Second Report to the Friends of Woodstock Farm
February 2006

Another year of contributions, excitement and ideas has passed at Woodstock, along with partial opening of the grounds to the public and continued work on a program of basic stewardship and caretaking. Here is the second annual report on the steps that are bringing Woodstock into the park and greenway system and creating one of our richest heritage sites. Thank you, everyone, from me and on behalf of all involved in this project, including the Parks & Recreation Department.

Notable Contributions of 2005

- **Ed Wahl** donated 2 framed, Craftsman style canvas lithographs by Anita Munman.
- **Bobbie Morris**, grandniece of Mabel Huntoon, donated a full shelf of Salmon Gates' bound Harpers magazine, from the 1850’s and 1860’s.
- **Wes Gannaway** donated a carefully selected set of brick products and byproducts from the old shale brick factory next door at Teddy Bear Cove.
- **Tim Wahl** donated 200 camas bulbs and other Olympic Rain Shadow meadow plants. Our Make a Difference Day volunteers, volunteers, coordinated by the Whatcom Volunteer Center, planted this material and opened some new views from the Upper Bluff.
- **Jim Duemmel** and **Paul Woodcock** persist in updating and refining Woodstock’s baseline and interpretive plant and bird species lists.
- **Larry Steele and Associates** and Tim Wahl created an historic structures map of the Farm using LSA’s surveys and maps made by Cyrus Gates and donated to the City by the Woodstock Farm Limited Partnership.
- **Steve Chastain** donated rights to use a series of historic photographs by H.C. Engberg, including the earliest known panoramic view from the Upper Bluff. (Tim Wahl made a large print of this for the Farm and seeks help framing it.)
- **Steve Heaton**, assisted by other volunteers, transformed several rooms of the Gates-Lee House with paint provided by the Kelly Moore Paint Company.
- **Cecelia Lloyd** donated several Garry oaks, which will soon be planted by volunteers.
- **Jeff Daffron** of **Quicksilver Image Lab** donated reprographic services for a set of historic photo images for display in the Gates-Lee House.
- **Use of a series of landscape paintings was donated by several artists participating in the Blue Horse Gallery show held during the Woodstock Farm Festival in September.**
Artists permitting use of their images in publications include Jan Hovde, Shelley Johnson, Joyce Prigot, Joyce Pearson, Janet Hamilton, Dave Nichols and Jan Kupka. Thanks to Wade Marlow for arranging the show and the reproduction arrangements.

- **Adam Kartman**, thank you for donating the power saw for the shop.
- Resident archaeologist **Ed Arthur** compiled a digital photo collection and magazine covering the ancient artifacts discovered during the June-July WWU Archeology Field School.
- **Chris Cottingham & Eagle Scout Troop #3** transformed the view to Clark Point by removing and replacing sections of chain link fence—a vast improvement, Chris.
- **Diana Barg and Kim Owens** of WWU completed an initial analysis of the intertidal shell midden at the confluence of Woodstock and Chuckanut Creek. At this point it is unclear how the midden became inundated and to what extent it may have been redeposited by creek and wave action.
- **Darrell Streib** appeared at the Festival in September with a series of large format, high resolution photographs documenting the demise of the Upper Bluff madrones, probably due to the fungus *Nattrassia mangniferae*. Darrell’s artistic science began in 1979, and his photos were furnished along with several articles about madrone blight. Madrone blight is no holocaust it seems; in most situations this tree should probably be regarded as a seral species with an approximately human-length lifespan. (The bluffs call out for some well located young trees, which grazing has suppressed.)

- **Bob Todd** donated a fine oil painting of the George Perkins Marsh House at Woodstock, Vermont and provided some background historical information on Woodstock, Vermont. Bob will soon be returning to the Pacific Northwest (Chuckanut Mountain in fact) after a painting and gallery ownership career in Vermont.
- **Wayne Gerner** donated several ancient artifacts and near artifacts from around Chuckanut Village, for display and learning and wonder. One of the most interesting is a serpentine blank found on the edge of the Fairhaven Avenue marsh.

### 2005 News Items

**Our 600K ALEA Grant.** The February, 2005 report noted the City’s receipt of a $600,000 grant from Washington State Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, ranked number 1 statewide among similar proposals. The City recently received these funds and has allocated them for construction of a foot trail linking the Farm to the North Chuckanut Mtn. Trailhead and for preparation of the public access elements of the Woodstock site plan.
**A New $500K Grant Award.** The City just received word that it was awarded $500,000 in Transportation Enhancement Funds to reconstruct and improve the Inspiration Point Overlook. The project will include a new overlook for bicyclists and Farm visitors, new walkways from the Gates-Lee House to the overlook, thinning of trees, historic-style scenic highway barriers, park amenities, and hopefully a shuttle van/bus drop-off for passenger delivery to the Upper Bluff walkways. Similar funds may be sought for other highway frontage work, driveway reconstruction and historic structure renovation at Woodstock.

**Historic Photos Found.** A previous donation of many fine and unique historic photos of Woodstock and the family of Cyrus and Mabel Gates was rediscovered at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to display and to provide copies of these images at the Farm. They were donated by Cyrus Kingsley Gates around the late 1980’s.

**Thomas Wood Plein Air Painting Class.** With the support of the Whatcom Museum Tom returned with a class of painters for another 2-days of peaceful learning and concentration in fresh air.

**September 24th Woodstock Farm Festival.** A wonderful time was had by some 600-700 guests who enjoyed music, food, art and walks and outstanding Chuckanut natural and human history presentations by George Mustoe, Ed Arthur and Wes Gannaway. The event was generously supported by contributions from the Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation, Sanitary Services Co. Inc. and by the services of Joyce Prigot. Other event contributors included: American Alpine Institute, The Bagelry, Bellingham Cold Storage, Chuckanut Bay Gallery and Sculpture Garden, Ciao Thyme Catering, Cloud Mountain Farm, Dream on Futon, The Gardens at Padden Creek, Kelly Moore Paint Company,

**Friends of Woodstock Gather; the Woodstock Farm Conservancy ad hoc Founders Committee.** Continuing from their August 2005 meeting at the Blue Horse Gallery the “Friends” held another site conceptualization and organizational meeting at the WECU meeting center in early December. Following that event a leadership committee met to develop a proposed mission statement and to recommend an organization name (the Woodstock Farm Conservancy), a basic structure and goals.
The ad hoc leadership committee consisted of Jonathan Block, Margi Fox, Earl Cilley, Tom Burkland, Steve Paus, Sue Ellen Heflin, Paul Barkley, Tim Wahl and Joan Tezak, with Georgie and Denis Bailey. In response to City interest in receiving proposals for a lease of the site to parties capable of securing investments for preservation and public use of it's historic structures these proposals will be considered for adoption by the larger founders group. The ad hoc WFC founders will continue to refine their plans and visions in 2006, with a view to making a formal proposal as an incorporated body late in the year. Fundraising activities and special events will occur in mid-2006. Please e-mail the WFC at woodstockfarmpark@yahoo.com to offer support or ideas.

Gate & Turn-around. The Bellingham Park Department constructed a new gate and turn-around at Chuckanut Drive, where Jim Cool rediscovered the linden tree planted in honor of Woodstock’s Cyrus Gates. (One of the new CPNW Studies historic photos shows a group of hat-holding officials at the planting site.)

2005 and 2007 WWU Archaeology Field Schools. WWU’s Sarah Campbell and Ted Koetje lead last June and July’s excavation and assessment of the Boat House and West Point shell middens. The City and public look forward to their final report, for nomination of the site to the National Historic Register, to guide efforts to stabilize the Boat House midden face to and date and to characterize the cultural deposits as part of the story of Woodstock. A date was just received for the West Point midden, indicating use 3,130 years BP.

We look forward to carbon dating at the Boat House, where artifacts and stratigraphy suggest longer occupation, perhaps up to 5,000 years BP. Another WWU field school may be set for 2007.

JUNE-JULY WWU ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

Site Opened for Walk-in and Bike-in Access; Sign-in Station Provided. The City now encourages public access to the Woodstock grounds by bike and foot during daylight hours and has installed a voluntary visitors sign-in station at the Gates-Lee House. The upper (orchard) and lower sheep pastures are closed except to permitted visitors engaged in special tours or site work. This is due to the present pattern of sheep fencing, fence condition and the exposed nature of the shell middens. Because resources are limited and improvements are required uses of the Gates-Lee House, the garage and private automobiles are presently restricted to low impact, permitted activities which are intended to improve the site or its ultimate public utilization. For access information see www.cob.org/parks/parks_trails/woodstock-farm.htm

For the “Woodstock Magazine”—Cyrus Gates, Woodstock, Vermont and the Civil War. Tim Wahl worked with the Gates family records and other historical material to draft an article in what may become part of an on-going historical series of Woodstock articles, first for e-mail distribution and eventually for other forms of publication. It observes
that the creation of some of the nation’s most significant park sites and conservation initiatives came into being during the approach and the course of the Civil War.) E-mail recipients of this 2005 progress report will receive a copy of this article. (Editors, writers and layout artists wanted.)

**Americorps Volunteer Coordinator.** Tricia Hildebrandt has been helping to assemble a notebook of project contribution opportunities for volunteers and sponsors, which will be posted on the City’s web site and made available to community groups. Tricia and Tim Wahl make periodic presentations to clubs and community organizations and are developing a database and contact protocol to inform potential supporting individuals and groups. Work parties have been ongoing and several are scheduled. For information contact Tricia Hildebrandt at 676-6801.

**Upcoming Woodstock Activities**

- Site planning for public access; identification of best patterns, opportunities and phasing for vehicle and trail access. A public process managed by the City of Bellingham.

- Route design for trails to Inspiration Point and North Chuckanut Mtn. Trailhead.

- Completion and distribution of first edition of *Volunteer & Sponsor Opportunities* notebook.

- Fence and trail changes to connect “Kopperdahl Trail” with the Woodstock building compound, to open an attractive loop trail system.

- Development of a proposal by the Woodstock Farm Conservancy (and/or possibly others) to lease and operate the Woodstock buildings, based on a plan and procedures for preservation and improvement of the buildings for sustainable public use.

**WANTED:** A records and digital image collection organizer, to facilitate assembly and reproduction of historic images and documents for use on site and in local libraries etc.

*Compiled by Tim Wahl*  
*February 21, 2006*