

Great Peninsula

Protecting
our
lands
and
waters
for
generations
to
come

CONSERVANCY

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Remembering Elizabeth (Betty) Lay

The Lay Wildrose Preserve

"In a certain season, when the roses are in bloom, people will want to stop."

For any of you who don't already know, Betty Lay made possible the preservation of the forest and shoreline that is now the Lay Wildrose Preserve in Rosedale, on the Gig Harbor Peninsula, permanently protected first by the Peninsula Heritage Land Trust and now by the Great Peninsula Conservancy. Purchased as an investment by her parents in the early 1900s, the original forty acres of pasture and shore line was almost all sold off to pay for Betty's college education. When Betty returned to live in Rosedale, a little more than three acres of tall fir and rose-rimmed shoreline remained. She thought of this land as financial security, something she could count on to raise funds should the need arise. But she didn't want to see it logged and the roses lost forever. So in the early 1990s she worked with the land trust to apply to the Pierce County Conservation Futures program. Willing to consider a bargain sale, she offered to sell the land to the county for about one-third of its market value (not counting the "timber" value, which one forest expert estimated at \$10,000)--a generous offer by any measure. Pierce County agreed, transferring the property to the land trust.

Betty was one of the most kind-hearted, generous, socially and environmentally intelligent, independent, resourceful people I've ever been privileged to know. She was an amazing woman. Until her death in May at age ninety seven, she was mentally sharper than many



Betty Lay

Wild roses on the Lay Wildrose Preserve.
Photo credit: Jim Kenney

of us are in our sixties, living alone, driving her car, managing a broad schedule of charitable donations, doing her own income taxes, serving on the board of her church, playing piano and organ. She traveled alone to Europe last year, as she had done many times, making all the arrangements herself. She loved nature's beauty, animals, and people; she strove to protect the natural environment and to protect and aid the world's needy and downtrodden. I think Betty quietly did more good in this world, in proportion to her resources, than the vast majority of people. She will be sorely missed by her friends and the community.

Mary Kenney



Photo credit: Margo Macdonald

President's Letter

I suspect that most of us Northwesterners, this time of year, are experiencing a similar little surge of extra gratitude for the area where we make our homes. Spring into summer...that time when the countryside and even our cities show their most colorful and verdant beauty. It is also the time of year that the GPC chooses to express its gratitude to all our supporters and volunteers. We are deep into planning our July 14 annual celebration to be held in Rosedale Grange Hall near Gig Harbor. The site is adjacent to the

Lay Wildrose Preserve, and it gives us the opportunity to once again thank the late Elizabeth Lay for one of our earliest donations. It is, however, also a chance to thank all our members, volunteers, sustaining donors, conservation partners, business partners, and conservation project donors who are listed on pages 4 & 5.

We would like to especially thank our 2006 conservation donors:

Salmonberry Creek, Port Orchard- Edward Hicks, a 3 acre conservation easement, and **Ernest and Patricia Maxon**, a 2.4 acre conservation easement, for the protection and restoration of prime salmon spawning habitat.

Black Jack Creek, Port Orchard- Thomas and Grace Griebel, a 9.67 acre donation of salmon stream and wildlife habitat on Black Jack Creek.

Appletree Cove, Kingston- Marge Padelford and family, a 1.5 acre donation of undeveloped waterfront and tidelands on Appletree Cove.

Clear Creek Trail, Silverdale- Clear Creek LLC, a 2.73 acre addition to the Clear Creek trail, with equipment shed and picnic shelter.

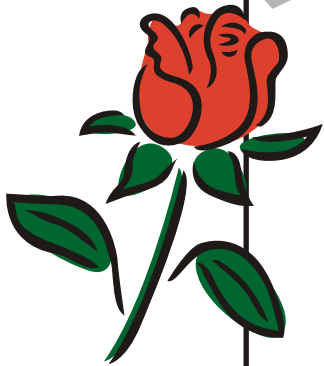
Hood Canal, Seabeck- Bill and Judy Matchett, a 5 acre donation of submerged lands in Hood Canal at the mouth of Hardy Creek with oyster and clam beds.

Additionally, thanks to all of you who contributed to our spring giving campaign. It is, of course, through your generosity that we are sustained and encouraged to pursue our mission. The pressures of growth in our coverage area increases and accelerates. However, the GPC remains committed to helping manage how our communities and neighborhoods grow.

We certainly hope you can join us in Rosedale on July 14. Please RSVP to 360-373-3500 or 866-373-3504 for information and directions.

Bruce Macdonald

Come Join Us!



Great Peninsula Conservancy Annual Celebration on Saturday, July 14

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will be celebrating its sixth year, with the Annual Celebration on Saturday, July 14. It will be held at the Rosedale Community Center in Rosedale. Tours of the Wildrose and Homestead Parks will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a program at 10:30 a.m. to honor our land donors, volunteers and supporters. At 11:30, Ralph Munro, former Secretary of State, will speak, revealing the strength of his support for land trusts, followed at noon by a potluck picnic lunch. Drinks and main dish provided. Bring a salad or desert to share.

We'd love to see you there, so please make time on your calendar!

RSVP 360-373-3500 or 866-373-3504 for directions and information.

Directions also posted on website: www.greatpeninsula.org



What is a Bargain Sale?

One alternative to a fair market value sale is a bargain sale, in which the land is sold at less than its fair market value. A bargain sale combines the income-producing benefit of a sale with the tax-reducing benefit of a donation. It can also avoid the expenses of a sale on the open market. The difference between the land's appraised fair market value and its sale price is considered a charitable donation to the land trust, and can be claimed as an income tax deduction.

In cases where paying the fair market value of the property would not be possible, a bargain sale may bring the price down to one the land trust can afford. Some government agencies also purchase land through bargain sales.

from Conservation Options-A Landowners Guide, a Land Trust Alliance publication

► Cowling Creek Project

Natural Landscape Presentation

Friends of Miller Bay (FOMB) were pleased to have Bobbie Morgan present the Natural Landscapes Project at their May meeting at the Miller Bay Fire Hall. The topic was earth-friendly lawn and garden care, and attendees learned how to avoid pesticides and herbicides and solve their gardening problems naturally.



The five steps to make your piece of the planet a healthier place to live are:

- 1) Build healthy soil
- 2) Plant right for your site
- 3) Practice smart watering
- 4) Consider eliminating pesticides and herbicides
- 5) Practice natural lawn care (mow high, 1 to 2 inches, and leave clippings; use organic or slow release fertilizers; water deeply less frequently; improve lawn with aeration and top dressing with compost)

We all live downstream, and for those of us lucky enough to live near the water, it's especially critical. Bobbie Morgan is looking for other groups that want to learn about the Natural Landscapes Project. Call her at 206-842-4815, or check out the group's website: www.naturallandscapes.org

Fundraising Blues

When the Friends of Miller Bay took on the Cowling Creek Project, I must admit to feelings of fear and dread. After years of PTA fundraising and our kids selling everything from gift wrapping to candy bars for this or that group, I thought that more fundraising would be the last thing I cared to be involved with.

After a few years of struggling with events to raise money for acquisition of the land, however, an interesting thing began to happen. Fundraising events started to spontaneously come to us! People familiar with our quest began to approach us with their own ideas to raise money. This past spring is a good example of that.

Don Downing, a long-time friend of Virginia Cowling's and a talented musician, offered to do a benefit concert on St. Patrick's Day with his band, Blackthorn Stick. FOMB added an Irish dinner, and we ended up with a rollicking night of music and some good food.

A few weeks later we were invited into the waterfront home of Thorn and Elaine Percival, who have restored an antique Steinway grand piano. Combine that with Indianola pianist Lexia Christante, who had offered last summer (when buying trees at our plant sale) to play a benefit concert for us, and voila! an enchanting evening of classical music and more money for Cowling Creek.

In June, FOMB hosted a marimba concert through the work of Kathleen Ramsey. She had heard the group perform and loved them so much that she coordinated the event for us at the Indianola Clubhouse.

This has been our experience for the past four years! Wonderful people coming forward and offering assistance because they believe in preserving open space. Our lives have been so enriched by their help, and I have a whole new outlook on fundraising. More than \$232,000 has been raised for Cowling Creek, with only \$38,000 left to go. I can't wait to see what interesting and wonderful event comes our way next!
Nancy D'Archangel

Pottery sales to benefit Cowling Creek. Irma O'Brien, of Dogfish Pottery, will donate 10 percent of her sales this summer to the Cowling Creek Project. Her work can be found at the Verstad Gallery in downtown Poulsbo.

► Clear Creek Task Force

Family Day at the Clear Creek Trail: A Celebration for All Generations

About seventy visitors explored Clear Creek Trail on National Trails Day, June 2. The Family Day activities, which drew the visitors to the trail, were designed for all generations to enjoy together. The activities included a short loop walk (suitable for strollers) with an "I-Spy" scavenger hunt, a "fishing pond" for preschoolers, arts and crafts, games, and a historical exhibition with opportunities for visitors to share their memories of Silverdale and the Clear Creek Valley. The youth group from St. Anthony's (Silverdale) put up a lemonade stand along the loop walk to add to the festivities and help raise money for the trail. The Kitsap Audubon Society was also on hand to help visitors learn about the birds that live along the trail.

"It was delightful just to see the kids having fun," said Mary Zabinski, a Trails Day volunteer. "I saw quite a few families with three generations on the trail and heard many expressions of support and appreciation for this beautiful trail through the heart of Silverdale."

Tex Lewis, co-chair of the Clear Creek Task Force, which builds and maintains the trail, led a guided tour for families.

He began by having all the kids and grown-ups link hands and make a circle. Then he had us imagine the cedar trees as big as our circle that used to grow there and explained some of the ways the Native Americans used parts of the tree. Lewis plans to continue leading trail walks for families on the Clear Creek Trail.

An "I-Spy" trail guide was created for the event. In the pocket-sized guide, photographs and simple text introduce more than 20 natural



Nancy D'Archangel, Betsy Cooper and Sharon Nichols sell plants to benefit Cowling Creek Project on Earthday.
Photo credit: Dick D'Archangel.

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objects that can be found and observed along a half-mile loop walk. The guide remains available for families to use as they explore the trail around the estuary. It can be picked up at the Interpretive Center (in the red barn) at the mouth of Clear Creek, on Levin and Bucklin Hill Roads in Silverdale. The Interpretive Center is open each first and third Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm.

It took quite a team of volunteers to pull off the event. Our trail guide was created with the help of Judith Friedberg-Nerf and Phil Best of GPC, along with Clear Creek Task Force volunteers Claudia Hunt, Amy Lawrence, Jennifer Tammen, and Mary Zabinski. Many other volunteers manned our discovery stations, guided children in their activities, and helped prepare for the event. Special thanks goes to the Port of Silverdale for donating the printing of the “I-Spy” trail guides. Thanks also to all our volunteers for a job well done.

To become a Clear Creek Task Force volunteer, contact Mary Best Zabinski at 360-692-0929. Find out more about events at the Clear Creek Trail at www.clearcreektrail.org.

Discovery Play Dates at Clear Creek

Volunteers Amy Lawrence and Mary Zabinski will lead preschool and grade school children (and their parents) on wetland, woodland, and beach explorations at the Clear Creek Trail on Wednesdays, July 18, August 1, and August 15 at 10 am.

We will begin with activities and stories in the red barn (Saq'ad Interpretive Center) at the mouth of Clear Creek. Meet at the barn at 10 am on Wednesday July 18, August 1, or August 15. Information at www.clearcreektrail.org.

Save These Dates: Upcoming Clear Creek Trail Events

- **Auction in August-** kicking off at our Whaling Days booth on July 28 and continuing with online bidding through August 25, this is

our second annual online auction. Auction items include one of a kind services, gourmet dinners, and charming art pieces. Join the fun! Bid and monitor your prize at www.clearcreektrail.org. To donate items, e-mail clearcreektrail@yahoo.com. All proceeds build new trail and maintain the Clear Creek Trail system.

- **Paul Brittain Memorial-** local businessman Paul Brittain envisioned and organized the community to build the Clear Creek Trail system. Celebrate Paul's life with us on August 26.
- **Fifth Annual Celebrate Clear Creek-** purchase and fancy up a salmon cutout. Enter your clever, artistic, or whimsical salmon into our auction for prizes. The delightful revelry continues on Saturday, October 6, with grilled salmon, the salmon art auction, Native American dancing, and more. All proceeds support the Clear Creek Trail.

All events will be held at the Clear Creek Saq'ad Interpretive Center, Bucklin Hill and Levin Roads. For complete details, log on to www.clearcreektrail.org or email us at clearcreektrail@yahoo.com.



Fishing fun at Clear Creek Trail Family Day.
Photo credit: Phil Best

► Hansville Greenway

An Outdoor Classroom

In 1997, Kitsap Land Trust, now the Great Peninsula Conservancy, provided funding to the North Kitsap School District to implement an outdoor education program for fifth grade students, with a curriculum that included a field trip to the Hansville Greenway. Annually, several hundred fifth graders from throughout the North Kitsap School District converge on the greenway to view nature at its finest.

“Twelve classes have visited this spring,” Hansville Greenway Association president and GPC volunteer steward Ken Shawcroft said. “They rotate through three different habitat sites- meadows, pond, and the forest. We have a specialist at each site who has a large amount of experience in their particular habitat teaching the students. Ralph Rogers, of the Environmental Protection Agency, an occasional GPC volunteer tour leader, serves as an expert several times each spring for the program.”

Shawcroft is glad students have the opportunity to participate in the unique field trips. “This lets them know how cool the outdoors and nature are,” he said. “It's a great experience for them. I tell the students that since the land is preserved it means they can come out here 50 years from now with their grandchildren and this place won't be that much different. In 50 years, they will be able to walk the same trails.” Since its inception, over 3,000 students have participated in this half-day program at the Hansville Greenway.



And fish printing too! Photo credit: Phil Best

Memorial Gifts in 2006

In memory of George Coombs

Wanda & Ralph Butler

In memory of Cory Topness

Richard & Carolyn Topness

In memory of Fred Schuetts

Edward & Dorris Hames

Mike McLeod

In memory of Wilma Levenseller

Wanda & Ralph Butler

In memory of Bob York

Chuck McGuire



Great Peninsula Conservancy

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GPC Mission Statement

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

Make a Difference with Workplace Giving!

The Great Peninsula Conservancy thanks all the generous donors who have chosen to give through the Combined Federal Campaign and Washington State Combined Fund Drive.

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.

Is it time to renew your membership?

Is it time to renew your membership? Check the expiration date on your mailing label and mail your membership renewal today. Less "junk mail" in your mail box and you help GPC lower our printing and mailing costs, too. **Memberships make it happen!**

The Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC)

Operates throughout Kitsap and Mason counties (except for Bainbridge Island) and in west Pierce County.

Great Peninsula Conservancy has helped to protect more than 1900 acres on the Great Peninsula through conservation easement, acquisition and assists.

Contributors 2007 747

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Card No.: _____ Expires: _____

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All donations are tax deductible to the extent that the law permits!

Honor an anniversary, birthday or wedding.



By introducing someone to the Great Peninsula Conservancy, you're helping us to continue to preserve our lands and water for generations to come.

Great Peninsula Conservancy
3721 Kitsap Way, Suite 5
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2007 Calendar of Events

Visit our website www.greatpeninsula.org
for the most current event information.

July 7 - Mt. Townsend Hike Millard
Martin

**July 14 -GPC Annual
Celebration Rosedale
Community Center**

July 15 Dungeness Spit Hike- Bob
Hungerford

**July 21 - Olympic Discovery Trail Bike
Ride**

July 28 Tunnel Creek Hike- Alan Searle

**GPC-Kingston PUD Trial Maintenance
Day 2007, Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon:**

Meet at the dark green pump house
building near condominiums.

July 28 - Contact Mary Gleysteen, 360-
297-3894 for details.

July 28 29 Indianola Days

Fun events for the whole family, salmon
bake, GPC information display.

August 12 Olympic Music Festival- Bob
Hungerford

**August 18 Belfair-Tahuya-Dewato Loop
Bike Ride-** Lynn Whipple

**August 25 Deer Park Key Exchange
Hike-** Alan Searle

Sept 8 Royal Basin Hike- Alan Searle

Sept 9 Forest Festival Pt. Gamble
Family fun with focus on forestry, fish,
wildlife, water quality, and recreation.
Volunteers needed!

Sept 15 Clear Creek Walk- Tex Lewis
Sept 16 Skok River Valley Bike Ride-
Lynn Whipple
Sept 29 Elwah River Valley Hike- Bob
Hungerford

**October 3 6 Rally 2007: National
Land Trust Conference, Denver, CO**

October 6-7 - Oyster Fest, Shelton
World famous oyster shucking contest,
seafood delicacies, entertainment,
exhibits and GPC booth. Mason County
Fairgrounds, Shelton *Volunteers needed!*

**October 12-14 Home & Remodel
Expo, Kitsap County Fairgrounds:**
Come meet the building community and
share information on our conservation
projects and the service GPC provides
landowners. *Volunteers needed!*

Oct 13 Banner Forest Mt Bike- Bob
Hungerford

Oct 27 Buck Lake Hike- Millard
Martin

Nov 4 Coulter Creek Clock Walk-
Alan Searle

**December 7 Holiday Open House,
Friday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.:** Come
enjoy holiday refreshments with the
board, staff and the members and friends
of GPC.

Board of Directors

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President
Vaughn, 2008

Gary A. Cunningham
Treasurer
Seabeck, 2009

Phil Best, Silverdale, 2008
Dave Gitch, Poulsbo, 2007
John Lantz, Gig Harbor, 2009
John H. Nelson, Kingston, 2007
Celia Parrott, Belfair, 2007

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Conservation Committee
Development Committee

Staff

Kate Kuhlman
Director of Operations

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Conservancy**
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