



# Great Peninsula Conservancy

Fall 2015

*Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come*



Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski

*Beards Cove Restoration Underway – Page 3*

# Embracing New Beginnings

Photo Credit: Don Willott



Port Gamble S'Klallam delegation arrives for blessing of Port Gamble Bay.

This has been a season of transitions. In July, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe held an event to bless Port Gamble Bay and those embarking on its much anticipated cleanup. S'Klallam families and guests gathered at the former mill site to welcome a delegation that arrived by canoe from the Port Gamble S'Klallam reservation across the bay. During the solemn ceremony, an elder and tribal chairman spoke of the tribe's history on the bay and the significance of these waters to their traditions. Project partners spoke of their commitment to working together and hopes for a bright future for the bay. Prayer, song, drums and a parade of young people encircling the congregation invoked spiritual forces and human hands to lend strength to the upcoming cleansing of the bay. At the close, the

gathering saw the canoe off with hearts and minds open to new possibilities.

Similarly, there is a transition happening at Petersen Farm in Silverdale. In September, friends, partners and supporters came together to celebrate the successful community effort to save historic Petersen Farm. With protection of the central core of the farm secured in a conservation agreement that has no expiration date, the farm's legacy will live on honoring farming traditions and history. At the same time,

this is a new beginning for the farm. In August it was sold to a local family with their own hopes and dreams for the land. They have plans to rebuild fences, raise beef cattle, and care for the land. They are honored to carry on the farm's legacy and look forward to inviting the community to visit the farm and learn about its history.

These stories speak to the values of our community. We respect the history and traditions of those that came before us. We take responsibility for the land and water under our temporary care and seek to pass on nature's bounty to future generations. Ceremonies such as these invite us all to honor the past and embrace new beginnings.

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

Editor – Sandra Staples-Bortner • Managing Editor – Mary Zabinski  
Printed on FSC paper by Blue Sky Printing, Poulsbo, WA

### Staff

Sandra Staples-Bortner, Executive Director • Kate Kuhlman, Operations Director  
Scott Pascoe, Conservation Director • Erik Pedersen, Conservation Assistant  
Mary Zabinski, Development Coordinator

### Board of Directors

Arthur Schick, President, Brownsville, 2016  
Kathleen Peters, Vice President, Bainbridge Island, 2017  
Richard D'Archangel, Secretary, Suquamish, 2016  
David De Bruyn, Treasurer, Kingston, 2017  
Evan Bauder, Belfair, 2018 • Peter Namtvedt Best, Bainbridge Island, 2018  
Gary Cunningham, Seabeck, 2016 • Kit Ellis, Gig Harbor, 2017  
Debbie Engel, Indianola, 2017 • Erin Ewald, Gig Harbor, 2018  
Arthur Wesley 'Wes' Larson, Bremerton, 2016 • Andrea Spencer, Indianola, 2017





# Beards Cove Restoration Underway

If you've looked across Hood Canal from Belfair recently you may have noticed giant orange excavators taking big bites out of the shoreline and big-tired dump trucks hauling and dumping the fill across North Shore Road.

Over 44,000 cubic yards of dirt is being returned to where it came from in an early 1970s project that filled in the tidal marsh now owned by GPC and Beards Cove Community Organization (BCCO). The land is being restored to its natural condition. In addition to the dirt, the restoration also removed derelict structures, a swimming pool, and invasive weeds. Native trees and shrubs will be planted by the end of the year.

"In November 2011, GPC, BCCO and WA Department of Fish and Wildlife began to talk seriously about how we could partner to help salmon recovery in Hood Canal," remembers Kate Kuhlman, GPC project manager. "We realized

that the Union River estuary had been the focus of three decades of conservation work by land trusts and agencies, adding up to over 700 acres of preserved shoreline, marsh, and forest. Restoration of this site was the missing link in 1.7 miles of unbroken saltmarsh along the north shore of the Union River estuary."

Soon after GPC applied for and received WA Salmon Recovery Program funding for the design phase of the project and in 2014-15 GPC received WA Salmon Recovery Program and EPA Marine and Nearshore Program funds for the restoration.

When finished, the Beards Cove restoration project will restore to pre-1884 conditions over 1,550 linear feet of shoreline, 2,000 linear feet of tidal channel and more than seven acres of nearshore and estuarine habitat for endangered Hood Canal summer chum and Chinook salmon and other species.



GPC's restoration project manager Kate Kuhlman.

Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski



Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski

Sealevel Bulkhead Builders and ESA Engineering work to restore a final section of the Union River estuary at Beards Cove in Belfair.



## Memorial Gifts

(March 16 – August 31, 2015)

### **In memory of Linda Benedict**

Gary & Marilyn Cunningham  
Dave & Sue Gitch  
Kim Hoffman & Thomas Tearnen  
Helen Hoover  
Kate Kuhlman & Jim Halstead  
John H. Nelson & Family  
Gordon Sherk  
Neal Sherk  
Sandra Staples-Bortner & Brad Bortner  
David Stockand & Nancy Chamberlein  
Debi Tanner

### **In memory of Marjory Galbraith**

Ridgetop Sunshine Fund

### **In memory of Mary Ellen McCaffree**

Ken McCaffree

### **In memory of Randy Peterson**

Rodrigo Austria  
Margaret Cicirelli  
Jon & Joanna Day  
Dawn Jake  
Jere Laughlin  
Tom Meyers  
William & Judy Norris  
Karen & Thomas Omri  
Mercedes Peterson  
Roy Peterson  
Delgene Phillips  
Paul Samek  
Zabinski Family

### **In memory of Maurine Sperber**

Melvin Sperber

### **In memory of Helen and Dexter Strong**

Joan & Tom Buell

### **In memory of Frank Stutesman**

Sandra Staples-Bortner & Brad Bortner

## Gifts to Honor

### **In honor of Arthur Wesley "Wes" Larson**

Jay & Suzy Wakefield

### **In honor of Vickie Michels**

Rich Slettvet



# He Loved the Great Northwest

Frank Stutesman loved the 'Great Northwest'! That passion inspired him to make generous annual donations to Great Peninsula Conservancy and leave GPC a legacy gift of over \$176,000. His final gift says it all.

Frank was introduced to Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2002 by a fellow Purdue University alumni (and GPC board member), John Nelson. While both were members of Purdue's Class of 1952, Frank and John met in Seattle when they helped raise funds for a Purdue alumni class gift. Since then the two stayed in touch and Frank enjoyed frequent ferry rides from Edmonds to Kingston to join his new friend for lunch on the beautiful Kitsap Peninsula.

During these get-togethers, John kept Frank up to date on Great Peninsula Conservancy's latest projects. Frank made his first gift of \$50 to GPC in 2002. Five years later, when GPC launched our first Great Peninsula Challenge, he increased his gift to \$1,000. He was happy to help save the lands he loved.

Three years after that, as Frank watched GPC take on big projects

and achieve success, he boosted his annual giving to \$5,000 and at the same time made a commitment to a legacy gift to GPC. To Frank, a former Boy Scout summer camp counselor from Indiana, all of the Pacific Northwest was special and worth saving.

The following year, as GPC led ambitious campaigns to save Petersen Farm in Silverdale and extensive timberlands in North Kitsap, Frank boosted his annual gift to \$12,000. And, as the fundraising deadline for Petersen Farm approached, he stepped in to make the final gift of \$20,000 to reach our goal! In the years that followed, Frank was one of a handful of people who made the leadership gifts to create GPC's annual Great Peninsula Challenge. He did all this quietly, without fanfare.

Frank died on December 26, 2014, just shy of his 86th birthday. For those that knew Frank, we will remember the smile on his face as he listened to stories of saving big trees, family farms and pristine shorelines. This was his beloved Puget Sound and he was excited about it all!



Frank Stutesman



# Petersen Farm Conservation Celebrated



Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski

Project partners dedicate a plaque recognizing the many contributors to the campaign to save Petersen Farm. Left to right: Brian Stahl, Kitsap Conservation District; Roylene Rides at the Door, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Sandra Staples-Bortner, Great Peninsula Conservancy; Dorothy Lind, Petersen Estate; Gary Cunningham, Great Peninsula Conservancy; Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County; Lawrence Greaves, Port of Silverdale.

Donors and partners gathered on the green fields of Clear Creek Valley's historic Petersen Farm to celebrate our community's work to conserve 115 acres of this legacy Silverdale farm.

Generous community donations totaling \$415,000 matched funds from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to permanently protect the land from development, preserving a cherished piece of Kitsap County's agricultural heritage.

Gerald Petersen, who with his wife Dorothy bought the farm in 1948 and operated a dairy and raised beef cattle there, passed away in 2009. With a passion for preserving the farm's legacy, he included instructions in his will that the land remain a working farm. His niece, Dorothy Lind, has worked closely with Great Peninsula Conservancy to fulfill her uncle's wish by placing a conservation easement on the land.

Recognizing the importance of preserving open space and local foods in our community, garden clubs, service clubs, foundations, and individuals all stepped forward to help. Many community partners joined GPC in hosting the fall fairs that drew 1,000 people to Petersen Farm each year for hay rides, games, and farmers market. The event became an important part of the campaign to save Petersen

Farm. Our recent dedication at the farm was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the generous support of donors and partners and unveil the bronze plaque that will honor their contributions for generations to come.

During the dedication, Dorothy spoke of her delight in being able to welcome a new farm family to Petersen Farm. The Berry family plans to raise cattle on the property, expanding their small Port Orchard cattle ranch to include Petersen Farm's lush valley. GPC looks forward to working closely with the father-son team of Dave and Jeff Berry in the years ahead to realize the vision of keeping this land a working farm.

## Grovers Creek Campaign Update

GPC's Grovers Creek Preserve grew by 2.5 acres in August with a land donation from Doug and John Helton. At just over 200 acres, the preserve includes extensive wetlands, big trees and a salmon stream. GPC hopes to add more land before too long.

## GPC Honors Chris Dunagan

Great Peninsula Conservancy takes the long view. We aim to protect the natural habitats, rural landscapes and open spaces of the Great Peninsula of Puget Sound for all time. That's why it is a thrill to recognize a reporter who also has made a long-term commitment to our region.

This spring GPC presented our second-annual Great Peninsula Conservation Award to Chris Dunagan. During nearly 30 years as Kitsap Sun's environmental reporter, Chris' carefully researched and accessible stories have been incredibly effective at inspiring people to care about our environment.

His 1991 series *Hood Canal, Splendor at Risk* established him as the region's premiere environmental reporter and won the Governor's Writers Award. For decades, Chris has covered the chum salmon run and restoration efforts on Chico Creek. He has written extensively about Puget Sound orcas, and covered the Kitsap Forest and Bay Project, Union River estuary restoration, and many other conservation stories. His writing has helped us



Photo Credit: Ikil Gregg

Great Peninsula Conservation Award winner Chris Dunagan and award sponsor, Ueland Foundation representative Mark Mauren, at GPC's Spring Dinner.

understand why the health of Puget Sound and local forests matter to us all.

Reflecting on receiving this award, Chris wrote, "The award is especially humbling, because I see myself as a storyteller, not a conservationist. But I was reminded that stories can help bring people together to accomplish great things."

## Spring Dinner Raises \$79K for Conservation

Thank you Spring Dinner Sponsors, Table Sponsors and guests! Great Peninsula Conservancy's 5th annual fundraising dinner at Kiana Lodge was a huge success.



Photo Credit: Ikil Gregg

More than 280 people – a mix of elected officials, business and community leaders, and conservationists – gathered for a wonderful meal and an inspiring presentation by Joe Gaydos about the Salish Sea. The event raised \$79,000 for land conservation.

GPC presented our Conservation Award to environmental reporter Chris Dunagan, and recognized the important contributions of our partners including: Hood Canal Coordinating Council for their partnership in acquiring Irene Pond (Belfair), as well as Doug and John Helton, Pope Resources, and our many Kitsap Forest & Bay Project partners who helped establish Grovers Creek Preserve (Kingston).



Blue Sky Printing, Flamingo Audio, Pat & Steve Weagant

FALL 2015 ♦ GREAT PENINSULA CONSERVANCY



---

## Meet Evan Bauder

---

Born and raised in Mason County, Evan earned a B.S. in Environmental Science from Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment. After graduating he moved back to his hometown to pursue a career in natural resources. He now lives on a property permanently protected by a conservation easement held by GPC and this July Evan joined GPC's Board of Directors to lend his expertise to our conservation work.

Evan's lifelong passion for the outdoors fuels his excitement to work with natural resources throughout the region. He currently manages multiple habitat restoration projects and programs for Mason Conservation District. He also represents the District on two regional technical advisory groups for the state's Salmon Recovery Program. Evan will serve on GPC's Stewardship Committee.



Evan Bauder

---

## You Can Make a Difference

---

### Stewardship Day in Port Gamble – October 3

Help reroute a popular multi-use trail to more solid ground while protecting the habitat of countless wetland creatures. Your effort will build on the work of Kitsap Forest & Bay Project partners who helped create this North Kitsap park, providing access to the bay and over 500 acres of forest. Volunteers should wear long pants, sturdy shoes and gloves. Bring water, your favorite shovel, and trail building tools. Stay for a BBQ and go home with an REI water bottle. Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park (9 am – 3 pm). RSVP to [kate@greatpeninsula.org](mailto:kate@greatpeninsula.org) or (360) 373-3500.

### Stewardship Day at Banner Forest – October 17

Join us to construct a wetland trail crossing in Banner Forest. You'll be helping protect water quality and wetland habitat. GPC holds a conservation easement that protects 139 acres at the center of this popular 640-acre South Kitsap park. Wear work gloves and bring your favorite shovel and trail building tools. Stay for a picnic lunch and go home with an REI water bottle. Please carpool; parking is limited. Banner Forest Heritage Park (9 am – 2 pm). RSVP to [kate@greatpeninsula.org](mailto:kate@greatpeninsula.org) or (360) 373-3500.

### Land Steward Training – November 21

Want to get a close up look at one of GPC's protected properties? You're the person we're looking for! Join us at a fun training for new land stewards on Saturday, November 21 (9 am – 12:30 pm). Land stewards volunteer one to two days per year to monitor a property. Be GPC's eyes on the ground! Contact [erik@greatpeninsula.org](mailto:erik@greatpeninsula.org) or (360) 373-3500.



Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski

Stewardship volunteers help reroute a popular Port Gamble trail.





# Great Peninsula Conservancy

423 Pacific Ave., Suite 401  
Bremerton, WA 98337

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
SILVERDALE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 73

***Return Service Requested***

## GPC on Facebook

Great Peninsula Conservancy can be found on Facebook! We regularly post photos from the field, project updates, and news links on Facebook, so sign up and log in if you would like to receive up-to-date conservation news from the Great Peninsula. The best way to find us is to go to [www.greatpeninsula.org](http://www.greatpeninsula.org) and follow the Facebook link. See you there!



## KITSAP SALMON TOURS

Celebrate the return of salmon  
to Kitsap Streams at these FREE events.



**CHICO SALMON PARK**  
November 14, 10am – 2pm  
Chico Way at Golf Club Hill Road

**MOUNTAINEERS  
RHODODENDRON PRESERVE**  
November 14, Tours begin at 10am,  
Last tour at 1pm.  
3153 Seabeck Highway

*Brought to you by Great Peninsula Conservancy, Chico Salmon Park  
Stewardship Group, Clean Water Kitsap, Kitsap County,  
Mountaineers Foundation, The Mountaineers,  
Suquamish Tribe, Washington Sea Grant, WSU Extension.*

**For more event details visit [www.kitsapsalmon tours.org](http://www.kitsapsalmon tours.org)**