



# Great Peninsula Conservancy

Winter 2016

*Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come*



*Getting Outside – Page 3*



# Nature

## Brought to you by Great Peninsula Conservancy

Late fall is a great time to enjoy nature. For me, the big attraction is the huge number of ducks that fly in for the winter. You'll see them on every protected bay and flooded marsh.

The late fall arrival of salmon is another of nature's spectacles. We are struck by their incredible journey, their numbers, and their tenacity as they fight their way upstream.

When you want to get outside to birdwatch, view salmon, take a hike, or walk a beach and you don't want to go far from home, chances are good that the place you head to was protected with the help of Great Peninsula Conservancy.

How did these lands come to be conserved for you, me and future generations to enjoy?

It happened as a result of the dedication of people in our community who cared enough to make a difference. They gave their time, they gave their skills, and they gave their money.

Today, your gift is urgently needed if Great Peninsula Conservancy is to continue

to protect the wonders of nature close to home. We dream big because we know you share our vision of the future. We need your most generous donation now to keep our successful program on track.

In fact, your gift is so important that a group of generous supporters has offered to match any donation you make this year up to \$87,500. Already, \$42,000 has been raised.

Will you make a special gift now to help reach our goal?

The numbers add up quickly: \$50 becomes \$100, which can help protect twice as many feet of salmon stream . . . \$250 will double to \$500, which will help save twice as many acres of marsh . . . and \$1,000 will be matched to become \$2,000, which will go twice as far toward growing our Grovers Creek and Filucy Bay preserves.

Please send your generous donation today. Any contribution you make will be matched dollar for dollar and put right to work bringing nature to you.

Thank you!

Sandra Staples-Bortner  
Executive Director



Mary Zabinski

Sandra Staples-Bortner at Klingel Wildlife Refuge.

## Great Peninsula Conservancy

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

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## Join GPC Outside This Holiday Season

A year ago our friends at REI did something different the day after Thanksgiving. They shut the co-op's doors and invited the nation to trade the shopping aisle for the trails. More than a million people chose to opt outside with them.

As an organization focused on conserving the outdoors, we're inspired by REI to help our members get outside and back to nature. This Thanksgiving we're going to join REI outside. Will you go out with us? Let's skip the malls and celebrate life outdoors. Wondering where to go? On the next two pages there's a list of GPC conserved properties where you can #OptOutside, and what to expect when you get there!

This Black Friday,  
we're joining REI  
and going outside.

Join us.

#OptOutside



Mary Best Zabinski

Nov 5 at 12:35 pm

November in the Pacific Northwest brings rain, the return of salmon, and, if I'm lucky, it also brings my brother and his family home from Germany for Thanksgiving. The yearly pilgrimage to Grammy's for pumpkin pie, includes another very special pilgrimage for my family – a visit to the stream near my parents' home in Chico. Whether we take the easy road to a bridge overlooking Chico Creek or make the steep hike through old growth forest, we return each year to be inspired by the salmon completing their great journey. As children we walked with my parents, absorbing their wonder for nature. Now I return with my own children, to spend the day outside, together, connected to this special place. #OptOutside #GreatPeninsula



Getting Outside is a Family Tradition

[www.GreatPeninsula.org](http://www.GreatPeninsula.org)

Kitsap Forest & Bay Project, Northwest Natural Resource Group and 8 others

Like Comment Share

♦ **In memory of Verna Miller**  
Jarstad Family

♦ **In memory of Mechthild Barner**  
Rick Barner

**Memorial Gifts**  
(September 1, 2016 - October 31, 2016)

♦ **In memory of Dan and Shirley Inveen**  
Cameron Haslam

♦ **In memory of Richard Corlett**  
Polly Feigl  
Sharon Griffin  
Cherill and David Perera  
Joan Saxton  
Rita Selin



### Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park

28901 HWY 104, Kingston



The trail options are endless along the old service roads of this 525 acre park – a favorite of mountain bikers, equestrians, and hikers. If it is water views you want, enjoy a quiet walk along the bluff trail overlooking Port Gamble Bay. While you are there, check out the adjacent 3000 acres of forest and popular trails and learn about the campaign to save them. Go to [SavePG.org](http://SavePG.org) to help.

### North Kitsap Heritage Park

24701 Miller Bay Road NE, Suquamish



If you are looking for a variety of trail types, head here. You can choose from single track, wide track, and paved trails to wander or ride through the forest.

### Indianola Waterfront & Woodland Preserve

8001 NE Seaview Ave, Indianola



An official stop on the Kitsap Water Trail, this is the place to land your kayak, stick your toes in the sand and enjoy a panoramic view of Mt. Rainier. Rugged hiking trails through the woodlands are also great for stretching your legs.

### Cowling Creek Forest Preserve

20325 Miller Bay Rd NE, Poulsbo



Park at the Cowling Creek Salmon Center and enjoy the trails in this 42 acre park also home to eagles, salmon, and river otters. Visit in the fall to see over 30,000 chum salmon return to the creek to spawn.

### Clear Creek Trail

9641 Levin Rd NW, Silverdale



Almost 7 miles of trails perfect for all levels of walking, jogging, and biking. Enjoy this quiet urban oasis along Clear Creek. Leashed dogs are allowed on the path, or you can let them burn off a little energy at the dog park.

### Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve

19235 Stavis Bay Rd NW, Seabeck



Looking for a great view of the Olympics? A short but steep hike down to the beach will reward you with beautiful views across Hood Canal. Take the kids and search for starfish and crabs on the beach. Be sure to stop and check out the stump house along the way.

### Banner Forest Heritage Park

6471 Banner Rd SE, Port Orchard



Hike, walk the dog, hunt for mushrooms, or grab your mountain bike and go! With over 636 acres to roam you are likely to have the forest to yourself no matter what trail you choose. Be sure to wear your waterproof hiking boots as the trails can get a bit muddy.

### Klingel Wildlife Refuge

2091 NE WA-300, Belfair



If you are an avid birdwatcher this is your place. Visit this 94 acre wetlands on Hood Canal and you might encounter regulars like bald eagles, heron, osprey, or the elusive Virginia rail. Each winter the refuge is a favorite spot for mallards, pintails, wigeon and green-winged teal.

### Sehmel Homestead Park

10123 78th Ave NW, Gig Harbor



There is something for everyone here. Over 4 miles of maintained nature trails for hiking and walking the dog, ball fields for the kids, a heritage garden, ponds and meadows for birdwatching.

### Taylor Bay Park

17916 76th St KPS, Longbranch



In the mood for a quiet picnic overlooking the water? This rustic park is the place to go. If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, wheel your kayak down to the water's edge and head out for a paddle, but be sure to check the tides before you go.

### Filucy Bay Preserve

Longbranch (Coming Soon!)



Once an ancient fishing cove for First Peoples, this quiet tree-lined bay soon will be easily accessed by kayak from nearby Longbranch or a short 10 minute walk on a maintained wooded trail. GPC is working to open this new preserve to the public, so stay tuned!

Photos (top to bottom): Don Willott, Sandra Staples-Bortner, Erik Pedersen & Jess Lessard.

# Great Peninsula Conservancy

Great Peninsula Conservancy invites you to get out and explore our special places protected with the help of GPC, our volunteers and donors.

[www.GreatPeninsula.org](http://www.GreatPeninsula.org)



HIKING



KAYAKING



BIKING



BIRD WATCHING



# nsula vancy

inside and enjoy these  
r partners, and you!



Klingel Wildlife Refuge



Filucy Bay Preserve



Banner Forest Heritage Park



LEASHED  
DOGS



PICNIC  
TABLES





## Conservancy Circle News

*Sharing the Story of the Land*



Jess Lessard

During the stormy month of October, GPC's Conservancy Circle and Legacy Society members gathered for an evening at Harbor History Museum. Under the tall open-beamed ceiling, donors listened intently as archaeologist Stephanie Jolivet shared the story of Filucy Bay's First Peoples preserved in the land now protected by Great Peninsula Conservancy. Jolivet's fascinating program focused on findings from her 2014 archeological survey of GPC's Filucy Bay Preserve. Guests received an update on GPC's conservation projects, enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, and toured the beautiful Gig Harbor museum.

*Conservancy Circle: GPC's most generous donors who make an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.*

## Celebrating the Return of the Salmon

Salmon make an amazing journey from our streams, out to the ocean, then back to the very stream where they were born. Each year, in early November, Kitsap Salmon Tours brings another species to Kitsap streams – more than 500 people come to witness the salmon migration.

This year, Great Peninsula Conservancy welcomed visitors to two locations on Chico Creek. A hike through the old growth forest of the Mountaineers Rhododendron Preserve brought visitors to see salmon spawning in the creek, while a short walk at the mouth of Chico Creek showed off results of

recent restoration work in the estuary. Experts answered questions about the salmon life cycle, healthy fish habitat, and the recent restoration. Missed the tour? Join us next year!



Jess Lessard

Kitsap Salmon Tours is supported by a tremendous partnership of local organizations including: 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, and WSU Extension.

# Legacy Society News

## Saving the Most Gorgeous Spot on the Planet



**Nancy Nelson** grew up in Gig Harbor and Tacoma, then spent 10 years away living in Santa Barbara and Micronesia. She traveled to China when it first opened up, South America and the Galapagos.

On a trip home in 1978, Nancy met Stan Sather, the man who would become her husband, and Gig Harbor once again became her home. Four years ago, Nancy's husband passed away. She looked around for new ways to engage with her community and found Great Peninsula Conservancy. Nancy



Jess Lessard

Nancy Nelson, left, was recently recognized for her planned bequest to Great Peninsula Conservancy by GPC President Kathy Peters.

realized there was nothing more important to her than protecting the spectacular shorelines, beaches and marine habitat of this beautiful part of the world. When it came time to update her will, she included a generous bequest to Great Peninsula Conservancy.

With no children of her own, Nancy's legacy gift has special meaning for her. It gives her a sense of

leaving something behind that will last forever and fulfills her wish to help preserve "the most gorgeous spot on the planet."

*Legacy Society: Leave a legacy by naming GPC as a beneficiary of your will, life insurance, retirement plan or trust.*



## Great Peninsula Challenge

### GIVE NOW!

**Your gift is urgently needed to protect the natural wonders of the Great Peninsula.**

A group of generous supporters will match any donation!

Your \$50 ➡ \$100  
Your \$250 ➡ \$500  
Your \$1,000 ➡ \$2,000

**Hurry — Matching opportunity ends Dec. 31**

Visit [www.GreatPeninsula.org](http://www.GreatPeninsula.org) to make your donation online today,  
or mail your gift to Great Peninsula Conservancy  
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**Great Peninsula Conservancy is an accredited land trust.**

## #OPTOUTSIDE

Follow GPC on Facebook and our new Instagram account **@GreatPeninsulaConservancy** for photos and inspirational stories using the hashtag #OptOutside. Where do you like to **#OptOutside**? Let us know by sharing your photos, videos, and stories through social media or emailing [Jessica@greatpeninsula.org](mailto:Jessica@greatpeninsula.org).



Went for a walk today in Sehmel Homestead Park. It was so good to get outside and work off all that #Thanksgiving Turkey. #OptOutside #GreatPeninsula #Family