

Deception Pass State Park

CURRENT

February 2012

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

Community Events

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.

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

What do we know about local orca pods and how have field studies contributed to understanding them? Do resident pods behave and interact differently from the transient orcas? Come hear Howard Garrett, Director and President of Orca Network, talk about the complex social lives of our local orcas and the implications of listing the southern resident orcas under the Endangered Species Act.

The lecture will be Friday, February 17th, 7p.m. at the Anacortes Library. It is free and open to the public.

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

Park Layoffs Hit Home

On January 31, we said goodbye to Ranger Kim Horton. Kim joined us August 2008, and in those three years endeared herself to the groups who stayed at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center and to thousands of visitors to the rest of the park as well. She overhauled the retreat center with upgrades both visible and behind the scenes, making improvements that our guests thoroughly appreciated. Her professionalism as a ranger and her kindness as a host made this park a much better place. She is now looking for new employment on Whidbey Island.

On February 1, Ranger Ryan Green promoted to become the assistant law enforcement and training coordinator for all of Washington State Parks. Ryan joined us in 2010 when he transferred from Cape Disappointment State Park. His position was slated to become temporary this year, but his skills and abilities qualified him to promote to a new position in Olympia.

On February 15, we will say goodbye to Construction and Maintenance Specialist Dan Dillard. Dan has been with us for over a dozen years, working on major construction projects and handling the smallest details of keeping the facilities of Deception Pass working smoothly. From cleaning out plugged septic vaults to repairing broken shower meters to digging ditches and patching roofs, Dan did it all with a friendly smile and an easy going nature.

On February 15, we also say goodbye to our short-time Office Assistant, Jane Fraser. Jane joined us just last July 1 when we were finally able to get an Office Assistant funded again, to help us implement the Discover Pass. She quickly learned the complicated operations of our entrance station, greeting visitors to the 'booth' with a courteous welcome and assistance for registering campers, buying Discover passes, or just sharing some of the many details about the park. She is now looking for employment elsewhere.

On February 15, we also say goodbye to Ranger Ben Cooksey. Ben also joined us in August of 2008. His experiences with the Coast Guard were useful in helping coordinate many search and rescue operations in the waters of the Pass and at Cranberry Lake. He managed our safety program at the park, our extinguisher servicing, and our risk management assessments. He covered the park as a ranger for registering campers, working on maintenance projects, cleaning bathrooms, repairing buildings, and leading walks. He will return this summer for temporary employment while he seeks permanent employment elsewhere.

On February 15, we also say goodbye to Ranger Jason Stapert. Jason joined us in 2006 out of the academy, and added his EMT skills to the park, assisting with numerous vehicle accidents and other park injuries. He also registered campers, kept the 320 campsites clean and quiet, organized our numerous volunteer projects such as the Lions Club and Boy Scouts, rescued boaters in distress, and helped with the thousands of other things that take place around

Current Winter Projects:

- 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
- Re-roofing CCC residence
- Servicing all sewer pumps:
- Work at the Cornet Bay Boat Launch area progressing well, with a new water system nearly done, a replacement restroom, new shelter, and launch area improvements.

Off-Season Closures:

- Quarry Pond Campground open year round
- Cranberry Campground, open next spring. Lower Loop opens March 1. Due to forest health issues, the Forest Loop closed reopens April 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.

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

here. His position will be seasonal only, starting in March. Jason will be looking for permanent employment wherever he may find a job that will take advantage of his many skills and abilities.

Each of these individuals has been an essential member of the Deception Pass team, one who contributed to the success of keeping this park beautiful, useful, and enjoyable for the nearly two million visitors who come here each year. They kept it safe and well maintained. They added to each of our experiences through their positive approach to service and to their co-workers.

Our service will be diminished as we lose nearly half of our staff. Our fondest wishes to each of them for their future, and a sad goodbye.

New Website Design!



Check out the new website for the Deception Pass Park Foundation!

The bold and beautiful new look captures the experience of the park and the magnitude of the opportunities available here and through the Foundation.

Many thanks to volunteer Susan McClung for getting us to this new venture, to our Americorps intern Sam Wotipka for making it all happen, and to How It Works for their expertise in design and hosting.

And of course to the Foundation for investing in the future of the park, today.

Explore to your heart's content.

www.deceptionpassfoundation.org

Beach Naturalist Class Starts March 2012

Wish you had been a part of the first Beach Naturalist class of 2011? Our volunteers learned about marine biology, ecology, and various educational approaches to make the beach world understandable 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. Classes are held every Wednesday, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the park.

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

Call Sam at 675-3767, extension 31, to let us know of your interest, and we will give you a chance to join in the new class. It's fun, it's free, and it's for good.

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
[vacant due to layoffs] Park Ranger
Sam Wotipka, Park Naturalist Intern



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

Can You Get to the Top?

Ever tried running to the top of Goose Rock? Ever biked over 12 miles along the Discover Trail and through the back trails of Hoypus? Ever swam in Cranberry Lake?



Visit the Foundation's website to get further details, see a map of the course, download an application, or become one of the many volunteers that will be needed to coordinate this event. You may also be interested in helping sponsor this event, to raise awareness for your business as well. Please call us.

Ever done all three the same morning?

The first Deception Pass Challenge takes place Saturday, June 16, at 8 in the morning. The first 100 to sign up will face the daunting challenge of an 800 meter swim in the lake, a twelve mile bike ride out to Hoypus Hill and back, and then a four mile run near North Beach to the top of Goose Rock and back to North Beach at low tide to run to West Beach.

The Deception Pass Foundation is sponsoring this challenge as a way to encourage healthy adventure, park exploration, and raise money for education and protection of the park.

Where are the Dumpsters?

Saving money means cutting costs wherever we can, wherever we have to.

In a typical year, Deception Pass pays almost \$50,000 of our tax dollars to send garbage to the land fill. That seems outrageous, but with nearly two million visitors, that means we average about a nickel for every two visitors to throw away their waste.

That's a lot of money to throw away when you add it all up.

We have removed the dumpsters from our day use area this winter to save a small portion of that money. We are asking visitors to kindly throw away their own debris, to take it home with them. "Pack it in, pack it out" the sign says. So far, our visitors have accepted this request, taking whatever they bring to the park for the day back home with them. We have found very little litter remaining behind, and we have saved hundreds of dollars, maybe thousands, so far this winter.

Kukutali Preserve Planning

The Kukutali Preserve Management Board met February 2 to continue the tribe/state alliance in managing Kiket Island.

Applications for the caretaker position were reviewed, with a decision to be made next month after interviews.

The board also looked at a draft planning proposal for the island which considered several visitor opportunities and generated detailed discussions.

The cooperative efforts may be seeing fruitful results in the near future. Stay tuned!



"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 ♥

Oil on the Water

You may have seen the sheen of oil under the bridge late in the morning on Thursday, February 2.

Several passersby called the park to report what appeared to be oil drifting through the pass.

I was out of town, but contacted the park to ask staff to investigate, then called the emergency response numbers to alert the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Ecology.

Rangers Shook and Stapert responded in the park boat to investigate. They found that the sheen was coming in the pass on the flood tide, and had reached Yokeko Point. They went outside the pass, and found that the oil extended beyond Lawson Reef, out several miles into the Straits, and northward as well. They even found places where the material was more globular, not just a sheen.

Carl Anderson from the Department of Ecology and John Acton from Island County Emergency Management met us at Cornet Bay to investigate further. Our staff took Carl out into the bay, where he took samples of the material to see if it can be traced by tell-tale signatures.

The Coast Guard responded later that afternoon with a helicopter to check out the spill from the air.

At last report, the source has not been identified. The spill may have been about 50 gallons of diesel fuel discharged by a passing ship or other source west of Deception Pass. The natural actions of dispersal by tides, solar breakdown, and bioactivity by various organisms in the water will remove most of the contaminants.

If you ever see an oil spill, please contact the park and call these emergency numbers:

1-800-OILS-911

AND

National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802



Discover Pass changes

At this time, the legislature is considering a change to the Discover Pass to allow two vehicles in the same family to share a pass.

The legislation has strong support, but is not yet agreed upon. One strong proposal will make the change retro-active for existing Discover Passes.

We will let you know if this change takes place, and how it may be implemented.



2012 Beach Watcher Lecture Series Orca Tribes of the Salish Sea



Photo by Dan Pederson

Howard Garrett
Co-founder, Director and
President of the Board
Orca Network



What do we know about local orca pods and how have field studies contributed to understanding them? Do resident pods behave and interact differently from the transient orcas? Come hear Howard Garrett, of Orca Network, talk about the complex social lives of our local orcas and the implications of listing the southern resident orcas under the Endangered Species Act.

February 17th 7:00 pm
Anacortes Public Library

Sponsored by WSU, Skagit Beach
Watchers and Friends of Skagit Beaches.
For more information contact Matt
Kerschbaum 360-293-0773

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