Welcome to the Current!

We hope that spring is soon around the corner... it did just snow again the other day, but fingers crossed that is the last for the winter! We have some exciting events coming up this month, so be sure to read on to find out more!
Welcome A-board

by Elle Tracy

At the Foundation board meeting last week, it was invigorating and powerful to watch the committed and qualified board members address the numerous variables involved in delivering on the Foundation’s promise. Given the nearly three million visitors who enjoy the park each year –
most of which we expect to visit in the next eight months, the Foundation steps up to educate park visitors about the responsible use and protection of all of the natural resources nestled in Deception Pass State Park.

Deception Pass Bridge, over Canoe pass, photo by Cindy R. Elliser

Every ad hoc ‘distribution channel’ that we leverage, starts
with the board of directors. Eight professionals volunteer their time to address the logistics, finances, coordination and delivery systems involved in the Foundation’s work. The glory of Deception Pass State Park inspires each of us, and we want to highlight that glory to park visitors, so that our natural resources can be preserved for the future.

The Foundation is made up of more than 100 active volunteers and more than 800 friends of the park – including you, as recipient of this newsletter.

You may already know that the Interpretive Ranger position funding was cut by the state several years ago, leaving programs with no way to operate. The Foundation undertook measures and today funds many of the visitor-friendly programs that educate and inform thousands of visitors each
year. One of the most successful programs is the AmeriCorp Program at Deception Pass, which brings passionate people to Foundation work, so they can employ their skills for the behind-the-scenes benefit of park visitors.

Nicky Becher, 2018 Americorp interpreter, leading a Junior Ranger program at the Amphitheater

Individual board members plan, develop and execute the steps necessary to put these programs into action each year, learning from past years and polishing new opportunities for
the upcoming year. Listening to their check-list reviews, agreements to complete tasks, and watching grins as they coordinated activities, truly impressed this listener.

Foundation Board President Matt Klope wrote an informative overview of Foundation work, due to appear in the April 2019 issue of Fidalgo Living. Watch for it in your mail box.

The Foundation’s successes rise and fall on the shoulders of all the volunteers who contribute their time, energy, hard work and yes – money -- to support our work. When you want to volunteer your time (click here) or join as a friend to support the Foundation (click here), we welcome you!

Read on for more about the history in the Park!
Deception Pass Connection

by Dawn Glavick

Deception Pass Bridge is THE structural cornerstone of Deception Pass Park. She will be celebrating her 84th birthday this summer and welcomes over two million visitors each year.

From 1924-1935, before the bridge was built, Berte Olson, the first female ferry boat captain, ran folks across the channel between Yokeko Point on Fidalgo to Hoypus Point on Whidbey Island. The toll was 50 cents and patrons were asked to ‘bang a mallet against a saw’ alerting Olson that there people to pick up on the other side.
Construction started in August of 1934 and was part of President Roosevelt’s “New Deal”. Roosevelt put a lot of folks back to work after the Great Depression, mainly the Civilian Conservation Corps and many local out-of-work farmers. These young men helped to build the approaches and other concrete work.
By using Pass Island as a natural pylon in the center of the span and building the bridge in two sections it was cheaper, easier and quicker. Wallace Bridge & Structural Steel from Seattle was the lead contractor. The cost of the bridge was an estimated $420,000.00 and 1500 tons of steel was used.

The project was completed in just under twelve months. When the final piece was being lowered into place, it
was about four inches too large. An engineer suggested coming back in the middle of the night, after the temperature had dropped. At 4 AM, on July 31, 1935, the steel contracted and popped into place.

She sits 180 feet up off the water, depending on the tide and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. It is estimated that 22,000+ cars cross her daily.

Read on for more about what has and will be happening in the park!

Campground clean up!
On February 22, 2019 the park began clearing the campgrounds of debris for the 2019 camping season! Due to a few winter storms, the campgrounds and day use areas needed some sprucing up.
Volunteers aided park staff by pulling limbs from the camp sites towards the road. With the help of volunteers, the park staff had a much easier time wood chipping all the debris from the storms.
Deception Pass State Park and Deception Pass Park Foundation would like to thank all the volunteers for assisting in this service project for the park and its future campers!
Deception Pass State Park Open House and Deception Pass Park Foundation Annual Meeting!

Saturday March 16, 2019
Open house: 1pm - 4pm

Annual meeting: 5pm - 8pm

The Deception Pass State Park open house at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center and will be an opportunity for businesses and community members to explore the retreat center to see if it meets their needs for future stays or conferences in the park.

The open house, will be an opportunity to meet the two new AmeriCorps members and kids between 4 years old and 12 years old will be able to participate in Junior Ranger programs that start at 1:30 P.M. and again at 2:30 P.M. There will be an opportunity for community members to learn more about the upcoming Deception Pass Bridge painting project. The following booths will be staged at the Cornet
Bay Retreat center: Deception Pass Park Foundation, The Audubon Society, Plastics Education Station, Forage Fish Information Display, Pacific Mammal Research, and WSDOT. There will be an opportunity for a guided nature hike starting at 3:00 P.M. for the Goose Rock area. Trail to be determined.

Click the picture to learn more about the Cornet Bay and what it has to offer!

Following the open house the Deception Pass Park Foundation will hold their annual meeting at the Cornet Bay
Retreat Center from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Guest speakers include Deception Pass State Park Manager Jason Armstrong, Deception Pass Park Foundation President Matt Klope, and Interpretive Specialist Joy Kacoroski. This meeting will highlight the successes for 2018, plans for the park moving forward, followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

Keep reading to find out what is happening in the Park and upcoming exciting opportunities!

Discover Pass check-out program started

March 1 at Pierce, Skagit and Spokane County libraries!
Pierce County, Spokane and Spokane County and Mount Vernon public libraries will start lending “activity backpacks” with Discover Passes on a first-come-first-served basis, thanks to a partnership between State Parks and the Washington State Library. The backpacks, which contain binoculars, field guides and other interpretive materials, will be available for one-week check-outs on March 1.

The Washington State Parks Foundation is funding the Check Out Washington program so users can access parks and recreation lands managed by Washington State Parks, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Natural Resources.
Become a Beach Naturalist!

Join a dedicated group of volunteers to protect the Rosario tide pools and educate others!

Click on the picture to learn more on the foundation website.
BECOME A VOLUNTEER BEACH NATURALIST!!

Free, required training dates:
- March 26th, 9-11am
- March 27th, 9-11am
- April 16th, 9-11am
- April 23rd, 9-11am

Classes held on Wednesdays at West Beach Shelter.
- April 24th, 9am-2pm
- Mentor Day/Field experience at the Rosario Tide Pools
- April 27th, 9am-2pm

Graduation Day: Enjoy a trip aboard Deception Pass Tours!

Rosario Beach Naturalist Program
Deception Pass State Park | 2019

During the spring and summer, volunteers serve as stewards and educators at the Rosario Tide Pools. Beach Naturalists assist with interpretive programs for school groups and visitors of Deception Pass State Park. Volunteers learn about Deception Pass State Park, tide pools, tide and currents, intertidal invertebrates, coastal ecology and processes, marine mammals, story of the island, interpretation, environmental education and more!

Deception Pass Interpretive Services
(360) 675-3767 ext. 23
debp@naturalist@gmail.com
www.deceptionpassfoundation.org/naturalist

Beginning Birding at Deception Pass State
Would you like to see what birding’s all about? Join some Skagit Audubon members for an introduction to how we find, observe, and learn about birds and why we enjoy birding. We’ll talk about field guides, binoculars and spotting scopes, and put them to use. We’ll see and hear a variety of birds, large and small, in trees and bushes, and on the water – and, we’ll help you identify them.
Male Harlequin duck

Dress for the weather (expect wind along the shore). Bring binoculars and field guides, if you have them, but don’t worry if you don’t. Meet at the parking lot for Rosario Beach (Discover Pass required).

Leaders: Tim Manns, 360.333.8985 or conservation@skagitaudubon.org, Jeff Osmundson,
Friends of Skagit Beaches 14th Annual Winter Lecture Series

Don't miss this great local winter lecture series! Click the picture to find out more!
Don't miss State Park Free Days!
Washington State Parks has announced the following free days, when the Discover Pass will not be required to visit a state park in 2018.

March 19 — State Park’s 105th birthday
April 20 — Spring day
April 22 — Earth Day
June 1 — National Trails Day
June 8 — National Get Outdoors Day (State Parks and Fish & Wildlife free day)
June 9 — Fishing Day (State Parks and Fish & Wildlife free day)
Aug. 25 — National Park Service 102nd Birthday
Sept. 28 — National Public Lands Day
Nov. 11 — Veterans Day
Nov. 29 — Autumn day

Please note, free days apply only to day use (not overnight stays or rented facilities), A Discover Pass will still be required on these days to access lands managed by the Washington State Department.
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 just a few:
*Adopt a Trail: agree to walk a trail every couple weeks, look for issues. Also need volunteers for trail maintenance projects.

*Beach Naturalist Program: training every spring for Rosario tidepool activities, which continue all summer. This is a great place to start, gives you some basic education to prepare you to volunteer either at the beach or at one of the interpretive centers. Training starts March 20, see announcement.

*Discovery Center at Rosario/CCC center- we need multiple docents/interpreters for these centers, reopening in the spring. Plans for a new Interp center at West Beach in the works!

*Garden/Landscape projects- some areas need a winter/storm cleanup, multiple work parties.
*Interpretive Walks in the Park: Do you have an area of expertise to share, or can help?

*Special Events: Annual First Day hike, Amphitheater programs all summer, Interpretive walks, merchandise sales at summer events, hosts for open house for ‘State of the Park’ event on March 16th.

*24 hours of volunteering qualifies you for a free Discover Pass

Stay Tuned! New docent/ interpretive opportunities coming soon!

We also have openings for board members, and the treasurer position.

Hopefully, there is something here that will work for you. It is a great group of folks that really care about this park. There are some state-required
forms to fill out, and we will sign you up!

Contact us for more information:
DeceptionPassFoundation@gmail.com

DPPF WISH LIST

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

DPPF can help!
Currently we need household items for our Americorps housing (e.g. small appliances, furniture, etc., please contact us for more information!)

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

Follow us on Facebook!  Learn more on our website!