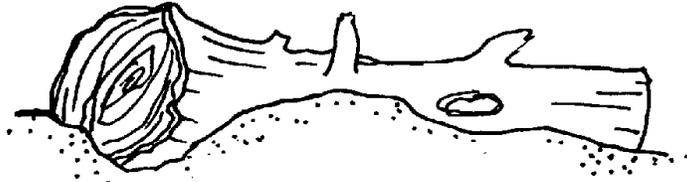




Education,
Research,
Stewardship

Beach Log

APRIL 2009



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION

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Good to the Last Drop! Sound Waters 2009 in Quick Review

If it feels as though you've been hearing about Sound Waters for months now, well, your ears do not deceive you! Indeed, it was an all-consuming, intensive effort on the part of the Sound Waters committee and all of the Beach Watchers and WSU Extension programs. To bring a close to this year's Sound Waters, I would like to highlight some of the accomplishments associate with Sound Waters:

- **Classes and participants:** We offered 62 classes and had 570 participants. No instructors cancelled last minute. We offered PayPal for registration this year, and this offering seemed to be successful: 40% used PayPal.
- **Waste and Recycling:** In 2008, we generated 20.5 pounds of garbage, 80 pounds of compostables, food and coffee grounds, 17.5 pounds of recyclable, and in 2009, we generated 19 pounds of garbage, 113.5 pounds of compostables, food and coffee grounds, 31.5 pounds of recyclables. Also, more than 250 people brought their own cups.
- **Publicity:** Dan Pedersen ensured that quality articles went out in a timely manner to support our Sound Waters event. Thank you to Dan for his ongoing support of this event. Obviously, our publicity efforts worked because our attendance was at its maximum!
- **The 2008 Sound Waters Manual:** All committees contributed to a Sound Waters manual, and Volunteer Mary Ann I. assembled this document, bringing one voice to the whole thing! This is a how-to manual for upcoming years and will help us plan, track, and correct as we go. This was also given to Puget Sound Partnership as a deliverable for a grant of \$2500 to support Sound Waters.
- **Positive Feedback:** Judy Feldman, Don Meehan, Puget Sound Partnership, instructors, participants, and Sound Waters Committee members all seemed to agree that this year's conference went very smoothly and was successful. Negative feedback came in the form of constructive feedback, and even this feedback was relatively minimal.
- **Thank you to the Sound Waters Committee** and all those who contributed. And thank you for the positive feedback so many have offered to help us continually improve, serving our community and our Sound

Photos and text by Sarah Martin, BW Coordinator





Good News

Time to Share our Good News! Thank you to everyone who responded to my call for good news in my Update from the Coordinator a few weeks ago! While there is much uncertainty in our world today, there is also much that is lasting—the goodness! We certainly don't have to look much farther than our own community to find good work, optimism, and generosity of spirit! —S. Martin, *Soon to be BW Class of 2009!!!!*

Happy Birthday to Mildred Eisenhauser who recently turned 98! Mildred is our most “mature” Beach Watcher, completing her training in 1994. On a beach hike during training – when a log was obstructing the trail, Mildred threw one leg over the log, followed by the other and continued on, with her classmates looking on “slack-jawed” (83 yrs old at the time)! She spent a lot of her volunteer time at the Light House – loving talking to people and always having something great to say about whoever she had met and spoken with, along with a funny story to tell. In 2008 Mildred was busy traveling visiting her family in various parts of the country, so didn't volunteer at the LH. HAPPY BIRTHDAY MILDRED from your Beach Watcher family. —J. Hein, *BW Class of 2005*

Calling All Beach Watchers! Sammye Kempbell and Nicole Luce have volunteered to help call Beach Watchers to assist them in logging their hours! Thank you to Sammye and Nicole! And if you haven't received a call, please get in touch with Sammye or email Sarah Martin so that we can capture all the good efforts out there! —S. Kempbell, *BW Class of 2003*

Citizens Teaching Science! Sandy Dubpernell and Matt Klope **helped the science class** (Oak Harbor) dissect a seal pup last Sat. and Eugene Thrasher helped them dissect clams. Wow, what great experiences for these kids. Good for the BW's, too. —S. Kempbell, *BW Class of 2003*

Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet! On Thursday, March 5th, the Whidbey Chapter of the **League of Women Voter's** honored key women on Whidbey Island who “**make a difference**”. WSU Extension women were high on the list – and congratulations go to the following women who were honored at the event. When you next see them, be sure to tell them “Well done!” —Susan Berta, Sarah Schmidt, Sarah Martin, Janet Hall, Judy Feldman, Maribeth Crandell, Cathy d'Almeida. —Jill Hein, *BW Class of 2003*



The Gray Whales are Back!

Mac and Linda LaMay sent in this photo, taken from the water, as they returned to Whidbey Island. Apparently, the whales do not know that we are in troubled economic times! No recession of spirits out there, on the water! They are certainly an example to follow!



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Wharfies Needed in Coupeville and Across BWs to Assist with Plastics Projects! Our immediate goal is to have the Wharf exhibit staffed during the weekends. Please contact Derek Pritchard directly by email ord-pritchard@gmail.com to indicate your willingness and availability. Beach Watchers who volunteered in March said it was a lot of fun.

Coupeville Cleanup Day, Saturday, April 4th. The town of Coupeville gives Beach Watchers \$3,000 every year to continue all the great work you all do. Come out and help with the Coupeville Cleanup day and show the town you appreciate their donation!

Volunteers are needed for directing cars, checking to see if they are town residents, and helping unload the garbage and yard waste. There are two shifts: 8:45-11:15 and 11:15-2pm. Wear your grubby clothes and bring gloves. THANKS! Please let Janet know if you can help. 678-7974 or halljn@wsu.edu.

Volunteers needed to Greet the Whales! April 14. Volunteer opportunities range from helping oversee and assist in costume-making activities, posting flyers on parked cars before the parade, helping with set up and take down, or helping to carry Gary the 20' gray whale and other large critters in the parade.

We are especially looking for volunteers interested in doing a costume-making activity using recycled products or thrift store goods.

Orca Network also invites environmental organizations to bring educational displays to the event, and encourages local businesses to get into the action by creating window displays with any whale-related items you may carry in your business.

If you would like to volunteer or support the event, contact Susan Berta at info@orcانetwork.org or 360-678-3451.

Teach Forest Ecology to Students Do you want to help elementary school students learn about and appreciate our forest habitats and water quality? And be outdoors in a great location to do it?

The Maxwelton Outdoor Classroom needs you! Working with new Lead Teacher Lori O'Brien and our talented volunteer crew this spring, you can help young people learn observation skills as well as the interactions of nature. Classes are divided into three small groups for hands-on activities with individualized teaching and learning.

Whidbey Watershed Stewards provides all the training to make your teaching a success. The spring training day is Thursday, April 23, 9:30 am - 2 pm with lunch provided. Volunteers are asked to teach at least one 3-hour session a week during the May 4 - June 4 season.

Lori may be new to the Outdoor Classroom but she has been teaching for years, making creative science teaching a specialty. Her "I Wonder" science series for the Parks & Recreation District is a huge success. And her enthusiasm is infectious!

The Maxwelton Outdoor Classroom is located in Clinton at 7015 Maxwelton Road, 3 miles west of Highway 525. For more information or to register for the training, please e-mail OCteacher@whidbeywatersheds.org or call 360-579-1272.

Micro-Plastics Debris Monitoring on Whidbey, 4/3 We have the experience and the equipment, and it's time to monitor those beaches for micro-plastics! We will continue to monitor Ft. Casey Beach and Double Bluff beach for micro-plastics in support of the PTMSC micro-plastics debris study. Sarah Martin will get in touch with those who have done it before, so that they may continue their work. However, new folks are always welcome and encouraged either to get out on the beach to do the sampling or to sort through the samples in the comfort of a warm building with good lighting and magnifying glasses! If you are interested in joining this study in 2009, please email me: sarah_martin@wsu.edu.



Dates to Remember

Whidbey Reads: The Highest Tide by James Lynch, Whidbey Odyssey, 4/1, 7:00 pm. Oak Harbor Library.

A panel of water related professionals will gather for presentations and discussion on local water quality issues, education, restoration, and pollution prevention programs. This gathering welcomes the public to bring questions or concerns. The program will be hosted by Maribeth Crandell, Environmental Educator for the City of Oak Harbor. Others in attendance will be Adam Lorio, Deception Pass State Park Interpretive Specialist; Mahmoud Abdel-Monem, County Planning Commission, Retired Toxicology Professor and Beach Watcher; Rex Porter, Marine Resource Committee and lead on Coupeville's Water Reclamation Proposal; and Susie Richards and Scott Ashworth, Service Education Adventure, a youth marine education program

Camano Island Beach Watchers Monthly Meeting, 4/6, 9:00-noon. Camano Senior Center.

All are welcome to attend the Camano Monthly BWs meeting with goodies and an educational program!

COSEE-OLC Citizen Science Workshop, 4/10-11 (Easter Weekend). Fort Worden Conference Center, Port Townsend. Registration is now open. You can register by going to the COSEE-OLC website at www.coseeolc.net <<http://www.coseeolc.net/>> and click on the event announcement. Also if you have not already, please join the growing online ocean learning community while on our website. We are hoping the website will be a tool for leaders, volunteers, scientists, educators and citizens to become better connected around ocean and Puget Sound related issues.

Swinomish Earth Enhancement Celebration, 4/25, 9:00-4:00, Swinomish Community Center. Please join the Swinomish Community for a day full of community enhancement projects. Afterwards, volunteers are invited to a traditional salmon lunch, prepared by members of the Swinomish Tribe. Learn more by contacting Britte Eschete, 360.336.1931, beschete@pugetsound.org or Kaia Smith, 360.420.9177, ksmith@swinomish.nsn.us

Camano Sound Gardening Workshop, 4/25, Camano Annex--Save the date! For more information, please contact Scott Chase at 360-387-3443, x258

Penn Cove Water Festival, 5/16, 2009, 11:00-6:00. Annual Tribal Canoe Races, Native Arts and Crafts, Demonstrations, Storytelling, Dance Performances, Artist Demonstrations, authentic Native Foods, Children's Activities, and Exhibits and Displays. penncovewaterfestival.com

Whidbey Island Beach Watchers Regular Meeting, 5/13, 11am-1pm. All are invited to attend the Whidbey Regular Meeting featuring time to catch up and share good news as well as a one-hour presentation by Heather Trim and Dhira Brown of People for Puget Sound will be presenting information on "Toxins in the Sound" as part of their grant work with Department of Ecology.

PSP Convening Days on Whidbey and Camano/North Snohomish County, 5/11-12 and 5/26-27. Please save the date, and see the information on page 12 of this Beach Log. For more information or questions, please contact Sarah Martin at 360-679-7391.

Planning for Protection and Restoration of Eelgrass Habitats, 5/21, 9am-4pm. This one-day workshop will provide guidance, tools and resources for local government shoreline planners, shoreline consultants, and state agency staff dealing with issues related to eelgrass habitat. You will learn about eelgrass ecology; DNR's monitoring and inventory efforts; the expectations of Ecology's Shoreline Master Program Guidelines; project-level case studies; planning issues related to state-owned aquatic lands; requirements and limitations of the state hydraulics code and Critical Area Ordinance; mitigation and restoration case studies; and much more.. Presenters represent state agencies, counties, and the private sector. Lunch is provided. **Class Cost:** \$60.00. **Must Register by:** 5/7/2009. Contact Padilla Bay for details.

Help Wanted!

On Camano . . . One volunteer willing to update the WSU Beach Watchers box of information maintained at the Camano Island County Annex. With services being cut back everyone, it is particularly important that we offer information as appropriate, and the file box in the annex provides a lot of essential information!

On Whidbey . . . One or more volunteers to be the "Keeper of the Displays" to ensure that displays get to and from events on Whidbey. Occasionally, these displays wind up at someone's home, and it's difficult to locate them.

Across Island County . . . Also, I will be needing assistance in completing specific tasks for the Junior Beach Watchers booklets as well as running PSP Convening days in May. Please email or contact Sarah Martin at 360-679-7391 to help!



Lyceum Series 2009

Tuesday evenings March 31-May 5 7:30 pm
Unitarian Meeting Hall, Hwy 525, Freeland

Reserve your spring Tuesday evenings to hear leading thinkers and doers offer their insights into the relationship between a sound economy and a healthy environment, including applications to human health and business. The Lyceum lecture series will celebrate its 10th anniversary with the theme: "What's It Worth? Environmental Economics and Puget Sound".

March 31 - Kate Davies (Antioch University, Seattle) "**Healthy Humans, Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy**"

April 7 - John Perez-Garcia (UW College of Forest Resources) "**Forest Values: Finding the Balance**"

April 14 - Hector Saez (WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources) "**Sustainable Agriculture: We Can Do It**"

April 21 - Amy Windrope (San Juan Initiative and Puget Sound Partnership) "**Our Shoreline: Love It or Lose It**"

April 28 - Jill Bamburg (Bainbridge Graduate Institute) "**Business: Green and Thriving**"

May 5 - David Dicks (Puget Sound Partnership) "**Sound Environment, Sound Economy**"

This year the series will be held at the new Unitarian meeting hall on Hwy 525 north of Freeland. It's a "green" building easily accessible to South and Central Whidbey residents. Each lecture starts at 7:30 pm. Ticket price is \$6 per lecture or get one free with a series pass for \$30. Registration is available through www.whidbeyinstitute.org or 360-341-1884.

The Lyceum is a series of public lectures that focus on Puget Sound: how it works, its current state, and what the future holds in store. It is sponsored jointly by the Whidbey Institute, Whidbey Audubon Society, Island County Marine Resources Committee, WSU Island County Extension, and Whidbey Watershed Stewards.

Penn Cove Water Festival

The Penn Cove Water Festival, held in historic Coupeville on beautiful Whidbey Island, is a free family festival on Saturday, May 16 from 11 am to 6 pm. The festivities include tribal canoe races, storytelling, native arts and crafts, children's activities, native music, dance, fry bread and other native food.

Coupeville's Front Street and the Island County Historical Museum are the locations for entertainment, food and arts and crafts. A free shuttle will provide transportation to the boat launch on 9th Street. The canoe races can be watched from both locations.

A special event, sponsored by the Island County Historical Museum, is planned for Friday night, May 15th. A welcoming ceremony will be followed by a short trip to the Coupeville Recreation Hall where the public is invited to hear stories of the Canoe Races of the 1930's as well as current life of canoe pullers.

Also on Friday night, Lou LaBombard, storyteller, professor of Anthropology and member of the Seneca Nation, will be sharing riveting stories at the Fort Ebey campground.

For more information, www.penncovewaterfestival.com or www.whidbeycamanoislands.com
(360) 678-3451 or (360) 678-4606.

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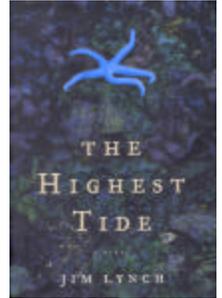




Whidbey Read 2009 "The Highest Tide"

Whidbey Reads is an annual reading event which embraces a single book within the community. This year's title is the international bestseller, "The Highest Tide," by local author Jim Lynch who set his story with Puget Sound as a backdrop. This two-month celebration includes book group meetings, related panel discussions, fun programs for children, and two meet-the-author events.

Basic info: <http://www.sno-isle.org/communityrelations/whidbeyreads2/> With link to Events in Oak Harbor, Coupeville, Freeland, Langley



Panel discussions at Oak Harbor Library, Wednesday April 1, 7:00pm. . A panel of water related professionals will gather for presentations and discussion on local water quality issues, education, restoration, and pollution prevention programs. This gathering welcomes the public to bring questions or concerns. The program will be hosted by Maribeth Crandell, Environmental Educator for the City of Oak Harbor. Others in attendance will be Adam Lorio, Deception Pass State Park Interpretive Specialist; Mahmoud Abdel-Monem, County Planning Commission, Retired Toxicology Professor and Beach Watcher; Rex Porter, Marine Resource Committee and lead on Coupeville's Water Reclamation Proposal; and Susie Richards and Scott Ashworth, Service Education Adventure, a youth marine education program

Meet the Author: People will have a chance to meet and talk with the author Jim Lynch at our two events on Tuesday, April 21 at the Oak Harbor Yacht Club, 7:00 pm and April 22, Whidbey Island Center for the Arts, 7:00 pm. (Earth Day)

Welcome the Whales Day Festival & Parade in Langley

On Saturday, 4/8, from 10am -5pm, Orca Network and the Langley Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the sixth annual Welcome the Whales Day in Langley, on beautiful Whidbey Island. This event honors and celebrates the spring arrival of resident gray whales to Whidbey Island with fun and educational activities, music, presentations, and a parade of species featuring the handsome 20 foot Gray Whale, Gary. Begin now to design your critter costume for the parade - or if you don't have time to make a costume, come early in the day to create your costume before the parade.

The day begins with hands-on educational displays, costume-making, and kid's activities at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (3rd and Anthes St.), beginning at 10 am. Staging for the "critter parade" begins at 12:45 in the parking lot at Cascade and 6th St. The parade begins at 1:30, down the hill on Cascade and First Streets, ending at the Langley Waterfront Park for music and celebration, and hopefully viewing gray whales swimming nearby. This year's festivities also include dedicating the new "Whale Bell" installed in Langley's waterfront park.

After the parade, learn more about our local gray whales during presentations at the Methodist Church from 3 - 5 pm. Veronica von Allworden will show aerial photos of gray whales and the "feeding pits" left behind on the beaches of Saratoga Passage, and Orca Network will share photos and stories from our recent trip to San Ignacio Lagoon, Baja, where the Gray whales mate and have their calves. More activities are being planned for Sunday, April 19th, as Welcome the Whales Day joins the Bayview Earth Day celebration, for a combined "Earth & Ocean Weekend" full of fun activities for the family. For more information on Sunday's Earth Day Activities, go to: www.goosefoot.org .

How do I ensure I get Beach Watchers?

It comes to my attention at least once a day that someone isn't getting information from me due to out-of-date email distribution lists. Without getting into the complexities with which these lists were constructed, I wanted to offer you a way to ensure that you are on my list—even as you change your emails, phone numbers or address.

To update your personal information, please enter the database as you would to enter hours. In the lefthand column, select "Profile." Your contact information will appear, and you will be offered the option of updating your address, phone number, password, etc. You can also select whether or not to share your information with others.

I am working on including a link to sign up for paper delivery of the Beach Log as well. Stay tuned!

Sarah Martin, BW Coordinator



Island County Receives Grant from State Salmon Recovery Board for Ala Spit Restoration Project

Island County has been awarded a \$267,538 state grant for salmon recovery efforts at Ala Spit, a county park on north Whidbey. The County Planning Department's Resource Enhancement Program will use the funds to remove a riprap revetment that was installed at the Spit in the mid 1960s, and is causing increased erosion and habitat loss.

The park comprises four acres of uplands, 5,000 linear feet of beach and tidelands, plus the 8-acre sand and gravel spit that supports forage fish and hundreds of juvenile salmon as they migrate from the Skagit to the ocean.

Removing the riprap along the Spit's neck will halt the erosion that has made it vulnerable to being breached, expand fish spawning habitat and increase the pocket estuary's complexity of functions. The restoration project is the second phase of work at Ala Spit. The first phase, also funded by Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), encompassed a two-year scientific assessment by Herrera Environmental Consultants.

Herrera conducted a review of historic information and photographs; geomorphic shoreline changes; beach substrate; sediment development; aquatic habitat; fish habitat and use; the role of Ala Spit's riparian vegetation, dune plants and driftwood; and watershed characterization. Based upon the study, restoration alternatives were provided along with preliminary design work. A copy of the report is available at www.islandcounty.net/planning/AlaSpit.htm

In February – May 2007, fisheries specialists from Herrera and Skagit River Systems Cooperative conducted seining activities at Ala Spit, to survey and count the juvenile salmon and other fish there.

The seining team utilized County planners and several local WSU Beachwatcher volunteers: Mahmoud Abdel Monem, Tom Albrecht, Jim Beck, Bob Buck, Stewart Congdon, Fletcher Davis, Finn Gatewood, Pete Gross, Dian Jahn, Heather Leahy-Mack, Melissa Merickel, Candida Slusher, Jim Somers, Arlene Stebbins, Dick Toft, Ken Urstad and Steve Young.

Island County will contribute \$47,199 in labor, equipment, materials and donations of resources to the restoration project. The grant is one of 102 awarded by SRFB, totaling nearly \$20-million statewide.

The Ala Spit restoration project underwent a local, regional and then statewide rigorous evaluation process, intended to identify the most effective and scientifically sound proposals that will benefit salmonids listed as threatened or endangered with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act.

"This grant will help us protect and restore Ala Spit county park and its nearshore and marine eco-systems, besides demonstrate our County's commitment to salmon recovery," said Island County Commissioner John Dean, whose district includes Ala Spit.

Island County's Salmon Recovery Plan was adopted in 2005, with extensive involvement from local citizens, agencies, private groups and officials. The State Legislature passed the Salmon Recovery Act in 1999, which set up a locally driven process for each Water Resource Inventory Area, or WRIA, to identify projects to protect and restore salmon habitat, and return salmon harvests to sustainable levels. The Legislature also established the SRFB to fund these efforts with a mix of state and federal monies.

WRIA 6 encompasses the same geographic area as Island County, and is situated on the migration corridors used by most Puget Sound juvenile and adult salmon and trout populations. Its nearshore and coastal estuaries provide critical shelter, food and physiological refuge for these fish.

"The health of salmon populations is essential to our Puget Sound region, and beyond," Dean said. "The Ala Spit project will be good from many aspects, besides returning our citizens' state tax dollars to benefit our local communities."

Ala Spit County Park was established in 1995. Its purchase was made possible by grants from the State's Recreation and Conservation Office and the County's Conservation Futures Funds.



Image from Washington DFW website.



All Are Invited to Beach Watchers Training 2009

The Beach Watchers Training Committee on Whidbey has been working very hard to put together yet another year of fine, university-level Beach Watchers training. This year, training will be a split session, held in April and October. As always, we look forward to Beach Watchers dropping in on the training! It promises to be engaging and refreshing, and we look forward to seeing you there! The schedule will soon be posted on the BWs events page as well!

DATE	TIME	CLASS	PRESENTER	VENUE
1-Apr	9:00 AM	Beach Watchers and WSU Extension	Judy Feldman	Race Road
	9:30 AM	Intro, pretest, getting to know each other	Sarah Martin, Mahmoud Abdel-Monem	
	1:00 PM	State and Future of the Sound	Kristen Cooley and Linda Lyshall	
	2:30 PM	Beach Watchers Role in the Sound	Sarah Martin	
6-Apr	9:00 AM	Growth and Shoreline Management	Matt Kukuk	Race Road
	10:30 AM	Low Impact Development	Stacy Smith	
	1:00 PM	Plastics and the Sea	Jen Kingfisher	
	3:30 PM	Plastics on the Beach Project	Trainee presentation	
		Monofilament Recycling Project	Trainee presentation	
		Beach Trash Project	Trainee presentation	
8-Apr	9:00 AM	Climate Change	Lara Whitely-Binder	Race Road
	11:00 AM	Suzuki Film	Sarah Martin	Transfer Station
	12:30 PM	Sustainable Living (lecture and field trip)	Janet Hall	
13-Apr	9:00 AM	Ground Water	Aaron Henderson	Race Road
	10:30 AM	Storm Water as a Source of Pollution	Maribeth Crandell	
	11:45 AM	Rain Gardens	Trainee presentation	
	1:00 PM	Coastal Geology (lecture and field trip)	Hugh Shipman	
15-Apr	9:00 AM	Marine Birds	Sarah Schmidt	Race Road
	10:20 AM	Pigeon Guillemot Counting Project	Trainee presentation	
	10:30 AM	Marine Mammals	Howard Garrett, Sandy Dubpernell	
	12:15 PM	Marine Mammal Stranding Network	Trainee presentation	
	1:00 PM	Water Quality-Parameters and Concerns	Mahmoud Abdel-Monem	
	3:45 PM	Water Quality Reconnaissance Project	Trainee presentation	
20-Apr	9:00 AM	Introduction to Marine Biology	Jan Holmes	Race Road
		Biology of Plankton	Mary Jo Adams, Heather Leahy Mack	
		Biology of Invertebrates		
	lunch time	sale of clothing and books	Gloria Wahlin, Lisa Harkins	
		Aquatic Vegetation		
	3:40 PM	Decline in Eelgrass	Trainee presentation	
		Eelgrass Monitoring Project	Trainee presentation	



22-Apr	9:00 AM	Forage Fish	Bob Buck	Maxwelton
	10:00 AM	Salmon and the Nearshore	Brent Trim	
	11:30 AM	Maxwelton Project	Trainee presentation	
	11:45 AM	Seining Project	Trainee presentation	
	1:00 PM	Wetlands	Justin Craven	
	2:30 PM	Whidbey Watersheds	Nancy Waddell	
28-Apr	9:00 AM	EZ ID	Mary Jo Adams, Jan Holmes	Dec.Pass. Concession
	1:00 PM	Beach Naturalists (with Skagit)	Doug Stark	
29-Apr	9:00 AM	Invasive Species	Jeff Adams	Coupeville Rec Hall
	10:30 AM	Penn Cove Shellfish	Ian Jefferds	
	12:30 PM	Tides	Lili Yocum, Jan Holmes	
	1:15 PM	Intertidal Monitoring	Trainee Presentation (3)	
	1:30 PM	Field Practice for Monitoring	Jim Somers, Charlie Seablom	

How to get there . . .

PADILLA BAY RESERVE: Take Highway 20 east towards Mt. Vernon. Turn left at the stop light for Bay View -Edison Road (the Farm House Inn restaurant is at this intersection). Drive north about five miles, past Bay View State Park. The Breazeale Interpretive Center will be on your right, ¼ mile past the State Park.

PENN COVE SHELLFISH/COUPEVILLE REC HALL: This Penn Cove Mussel tour will begin at the Wharf, in Coupeville. Turn East off Hwy. 20 onto Main St. in Coupeville, and follow Main St. until it ends. Turn left on Front St., and you will see the wharf on the water, towards the end of the street. There is parking on the street, at the Rec Hall, or on neighboring streets. The afternoon session will take place at the Rec Hall, which is on Coveland St. at the northwest corner of Coveland and Grace Streets. .If you want to park at the Rec Hall for the whole day, turn left on to Coveland off of Main St. instead of going one block further to Front St. The Rec Hall will then be on your right.

MAXWELTON OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: From Hwy 525, go west (right from the north, left from the south) on Maxwelton Road at the traffic light and follow for about 3 miles. The parking lot is tucked into the forest on the left, just after the 2nd sign for Erikson Rd. Look for a wood sculpture of salmon. It is just before French Rd.

DECEPTION PASS STATE PARK, ROSARIO BEACH: Drive north (east) on Hwy 20. Go over Deception Pass bridge and make you first left onto Rosario Rd.(just in front of the lake). Make your second left on Cougar Gap Ro. And follow it all the way down the hill, staying left, until it dead ends in a parking lot.

WEST BEACH CONCESSION SHELTER: Heading north from Whidbey, turn left at the light at the main entrance to Deception Pass State Park. If coming from north of the bridge, turn right at the light. Continue north ¼ mile on the Deception Pass Entrance road past the Welcome/contact Station, through the s-curves, up the hill to the first stop sign. The maintenance shops will be on your right. Turn left down the hill on West Beach road. Travel west 1 mile, through a stop sign, to the West Beach Parking lot. The Concession Shelter is one hundred yards south of the parking lot. Enter from the west or salt water side.



A Discussion of Citizen Science—From Jim Somers' Own Experience

Why – Community Benefit

Volunteers become involved in citizen science for one of two general reasons or a combination thereof: The knowledge that they may benefit others in environmental, societal and community issues, and to benefit themselves through intellectual stimulation, increasing their knowledge and stewardship, social interaction, and physical activity.

A combination of both is the most likely motivation- community service and individual gratification. Volunteerism is driven by a desire to serve and to make a difference in the community at large – the community may be defined as one's neighborhood up to and including the planet.

The development of partnerships with scientists and academics enable citizens who have a desire to serve and a vested interest in the place they live to participate in the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment for future generations

The opportunities provided by citizen science encourage volunteers to become familiar with the scientific method and to learn to apply these skills. The collection of scientific data that otherwise would not be obtained enables more effective research and policy planning.

There is a recognized need for improved science education as a national priority. The engagement of citizens of all ages in partnership with the scientists and academics is an important part of that process.

Individual Benefit

Participation in citizen science is rewarding to the volunteer in terms of intellectual enhancement and feeling useful. Many volunteers have spent their professional lives in scientific fields and are drawn to and challenged by these new opportunities while others from a variety of occupations desire new and different interests and projects. The discovery of new information and ideas promotes self motivation and continued participation.

These team partnership opportunities provide a network of volunteers and scientists with similar interests which is in itself a positive social reward. The process of team learning and exploration can provide a sense of camaraderie, social opportunity, and of course fun.

The process of data collection in environmental studies can provide physical as well as mental activity, i.e. pulling a beach seine for salmon, walking a beach looking for seabirds, surveying for eel grass or beach critters. The adventure of outdoor activities enables the volunteer to discover new experiences and information about the place they live.

The volunteer may be aware that the type and amount of data collected is unlikely to occur without citizen participation due to staffing, financial, or time constraints on the part of the scientists. However, if the scientist is not assured of reliability the data will not be useful. This requires adequate training by the scientist of the volunteer corps and then a sense of trust in them that they will follow the design parameters.



Photo taken by Bob Buck at Cornet Bay Seining, 2009



Photos taken by Bob Buck at Cornet Bay Seining, 2009

Recognition of the contribution of the volunteers by the scientists provides a sense of gratification to the individual for the value of their work. This acceptance is in and of itself a reward to the citizen. Formal recognition of volunteer efforts, i.e. the NOAA Environmental Hero Award and intertidal data base) can give credibility to the organization in the pursuit of other projects and grant funding.

Levels of Participation

As already discussed there are several levels of participation in "citizen science". I will give specific examples of WSU Beach Watcher involvement at two different levels.

First, in 2004 several Beach Watcher volunteers began a team effort with NOAA Fisheries biologists researching juvenile salmon use of pocket estuaries and the adjacent nearshore of Island County. For the first three years we worked under the direct supervision of the NOAA biologists learning the data collection protocols and becoming proficient at beach seining, fish handling, species identification, water quality assessment and data recording. With progressively less direct supervision over the three years we were entrusted the fourth year to collect data for not only NOAA but also other salmon research agencies. The acceptance and publication of our data exemplifies the sense of trust placed in our volunteer corps by the scientists. This well trained group of volunteers need not compromise design standards and protocols in the pursuit of accurate and usable data. The volume of data would not have been obtained by a small and underfinanced scientific team without our input. We as individuals have benefited by the recognition that our work has made a legitimate contribution to salmon habitat research. We did receive one of ten national 2008 NOAA E.H. awards for our participation in this research. Another level of participation is the survey or "monitoring" project. Examples would be the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and more specifically the WSU Beach Watcher Intertidal Biosurvey (detail monitoring project). There is no well defined question or hypothesis in our study. The protocols, although defined, probably do not meet with the standards of the scientific method. It is not a research project in and of itself. However, this does not necessarily negate its importance or usefulness. This survey can provide an inventory of species present at specific locations at specific times. This could be useful should a catastrophic event occur such as an oil spill in Puget Sound, help to evaluate changes in the case of

shoreline development, or 50 years from now indicate which critters were present before water temperatures changed. In addition, we have found several invasive species on our Island County beaches in the course of our intertidal surveys, for example purple varnish clams, Griffens isopod, colonial tunicates in addition to spartina.

There is another and equally or more important value in this type of survey. It is the advantage of having individuals learn about their local environment (marine biology) and to develop a personal sense of ownership and stewardship. These people care about the place they live. After working on an intertidal monitoring one never looks at a beach the same way again.

Although the survey may not begin with a hypothesis, the collection of baseline data adds a small bit of information that would not otherwise be obtained. This may in turn lead to serious inquiry by scientists and policy makers.

The establishment of rigid protocols for a highly defined citizen science should probably be discouraged. Recognize each level for the value it has and the contribution it can make. The elimination of less formal endeavors may well lead to reduced participation and loss of the sense of stewardship that can be provided.

by Jim Somers, Class of 2004



PSP Convening Days!

Whidbey Island (at Deception Pass) 5/11-5/12 and Camano and North Snohomish County, 5/26-27.

This meeting will explore the creation of an ongoing local education, communication and outreach network in your respective area (Whidbey Island or Camano Island/North Snohomish County).

The Puget Sound Partnership is working with local WSU Extension Offices to organize a one-day meeting with the group of participants and one day of site visits to get to know organizations more thoroughly. Meeting attendees will include the Puget Sound Partnership Education Manager, other PSP staff, ECONet Steering Committee members, local organizations, and WSU Extension programs. All interested parties are welcome to register for these convening days to plan future collaboration and network development. While individual groups will be offered the opportunity for brief program sharing, much of the meeting time will be dedicated to exploring how we can work more effectively together to help Puget Sound.

A formal invitation will go out to organizations to attend this event, but please share this invitation with organizations that might wish to be a part of this meeting. Participants must register to ensure we have adequate space and lunch service. As a Beach Watcher, if you would like to help with either of these events by coordinating with Chrys Bertolotto for the Camano Island/North Sno County days—or assist Sarah Martin with the Whidbey Island days, please get in touch with Sarah Martin. For more information, please contact Sarah Martin at 360-679-7391 or sarah_martin@wsu.edu

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