

Ladies and Gentlemen:

## ***It is cheaper to protect than to restore.***

Even though this is the motto used in the current Wild Olympics campaign, it is a premise embraced by environmentalists and conservationists since the first day that John Muir stepped on the Sierra Mountains. It is far more evident today because we have all witnessed the type of damages humans can inflict on the planet, and then pour a bottomless pit of money in restoration projects – some that work, others that do not work.

Throughout our young American history, there have been thousands of heroes and heroines always trying to protect something. Why, in this town and throughout our peninsula, there are a number of heroes and heroines worthy of recognition.

Al Bergstein, Phil Johnson, and Dave Woodruff have been working very hard to protect our county from being forced to allow fish net pens. Gretchen Brewer, Elaine Bailey, and Monica Fletcher have been advocating for cleaner air in Port Townsend for a number of years. Michelle Sandoval is an impressive warrior, fighting on your behalf to make sure the clean, drinking water that Port Townsend gets remains clean at the Quilcene watershed source. Peter Bahls and Jude Ruben work incredible hours to enhance the salmon habitat on Tarboo Creek - they teach children and adults the importance of protecting our habitat. Sarah Spaeth, Owen Fairbanks and the staff of Jefferson Land Trust work patiently with farmers, land owners, and organizations to conserve our lands for future generations. Darlene Schanfald has struggled for years to bring the pollution problems in Port Angeles harbor upfront and center - she is succeeding.

Poet, author, and now a featured star on the terrific Out of the Mist film, Tim McNulty has been a strong advocate of protecting our public lands for years. And many others who, today, are fighting local battles on our behalf.

Of course, one of our great local heroines was Eleanor Stopps – without her dedication and hard work, the wildlife of Protection Island would not be able to enjoy a peaceful haven to rest, breed, and raise their offspring without human interference. Fighting alongside Eleanor was another terrific, inspirational, sharp-as-a-tack and lovely octogenarian – Helen Engle. So what inspires us to get out of our shells and speak up on behalf of Mother Nature, or Daichi Sen?

Bonnie Phillips' inspiration began when she discovered her love for hiking the wilderness. Early in the 1980s she moved to the Pacific Northwest from Wisconsin because she wanted to climb bigger mountains. Just as she began discovering some of our area's most magnificent wilderness, she was afflicted with a type of rheumatism that forced her to use a wheelchair the majority of the time.

From her wheelchair, she turned to activism and advocacy. She educated herself on Old Growth Forests and how logging practices affected watersheds. This was very timely because shortly thereafter, Bonnie found herself right in the middle of the spotted owl wars.

I can best describe Bonnie as a contemporary warrior of enviable courage. Bonnie dared to face, often times alone, the loggers and timber industry supporters of the Pacific Northwest. While on her wheelchair traversing forest roads, she had to go off the road to avoid being run over by logging trucks more than once - who were not slowing down.

But all of these defensive actions did not stop Bonnie from speaking out against the decimation of the old growth areas that nurtured and protected the spotted owl and other wildlife. In the early 1990s when the Federal government took initial steps to list the spotted owl as an

endangered species, it provoked the sort of hysteria in timber towns seldom seen in the United States except in wartime.

These small communities unleashed propaganda against the foreign forces of “evil” environmentalists befriending the bird.

Suddenly, there were bumper stickers displaying such slogans as I LOVE SPOTTED OWLS FRIED and SHOOT AN OWL, SAVE A LOGGER. And many other such slogans.

Bonnie found herself in the right place at the right time - in other words, right in the middle of the battlefield.

She was a plaintiff representative on the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet lawsuits.

Not being a shrinking violet, she confronted opposition at meetings, received many phone threats to her life.

A local paper labeled her “Eco Nazi”. None of this stopped the fiery red-haired woman with a spirit to match.

She continued meeting with groups, organized panels, coordinated meetings and protests, spent time in D.C. lobbying for Old Growth and spearheaded the formation of WA Ancient Forest Alliance (grassroots forest activists) - and gained the respect of the Forest Service.

She went on to work with Pilchuck Audubon Society and National Audubon Society.

In the late 1990s she became Campaign Coordinator for the Forest Water Alliance, a 21-member coalition in Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

She became a power in Washington’s forest protection politics.

Time Magazine named her as a Hero for the Planet in their December 1998 issue.

Bonnie was executive director of Olympic Forest Coalition, an organization I’m proud to serve as volunteer board member.

But to me and many others who respect and admired Bonnie for her incredible efforts and dedication to Daichi Sen (Mother Earth), she will always be a Heroine.

Pauline Tomkiel Dyer - Polly - dedicated her life to safeguarding Washington's Olympic coastline and forests and to protecting wilderness areas across the state. She has had a profound impact on the successful preservation of Washington's natural areas -- untouched, untrammled wilderness.

Born in 1920 in Honolulu, Hawaii, Polly’s father was in the Coast Guard, so the family moved around quite a bit. A cherished memory for Polly is having spent summers on the shores of Chesapeake Bay, where she learned to savor nature as a girl scout. At 20 years of age, she moved to Alaska. She was entranced by the majestic scenes that, according to Polly, formed the basis for her whole life since. During her younger years, it was not appropriate for gals to wear long pants, so she wore skirts while hiking.

While a hike on Deer Mountain near Ketchikan in 1945, she met the love of her life, rock climber and Sierra Club member John Dyer, or as Polly always called him, Johnny. They were engaged in 6 weeks

(no wonder, hiking in skirts!) and married 4 months later. Polly always says that when she married Johnny, she “married into the Sierra Club”. During their honeymoon, they cruised Alaska coastline in a 16 foot skiff. According to Polly, the raw beauty of Alaska and the magnificence of the Sierra Mountains planted a seed. She said that: *"My husband may have raised my consciousness about the wilderness. But there was something innate in me that was bound to come out sooner or later. ... I felt this almost unbounded joy. I wanted to stretch out my arms and bring it all up close to me. I felt that it was literally a part of me."*

When they moved to Auburn, Washington in 1950, Polly began hiking the Cascades and treated them as her new backyard. She formed a Girl Scout troop and taught them about Nature.

She joined The Mountaineers where she chaired the Conservation Committee, and lobbied the Forest Service for the establishment of Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

She formed the first Pacific Northwest chapter of the Sierra Club in 1953 and served on the national board for 7 years and in numerous committees on regional and national levels.

Also in 1953, Washington’s governor Arthur Langlie appointed a 17-member panel for the purpose of opening National Park lands to the Forest Service for logging. As a member of the panel, Polly opposed it and prevailed. She learned about the importance of having a strong minority report. As the only woman and token environmentalist in the room, she did not hesitate to speak out.

She traveled to forest industry meetings and educated herself on forestry & conservation, often traveling by bus until she bought a little Volkswagen.

In 1953, alongside David Brower, a prominent environmentalist and the founder of many environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club Foundation, John and Polly brought attention to the dam proposal for Echo Park Canyon, straddling the Utah/Colorado border. Polly wrote a letter to President Eisenhower reminding him of how the construction of the dam on the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park had destroyed and robbed visitors of the chance to enjoy its glaciated beauty. They fought for Echo Park Canyon and prevailed.

From 1957 to 1959 Polly served as the first woman president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Club, its purpose was to promote America’s scenic, wilderness, and outdoor recreational resources.

In 1957 she became one of the founders of the North Cascades Conservation Council and has served on its board of directors for more than half a century.

North Cascades National Park (comprising of 684,000 acres stretching from the Canadian border to Lake Chelan) was established in 1968 by President Johnson as a direct result of intense lobbying, organizational, and public relations efforts undertaken by the NCCC and led by Polly.

Polly worked for federal wilderness protection legislation that ultimately became the National Wilderness Act, signed into law by President Johnson in 1964 after over 60 drafts and 8 years of work. This act created the National Wilderness Preservation System originally comprising of 9.1 million acres - currently, there are over 109 million acres of federally owned lands protected, or about 5% of the land in US.

Polly testified before Senate Interior & Insular Affairs committee. Polly’s statement reads:

“The Wilderness Bill’s provisions will do a number of important and necessary things on behalf of the nation’s present and future wild places and for its citizens who look for or merely like to know that such

sanctuaries exist. ... Wilderness cannot - and should not - wear a dollar sign. It is a priceless asset which all the dollars man can accumulate will not buy back. Some forest which is commercially operable has as much right to be kept primeval as the forest of non- commercial value. Congress, through this bill, can help take the price tag off some of these remaining wilderness forests" (June 25, 1957).

On September 3, 1964 when President Lyndon Johnson signed the wilderness bill into law, he defined wilderness as:

*"An area where earth and its community of life are untrammelled by men, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. "*

On August 19, 1958, Polly organized coastal hikes of the Olympic Peninsula with United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. The goal was to increase public opposition to planned construction portion of US 101.

The event would not have made the media except for a man holding a "Bird Lovers Go Home' sign.

Polly continued her education and activism. In 1974, former governor Dan Evans appointed Polly to the Forest Practices Board - they had worked together to pass a bill regulating billboards. Polly served on that board for 5 years and on planning committees for US Forest Service on land use in several forests.

She was elected as president of Olympic Park Associates in 1989 where she served in that position for 5 years. Polly was instrumental in encouraging the removal of the dams on the Elwha.

Her successful campaign of Shi Shi Beach / Point of Arches resulted in an addition to the Olympic National Park.

Polly has inspired her peers and succeeding generations of conservationists. She lobbied congress and the state legislature for many protection and preservation issues spearheaded major environmental movements. She rallied recruits with hundreds of stirring public speeches to grassroots activists fed and housed wilderness workers served as "den mother. "

She won honors and accolades – published in the Seattle Times:

"If Polly Dyer hadn't moved to Washington in 1950, environmentalists say, the state map might look a lot different today. No North Cascades National Park. No wilderness areas -- for that matter, no Wilderness Act. Olympic National Park might not include the rain forests. Backpackers who hike the park's wild coastal strip, longest roadless coastline in the lower 48 states, might share that shore with cars. Dyer played a big role in all those fights. She has been a leader in the state's conservation movement for more than four decades, since long before the word 'environmentalist' was coined".

The Washington League of Women voters honored her for longtime contributions to good government.

Washington Environmental Council honored her as Environmental Hero.

US Congressman Jay Inslee honored her by speaking on the floor of House of Representatives. His statement is part of the Congressional Record.

On February 13, 2010, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn proclaimed it as "Polly Dyer day"

The Mountaineers hosted a celebration for this dedicated supporter of the preservation of wilderness in

the Pacific Northwest.

I'm proud to have been there, and I'm very proud and honored to know Polly.

I would like to transport you, using your imagination, to a beautiful and sacred place in Pennsylvania called Hawk Mountain - please close your eyes for a moment. Imagine a slightly chilled morning in September. You are sitting under a large Aspen tree near a ridge, soaking up the sun, enjoying the stunning Fall colors, and waiting for an awesome display compliments of Mother Nature.

Suddenly what appears to be a dark cloud rises from the other side of the ridge. When you focus your eyes, you are delighted to see that the "dark cloud" is formed by thousands of hawks and birds of prey: American Kestrel, Broad-winged Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, and other raptors like Peregrine Falcon, Turkey Vultures, Eagles, and Osprey,

It is a magnificent sight! All of the raptors are rising higher and higher, spreading their wings so wide they resemble small airplanes. The incredible thermals of the mountain are sheer joy to them. They are mesmerized by their own lifts to such glorious heights. The raptors are in a euphoric state.

As you contemplate such wonders of Mother Nature, the peace, tranquility, and beauty of the moment is shattered. Hunters below the ridge open fire as if in a war zone, only to them this is simply a sport. The magnificent raptors begin dropping to the valley floor, which soon turns into a valley of death. Hundreds of raptors now lie dead, and even worse, wounded, left for days dying slowly and agonizingly without food, water, or comfort of any kind.

Enter Rosalie Edge, the diminutive woman who ultimately became a giant of the Conservation movement and saved future raptors from such slaughter.

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*"The time to save a species is while it is still common. The only way to save a species is to never let it become rare."* - Rosalie Edge

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Rosalie was a pioneer activist who led many public campaigns throughout the country, but the one that distinguishes her on the west coast is the public campaign she mounted for the designation of the Olympic National Park from that of a national monument.

Rosalie Barrows Edge was born privileged. Her father indulged her as a child and lavished her with comfort, books. He was first cousin to Charles Dickens - a fact which later on in life, pleased Rosalie. As a young adult, Rosalie was petite, had brown hair, not considered beautiful - she rarely smiled because she was conscious of her overlapping teeth.

She married Charles Noel Edge, a wealthy civil engineer. They had 2 children, Peter and Margaret. She traveled through Asia with Charles whenever he was on business trips.

Rosalie began her activism after 1913 when she joined the woman's suffrage movement. She was mentored by Carrie Chapman Catt, one of the leaders of the movement.

Rosalie learned about campaigning and found she had a huge talent for political debate and action.

She walked with thousands of women, and honed her story telling for social justice. When she developed an interest for bird watching, she joined the Audubon Society. Her interest

expanded to birds of prey.

While traveling abroad, she was given an article written by Willard Van Name titled "A Crisis in Conservation". This set off a series of events of the type that most of us relish to watch in a good documentary. The pamphlet set forth the danger to many North American birds. However, the greater shock conveyed by the pamphlet lay in its descriptions of the slaughter practiced and condoned by groups of sportsmen.

The most serious charge of all was that the National Association of Audubon Societies, not named but unmistakably identified, was not only inactive in the protection of birds (other than the songbirds), but was in league with the gunners to protect their sport.

When she returned home, Rosalie took matters into her own hands. She caused quite a stir by attending her first National Association of Audubon Societies membership meeting - which coincidentally was on the same day the Great Crash of 1929 begun.

She created what was, in essence, a committee of one, but called it Emergency Conservation Committee - an impressive organizational name for those days. The committee was supported and largely funded by Willard Van Name, but he demanded that his name not be associated with it - so that he could help Rosalie with "intel" from the scientific community. She began a battle against the National Association of Audubon Societies for their non-protection of wildlife and pro-hunting policies.

She sued NAAS for their national membership list and won, then proceeded to inform NAAS members of the club's policies through her bulletins.

Rosalie had set precedent of suing to save Nature!

NAAS changed top staff and adopted better protection and conservation rules for most bird species - all because of Rosalie.

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## HAWK MOUNTAIN

Rosalie mounted a fundraising campaign and purchased the land to establish a hawk sanctuary to protect raptors from hunters. She remained president of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary until her death in 1962.

Rosalie's contribution to our Olympic Peninsula began when she traveled to all the western national parks. During these trips, she was always properly attired. "Keep appearances whatever you do."

Rosalie started public campaigns to save the sugar pine trees in Yosemite, the pelicans in Yellowstone, and the old growth trees on the Olympic Peninsula.

All attempts to turn the Mount Olympus National Monument to a park had previously failed.

With her Emergency Conservation Committee pamphlets, Rosalie put the idea of an Olympic Park in

front of the nation to save primeval forests from the glaciers to the sea.

During the early 1930s, Everett's Congressman Mon Wallgren's proposal for an Olympic National Park was not outwardly supported, but during her visit to the Olympic Peninsula in 1936, folks would take Rosalie aside and tell her they agreed with the proposal but did not dare speak out in front of others.

At the congressional hearings in April of 1936, Rosalie said:

"It seems to me that no one has made enough of the fact that the whole Nation is involved. Now, the Forest Service has logged off very much of this bottom portion and we ask as a restitution that we shall be given the forest to the west, and I really think there is not enough made of that, that it is the right of the people of the whole United States to have given back to them the equivalent of land that was cut out in the hysteria of war time, because that is what it really amounted to."

At the hearings, Rosalie was grilled, but she socked it to them. Her ECC pamphlets told how a few timber-based communities on the Olympic Peninsula were intent on preventing the rest of the nation from ever knowing its ancient forests and river valleys draped in moss and fern like no other river valleys in the world.

The ECC had stirred up so much controversy that in the fall of 1937, when President Roosevelt visited the peninsula, the US Forest Service moved the boundary signs with the sole purpose of deceiving the President into believing that the "clear-cut" areas he would see were outside the National Forest, and had not been cut in violation of the law. When the president saw the decimation, he said, "I hope the lumberman who is responsible for this is roasting in hell."

Rosalie organized 3,000 school children with banners to line up the streets of Port Angeles. As the president's motorcade rolled by, he saw signs that begged him to save the Park. When he spoke, he promised that he would, adding that it would be the largest National Park possible.

During this entire controversy, Rosalie was called an "outsider", a meddler, she was abolishing jobs, and that she was a "spy" for Canadian timber. Geez, why does that sound familiar?

Rosalie's endless advocacy paid off as she appeared before Congress, and mounted a tremendous national campaign - remember, the writing and the mailing efforts was done mostly by Rosalie with the help of her son Peter. She also was fortunate that, during the entire campaign, she had the moral support of Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes - of course, she won that support by being a pain in the ass.

Rosalie Edge was certainly not the only person who battled for the creation of the Olympic National Park in 1937, but without her resolve and great strategies, it would have taken a lot longer - or perhaps never.

*"People ought to make the preservation of watersheds, forests, soil, and all living species their personal responsibility - because all lead to the mother of every living thing: the earth."* - Rosalie Edge

*I will leave you with this thought: "Eighty years later and we are still battling to protect our lands. It is cheaper to protect than to restore."* - **Connie Gallant**, President, Olympic Forest Coalition (2013)