

Deception Pass State Park

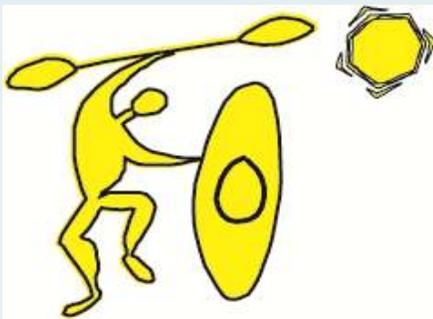
CURRENT

December 2011

*A monthly newsletter from the desk of the park manager,
helping our friends and neighbors stay in touch*

Coming Events:

6th Annual Deception Pass Dash December 3-4, 2011 Deception Pass State Park



Join hundreds of your fellow racers for a six-mile jaunt through the challenging waters of Deception Pass. In 2011, the 6th Annual Dash will feature a 2-day paddling festival on December 3-4. The Dash itself happens on Sunday the 4th, at 10:25am.

The demonstration day is Saturday, December 3. Come test kayaks, paddle boards, and other equipment by major retailers. Take part in informal classes on techniques taught by experts in the field. Demonstrations and classes start at noon and through the daylight hours.

Race Day Spectators: parking is limited. Do not expect to find parking at Bowman Bay on Sunday. Park at the bridge and walk down, maybe.

Registration is \$45 before November 15, then the price goes up to \$75. Day-of-race registration will be accepted this year, for \$100. Visit their website at:

<http://rubycreekboathouse.com/races/deception-pass-dash/>

New "New Year's Day" Tradition for You?

Start the New Year with a hike at the park!

Join Park Ranger Benjamin Cooksey on a hike from Bowman Bay to Lighthouse Point and around Reservation Head on Sunday, January 1, New Year's Day. The hike starts at 11 a.m. at the Bowman Bay parking lot. We recommend that hikers be prepared for typical January weather, which can be pretty much anything, or everything. The recommended minimum age for the hike is five years old.

The original idea of "First Day Hikes" started out as a way to kickstart our good intentions of New Year's resolutions by getting outside and getting more fit. The concept is now spreading across the nation as a way to explore our parks and connect with our neighbors.

Call the park at 360-675-3767 if you are interested in joining this fun walk.

Another Stove Restored



The generous donation of money to hire a contractor to rebuild a second Civilian Conservation Corps stove at Deception Pass has now born fruit. The stove is done, the shelter restored to how it first looked nearly 80 years ago.

It started on Labor Day with over a dozen of park friends and neighbors laboring intensively to remove the remains of the old stove at Little North Beach.

Ted Lagreid, a resident of eastern Washington, for a second time this year donated \$6700 to pay Bruce Aalmo of Island Masonry to rebuild the broken down stove, using some of the original rocks. The work, which involved many days of laborious hauling of materials and hundreds of feet of hose to get fresh water to the site, is now complete.

The final product: a rock stove and fireplace, authentic in appearance but modern in technique, honoring our CCC legacy. Visitors can again use a stove much like the original builders, the father and grandfather of Ted Lagreid, intended.

This is the kind of restoration that can only be accomplished through the generosity of people who honor our history and are able to make a difference.

25K and 50K Races

Those are big numbers, and very long distances for running a foot race.

Over 200 runners will gather at the park on December 10 to run the roads and trails of the park, and run, and run, and run.



Rainshadow Running, based in Eastern Washington, is hosting this event, along with others

like it around the state at various times of the year.

The race list is already full. The race begins at eight in the morning, and will take many hours to complete, especially the 50k race, which is around 30 miles!

Community Events

Green Living Programs:

Every Second Tuesday,
Oak Harbor City Hall, 5:30 to 6:30

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.

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

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

Saving Energy, One Light at a Time

A few hundred yards from Quarry Pond, lighting is now being replaced at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center. Thanks to a grant from Puget Sound Energy, we have been able to purchase energy efficient fluorescent lighting for the kitchen/dining hall, the recreation hall, and some of the other cabins and maintenance facilities at the retreat center.



These new lights should give us a reduction in our use of electricity that will translate into lower bills for us, and less demand for new sources of electricity for Puget Sound Energy.

PSE's first choice for satisfying customers' peak demand is energy efficiency. According to the draft resource plan, cost-effective conservation programs can cut PSE's projected need for new power capacity resources by about 700 MW, or more than 25 percent, over the next decade.

This partnership helps the park, PSE, and the long term health of our Pacific Northwest environment.

Ranger Ben Shook scrubs down the newly tiled showers at Quarry Pond, with newly installed energy efficient lighting above him.

Cornet Bay Construction Begins!

Essential improvements are coming to the Cornet Bay marine area this winter. Faber Construction of Lynden, Washington, is getting ready to start renovating the buildings and infrastructure.

On the list:

- A new restroom to replace the inefficient and worn out facility we have right now. The new restroom will be 'closer to the action', nearer to the dock and boat launch.
- A new water system that will not fail so often and so easily as the current system. Hopefully it will be dependable under the busiest of conditions, which will be a significant improvement.
- A small shelter will be built to improve shoulder season use of the area
- Storm water runoff will be channeled better to improve water quality.
- Boat launch access will be improved.

Next year, we hope that grants will allow replacing the creosote seawall with a "soft shore" natural shoreline, giving us easier access to the beach and improving the health of the shoreline and the critters that depend upon it.

Winter Camping Changes

For the first time in decades, maybe since the beginning of the park, the Forest Loop of the campground is closed for the winter.

As an old growth forest, we are giving the campground a chance to rest from the onslaught of year-round camper traffic, and also giving our campers a respite from the potential of falling trees or branches.



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, Rick Colombo.

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
Sam Wotipka, Park Naturalist Intern



Follow the Deception Pass Park Foundation on Facebook. Search for

Our Quarry Pond campground is open instead, offering hookup sites and standard sites, and offering a younger and healthier forest, more resilient for when the winds of winter assail the woods.

Park staff worked feverishly this fall to upgrade the Quarry Pond showers, and succeeded in creating stalls that are solid and attractive. Wooden stalls and paneling that were years or decades beyond their lifespan were replaced with stylish tiling. Lights were upgraded to the most efficient design now available. Energy Star certified water heaters were added to keep up with the growing demand for showers now that this is our only winter campground.

With limited budgets, it is amazing what our park staff can accomplish anyway. And in the larger view, we are saving energy, saving our forests, and better serving our visitors.

Drastic Changes for Parks?

December 6, this coming Tuesday, our State Park Commission is having a special meeting to hear the agency's plans to balance State Park's budget in light of what is currently lower than expected revenues from the Discover Pass program.

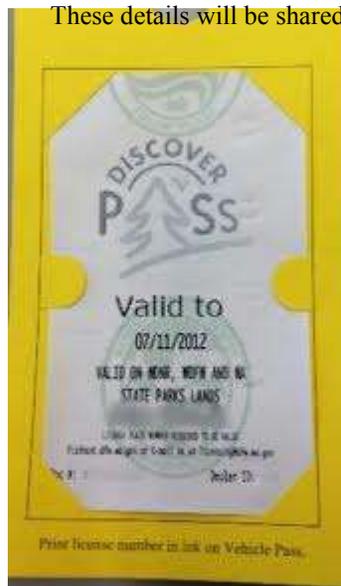
I will share a special announcement with Current readers about how the proposed budget the Commission adopts on that day will affect Deception Pass State Park.

As one of the top revenue producing parks in the state, and certainly one of the busiest and most diverse parks in the state, we are hoping that we will see our visitor services maintained for the coming year.

Historically, Washington State Parks used to receive 75 percent of its operating support from general fund tax dollars. In the current biennium, State Parks received only about 15 percent general fund tax dollars as a one-time "bridge" as we are weaned off the general fund. To replace lost tax dollars, the Legislature implemented the Discover Pass, a parking fee to access all state-managed recreation lands. Like any new program, the Discover Pass needs improvements and refinements to build public awareness, acceptance and participation.

However, the Commission must have a strategy that allows the agency to respond to a "worst-case scenario" if the existing general fund dollars are cut or if Discover Pass and other revenues fall short. The strategy includes dramatically cutting costs, changing service levels in the short term, and building capabilities for a better-resourced and sustainable future.

These details will be shared when they are announced.



Gift Idea for Friends, for Family, and for Parks

If you are a Current reader, you probably already have a Discover Pass.

Have you considered giving a Discover Pass as a gift to other family members or friends so that they can enjoy our State Parks as well?

Thirty dollars for twelve full months of fun at any State Park. But wait -- that's not all!

You also support one of the best state park systems in the country.

Thirty dollars for a gift of adventure and a helping hand for our park system. Sounds like a great holiday idea!

"Deception Pass Park Foundation"

Current Fall Projects:

- Re-roofing Cornet Bay Retreat Center dining hall.
- Re-roofing Cornet Bay Retreat Center recreation hall roof, rebuilding porch, and improving interior flooring and fixtures
- Replacing wasteful lighting fixtures throughout the Cornet Bay Retreat Center
- Painting restroom interiors
- Re-roofing CCC residence
- Servicing pop-off valves and sewer pumps

Off-Season Closures:

- Quarry Pond Campground open year round
- Back and middle loops, Cranberry Campground, open next spring. Due to forest health issues, the Forest Loop closed November 1 and reopens March 1. The lower loop closes November 15
- Bowman Bay Campground and shelter areas are closed until March 1 to conserve resources
- North Beach closed until March 1.
- Rosario will stay open all year, unless there are staffing cuts this winter.

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 at 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 great gift ideas, gift certificates, blown glass, and more. Check their website at www.deceptionpasstours.com

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. but 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.



How would YOU balance the state budget?

As the Legislature takes up the challenge of balancing the budget in the face of the state's budget shortfall, we lawmakers face a lot of painful choices. Should we increase school class sizes? Should we eliminate a support program for 15,000 aged, blind and disabled Washingtonians? Should we increase the sales tax? Should we eliminate exemptions to the estate tax?

Today you can play legislator and see what choices you'd make if you were in my shoes. A simple-to-use budget calculator courtesy of the League of Education Voters offers a list of possible cuts and new revenue sources, allowing you to mix and match your way to a balanced budget.

Go to <http://www.sdc.wa.gov/issues/budget/calculator.html>

May I suggest you start at the bottom and work your way up to the top? This will give you a clearer picture of what you need to accomplish and what alternative resources you have, if you so choose.

Try it!

Our thanks to Senator Mary Margaret Haugen for passing on this link through her newsletter.

Academic Adventures

Visit the website at

www.academicsandadventures.org

"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 ♥

Viewpoint

There is a magical world all around us, seldom seen because we aren't in the right place at the right time.

Nighttime is one of those worlds, out of sight figuratively and literally with darkness and the late hour. Few of us are out exploring the natural world while most of us are sleeping or sitting bleary eyes in front of cabled entertainment.

The stars at night, the woods at night, even our tidepools at night reveal a magical kingdom of infinite beauty and grace.

Beach Naturalist coordinator Sammye Kempbell joined several others last weekend to explore Rosario Beach at low tide. The tide was several feet below zero, exposing marine life that enjoys the protective blanket of the Salish Sea for 99% of the time.

While exploring the hidden world, she found the white lined dirona, or frosted nudibranch, resting on the exposed rocks.

A nudibranch is a member of one suborder of soft-bodied, shell-less marine mollusks, which are noted for their often extraordinary colors and striking forms. The suborder Nudibranchia is the largest suborder of heterobranchs, with more than 3,000 described species.

The word "nudibranch" comes from the Latin nudus, naked, and the Greek brankhia, gills. The name nudibranch is appropriate, since the dorids (infraclass Anthobranchia) breathe through a branchial plume of bushy extremities on their back, rather than using gills.

The adult form is without a shell or operculum (a bony or horny plate covering the opening of the shell, when the body is withdrawn).

They feed on bryozoans, small snails, or other diminutive creatures of the intertidal zone.

Beautiful and magical, aren't they?

Thank you, Sammie, for being there to see what most of us did not, and for sharing a glimpse into that mysterious and miraculous world that exists everyday all around us.



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