

Deception Pass State Park

CURRENT

MARCH 2013

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

More trails to follow:

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Park Events

Hope Island Work/Play Party

May 4, 2013 (Saturday) 9 a.m.
Meet at Cornet Bay boat launch
More details to come next month

Deception Pass Challenge

June 22, 2013
Second annual!
West Beach, Hoypus Point, and
Goose Rock
Sponsored by Deception Pass Foundation

Washington State Parks Centennial Celebration

August 3, a Saturday
Location: Park-wide
Events now being planned for a
magnificent event

Park Areas now OPEN:

Rosario
North Beach
Cornet Bay Retreat Center
Lower Loop, Cranberry Campground

Still Closed:

Bowman Campground
Back loops, Cranberry Campground

Can we find a better name?

Naked Man Valley, Or...

A valley by any other name, would it be as sweet? I invite you to give me your opinion.

In the late nineties, many park neighbors and friends met with State Park planners to discuss the long-term management of Deception Pass. Called CAMP planning, for Classification and Management Plan, these meetings helped establish the best priorities for several sections of the park.

One large section north of Pass Lake lacked an identifiable name. It was just a large valley, between Ginnett Hill and Rodgers Hill, and between Pass Lake to the south and leading to Campbell Lake to the north.

One of the attendees shared a story about the valley. Back in the seventies, a park neighbor living on Ginnett Hill woke to find a man standing at his front door, shivering and naked. This man was lost, apparently, having climbed out of the valley below.

One of the park planners jokingly referred to the valley for the rest of that evening as Naked Man Valley, a placeholder name for the planning process. The plans were eventually developed and finalized.

I arrived at the park a couple years later, almost ten years ago now. I read the management plan, and saw a valley referred to as Naked Man Valley in the notes. I thought that was an odd name, but in my ignorance accepted the name on an equal basis as any other named park feature, like Bowman Bay or Hoypus Point.

During that first year here, I helped develop the topographic map of the park that we now sell. As we worked on the map, we put on the names of the park features, like Bowman Bay, Hoypus Point, and of course Naked Man Valley. *(continued on next page —)*



(continued from page 1)

After the map's publication, one of the park planners visited me and looked at our new topo map. When he saw Naked Man Valley written across the valley, he drew back, aghast and laughing at the same time.

"That was just a joke from the planning meetings," he shared in candid shock.

I looked at him with my usual "what have I done now" expression.

We had printed 10,000 copies of the map.

Fast forward to today. The maps are nearly all sold out. (Get a copy soon if you want the edition that says "Naked Man Valley"!)

We have a chance to re-consider what we call the valley. It has never had a published name, other than the moniker I bestowed upon it in innocence and ignorance.

Yet it has had a colorful history and pre-history.

Far from the shores of the Salish Sea, the valley shows little evidence or record of having been used by local tribes. Thick forests and marsh shrubs probably created a dense, impenetrable barrier to travel.

During the development of the Dewey Beach area, this valley was platted and the trees first cut for farming. Eventually it was owned by a variety of pioneers who farmed the valley floor. Several families are associated with the valley and nearby hills, including the Gilhams, Grimes, Stormes, Traftons, and Livingstons. Others, such as the Ginnetts, Halls, Rodgers, Holpins, and other local names have a fascinating history of the valley and the surrounding hills.

The Livingstons and their relatives have gathered a considerable amount of historical material now residing at the Anacortes Museum. Several of the family members visited the Pass Lake and valley area on a regular basis during the past few years.

The Ginnett name is well known in the area, as their families worked the land and lived here for generations. The hill to the west bears this name. Mr. Louis Hall and his wife lived on the brink of Ginnett Hill overlooking the valley for several decades; they sold their property to State Parks while still living there, as a living trust to be enjoyed by all upon their passing. This generosity has added immensely to the beauty of the valley.



Another family had a significant impact on Fidalgo Island and the future of Deception Pass State Park.

Mr. Edwin C. Heilman attended Harvard to train as an architect, and worked in the Seattle area for many years. Heilman and his wife Amelia pursued a lifelong dream by purchasing 540 acres of Fidalgo forest, farmland, and shoreline which included the Pass Lake area and down to the waters of Deception Pass.

Mr. Heilman's early days with the CCC in three Washington parks plus his career as a landscape architect molded his "respectful farmer" mentality that he applied to this pristine property. The Heilmans farmed the fields and raised their family here, building a new home along the lake in the sixties.

They also held a deep appreciation for the natural environment. He and his wife were involved in the early environmental effort to forestall sale of and development of Heart Lake State Park, now a part of the ACFL.

Their decision to sell the entire Pass Lake section of what is now Deception Pass State Park at a tremendous bargain to the state versus the offers they had received from a developer showed their belief in preservation and respectful land use. The park is much richer for this beautiful addition.

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The Storme farm and home in the valley in the early 1900s, looking north towards Mount Erie. Compare this photo with the one on the first page.

Photo courtesy John Mattson.

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So, if not Naked Man Valley, what name should we choose for the valley?

Washington State Park policy is clear on its preferences for names in a state park. "In naming of sites, priority shall be given to geographic locations, or features of historic significance or geologic features," the policy states.

No significant historic features can be found in the valley, other than the fading remnants of a farm. It is a flat valley set between two dramatic hills, leading down to Campbell Lake, but no distinctive geologic or geographic feature jumps out as a logical source of a name.

Or should the valley honor one of the pioneers who lived and worked here? If so, which family should be so honored?

The Heilmans are certainly worthy of consideration. One local advocate shared these thoughts:

"It would be much more meaningful to name this valley after the long-time owners/residents who cared for the valley for several decades and who then bequeathed it to the state parks system. The Heilman family worked the land (selective logging, farming/ranching and boat rentals) for many years.

The Heilmans made the effort and the economic sacrifice to place the land in public use rather than sell to a developer. The valley is secluded and very beautiful. Rather than selecting an anecdotal name, we should honor those who helped make this beautiful park what it is today due to their environmental consciousness and love of this land."



View of "Naked Man Valley" from Ginnett Hill towards Pass Lake

Naming a park feature after a person or family requires an act of the State Park Commission. The Commission will want to hear from park friends and neighbors, historical societies, tribal nations, and other interested people, so that together we choose the most appropriate name.

Or should we just leave the valley without a name of any kind?

We want to make a recommendation to our Parks Commission in the very near future.

We would love to hear your opinions. And stories. Unless it involves a naked man.

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

Porta-Potties Are Us

Rosario Restroom Project

The new plaza and restroom at Rosario is in final design. It will hopefully be ready for going out to contract in the next few weeks.

After the contract is awarded, we expect the restroom to be demolished mid-spring and the new one constructed through the late spring and early summer months.

The parking lot will be open during construction, but porta-potties will be the only restroom facilities available this year for some time.



New Vault Toilet at Pass Lake

Speaking of toilets... that must be the theme of this page.

Last month, we added a new restroom at Pass Lake. Thanks to a grant from the legislature to upgrade aging and polluting vault toilets, we were able to fund a CXT vault toilet to replace what we had hidden in the woods near the parking lot.

The new concrete facility cost very little but is well built. Because of environmental and shoreline constraints, we could no longer put the toilet in the woods out of sight, so it is quite visible now to everyone who drives by.

Porta-potties Part Two

Bowman Bay's sewer field near the playground also needs work. We discovered this problem last year, and did what we could to limp through the summer season.

This year, we have engineered plans to continue to use the existing drainfield, supplementing its abilities with improved distribution, and with a new system to handle the effluent from the ranger residences there.

So, yes, when the project is underway, it looks like we will have to have porta-potties at the south end of Bowman for a couple of weeks in spring as well.

This project will not take nearly as long, nor be as disruptive, as the Rosario project for this year.

Repairs at North Beach

The sewer pumps at North Beach are struggling to keep up with the effluent during the summer months.

With another pink season this year, the demand will be even greater.

Park maintenance staff Mark Lunz and Marvin Wold are working on tweaking the pump as much as possible to improve its capacity for the coming months.

You may remember last year when we had to have porta-potties at North Beach for several weeks to give people a place to go.

Yes, local porta-potty companies are on speed dial in my office.



Jerry of the SWITMO team looks at a portion of the new trail under construction in the park. Details on the trail and this project next month.

100 years old this month!

In February of 1913, the Washington State legislature's House of Representatives passed a bill 1913 creating a "Board of Park Commissioners" who would receive and control land donated or acquired for park purposes. The Senate passed the bill ten days later. Governor Lister signed the bill on **March 19, 1913**, swift passage for what was apparently an undisputed bill of little interest. No newspaper articles of the time gave space to the story.

The new park board consisted of the Governor, the State Lands Commissioner, the State Auditor, the State Treasurer, and an appointee of the Governor. The legislation gave no direction to the Board as to how to acquire properties or how to manage them.

The first parks were acquired two years later. John R. Jackson House near Chehalis and Larrabee State Park became the first two parks.

With a park system in place, the United States Congress was now able to offer land to the Park Board.

One of the earlier parks to be considered was a former military reservation, Deception Pass.

The Board of Park Commissioners gained properties and developed parks for the next century, changing the name of the Board on occasion before arriving at the current name of Washington State

Parks and Recreation Commission. Washington's citizens grew to expect parks in every corner of the state, managed for natural, recreational, and cultural values for the present and the future.

Funding was an issue then, as it is today. But in the ensuing one hundred years, the system has grown to be one of the most respected and beloved state park systems in the nation.

From our Olympia offices:

Happy Birthday!

Washington State Parks turns 100 years old on March 19, 2013! To help us celebrate this momentous occasion, please consider sending a "Happy Birthday" video or photo to State Parks!

Put your creative hat on and send us a photo featuring your family/friends, co-workers or neighbors with a birthday wish (use a sign or symbols to get your message across). Or put a party hat on your dachshund, give the kids party whistles and shoot a fun video!

State Parks will use the images/videos for photo collages, presentations, marketing, social media and more, to add to celebrations and mark the birthday in history.

Please share this notice with friends and family and invite them to wish State Parks a happy birthday, too. The more wishes received, the better!

Now for the fine print: By submitting a photo or video to Washington State Parks, you are giving permission for unlimited use without credit.

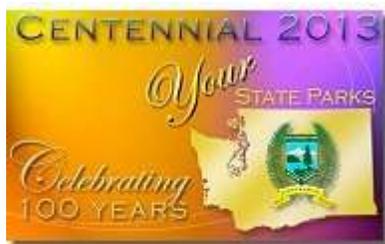
E-mail photos less than 2MB in size and in JPG format to:

HappyBirthday@parks.wa.gov Videos and large photos (or in formats other than JPG) can be posted to the Washington State Parks Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks. Once you post a birthday video or photo to our Facebook page, send a confirmation e-mail to HappyBirthday@parks.wa.gov. We will download the video/photo from Facebook.

Send your birthday wishes as soon as possible, so we can start using them in March birthday celebrations.

Thanks so much!



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.

Community Events

2013 Beach Watcher Lecture Series

Please note the new location, described below

March 8, 7pm

Designing a Healthy Salish Sea.

Friday, March 8th, 7:00-8:30pm, Northwest Educational Service District Building - 1601 R Ave. Anacortes.

Come hear Dr. Joe Gaydos, Wildlife Veterinarian and Chief Scientist of the SeaDoc Society, talk about the current condition of the Salish Sea, share ideas and suggest ten ecological principles that can be a foundation for public education. and for designing a healthy Salish Sea. Lectures are free and open to the public. Sponsored by Friends of Skagit Beaches.

For more information contact: Matt Kerschbaum: cherry-tree2@comcast.net.



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

Celebrate Washington State Park's Centennial 2013

Your Washington State Parks will be **100 years old on March 19, 2013**. The fourth oldest state parks system in the nation, 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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Not one word about geese in the entire March edition!

More Community Events

Fidalgo Shoreline Academy

The second annual Fidalgo Shoreline Academy will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2013, 8:30am-3:30pm at the Fidalgo Bay Resort, Anacortes. Our Keynote speaker will be Mr. Ron Lindsay - "The Changing Arctic", and throughout the day there will be six scheduled presentations and three interpretive walks. The day is sponsored by Friends of Skagit Beaches. Registration is necessary. For more information and online registration, please view Friends of Skagit Beaches at: www.skagitbeaches.org and follow the link to Fidalgo Shoreline Academy. See you there!

WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

PLANT WALKS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, usually

April 9 – **Rosario Head** at Deception Pass State Park. Entrance is west of the Bowman's Bay park entrance. Rocky headland and sheltered woods. Little elevation gain. Easy.

April 23 – **Bowman's Bay** at Deception Pass State Park. Meet in the Bowman's Bay parking lot across from Pass Lake on the north side of the bridge. Park near the pier. Beach, woods and rocky headland. Some hill. Celebrate Earth Day in the woods. Moderate.

April 30 – **Goose Rock** in Deception Pass State Park. Meet in the parking lot at the south end of the bridge. Woods and open bluffs full of spring flowers. Some hill. Moderate.

May 7 – **Sharpe County Park**. Entrance is off Rosario Road just south of Sharpe Road. Pond, woods rich with mosses and lichens and open bluffs. Easy. Moderate if go to the bluffs.

May 28 – **Cranberry Lake** in Deception Pass State Park. Meet near the vending stands and restrooms on the west side of the lake. Backshore, dunes and other habitat. Easy. Bring a lunch to enjoy later on the beach.

Information – Ann Dursch, 293-3044 or Susan Alaynick 360-659-8792.

Transition Fidalgo and Friends

March 26

5:45pm at the Anacortes Senior Center.

Suggested Donation: \$5/adult, \$3/children 10 and under.

Please bring your own place settings.

Ocean Acidification seminar

Wednesday, March 13:

Shellfish depend on seawater's naturally-occurring carbonate ions to grow their shells. But the chemistry of seawater is changing faster than living creatures can adapt. Excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere dissolves in seawater, increasing acidity and lowering naturally-occurring carbonate ion. In Puget Sound, shellfish and other marine organisms are being impacted, as is our local seafood industry. Co-sponsored by the NW Straits Commission, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and local marine resource committees. Free. 6-8:00 pm at the Seafarers Memorial Park building.