



Spring 2022

The SOUTHEAST STEWARD



Located at the head of Mud Bay in Haines, the Nelson Homestead conservation property is 129 acres and features a historic homestead. The property still has remnants of a brick kiln, which supplied bricks to build up Fort William H. Seward, in Haines.

Spring Into Action

Spring is tugging at the roots of early flowering plants, blowing wet breezes like sloppy kisses off the waters, and kicking up dander and dust to pollinate our sneezes. Here at the Southeast Alaska Land Trust, we are trading snow boots for rubber boots and preparing for a busy monitoring season on the lands you help preserve.

Our stewardship includes hiking these varied lands to assess and record any changes. We hope you will consider joining us on a visit. Perhaps you'll meet one of our directors—we have several new faces on the Board—or members of our terrific year-round staff. We will also have a new summer assistant who will help with monitoring. In addition to the regular rounds, we have nature walks, volunteer clean-ups, and other fun events planned throughout the coming months.

These lands are special in many ways and never more than now. Northbound shorebirds rest and refuel on the wetlands and young salmon find shelter in creek shallows.

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COVER

Dominique Morley in a field of lupine in Mud Bay, Icy Strait, courtesy of Mark Kelley.
www.MarkKelley.com

BACK

Henry Stichert in front of rubbish gathered from the 2021 Juneau Community Wetlands Cleanup, courtesy of Neil Stichert.



Here, we too can refresh and find respite from a troubled world.

Thank you for preserving and maintaining lands that are important to Southeast communities.

Anne Sutton
President, Board of Directors

Volunteer Land Stewards Program

Skunk Cabbage is pushing its way through the snow, a sure sign that SEALT's stewardship monitoring season is about to get under way! Every year, SEALT's Stewardship Coordinator visits each of SEALT's conservation properties to assess their condition and catch up with landowners. In preparation for this season, we are debuting our Land Stewards Program.

With the help of community members who value deep connection and commitment to Southeast Alaska's natural places, the Land Stewards Program is designed to assist the Stewardship Coordinator in keeping an eye on our conservation properties for the preservation of natural habitat and the enjoyment of all.

Land Stewards are invited to "adopt" a property, visiting regularly and participating in or leading events there with other community members. This encourages strong connections between people and the land, and allows for the early detection of potential issues, such as fallen trees or litter.

At SEALT, our mission has always been to serve our community. Through the Land Stewards program, we hope to provide a tangible way for people to make a difference, increase the community appreciation and understanding of our beloved landscapes, and drive change for future generations.

If you are interested in giving back to your community while spending time outside this season, please contact the Stewardship Coordinator, Jordan Tanguay at jordan@sealt.org, or call our office at (907) 586-3100.



SEALT Board member, Nancy Waterman, and SEALT supporter, Mary Willson, spending some time removing trash from the newly-conserved Vanderbilt Creek conservation property.

The Auk Nu Cove conservation property increases the undeveloped area of Indian Point by 30 acres.



Property Access Point

Glacier Highway

Auk Nu Cove Conservation Property

National Park Service

City and Borough of Juneau Natural Area Park

Indian Cove

Spotlight on AUK NU COVE



At high tide, the Auk Nu Cove property is nearly completely submerged, hiding the eelgrass, but at low tide the glossy green of this globally-rare habitat is exposed, along with rock kelp and other intertidal plants and seaweeds.

Just north of the Alaska Marine Highway Ferry Terminal in Juneau sits the Auk Nu Cove conservation property. The Auk Nu Cove Conservation Easement is a 30-acre tide flat tucked into the northwest corner of Auke Bay. Conserved in 2014, the property is owned by the City and Borough of Juneau and the Southeast Alaska Land Trust holds the conservation easement.

The Auk Nu Cove conservation property was conserved to protect the eelgrass beds located within the tide flat. Eelgrass is important habitat for many species, reduces coastal erosion, filters nutrients, and acts as a carbon sink. Eelgrass in Auk Nu Cove provides an important spawning habitat for herring and is an excellent nursery for many juvenile fish, including salmon.

Eelgrass is designated as a special habitat under the Clean Water Act, but is declining globally. The species diversity at the Auk Nu Cove Conservation Easement also makes it a popular feeding ground for birds, including ducks, geese, great blue herons, and more.

The Auk Nu Cove conservation property also abuts an undeveloped City and Borough of Juneau Natural Area Park to the south, and is adjacent to National Park Service land.

These properties comprise the majority of Indian Point, which is an historic use area for the Tlingit Áak'w Kwáan people.

This conservation property is utilized for on-going research, education, and recreation, and is free and open to the public. It can be accessed by stairs in the northeast corner of the property. Grab your Xtratufs and keep an eye out for the many creatures who call Auk Nu Cove home!

Top photo—A Northern sunstar spotted at Auk Nu Cove!
Bottom photo—Sea milkwort in bloom at Auk Nu Cove!



THANK YOU

We sincerely appreciate the generosity and strong commitment to local land conservation shown by our members. Thank you to the following donors who gave so generously between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021. Also, a big thank you to our Legacy Fund donors ♦, our Evergreen Society members ●, and our Sustaining members ■. If you believe you have been left off of this list in error, please email Amanda at amanda@sealt.org.

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Join SEALT's Evergreen Society

The Southeast Alaska Land Trust's Evergreen Society recognizes members who make significant contributions to the lands we all cherish. Through gifts of \$1,000 per year, or a single, annual commitment of \$5,000 or greater, these champions of conservation provide critical support to our work.

Evergreen Society members enjoy special recognition and benefits, including guided property visits. To join the Evergreen Society, or discover how you can conserve land with SEALT, contact us today at info@sealt.org.

Southeast Alaska Land Trust

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The Southeast Alaska Land Trust collaborates with communities, individuals, and organizations throughout Southeast Alaska to help ensure that highly valued habitat, recreation, open space, and cultural and historic areas continue to thrive for the well-being of each generation.

2022 Event Schedule

April 30

Annual Juneau Community Wetlands Cleanup

May 28

Alaska Public Gardens Day at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum

June 4

Bird Walk with the Juneau Audubon Society

July

Friends of Jensen-Olson Arboretum 15th Anniversary

