

Deception Pass State Park

CURRENT

January 2012

*A monthly newsletter from the desk of the park manager,
to our friends and neighbors who care about this park*

Coming Events:

Deception Pass Challenge

June 16, Saturday, 8 a.m.
Swim, mountain bike, trail run
Can you get to the top?

Community Events

Climate Change: Implications for the Pacific Northwest

How does our climate today compare with the past? What do we think the climate will be in the future? Please join us 7 pm., Friday, January 13th at the Anacortes Library to hear Dr. Nick Bond, Washington State Climatologist and Principal Research Scientist (JISA), University of Washington, talk about these issues and what each of us can do to have an impact. The lecture is free and open to the public.

This lecture is first in a series of presentations this winter sponsored by the Skagit Co. WSU Beach Watchers, promoting education and stewardship of our local marine resources. For questions regarding this lecture and future presentations, please contact WSU Beach Watcher Coordinator, Lynne Jordan (360) 428-4270 x223 or ljordan@co.skagit.wa.us.

Sound Waters

Saturday, February 4, at Coupeville High School. Sign up for up to three classes at this annual 'one day university' about our islands and planet. Reserve your place soon; it fills up.

A New "New Year's Day" Tradition



Ranger Benjamin Cooksey leads some of the forty hikers who joined him to explore the Lighthouse Trail on New Year's Day

And so a new tradition begins. The first "First Day Hike" at Deception Pass brought 40 people from around the northwest to enjoy a couple hours trekking out to Lighthouse Point and back on the first day of the new year.

Ranger Benjamin Cooksey greeted the hikers at Bowman Bay. Cars kept rolling into the parking lot right up to the 11 a.m. start time. After a brief encouragement by Deception Pass Park Foundation board member Barry Wenaas, the group hiked south along Bowman Bay, over the headland, down to Lottie Bay, and out onto Reservation Head.

For a winter day, the weather was benign and pleasant, comfortable for a morning hike. Ranger Cooksey gathered the hikers together at interesting highlights of the trail to share history about the area or to point out special creatures or environments.

The hikers came from as far away as Ferndale, Sedro-Woolley, Langley, Snohomish and Seattle to stretch their legs and see the park with new eyes. Most had never hiked this trail before, but vowed to come back and explore some more.

It looks like a new tradition has begun at the park!

[Benjamin's position will be cut effective February 1.]

Skagit Beach Watchers Winter Lecture Series

The Skagit Co. WSU Beach Watchers are pleased to announce the sixth year of our popular Winter Lecture Series. This series of lectures offers presentations on various topics related to the Puget Sound and our local marine environment.

All the lectures are presented at the Anacortes Public Library from 7-9pm, are free, and open to the public.

January 13, Weather of the Pacific Northwest [see above, and in the main body below]

February 17, Orca Whales and Other Marine Mammals of the Salish Sea

March 9, Decline of Large Fish Species

April 13, Tectonic Processes of the Salish Sea

For more information or questions, please contact Matt Kerschbaum at cherrytree2@comcast.net

Current Winter Projects:

- Re-roofing Cornet Bay Retreat Center dining hall: **Done**
- Re-roofing Cornet Bay Retreat Center recreation hall roof, rebuilding porch, and improving interior flooring and fixtures: **In-process**
- Replacing wasteful lighting fixtures throughout the Cornet Bay Retreat Center: **Nearly done**
- Painting restroom interiors: **Most are done**
- Re-roofing CCC residence

Off-Season Closures:

- Quarry Pond Campground open year round
- Cranberry Campground, open next spring. Due to forest health issues, the Forest Loop closed November 1 and reopens March 1.
- Bowman Bay Campground and shelter areas are closed until April 1 to conserve resources
- North Beach closed until March 1.
- Rosario will stay open all year, unless there are staffing cuts this winter.

2011 Top Ten Stories

Here we go -- our annual list of what stood out in 2011 at Deception Pass. There were some big steps forward this past year.

10. Bowman re-opened: after a year and a half of being closed due to the failure of the sewer field, a new sewer field was built on the hillside at Bowman, and the area reopened in the summer for campers and daytime visitors. Rip rap was replaced along the south shoreline to protect the upland day use area as well.

9. Permanent closure of some camping areas: The three group camps at the park were closed permanently when hazardous trees were evaluated as presenting too great a risk to allow camping in their shadows. Root pathogens and other diseases, along with the old age of the old growth trees, created unpredictable conditions that may endanger future campers, so these areas were closed. At the same time, the Forest Loop campground is now closed during the off-season to reduce the concerns of large old-growth trees during winter storm events.

A temporary group camp is set up on the east side of Cranberry Lake until a more suitable location can be found and developed.

8. Quarry Pond Campground renovation: the former Sunrise Resort was transformed from a low-quality, haphazard campground to a refined and elegant camping area, suitable year round for our visitors. Park and region staff completed the renovations in a few months time, with dramatic results.

7. Rosario leaps forward: the unused CCC bathhouse at Rosario was transformed into a field classroom for use by classes that visit the tidepools. Using this historical building gives it new life, and gives new facilities for thousands of school-age children to learn even more about our environment.

At the same time, the parking was improved to protect the water well head in the area, to better treat stormwater drainage before it reaches the Salish Sea, and to make parking clear and stress free.

6. Danny Rambo, Kukutali Preserve caretaker: The Swinomish Tribe and Washington State Parks advertised for a caretaker to assist in protecting the newly acquired Kiket Island area, and in giving scheduled tours at the Preserve. Danny Rambo answered that call, and has done an effective job of being a friendly voice on the island to lead the tours, educate visitors about appropriate and inappropriate use, and maintain the facilities.

5. Sam Wotipka, Americorps Interpretive Intern: Bolstered by the success of the interpretive internship for the summer and the support of numerous donors, the Deception Pass Park Foundation applied for a grant for an Americorps intern to assist at the park for 2012. The grant was approved, with matching financial support from the Foundation, and Sam Wotipka was hired on October 1. He became an instant hit as well, quickly getting a handle on the interpretive needs of the park and demonstrating a variety of skills in taking the program to the next level. His "Bridge" newsletter carries on the tradition begun by former interpreter Adam Lorio. More developments will be seen as the new year grows.

DECEPTION PASS PARK FOUNDATION

The Deception Pass Park Foundation, formed in 2005, is a membership-based non-profit organization dedicated to the funding of environmental education and protection in Deception Pass State Park.

Current efforts include seeking to support funding for a park interpreter next year, rebuilding the park amphitheater, furnishing the Rosario field classroom, sponsoring the Beach Naturalist program, and helping fund the eventual construction of a Rosario Interpretive Center.

Past successes include funding the protection of the Goose Rock meadows and the tidepool area, funding safety fencing at Bowman Bay, roofing of CCC shelters, sponsoring the bridge's 75th anniversary celebration, and hiring this year's interpretive intern, Sam Wotipka.

If you are interested in furthering the goals of the Foundation, please join as a member and consider applying to become a board member. The board is actively seeking new board members to lead the Foundation as it moves forward.

Visit the website of the Deception Pass Park Foundation to see how you can support this park

www.deceptionpassfoundation.org

Foundation Board members:

Liz Merriman, President
Barry Wenaas, Vice-President
Steve Young, Secretary
George Churchill
Estelle Johnson
Barb Shaw

Foundation Board Advisors:

Jack Hartt, Park Manager
Kim Horton, Park Ranger until 1/31/12
Sam Wotipka, Park Naturalist Intern



Follow the Deception Pass Park Foundation on Facebook. Search for "Deception Pass Park Foundation"

4. Stoves repaired: Ted LaGreid, a resident of this state, donated over thirteen thousand dollars to pay for the accurate reconstruction of two stone fireplaces in CCC shelters at Deception Pass. Mr. LaGreid's father and grandfather both assisted the CCC in building these stoves back in the Thirties. This gift of his restores the stoves to honor the work his father and grandfather built, and allows the stoves to again be used by park visitors.

On Labor Day, over a dozen of us gathered at the North Beach shelter to destroy the remains of one of the stoves to save some of the cost of the reconstruction and allow the project to be completed within the budget given.

HDR of Seattle offered to rebuild the rest of the shelter at East Cranberry that had its stove repaired as well. The company brought several volunteers to assist in rebuilding the support posts, framework, and to reroof the building with handsplit shakes. They were assisted by region staff and other volunteers.

3. Rick Colombo: The Deception Pass Park Foundation offered a small monthly stipend to anyone willing to assist the park as an interpretive assistant for the spring and summer. Rick Colombo offered to help, and became an overnight sensation with his enthusiasm, energy, sense of humor, and desire to make a difference. He helped organize the Beach Naturalist program, gave talks to hundreds of school groups, created Junior Ranger programs for thousands of kids, led the evening talks at the park amphitheater and emceed the Arts in the Parks presentations. He was a powerful breath of fresh air and encouragement to us all.

2. Beach Naturalists: Beach Watcher Sammye Kempbell organized the first ever Beach Naturalist class this year, to train volunteers to assist in guiding visitors at the Rosario tidepools. Presented over a period of five weeks, over a dozen docents took the entire class portfolio and donated over a thousand hours of volunteer service at the beach.

The class will be offered again this year for others who may also be interested in becoming a Beach Naturalist. The need is great; there is ample room for more volunteers.

1. Discover Pass: With tax support for parks cut to just 20% of what it was a few years ago, the legislature developed an alternative funding program for parks: the Discover Pass. Users are required to pay a \$10 daily entrance fee, or buy a \$30 annual pass good at any park in the state for 12 months.

The program began on July 1; by September, visitors had mostly understood the program and showed support for the pass. Compliance hovered around 95% for our main park areas.

Unfortunately, the amount of support has languished far behind what is needed to keep our parks operating at the level we have come to expect. Drastic budget cuts will take effect come February 1, severely cutting park services and staff.

There were of course many, many other top stories that we could mention, from the improvements at the South Bridge parking area, rebuilding the Bowman riprap, the volunteer services building and maintaining trails and helping with the campground renovations, the numerous hosts in our campground keeping the basics running smoothly, our volunteer out on Ben Ure Island assisting with various needs, the projects accomplished throughout the park fixing buildings, reroofing structures, keeping the sewer systems and water systems and roadways and other infrastructure operable, and collecting fees and cleaning restrooms and offering smiles to everyone our park staff meets on a daily basis. So many good stories happen here each and every day. We are thankful for each person who makes this all happen.

Park Experiences

Kukulali Tours

Call the caretaker at 360-661-0682 to set up a reservation for a two-hour tour of the Kukulali Preserve on a Saturday morning.

Tours are free. Reservations are required, as space is limited. Tours start at 9 and 11 a.m.. with space for just 12 people at a time.

Anacortes Kayak Tours

Closed for the season. Visit the website www.anacorteskayaktours.com
The AKT is a proud sponsor of the Deception Pass Dash.

Deception Pass Tours

Closed for the season. Visit their store on Highway 20 north of the park, near milepost 44, for more information, or check their website at www.deceptionpasstours.com

Academic Adventures

Visit the website at www.academicsandadventures.org

Overall attendance at Deception Pass State Park in the year 2011:

1,730,000

(Up about 7% over 2010)

Other comparable national parks:

Mount Rainier:	1,191,000
Olympic:	2,844,000
Shenandoah:	1,253,000
Yellowstone:	3,640,000
Redwood:	418,000
Crater Lake:	448,000
Ross Lake:	682,000
Glacier:	2,200,000

And in the Future?

The reflection on the past year leads us to the top stories to look for in 2012. While we cannot know what the future holds, we do know some trends to watch as the year progresses. Here are some of the coming headlines:

Park Staff Cuts: Deception Pass is currently facing a cut of half of our permanent staff. Seven of our employees have been told that their employment is terminated effective at the end of January. This is a lot of families to lose employment in our communities, and a dramatic reduction in the ability of this park to meet the demands of the busiest park and largest campground complex in the state. We are still reeling from the effects this will have.

Changes to Discover Pass: The legislature is proposing changes to the Discover Pass to make it more attractive to everyone, including the option to allow two license plates per permit.

Cornet Bay: A new restroom is under construction at Cornet Bay to replace the failing restroom currently there. A new water system will provide dependable water year round. There will also be easier access to the boat launch, better storm water treatment at the parking lot, and a small kitchen shelter for picnics in inclement weather.

Cornet Bay Retreat Center: thanks to a grant from Island County and funding from State Parks maintenance funds, the recreation hall at the retreat center is getting a facelift to upgrade its ability to serve visitors year round, making the center less costly to operate in the offseason and more attractive to potential users.

Special Events: June 16, the Deception Pass Challenge, a triathlon-like event of swimming, mountain biking, and trail running through the park that will challenge people of all ages.

Service reductions:

With half our staff eliminated on February 1, we will do our best to keep our service levels as high as we can. We have tried to raise the bar each year, and we have succeeded in many ways.



Without people to provide these services, or with untrained staff hired seasonally to take the place of permanent staff who have had to move on to find permanent employment elsewhere, we will be challenged to continue to provide the same service. Responses to emergencies, water rescues, maintenance needs, loud campers, even mowing and restroom cleaning will all have to be reduced with only half the number of people to make these things happen.

On the other hand, we know that our friends and neighbors will continue to assist the park in offering helping hands wherever they can. The Foundation will continue to provide essential assistance with programs and finances. The generosity of our supporters continually amazes me.

This park belongs to everyone. It's in our care. We are responsible. And we will rise to the challenge and serve it well. Thank you for your continued support.

"Current" Logo Credits

Barb Lyter of Lyter Photography and Graphic Design provided the design for the title logo of the "Current".

Learn more on the web at www.lyterphotography.com



Celebrate Washington State Park's Centennial 2013

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 ext. 26
jack.hartt@parks.wa.gov ♥

Beach Naturalist Class Starts March 2012

Wish you had been a part of the first Beach Naturalist class of 2011? Our volunteers were trained in marine biology, ecology, and educational approaches to make the beach world accessible for everyone.

They then went on to share over a thousand hours of time at Rosario Beach with other visitors, protecting the tidepools and educating over ten thousand beach visitors.

Another class starts this coming March. There is room for twenty to get ten hours of professional, expert, and free training about the world around us.

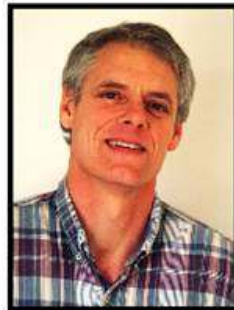
This year will also see the opening of the new Rosario Classroom, offering even greater adventures in learning for our naturalists and our guests.

Contact the park to let us know of your interest, and we will give you a chance to join in the new class.



2012 Beach Watcher Lecture Series Climate Change: Implications for the Pacific Northwest

January 13th, 7:00 pm, Anacortes Public Library

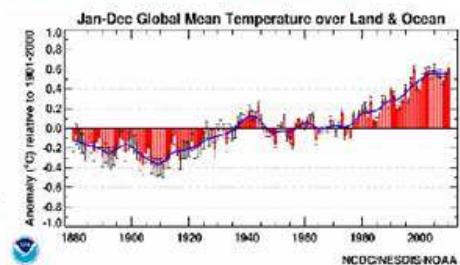


Nick Bond
Washington State Climatologist
Principal Research Scientist
JISAO
University of Washington
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



PugetSoundPartnership
our sound, our community, our chance

How does our climate today compare with the past? What do we think the climate of the Pacific Northwest will be in the future? Come and hear Dr. Nick Bond, Washington State Climatologist, talk about these issues and what each of us can do to have an impact.



These lectures are co-sponsored by WSU Skagit Beach Watchers and Friends of Skagit Beaches. They are free and open to the Public. For more information or questions contact: WSU Beach Watcher Program Coordinator, Lynne Jordan (360) 428-4270 x223
Join Friends at www.skagitbeaches.org

In Memoriam:



Margaret Anderson
Park Ranger
Mount Rainier National Park
End of Service: January 1, 2012

What a Ranger Makes

I make those annoying sirens seem like angels when you need them.
I can make your children breathe when they stop.
I make holding your hand seem like the biggest thing in the world when someone just tried to hurt you.
I make 5 minutes seem like a lifetime when I am fighting a suspect while waiting for back up.
I make myself get out of bed at 3am to risk my life to save people I've never met.
I make going to work for your family's safety a duty that I will die for.
I make myself work holidays, nights, during snow storms and other disasters.
Today I might make the ultimate sacrifice to save your life.
I make a difference.

By Jason Stapert
Park Ranger at Deception Pass
(his position ends this month)

Deception Pass Dash: Up close

The Deception Pass Dash enjoyed clear skies and smooth waters for this year's event. The start had nearly 170 boats on the starting line. Nearly everyone finished the race as well. This year offered free classes the day before the Dash, taught by world-renowned experts .

Check out the story below from one of the participants.

[Video of the Dash](#)

"I have paddled in the Deception Pass Dash every year since [the first race in 2006](#). At that time only about 40 paddlers entered. Since then it has grown into a large [two-day festival](#) with about 150 boats, including surfskis, sea kayaks, outrigger canoes, paddleboards and rowing shells. It is easy to come up with reasons why so many people are attracted to this race -- the challenge of paddling in strong tidal currents, the possibility of rough winter storm conditions, the stunning beauty of the Pass, and the excitement and sense of camaraderie that comes from participating with so many other paddlers.

"I wanted to commemorate the 6th annual Deception Pass Dash with a video and came up with "Why We Paddle". It was a joy working with my friend [Katya](#), who shot most of the video, and interviewing a handful of racers about what attracts them to paddlesports. Many thanks to the people we interviewed and especially to members of [The Pitchfork Revolution](#), who contributed the music for the soundtrack."

Rainshadow Race



Runners begin their race from the West Beach shelter on December 10, returning hours later after running 25k or 50k around the park.

The first-ever 25k and 50k race for the park filled the West Beach parking lot with runners on a cool Saturday afternoon on December 10. About 200 energetic souls ran the trails of the park, some for 25 kilometers, some for 50 kilometers! Yes, that is well over 30 miles for the day, much longer than a marathon, and over the uneven terrain of roots, rocks, hills, and beaches.

The runners loved the scenery and the setting. Sponsored by [Rainshadow Running](#), the runners were given thorough instructions, guided throughout the park with ample signage, and fed generously at the end of the race. The winning time was 4 hours and 16 minutes for the 50k event.

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