Deception Pass State Park
CURRENT
September 2017
The monthly e-newsletter helping keep
the friends and neighbors of Deception Pass State Park in touch
www.deceptionpassfoundation.org

Kiket Development Underway

Fortunately, we had capital funding approved last year to make some minimal developments at the Kukutali Preserve. These projects are fully underway right now.

- Interpretive signage: a cooperative project with the Swinomish tribe and park staff created seven beautiful and educational signs that will be placed in strategic locations on the Preserve. These tell the story of the earlier use and history of the island, and the heritage that the Preserve protects.
- Directional signage: the temporary trail signs and maps are being replaced by permanent signs and maps to help guide visitors around the islands trails and waypoints.
- Restrooms: solid vault toilets have been installed for visitor comfort. One is at the parking lot, and the other in the background of the meadow at the west end of the island. These are accessible for those with a disability, and blend into the surroundings.

- Benches: two resting places are being built along the trails at strategic locations.

- Picnic shelter: a shelter is under construction near where the former house sat in the meadow at the west end. Two tables fit underneath, offering a small gathering place for those who wish to picnic in a more formal manner on the island.

State Park region construction staff are busy building these facilities over the next couple of weeks; a tribal representative is monitoring the ground disturbance to ensure archaeological resources are left intact.

The entire project has been an excellent example of cooperation between the Swinomish tribe and State Parks as they planned these projects together.

Kiket Tombolo Restoration Postponed

Due to Lack of State Capital Budget

The tombolo restoration work at Kiket Island has been postponed because of the lack of a state capital budget this biennium.

Plans call for the removal of the hundred feet of causeway leading out from Snee-Oosh Road onto Kiket Island itself, allowing a natural beach to be restored here instead. The beach would be walkable at all but the highest of tides. Kiket Island would become an island but would still be fully accessible by foot, with the caveat that you need to consider the tides in your hike, especially in the winter months.

The restoration had been scheduled for next week.

BUT: the project is partially funded with capital beach restoration money. The capital budget, needed by July 1, is reportedly finished but not released by the legislature as they work through unrelated issues. The work on the restoration project cannot move ahead without that funding. The beach work can only be done in the early fall; if the budget is not released in the next few days, we will miss that window and have to wait until late next summer.

Even worse, several State Park staff will be losing their jobs at the end of September because there is no capital budget to pay them. We hope that this is resolved before then, but if not, they will be unemployed and looking for work. And hundreds of park projects like this will be canceled for the next two years, or until the budget is finally passed.

How are Puget Sound Salmon Doing, Really?

Please visit:

https://www.eopugetsound.org/magazine/is/salmon-recovery

Cornet Bay Sampling Finds Smelt Eggs!

Submitted via email by Dan Pentilla

The 8/10/17 sample from Cornet site #1 yielded 3 eggs, including some about 10 days in age. This is the site that had first-time smelt eggs last year.

The 8/23/17 sample from Cornet site #4 yielded 5 smelt eggs, including one only a day or so old, for the first time ever. **Unlike site #1, which is a natural suitable looking potential smelt spawning beach unmodified by the restoration project, site #4 represents a site where there was little smelt spawning habitat potential before the restoration actions of the Cornet project produced a suitable beach "from scratch".**

The Mystery of the Missing Ferns

Has anyone seen any evidence at Deception Pass? I haven't yet, fortunately.

Please visit http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/mystery-missing-ferns for the full article.

DECEPTION PASS PARK FOUNDATION

By Rick Colombo, President
Deception Pass Park Foundation

Greetings, sure hoping your summer has been fantastic, it's been an amazing summer season at the park.

The Deception Pass Park Foundation's 2017 Operational Plan has gone like clockwork, thanks to the efforts of so many hands to reach out and support our beloved Deception Pass State Park. We would especially like to thank Ranger Jack Hartt (Park Manager), our supporting AMERICORPS Interns (Montana Napier & Jackie French), our education committee (Matt Klope, Cindy Elliser, Maddie Rose, and Sammye Kempbell), and the many volunteers (such as Crystal Colombo, Steve Young / Cindy Oldemeyer, Dan Maul, Dave Myers and the many beach naturalists) who helped plan and implement this summer's Saturday Interpretive programs (Nature hikes, Junior Rangers, and evening events), Rosario's Discovery Center, and the engaging Beach Naturalist Programming.

Sammye Kempbell not only developed and implemented the Rosario Beach Naturalist training program, passionately educated thousands of tidepool visitors in beach etiquette, and manned and maintained the invertebrates display table on the beach and at the Discovery Center, but also lovingly volunteered countless hours on the slippery tidepools this season, AMAZING!

Our fundraising and membership committee never stopped working this summer, ensuring we move into next year's operating plan. Thank Jill Johnson, Terica Ginther, Dan Maul, and park employee Todd Harris for their helping hands in the community.

We again reached out into the community this year, taking information about the park to the following local events: Sound Waters, Penn Cove Water Festival, Fidalgo Bay Days, and the Anacortes Farmer's Market with our FIX IT DAYS program. Thank you to Barb Shaw, Estelle Johnson, Dan Maul, Cindy Elliser, Eric Chen and his crew of technicians helping keep used appliances repaired and out of the landfills.

The South Bridge Information and Tours Kiosk, jointly operated by Deception Pass Tours (Brett and Terica Ginther) and the Foundation, was not only successful in providing a fun jet boat tour to our excited visitors, but also local tourist information & park souvenirs and memorabilia.

We even supported numerous park sponsored events like the Rainshadow Run, the First Day Hike, and the Rocky Mountain Parks Supervisor's Conference back In June.

Our number one eye opener this season is the upgrade of the amphitheater stage, nearing completion. After five years in the planning, the park's Construction & Maintenance crew (Mark Lunz, Marv Wold, Wayne "Todd" Harris, Doug Young) have brought the dream to a reality. The Foundation and Giving Wall donors have provided the financial resources to supply funding for all the building supplies and permitting required. Looking forward to 2018 with possibly a whole new venue for the amphitheater programming and usage.

As this season winds down, we invite you to help us celebrate the retirement of Park Manager Jack Hartt. He announced his retirement effective the end of October. Please set aside Saturday, 28 October 2017, at 2 p.m. at the Fidalgo Bay Resort, Anacortes, for appetizers and a celebration. More to follow as details are finalized.

Thank you all for your ongoing support!

Quick Park Updates

Hope Island Work Day Cancelled

The September 13 date that some of you asked for to remove weeds on Hope is cancelled.

Or to be more specific, I cannot attend. My last days here have become too packed with wrapping up projects and finishing loose ends. I would love to spend a few hours on Hope again with kind and hard working folks who want to keep improving that meadow, but I cannot be a part of it.

If anyone wants to go out there anyway, I offer my strongest encouragement!

Save the Date:

Afternoon of Saturday, October 28
at the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort
for appetizers and a celebration of the 40 years of service and upcoming retirement of Deception Pass State Park Manager Jack Hartt.

Lake quality

Pass and Cranberry lakes are starting to show the signs of blue-green algae again. The dog days of August and early September have allowed the green scum to flourish once again. We are beginning testing of the waters to see if they show evidence of toxicity.

AmeriCorps Interpreters

Our AmeriCorps interpretive team is down to zero right now. Montana has begun graduate work at North Cascades Institute, and Jackie will return October 1 when the program begins again.

I look forward to her positive energy and smiling face to reinvigorate our interpretive efforts for the new year!

Stage Progressing

It is getting close! The roof is nearly done; the back wall is framed in; the walkways are in place and in service. When the hammers are quiet, kids love standing on the stage and singing a song from *Frozen* or *Moana*. Adults walk across the stage and think dramatic thoughts. Others sit in the seats and cheer them on.

Work continues, as our staff find time (they have a big and busy park to maintain that never sleeps). I am hoping the roof will be finished next week, and the walls a week later, and then the wiring, landscaping, and touch up work after that. We have had many generous donations for the wall to make it all possible, including the following:

Steve Young
Ann Dursch
Ron Jerome
Gayle Glass
Rainer and Patricia Schmidt
David and Sheila Myers
Harold and Carol Harrington
The Hartt Family
Rue and Primavera Occupational and Physical Therapy
Jill Johnson
Lance D. Keyes, Island Oral and Facial Surgery
Harold and Robin Hertein
Frank and Marissa Smith, Cafe de Lisio
Joseph D. Keyes, DDS-LLC, Acorn Dental Clinic
Gordon D. Keyes, DDS
Matt Klope
Alan Parsons

Each of these individuals, families, businesses, or other groups are being honored with plaques on a Giving Wall at the back of the stage when it is complete.

I hope we can have a grand celebration when it is open for everyone's enjoyment.

Remaining State Park Free Days

Sept. 30 – National Public Lands Day
Nov. 11 – Veterans Day
Nov. 24 – Autumn day

Pier Influence

We have received the engineer's assessment of the Bowman Pier.

The bad news is that the pier needs repairs or replacement, as we suspected.

Several of the support pilings near the east end have been structurally compromised or they are totally missing. The rest of the pier pilings are aging and will need ongoing repairs and replacement through the coming years.

Total replacement of the pier was tagged with a price tag of $1.3 million, a lot of money to say the least.

Replacing the seriously impaired pilings at the east end will cost an estimated $250,000, plus permitting costs. Replacing other weakened pilings may cost an additional $40,000.

And on-going assessments and repairs may cost about $50,000 annually to keep the pier above water.

The good news is that the cost of these immediate repairs may be affordable if the project rises high enough in the priorities of state spending. That will take at least a couple of years to get the project into our State Park capital budget request, to be prioritized along with the abundance of other needs of the agency around the state.

In the interim, we have cordoned off the top of the pier in the places where the pilings place the structure at greatest risk. The temporary caution tape will have more permanent guiding structures to be built in the near future.

Thank you for the many letters I received sharing your viewpoints about the value of the pier in your varied experiences. Many great suggestions were made along with encouraging remarks about the recreational opportunities that Bowman Bay offers.

The budget process will need your ongoing input to the new park manager to make sure all our values are considered as these decisions are made.

Happy Trails to You

While many of us were busy at the park celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Pacific Northwest Trail, a handful of dedicated SWITMO volunteers filled their day with sweat equity in another trail at Deception Pass.

SWITMO (Skagit Whatcom Island Trail Maintaining Organization) volunteers rebuilt a section of the east-side Hoypus trails where fallen trees and running water had made the trail nearly impassible.

Hard at work, these folks can be seen in the photo to the right clearing a drainage swale and digging a passageway for the water to run beneath the tread to the other side and down the hill through the ferns and fields.

To the left is the final result. The trail is now dry throughout all the seasons, leaving our boots and tennis shoes dry as well, and the natural water drainage can continue unabated.

My hard hat is doffed to these hard-working dedicated folks who give their backs routinely to help keep our trails top-notch and tread-ready.

Go enjoy this stretch!

ANACORTES FARMERS MARKET

Transition Fidalgo & Friends

FIX-IT DAYS

REDUCE, REUSE, AND REPAIR THEN REUSE

Got a broken appliance that you're hoping to repair? Or a lamp that needs attention? How about those two watches that need new batteries? Broken or chipped items that need mending?

Bring it to Fix-It Day and we will see if we can work a little magic on your broken item. Running late, we can make pick up arrangement for you.

TIME: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
WHERE: Anacortes Farmers Market
WHEN:

JUNE 24th **JULY 29th**
AUGUST 26th **SEPTEMBER 30th**

DECEPTION PASS PARK FOUNDATION

Fix-It Day is a benefit for Deception Pass Park Foundation.

As everyone knows, the State Parks are in dire financial circumstances resulting from budget reductions. Fix-It Day is an effort on the part of Transition Fidalgo & Friends and Anacortes Farmers Market to provide Deception Pass State Park, through the Foundation, with financial assistance.

6th Annual

Fidalgo Shoreline Academy

Saturday, October 21st, 2017
9 AM - 3:30 PM
NWESD - 1601 R Avenue, Anacortes

Another quality public education event brought to you by Friends of Skagit Beaches and our sponsors. Come spend a day with us hearing from top scientists and local community leaders on a wide range of topics designed to broaden your perspectives, deepen your knowledge, and inspire you to learn more.

Keynote Address by Dr. Phoebe Barnard

Internationally recognized scientist Dr. Phoebe Barnard, Executive Director of the Pacific Biodiversity Institute, will deliver the keynote address "When Rome is Burning" on the alarming decline in global biodiversity, what it all means, and what we can do about it.

After spending most of her career in South Africa, Dr. Barnard recently moved to our area. She brings with her impressive credentials as a highly motivated climate change ecologist, conservation biologist, sustainability strategist, and environmental planner.

- ⇒ **Registration begins in early September** (visit our Facebook or website for details - see below)
- ⇒ **FREE clock hours available to educators**
- ⇒ **Optional box lunch**
- ⇒ **Keynote plus 3 optional breakout sessions to choose from:**

- European Green Crabs - *How our invasion is different*
- Harmful Algae Blooms – *When algae go bad*
- Rockfish of Puget Sound – *Use, abuse and hope for the future*
- Native Bees of Puget Sound - *A time for conservation*
- Bats – *Essential allies, safe neighbors*
- Baleen Whales of the Salish Sea – *The "other" whales*
- Samish Dept of Natural Resources – *Planning 7 generations into the future*
- Anacortes Wooden Boat Builders - *Traditional skills in modern times*
- The Changing Shorelines of Fidalgo Bay – *1880s to present*
- Port of Anacortes – *A success story of 90 years*

Entire day of programs ONLY $30!

Mark your calendars for a great day of learning, meeting new friends, and just plain FUN!

We look forward to seeing you this fall!

Friends of Skagit Beaches

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FriendsofSkagitBeaches/ or website at www.skagitbeaches.org/

Upcoming Community Events

September 1-30
throughout Skagit County

Skagit Water Weeks

Skagit Water Weeks is a collection of local events celebrating one of our most treasured resources. There's something for everyone: take a look at http://www.skagitcleanwater.org/. Sponsored by Skagit Conservation Education Alliance.

Wednesday, September 13, 7:30 p.m.
Burlington Public Library

Grizzlies in the North Cascades

Free presentation on the reintroduction of grizzly bears into the North Cascades. 7:30 PM, Burlington Library.

For more info, email nativegarden@fidalgo.net.

Saturday, September 16, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Anacortes Senior Activity Center

Anacortes Community Energy Fair

Vendors, workshops on renewable energy and energy efficiency, E-Bikes, electric vehicles, and more! For more info: 360-293-1964.

Friday, September 22, 5:30 p.m.
pretty much everywhere

Autumn Equinox

The point at which the Sun's path crosses the celestial equator moving from north to south: 1:02 p.m., PDT. The days are getting shorter...

Tuesday, September 26, 5:45 p.m.
Anacortes Senior Center

Seventh Generation Supper

Join Transition Fidalgo & Friends for for a community supper on Tuesday,September 26, at 5:45 pm at the Anacortes Senior Center.

Our presentation this evening is "Asking Big Questions about Little Organisms: the role of plankton in climate change, ocean acidification and marine food webs."

Most people know very little about marine plankton, despite the fact they are some of the most diverse communities on the planet, play a substantial and important role in cycling of global CO2 concentrations, and form the basis for ocean food webs. This talk will take you down to the level of marine plankton, where we will explore some of the unique characteristics of these communities, investigate their role in carbon cycling and ocean acidification, and look at their importance in the particularly productive coastal waters of the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Jude Apple is an oceanographer, estuarine ecologist and Research Coordinator for the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. His research interests include ocean acidification, plankton communities, eelgrass, and response of coastal ecosystems to a changing climate – and how to use this information to achieve sustainable management of our valuable coastal resources. He lives in Anacortes with his wife and four kids.

Open to all and welcome; no reservations necessary.

Suggested supper donation (catered by Gere-a-Deli):

$5/adult; $3/10 and under.

Please bring your own place settings.

Current

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.

We are grateful to have you welcome us into your inbox.

If you are not interested in receiving these monthly updates, please reply to this message and let me know. 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 <u>your</u> 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 ♥

Deception Pass State Park Staff:

Jim Aggergaard, Ranger
Nathan Anderson, Ranger
Rick Blank, Asst. Manager
Darlene Clark, Sr. Park Aide
Rick Colombo, Park Ranger 1
Doug DeYoung, Maintenance
Jackie French, Naturalist
Todd Harris, Maintenance
Jack Hartt, Park Manager
Adrienne Hawley, Park Ranger 1
Jeri Lancaster, Office Assistant
Mark Lunz, Maintenance Chief
Truly McCone, Ranger
Montana Napier, Naturalist
Bill Ruh, Senior Park Aide
Ben Shook, Ranger
Bryce Watkinson, Ranger
Marv Wold, Maintenance Lead

DECEPTION PASS PARK FOUNDATION

Board members:

Rick Colombo

Matt Klope

Steve Young

Terica Taylor

Jill Johnson

Dave Meyers

Dan Maul

Cindy Elliser

Our Park Concession Partners!

Deception Pass Tours: Friday - Sunday through September

Anacortes Kayak Tours / Blue Otter Outfitters

BLUE OTTER OUTFITTERS

AdventureTerra Tree Canopy Climbing Tours