



# Great Peninsula Conservancy

Fall 2010

Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come

## Shoreline Conserved on Hood Canal

Long and narrow, Hood Canal is a diverse natural waterway with seemingly endless forests that drape its dramatically steep hillsides. Tekiu Point, known by few people, encompasses several miles of secluded shoreline in west Kitsap County. This past April, Ron and Bernadette Olson donated a conservation easement over seven acres of their Tekiu Point shoreline property to Great Peninsula Conservancy. Their conservation project is a great example of shoreline stewardship.

On a recent summer walk on the property with GPC members, Ron and Bernadette escort us from a vantage point near their beautiful home down several hundred feet of switchbacks to the beach. As we descend the singletrack trail, we encounter bigleaf maples draped with moss and cross wooden walkways and stairways built by the Olson's own hands. It is quiet in the forest and the couple prefers this place to no other spot in the world. We definitely understand why.

The land slopes down through four acres of protected forest - made

up of long-lived fir, hemlock, cedar and madrone, along with a vibrant understory of huckleberry, salal and sword fern. The forest canopy towers one hundred feet or more above humongous stumps leftover from old logging days. Because of the fine forest habitat around Tekiu, bald eagles nest nearby as well as hundreds of other bird species that live on or migrate to Hood Canal.

At the beach, the stiff breeze laps the water ashore as the tide rolls in. We planned the trip for day with a relatively low tide so we could see the 400 feet of natural shoreline and about three acres of productive tidelands protected by the conservation easement. Here, the Olsons harvest a variety of oysters, mussels, and clams in a sustainable and low impact manner. They also have the long-lived, burrowing bivalves – geoducks! The presence of eelgrass indicates that a clean and rich habitat is present in the nearshore area. This provides a hospitable environment for a variety of animals, and notably as a nursery for shellfish and travel corridor for adult salmon. It is wild to walk along the beach. You cannot take two steps without stepping on masses of oblong shells, marine plants, colorful rocks or seasoned driftwood – all of which adds to the diversity of this natural shoreline.

Protection of the forest, shoreline, and tidelands is important to GPC. But, this is only part of the story. Each property is unique. The

Olsons purchased the land in 2003, and they have their own special reasons for conservation:

*"When we acquired this property seven years ago, it had been rather seriously stressed by a would-be developer with plans to construct several homes and an access road to the Canal. We decided to take a different course and preserve as much as possible of what remained in its natural state - assigning ourselves the task of land stewardship for what is a very a special piece of Western Washington. When, through a friend, we learned of GPC and looked into their charter we felt it a perfect fit with our long-range plans to preserve and protect the forest and shoreline for those who will succeed us."*

Ron Olson

Without gifts of conservation land like this, long term protection of our waters and all its wonder would not be possible. The Olsons are model shoreline stewards who do not take the health and well-being of Hood Canal for granted. They remind us that we have the opportunity to work toward conserving this incredible place, both today and well into the future.



Bernadette and Ron Olson stand before old growth stump in their Hood Canal forest.

Photo Credit: Michael Yadrick

## Inside \_\_\_\_\_

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| The Lure of the Farm .....     | 2 |
| Great Peninsula Challenge..... | 2 |
| Devil's Head Preserved.....    | 3 |
| GPC Annual Celebration.....    | 4 |
| Membership Outings .....       | 5 |
| Forests Initiative.....        | 6 |
| Peterson Farm Campaign .....   | 7 |
| Memorial Gifts .....           | 7 |
| Calendar of Events.....        | 8 |

# The Lure of the Farm

Life at the Petersen Farm is a little hectic this time of year. The old barn is overflowing with bales of freshly cut hay that spill out onto the floor releasing their sweet fragrance. Not far away, green rows of squash, pumpkin, sweet corn, eggplant, and tomatoes poke out of rich, dark soil. A tractor slowly moves between the long, straight rows of plants. Swallows gather on the overhead power line between insect-catching forays over the recently cut hay fields. At the bottom of the valley, a broken line of alders marks the location of free-flowing Clear Creek. The backdrop is the hillside, thickly forested with fir and cedar. Such is the lure of the Petersen Farm on a recent hot summer afternoon.

As I look ahead to the farm's future, I see the farm bustling with even more activity. I see farm animals once again dotting the lower pastures and crops spreading over the upper fields. My vision includes a farm stand near the entry gate selling fresh produce and, perhaps, locally-produced honey, eggs or wool. Crisp curtains frame the windows of the now-empty farmhouse and several farm workers tend to the crops and animals. I see a thick band of tall cottonwood and alder straddling Clear Creek, helping to cool and clean its waters, while a red-tailed hawk soars lazily overhead.

Working with many partners, Great Peninsula Conservancy has taken on the challenge of protecting the Petersen Farm in the Clear Creek Valley north of Silverdale. This historic farm was homesteaded in the 1880s by the Holms, who cleared the trees from the valley and built the large dairy barn. It continued as a dairy with the Hilstad family for many years before attracting the Petersens in 1948. They ran it first as a dairy and finally a beef operation until Gerald Petersen's death in September 2009. Through those many years, the farm has carried the hopes of those who were lured to its rich fields by the promise of a life made good by hard work and connection to the land. It is now up to GPC, our partners, and the community at large to ensure that this farm remains to lure future generations of farmers. Please join us in supporting the campaign to Save the Petersen Farm!

Sandra Staples-Bortner  
Executive Director



Photo Credit: Sivad Studios

## Great Peninsula Challenge

This year, eight stalwart GPC members have pledged leadership gifts to establish a 2010 Great Peninsula Challenge goal of \$50,000. Once again, the membership is stepping up to match their generosity. As of July 31, \$30,264 has been raised in matching donations. All contributions to the Challenge support GPC's three initiatives: Streams & Estuaries, Forests, and Community Greenspaces, including the Petersen Farm Campaign. Thank you!



### 2010: The Year of the Member

In recognition of Great Peninsula Conservancy's 10th Anniversary, GPC has a goal of adding 100 new members in 2010. GPC's members and donors are truly the lifeblood of our work. By boosting membership, we strengthen our financial base and extend our public outreach. Through July 31, GPC has added 87 new members. We're on our way!

## Great Peninsula Conservancy

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

3721 Kitsap Way, Suite 5  
Bremerton, WA 98312  
360-373-3500  
1-866-373-3504

info@greatpeninsula.org  
www.greatpeninsula.org

### Great Peninsula Conservancy Newsletter

Managing Editor – Kate Kuhlman

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#### Staff

Sandra Staples-Bortner, Executive Director  
Kate Kuhlman, Operations Director  
Michael Yadrick, Conservation Director

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# Devil's Head Preserved

Photo Credit: Cascade Land Conservancy



Aerial view of Devil's Head at the tip of the Key Peninsula.

After more than a decade of collaboration amongst neighbors and persistent negotiation by a large conservation coalition, the southernmost 94 acres of the Key Peninsula is preserved – Devil's Head. The deal closed on July 13 to forever protect the iconic high forested bluff and shoreline of the South Puget Sound landscape. The property boasts one mile of irreplaceable shoreline, a pocket estuary, scrubby wetlands, and mature forest. Here lies habitat for pileated woodpeckers, nesting bald eagles, and migrating salmon as well as red crab, sand dollars, deer, bear, fox, and otter.

Supporters of the project celebrated at the Longbranch Improvement Club on August 13. Hosted by Cascade Land Conservancy and Pierce County, key conservation partners and the community met for a friendly program to mark the

## — Hal Engebretson — Passionate Advocate for Devil's Head

Harold J. 'Hal' Engebretson passed away on April 6, 2010. Some of us had the privilege to have walked the shores of GPC's Johnson South Sound Preserve with Hal, eagerly listening to his stories and studying his maps of conservation efforts at the tip of the Key Peninsula. For many years now, Hal helped carry the torch for conservation of Devil's Head. Through a succession of landowners, Hal kept a close eye on activities at the Devil's Head property from his home just up the road in Longbranch. Now preserved, the new Devil's Head park is part of Hal's legacy. Hal was born in Bremerton, WA on November 5, 1925, where he attended Bremerton schools and was an Eagle Scout. In between two stints in the Navy, Hal earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Washington. He subsequently moved to California to work at North American Rockwell where he specialized in inertial navigation systems. After retiring from Rockwell in 1980, Hal and his wife Jackie moved to Longbranch where he continued to work as a consultant in the directional drilling field. While Hal and Jackie spent winters in Yorba Linda, CA, Hal was most at home walking the shores of his beloved Key Peninsula. He will be missed by all.

long-awaited conservation victory. Former GPC President Bruce Macdonald, who was active in the beginning of the campaign to preserve Devil's Head, spoke on behalf of GPC. Bruce recognized many people who played important roles early in the campaign, including: Hal Engebretson (who passed away this spring), Dianne Lee, Nancy Lind, Frank Garratt, Vernon Young, Pierce County Councilmember Terry Lee, Don Duprey, and Ann Haines. After the program, many people walked the property to take in breathtaking 180° views of Nisqually Reach, Johnson Point, Anderson Island, Mt. Rainier, the Cascades, and Olympics.

Reluctant landowners and competitive buyers blocked early efforts at protecting the property. Cascade Land Conservancy recently stepped in to work through complicated negotiations with the current landowner who wavered between conservation, resource extraction, and resort development. Amidst the negotiations, the coalition of conservation partners secured the financial resources to complete the project. Funds from Pierce County Conservation Futures, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board all helped meet the hefty \$3.4 million purchase price.

Conservation of Devil's Head is made sweeter by its place in a landscape of conserved lands. Notably, GPC's 24-acre Johnson South Sound Preserve, protected in 1992, lies one-quarter mile north of Devil's Head. The two conservation properties remain separated only by a small handful of private, undeveloped forested properties. The nearby shoreline and forests at Taylor Bay, protected in 2008, also contribute to the system of conservation areas at the tip of the Key Peninsula.

The Devil's Head property will be added to Pierce County's park system. While Pierce County has no firm timeline yet for opening Devil's Head to the public, the site is expected to include great amenities such as hiking trails, picnic spots, beach access and, of course, viewpoints of South Puget Sound.

The community will take pleasure in these irreplaceable natural areas well into the future. Great Peninsula Conservancy extends our appreciation to Cascade Land Conservancy and Pierce County for their leadership in realizing this conservation success on the Key Peninsula.



Partners celebrate preservation of Devils Head, (from left) Ryan Mello, Cascade Land Conservancy; Bruce Macdonald, GPC Past President; Terry Lee, Pierce County Council Vice Chair; James DePew, GPC President; and John Lantz, GPC Past President.

Photo Credit: Sandra Staples-Bortner

# GPC Annual Celebration & Auction

Photo Credit: Michael Yadrick



Ron & Bernadette Olson honored for conservation easement donation on their Hood Canal Tekiu shoreline property.



Marge Thorne (c) honored by GPC President James DePew and Executive Director Sandra Staples-Bortner for donation of conservation easement protecting Bucklin Hill Urban Forest, Silverdale.



Mark Mauren of Ueland Tree Farm receives GPC rock from GPC President Jamie DePew for pursuing Forest Stewardship Council certification on Ueland Tree Farm.

Photo Credit: Michael Yadrick

Photo Credit: Michael Yadrick



Retiring Board Members (from left) John Lantz, John Dickson and John Nelson are honored for their many years of service with a GPC rock.

▼ ▲ Photo Credit (both): Michael Yadrick



Members relaxed on the lawn...



Or enjoyed a tour of the Hansville Greenway led by Ken Shawcroft.

Photo Credit: Doug Merson

## GPC Auction 2010

Great Peninsula Conservancy's first-ever auction held on July 24 at the Annual Celebration raised over \$3,300 for conservation! Thank you to all who helped make it a success.

## Auction Item Donors

Margie Baran  
Best Western Wesley Inn  
in Gig Harbor  
Pamela Boyles & Roger Johnson

Marilyn Cunningham  
Katherine & David De Bruyn  
Charles & Teresa Dwyer  
Michael Ellis  
Nan Feagin & Family  
John & Pat Lantz  
Tom & Barb Peach  
Tides Tavern in Gig Harbor

## Successful Auction Bidders

Tom Antos  
Margie Baran  
Karen & Phil Best  
Marilyn & Gary Cunningham  
John Dickson  
John & Pat Lantz  
David Locey  
Rebecca & Doug Merson  
Ron & Bernadette Olson

## Auction Committee

Margie Baran  
Phil Best  
Marilyn Cunningham  
Katherine De Bruyn  
Kate Kuhlman  
Gayle Peach, Chair  
Sandra Staples-Bortner

## Annual Celebration Volunteers

Linda Benedict  
Angela de Oliveira  
Janine Dolezel  
Art Ellison  
Nan Feagin  
Millard Martin  
Doug Merson  
Rebecca Merson  
John Nelson  
Erik Pedersen  
Marion Schoenbackler  
Ken Shawcroft

## Last Chance!

For those unsuccessful bidders on David & Katherine De Bruyn's **French Cottage in the Dordogne**, the cottage is available to rent at [www.vrbo.com/11546](http://www.vrbo.com/11546). If you or someone you refer does rent the cottage, mention your affiliation with GPC and the De Bruyns will donate \$75 of the rental income to Great Peninsula Conservancy.

Photo Credit: Michael Yadrick



Auctioneer Phil Best encouraging bidding during live auction.

# Membership Outings

## Hood Canal Tekiu Walk

Members tour Hood Canal Tekiu shoreline. This 7-acre conservation easement, donated by Ron and Bernadette Olson, protects 400 feet of Hood Canal shoreline, native coniferous forest and the beautiful scenery of Tekiu Point.



Through the woods.



Up the stairs.



Lost? Trail signs help!



On the boardwalk.



Finally Hood Canal and the beach.

Photo Credit (all) : Byron Kane

## East Kitsap Boat Tour



Photo Credit: Byron Kane

Kathleen Peters, West Sound Watersheds Council, explains the importance of Puget Sound's pocket estuaries.



Photo Credit: Michael Yadrick

Members gather on deck for tour of GPC East Kitsap estuary projects.



Photo Credit: Christine Grenier

Conservation Director Michael Yadrick discusses GPC projects on Miller Bay with Byron Kane and Elisabeth Bondy.



Photo Credit: Byron Kane

After a delightful evening, The Joker returns to Port of Brownsville.

# — Forests Initiative: *Growing Sustainable Forests* —

Great Peninsula Conservancy's Forests Initiative got off to a bang earlier this year with a grant of \$25,000 from the Bullitt Foundation and a new partnership with Northwest Natural Resource Group. Port Townsend-based NNRG has extensive expertise in forest management, certification of sustainable forestry practices, and forest-carbon offset programs. Together, we are focused on growing sustainable forests that enrich our communities by cleaning our air and water, providing habitat for wildlife and native plants, and preserving the rural landscape. Several projects are underway in our Forests Initiative including a regional forest conservation initiative and a model sustainable forest project.

## North Kitsap Legacy Partnership

Momentum has been building over several months regarding a public-private partnership between Kitsap County and Olympic Property Group, called the North Kitsap Legacy Partnership ([nklp.org](http://nklp.org)). OPG, a Pope Resources Company, is preparing to sell off 7,000 acres of forestland in north Kitsap County because the company believes that commercial forestry is no longer profitable or feasible in this increasingly suburbanized setting. The lands are currently subdivided into 20-acre parcels and Great Peninsula Conservancy is concerned that these

large blocks of forestland could become fragmented by house lots, significantly impacting both the forest and Port Gamble Bay. Fortunately, Olympic Property Group has been seeking a solution that would protect the land and its public values *and* be financially attractive to the company.

The North Kitsap Legacy Partnership proposal is championed by Kitsap County Commissioner Steve Bauer and Olympic Property Group President Jon Rose. The Partnership is a visionary effort to permanently protect 5,600 acres of forest across north Kitsap County and 1.5 miles of shoreline on Port Gamble Bay by putting these lands in public ownership.

In return for this conservation strategy, OPG is proposing to concentrate residential development on 1,000 acres in and near the National Historic Landmark District of Port Gamble. The community would be designed to prevent polluted runoff from reaching Port Gamble Bay while also including energy efficient design, water conservation and reuse, and creation of walkable neighborhoods.

Great Peninsula Conservancy is actively engaged in conversations with stakeholders about the future of these lands in north Kitsap County. Our primary focus is to:

- ensure that protection of the conserved forest lands is made permanent by placing a conservation easement on the land
- reinforce that forest management on the conserved forestland should enhance habitat and open space values, while generating a modest economic return to support

ongoing forest stewardship and trail maintenance, and

- protect the health of Port Gamble Bay.

As community discussions about the proposed North Kitsap Legacy Partnership continue, Great Peninsula Conservancy envisions working more closely with Cascade Land Conservancy as well as Northwest Natural Resource Group. GPC has a long track record of local conservation; CLC has a history of helping to create sustainable communities; and NNRG has expertise in ecological forestry. Together, our evolving collaboration has the expertise, know-how, and community ties to strengthen this important regional forest conservation initiative.

## Ueland Tree Farm

Great Peninsula Conservancy is delighted that the 1700-acre Ueland Tree Farm, located in the Chico Creek watershed on Bremerton's western boundary, is pursuing Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for their forest operation. GPC's partner, Northwest Natural Resource Group, is working with Ueland Tree Farm to ensure their forest management plan meets FSC standards. These standards encourage retention of older trees and leafy canopies, reduced size of forest openings, and expanded protection for sensitive areas. Next time you purchase wood or paper products, look for the FSC logo to voice your support for forest landowners like Ueland Tree Farm who have taken extra steps to protect the environment.



Kitsap County Commissioner Steve Bauer spoke from the heart about the importance of partnerships to achieve visionary land conservation projects like saving the Petersen Farm and the North Kitsap Legacy Partnership at GPC's Annual Celebration on July 24.



Ueland Tree Farm recently applied for Forest Stewardship Council certification.

# Petersen Farm Campaign



Photo Credit: Unknown

Scott Hall (left) and Michael Yadrick install "Petersen Farm Day" sign near Trigger Avenue in preparation for the August 22 event to kick-off the campaign to Save the Petersen Farm.

## Passings

### Jeff Feagin – Avid birder, fisher, environmentalist.

Great Peninsula Conservancy notes the passing of a long time GPC member, volunteer, and Fox Island resident, Jefferson (Jeff) Ball Feagin, on February 26, 2010. Jeff's commitment to the environment was reflected in his many volunteer activities, including the first Peninsula Advisory Committee, the North of Falcon Committee, Puget Sound Anglers, Chestnut Land Trust in Maryland and GPC. Jeff was an avid birder and over the years led many bird walks for GPC. His walks never ceased to inspire old and new birders alike. We remember Jeff for his enthusiasm, rye wit, birding knowledge and generous support of Great Peninsula Conservancy and its predecessor Peninsula Heritage Land Trust. GPC thanks Jeff, his wife Nan, the Feagin family and the over 50 individuals who, at his request, honored him with memorial gifts to Great Peninsula Conservancy.

### In memory of Arthur Bourne

Herb & Joyce Werner

### In memory of Esther D'Archangel

Michael & Toni Blough  
James Corson & Linda Kent  
Harold & Carol Derks  
Ward & Mary Scovel

### In memory of John Dunlop, M.D.

James Blankenship  
Janice Bloom  
Jill & Darrel Mueller  
Laura Renner  
Gail Venuto

### In memory of Jeff Feagin

Anonymous  
Margaret Baran  
Myrna & Richard Binion  
Juanita Bjork  
William & Suzanne Breit  
Adolphus Bunkley  
Wes & Anne Burmark  
J. A. & L. G. Capers  
Bob & Edith Carlson  
Charles Carlson  
Ralph & Jill Christ  
Fred & Julie Desseau  
John E. Dewitt  
Jeanette Douglass  
Robert & Elizabeth Erwin  
Frank & Elizabeth Feagin  
Judy & John Feagin

## Memorial Gifts

(February – July 2010)

Phyllis Finkle  
Carl & Ingrid Fynboe  
Virdie Goliher  
Warren & Claudia Gustafson  
Jim & Pat Harrington  
Marcia Herman & Doug Berg  
Madge & John Hubbard  
Ernie & Marilyn Karlstrom  
John & Patricia Lantz  
Patricia Lebbert  
Thomas & Elizabeth Lockett  
Terrence Mace & Anne Wood  
Georgene Mellom  
Harriet Mooney  
James & Patricia Morton  
Victoria Mosse-Dewitt  
Susan Murray  
Jon & Jean Peterson  
Dennis & Susan Quiring  
Lawrence & Miriam Roycroft  
Paul & Janet Schneeman  
Suzanne Simchuk  
Robert & Constance Snell  
William L. Spencer Jr.  
Gloria & Bruce Steel  
Deborah Stephens  
Suzanne Tunney & James DePew  
Linda VanBallenberghe

### In memory of William R. Garland

Gary & Marilyn Cunningham

### In memory of Dan Nichols

Bo Blakey  
Retha Sue Williams

### In memory of Donna Cooper Pepos

Janice Pittman

### In memory of Carlton Smith

Betty Jean Smith

### In memory of Sherry Soule

Ray Soule & TRIFAM Foundation

## Gifts in Honor of

### In honor of Eir & Ernie Cheeka on their Wedding Day

Niki Quester  
Ken Van Kleeck  
Alyssa Ward  
Carolyn Westphal

### In honor of Mary Earl

Natalie E. Bryson  
Richard Calvin

### In honor of Donna Souter

Sophy C. Johnston

### In honor of Jo Wald

Stephen Wald & Joan Lobdell



# Great Peninsula Conservancy

3721 Kitsap Way, Suite 5  
Bremerton, WA 98312

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## GPC on Facebook

Great Peninsula Conservancy has jumped on the bandwagon and created our own Facebook page. 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!



## Calendar of Events

Visit our website, [www.greatpeninsula.org](http://www.greatpeninsula.org), for the most current information.

To volunteer or sign up for an event call or email Kate at 360-373-3500, 1-866-373-3504, or [kate@greatpeninsula.org](mailto:kate@greatpeninsula.org).

**September 11** – *Gorst Creek Salmon & Bears, Jim Trainer, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Bremerton.* Easy hike, suitable for all ages. Children welcome!

**September 18** – *Ivy Pull at Indianola Waterfront Preserve, 9 a.m. to noon.* Help remove invasive ivy on GPC's Indianola Waterfront Preserve!

**September 19** – *Kitsap Community and Agricultural Alliance Harvest Meal, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Student Center, Olympic College, 1600 Chester Ave., Bremerton.* Join KCAA for delicious food from local farms, locally produced wines, beers and beverages, music and education. For information and tickets [www.LocalFoodChefShowoff.org](http://www.LocalFoodChefShowoff.org).

**September 25** – *Brownsville Appreciation Day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Port of Brownsville.* Volunteers needed to staff GPC booth, highlighting GPC's Gilberton Creek clean-up project.

**Experience the great outdoors... Make a difference...**

### Become a GPC Land Steward!

To learn more, attend GPC's training for new land stewards  
Class session, Saturday, October 2 at GPC office  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Field session, Saturday, October 9, location TBA  
10 a.m. to noon



Jim Trainer leads heritage tree walk on Chico creek.

Photo Credit: Sandra Staples-Bortner

**October 9** – *Guillemot Cove Nature Walk, Jim Trainer, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Seabeck.* Moderate hike, suitable for all ages. Children welcome!

**October 10** – *Donkey Creek Chum Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Gig Harbor.* Volunteers needed to staff GPC booth, highlighting Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula projects.

**October 28** – *GPC Fall Open House, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at GPC office, 3721 Kitsap Way, Suite 5, Bremerton.* Come meet GPC Board and staff and learn of new projects under GPC's three Conservation Initiatives.

**November 13** – *Chico Creek Salmon Walk, Jay Zischke, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Chico Creek watershed, Bremerton.* Moderate hike, 1.5 miles round trip over sometimes steep terrain.

**November 17** - *GPC Members Only – Chico Creek Salmon Walk, Jay Zischke, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Chico Creek watershed, Bremerton.* Moderate hike, 1.5 miles round trip over sometimes steep terrain.