



# Great Peninsula Conservancy

Fall 2017

*Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come*



*Exploring Davis Farm – Page 5 & 8*

# It Takes a Community!

This summer you and other Great Peninsula Conservancy members really stepped up to make a difference. Together with our Kitsap Forest & Bay partners, you helped raise over \$3.2 million to save Port Gamble Forest – an amazing achievement! Wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy this landscape for years to come.

Meanwhile, thanks to your generous donations to our Great Peninsula Challenge we are hard at work on nearly a dozen other stream, shoreline and forest conservation projects from Hansville to Belfair, Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula. Your personal commitment to save a home for bears, birds, and salmon helped reach our summer matching goal to protect land on Rocky Creek, Curley Creek, and Filucy Bay.

Your generous contributions also inspired others—including REI, Puget Sound Energy and MJ Murdock Charitable Trust—to support GPC’s conservation efforts. Working together, we are saving cherished landscapes that define our region, and creating opportunities for people to get outside. Thank you for your devotion to nature and GPC, and for making our conservation community strong.

Sandra Staples-Bortner  
Executive Director



GPC members enjoy a day exploring lands you helped protect at Gig Harbor's Sehmel Homestead Park.

Joanne Tejeda

## Great Peninsula Conservancy

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

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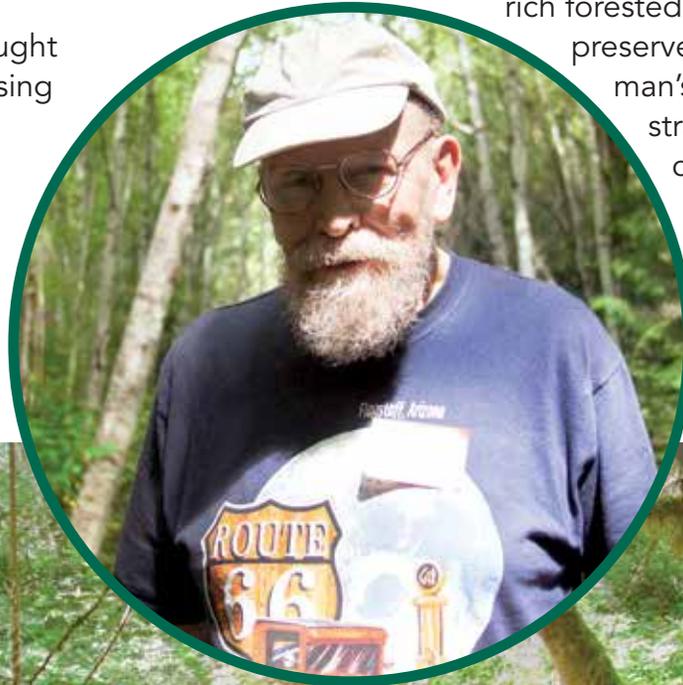
## Captivated by a Salmon Stream

When he first bought land on East Fork Rocky Creek in 1982, Roy Lampson wasn't quite sure what to make of the place. The wetlands, forest, and streams were such a contrast to the busy city life of his youth. He bought the land as an investment – figuring he'd make some income off the timber and eventually sell off lots. However, he soon found himself embarked on a mission to protect its critical salmon habitat.

Through the years, he bought adjoining parcels – increasing his salmon sanctuary to 34 acres. In partnership with Pierce County Conservation District and other local organizations, he and his wife Kathy

have monitored water quality and enhanced fish passage on their streams, and they have helped care for nearby public lands. Roy and Kathy understand what it means to be active community members.

Great Peninsula Conservancy is working with the Lampsons to permanently protect their property – with its salmon streams and wildlife-rich forested wetlands – as a nature preserve. What began as one man's quest to protect a salmon stream has grown into a community-wide effort to conserve the land forever.



*Roy Lampson's quest to protect a salmon stream has grown into a community-wide effort to conserve the land forever.*



*Our conservation partners joined GPC staff to tour the Lampson property on East Fork Rocky Creek on the Key Peninsula. The property is a haven for salmon and other wildlife.*

# GPC Honors Gary Cunningham

If you lined up all of our land trust photos, what would they have in common? Vibrant forests, sparkling shorelines, and Gary Cunningham. Phil Best, who's worked closely with Gary on environmental projects, drove the point home as he presented GPC's 2017 Conservation Award to Gary Cunningham this spring.

In 1988, the two Kitsap attorneys were carpooling home when they hatched the plan to start a land trust. In 1989, there's Gary in our photo of Kitsap Land Trust's founding members. When four volunteer land trusts in west Puget Sound decided to pool their resources and hire staff to accomplish more, Gary helped lead the merger to form Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2000.

There he is in the first photo of GPC's board of directors. Over a span of 15 years, Gary served as board president, vice president, secretary

and treasurer. He also donated his legal services, preparing the conservation agreements so essential to our work. You'll find photos of Gary and his wife Marilyn leading hikes for members. Look closely at photos of our conservation committee in the field evaluating new projects and Gary is there.

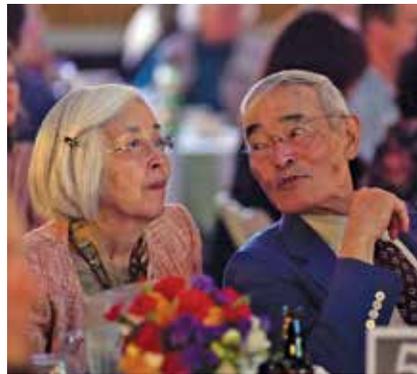
The cheers for Gary as he accepted his award brought to life what we

can only glimpse in photographs. The strength of GPC's conservation community grows from the personal commitment of many individuals – Gary, our many land trust founders, and you.



Phil Best (left) presented GPC's 2017 Conservation Award to Gary Cunningham (right).

Ikil Gregg Photography



Ikil Gregg Photography

More than 300 community leaders and conservationists gathered for an inspiring evening at Kiana Lodge to celebrate lands recently protected by Great Peninsula Conservancy. Our Spring Dinner program also recognized individuals, businesses and organizations who partnered with us to make these conservation successes possible. Thanks to incredible support from our event sponsors and overwhelming generosity from our guests, the dinner raised more than \$100K to save forests, streams and shorelines on the Great Peninsula.

## GIFTS TO HONOR

(March 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017)

**IN HONOR OF GARY CUNNINGHAM:** Phil and Karen Best, Wanda Butler, Nancy and Dick D'Archangel, James Docter, Susannah Hale, Earl Hooper, Kyle and Robin Kincaid, Kate Kuhlman and Jim Halstead, Erin Larsen-Cooper and Erik Pedersen, Konrad Liegel, Kathy Mahan, John and Aurea Mitchell, Bob and Sharon Nichols, Don Paulson, Scott and Nancy Pascoe, Carrie Rivers, Pankaj and Laurie Sharma, Shawna and Tom Shearer, Sharon Solie, Sandra Staples-Bortner and Brad Bortner, Ken and Peggy VanBuskirk, Lynn Whipple, Harriet Wright, and The Zabinski Family

**IN HONOR OF DR. HENDRICK B. BARNER:** Bruce and Tina Barner

**IN HONOR OF JAKE AND RUBY:** Trudy Jones    **IN HONOR OF TEX LEWIS:** Joyce Merkel

# Explore the Great Peninsula

As a member of GPC's conservation community you are invited to join our monthly series of walks and talks – July through November. It's a fun way to learn more about the beautiful streams, shorelines, forests, and greenspaces of our region while meeting other GPC members. Find out more about our upcoming events at [www.GreatPeninsula.org](http://www.GreatPeninsula.org).



Mary Zabinski

Members joined us in July for a tour of the recently restored floodplain at Clear Creek Trail in Silverdale.



Jess Lessard

August brought our potluck picnic and walk in Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor, where members toured the interpretive signs recently installed along the nature trails.

## GPC FALL EVENTS



Jess Lessard

Just in time for September harvest, GPC members toured a working farm protected by GPC! Farmer Ken VanBuskirk showed us around Davis Farm near Belfair.

## HANSVILLE GREENWAY WALK WITH CRAIG ROMANO

Ready to join us in October? Come discover the stunning trails at Hansville Greenway with *Urban Trails—Kitsap* author, Craig Romano, and founders of the greenway, Sid Knutson and Ken Shawcroft, October 28 (11-3 pm). Our event will begin with a talk and book signing in the community center at Buck Lake County Park, followed by a guided walk through the greenway. Bring your hiking shoes and a sack lunch!

**SIGN UP TODAY!** 360-373-3500  
[mary@greatpeninsula.org](mailto:mary@greatpeninsula.org)

Sponsored by:  PUGET SOUND ENERGY

## Kitsap Salmon Tours

Save the Date! You're invited to view salmon returning to Kitsap streams with GPC and our Kitsap Salmon Tours partners November 4, 10 am to 2 pm. Visit GPC at the mouth of Chico Creek to view the restored estuary. Learn more: [www.kitsapsalmon tours.org](http://www.kitsapsalmon tours.org).

# Volunteers Opt Outside with REI & GPC



To celebrate National Public Lands Day REI, GPC and 55 community volunteers chose to #OptOutside in Port Gamble Forest on Sept. 23.

Together with members of two boy scout troops and the local Kiwanis Club we picked up litter,



roughed in a new trail, pruned vegetation and spread gravel on Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park's shoreline bluff trails.

Stewardship projects like this one build on the work of all the Kitsap Forest & Bay partners who helped create this park, providing access to the bay and the beautiful forest trails.

Missed the event? Join us October 21 in Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park to put the Beaver Pond outlook on solid footing and improve trail access. You'll help provide a firm foundation for wildlife viewing and protect critical pond habitat for countless wetland creatures. Plus you can help weave a wildlife viewing blind. Contact [kate@greatpeninsula.org](mailto:kate@greatpeninsula.org) to sign up!

## Port Gamble Forest

Kitsap Forest & Bay Partners raised an amazing \$3.25 million to save the Port Gamble Forest! People were inspired by the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the forest and its trails forever. Sometime in December, Kitsap County's Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park will grow to about 3190 acres – an incredible legacy. You did it!



### MEMORIAL GIFTS

(March 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017)

#### IN MEMORY OF

**BARBARA ECKMANN:** Anonymous

#### IN MEMORY OF

**ROBERT LATHROP:** Anonymous (2), Book Club Friends of Becky Santos, Donald and Dorothy Bremner, Charles and Gail Bronson, Cyndy and John Dillon, Sandra and Robert Johnston, Doris Voigt, Joel and Lucinda Wingard

#### IN MEMORY OF LYNDA LEWIS:

Joyce Merkel

#### IN MEMORY OF ANN REISCH:

Bob Wiltermood

## — Meet GPC's New Conservation Associate —

Brenna Thompson recently joined GPC as a Conservation Associate, where she will be supporting our conservation team in launching new land protection projects. Prior to joining GPC, she worked with the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina as a Landscape Analyst, and with the African Wildlife Foundation as a Foundation and Corporate Relations Officer. She holds a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University, and a BA from Colorado College. In her free time she enjoys hiking, seeing live music, and cooking. She is excited to collaborate with landowners and partners to help safeguard the Great Peninsula's lands and waters.



Brenna Thompson (left) enjoyed meeting GPC members on a tour of Clear Creek's floodplain restoration.

Mary Zabinski

## — Welcome New Board Members —



Mark Mauren



Steve Sego



Patricia Weagant

now manages a FSC certified tree farm in Kitsap County. He has a small farm in the Puyallup Valley. **Steve Sego** worked in NW public affairs, before becoming a regional leader in wetland mitigation with his company Waterman Mitigation Partners. He has been active in many community projects including Friends of the Fast Ferry. **Patricia Weagant** was a para-educator and PTSA volunteer in Poulsbo schools, and president of her

Great Peninsula Conservancy welcomes three new Board members. **Mark Mauren**, a forester who spent most of his career at the Washington Department of Natural Resources,

local public school employees union. She enjoys hiking, biking, fly fishing and a family cabin in Stehekin. We look forward to having Mark, Steve and Patricia join our leadership team.

## *Thank you to Retiring Board Members*

GPC is grateful to our retiring Board members. David De Bruyn served as treasurer and helped build our operating reserve. Debbie Engel chaired our Membership & Events Committee where she helped shape our Spring Dinner and member activities. Art Schick served as president and chaired our Stewardship Committee where his skills as a forester were greatly appreciated. Thanks for making a difference!



# Great Peninsula Conservancy

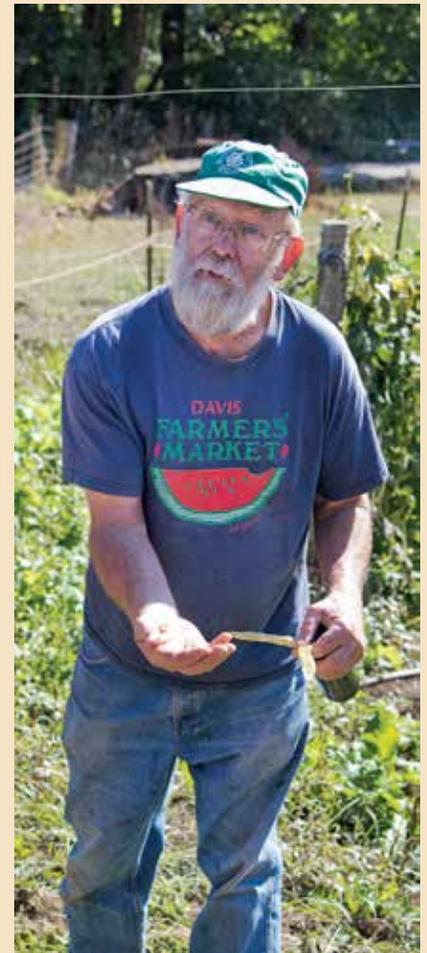
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The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.



## MEMBER EVENTS | 2017

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent tour of Davis Farm. Join us for our October event in Hansville Greenway.



**Find more information on upcoming events inside!**