



Great Peninsula Conservancy

Fall 2016

Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come



Beards Cove Restoration – Page 3

Surrounded by Heroes



Mary Zabinski

Melissa Haumerson (left) and Sandra Staples-Bortner visit GPC's new Filucy Bay Preserve.

Photographer Don Willott captured our cover shot of a great blue heron who, in turn, captured a gannet in the nearshore of Puget Sound.

People who do amazing things to save a life are called heroes. What about people who do amazing things to save land? Are they heroes? Without diminishing the significance of the word, I believe I can say that they are heroes to me.

I am surrounded by heroes. Melissa Haumerson, the woman who bought and then donated 46 acres on Filucy Bay to GPC is my hero. Paul Dorn, who received GPC's Conservation Award for his lifelong achievements restoring salmon on the Kitsap Peninsula, is my hero. Carolina Veenstra, who dedicates countless hours in leading a volunteer stewardship crew at North Kitsap Heritage Park, is my hero. Gary Cunningham, a founding board member and longtime pro bono attorney for GPC, is my hero. The nine generous GPC members who pooled their funds to pledge \$87,500 to create our 2016 Great Peninsula Challenge are my heroes.

You can be GPC's next hero. Each time a member stretches to make that special gift—a donation that feels a bit outside your comfort range but that makes you feel good deep down inside—she or he is one of GPC's heroes. Your gift now to our Great Peninsula Challenge will be matched 1:1 by our Challenge donors and will make you a land-saving hero. Go ahead. Join GPC's growing list of heroes!

Sandra Staples-Bortner
Executive Director

Great Peninsula Conservancy

Protecting forever the natural habitats, rural landscapes, and open spaces of the Great Peninsula.

423 Pacific Ave, Suite 401
Bremerton, WA 98337
360-373-3500
info@greatpeninsula.org
www.greatpeninsula.org

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Great Peninsula Challenge Poised to Make a Big Impact



Can you imagine this beautiful place we call home without its green forests, shorelines rich with clams, and streams thick with salmon? Neither can the nine generous GPC members who have pooled their funds to pledge \$87,500 in matching funds to our 2016 Great Peninsula Challenge. For every \$1 you donate to

GPC, our challenge donors will contribute an additional \$1 up to \$87,500—doubling the impact of every gift! We are already more than a third of the way to our goal! Please use the envelope in this newsletter to make a gift today. Together we can make a big difference for the forests, streams, and beaches we love.

Phil Best

—Visitors Enjoy a Peek at Beards Cove Restoration—

Over 30 folks toured GPC's Beards Cove project on September 11 to get a look at the restored shoreline and native plantings. This sneak peek offered GPC members and our Beards Cove Community Organization (BCCO) neighbors an opportunity to talk with GPC staff, project engineer ESA Inc., and Beards Cove community leaders about this joint project to restore the shoreline to its original condition, while enjoying

breathtaking views of Hood Canal. "We couldn't be happier with the restoration and proud to be a part of salmon recovery in Hood Canal," remarked Louie Yelverton, BCCO Board President. "The shoreline is so beautiful and to watch the birds and fish return to the salt marsh is amazing." The project was funded by over \$1M in grants from RCO Salmon Recovery Program and EPA Marine and Nearshore Program.

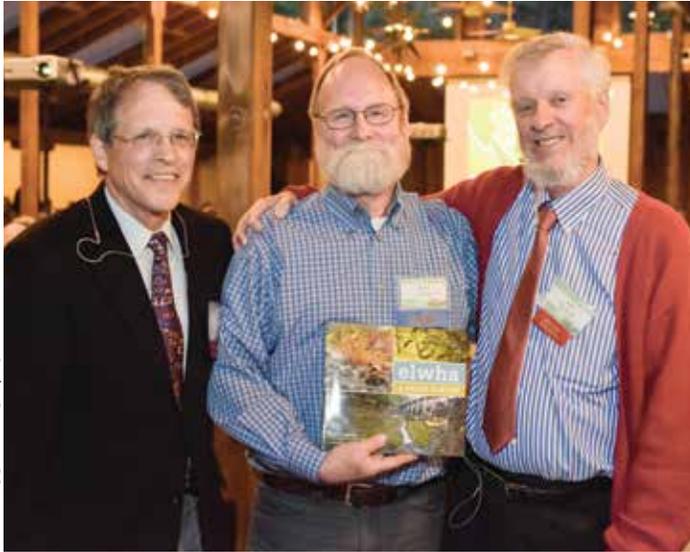


Jess Lessard

Restoration work underway at Beards Cove on Hood Canal.

GPC Honors Paul Dorn

By a show of hands it was made completely clear: Paul Dorn, a man who has spent over one year of his life underwater surveying sea life in Puget Sound, also has been a very effective



Ikil Gregg Photography

Paul Dorn (center) was honored with the 2016 Conservation Award at GPC's Spring Dinner. The award was presented by GPC Board Members Dick D'Archangel (left) and Art Schick (right).

community organizer for fish. In his work with the Suquamish Tribe to restore natural salmon runs to Kitsap streams, Paul has spent 38 years inspiring children and adults to care about salmon and their freshwater and marine environments.

When GPC honored Paul with our Conservation Award for his incredible contribution to restoring salmon and their habitats during our Spring Dinner, our 350 guests were asked how many had participated in a beach seine, hatchery tour, or another activity led by Paul. The room became a sea of hands.

What is truly outstanding about Paul's work both for the Suquamish Tribe and with the community is his persistent effort to protect and restore the environment, and to involve as many people as possible in the process. GPC congratulates Paul on his many achievements in fish conservation.

Tour Fil Lucy Bay Preserve

More than 60 people toured GPC's Fil Lucy Bay Preserve in July. Tours began at Longbranch Improvement Club with an opportunity to meet community partners and learn about work to protect water quality at Key Peninsula Healthy Waters Fair before boarding a shuttle to our nearby preserve. From there a short 10-minute walk along a woodland path brought guests to

the shoreline. Guides were on hand to answer questions about the preserve, the bay and its tidelands. During the day-long event GPC gathered important feedback from community members about their wishes for future outdoor opportunities at the new preserve.

Make a Difference

You are invited to return to Fil Lucy Bay Preserve October 15 for our first stewardship event on the property. Join us from 9 am to noon.

Bring clippers and rubber boots for walking the beach. RSVP to Erik (360) 373-3500 or erik@greatpeninsula.org.



Visitors to GPC's new Fil Lucy Bay Preserve applaud land donor Melissa Haumerson.

Mary Zabinski

— Spring Dinner Raises \$100K for Conservation —

Thanks to incredible support from our event sponsors and overwhelming generosity from our guests, GPC's popular Spring Dinner at Kiana Lodge reached a new milestone this April, raising over \$100K for conservation.

Our 350 guests—a mix of community leaders and conservationists—gathered for a wonderful meal and an inspiring presentation by Lynda Mapes, author of *Elwha: a River Reborn*.

Together we celebrated lands recently protected by Great Peninsula Conservancy and recognized a few individuals, businesses and organizations who partnered with us to make these stories possible. This year's Partner Recognitions, sponsored by Olympic Property Group, included: Doug and John Helton, the Suquamish Tribe, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Beards Cove Community Organization, Pope Resources, Bob and Angela Easter, and our Filucy Bay heroes.

GPC also honored fisheries biologist Paul Dorn with our Conservation Award for his tremendous impact on the streams, fisheries, marine waters, and people of our region. Many thanks to Sound West Group for sponsoring our 2016 Great Peninsula Conservation Award.

Thank You Dinner Sponsors



Albert Foster and Oonaugh Foster Bill inspired us all with their story of taking action for the environment, beginning close to home on Grovers Creek.

Ikil Gregg Photography

Become a Land Steward

Want to get a close-up look at one of GPC's protected properties? Join us Saturday, November 19 for our annual land steward training class (9 am – 12:30 pm). Land stewards volunteer one to two days per year to monitor a conservation property. Be GPC's eyes on the ground! Contact Erik at (360) 373-3500 or erik@greatpeninsula.org.

Building a Stewardship Community at Port Gamble Forest



Mary Zabinski

Volunteers build shoreline trail and overlooks at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.

Community volunteers and REI employees spent time giving back to their community and celebrating National Public Lands Day together during three REI-sponsored stewardship days in Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park this August and September. More than 85 volunteers worked

to improve trailhead parking, construct viewpoints, and build a trail along the Port Gamble Bay shoreline bluff. These efforts built on the work of Kitsap Forest & Bay Project partners who helped create this park, with its access to the bay and over 500 acres of forest. Our

successful stewardship was celebrated with tailgate BBQs, prizes and t-shirts from REI.

As Jerry Stritzke, REI President and CEO, says, "Stewardship is a mindset that helps us to imagine the positive, lasting impact we can have together." With support from REI, GPC is helping to build a dedicated community of volunteers who care for and create access to outdoor recreation spaces. Warm thanks to REI and all of our stewardship partners for being part of Kitsap's stewardship community: North Kitsap Trails Association, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance –West Sound, Kitsap County Parks, Kitsap Audubon Society and Backcountry Horsemen of Washington – Peninsula Chapter.

Gifts to Honor

(March 1, 2016 through August 31, 2016)

- ◆ **In honor of Laurel Stone**
Melissa Holmes
Laurie Stone
- ◆ **In honor of Tex Lewis**
Joyce Merkel

Memorial Gifts

- ◆ **In memory of Billie and Barney**
Bruce and Tina Barner
- ◆ **In memory of Linda Benedict**
Bruce and Margo Macdonald
- ◆ **In memory of Ida Klinghammer**
Louise Skipton
- ◆ **In memory of Ken McCaffree**
Joan Phillips and Ric Jones
- ◆ **In memory of Mary Ellen McCaffree**
Ken McCaffree
- ◆ **In memory of Earldine McCaughan**
Linda and Dennis Hutchinson
- ◆ **In memory of Dorris McGuire**
Chuck McGuire
- ◆ **In memory of Randy Peterson**
Mercedes Peterson

Kitsap Forest and Bay Community Campaign

After success conserving nearly 1,100 acres, the Kitsap Forest & Bay Campaign is now focused on saving the remaining 3,000 acres of Port Gamble Forest. Popular with hikers, runners, cyclists, horseback riders, and nature lovers, the Port

Gamble Forest is an outdoor enthusiast's delight. Join the campaign to raise \$3.5 million at SavePG.org.



— Meet GPC's New — Conservation Director

Jonathan Decker, GPC's new Conservation Director, is a Seattle native with a strong appreciation for Washington's wild places. He came to us from Vermont Land Trust where he served as Regional Stewardship Manager. Jonathan holds a master's degree in sustainable development and worked in the Philippines as a Coastal Resources Management Volunteer with the US Peace Corps. When he's not working to support GPC's conservation efforts, you can find Jonathan out on a trail or at Safeco Field. He looks forward to working with landowners and partners to protect the natural habitats, working lands, and open spaces of the Great Peninsula.



Jess Lessard

Welcome New Board Members



Contributed Photos

New GPC board members (left to right): Katrina Knutson, Mark Walsh, Russell Hartman, David Morris, and Justin Stiefel.

It is with great pleasure that GPC's announces the addition of five new Board members. This diverse group brings a range of talents and interests to our Board. **Russell Hartman** is a retired Kitsap County Superior Court Judge, community activist in the area of mental health care, and a backpacker and cyclist. **Katrina Knutson** recently became a park planner for the City of Gig Harbor after a decade working as a long range planner for Kitsap County. She brings a lifelong love of the outdoors. **David Morris** is a real estate investor and a co-owner of Keller Williams Realty in Gig Harbor and Silverdale. He enjoys tennis, golf, boating, skiing, and

travel. **Justin Stiefel** uses his skills as a chemical engineer and attorney in growing Heritage Distilling Company, where he is co-founder, CEO and master distiller. He serves on several nonprofit boards. **Mark Walsh** is vice president of real estate investments for Olympic Property Group. He was drawn to the Pacific NW by its natural beauty, and is an avid skier.

GPC is grateful to retiring Board members **Gary Cunningham** and **Dick D'Archangel** for their combined 21 years of service on GPC's Board! Please join us in thanking them for their dedication to land conservation.





Great Peninsula Conservancy

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	✓	Effective Governance

Great Peninsula Conservancy is an accredited land trust.

2016 Kitsap Salmon Tours

Celebrate the return of salmon to Kitsap streams at these **FREE** events

— NOVEMBER 5 • 10 AM TO 2 PM —

MOUTH OF CHICO CREEK

4270 Kitty Hawk Drive NW

CHICO SALMON PARK

Chico Way at Golf Club Hill Road

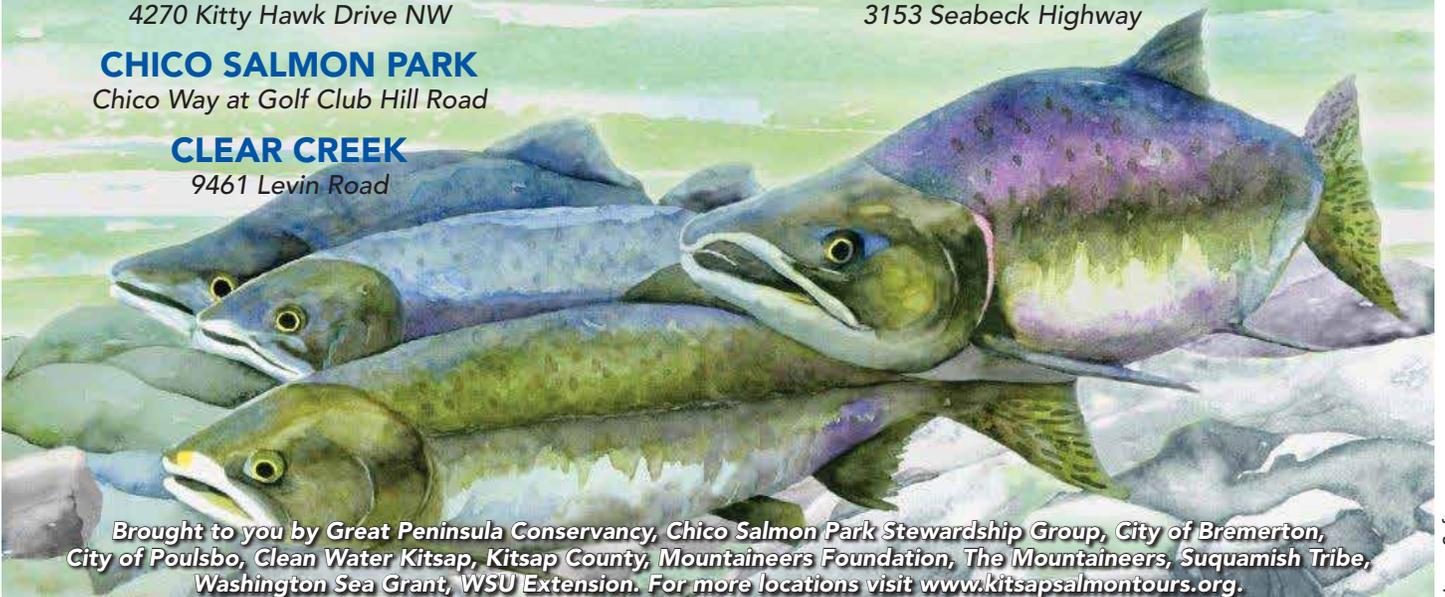
CLEAR CREEK

9461 Levin Road

— NOVEMBER 5 • TOURS BEGIN AT 10 AM, LAST TOUR AT 1 PM —

MOUNTAINEERS RHODODENDRON PRESERVE

3153 Seabeck Highway



Brought to you by Great Peninsula Conservancy, Chico Salmon Park Stewardship Group, City of Bremerton, City of Poulsbo, Clean Water Kitsap, Kitsap County, Mountaineers Foundation, The Mountaineers, Suquamish Tribe, Washington Sea Grant, WSU Extension. For more locations visit www.kitsapsalmon tours.org.

Nancy Sefton