

Deception Pass State Park

CURRENT

March 2010

*Keeping the friends and neighbors of
Deception Pass State Park
in touch*

www.deceptionpassfoundation.org

75th Bridge Anniversary

July 31, 2010, a Saturday.

Plans continue to grow for this upcoming event. Many local groups, businesses, agencies, dignitaries, and others are joining together to make this a special day.

The East Cranberry Lake area will be the focus of our celebration, with a short event planned at the bridge at high noon, 75 years to the minute from when the ribbon was first cut to open the bridge to traffic.

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island will be performing a precision fly-over of the bridge at noon. We hope to have permission to close the bridge at that time, for 75 seconds.

We hope it is a day that brings our communities together, thankful for the blessings we have.

Quick Updates

Rosario: The gates and restroom are now open. Rosario Beach is open for the season. This fall, the CCC restroom will be transformed into a field classroom, and the parking area will be improved in anticipation of the new interpretive center yet to be funded.

Cornet Bay: the sewer connection between the marine pump out station on the dock and the pump on land is getting closer.

Park Interpreter Slated to be Cut

The Governor's budget in December proposed to eliminate all state park interpreters who do not work at interpretive centers with a desk to greet visitors. Interpreters who work outside in the real park would be cut.

One park in the state has five interpreters, each helping keep an interpretive center staffed. All five are safe at the present time.

Deception Pass, with two million visitors, has one interpreter, facing the chopping block.

The legislators have continued this proposal. Their budgets are not finalized, but we see that the direction they are leaning is similar.

Our interpreter, Adam Lorio, has thus being threatened with a pink slip. Adam Lorio, who you won't find sitting behind a desk in an interpretive center, is in danger.

To his credit, and revealing the strength and depth of his character, Adam continues to make interpretive plans for the spring, for the summer, and for the years to come. He is scheduling school groups at Rosario, expanding connections with the schools, organizing summer Beach Watcher volunteers, coordinating presentations with other local environmentally supportive groups, lining up summer Arts in the Parks events, and leading scientific studies with time-



lines into the next decade. He is working as if he will be here long into the future.

But we are struggling to find away to make that future beyond next month a reality.

Without Adam, there will be no school programs, there will be no Beach Watcher volunteer organization, no Arts in the Parks, no studies, little or no interpretive programs at all at Deception Pass – the busiest park in the state. At Deception Pass, the iconic Washington State Park.

What are our options? We are pursuing every conceivable option that we can. I have not – will not – give up hope for Adam, who is providing one of the most essential services we can offer our visitors.

What can you do?

See the last article, written by Deception Pass Park Foundation president Liz Merriman, to see what you might be able to do. Or suggest other options, find better solutions. We are in this together.

Bowman Bay: the campground side opens April 1, with sani-cans instead of flush toilets due to the failed sewer system.

Work continues to find ways to handle the sewer in this area.

Main park sewer: Permitting slow-downs have continued to plague the necessary solutions for the main sewer line for the park.

Without these fixes, the park will be threatened with summer-time closure. We don't want to go there, obviously.

Kiket Island: The Swinomish Tribe and Washington State Parks are getting close to an agreement that will satisfy the tribal needs and allow public access to the island.

The purchase of the island depends upon a satisfactory agreement for all parties. Look for break-out news in the April edition of the *Current*.

West Beach Shelter

The final touches on the shelter are being done as we find time.

The rockwork on the outside is nearly complete; some trim and ceiling work is nearly finished on the inside.

When these tasks are done, we hope to have the occupancy permit signed off and then open the shelter for reservations through our state-wide reservation system.

Celebrate Washington State Park's Centennial 2013

Retreat Center Upgrades

Our park maintenance staff, with some assistance from our rangers and region maintenance staff, have made stunning improvements to one of the restrooms at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center.



Aging showers, with dim lights and dingy wooden walls, have been replaced with energy efficient lighting and sharp-looking tiled showers. The entire water system was upgraded as well to be more efficient and up to modern codes.

Our talented staff continue to amaze me with their skills and abilities. Our retreat center users will find modern facilities thanks to the hard work of park staff.

Life Rings At All Park Docks

You never know.

With the plethora of floats and docks around Deception Pass, you never know when someone may accidentally fall into the water. With 50 degree water all around, the survival time in the water is measured in a handful of minutes. Getting back onto the dock could be a challenge.

To improve the safety of our park visitors, and staff, we have installed life rings throughout the park's floats and docks. Provided by a special marine safety grant, these floats are located within 200 feet of any point on any float or dock.

Hopefully, they will never be used.

But thankfully, they are there if needed.

When the Park Began

Happy 88th birthday this month, Deception Pass State Park!

"Deception Pass Park is now the property of the state of Washington in fee simple, to have and use as a natural park and to be administered by the state parks committee of the state government for all time for the people of the state and country."

So wrote the Anacortes American newspaper in 1922.

President Harding signed the measure on March 25, 1922, after passage by the 67th Congress a week earlier. Congressman Lindley H. Hadley notified Doug Allmond of the park committee of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce the same day, saying that **"the measure had been signed, was a law and the park belonged to the people."**

That signature transferred the nearly 2000 acres of the Deception Pass military reservation into the ownership of the people of Washington state, to be managed by what was then called the Washington State Parks Committee. The committee's only funds to operate the parks came from a portion of any traffic citations issued by officers around the state. In 1922, that amounted to about ten thousand dollars, the total operating funds for the state-wide park system of about five thousand acres, with a little over a dozen parks and park holdings.

Land First Set Aside to be Fort

The initial military reservation was the product of military planning sixty years earlier. It was during the Civil War that army engineer officers examined Puget Sound and selected various points for fortifications and reservations for military purposes. In 1866 Secretary of War Edwin Stanton applied to the president for an order setting aside some 25 tracts of land, land on which Forts Lawton, Casey, Flagler, and Worden and

Upcoming Events

2010 Beach Watcher Lecture Series

March 12
Friday, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Anacortes Library
1220 10th Street

*What can Puget Sound
Aggregating Anemones teach us
about the bleaching of tropical coral
reefs?*

Coming presentations include:
April 9: Tidal power testing in
Puget Sound.

Good to the Last Drop

Sustainable Living Seminar
about saving water, featuring Cliff
and Betty Crandell.

March 9
Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30
Oak Harbor City Hall
Call 279-4762 for more information

Where in the Park?



Do you know where this ten-
foot high waterfall can be found in
Deception Pass State Park?
Not many people do.

other forts are now built. Land on both sides of Deception Pass and the islands in the pass were reserved at this time as well for military purposes.

On September 22, 1866, President Andrew Johnson endorsed the application of the secretary of war with the order creating the reservations. The order was written in long hand, since typewriters were not invented until 1867!

Deception Pass was held by the military, but never used as a fort as planned.

Swords to Plowshares

The “...*desire to attract visitors led to the creation of Deception Pass State Park on northern Whidbey in 1922. The military reserve, which contained many of the last stands of virgin timber on the island, had never been used by the army.*” [Deception

Pass was used as a fort during World War II, but that’s a another story.] “*The whole tract was regarded as poor farm land, not worth much for grazing, and following World War I the Island County Farm Bureau led a campaign to have the area made into a park. The arguments of the park’s supporters... emphasized that a state park would attract visitors who would increase*

local business revenues and who might stay to become

permanent residents. Almost as an afterthought, it was added that county residents might enjoy the park, too.” [Quoted from Land Use, Environment, and Social Change: The Shaping of Island by Richard White, pg 147]

On July 20 of 1922, the communities of Anacortes, Oak Harbor, and surrounding areas gathered on both sides of the pass to hold dedication ceremonies. The Whidbey side saw its annual “Inter-Island picnic” held at Cornet Bay to celebrate the new park. Fidalgo Island and Anacortes dignitaries joined federal and state representatives on the Rosario side to hold a similar celebration with speeches, band music, and a flag raising.

On March 25, 2010, Deception Pass State Park will celebrate its 88th birthday. The park is now twice as big as when it started. The “virgin” timber is still protected as old growth forest lands. **And the park still belongs to the people.**

[A Hartt-y thank you to Evelyn Adams for sharing the background for this story from the Anacortes American, and setting straight the actual birthdate of the park.



Rosario Beach community picnic, early 1900s.

Just a Thought

Republican, Democrat, employed, unemployed, rich man, poor woman, elder, kid, healthy, frail, blue eyes, brown eyes, socialist, fascist, spirit filled, filled with alcohol, full of self, full of love, athletic, couch potato, black, white, purple, human, animal, plant, mineral, tea-party, coffee party, green-tea party – we’re all in this together.

We are all community, we are all on this little blue marble of a planet as one community of fellow travelers, here and now.

Our diversity of opinions should not separate us, or draw battle lines, but should bring us closer together, as we seek to understand our fellow world travelers, our fellow sharers of oxygen, our fellow companions. Sometimes we get so caught up in being right that we forget to be compassionate and accepting. Which is more important?

I share this after a discussion with a park visitor who complained that we only keep our registration booth open for one hour during the winter, then complained about how he was asked to pay \$5 for car tabs to keep our State Parks open. I had much that I wanted to say in reply, but for once just listened. And in listening, I heard him offer to help with his time and energy instead, because he doesn’t have a lot of money.

“We may be brothers after all. We shall see.”

Current Logo Credits

Barb Lyter of Lyter Photography donated the design for the title logo of the "Current".

On the web at

www.lyterphotography.com

This monthly update is sent to folks who have expressed an interest in keeping in touch with what is happening or in the planning stages at Deception Pass State Park. If you are not interested in receiving these monthly updates, please reply to this message and let me know, or send an email to jack.hartt@parks.wa.gov to be removed from the list. We have no intention of sending emails that you do not wish to receive.

If you wish to communicate at anytime with me or other park staff, please email, call, or visit us. This park is your park.

Jack Hartt

Park Manager
Deception Pass State Park
41020 State Route 20
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360-675-3767
jack.hartt@parks.wa.gov



A Call to Arms

Or pens and paper, or emails, or phone calls, or...

-- By Liz Merriman, Deception Pass Park Foundation President

As you have heard, the Governor's supplemental budget calls for cutting all State Parks' Interpretive Staff not directly associated with an Interpretive Center. This leaves the Northwest Region – including the busiest State Park in the state - with no interpreters at all.

Park Manager Jack Hartt has been sharing with you a recital of services Adam Lorio provides to the education and protection of the Park's diverse and unique resources. In a recent exercise to list the contributions, it was immediately obvious that his loss does not bode well for the innumerable school groups, communities, and general public that use this park for education, recreation, and contemplation.

The program offerings that Adam manages reach over 16,600 visitors – face-to-face. Adam develops partnerships with local schools and park-user groups, K-12 educational programs, Naturalist Programs, and interpretive opportunities for visitors like evening programs, bridge walks, and the Junior Ranger program.

With Adam's position gone, the only connection of the visitor to the park will be the chance interaction with the Park Rangers who are on duty at that time and, unfortunately, stretched thin with the responsibilities of managing the park.

What can you do to help? **If you believe, as we do, that this position is too valuable to lose, please contact me at deceptionpassfoundation@gmail.com**

We need to be successful. It's imperative.

Another Call to Arms

And this time they're attached – to you!

-- By Liz Merriman, Deception Pass Park Foundation President

The Foundation is gearing up for what is promising to be a busy year in fundraising for Deception Pass State Park and we need YOU to help shape how things get done.

Lend a hand to the Deception Pass Park Foundation. What can you do?

Some examples are to have members at the Chamber of Commerce trailer at the south end of the bridge, at the CCC Interpretive Center, at the Rosario Tide Pools, or maybe at one of the Park's entry booths. Apply to join the board to lend your voice and opinions about how to support the park.

We need members to step up and become active. Share how YOU would like to participate. Please contact the Foundation at deceptionpassfoundation@gmail.com and we'll get started putting you to work!

Deception Pass Park Foundation: Join Us in Shaping the Future

OUR MISSION:

... to support the development of educational programs and resource protection at Deception Pass State Park.

We achieve our mission by:

Providing financial support for educational and environmental programs in the park,

Supporting community partnerships which enhance the Foundation's mission, and

Fundraising for park projects

The **Deception Pass Park Foundation** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Contributions to the Foundation are dedicated solely to educational programs and resource protection projects at Deception Pass State Park.

We provide a way to give back and ensure that 100% of your donations go to enhance the future of the park.

Contact us at:

Deception Pass Park Foundation
41020 State Route 20
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360-675-3767 ext. 26

For on-line giving by PayPal or credit card, go to:
<http://www.deceptionpassfoundation.org/membership.html>

Membership Application

Deception Pass Park Foundation

Name _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Membership Level:

Student/Seniors: \$10

Individual \$20

Family \$35

Small Business \$100

Sustaining \$100

Sponsor \$250

Patron \$500

Steward \$1000

Benefactor \$2000

Other donation: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Deception Pass Park Foundation. Send completed application to address at left.

Would you like to be recognized as a donor?

Yes No