



Great Peninsula Conservancy

Winter 2014

Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come



Parrotts Donate Conservation Easement – page 3

Rise to the Challenge!

I am awed at what we are accomplishing together. Partners are working together to conserve land for wildlife and outdoor adventures. People are stepping up to take responsibility for stewardship of the lands they hold dear. I call it 'rising to the challenge'.

Here's one example. In partnership with REI, Kitsap County and many community groups, Great Peninsula Conservancy led stewardship projects on two county parks this fall. In September, 50 people showed up to build a boardwalk, pull weeds, and reroute a trail at Indianola Waterfront Preserve. In November, an amazing 100 people jumped in to plant trees, remove invasive plants, and pick up garbage at the new Port Gamble Shoreline Park. I'm inspired by the caring and dedication of each one of them, and it's not hard to see they are making a difference.



Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski

A volunteer gets ready to plant cedar saplings on the Port Gamble Shoreline Park.

Those who make donations, large and small, to Great Peninsula Conservancy also are rising to the challenge. Thanks to your support, isolated pockets of conserved lands are growing into great expanses of protected habitat. In north Kitsap, GPC and our partners are working today to protect 270 acres on Grovers Creek – a beautiful area of 200-year-old trees, a salmon stream and extensive wetlands. As significant as that is in itself, Grovers Creek is just one

phase of the much larger Kitsap Forest & Bay Project that dreams of protecting 7000 acres.

At remote Filucy Bay on the Key Peninsula, a wonderful donation of land to Great Peninsula Conservancy last year has become the focal point for a new effort to protect over 100 acres of forest and one mile of shoreline. Small bays like Filucy are important nurseries for young salmon and they also are a place of quiet reflection for kayakers and nature lovers.

Great Peninsula Conservancy is one player among many working together to protect the salmon streams, forests and family farms of our beautiful peninsula. Our role is a vital one and GPC is rising to the challenge – thanks to you!

Your help is needed as we near the end of our 2014 Great Peninsula Challenge. Eleven Conservancy Circle members have made a combined pledge of \$97,500 to GPC if you, our members, contribute a matching \$97,500 by December 31, 2104. We have only a few weeks left to reach our target. These funds are absolutely essential to our ability to continue to rise to the challenge of protecting our heritage of salmon streams, tidal estuaries and evergreen forests.

Please rise to the challenge and send your contribution today!

Sandra Staples-Bortner
Executive Director

**Great Peninsula
Challenge 2014
Goal: \$97,500**



Great Peninsula Conservancy

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

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New Lands Protected

Parrott Conservation Easement, Belfair

In October, GPC founders Gary and Celia Parrott (see cover photo) completed a dream by protecting forever six acres of salt marsh and heritage orchard they own at the toe of Hood Canal. They did so by donating a conservation easement on their property to Great Peninsula Conservancy. While small in size, their property closes one of the final gaps in a decades-long effort by multiple partners to conserve the Union River estuary, known as Lynch Cove, including 1.6 miles of shoreline critical to salmon and waterfowl.

This story begins in the early 1980s when Gary and Celia's neighbor, Elizabeth Klingel, asked them for help in conserving her Lynch Cove property. When a national conservancy was unable to accept the 66-acre property, they recruited neighbors and founded Hood Canal Land Trust (now part of GPC). From this modest beginning, state agencies and others began to recognize the significance of the marshes at the mouth of the Union River and joined in the conservation effort. Today, 600 acres – nearly the entire sweep of Lynch Cove – is in various conservation ownerships.

Gary and Celia moved away from their Hood Canal home a few years ago, but held on to their land. Earlier this year, they approached GPC to place a conservation easement on the shoreline portion of their property to ensure that the marsh, adjacent grassland and homestead orchard will remain undeveloped forever. In November, with the conservation easement in place, they sold the property to a local family who will care for

the land as they did – tending the orchard and protecting its open spaces. Great Peninsula Conservancy's role is to ensure that the provisions of the conservation easement are enforced forever, no matter who owns the land now or in the future.

Gary and Celia now live on an isolated stretch of Nebraska prairie – captivated by the immense open space and by seasonal passages of migrating birds. They are at peace knowing that, back at Lynch Cove, returning salmon and waterfowl will find the marshes and tideflats as they have always been.



Ripe Pears on Gary and Celia Parrott's Hood Canal homestead.

Photo Credit: Sandra Staples-Borther

Irene Pond, Belfair

In September, Great Peninsula Conservancy became the owner of 17 acres near Belfair known as Irene Pond. This freshwater wetland is home to beavers, toads and songbirds, and protects a habitat type much diminished by development. A seven-acre beaver pond complex dominates the western part of the property, bordering Old Belfair Highway. Mature cedar and fir cover most of the remainder of the property.

GPC owns this new conservation property thanks to a partnership with Hood Canal Coordinating Council's In Lieu Fee Mitigation Program. This program provides a new option for mitigating impacts to wetlands. Instead of requiring developers to restore other wetlands to compensate for those lost to necessary development, developers in the Hood Canal watershed now have the option of making a one-time payment to the In Lieu Fee Program. The Program uses the fees to undertake targeted wetlands conservation and restoration projects. The advantages of the new program are the ability to pool fees for greater impact, use local expertise and partners to identify and implement projects, and strengthen oversight of projects to ensure wetland benefits are long lasting.

At Irene Pond, dollars from the In Lieu Fee Program were used to purchase the land and also will provide funds for removing a derelict house and for long-term stewardship of the property by Great Peninsula Conservancy and Hood Canal Coordinating Council.



Photo Credit: Phil Best

Celia and Gary Parrott lead a tour of their marsh on Hood Canal's Lynch Cove.

Port Gamble Shoreline Park Stewardship

Photo Credit: Brian Kirkpatrick



On a cloudy, but rain-free 1st of November, 100 volunteers helped plant 1,000 red cedar saplings, filled 100 bags with ivy, blackberries, and scotch broom, and hauled out five cubic yards of trash, including appliances, from the Port Gamble Shoreline Park. Arno Bergstrom, Kitsap County Forester, Dana Coggon, KC Noxious Weed Coordinator, and Lori Raymaker, Kitsap County Stewardship Coordinator, provided the expertise and training for our volunteers.

All went home with a REI T-shirt and water bottle. Three lucky folks won the awesome prizes provided by REI's Tessa Bondi. The day ended with a few sun breaks and a tailgate provided by Kitsap Chapter of Evergreen Mountain Bike Association and REI.

Special thanks to our sponsors, REI and Kitsap County, and to Silverdale REI Store employees. Thanks also to Kitsap Forest & Bay Coalition members: Kitsap Audubon Society, Kitsap Chapter of Evergreen Mountain Bike Association, North Kitsap Trails Association, Olympic Property Group, and Silverdale REI employees for their hard work and can-do attitude. You rock!

With grant support from REI, again this year GPC is helping to care for and create access to outdoor recreation spaces like the new Port Gamble Shoreline Park. REI partners with nonprofits that actively engage community volunteers in caring for public lands by lending its staff and helping to recruit volunteers for environmental stewardship projects.

Port Gamble Shoreline Park is the first land purchased through the Kitsap Forest & Bay Project's effort to conserve nearly 7,000 acres of forestland surrounding Port Gamble Bay. The park includes 1.5 miles of shoreline and more than 500 acres of forest for hiking, cycling, running, horseback riding, and birding.

Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski



Photo Credit: Brian Kirkpatrick



Conservancy Tea



Photo Credits: Mary Zabinski

You are at the center of GPC's Conservancy Program!

Thanks to members like you, GPC protects forests, farms, shorelines and streams for today, tomorrow and forever! In celebration, GPC's Conservancy Circle and Legacy Society members gathered for spectacular views, good company and an overview of GPC's conservation projects during our annual Conservancy Tea on September 28. What a beautiful day on Raft Island! Special thanks to our hosts John and Pat Lantz and Gayle Peach.

Salmon Return for Kitsap Salmon Tours

Over 450 people enjoyed a clear day on November 8 to watch migrating salmon and learn about the salmon found in Kitsap County, their life cycle, and healthy fish habitat at two locations on Chico Creek in Bremerton: the Mountaineers Foundation Rhododendron Preserve and Chico Salmon Park at Golf Club Hill Road.

"Salmon make an amazing journey from streams in Kitsap County, out to the ocean and back. They return to their natal stream to spawn and give life to the next generation of salmon," explained Rick Gallat, Mountaineers Foundation Trustee, as he led families down to Wildcat Creek through old growth forest on the Mountaineers Foundation property. "Salmon are the signature

species of the Northwest. The return of salmon is truly one of nature's wonders."



"What a show! We got to see all the phases of spawning: the push up stream, females building nests, laying eggs, and protecting the nest, males fighting to fertilize the eggs, and finally dying," enthused GPC member Philip Craven. "What a spectacular sight!"

Kitsap Salmon Tours 2014 was sponsored by Great Peninsula Conservancy, Chico Salmon Park Stewardship Group, Clean Water Kitsap, Kitsap County, Mountaineers Foundation, Suquamish Tribe, The Mountaineers, Washington Sea Grant, and WSU Extension.

Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski

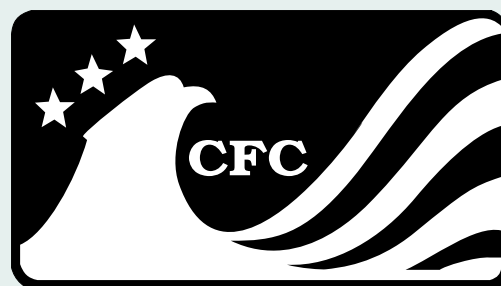
Ways of Giving

Make a Difference with Workplace Giving

Are you a current or retired federal or state employee? Consider giving through the CFC or CFD: an easy, convenient, and secure way to support conservation in your community.

GPC # 91797

Thanks to all who generously give through the Combined Federal Campaign and Washington State Combined Fund Drive!



Donating Securities is Easy!

You can save on taxes and protect the lands and waters you love. A gift of an appreciated asset such as stock is a savvy way to make a contribution to GPC. When you give appreciated securities, you receive a tax deduction for your charitable gift and also may realize savings on capital gains taxes. For more information, please contact Sandra Staples-Bortner at 360-373-3500.

2014 Great Peninsula Challenge

It's a great time to make your gift to Great Peninsula Conservancy. Our 2014 challenge donors will contribute \$1 to GPC for every \$1 we raise up to \$97,500 – doubling the value of every gift! But, your help is needed now. We have only a few weeks left to raise the remaining \$53,500. Your contribution by December 31 will help protect our heritage of salmon streams, tidal estuaries and evergreen forests for generations to come. Together we can rise to this challenge. Please send your contribution today!



Join GPC's Conservancy Circle today! Your annual gift of \$1,000 or more makes you a member of GPC's Conservancy Circle and places you at the center of GPC's conservation program.

Memorial Gifts

(September 16 - October 31, 2014)

**In memory of
Robert K. Braendlein**
• Steve & Mindy Fohn

**In memory of
Virginia Cowling**
• Janeen Dorsch
• Virginia Spina

**In memory of
Dan & Shirley Inveen**
• Cameron Haslam

**In memory of
Mary Ellen McCaffree**
• Creigh H. Agnew

**In memory of
John Tenero**
• Wanda Butler



Towering walnut tree on Parrott conservation easement property.

Photo Credit: Phil Best

Conservancy Circle – Member Profile

Duane and Betty Pasco

Duane and Betty Pasco first learned about Great Peninsula Conservancy when they attended GPC's Spring Dinner at Kiana Lodge in May 2013 with friends. They realized GPC's work to save land reflected their own deep respect for the environment, and immediately made a membership gift. This year, they again attended the dinner and recently increased their giving to join GPC's Conservancy Circle with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.



the Congo. Duane also has been very influential in reviving traditional canoe carving, having made several dugout canoes for coastal tribes and tutored native people, young and old, in their creation.

Betty is a 4th generation traditional basket weaver, Salish wool weaver, quilt maker, clothing designer, graphic artist and illustrator. Her Salish wool weavings have been on display at the Seattle Art Museum and currently are on display at the Suquamish Clearwater Resort and the Suquamish Museum.

Duane and Betty Pasco have devoted their lives to passing on traditions of Native American culture and art. Betty is a Suquamish tribal Elder and an artisan in a variety of media. While not of Native American ancestry, Duane developed a passion for coastal Native cultures early in life that led him to devote his career to produce art reflective of their traditions. Betty spoke for them both when she said, "Taking care of the environment is ingrained in the teachings from my grandfathers that we are now passing on to the next generation."

In addition to designing and creating masks, rattles, boxes and chests for collectors, Duane has created massive artwork for public venues. His totems and carved panels are on display at Seattle/Tacoma Airport, Disney World, and venues in Norway, Singapore and

Betty and Duane are founders of the nonprofit JayHawk Institute which seeks to perpetuate Native art, history and traditional technologies. Earlier this year, they donated a copy of Duane's beautiful book, *Life as Art*, to present to GPC's Great Peninsula Conservation Award winner.

"Protecting the environment has always been a strong consideration in the cultures of the indigenous people of the Americas", Duane reminds us. "We stress this in all our teachings of traditional aspects of the culture." As for their support for GPC, Duane commented "Our love of the northwest's forests and waters led Betty and me to contribute in a small way to the Great Peninsula Conservancy, which is doing such great work in preserving the beauty and ecology of our area."

GPC Projects Poised for State Grants

Beards Cove, Hood Canal: At the toe of Hood Canal, GPC's project to restore a stretch of saltwater shoreline adjacent to our Klingel Wetlands Refuge soon will get underway thanks to state grants. The first phase of state funds already has been committed and the project ranked very high for additional funds in 2015. The project will remove fill and derelict infrastructure and restore habitat for salmon in the Union River estuary near Belfair.

Filucy Bay, Key Peninsula: GPC's project to expand our new Filucy Bay Preserve has ranked high and is poised to receive funding from Washington's Salmon Recovery Program and separate Estuary & Salmon Restoration Program in 2015. The additional acreage will protect forest and shoreline that provide habitat for migratory and juvenile salmon and protect water quality for shellfish in this isolated North Cove estuary near Longbranch.



Great Peninsula Conservancy

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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 and follow the Facebook link. See you there!



Great Peninsula Conservancy

—SAVE THE DATE—

Spring Dinner
Thursday, April 30, 2015
6 pm – 9 pm

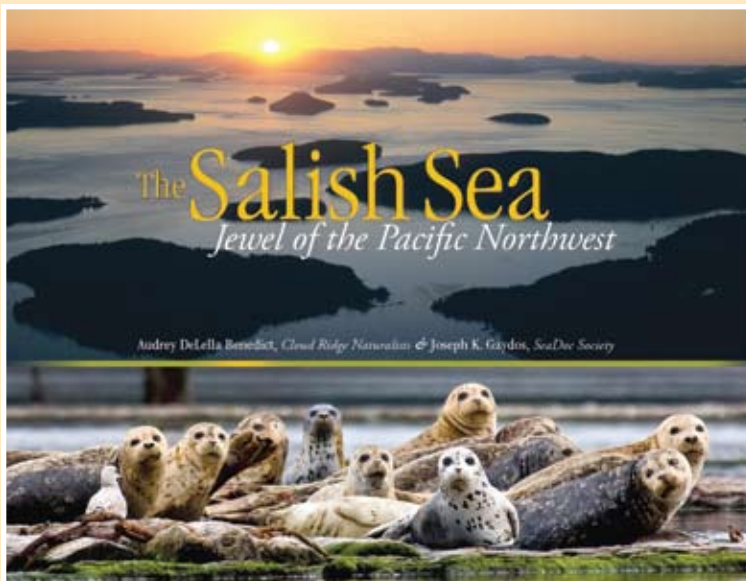


Tickets \$100 • Table \$800

Tickets and Tables include GPC membership!



RSVP by April 16, 2015 to
mary@greatpeninsula.org or (360) 373-3500



Join us for a wonderful evening with GPC friends at beautiful Kiana Lodge. Keynote speaker Joe Gaydos is Chief Scientist for the SeaDoc Society, a marine science and conservation program of UC Davis. His new book *The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest*, featuring over 250 stunning photographs, is due out in March.