



Great Peninsula Conservancy

Winter 2009

Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come

Streams and Estuaries: Providing Nurseries, Larders and Safe Havens in Puget Sound

The West Sound's streams and estuaries are a vital component of a living and breathing Puget Sound ecosystem. Biologists have found salmon and steelhead populations from all over the Sound utilizing our shorelines.

The small streams on our peninsula and adjacent islands, many so small that they do not appear on a map, originate from wetlands and springs. These wetlands provide natural flood control, recharge groundwater, trap sediments and pollution, recycle nutrients, and both create and maintain biological diversity. All West Sound streams support some remnant of the once abundant populations of chum and coho salmon, and cutthroat and steelhead trout.

Our streams also help sustain biological productivity when they enter saltwater, by delivering gravel, sediment and wood, as well as water. The area at which a stream enters Puget Sound is called the estuary. Puget Sound

itself is a large estuary, recognized as such by the National Estuary Program along with 27 other coastal areas in the continental U.S. and Puerto Rico. The Puget Sound Partnership is the state agency tasked with clean-up and restoration of Puget Sound.

The Great Peninsula has many small estuaries, also called "pocket estuaries" or "sub-estuaries", dotting our shorelines. Compared to the eastern side of Puget Sound, where a rail line and shoreline armoring are found along most of its length, our sub-estuaries are still functioning relatively well.

Pocket estuaries form behind coastal accretion landforms, at coastal embayments, or at small creek mouths. The characteristics of a pocket estuary that make it unique, compared to adjacent intertidal habitat, are: the substrates (sand, gravel, and wood), intertidal gradients (generally less slope), and vegetation. These characteristics make pocket estuaries a good source of food and cover for

young fish. Additionally, pocket estuaries receive freshwater inputs, from surface water and/or ground water sources, that depress the salinity during some part of the year, generally winter and spring. This trait

makes these coves especially attractive to young salmon that have not yet completely transitioned to saltwater. For these many reasons, estuaries are considered a perfect fish nursery.

Salmon biologists have only recently documented the importance of pocket estuaries for threatened Chinook. They use them for feeding, refuge from predation, physiological transition from fresh to saltwater (called "smoltification"), and for their migratory pathway to the Pacific Ocean. Many other fish species, waterfowl, and plant communities also depend on this unique habitat type.

The Great Peninsula's streams and estuaries may be small in size, but they are high in importance for the impact they have on Puget Sound's fisheries and on the overall health of the Sound.

Kathleen Peters
GPC Board Member
West Sound Watersheds Salmon
Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator



Canada geese on Grahn Kove, a pocket estuary on Port Orchard Bay.

Photo Credit: Elaine Thomas

Inside _____

- Field of Dreams..... 2
- Great Peninsula Challenge..... 2
- GPC's Forest Initiative 3
- Grahn Kove:
A Water Trail History..... 4
- Gilberton Creek Restoration..... 5
- Ways of Giving 6
- GPC Members in Action 7
- Calendar of Events..... 8

Field of Dreams

Ray Kinsella, in the popular movie *Field of Dreams*, hears a voice telling him "If you build it, he will come." He comes to believe that he needs to build a baseball field in the midst of his Iowa cornfield so that Shoeless Joe Jackson and the other seven players banned from baseball in the 1919 Black Sox scandal can once again 'Play ball!' Defying convention and risking financial ruin, he plows under his cornfield and Shoeless Joe Jackson and the others do indeed come.

Seeking to understand what it all means, he realizes that he really is searching for his own lost youth, dreams, and passion. The reclusive former 1960s peace activist who joins him in his quest, spells it out this way. "Ray, people will come Ray. They'll come to Iowa for reasons they can't even fathom. . . They'll arrive at your door as innocent as children, longing for the past. . . They'll find they have reserved seats somewhere along one of the baselines, where they sat when they were children and cheered their heroes. And they'll watch the game and it'll be as if they dipped themselves in magic waters. The memories will be so thick they'll have to brush them away from their faces. People will come Ray."

Isn't that the way it is when we see the ripples of salmon returning to their native spawning stream, hear the whistle of wings as a small flock of diving ducks zips by overhead, or walk a sunny forest path strewn with damp, brightly colored leaves to the persistent croak of a chorus frog? Aren't we transported back to a time of our youth or perhaps to a time of no age, a time eternal? We don't always know why we came or why we connect with it, but the connection is there.

It's that way with our work of land conservation. We do it because we must. We do it because it evokes memories, uncovers our passion for life and all living creatures, and grounds us in a sense of place. It is our field of dreams. Help us build it. We've reserved a seat for you along one of the baselines.

Sandra
Staples-Bortner
Executive Director



Photo Credit: Sivad Studios

Great Peninsula Challenge

Since the fall of 2007, members of Great Peninsula Conservancy have contributed \$92,300 toward our 2007-2009 Great Peninsula Challenge goal of \$126,000. Thank you so much for your generosity! However, our goal was ambitious and we still need to raise \$33,700 by the end of the year. That's going to take a special effort by us all. Please consider what you can do to help us reach our target. Your gift will be matched by GPC's Board and supports vital work in our three initiatives: Streams & Estuaries, Community Greenspaces, and Forests. Conserving the great places of the Great Peninsula will only happen with your support. Help build a field of dreams for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren. Thank you!

**2007-2009 Challenge
Goal: \$126,000**



Great Peninsula Conservancy

...working to protect forever the rural landscapes, natural habitats, and open spaces of the Great Peninsula region

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GPC's Forests Initiative

The lowland forests of the Great Peninsula are reservoirs of biodiversity, a foundation for local livelihoods, and reminders of our cultural history. Forests are priority lands for Great Peninsula Conservancy's conservation program because they are a major element in the changing landscape of our communities. Our new Forests Initiative represents a strategic effort by GPC to conserve working forests. We focus on leveraging voluntary support for conservation by forest landowners, with the latest market-based incentives to help stop the fragmentation of forestland.

In the long-term, the Forests Initiative will:

- Preserve contiguous tracts of forestland forever, contributing to the local forest economy while enhancing conservation of biological diversity.
- Promote responsible forest management that not only supports timber production, but also contributes to habitat enhancement and healthy watersheds.
- Stimulate a snowballing of environmental and social benefits related to forest conservation, such as relief from climate change-related impacts and improved water quality.

Great Peninsula Conservancy has begun laying the groundwork for this multi-year creative endeavor to conserve and steward forests for the future. We foresee specific activities related to the project, which include:

- *Conducting outreach to landowners on forest protection while helping policymakers plan for long-term conservation of forests*



Photo Credit: Hal Goodell

Big Tree: 800-year old Douglas fir tree in Chico Creek Watershed.

GPC is actively building a network of project partners focused on creating new conservation opportunities via the local forest economy. Specifically, GPC will work to increase the understanding of landowners and government about opportunities for permanent land protection, 'green' certification of

timberlands, and how they can access the forest carbon market.

- *Partnering with forest landowners to improve forest stewardship*
GPC is partnering with willing landowners to place conservation easements on their forest properties. These conservation agreements permanently protect land from future development, while continuing their use as working forests.
- *Connecting landowners to independent Forest Stewardship Council certification programs*
Ecological forestry is a viable option for preserving forestland. We will connect forest landowners with our project partners and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Landowners who adopt the FSC environmental safeguards and social responsibility practices may also see increased value for their forest products in the marketplace.
- *Helping forest landowners access the newly-emerging forest carbon market*

Healthy forests provide many ecosystem services to the public, like filtering the air we breathe and mitigating our climate, at no charge. GPC and its project partners will introduce forest landowners to the benefits of forest carbon markets, which can compensate them for their forest's capacity to store carbon from the atmosphere.

This exciting venture in forest conservation could not come at a more important time. Without concerted efforts to protect these biologically rich forests now, liquidation of large blocks of forest landscape and loss of multi-generational family forests is a real possibility. Now is the time to act, before these great forests are lost forever.



GPC members tour old second growth in Chico Creek watershed.

Photo Credit: Hal Goodell

Grahn Kove: A Water Trail History

From cedar canoe to Mosquito Fleet

Photo Credit: The Grahn Family



The Chickaree pulled out for annual maintenance.

Early in the history of Kitsap County, advertisements distributed in Seattle highlighted the beauty of the Brownsville area, making it a popular destination for weekend trips. Gilberton, in particular, saw a shift from logging in the late nineteenth century to a tourist destination and summer cottage location for those interested in "sandy beaches". With the advent of the Mosquito Fleet ferry system, travel between towns, both within Kitsap County and across the water, allowed for more and more people to vacation and live here. By the beginning of the twentieth century, there were seventy docks around the county, built to accommodate twelve steamboats serving the small communities around western Puget Sound. One family, the Grahns, who owned and operated ferries out of Gilberton, has made this area their home since 1884.

Born in Sweden and after a brief time in Minnesota, four brothers from the Grahn family settled in Gilberton prior to its platting in 1909. While three of the brothers later moved to Seattle, Carl Grahn remained and settled on forty acres around 1898, naming his parcel, Grahn Kove. According to his son, Erwin, around 1898 visitors came to the property by steamboat. A float was placed in the water and people would get off the boat and then wait for a row boat to pick them up and take them to shore.

Other visitors to Grahn Kove included Northwest tribes from Vancouver Island who camped on the spit at the mouth of the creek each summer, where they dug clams. A spring located along the shoreline just north of Grahn Kove and used by these visitors was known as Chief's Water.

Transportation around the county became easier once a ferry run was established linking Brownsville with Bremerton. This run and the boat, Tazalina, were purchased by Carl's sons Earl and Cullie in 1917. A year later they replaced the Tazalina with the larger ferry, Chickaree. This 75 foot ferry transported workers to the naval shipyard, students to the high school in Bremerton, and milk and produce to town.

The Chickaree made several stops along the Brownsville to Bremerton route, one of which was Grahn Kove in Gilberton. Members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church were frequent passengers on The Chickaree. Families from this Bremerton

church would take the ferry to Grahn Kove after church on Sunday afternoons and picnic in the field of the Grahn family property. The Chickaree also was known to transport baseball fans and players to the various fields of Kitsap County and dancers to Foster's Pavilion on Bainbridge Island. In a time of poor roads, the Grahn's ferry allowed for speedy travel throughout the county. The Chickaree ran until 1942 when it was damaged in a collision.



Credit: Google Earth

Today, brothers Karl (80) and Peter (75) Grahn (grandsons of the first Carl to settle at Grahn Kove), along with their late sister's three children: Tom, Marylee, and Jerry, are working with Great Peninsula Conservancy to fulfill their vision of permanently protecting Grahn Kove. We can think of no better way to conserve its beauty and history than to create a water accessible campsite at Grahn Kove as part of the Cascadia Marine Trail. If we are successful, kayakers and small boaters will once again be able to enjoy a Sunday afternoon picnic in the apple orchard at Grahn Kove.

Siv Carlson
GPC Intern



Peter Grahn; Sandra Staples-Bortner, GPC Executive Director; Phil Best, GPC Board Member; and Kitsap County Commissioner Josh Brown view Illahee Road washout and flooding impact to creek.

Photo Credit: Elaine Thomas

What's in Your Watershed?



Gilberton Creek and Estuary Restoration Project

TOGETHER WE CAN:

- Take out the asphalt and debris
- Remove invasive weeds
- Replant streambanks
- Restore the health and function of the stream and estuary
- Attract shorebirds, ducks and fish to the cove once again
- Create a water-trail campsite for kayaks

THE STORY OF GILBERTON CREEK

On December 3, 2007 disastrous flooding pushed a house-sized section of Illahee Road into Gilberton Creek burying the lower reaches under loads of mud, rocks, and asphalt.

At the stream's mouth, a protective cove important for endangered Puget Sound Chinook and other salmon, is now filled with gravel. Shellfish beds along the spit are smothered and the beach is littered with logs.

Today, a large fish-friendly passage replaces the problem culvert but the debris remains.

Great Peninsula Conservancy owns four acres of land along Gilberton Creek to help protect this special landscape.

Great Peninsula conservancy is working with our neighbors, the Kitsap Conservation District, Kitsap County, and WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to find a way to restore the stream and estuary.

The Conservancy is interested in acquiring five acres at the mouth of Gilberton Creek, to protect the estuary and create a future water accessible campsite as part of the Cascadia Marine Trail.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON THIS
OR OTHER STREAM
AND ESTUARY
INITIATIVES
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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. # 91797

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

Use your IRA for Charitable Giving

If you are 70½ years of age or older, federal tax law permits you to make direct contributions from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charitable organization of your choice—up to \$100,000 per year in 2008 and 2009. These charitable contributions can satisfy your IRA's required yearly minimum distribution and will be excluded from your federal taxable income.

One essential detail: your plan administrator must issue the check directly to the charity. And because your contribution is not taxable income, you cannot claim an additional charitable deduction. However, examples show that gifting funds directly from your IRA is one of the most tax beneficial means of charitable giving. Consult your plan administrator and/or your tax advisor for more information about this provision. Contributions must be made by December 31, 2009.

We encourage you to take advantage of this special opportunity with a generous contribution to Great Peninsula Conservancy. Your gift will help conserve the great places of the Great Peninsula.

Leave a Legacy

Include GPC in Your Estate Plan

Great Peninsula Conservancy has pledged to care forever for land that you as a member are helping conserve today. By including Great Peninsula Conservancy in your estate planning, you can continue to make a difference for generations to come. In fact, a planned gift may help you give more to conservation than you thought possible! For more information on **Great Peninsula Conservancy Legacy Society**, call Executive Director Sandra Staples-Bortner (360) 373-3500 or (866) 373-3504.

Legacy Gift Options

Legacy gifts can take several forms. 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. Many of these gifts also result in substantial savings in estate taxes.

- **Bequest** – Designate Great Peninsula Conservancy in your will as beneficiary of a portion or all of your estate.
- **Bequest of Land** – Before leaving land to Great Peninsula Conservancy, please speak with GPC staff to ensure we

understand and are able to accommodate your intentions for the land. For conservation lands, you might consider a gift where you donate the land to GPC now and retain the right to use the land until your death.

- **Retirement Plan** – Name Great Peninsula Conservancy as beneficiary of some or all of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement plan.
- **Life Insurance** – Designate Great Peninsula Conservancy as beneficiary of your life insurance policy.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust** – Place cash or other assets in a trust that pays annual income to you or a loved one for life. You receive income tax benefits the year you establish the trust. After your death, Great Peninsula Conservancy receives the remainder of the trust.



GPC Members in Action

Photo Credit: Kate Kuhlman



Dave and Katherine De Bruyn receive GPC Legacy Society rock from GPC Vice President Jamie DePew (right) and Ex. Dir. Sandra Staples-Bortner (left). Gary and Marilyn Cunningham were also honored as Legacy Society members at the Fall Open House. Earlier this fall Linda Benedict, and John and Sarah Dickson were honored for their legacy gifts.

Photo Credit: Hal Goodell



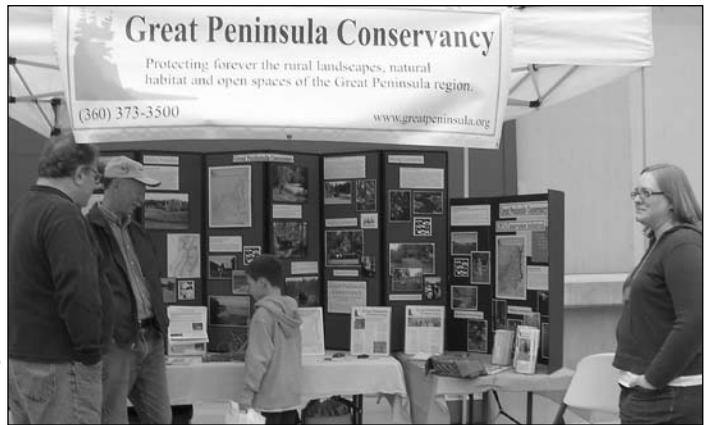
18 members joined Jay Zischke, Suquamish Tribe fish biologist, on a tour of the Chico Creek watershed to view spawning salmon.

Photo Credit: Sandra Staples-Bortner



Bruce Macdonald, Gary Cunningham and Phil Best receive Hood Canal Coordinating Council's Environmental Achievement Award (Non Profit Category) for their dedication and work towards the protection of the Hood Canal watershed. Rick Fackler received the award posthumously.

Photo Credit: Kate Kuhlman



Members and volunteers helped staff GPC's display at more than a dozen community events this year. GPC participated in Gig Harbor's Donkey Creek Chum Festival with the help of Board Member Tom Antos (left) and GPC Intern Siv Carlson (right).

Memorial Gifts (August - October 2009)



In memory of Rick Fackler

Connie Waddington

In memory of Dan & Shirley Inveen

Cam & Esther Haslam

In memory of Jean Manley

Wanda & Ralph Butler

Photo Credit: Hal Goodell



Viewing salmon from bridge over Wildcat Creek.

Photo Credit: Kate Kuhlman



More than 30 members enjoy good conversation and a variety of homemade goodies at the Fall Open House.



Great Peninsula Conservancy

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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 Kate at 360-373-3500, 1-866-373-3504, or kate@greatpeninsula.org.

Saturday, December 5

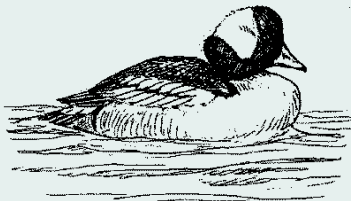
Guillemot Cove Walk

With Jim Trainer
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Seabeck

Easy hike, 3 miles round trip. Join Jim Trainer at Guillemot Cove on Hood Canal in Seabeck. The cove is home to old growth trees and wildlife with a breathtaking view from the shoreline of the Olympic Mountains. Boyce Creek runs through the property, which is a salmon bearing stream. The upper meadow is home to the cedar stumphouse.

Sinclair Inlet Bird Watching – Members Only

Ever wonder what all those birds are on Sinclair Inlet that flew in with the first cold front of the fall and will stay until spring? Come join us to see: goldeneye, bufflehead, white-winged scoter, western grebe, green-winged teal, wigeon, mallard and more. You don't have to be a birder. We'll help you identify these and other water birds. Bring binoculars. Rain or shine. Meet at GPC office in Bremerton. RSVP to Sandra at (360) 373-3500 or sandra@greatpeninsula.org.



Tuesday, December 8

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 21

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.