



Great Peninsula Conservancy

Winter 2011

Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come

Kitsap Forest & Bay Project



Photo Credit: Pope Resources

Trees in the Port Gamble Block.

Great Peninsula Conservancy is a partner in a regional effort to secure almost 7,000 acres in north Kitsap for conservation. The Kitsap Forest & Bay Project includes shorelines, tidelands, wetlands and upland forests in the Port Gamble Bay watershed and beyond. The land is currently owned by Pope Resources, which, after 160 years of growing trees and producing lumber at Port Gamble, wants to move out of Kitsap County. It has offered the land for conservation and public use, and has given the community a deadline of March 2013 to secure funding. The Project is led by a partnership of Pope Resources, Kitsap County, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, and Suquamish Tribe. Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy) is leading the funding effort for the project and Great Peninsula Conservancy is leading the outreach component.

The Kitsap Forest & Bay Project is an exceptional conservation opportunity given the large blocks of contiguous land, singular ownership, willing landowner, and high degree of ecological integrity of both marine and upland ecosystems. The land is at risk. The land is currently zoned for 20 acre house lots and Pope Resources has made it clear they want to sell. Thankfully, the company has a keen interest in helping the project succeed. Finding funds to purchase the land for conservation would be challenging at any time, but is perhaps more so in today's economic climate.

The land is comprised of five closely-connected tracts:

- **Port Gamble Upland Block** – 3316 acres
- **Port Gamble Shoreline Block** – 564 acres, including 1.8 miles of shoreline
- **Hansville Block** – 1782 acres
- **Divide Block** – 662 acres
- **Heritage Park Expansion** – 366 acres

Great Peninsula Conservancy has been facilitating and mobilizing a coalition of conservation and business organizations, the Kitsap Forest & Bay Coalition, in a community-based effort to build critical support for this ambitious conservation project. The Coalition's mission is to sustain the region's quality of life, environmental health, and economic vitality. The initial focus of the Coalition has been on drafting an effective conservation strategy and outreach plan to gather

community and stakeholder support essential to a successful outcome.

The project offers many community benefits. These include:

- Preserve open space for public use and enjoyment
- Protect Port Gamble Bay and its watershed
- Preserve healthy Puget Sound shorelines
- Protect our water quality and supply
- Conserve critical wildlife habitat
- Provide the economic benefits of a multi-use community forest and eco-recreation hub

The Kitsap Forest & Bay Project is now moving into high gear. Coalition members will be seeking letters of endorsement from groups and individuals of all interests, speaking to community and business groups, and inviting people to add their names to a growing list of people who want to become advocates for the project. If you'd like to become involved, please email info@greatpeninsula.org or check the Coalition website at greatkitsapforestbay.org.

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Reaching Our Goals

Success in reaching goals begins first with a strong vision of where one wants to go, a clear plan of action, and commitment to seeing it through. This year, Great Peninsula Conservancy has had multiple goals. Among them are: launch a new Spring Dinner (done), increase our membership to 680 (almost there), implement a capital campaign to save Petersen Farm (done – see page 4), complete environmental baseline reports on all lands under our stewardship (near completion – see page 7), and undertake a successful Great Peninsula Challenge.

As the year draws to a close, we find ourselves falling short of our Great Peninsula Challenge goal of raising \$55,000 to match contributions of the same amount from a small group of GPC donors. As of this writing, we have raised only \$33,000 in matching contributions. The Great Peninsula Challenge provides critical funds to support GPC's three conservation initiatives: Streams & Estuaries, Forests, and Community Greenspaces (including farms). It is the lifeblood of our conservation program.

While it may seem that all our attention this year has been focused on Petersen Farm, we've also been deeply immersed in efforts to save nearly 7,000 acres of forest and shoreline surrounding Port Gamble Bay (see cover). This partnership with Pope Resources, known as the Kitsap Forest & Bay Project, is an exciting and ambitious project to shape the future of the Kitsap Peninsula. Elsewhere, we will soon complete acquisition of 10 acres of salmon stream

and lush forest on Big Beef Creek—a tributary of Hood Canal (see page 3). At GPC's Klingel Wetland at the toe of Hood Canal, a multi-year wetlands restoration project was completed earlier this year. Saltwater, young salmon and wintering ducks now have access to the restored marsh.

Our ambitious set of goals for 2012 has caused us to take our focus off of our funding target for the Great Peninsula Challenge. We need your help to close the gap before the end of the year. I know we have asked for your help many times this year already—at the Spring Dinner, for our Petersen Farm Campaign, and now for the Great Peninsula Challenge. Please do what you can. Without your support and that of our many partners, none of our successes would be possible. Thank you for sharing our dreams for the

future of our Great Peninsula. While some may think eagles perched at water's edge, green-winged teal bursting from a hidden marsh, and warblers singing from high in an evergreen forest will always be there, you understand that their future is dependent upon our actions today. Thank you!

Sandra Staples-Bortner
Executive Director



Photo Credit: Sivad Studios



Photo Credit: Don Willott

GPC's Sandra Staples-Bortner (center) and North Kitsap Trails Association's John Willett (right) listen as Congressman Norm Dicks (left) expresses his support of the Kitsap Forest & Bay Project during a surprise visit to a recent project partners meeting.

Kitsap Forest & Bay Project Partners

- Forterra
- Great Peninsula Conservancy
- Hansville Greenway Association
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- Hood Canal Environmental Council
- Kitsap Audubon Society
- Kitsap Citizens for Responsible Planning
- Kitsap Conservation Voters
- Kitsap County
- Kitsap Peninsula Visitor and Convention Bureau
- North Kitsap Trails Association
- Pope Resources
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Suquamish Tribe
- Sustainable Kitsap
- West Sound Conservation Council

Great Peninsula Conservancy

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

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Big Beef Creek Conservation

Photo Credit: Michael Yadrick



Joanne & Dave Schuett-Hames join GPC members on tour of Big Beef Creek property.

Great Peninsula Conservancy is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of 10 acres of riparian corridor and connected uplands on Hood Canal's Big Beef Creek. Our stewardship of this land fulfills the aspirations of the landowners, Dave and Joanne Schuett-Hames, to conserve the property for wildlife and salmon habitat.

Situated in a broad hardwood bottomland, Big Beef Creek meanders from pool to pool with large logs spanning the channel and broad bands of light angling from above. Once within the valley, you feel miles removed from civilization, the only sound being that of the creek and birds. Old growth, moss-ridden logs lie prone and criss-

crossed on the floodplain floor, cavities providing habitat niches for frogs and salamanders. Steep, fern-covered slopes scattered with clumps of devil's club pitch down from narrow ridges above.

Proportionate to its scale, the land contains a diversity of habitats—main-stem and tributary stream channels, hardwood bottomlands, seeps and springs, fallen logs, old growth stumps and an older second growth fir/hemlock/cedar forest. Deciduous forest of red alder, big leaf maple and vine maple groves are found in the valley floor within the 100-year floodplain. The riparian forest provides excellent cover and forage for resident and migratory song birds—sparrows, wrens, chickadees, red-breasted nuthatch, kinglets, fly catchers and warblers, to name a few.

Federally listed (threatened) summer chum went extinct in Big Beef Creek but were successfully re-established beginning in 1996. The land contains high-quality spawning habitat for summer chum, coho, and steelhead due in part to the presence of gravel substrate and large woody debris in the streambed. Big Beef Creek

is one of twenty streams that are intensively monitored by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for distribution of young coho salmon, stream flows and temperature in order to better understand how the salmon population is influenced by stream flows at key life stages (spawning, incubation, summer rearing, and over winter rearing). The creek's pools provide habitat for coho fingerlings, which spend a year in freshwater before moving out to sea.

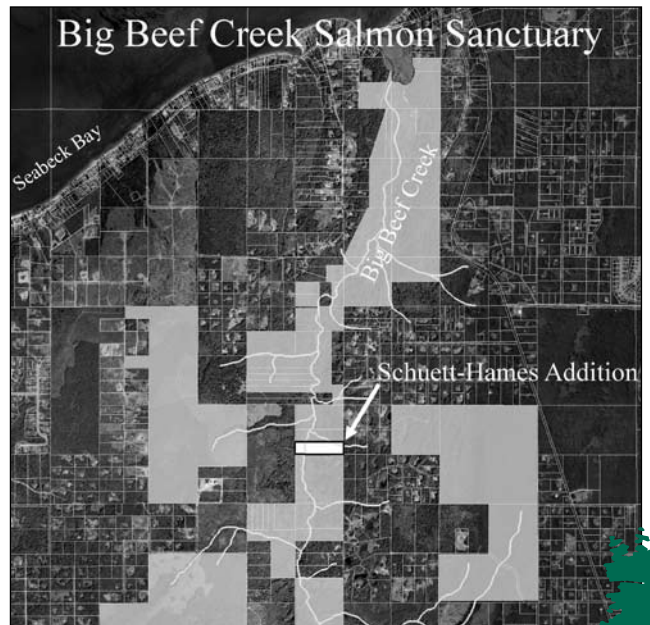
Lands owned by Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife flank the property as part of a larger corridor of 900 acres of protected riparian lands conserved by the Big Beef Creek Salmon Sanctuary project between 1996 and 2001. As one of the last private holdings, acquisition of this land completes the vision of a protected corridor, from its estuary to its headwaters at Morgan Marsh, along one of the most intact streams on the east side of Hood Canal.

Great Peninsula Conservancy completed purchase of the 10-acre parcel from the conservation-minded owners in late November. Project funds were secured through a Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant from Washington's Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Photo Credit: Michael Yadrick



GPC member Suzanne Fagan (left) and GPC Executive Director Sandra Staples-Bortner check out creek for invertebrates and fish.



Map: Schuett-Hames addition to Salmon Sanctuary

— Campaign to Save Petersen Farm Makes Goal —

We did it! Great Peninsula Conservancy has succeeded in raising \$415,000 from the local community to help save Silverdale's Petersen Farm. A tremendous response from Great Peninsula Conservancy members and the public at large made this accomplishment possible. More than 250 people, groups, and public agencies made donations to the campaign. Contributions were received from across the Great Peninsula—from Hansville on the north to Belfair and Gig Harbor on the south. Gifts also came from around Puget Sound and even as far as Guam and Germany.

Gerald Petersen, the farm's owner, passed away in September 2009 at the age of 94. Soon after, GPC learned that Mr. Petersen's will instructed his niece, Dorothy Lind, to sell the property, while trying to ensure that it be conserved as a working farm. Dorothy sought out Great Peninsula Conservancy for help in making this happen. GPC had long been interested in conserving this Clear Creek Valley landscape and an agreement was readily reached. Great Peninsula Conservancy would purchase a conservation easement on the farm to give permanent protection to the land. The estate then would sell the land to a private individual who would farm the land under the conservation restrictions. These restrictions permanently extinguish development rights from the land and conserve its natural features—farm fields, creek, and forests.

Great Peninsula Conservancy initially focused on obtaining state and federal farm preservation grants to purchase the conservation easement. About one year ago it became apparent that significant private contributions also would be needed. Planning for a capital campaign was soon underway and, after first obtaining a few key pledges, the campaign was formally launched in mid June of this year with a November 15, 2011 deadline—only five months.

A small but dedicated campaign committee made presentations to local service clubs, garden clubs, and public agencies—many of which responded with generous donations. Private individuals also were asked to help save the farm. Again, many responded with generous contributions. In August 2010 and September 2011, the public was invited to tour the farm. Hundreds turned out for a day of family fun that included hay rides, kids' games, a farmers market, and walking tours that highlighted the legacy of this homestead farm. Along the way, frequent articles in the Kitsap Sun kept the public apprised of the campaign's progress and helped to build momentum.

While the community goal of \$415,000 has been achieved on schedule, we're not done yet. These funds are to be used

SAVE PETERSEN FARM!

Campaign Goal Met!



SILO FILLED!

as match in a grant application to USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program for an additional \$285,000 to achieve the total project budget of \$700,000. Application will be made early in 2012 with a decision by spring or early summer. In the meantime, Great Peninsula Conservancy extends its heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, organizations, agencies, and other partners who helped achieve this accomplishment. It has been inspiring to see such enthusiasm for saving a piece of our farm heritage and passion for building a strong farm future in our community. Thank you!



Thank you to Petersen Farm Fall Fair sponsor, Kitsap Credit Union! Thanks also to Bella Bella Cupcakes, Randy-Kan, Monica's Waterfront Bakery, Morningside Bakery, and St. Antony's for supporting the event through in-kind donations. 140 volunteers helped put on this year's fair! Special thanks to our Levin House actor, Dan Engelhard; musicians Kitsap Konnection, The Hometown Band, and Sylvie Davidson. Thanks to our tour guides and hay wagon drivers: Dorothy Lind, Scott Hall, Brian Stahl, Sandra Staples-Bortner, Alan Johanson and John Hall. Volunteers from Boy Scout Troop #1541 helped park cars, Teen Action Group volunteers staffed the games, and Washington Youth Academy volunteers came out the day before the fair to set up the hay maze, mark vendor booths, and pick apples for the cider press. Thanks to all of our volunteers.

Photo Credit: Kathy Mahan



Our second annual Petersen Farm Fall Fair

brought 950 people to Petersen Farm on a cloudy Sunday, September 18th. This event is held primarily to increase public awareness of the farm, but it also netted more than \$2,000 for our Save Petersen Farm! campaign. Hay rides, hay maze, legacy farm tour, and children's games were some of the main attractions.

Photo Credits (counter clockwise): Don Paulson, Kathy Mahan, Don Paulson & Mary Zabinski.



Photo Credit: Mary Zabinski

Our Petersen Farm Fall Fair partner, **Kitsap Community Food Co-op**, helped create a much larger market this year with 40 local farm, food and craft vendors. Kitsap Community Food Co-op connects local farmers and food producers with local consumers. The co-op recently announced a location for their co-operative grocery store at the new Youth Wellness Campus in East Bremerton. For more information, or to become a member, visit www.foodcoop.org.



Ways of Giving

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.

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!

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.



Elisabeth Bondy (left) and Kathy Mahan were honored as new members of GPC's Legacy Society

In fact, a planned gift may help you give more to conservation than you thought possible! For more information on Great Peninsula Conservancy's

Legacy Society, call Executive Director Sandra Staples-Bortner (360) 373-3500 or (866) 373-3504.

Use your IRA for Charitable Giving

Charitable Giving Incentives Reinstated for 2011

The IRA Charitable Rollover was first enacted on August 17, 2006, as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and has been reinstated for 2011.

Taxpayers age 70½ and older are required to make annual distributions from their IRAs which are then included in the taxpayers' adjusted gross income (AGI) and subject to taxes. The IRA Charitable Rollover permits those taxpayers to make donations directly to charitable organizations from their IRAs without counting them as part of their AGI and, consequently, without paying taxes on them.

A donor's total combined charitable IRA rollover contributions cannot exceed \$100,000 in any one year.

- **Eligible Charities.** Charitable contributions from an IRA must go directly to a public charity that is not a supporting organization. Contributions to donor-advised funds and private foundations, except in narrow circumstances, do not qualify for tax-free IRA rollover contributions.
- **Eligible Retirement Accounts.** Distributions can only be made from traditional Individual Retirement Accounts or Roth

IRAs. Charitable donations from 403(b) plans, 401(k) plans, pension plans, and other retirement plans are ineligible for the tax-free treatment.

- **Directly to the Charity.** Distributions must be made directly from the IRA trustee payable to the public charity.
- **No Gifts in Return.** Donors cannot receive any goods or services in return for charitable IRA rollover contributions in order to qualify for tax-free treatment.
- **Written Receipt.** In order to benefit from the tax-free treatment, donors must obtain written substantiation of each IRA rollover contribution from each recipient charity.

Consult your plan administrator and/or your tax advisor for more information about this provision. Contributions must be made by December 31, 2011.

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.

Stewardship in Action

Environmental Baselines & Management Plans Updated



Photo Credit: Ken Shawcroft

Erik Pedersen locates photo points with GPS on GPC's Andersen Creek property.

Erik Pedersen, GPC Baseline Assistant, and Kirk Hanson, Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG), will have completed updated management plans for all GPC fee owned properties by the end of the year.

Erik joined GPC part-time in March 2010 to assist GPC's Conservation Director in the update of environmental baseline reports for GPC's conservation easement properties. After completing that project early this year, Erik moved on to updating GPC's management plans for fee owned properties. With one site visit to complete and a dozen plans in final edit, Erik is close to wrapping up the project. Erik will also assist Kirk Hanson with maps and topographic information as Kirk crafts forest management plans for about 135 acres of GPC owned forest land. In spring of this year GPC enrolled in a USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program – CAP (Conservation Activity Plan) cost share program. Under this program landowners are able to hire an NRCS certified "Technical Service Provider" to work with them to develop forest management plans. Kirk Hanson, NNRG, is one of several certified TSP foresters in our area. Thank you, Erik, for your dedication and tireless work on GPC's Baseline and Management Plan Update project. We couldn't have done it without you!

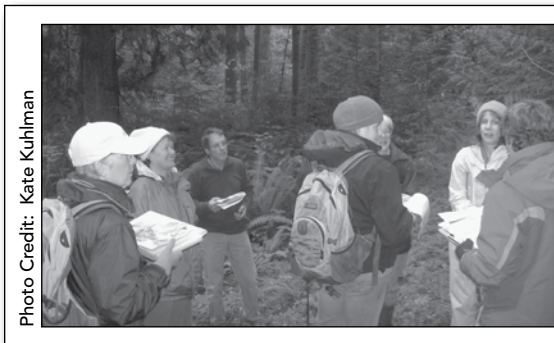


Photo Credit: Kate Kuhlman

Old & New GPC Stewards Trained in October

Old and new stewards honed their skills on the Reed Nature Preserve, a GPC conservation easement property. Sherrie Kilborn (right facing away from camera) leads (from left) Angela De Oliveira, Ann Holder, Dick D'Archangel, Ameer Weber, Harriet Mooney, and Suzanne Fagan on a practice monitoring visit.

Riparian Planting Project Wraps Up at Klingel Wetland – New Fence Built

Work at the Klingel Wetland will be completed this 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 continued this fall to rehabilitate the construction staging area and improve cover on the western shoreline of the wetland. Mason County Conservation District administered the \$43,000 grant. Crews from the Washington Conservation Corps and WDFW prison

crew supervised by Mason County Conservation District's Stephanie Bishop did the site preparation, removing scotch broom and blackberry and planting over 3,000 native plants along the Klingel shoreline.

Now that the planting is done a new fence is being constructed with funds from US Dept of Agriculture to protect the new plantings and limit access to the newly restored salt marsh to foot traffic. Come spring GPC plans on installing interpretive signage, the final phase in an eight year restoration project.



From a distance it looks like a cemetery but it's really plastic sleeves that protect thousands of new native plants on the Klingel Wetland.



Jade Pope of Jade Agritech, LLC installs a new exclusion fence on the Klingel Wetland.

Photo Credit: Kate Kuhlman

Memorial Gifts

(September – November 15, 2011)

In memory of Bernice Ferguson

Carolyn Neal – Petersen Farm

In memory of Thomas Graham

Dr. Louis B. Graham – Clear Creek Const.

In memory of Dr. Albert Hastorf

Bob & Shirley McBride – Petersen Farm

In memory of Dan & Shirley Inveen

Cam & Esther Haslam

In memory of Cathy Landram

Bruce & Lori Landram – Petersen Farm

In memory of Jim Penfield

Charles Carlson – Petersen Farm

In memory of Donna Pepos

Bill & Berrit Price

In memory of Cornelius "Pete" Ross, Jr.

Dona Ross – Clear Creek Const.

In memory of Ivan A. Summers

Phyllis Summers –
Petersen Farm & Clear Creek Const.

In memory of Carol Van Woudenberg

Bruce Van Woudenberg – Clear Creek Const.

Gifts in Honor of

In honor of Virginia Day

Jon & Loanna Day – Clear Creek Const.

In honor of Ellen Newberg

Marilyn Drengrson – Petersen Farm



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!



Great Peninsula Challenge - 2011 Goal: \$55,000



2011 Great Peninsula Challenge

This year, eight stalwart GPC members have pledged leadership gifts to establish a 2011 Great Peninsula Challenge goal of \$55,000. Once again, the membership is stepping up to match their generosity. As of October 31, \$33,264 has been

raised in matching donations. All contributions to the Challenge support GPC's three initiatives: Streams & Estuaries, Forests, and Community Greenspaces. Please help us meet our Challenge goal this year. Thank you!

2012 Spring Dinner

Call for Volunteers

If you enjoyed our inaugural Spring Dinner in May and would like to help plan our 2012 Spring Dinner, please give us a call. GPC's 2012 Spring Dinner Committee will soon begin planning next year's event. This is a fun way to help Great Peninsula Conservancy. Please contact Mary Zabinski at (360) 373-3500 or mary@greatpeninsula.org. Thank you!