Park Events

**American Roots Concert Series**  
Saturdays, July 7 to August 4  
7 p.m. at the Amphitheater

A series of five concerts, free to all visitors, highlighting the diverse music and traditions of America. (Discover Pass required)

For details, visit [http://www.deceptionpassfoundation.org/calendar](http://www.deceptionpassfoundation.org/calendar) and scroll down to the bottom of the page.

Community Events

**Trail Tales Interpretive Walks**

Wednesday, July 11, 10:00 – 11:30 AM  
Please join Trail Tale docents for a short walk along the Tommy Thompson Trail and trestle to learn more about ‘Mountains to the Sea – The Interconnections between Land and Water’. Come hear how Anacortes is interconnected from mountain to stream to bay. What we see from the snow capped mountains to Fidalgo Bay is an intertwined web of life which is not always visible, but dramatic nevertheless.

Anacortes has been in transition since it was founded, trying to find its niche and its identity in this unique, ever changing water environment. Please meet at the Fidalgo Bay RV Park, in the parking area just past the junction with the Tommy Thompson Trail.

---

**It's In Our Hands**

**Five Years from Now...**

If you had a magic wand, what changes would you make at Deception Pass in the next five years, if any? What would you make sure does not change, and how?

You have a magic keyboard, telephone, or pen and paper. Please wave that magic in a message that tells us what you would do.

In the next month, we will be asking that question of our staff, our neighbors, our Current readers, our park users: anyone who cares about the park.

What would you change? What improvements would you make? What would you want to make sure does NOT change, or what needs more protection?

This park's future rests in the hands of those who care. If those who care, you especially, want to see a change, now is the time to let me know so that we can plan for the future.

What can we accomplish in five years? Anything, if we put our hearts to it. Inundate me with your thoughts. Sell me with your vision. Let the legacy of our vision become reality.

**Deadline: August 1.**

I'll share the concepts we receive (without names) in next month's *Current*. What results will we see?

---

**Thinking About my Shoes**

*(With thanks to Seth Godin)*

I gave a talk about tides at an educational forum a few weeks ago, and in my focus to have my program just right, I forgot to pay attention to my shoes. I wore my old sneakers, and I was sure that it was the first and only thing that anyone in the audience would notice. I was wrong.

People spend almost no time thinking about what you wear on your feet. A few hours after the meeting, we have no recollection at all about what tie you wore or how your hair was done.

On the other hand, we'll long be impacted by your big idea, the project you did or did not launch, and the gift you did or did not give.

It's easy to obsess about trivia, mostly because the stakes are so small. What happens if we wonder about what we could do that might change everything instead? What happens if we share those thoughts with each other?
Saturday, July 21, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

**Tides & Currents at Play in Fidalgo Bay!**

Please join the Trail Tales docents for a short walk along the Tommy Thompson Trail to learn some interesting facts about tides & currents. Did you know tides and currents affect the shape of the bay and the quantity & quality of the water it holds? Tides & currents also influence the health of plants and animals as well as our ability to see them. Come see how! Please meet at the 34th St. sign along the Tommy Thompson Trail.

All Trail Tales Interpretive Walks are approximately 1-2 mi. Long and handicapped accessible. For more information go to the Trail Tales link at [www.skagitbeaches.org](http://www.skagitbeaches.org)

---

**Summer Projects:**

- **Bowman Bay Sewer Field:** In process; fall completion date
- **Replacement of the deck at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center** is nearly complete. The look of this building is just marvelous. It has been revamped and restored by our creative and talented maintenance team of Mark Lunz and Marvin Wold. Visitors to the retreat center love the many improvements that help bring the retreat center into the new century, while keeping the craftsman look of years gone by.

---

**On a Global Scale:**

More than 2,000 heat records were broken last week around the U.S. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the government agency that tracks the data, reported that the spring of 2012 “marked the largest temperature departure from average of any season on record for the contiguous United States.”

These record temperatures in May, NOAA says, “have been so dramatically different that they establish a new ‘neighborhood’ apart from the historical year-to-date temperatures.”

---

**Kukutali**

Over 30 people joined park and tribal staff at the Anacortes Library on June 21 to discuss options for the future of the Kukutali Preserve at Kiket Island.

Northwest Region Field Operations Manager Eric Watilo shared the history of grant funding for acquiring the island, and the requirements that those grants put on the management of the island. Our agency Resources Management Director Lisa Lantz then outlined many of the island's features and planning concerns, followed by a sample plan that the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community has developed with help from local planner Curt Miller.

Guests were then asked to offer suggestions, ideas, and concerns, filling out "sticky notes" that were shared with everyone. Many good -- and occasionally conflicting -- recommendations were made.

These ideas will help State Parks and the Swinomish tribe develop a plan to guide the next steps in opening the park to the public, while protecting its significant natural and cultural resources. We hope to see an outline by early fall this year.

---

**Cornet Bay Restroom Completed**

"Beautiful."

Don't hear that word very often about a restroom.

"Fits the park just right."

And that's what our intention was, to have a replacement restroom at Cornet Bay that looked like it belonged at Deception Pass.

The old facility had outlived its usefulness, and had to be replaced. The new restroom has the shape and feel of other park buildings and historical structures, while at the same time incorporating a marine theme and modern features.

Special features include radiant heat to reduce energy consumption, sky lights in the showers to reduce the need for lighting, and a specially engineered water system to maintain water pressure at Cornet Bay even though the well output is minimal.

The effluent is pumped to the Cornet Bay retreat center, and from there to the Navy base for treatment, keeping it out of Cornet Bay itself.

Next door to the restroom is the new picnic shelter, built with the same theme of rock and log. It was getting use long before it was even finished, so we know it will be popular!

Funding for the facilities was provided out of the state capital funds, dedicated monies for construction projects around the state which make our infrastructure better while providing living wage employment to contractors.
**Park Experiences**

**Kukutali Tours**
Call the caretaker at 360-661-0682 to set up a reservation for a two-hour tour of the Kukutali 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](http://www.anacorteskayaktours.com)
The AKT is a proud sponsor of the Deception Pass Dash.

**Deception Pass Tours**
Closed for the season. Visit the welcome wagon at the bridge, or their store on Highway 20 north of the park near milepost 44 for more information, or check their website at [www.deceptionpasstours.com](http://www.deceptionpasstours.com)

**Academic Adventures**
Visit the website at [www.academicsandadventures.org](http://www.academicsandadventures.org)

---

**Beach Changing at Cornet Bay**
What would Cornet Bay look like without the creosote bulkhead blocking access to the beach?
We're about to find out.

Through several grants and donations, the Island County Marine Resource Committee, Northwest Straits Commission, and Washington State Parks are about to move forward with a total re-development of our shoreline at Cornet Bay, restoring the shoreline to natural shore processes and making it more user-friendly for all of us.

Removing the bulkhead will take the creosote out of the water, and also allow the beach to have a natural shape once again. The uplands grass will be replaced by native vegetation. Walking from the parking lot to the beach will no longer involve a vertical three foot barrier!

A beneficial by-product will be a healthier beach environment, encouraging the growth of forage fish and eventually native salmon stocks as well.

Construction may start at the end of August.

---

**The Challenge**
_by Estelle Johnson_
Deception Pass Foundation Board Member and director of the Deception Pass Challenge

The success of the inaugural Deception Pass Challenge on June 16th can be summed up by one participant, ‘I want to start by saying what a great race the Challenge was. I have run over 60 races in the past 15 years and that was, for an inaugural event, put together professionally’.

Evidently the wet, soggy weather was a positive factor for most participants who commented ‘loved the great big mud puddle’! Many participants discovered areas of the park that they had not previously seen and are now converts to our beautiful park.

Most participants stated that they would be back next year - so we are looking forward to our 2nd annual Challenge next year.

We were amazingly blessed by the 75 volunteers who came out to set-up, monitor and clean up. Knowledgeable assistance from Curtis Vieke and Matt Plush enabled us to be well organized and the race routes to be well maintained. Great comments and suggestions were collected from many of these volunteers.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Whidbey Marketplace and News, Whidbey Sun and Wind, whidbeylocal.com, Island County Amateur Radio Club and Nautilus Construction, LLC, of Oak Harbor. A special thanks to the Amateur Radio Club members, especially John Acton and Julie Mercer, for investing so much time in race planning and preparation, advice, and manning the bike and run routes helping participants to return safely.

We were also pleased to have North Whidbey Fire and Rescue, Central Whidbey Island Fire and Rescue, and the American Red Cross on hand to ensure participant safety.

The event offered a fun challenge for participants, and raised several thousand dollars for the Deception Pass Park Foundation to help fund...
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

Ticket Spitting
One of the biggest frustrations with the Discover Pass occurred at the Cornet Bay marine area, where boat launchers are asked to pay $7 to launch their boat, and $10 for a daily entrance pass or $30 for the annual Discover Pass, or $80 for an annual "Natural Investment Pass" that covers a year of boat launching and park access.

Confused already?
So were many boaters. And finding $17 in cash was always a scramble. Who carries cash anymore?

To simplify the process, Washington State Parks funded over a dozen electronic pay machines, or "ticket spitters". Insert a credit or debit card, touch the right buttons, and Voila! out spits your permit for the day.

Park staff helped install these machines last week at Cornet Bay. We expect this will simplify our boaters' experience by not having to worry about cash, and make our accounting far easier.

We are trying to get a machine to work at the bridge as well, but finding a cell signal there is not easy.

Discover Pass Turns One Year Old
It began July 1, 2011, when State Parks were asked to be self-sufficient in our funding, to raise nearly all of the money we use to build and operate your state park system.

After a bumpy beginning, we are seeing a growing understanding and acceptance of the pass as a new way of life for parks.

This holiday weekend, we found about 95 to 98% compliance in the various parking areas of Deception Pass State Park. Some confusion continues about the Fish and Wildlife pass (not valid in State Parks) and many visitors forget to make their pass visible on the dash of their car.

Almost everyone is aware of the program, however. Our park system, although far leaner now, may be achieving a level of a new normal.

Sales of the Discover Pass at Deception Pass this rainy June: $52,000

Attendance at this park: up 23% over last June, before the Discover Pass went into effect.

Good-bye, Staperts    :-(

With four of our ranger positions made seasonal this year due to budget cuts, we continue to say goodbye to good professionals as they find permanent employment elsewhere.

Ranger Jason Stapert accepted a permanent position with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as a wildlife agent, effective July 1. We already miss Jason and his sweet family, but wish them well in their new, and permanent, employment.

Because of our mid-summer loss of Jason, other staff vacancies, and the need to have additional staff during the winter to assist with maintaining this diverse park, one of our ranger positions has been restored to full-time status. We hope to fill that position in the next few days.
An Interpretive Center at Rosario?

By Liz Merriman, President
Deception Pass Park Foundation

You are reading this newsletter because you care what happens to your park. You have followed the twists and turns of State budget cuts and glimpsed its repercussions on the faces of the Park staff as they disappear, one by one. Now the State Park is asking each and every one of us how we want to see what our State Park will look like in the future. How all of our State Parks will look like in the future.

The position of Park Ranger has indeed changed, and we thank them for their dedication to purpose, for putting their lives on the line when called upon, and for making the park experience safe and enjoyable for everyone. Not an easy job.

One of the goals of the Deception Pass Foundation, in fact in its very mission, is education. We felt the stirrings of the budget cutbacks almost four years ago when the Park lost its Interpretive position. We have heard some say, “so what”…and can respond with the knowledge that through this one position come thousands of face-to-face encounters with the public that otherwise would not have happened -- learning opportunities for local folks discovering their own backyard; for folks that come from around the state to experience all the park has to offer; or visitors from other countries who make Deception Pass a destination…a must see. Yes, this one dedicated position can do this. Our Park Rangers, who would love to share their special knowledge with visitors in this capacity, simply don’t have the time.

Deception Pass State Park has been moving towards the goal of building an Interpretive Center at Rosario for over the last 15 years or so. Several times we had what we thought was financial help on the way… only to see funds diverted to other capital projects. Well, we’re at a crossroads once again. There is money earmarked to actually build the Center…if we can come up with $225,000 by September 2012.

Park Manager Jack Hartt has turned to the Deception Pass Foundation to see if there is a chance we can help. We see it as an opportunity to create a learning center dedicated to education, resource protection, and a gateway to what the park has to offer visitors. We see it as a dedicated position – albeit an immovable one – that can give thousands of visitors that face-to-face education before heading out on their adventures, making their experience even more special.

We have yet to determine if we can jump on this opportunity, but wanted you to know that the potential is there. We all want to be part of how we create what we want our park to look like in the future. We think this is a good start.
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