

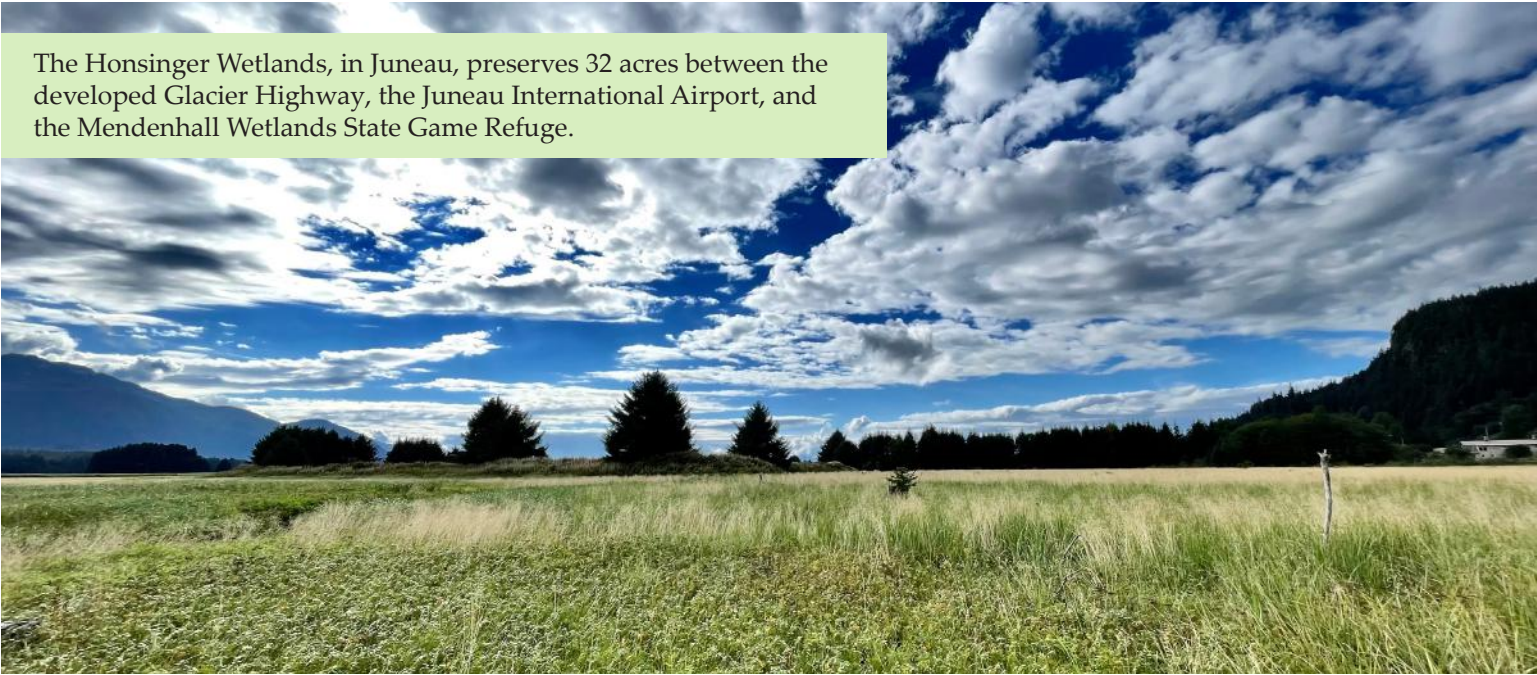


Fall 2022

The SOUTHEAST STEWARD



The Honsinger Wetlands, in Juneau, preserves 32 acres between the developed Glacier Highway, the Juneau International Airport, and the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.



Fall harvest is here and Southeast Alaskans are making good use of their bountiful wild lands and waters.

Harvest Time

Recently, my own efforts led me through the Tongass National Forest up a mossy hillside above Juneau’s Mendenhall Lake to collect hedgehog and chanterelle mushrooms. Later, I pulled sweet, vole-nibbled carrots from a community garden plot on City and Borough of Juneau land. Then, in a scramble of bramble, I foraged ripe nagoonberries on the Montana Creek wetlands, a Southeast Alaska Land Trust conservation property.

Southeast Alaska has an amazing abundance of wild foods and, for many people, lives are centered around the traditions and practice of wild food harvest. We can hunt, fish, and forage across a vast patchwork of publicly-accessible lands that fall under federal, state, and local management. Thanks to your support, private lands conserved for the common good through land trusts can connect that patchwork together, ensuring that the landscape is continuous for people and wildlife.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	STAFF	STAY CONNECTED	COVER
Anne Sutton <i>President</i>	Margaret Custer <i>Executive Director</i>	Southeast Alaska Land Trust 119 Seward Street, Suite 2 Juneau, AK 99801	Two mountain goat kids photographed in Glacier Bay, courtesy of Mark Kelley.
Neil Stichert <i>Vice President</i>	Krista Garrett <i>Conservation Director</i>	(907) 586-3100	See more at MarkKelley.com
Annie Carpeneti <i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Pilley <i>Communications & Development Coordinator</i>	info@sealt.org	
Alex Wertheimer <i>Treasurer</i>	Jordan Tanguay <i>Stewardship Coordinator</i>	Sign up to receive e-news at: SoutheastAlaskaLandTrust.org	<i>Thank you to the photographers who contributed to this newsletter!</i>
Marcus Frampton		Find us on Facebook and Instagram!	
Olivia Glasscock			
Matt Robus			
Nancy Waterman			
Ricardo Gaachxweina Worl			



SEALT fills a gap in the conservation landscape by empowering everyday people (you and me) to protect—for all time—lands they need and love. Conservation lands support open spaces for wildlife, clean water, recreation, and the preservation of our history and culture.

Food harvest is a part of our culture. It's good for our health and strengthens our family and community ties. We are fortunate to have the public and conservation lands that make this lifestyle possible.

Thank you for being a part of this community. We look forward to a New Year and new opportunities for abundance!

Anne Sutton
President, Board of Directors

New Acquisition Fund Established

Earlier this year, SEALT established The Acquisition Fund – a fund dedicated solely toward purchasing land in Southeast Alaska for the explicit purpose of conservation.

The need for this fund was two-fold: 1) SEALT was starting to see a pattern where priority parcels were being bought out from underneath SEALT by other entities or worse, were developed into industrial areas, and 2) the restricted funding that SEALT utilizes for land purchases has so much red tape around it that projects can often take between six months and three years to complete. The Acquisition Fund will help us to conserve the lands that the community wants to protect, when it needs to be protected.

Having a fully-funded acquisition fund will allow SEALT to act quickly on diverse priority parcels, it could act as seed money for larger projects and, if fully funded, could allow SEALT to leverage grant funding up to \$1M, effectively quadrupling SEALT's buying power.

Land conservation has social, economic, and environmental impacts, and is crucial to the health and future of Southeast Alaska. We invite you to support The Acquisition Fund, and to preserve the future of our region. Donations can be made at: SoutheastAlaskaLandTrust.org.

Photo: Shooting Stars on the Nelson Homestead Cons. property



Introducing Juneau's Latest Conservation Property

Situated on what is likely the site of an ancient landslide, the Southeast Alaska Land Trust's newly acquired conservation property represents some of the last undeveloped, privately-owned wetlands along the shoreline of the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge, in Juneau.

This latest conservation property is located on Douglas Island, at an area locally known as Hendrickson Point.

So named for the Hendrickson family who homesteaded the point for about 15 years starting in 1914, Hendrickson Point was the home of Waino Hendrickson, who served as Mayor of Juneau and as Secretary of the Territory of Alaska (before Alaska became a state). Hendrickson Point was eventually subdivided and parcels were sold to private landowners.



SEALT acquired this property on September 26, 2022, using funds received through the SEALT In-Lieu Fee Program, a wetland mitigation program managed in partnership with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. The permanent preservation of the critical wetland functions of this site will offset unavoidable impacts from future construction projects in Southeast Alaska. Until an appropriate place name can be determined, the property is being referred to simply as Tract B-3.

Tract B-3 is adjacent to a 108-acre City and Borough of Juneau Conservation Area, the SEALT Grummett Wetlands conservation property, and the Refuge. The acquisition of this parcel expands upon these three established conservation areas to preserve habitat and an important wildlife corridor on Douglas Island for deer, black bear, and hundreds of species of native and migratory birds.

Both of SEALT's conservation properties on Hendrickson Point are owned and will be managed as open space by SEALT. They are free and open to the public for passive recreation, including hiking, birding, and exploring.

Access: The public can access the SEALT conservation properties from North Douglas Highway via a CBJ property abutting the highway located between addresses 8438 and 8470 North Douglas Highway. The access property is approximately 5 miles north of the Juneau-Douglas Bridge, a little before mile marker 6. It is not marked and there is no pullout. Enter via the access property then cross through the CBJ Conservation Area to Tract B-3 and Grummett Wetlands.

Alternately, hikers can park at the Sunny Point pullout and cross the Refuge at low tide to access Hendrickson Point via the shoreline.



Marion and Waino Hendrickson, Hilda and Henry Hanna at Hendrickson homestead on north Douglas Island, about 1924. Photo courtesy of the Juneau Douglas City Museum.



Tract B-3 conservation property uplands in spring.



The Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge is a globally designated Important Bird Area, and provides habitat to over 230 species of birds. Photo: Tree Swallow, courtesy of Bob Armstrong at NatureBob.com.



Ginger Hudson

Growing Our Community

The Jensen-Olson Arboretum Gives Back

Ginger Hudson

Who doesn't relish the sight of a productive vegetable garden?

The Jensen-Olson Arboretum conservation property's 111 year-old vegetable garden is as useful today as it was when created by the Peterson family in the late 1880s. The veggie garden serves as both an educational plot and as a source of food for organizations assisting those in need in the Juneau area.

As a public garden, the Jensen-Olson Arboretum strives to showcase what grows well, and to share knowledge and plants with the public. Every summer, there are folks that visit the Arboretum from Alaska and beyond that have never seen a rhubarb plant, or realized that currants grow on bushes and are not dried grapes, or that a kiwi—the arctic kiwi—despite its diminutive size, survives and produces fruit in Alaska. Education is just where the benefits of the public

gardens begin. So far this year, 200 pounds of produce have been donated to the Juneau community.

Organizations receiving donations include the AWARE shelter, The Glory Hall, and the Southeast Alaska Food Bank. In the past, the list included the Zach Gordon Youth Center (prior to the Center planting their own garden). Produce shared includes: kale, cabbage, kohlrabi, carrots, broccoli, potatoes, red and black currants, garlic, turnips, onions, chard, rhubarb, and even some herbs: sage, chives, catmint, and parsley.

**The Jensen-Olson Arboretum was the first property to be conserved by the Southeast Alaska Land Trust. Entrance to the Arboretum is free of charge! Winter hours: Friday - Sunday, 9:00am - 4:00pm.*

SEALT Lands Support Bird Conservation

Gwen Baluss

This summer, local bird biologist and licensed bird bander, Gwen Baluss, began contributing to the Bird Genoscape Project (BGP). The BGP is a project to analyze feathers to better understand the relatedness of bird populations and map their migratory patterns and connectedness.

Baluss targeted species locally that were both a priority for the BGP and that fell on the list of Alaska Species of Special Concern. For this project, she and a volunteer crew successfully captured Common Yellowthroats and Lincoln's Sparrows at two locations on SEALT's Montana Creek conservation property, in Juneau.

The Montana Creek Wetlands is a prime spot that offers rich bird habitat. Both the Common Yellowthroat and the Lincoln Sparrow breeds in just a handful of locations around Juneau. Both species prefer to nest near sedge marshes with willow, often near ponds, a locally limited habitat.

The feather collection process is relatively simple and does not harm the birds. Songbirds are captured in a fine net and fitted with a numbered, aluminum band. Then two feathers are taken, and the birds are released.

The collected feathers provide enough DNA to scan a birds' entire genome. Scientists then translate the data into a "genoscape" – a map of genetic variations across the species' geographic range.

According to the BGP, "Identifying the migratory connections between breeding and wintering locations provides an effective tool for monitoring declining populations and for developing effective and focused conservation strategies where they are needed most."

"Preservation of natural habitats everywhere in songbirds' annual life cycle is essential to maintain populations of migratory birds," says Baluss. "SEALT conservation lands provide an important breeding habitat. I appreciated the opportunity to use this beautiful site to contribute to the puzzle pieces of yellowthroat migration."



Common Yellowthroat captured by Gwen Baluss at the Montana Creek Wetlands conservation property as part of a licensed bird banding operation.

Southeast Alaska Land Trust

119 Seward Street, Suite 2
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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

Wine Pull

Friday, December 2nd
4:00 - 8:00 PM

119 Seward Street
Suite 2

www.SoutheastAlaskaLandTrust.org

