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# Welcome to the Current!

Well, the cooler weather has certainly arrived, just in time for the holiday season! As one holiday has passed, and another is quickly approaching, we hope you are enjoying time with your family and friends. In this issue we remember the Great Story Teller as he moves on in his career, look back on some Deception Pass history, and look forward to our annual Bowman Bay Holiday!

From all of us here at the Deception Pass Park Foundation, Happy Holidays!

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An Eye on the Pass....  
The HISTORY OF RESERVATION BAY  
aka Bowman Bay

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*Excerpt from [Two Hands and a Shovel](#), Jack Hartt and Sam Woptipka, editors*

*With Bowman Bay Holiday right around the corner, we decided to take a look at the early days of this area of the park and the structures we will be using during the event:*

*A bay with two names. As a military reservation set aside as a defense base, the headland to the west was called Reservation Head, and the bay was called Reservation Bay. Amos Bowman established a post office on the north side of Fidalgo Island in 1877, and named it "Anacortes," a play on the maiden name of his wife, Annie Curtis (click the picture (photo from City of Anacortes website) to learn more!).*

*The Bowman family had many interests around Fidalgo Island, including this area. Eventually, the bay and the hill above were both named Bowman in honor of the family. To the CCC, however, it was still called Reservation Bay, so all of the photographs refer to that name...*

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*They (the CCC) focused their efforts on the north end of the bay, building two shelters and a bathhouse with a restroom. They also built a caretaker's cabin and garage, and a smaller shelter a little farther to the south.*

*-Excerpt from Two Hands and a Shovel, Jack Hartt and Sam Woptipka, editors*

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Read on as we say farewell to a beloved Park Ranger!

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*Manager's Message:  
Where has the Great Story Teller gone?  
by Jason Armstrong*

I am sitting at my desk this day, one day before the Great Story Teller is gone. I think of how blessed I have been to have somebody of his quality tell me about all the great things of Deception Pass. He would tell me stories of Haida

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Bear, the Samish Story Pole, the raid on the Rosario Tide Pools, the prison of Deception Pass, the pirates of Deception Pass, the great Glacier of Deception Pass, fire-cracked rocks, the singing Loon, and many other interesting stories. I was so inspired by this person's story telling that I decided to have him tell his stories to his peers and visitors to the park. One story that was so impactful to everybody was a story titled, "What is Your Signature." The Great Story Teller provided us with a very specific story about all our great buildings, providing a pictorial representation of each building, and the mark this builder left on the park. These stories have been in the park since 1933 and still live on. Now that each of us visit these building we look at them differently and try to find the notable signature.

The next opportunity I had to hear the Great Story Teller was at a gathering of people far and wide. I watched these people meander one by one and two by two into the great meeting place at Deception Pass. The Great Story Teller sat still, quiet, and motionless as children and adults gathered around. The fire was stoked as everybody waited in angst for the stories to begin. The Great Story Teller created humor, silence, and inspiration for over an hour, each person

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wondering where the story would lead and what the message was going to be.

The Great Story Teller is more than this. He gives back so much to the community. This person is a friend, a father, a grandfather, an employee, a leader, and magnificent dancer. He serves the Lighthouse Community and serves under-privileged and lost souls through his ministries. He has been a very courageous mentor who sees the quality in all. He has a sense of energy and enthusiasm that is unparalleled by many.

His absence will be felt by many, for he has left his Signature on this park. I will certainly miss Mr. Rick Blank as he moves onto a new story in his life. I call him friend and the Great Story Teller. We will add a new title to his repertoire as the Master Gardener of Peace Arch State Park. He leaves one iconic park to another iconic park, where he will maintain a pristinely manicured garden, create new stories, and imprint on new people.

Thank You, the Original Ranger Rick Blank.

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## *Bowman Bay Holiday – You're invited!!*

As you may know, Bowman Bay Holiday at Deception Pass State Park is one of Deception Pass Park Foundation's big events.

You are invited to enjoy hot chocolate, delicious baked goods, see Park cabins lit up, take pictures with Santa and write holiday letters to service men and women. There will be crafts for the kids and more!

This family-friendly event supports and promotes the Deception Pass Park Foundation's mission of resource protection through education.

NOT ABLE TO ATTEND? You can still help the Foundation with our mission. Make a donation by going to the donation page on our [website](#). You can also find out more about the projects we completed in 2018 and current projects and programs like the [Beach Naturalist](#), [Junior Ranger](#), Arts in the Park, [Amphitheater](#), [West Beach Sand Dunes Interpretive signs](#) and more.

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Thank you so much for your support and.....

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

Keep reading to learn about more great events!

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## Upcoming Events!

Start of the new year right, join us on the  
First Day Hike!  
Click the picture for more info.

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Then, don't miss these great upcoming  
lectures!  
Click the picture to learn more.

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Keep reading about how you can help DPPF!

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## Holiday Volunteer Opportunities!

Have you ever considered volunteering at Deception Pass State Park? There are a variety of ways that you can be involved, here are some Holiday Events

\*[Bowman Bay Holiday](#): Dec 15th, 4-8 PM. Help with family fun in December- crafts, music, treats, lights! We will need help for decorating and set-up during the week of the 15th, and cleanup after. We especially need some help with parking detail, and some fire elves to keep the fires stoked. (light wood splitting needed)

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\*[First Day Hike](#): Jan 1st, 10 AM. Free day at the park. Come join the 2 mile hike beginning at Bowman Bay or help serve refreshments.

Looking ahead:

\*State of the Park night: March 16, come hear our park manager address plans for the next year, meet our 2019 Americorp, give your input, or help on the committee.

\*Interpretive Activities in Park: Do you have an area of expertise to share? Walks, Docents, Beach Naturalist, Interpretive training/activities increasing in the spring

24 hours of volunteering qualifies you for a free Discover Pass

Stay Tuned! New docent/ interpretive opportunities coming soon!

Contact us for more information:

[Deceptionpassfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:Deceptionpassfoundation@gmail.com)

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## DPPF WISH LIST

Want to help older household items and equipment be re-used and have a new life?

DPPF can help!

[Contact us](#) if you have any times you think may be useful that you can give as in In-Kind donation.

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