



Kucklick Landscape Design

Design • Installation • Maintenance
394 Buckhorn Road • Eastsound, WA 98245
360-376-2501

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Recently I had the opportunity to walk the property of Lisbeth and Craig Anderson. I was very taken by the beauty of the site and I soon came to recognize the native landscape as being something very special, even for Orcas standards.

Besides being on top of Buck Mountain with outstanding 180 degree views the property contains an exceptional forest of old growth Douglas fir and very old established colonies of salal. In my opinion the native landscape of the property offers an almost entirely pristine example of a northwest climax forest. This is getting more rare on Orcas. Except for a very light thinning of trees some time in the forties or fifties (my estimate based on the decay present in the Doug fir tree stumps) the site has largely been undisturbed since the last ice age some 12,000 years ago. There is evidence of forest fires that have also impacted the site.

On the property are old growth trees from two hundred to four hundred years old. In among the trees are rock outcrops that support lichen and moss colonies of also a great age. The original mother plant of the established salal groundcover can be over two hundred years old. As you move through the property to its western 'view' edge where the trees open up and the sun reaches the forest floor I am sure there is a wonderful mix of established native wildflowers.

Even though I have seen many outstanding properties on Orcas over the years working as a landscape designer I think this native landscape the Andersons own is exceptional. As one walks the forest paths one senses that one is present in a location of great rarity and timelessness. I believe in such a landscape one can indeed sense a feeling of eternity. This is very rare as we build things up on Orcas. Such qualities of the native landscape should be valued and recognized.

Robin Kucklick