

Deception Pass State Park

CURRENT

June 2013

*A monthly newsletter from the desk of the park manager
to this park's friends and neighbors*

Deception Pass Challenge: June 22!

Swim, bike, and run through the south side of the park.

The event starts at 8 a.m. at West Beach with a half mile swim in Cranberry Lake, followed by a twelve mile bike ride winding through the trails of Goose Rock and Hoypus Hill, and then a five mile run to the top of Goose Rock and back along North Beach.

It's a challenge for even strong athletes to complete this course.

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Déjà vu, but Different...

CRANBERRY LAKE SWIMMING BEACH CLOSES (AGAIN) DUE TO BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



Just when I thought our problems with Canada geese at Cranberry Lake were over, along comes our newest twist:

First, the good news: our E. coli numbers are very low, well within the acceptable levels of a healthy lake.

The bad news: blue-green algae is growing at the edge of the beach, and only there. We do not know if this bloom of algae is toxic. It was tested on June 6, but we do not get results until June 11.

If the algae is non-toxic, the beach will open again immediately.

If the algae is toxic, then the beach will remain closed until the

blue-green algae dissipates, which may have already happened.

We hope it will open on Tuesday. If not, we hope it will open again "soon". We certainly hope it will open before the Challenge on June 22.

Meanwhile, we are intensifying our efforts to discourage the increasing numbers of geese from using the swim beach. We are determined to provide healthy waters and beaches for your enjoyment and for a healthy, natural park and lake environment.

"The balance of nature is built on a series of relationships between living things, and between living things and their environments.

You can't just step in with some brute force and change one thing without changing many others.

This doesn't mean we must never interfere, never tilt the balance of nature in our favor.

But when we make the attempt we must know what we're doing.

We must know the consequences."

— Rachel Carson

“New” Park Boat Debuts

Free Days at the Park

One dozen days of the year, Deception Pass has free vehicle access. Four of those days remain:

- **Sept. 29 – National Public Lands Day**
- **Nov. 10 through 12 – Veterans Day weekend**

The rest of the year, you need to have a Discover Pass, or pay a daily \$10 access fee.

If you buy the pass at the park, it is only \$30 for a full twelve months of use, at any park in the state.

Frequent boat launchers usually prefer to buy the “**Natural Investment Pass**”, giving not only free park access but also free boat launching for a full twelve months.

Your State Parks are supported mostly by the revenue each park generates through these fees and other fees such as camping, moorage, showers, and park retail sales.

As this edition of the *Current* goes to press, we still do not know what the state legislature will provide to support this park system.

What do you know?

Question:

Can you name all **ten islands** that are partly or completely a part of Deception Pass State Park?

Answers:

See page 3 (or look at a park map!)

For over twenty years, park rangers have responded to marine emergencies in Deception Pass with a 19-foot deep-V aluminum hulled work boat.

Called an Almar, this boat has been a dependable and stable workhorse for rescues, maintenance work, and ferrying volunteers to the various islands of the park. (*see the quiz at the bottom of this page*).

The harsh marine environment has made the hull unsafe after all those years, much like the ferry boats pulled from service a few years ago.

Until we find money to repair the Almar, we needed a suitable replacement vessel, one that is suitable for the hazardous waters of the pass, stable in rough water, open decked for maintenance work and rescuing people, and equipped with enough lights and equipment to serve all of these various functions. And it had to be affordable.

Amazingly, we found a boat in our price range that met most of these needs. Island County had an older boat they needed to surplus. It is a seventeen foot Boston Whaler, a virtually unsinkable, open style boat with ample size and horsepower for most conditions in the pass.

Through an intergovernmental purchase agreement, the deal was completed this past week, putting park staff back in service to the many islands of the park and our marine visitors.

Thanks to the generous and expert help of Jim O’Conner and others of the North Whidbey Fire and Rescue Department, the boat is becoming fully equipped for meeting the demands of work on the water.

We put it through a series of practice scenarios this week to train our staff and NWF&R volunteers as well so that we have a large



Ranger Ben Shook is pulled into the ‘new’ park boat during a training exercise with North Whidbey Fire

number of certified operators.

Ranger Ben Shook even put on a dry suit and jumped in the frigid, windblown water of the pass to be “rescued” over and over again until rescue staff felt good about their skills and the boat.

The boat is not ideal. It is smaller than we need, lacking deck space for work and storage. Being fiberglass, it will not be able to nose against rocks or be driven onto beaches. But it fills the critical need for now until we can repair the Almar.

Deception Pass State Park rangers are almost always able to respond sooner than any other rescue personnel just because we are already close. And now with a capable boat in the water again, and trained operators, that response will be safe and professional.

Salish Sea Native American Culture Celebration

Two tribes meeting with one heart, two tribes sharing some of the heart of their culture.

This was the eighth annual Salish Sea Native American Culture Celebration June 8 at Bowman Bay.

Eric Day of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community opened

Cultural event activities are presented by the Samish Nation, Samish Canoe Family, Swinomish Community and the Swinomish Canoe Family.

Proceeds from event food sales supported the canoe families' participation in the annual intertribal canoe journey. Each year, tribes



the celebration with a song, followed by several songs from the Samish Indian Nation. They then blessed the food of salmon and fry bed, which was shared with everyone, and the event was underway.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission event celebrates the common heritage and friendship of the Samish and Swinomish.

Canoe rides and native singers, drummers and storytellers shared the traditions of the tribes, and artists demonstrated traditional weaving, cedar work and woodcarving.

Hundreds of people came out to share in the celebration, learn of these cultures, and participate in the feasts and activities.

and nations from the Pacific Northwest travel by canoe to different host communities along the Salish Sea. This year, the Quinault Tribe hosts the canoe journey, which lands in Taholah August 1.

The Native American Culture Celebration is part of a series of events celebrating Washington's diverse cultures and presented by the Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks Program. The program is a partnership between the Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington State Arts Commission and Northwest Heritage Resources with funding provided by National Endowment for the Arts and the Washington State Parks Foundation.

DECEPTION PASS PARK FOUNDATION

The Deception Pass 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 supporting our park AmeriCorps interpreter, rebuilding the park amphitheater stage, 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, rebuilding CCC facilities at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center, 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
Matt Klope
Brian Shelly

Foundation Board Advisors:

Jack Hartt, Park Manager
Sam Wotipka, Park Naturalist Intern

Why Deception?

The year: 1792.

Your mission: explore an unrecorded inland sea to discover where it leads, especially if it connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific.

How would you handle this task? How would you be sure that your exploration covered every possible channel and by-water?

Captain George Vancouver had been near here previously as a first mate to Captain James Cook. Now he was back, sailing for the first time as the captain of a significant expedition, in charge of two ships, the *Discovery* and the *Chatham*.

His strategy was to keep turning right.

Just as firefighters check a smoke filled room by always keeping the wall to the right to find any unconscious victims in the room, so Vancouver kept the massive wall of the Olympic Peninsula to his right as he entered from the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

This took him down past *Port Townshend*, finding mountains he labeled *Baker* and *Rainier*, sailing down to what he called *Hood's Channel*, then back out and down a waterway he named after his lieutenant Peter *Puget*.

Keeping the supposed mainland to his right, this brought the expedition northward again past a sizeable bay he ignored where Seattle now lies.

Further north, he found a large opening, which then had a choice of two more openings, Ports *Gardner* and *Susan*. His ships explored these a short ways, then returned to the main waterway. Vancouver sent the ship master Joseph Whidbey in a smaller boat to explore the opening.

Whidbey headed north for several days, sailing to where the chan-

nel then narrowed considerably and turned westward toward what looked like a dead end. He turned around and rejoined Vancouver.

Together, the ships then sailed up the western coast of the land they had just inspected, getting as far north as Cypress Island. Vancouver sent Whidbey and Puget in the smaller boats to explore the side inlets all around them.

When they returned on June 10, Whidbey informed Vancouver that "the first inlet communicated with port Gardner, by a very narrow and intricate channel... with rocks above and beneath the surface. These impediments, in addition to the great rapidity and irregularity of the tide, rendered the passage navigable only for boats or vessels of



very small berthen....

"This determined the eastern shore... to be an island, and in consequence of Mr. Whidbey's circumnavigation, I distinguished by the name of *Whidbey's Island*: and this northern pass, leading into port Gardner, *Deception Passage*."

Vancouver, and even Whidbey, had been deceived by the narrowness of the passage.

And so this English name became attached to the area.

Park Experiences

Kukulali Tours

Call the tour guide 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.

Deception Pass Tours

The tours have returned for interpretive boat experiences under the bridge and out into the Strait.

Booth at the bridge, store at 5596 State Route 20, Anacortes
Phone: 888-909-8687

www.deceptionpasstours.com

Anacortes Kayak Tours

Call (800) 992-1801 or visit

www.anacorteskayaktours.com

Guided tours based out of Bowman Bay.

Academics and Adventures

Academic Adventures is an inquiry focused Coastal Ecology and Marine Biology Field School. Students participate in the scientific process, and are surrounded by the specific habitats, organisms and ecosystems they are studying.

www.academicsandadventures.org

Answers to Park Quiz (page 2):

1. Part of Whidbey (of course)
2. Part of Fidalgo (of course)
3. Northwest
4. Deception
5. Pass
6. Strawberry
7. Ben Ure (most of the island)
8. Skagit
9. Hope
10. Kiket (shared with Swinomish)



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



Your Washington State Parks turned **100 years old on March 19, 2013**. Washington State Parks is celebrating their centennial milestone with events throughout 2013. For a full list of events, visit www.parks.wa.gov/events.

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

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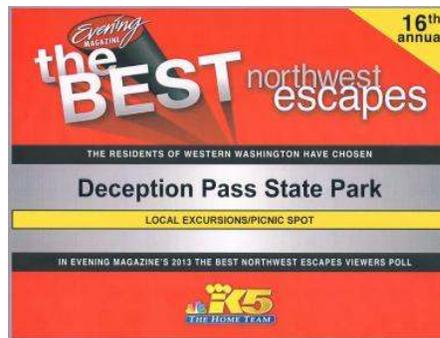
Washington State Parks 100th Birthday Centennial Celebration

August 3, a Saturday

Location: Deception Pass State Park

Events now being planned for a magnificent event. Come lend your hands and energy to make this a celebration to remember.

Evening Magazine "Best Of" Award



This year's Evening Magazine's **Best of the Northwest Escapes** contest yielded 1,700 nominees for 75 categories. The number of votes: 51,712, and an astounding 437,793 page views.

Which park was voted best state park for local excursions, AND best local excursion for a picnic?

Environmental Adventure School Works

An annual tradition at Deception Pass State Park involves hosting the Lake Washington School District's Environmental Adventure School for a week in early June.



EAS students rake goose droppings (or, as their instructor called it, almond roca!) off the swim beach at Cranberry Lake, a daily chore for park staff this time of year.

Middle school students camp at Bowman Bay for a week to become involved with the earth: they study, they play, and they work.

This year's classes volunteered over a hundred hours of time to brush trails near Pass Lake, paint the renovated recreation hall at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center, weed the park entrance, and rake goose poop out of the swim beach at Cranberry Lake.

Being involved in hands-on projects reinforces the learning that takes place the rest of their week here as they see what it takes to manage a natural environment being used by two million visitors a year.

Thank you EAS!

Park Capital Projects

– Bowman complete

Ryan Kramer of Camano Island has rebuilt the septic tank system handling sewer at the south end of the Bowman Bay area.

We finished this capital project ahead of time and under budget.

– Rosario this fall

Although it has not yet gone out to bid, we expect to see construction start after the summer to replace the aging restroom at Rosario with a more appropriate and environmentally friendly restroom.

While construction is underway, you can expect to find porta-potties as a temporary solution.

American Roots Music Series Returns

Arts in the Park performances are back for this year!

The concerts begin at 7 p.m. at the amphitheater near West Beach (or at the shelter at East Cranberry if the weather moves us indoors). To celebrate the roots of American music, local artists perform a variety of musical styles, including traditional folk music from the Pacific Northwest.

- July 13: Ryan McKasson and Dave Bartley, traditional Scottish music on fiddle and guitar
- July 20: La Famille Leger, Acadian and Quebecois house music from eastern Canada
- July 27: Canote Brothers, traditional Anglo-American old time fiddle tunes, country songs and swing
- August 3: A Moment in Time, Seattle African-American a capella gospel quartet

We also have a special local band concert on July 6, to be announced next month.

The series is accessible for people with disabilities. Our thanks to a grant from the NEA and the Washington State Parks Foundation. Concert assistance is provided by the Deception Pass Park Foundation.



Canote Brothers

Nearby Opportunities

Fidalgo & Friends TimeBank is one year old and we'll celebrate that milestone on **Wednesday, June 12, 6:30-8:00 pm at the historic Anacortes Depot**. Please bring a food item to share, beverage of choice, and your own place setting. Coffee, juice and cake provided. No reservation necessary.

Get to know the great folks who make up the TimeBank community (and if you're still wondering what TimeBanking is all about, this is your chance to find out!)

Confused about what materials are actually compostable or what the difference is between compostable vs. biodegradable vs. degradable? Michele Riggs of Cedar Grove Composting will give you the scoop on **Tuesday, June 18, 7 PM at the Anacortes Library**.

She'll discuss what types of degradable plastics are on the market, how Cedar Grove rates them, how they do their testing, and what the US Composting Council is doing on compostable plastics.

Riggs has worked at Cedar Grove for 5 years and

has developed science-based protocols for field testing of compostable products. Free; open to the public and sponsored by Transition Fidalgo & Friends.

Saturday, June 22: Trail Tales. Natural History - Fidalgo Bay Style. 2 PM; meet at the RV Park.

Tuesday, June 25: Seventh Generation Supper. Join *Transition Fidalgo & Friends* for our monthly community supper meeting and a presentation by Betty Carteret who'll discuss the Anacortes Baywide Cleanup Project at the Custom Plywood Mill site. Learn what will be going on in Fidalgo Bay this summer and plans for restoration of the mill site. Suggested dinner donation: \$5/adult, \$3/children 10 and under. Please bring your own place settings! Doors open 5:45 pm at the Anacortes Senior Center; soup supper at 6 pm.

Wednesday, June 26: Trail Tales. Preserving and Managing Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve. 10 AM; meet at the RV Park