



Great Peninsula Conservancy

Fall 2011

Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come

Campaign to Save Petersen Farm Short \$95,000

This is it! If we are to permanently protect Petersen Farm for all time, we must act now. After a year and a half, we're much closer to our goal of saving the farm. But now time is short and we must raise \$95,000 by November 15.

Already, \$320,000 has been contributed or pledged toward our community goal of \$415,000. Reaching that target will make the farm eligible for a federal farm protection grant of \$285,000 – enough to complete the project goal of \$700,000.

Saving Petersen Farm will protect expansive views of the Clear Creek Valley and keep the land as a farm – forever! The project will keep the 120-acre Silverdale farm operating under

private ownership, with Great Peninsula Conservancy as the long-term partner in stewardship of the land.

Given its history, size, and central location, conservation of Petersen Farm is vital to sustaining Kitsap County's resurging local farm economy. Keeping the land in agriculture will help our community have a source of local food now and in the future, offer hands-on opportunities for young people to learn about farming, and protect over a half mile of salmon-bearing Clear Creek.

Some have asked, "Why help save a farm that will end up in private ownership?" The answer is simple. We all benefit from open space. People of today and those that

will follow benefit when resource lands are kept free of intensive development. We all enjoy views of Clear Creek Valley, clean water, and fresh air. The farm, homesteaded in the late 1880s, is a part of our history. How will we be able to teach youngsters about this hard-scrapple legacy without special places such as this?

Others have asked, "What about the farm family that will buy the land. Aren't they benefiting from the generosity of others?" Yes, they will have the opportunity to realize a dream of farming this historic Central Kitsap farm. But they also will

carry the burdens of the conservation protections. They will never be able to develop the land. It's not likely they will ever 'make it big'. But if they work hard and use ingenuity, they should be able to survive. That's what farming has always been about.

While Gerald and Dorothy Petersen ran the farm as an award-winning dairy for many years, by the time Gerry passed away in 2009 at the age of 94, the farm buildings were in disrepair. Local farmers have looked at the land and offered suggestions on how to make it profitable again. These ideas include a mixture of livestock, row crops and, perhaps, a value-added product such as cheese. To help with the transition, portions of the farm might be leased to other farmers.

Great Peninsula Conservancy is in an exciting phase of our campaign to save historic Petersen Farm. But time is running out. Please make a contribution today! Donations of \$500 or more will be recognized on a plaque at Petersen Farm. All donations are welcome. Thank you!

SAVE PETERSEN FARM!

Campaign Goal: \$415,000

FILL THE SILO!

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Summer Memories

Summer! While each season has its simple pleasures and awe-inspiring moments, there's something unique about summer. For many of us, that's the season when we most connect with nature. The welcoming weather is certainly part of the allure. So are the memories the season holds of childhood adventures at the beach, mountains, lake, or local park. Those early forays into nature are where our love of the outdoors took root. My early summer memories are of ocean beaches, boats, and tidal mudflats along the Massachusetts coast where I grew up. I really didn't discover the mountains until college, where I spent two summers at Acadia National Park on Maine's rugged coastline.

When our two boys were young, most of our summer outings were backpacking trips in the Cascades. While the hike itself often would be hot and tiring (and a challenge to keep young feet moving forward), the destination was always rewarding. It might be a mountain lake with crayfish to be discovered along its edges. If it was a mountain stream, instantly the boys became budding engineers creating pools to splash in. At some of the higher mountain meadows dotted with wildflowers, there might be a glimpse of a bear feeding on huckleberries or a herd of mountain goat scaling the upper reaches.

Today, I'm creating summer memories at my new home along

Hood Canal. It's one of the rare hot, blue-sky days out of a summer that has mostly disappointed in the weather department. I'm sitting in the shade of the apple orchard looking out across the toe of Hood Canal. There's a gentle breeze off the water and the heat of the day hangs stilly in the air. When I pay attention, I realize there's a steady, high-pitched buzz of insects that almost goes unnoticed due to its monotony. Bumblebees fly from one yellow clover blossom to the next and the occasional great blue heron glides by overhead, squawking as it goes. The tide is in and an

occasional kayaker or two paddles by almost hidden behind the tall bulrush.

Whatever your summer adventures into the outdoors, they likely play a key role in your current commitment to land conservation. Let's make sure we keep the stuff of summer memories around for years to come!

Sandra Staples-Bortner
Executive Director



Photo Credit: Sivad Studios

2011 Great Peninsula Challenge

Great Peninsula Conservancy has many exciting projects underway. To keep up the momentum, our Great Peninsula Challenge has a goal of \$55,000 this year. Several dedicated members have combined resources to pledge a challenge of this amount. GPC will receive their generous gifts when we raise a matching \$55,000 from our membership. Your contribution will be matched 1:1 by our challenge donors, and will support vital work in GPC's three initiatives: Streams & Estuaries, Forests, and Community Greenspaces, including the Petersen Farm Campaign. Conserving the great places of the Great Peninsula will only happen with your support. Please help us meet our 2011 goal!

2011
Goal: \$55,000



Great Peninsula Conservancy

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

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Klingel Wetland Restoration Completed

The saltwater slowly creeps up tide channels, flocks of sandpipers crowd the water's edge, and an eagle flies overhead. Nine years in the making and with the help of many partners, the 1950s dike is finally gone and saltwater once again returns to GPC's Klingel Wetland with each rising tide. Young salmon, crabs and other marine organisms now have access to thirteen acres from which they were formerly cut off. Restoring a section of naturally functioning Hood Canal shoreline is a small but significant step in restoring a healthy Puget Sound.

The restoration work was initiated last October with partial construction of a new set-back dike. The set-back dike near the road is designed to protect neighboring property owners and Highway 300 from extreme high tides when the 1950s dike is removed. This summer, Zephyr Construction of Allyn, WA, under a contract administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, completed the set-back dike. Then the old dike at the water's edge was leveled and fill material returned to the old borrow ditch. Tide channels were re-established in their historical locations. Old dike material that was not used to fill the borrow ditch was used to top dress the new set-back dike. The set-back dike and construction staging area were then seeded and mulched, in preparation for fall rains.



Tides return to Klingel Wetland.

Photo Credit: Sandra Staples-Bortner

Great Peninsula Conservancy hosted a tailgate reception at the end of August on the Klingel Wetland to thank our project partners and celebrate completion of the project. Sandra Staples-Bortner, GPC Executive Director, thanked the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and our other project partners, including Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (project consultant for the restoration design work), Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, and Mason County, for their support and perseverance. NRCS oversaw development of the restoration plan and provided significant project

funding. Other funding was provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Thank you, we couldn't have done it without our partners!

Work at the Klingel Wetland will continue into the fall with the planting of native trees and shrubs to improve vegetation cover along the shoreline as part of a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program grant. Planting began in March between Hwy 300 and the set-back dike and will continue this fall to rehabilitate the construction staging area and improve cover on the western shoreline of the wetland. Stay tuned!

— BEWARE! —



Photo Credit: Kate Kuhlman

BEWARE: Former borrow ditch, exposed at low tide, is deep in soft mud!

From Pat's Little Red Barn Restaurant it is tempting to walk out along the new set-back dike or sand ridge and then explore the wetland, but **BEWARE!** The filled borrow ditch, which at low tide looks like a wide muddy walkway (at left), is 4 to 6 feet deep mud and has the consistency of quick sand. And mulch-covered seed needs time to sprout and grow before it should be walked on.

Please heed the warning signs and do not walk in areas marked as dangerous.

Members in Action

Celebrate Urban Birds

Great Peninsula Conservancy and our stewardship partner Clear Creek Task Force received funding from Cornell Lab of Ornithology for three "Celebrate Urban Birds" events for families and three bird-themed Discovery Play Days for young children. Events are held at Clear Creek and Cowling Creek Interpretive Centers through October 15. Through hands-on activities, visitors learn about 16 species of birds, then plant sunflowers, make bird feeders (photo right), and become equipped citizen-scientists, recording bird data for Cornell Lab. Join us for the next "Celebrate Urban Birds" event Saturday, September 17 at Cowling Creek Center in Suquamish, WA. Visit www.greatpeninsula.org for details.



10-year-old Andrew Westphal (below, right) shared his birding expertise with community members on bird observation walks he led during Celebrate Urban Birds events at Cowling Creek in June and Clear Creek in August.



Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski

Annual Celebration

July 16, 2011

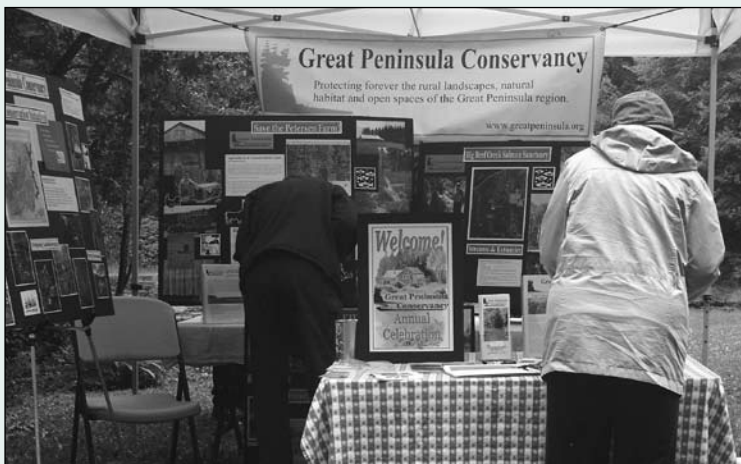


Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski



GPC members gathered at the Lind Family Homestead on Key Peninsula for our Annual Celebration, July 16. Property owner Nancy Lind (photo right, on left) protected the 80 acres of forests and fields through a conservation easement with Great Peninsula Conservancy. GPC members toured the property, enjoyed a potluck picnic, and heard about Great Peninsula Conservancy's current conservation projects.



Spring Dinner

Photo Credit: Phil Best



Great Peninsula Conservancy's first "Spring Dinner" event raised almost \$39,000 and 50 new members. Nearly two hundred people attended the May 5th event at McCormick Woods Clubhouse in Port Orchard. Corporate sponsors included: Taylor Shellfish, Puget Sound Energy, Ueland Foundation, Olympic Property Group, and Pacific Asset Management.

Calendar of Events

Visit our website www.greatpeninsula.org for the most current information. To volunteer or sign up for an event call or email Mary at 360-373-3500, 1-866-373-3504, or mary@greatpeninsula.org.

September 10 – Gorst Creek Salmon & Bears, Bremerton Watershed

- Jim Trainer, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Easy hike, suitable for all ages. Children welcome!

September 17 – Celebrate Urban Birds, Cowling Creek Salmon Center, Suquamish

- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come learn about the birds of Cowling Creek Forest Preserve with hands on activities for kids of all ages.

September 18 – Petersen Farm Fall Fair, Silverdale

- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., See page 8 for details.

September 24 – Ivy Pull at Indianola Waterfront Preserve

- 9 a.m. to noon. Help remove invasive ivy on GPC's Indianola Waterfront Preserve!

September 24 – Brownsville Appreciation Day

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Port of Brownsville

October 1 & 15 – GPC Stewardship Training Classroom session

- 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Oct 1 at GPC office, 3721 Kitsap Way, Suite 5, Bremerton.

Field session

- 10 a.m. to noon Oct 15., location TBA.

October 8 - Celebrate! Clear Creek, Clear Creek Interpretive Center, Silverdale

- TBD. Join us for lively entertainment and amazing art. For details visit www.clearcreektrail.org.

October 8 – Guillemot Cove Nature Walk, Seabeck

- Jim Trainer, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Moderate hike, suitable for all ages. Children welcome!

October 8 – Donkey Creek Chum Festival, Gig Harbor

- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Volunteers needed to staff GPC booth, highlighting Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula projects.

October 15 – Discovery Play Day: Bird Beaks & What They Eat, Clear Creek Interpretive Center, Silverdale

- 10 a.m. to noon.

November 12 – Chico Creek Salmon Walk, Bremerton

- Jay Zischke, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Moderate hike, 1.5 miles round trip over sometimes steep terrain.

November 16 - GPC Members Only – Chico Creek Salmon Walk, Bremerton

- Jay Zischke, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Moderate hike, 1.5 miles round trip over sometimes steep terrain.

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 1 at GPC office, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Field session, Saturday, October 15, location TBA, 10 a.m. to noon

Ways of Giving

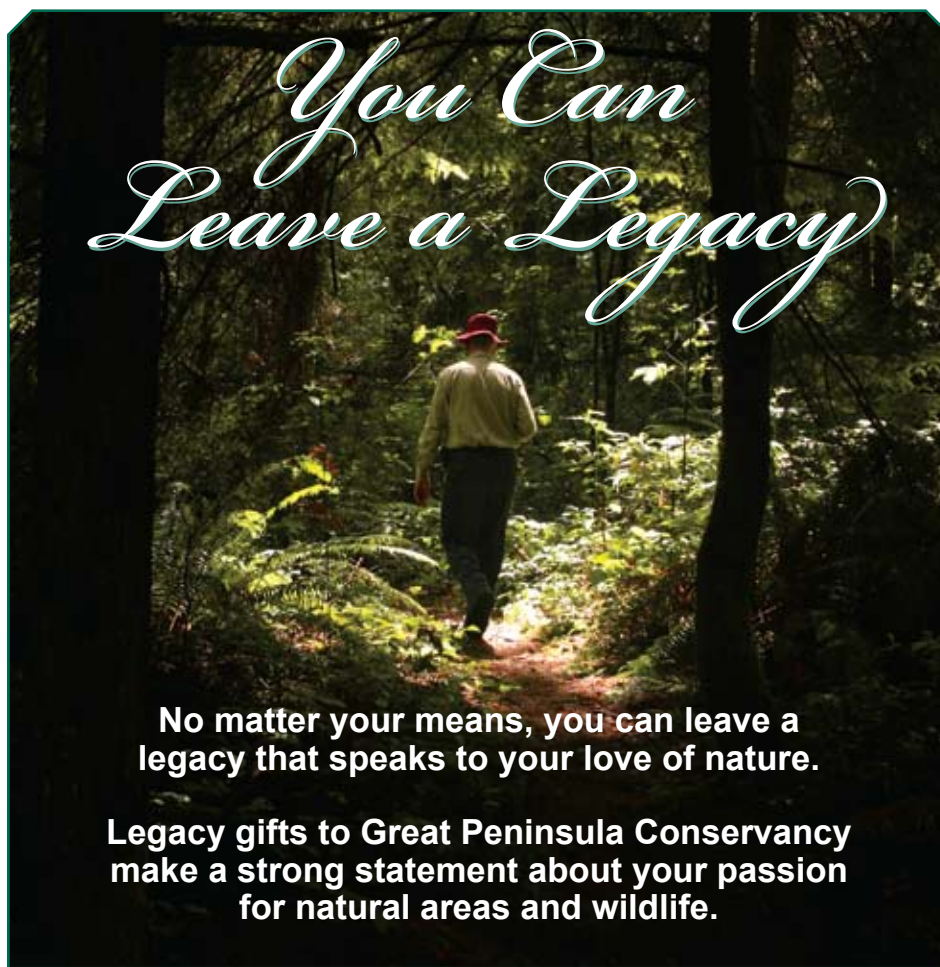
Join GPC's Conservancy Circle with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more. Be at the center of our Conservation Program! While contributions of all sizes are critical to GPC's success, the extra boost provided by Conservancy Circle members really makes a difference. Thank you!



Conservancy Circle Membership Benefits

- ☞ Inspiration from the many beautiful places you are helping to protect
- ☞ Satisfaction of providing the foundation for GPC's conservation program
- ☞ Project briefings and members-only tours of conserved lands
- ☞ Recognition as a Conservancy Circle member in GPC's Annual Report
- ☞ Special events where you'll meet others committed to land conservation
- ☞ Thrill of seeing wild salmon and knowing your grandchildren will too

Be at the center of GPC's Conservation Program!




You Can Leave a Legacy

No matter your means, you can leave a legacy that speaks to your love of nature.

Legacy gifts to Great Peninsula Conservancy make a strong statement about your passion for natural areas and wildlife.

GPC's Legacy Society

recognizes donors during their lifetime and for generations to come



Great Peninsula Conservancy

Legacy Gift Options

You can leave a gift in your will, name Great Peninsula Conservancy as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy, or fund a charitable remainder trust that will let you enjoy income and tax benefits now while leaving a legacy to support GPC's work in the future.

Memorial Gifts

(March – August 2011)

In memory of Keith Bogard
Joyce Merkel

In memory of Dorris McGuire
Chuck McGuire

In memory of Jim Penfield
Anonymous

In memory of Donna Pepos
Janice Pittman

In memory of Joan Sledd
Elaine Thomas & John Sledd

Gifts in Honor of

In honor of
Neal & Susan Rosenquist
Herb & Joyce Werner

Meet New Staff

Scott Pascoe Conservation Director



Photo Credit: Kathleen Peters

Scott Pascoe joined our staff as the new Conservation Director in March. Scott comes to us with broad experience in environmental planning and design having worked for over 26 years as a landscape architect on projects ranging from watershed protection, creek and nearshore restoration to open space corridors and public amenities plans. Between 2006 and 2009, as Watershed Coordinator for Whidbey Watershed Stewards and as Managing Director for Pacific Ecological Institute, Scott worked

at a large scale strategically and at a small scale tactically to fund and implement priority projects within the Maxwellton and Little Quilcene watersheds.

Scott has a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Washington and a Masters of Science in Management from Antioch University in Seattle. He is a native of the Puget Sound region and has a deep abiding commitment to conserving those distinctive places that make this area unique and compelling.

And New Board Members

Since retiring from a career with the Environmental Protection Agency in 2007, Dave De Bruyn has become Treasurer of two non-profit organizations. Cascade Sierra Solutions provides financing to retrofit heavy-duty road trucks to reduce air pollution as well as replace highly polluting trucks in ports in California and Washington. Started only in 2006, Cascade now has a loan portfolio of \$52 million, which is growing rapidly. Dave also serves as Treasurer for the Washington Community Alliance for Self Help (CASH), which provides training for lower income individuals to start small businesses. Eighty percent of these small businesses succeed while 80%

of all small business start-ups fail. CASH has an office in Bremerton.

Dave maintains a number of trails in North Kitsap, including trails at the North Kitsap Heritage Park. He also is a volunteer land steward at The Nature Conservancy's Foulweather Bluff Preserve near Hansville. An avid kayaker, Dave enjoys exploring Puget Sound and the Salish Sea.

After graduating from the Harvard Business School in 1969, Dave served in the Peace Corps in the Fiji Islands where he established an agricultural marketing enterprise for food crops. Dave and his wife Katherine split their time between Kingston, Seattle, and traveling.

Dave De Bruyn Kingston (Term: 2011-2014)



Photo Credit: Katherine De Bruyn

Lisa Johnson Silverdale (Term: 2011-2013)



Photo Credit: Johnson Family

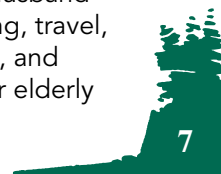
A Washington native, Lisa Johnson grew up hiking, riding horses, and skiing in the San Bernardino mountains and Sierra

Nevada. She got her B.A. in English from Colorado College and, after spending a year teaching vocational

skills to adults with developmental disabilities, moved to Rhode Island to earn her Masters of Teaching from Brown University. Lisa has been a teacher now for 28 years, still loving it. She has been part of the South Kitsap School District for the past 21 years, currently teaching 7th and 9th graders writing and literature at Marcus Whitman Junior High School.

As a teacher, unstructured summer time is precious to Lisa, and she spends much of that time in wild spaces, camping, hiking, and simply pattering around in the garden. Her

life has been nurtured and enriched by the mountain views, the patterns of currents in Hood Canal, the eagles that perch in neighboring trees, and even the windstorms that have twice sent evergreen branches through the roof of her greenhouse. She is passionate about responsible stewardship of wild and green spaces, and welcomes the opportunity to serve on the GPC board. Lisa and her husband MacKnight enjoy skiing, travel, backpacking, reading, and hanging out with their elderly dogs.





Great Peninsula Conservancy

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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 and follow the Facebook link. See you there!



PETERSEN FARM DAY AND THE FALL FAIR JOIN TOGETHER THIS YEAR TO HOST THE

PETERSEN FARM



FALL FAIR



Sunday, Sept. 18,
10 am - 5 pm



Proceeds support the campaign to Save
Petersen Farm!, Great Peninsula Conservancy
and Kitsap Community Food Co-op



PetersenFarmFallFair.org