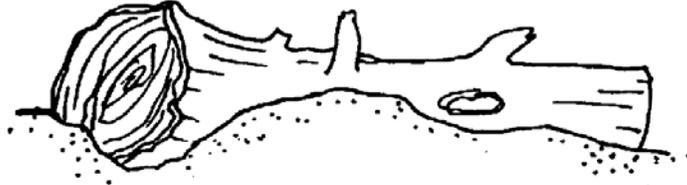




*Education,
Research,
Stewardship*

Beach Log

MAY 2006



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION

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2006 Class Graduates on Camano



April 27th was the graduation day for the 2006 Beach Watchers class on Camano, following two months of classes, field trips, and fun! The 26 new volunteers had many first-time experiences for a Beach Watchers class, including large joint classes with the 2006 Whidbey class. A Padilla Bay class included Beach Watchers from Snohomish and Skagit counties, a historic first.

One of the highlights of the class was the boat tour of the Penn Cove Mussel Farm. As the boat returned to the dock, a 25 pound bag of fresh mussels was secretly handed off to Bill Griffith, 2003 fall class, who hustled the bag up to the Coupeville Town Park shelter. Several Camano volunteers had gathered to decorate the tables and spread out a feast of salads, breads, appetizers and desserts, while others helped “top chef” David Baumchen (2002 class) cook the mussels using his secret recipe, which included liberal use of wine and garlic. While the volunteers were preparing lunch, I gave the new class a tour of the Wharf. Shortly into my speech on Rosie, Sammie Kempbell, 2003 spring class, just happened to walk in the door with her 2 grandchildren. Hearing the talk as she entered, she thought it might have been some tour bus driver, and was surprised to see someone from Camano giving the talk to a big group of people. I asked if she would finish the talk, and tell us all about Rudy, which she handled expertly, considering she had no advance warning. Finishing her talk, Sammie commented on what a great group of folks they were, and that they should think about becoming Beach Watchers. The group replied almost in unison “We are!” All had a good laugh, and Sammie and her grandchildren joined us for a delicious lunch, which was a total surprise to the new class and much tastier than the brown-bag lunches they had brought along.

During the two months of instruction, each trainee gave a five minute talk on a marine critter whose name was written on the back of their name card. On graduation day, each gave a ten minute talk on a subject of their choice. All talks were done expertly and enjoyed by all, and were followed by a great potluck lunch. The graduation ceremony included comments by Scott Chase, Kristen Cooley, Don Meehan, Ron Wilkinson, Island County Commissioner Bill Byrd, and State Representative Barbara Bailey, followed by handing out of name badges and graduation certificates. Please welcome the new 2006 class on Camano when you see them at different events this summer. They will join the 2006 class on Whidbey, who graduate in October, to add over 50 outstanding new volunteers to our organization this year!

-Scott Chase, Camano Island coordinator, 2002 class



Monitoring Madness

The 2006 monitoring season kicked off on April 28 at Lagoon Point. Nine Beach Watchers and one spouse enjoyed sunny weather and a beautiful view of the Olympics as they worked. Six members of the team were first time monitors and they seemed to be discovering a whole new world. Lenore Minstrell and Debbie Bitts reported that their favorite find of the day was a shaggy mouse nudibranch (*Aeolidia papillosa*). Pam Winstanley got a big kick out of a northern clingfish (*Gobiosox meandricus*). Veteran Pete Berg found some great worms. His first find was a *Hemipodis* polychaete almost a foot long. A few minutes later, he turned over a rock and spotted a *Nereid* worm that was even larger than the *Hemipodis*, and his third find of the day was *Cerebratulus*, the rose ribbon worm.

Mother Nature's amazing show actually started for this team before they even got away from the parking area. Apparently they had parked near a killdeer nest and the adult bird repeatedly feigned injury as it tried to lure them away from its nest site. That protective little bird put on quite a



Ala Spit monitoring team at work. Mary Jo Adams Photo.

The Crescent Harbor team was glad to see the sun was back on April 30 and, in fact, there was a ring around it, a sign perhaps that the rain was just taking a day off. The team of seven turned over rocks to the -2.3 foot level, finding pygmy rock crabs (*Cancer oregonensis*), a large ribbon worm of the genus *Cerebratulus*, and a plainfin midshipman fish (*Porichthys notatus*). The day's highlight for Mike Eddy was seeing a shaggy mouse nudibranch (*Aeolidia papillosa*) (although Charlie Seablom remarked that he thought the nudibranch was having a bad hair day!). Bethany Ingram also liked the nudibranch and enjoyed seeing sea stars (*Evasterias troschellii*). Plainfin midshipmen are normally found in deeper water but in spring and summer months, males hollow out nest areas under intertidal rocks. Females come in and lay eggs, then swim away, leaving the male to guard the eggs and then, after they hatch, the larvae. Midshipmen fish have rows of photophores along their sides that, in some locales, will emit light. Those in Puget Sound, however, lack a chemical necessary for the bioluminescence because a particular crustacean in their diet from which that chemical is derived is not found in this area. The monitoring season is off to a great start! Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999



Lagoon Point monitoring team. Mary Jo Adams Photo.

Weather-wise, the **Ala Spit** team did not have the same luck the following day. A low pressure front moved in bringing cold temperatures, wind, and rain. The team forged on despite the adversity, but after the rain picked up, they decided to forgo some of the quadrats. There were still some bright spots. The team observed a river otter, Pattie Hutchins spotted a *Nereid* polychaete at least 18 inches long (!), and Heather Leahy-Mack announced she is expecting a baby. In addition, the notes team captain Sammye Kempbell made on a soaking-wet field data sheet were still legible when the paper dried out. The large worm the Pattie Hutchins found was probably *Nereis brandti*, commonly called the giant pile worm. Although the team was impressed by the size of this individual worm, this species has been found up to 5 feet long!



Crescent Harbor monitoring team (and a little Photoshop magic to put the photographer in the photo). Mary Jo Adams



Camano Island 2006 Beach Intertidal Monitoring Schedule
 (Start time is usually up to 2 hours prior to low tide; check with beach host)

- Cama Beach** Tuesday, June 13, -3.1 tide at 12:45 p.m. Jeff Wheeler 387- 7542 and Rich Steele 387-6954
 - English Boom** Wednesday June 14, -2.9 tide at 1:28 p.m. John Custer 387-0846
 - Elger Bay** Monday June 26 -2.6 tide at 12:07 p.m. Alice Blandin 387-3375
 - Onamac (2)** Tuesday June 27 -2.2 tide at 12:44 p.m. Vicki and Tom Perry 387-6995
 - Iverson** Wednesday June 28 -1.6 tide at 1:24 p.m. To Be Determined
 - Cavalero** Monday July 10 -2.8 tide at 11:03 a.m. Beth Horton 652-4401
 - Madrona** Tuesday July 11 -3.2 tide at 11:46 a.m. Duane Hoekstra 387-6571 / 425-778-3336
 - Sunny Shores** Wednesday July 12 -3.2 tide at 12:29 p.m. Liz Thomas 387-6168
 - Pebble Beach** Monday July 24 -2.0 at 11:13 a.m. Pam Trojanoski 387-0217 and Derek Whitmarsh
 - Utsalady** Tuesday Aug 8 -2.5 at 10:44 a.m. Pam Cooper 387-8053
 - Mabana** Wednesday Aug 9 -2.5 at 11:27 a.m. Barbara Brock 387-7903
 - Perrywinkle** Thursday Aug 10 -2.1 at 12:10 p.m. Vicki and Tom Perry 387-6995
- Beth Horton (in charge of all Camano Island monitoring), BW Class of 2002, Horton@snobomish.net, (360) 652-4401

Beach Watchers Walk in Whidbey Island Marathon



Beach Watchers (left to right) Nicole Luce, Mary Chapman, Susan (Nasus) Nunn, and Sarah Schmidt celebrate after walking more than 13 miles in the half marathon portion of the Whidbey Island Marathon on April 1. Other participants were Beach Watchers Rowena Williamson walking in the half marathon, and Betty Jo Gable working as a volunteer at the event. Beach Watcher friend Matt Klope ran the half marathon. Congratulations to all!

Mary Jo Adams Photo.

More Opportunities to Volunteer
Maxwelton Salmon Adventure

Earn Beach Watcher hours for your time!

Contact to let us know you can help: 360-579-1272 or info@salmonadventure.org .

1) Restoration planting at the Quade Road restoration site - Saturdays, May 13 and 20, 9:30 am - 2 pm. We're back at last year's Quade Road site and a neighboring property to clear blackberries, plant more trees and get ready for a culvert replacement. Bring gloves, wear sturdy shoes, bring food if you need more than the snacks we will provide. Meet at the Maxwelton Outdoor Classroom and arrange carpools or shuttles to the site.

2) The annual Chum Run will be held Sunday, May 28 at 10 am at the SW Parks & Rec Community Park trails. MSA will be a beneficiary of the run, which is organized by the running community. They would like us to provide some volunteers on race day for registration and making sure runners stay on course. It's always a fun event, and includes a walk and a Kids Run too. Or join in the run!

3) Whidbey Island Garden Tour - Saturday, June 24 or Friday afternoon June 23. MSA is a recipient of this year's tour funds and we need to turn out some volunteers. You can work on Saturday or for the worker's tour on Friday (then you get Saturday to see the gardens). There are lots of jobs - ticket checking, parking, docents, the party afterwards, etc. Or buy a ticket and benefit us that way!



Washington Lighthouse License Plates
 Count as of April 18, 2006

1001



Dates to Remember



Camano Island

Monday and Tuesday, May 15 and 16, 2006. *FOCIP Education Days.* At Camano Island State Park . More details to follow.

Thursday, May 18, 2006. *Ethnobotany Field Trip.* Portage Creek Wildlife Area, Camano Island. An outdoor tour led by Franchesca Perez, biologist with the Stillaguamish Tribe, will focus on historical uses of native plants. To find out more call (360) 387-3443 ext. 258

Saturday, May 20 , 2006. *Summer Nature Program.* Camano Island State Park Amphitheater 7:30 pm. These programs with run through Labor Day weekend.

Sunday, May 21, 2006. *Tire Recycling.* Will happen on Camano Island at transfer station and on Whidbey Island at County Road shop 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Contact Waste Wise (360) 678-7974 for more information.

Thursday, June 1, 2006. *Camano Island Steering Committee Meeting.* 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Camano Island Beach Watcher office. These are open meetings which any interested member may attend.

Tuesday, June 6, 2006 (NOT a Monday). *Camano Island Beach Watcher Monthly Meeting.* 9:00 am Camano Center. Program is *Water Quality in Puget Sound* by Linda Lyshall and Hilary Culverwell from Puget Sound Action Team. All welcome.

Whidbey Island

Wednesday, May 17, 2006. *Marine Mammal Stranding Training.* Race Road Fire Hall, Coupeville, 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Contact Sandy Dubpernell for registration and information (360) 678-3765.

Thursday, May 18, 2006. *Whidbey Island Beach Watcher Monthly Meeting.* Trinity Lutheran Church, 6:15 pm. Hazel Shipman on "Myths of Crows and Ravens".

Sunday, May 21, 2006. *Tire Recycling.* Will happen on Camano Island at transfer station and on Whidbey Island at County Road shop 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Contact Waste Wise (360) 678-7974 for more information.

Friday, June 2, 2006. *Breakfast with Beach Watchers North.* Whidbey General Hospital Cafeteria 8:30 am.

Friday, June 9, 2006. *Breakfast with Beach Watchers South.* NEW PLACE! 3 Cat's Café, Bayview Corner, 8:30 am.

Thursday, June 15, 2006. *Whidbey Island Beach Watcher Monthly Meeting.* Race Road Fire House, 6:15 pm. Susan Berta will be speaking about whales.

Saturday, July 29, 2006. *Day on the Prairie!* WSU Extension will be hosting fieldtrips and presentations in the afternoon on topics from "Birds of the Prairie" to "Farming Today". A bar-b-que, barn dance, and beer garden will follow. Look for details soon.



Arsenic: New Standards Now in Effect

Do you have arsenic in your drinking water? Many wells in Island County do. As described in the 2003 Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) paper on arsenic (#1 below), arsenic occurs naturally in rock and soil, water, and plants. A series of glacial events created the groundwater aquifers utilized in Island County, and these glaciers deposited sands and gravel containing naturally occurring arsenic. As groundwater moves through these aquifers it dissolves some of the arsenic in these deposits. Long-term arsenic consumption has been linked to cancers and other adverse health effects, but how much arsenic is considered too much is a matter of opinion. The standard set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and which was used from 1975 through the end of 2005, was 50 parts per billion (ppb) or less. In 1999, the National Academy of Sciences suggested a new standard, at 5 ppb. The EPA established a new standard of 10 ppb, which became enforceable by the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water (ODW) on January 23, 2006. According to the 2003 WRAC report, of the 1327 wells that were sampled for arsenic, 235, or 18%, had levels higher than the 10 ppb standard. You can see a map of Island County wells and their arsenic concentration by linking to the WRAC report.

How does this affect your water system? According to the ODW, "this new water quality standard applies to community and non-transient non-community water systems that have at least one non-purchased source." If your community receives its source from surface water like a river, a sample for arsenic must be collected by December 31, 2006. Groundwater (well) sources must collect a sample by December 31, 2007. These samples are taken after treatment, but before they enter your distribution system. Water systems that show the highest excessive arsenic levels in the state will be the first ones targeted for enforcement, with the two major components of the compliance strategy consisting of quarterly monitoring of each sampling point, and assisting those systems that exceed levels to bring their levels within compliance. Compliance can come about as a result of treatment, or by using a non-treatment method that may include blending, developing a new water source, or tying in with a neighboring system that is within acceptable arsenic levels. To help with the costs of implementing compliance, financial support is offered through the federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (information may be found at

http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/dwsrf.htm . See #3 below for links to publications on arsenic treatment technology.

2003 Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) Report on Arsenic: <http://www.islandcounty.net/health/Envh/wrac/TopicPapers/Arsenic5.pdf>

Other Island County WRAC topic papers you may find of interest: <http://www.islandcounty.net/health/Envh/wrac/TopicPapers/TopicPapers.htm>

For publications on arsenic treatment, go to the Office of Drinking Water publications website, <http://www4.doh.wa.gov/dw/publications/publications.cfm> and click on

"Alphabetically by Title". See the following publications:

Arsenic treatment technology: Evaluation handbook for Small Systems (EPA Pub. 816-R-03-014), and

Arsenic Treatment for Small Water Systems (ODW Pub. 331-210)

This article was written by Scott Chase and was first published in the April 2005 edition of the Shore Stewards News. To see this and other newsletters, go to the website at <http://www.shorestewards.org/> . To join Shore Stewards, contact Scott at schase@wsu.edu

Rain Barrel Information and Sources: King County. Everything from how to build your own rain barrel to where to get supplies or where to buy ready-made rain barrels. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/PI/rainbarrels.htm>

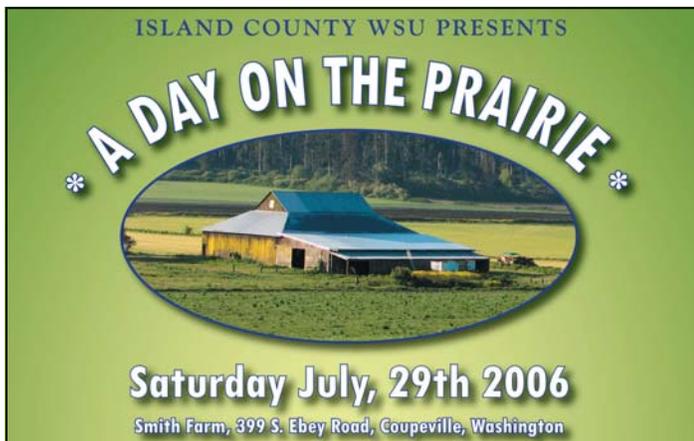
Rain Barrel Fact Sheet: Whatcom County Master Recycler/Composters. Good information on how to stack and link multiple rain barrels, as well as another way to make your own. <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/>

You might get lucky and find this little guy on your next Beach Monitoring Adventure!



Aeolidia papillosa (Shaggy mouse nudibrach)

Photo by Mary Jo Adams Copyright 2005



A Day on the Prairie

Mark your calendars for this fun-filled family event on the prairie overlooking Ebey's Landing on beautiful Whidbey Island. During the day, you'll be able to take advantage of historical tours, farm visits, and discussions of natural resource and agricultural issues. There will be plenty for the kids to do as well, with hands-on activities and old-fashioned games. For supper, enjoy a BBQ featuring locally grown, grass-fed beef, and beverages available at our beer garden. Then, as the sun sinks toward a beautiful sunset, head to a barn dance with live music by the Wild Coyote Blues Band in the biggest barn on the island.

All proceeds from this fund raising event go to support your WSU Extension educational programs in

Island County. Each dollar raised in this event is matched by a local donor.

For more information, call the Island County WSU Extension office at 360-240-5558.

rainbarrel.htm

Myths of Crows and Raven At Next Beach Watcher's Meeting



If you haven't heard Hazel Shipman give her talk on the Folklore surrounding Crows and Ravens then you're in for a real treat. If you have heard it then you know it's worth seeing again, so don't miss out on the Beach Watcher Monthly meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Thursday, May 18th at 6:15 PM. Park in the lot closest to the Highway and follow the signs. It'll be your chance to finally get to the bottom of the intriguing habits of these local birds.





Friends of Beach Watchers

Thanks to all who give so generously to the Beach Watcher Program throughout the year. Many thanks, also, to those who give to our ongoing educational efforts but prefer to remain anonymous.

THANKS! To all the Beach Watcher Volunteers who contributed articles, typed, edited, and prepared the Beach Log for mailing. Kudos to Cheryl Bradkin, Linda Lamay, and Kristen Cooley who help pull it all together each month.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Town of Coupeville



Puget Sound Refinery



If you would like to learn more about the Beach Watcher Program, please contact Kristen Cooley, Program Coordinator at 360-679-7391 or kcooley@wsu.edu.



Join "Friends of Beach Watchers"

Yes! I would like to join Friends of Beach Watchers. My tax-deductible donation supports the Beach Watchers in their efforts to continue environmental education and research programs dedicated to preserving the quality of the environment in and around Island County.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for:

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____ Other

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY, OR AFFIX A RETURN MAILING LABEL

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

May we list your name as a contributor? yes/no (please circle)

May we add your name to our general mailing list? yes/no (please circle)

Please make checks payable to L.E.P., and mail to PO Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Thank you!



A Special Wish List for WSU Beach Watchers

Your generous donations are extremely important to the day-to-day operation of WSU Beach Watchers. We appreciate all of you who have helped make many of our wishes come true. Your dedication and support help the Beach Watchers continue to grow and flourish. As always, your donations are tax-deductible.

- Lap top computer for lectures and presentations
- LCD projector for presentations via computer
- Cordless microphone system for lectures
- Visual aids — prepared marine specimens for interpretive talks
- Large/permanent pull down screen for media viewing

Thanks to all of you who have already helped fulfill our wishes with generous donations!

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION



"In the end we will conserve only what we love; We will love only what we understand;

We will understand only what we have been taught."



DEADLINE FOR NEXT BEACH LOG
June 2, 2006