstock	Michael Koetje
Clara Summers	Mike Ligrano
Dale Doan	Pat Haley
Dennis Kostelecky	Paulina Barry
Doug Kimball	Rachelle Ligrano
Dylan Tapia	Reese Ladenburg
Fran Brooks	Robert Stolk
Galia Gomez	Russell Baker
Gayle Kellner	Sean Murray
Henry Hughes	Sofia Gomez
Jeff Schnelz	Stella Gill
Jim Evans	Stephany Oblock
Jeanne Ernst	Stephen Doan
John King	Steve Fogard
John Stott	Tom Shugrue
Karen Jensen	Valeria Martinez
Karin Head	Veronica Fernmoss



P.O. Box 2031
Vashon, WA 98070



(206) 463-2644
vashonlandtrust.org

"I find great comfort in
knowing these trees will be
here, growing strongly, long
after I am gone."

-Mary Matsuda Gruenewald

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