



*Education,
Research,
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WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION

Beach Log

MAY 2007



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New Web Site Coming in June Web Site Testers Needed

(Neal and Connie Clark joined the web team in early March. Having survived their first month of BW training, they are now busily revamping the web site.)

Building on good work in the past, the focus of the web team now is to:

- View the general public as the primary audience, so the web site shares what we know and do.
- Provide consistency across pages to make it easier to navigate, particularly for people who arrive via a Google Search page.
- Provide easy search (via Google) and on combinations of related sites, such as Shore Stewards, Lighthouse, or Marine Resource Committee.
- Provide *missing* content (e.g., brief descriptions of all projects).
- Simplify maintenance by creating index pages (News, Events, Projects) from information stored in Google spreadsheets. Then a small team can collaborate on maintaining the spreadsheets.
- Make content more accessible, for example, have the newsletter available in two-column pdf as well as single-column HTML.
- Add new content.

We Support Us section has been renamed *Get Involved*, and now includes the many ways the public can help, beyond financial contributions. A new *Tides* section has both the predicted and measured water levels for Seattle and Port Townsend, and a Google map as a visual index for NOAA Tide Predictions at Island County Tide Stations.

The web team will continue to use the Adobe Contribute tool for web content, allowing Beach Watchers to add to or modify content without having to know how web pages work behind the scenes.

What help do we need?

Between now and early June, we need a small number of volunteers to navigate the new site and find typos, discrepancies, or whatever else might detract from its usefulness. Some volunteers can focus on particular sections, for example Seining or Intertidal Monitoring, while others can bounce around the site trying to find faults.

If you are ready to help now, please contact webmasters@beachwatchers.org. Whatever time you can contribute will really help improve the quality of our web presence.

From early July and into the future, we need:

- Project leaders, to provide descriptive information, schedules, photos, etc. about their project.
- People to think about new content: Contributions for *Essays and Photos* (formerly *At The Beach Now* essays). Think about topics you would like to write about, or, if your forte is editing, help 'webify' the essays of others.

...Kid-friendly content. Perhaps the educational displays and games used in outreach programs can be adapted, or new ones invented. We are happy to provide the programming to make the games work, but need creative educators to develop ideas.

...Contributions for a new folder, WHERE WE LIVE currently containing information on beaches and estuaries. How about new sections on water sheds, wetlands, sustainability, etc.

- Finally, if are a techie and miss getting your hands dirty, we are working with MySQL and scripting languages (javascript, php), but if you've used others and are good at picking up new languages, you should fit right in.

Neal and Connie Clark, BW Class of 2007



Monitoring Highlights

Whidbey Island Beach Monitoring Highlights

The 2007 monitoring season got off the ground on April 20 and was a great lead-in to Earth Day, which followed two days later. The Crescent Harbor team of 11 was



Team members take readings for elevation changes along the profile line.

delighted to find sunny skies beaming down from the heavens and a diverse collection of organisms waiting to be discovered. Oz Allen was fascinated by a rockweed isopod (*Idotea wosnesenski*) with a brood pouch. Monem Mahmoud Abdel got a kick out of finding a clutch of dog whelk (*Nucella lamellosa*) egg cases that covered the top of a large



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Several lined chitons were found under Crescent Harbor boulders.



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

The Crescent Harbor team included both first time and veteran beach monitors.

cobble, and also by the anemones that dotted the beach. Two species of anemones were identified, moon glow (*Anthopleura artemesia*) and white plumed (*Metridium* sp.). Jim Somers reports that the highlight of the day for him was finding lined chitons (*Tonicella lineata*) and Charlie Eddy also liked the chitons as she had never seen one before. The entire team was awed by a *Nephtys* polychaete worm that put on a show by repeatedly everting its pharynx to reveal a set of black pincher jaws.

It's easy to understand why people are smitten by the lined chiton. With its oftentimes vibrant colors and zigzag patterns, *Tonicella lineata* can be gorgeous. This species is usually small as chitons go, 2 inches in length or less. While there was none on the boulder that the Crescent Harbor lined chitons were on, red coralline algae frequently makes up a major part of their diet. They also use their radula to scrape up diatoms and other algae as they graze along the surface of rocks.

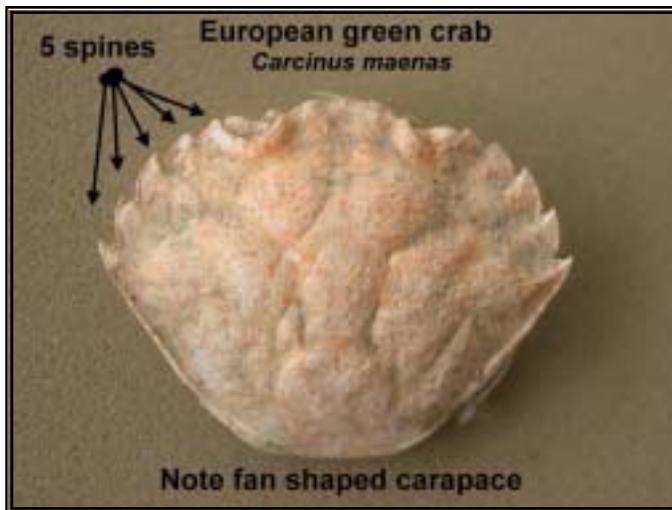
Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999



Watch for Invasive European Green Crabs

Here's one more reminder to be on the lookout for the invasive European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*). We learned at the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Research Conference that this species tends to disperse more during El Niño years so this could be the year it shows up on Island County beaches. Watch for both molts and live crabs.

Carapace size can vary from tiny to a width of 3½ inches. In spite of their common name, European green crabs are not always green. In addition, we have native crabs that are green, so color is not a good feature to count on when identifying this species. The carapace of *Carcinus maenas* has the general fan shape also seen in Dungeness and red rock crabs. The distinguishing feature to look for is the presence of five spines along the edge of the carapace lateral to each eye.



The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife information page about this species (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/ans/greencrab.htm#contacts>) gives more information about the European green crab and includes these instructions: "If you suspect you have found a crab that fits the European green crab description, please contact Russell Rogers at the Point Whitney Shellfish Laboratory at (360) 796-4601, or Brett Dumbauld/Andrea Randall at the Willapa Bay Field Station at (360) 665-4166."

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999



Entertaining Visitors

Spring has arrived, and Beach Watchers entertaining out-of-town guests or other groups might enjoy a pleasant and informative tour of our Lighthouse and Fort Casey. A tour of both sites takes about 90 minutes, and can be shortened to one hour if time is of the essence. Please call Fred Terrell or Gloria Wahlin at the Lighthouse to make arrangements.

Fred Terrell, BW Class of 1995



Thank you due

We wish to thank the Coupeville Coffee House for the donation of pizza boxes for our shell displays. Thank you, Kim.

Sammye Kempbell, BW Class of Spring 2003

Dates to Remember

Upcoming Camano Island and Whidbey Island Events and Other Items of Interest



| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---|
| *Friday | <u>May 18</u> | Camano, FOCIP Education Days 7th Grade Science Class @ Lighthouse Monitoring at Double Bluff Wahl Farm - <i>Double Bluff Wahl Farm, Whidbey</i> |
| Saturday | <u>May 19</u> | Safe Boating Expo @ OH Marina - <i>Whidbey</i> Monitoring at Point Partridge - <i>Point Partridge, Whidbey</i> |
| Sunday | <u>May 20</u> | Monitoring at Harrington Lagoon - <i>Harrington Lagoon, Whidbey</i> Haiku Field Trip at SW St. Park - <i>SW St. Park, Whidbey</i> |
| Tuesday | <u>May 29</u> | Grant Meeting - <i>Whidbey</i> |
| Wednesday | <u>May 30</u> | Beach Naturalist Training @ Padilla Bay - <i>10441 Bayview-Edison Road, Mt Vernon,</i> |
| Thursday | <u>May 31</u> | 2007 Class Field Day, Mussel Farm & LH Tour - <i>Whidbey</i> |
| Saturday | <u>Jun 2</u> | Beach Naturalist Field Day COASST Training, Whidbey - <i>3253 Day Road, Greenbank, WA</i> |
| Monday | <u>Jun 4</u> | Camano Monthly Meeting - <i>121 N.E. Camano Drive, Camano Island,</i> |
| Wednesday | <u>Jun 6</u> | Beach Naturalist Training @ Shannon Pt. Regional BW Coordinators Meeting rm. 116 - <i>101 NE 6th St., Coupeville,</i> |
| Saturday | <u>Jun 23</u> | NAS Great American Backyard Campout, Whidbey Wharf Festival, Whidbey |
| Sunday | <u>Jun 24</u> | Wharf Festival, Whidbey |
| Saturday | <u>Jul 7</u> | Oil Spill Training |
| Monday | <u>Jul 9</u> | Camano Monthly Meeting - <i>121 N.E. Camano Drive, Camano Island, 98282</i> |
| Thursday | <u>Jul 12</u> | Monitoring at Columbia Beach, Whidbey - <i>Columbia Beach</i> |
| Friday | <u>Jul 13</u> | Monitoring at Honeymoon Bay, Whidbey - <i>Honeymoon Bay</i> Monitoring at Cornet Bay, Whidbey - <i>Cornet Bay</i> Monitoring at Possession Point, Whidbey - <i>Possession Point</i> |
| Saturday | <u>Jul 14</u> | Monitoring at Sunlight Beach, Whidbey - <i>Sunlight Beach</i> Non-Profit Fair @ Bayview Hall, Whidbey |
| Tuesday | <u>Jul 17</u> | 1 am LEP Meeting - <i>101 NE 6th St., Coupeville, WA</i> 1pm BW Advisory Council Meeting - <i>101 NE 6th St., Coupeville, WA</i> |
| Thursday | <u>Jul 19</u> | 6:30pm Beach Watcher Ed. Evening, Whidbey <i>Trinity Lutheran, Freeland</i> |
| Saturday | <u>Jul 21</u> | Day on the Prairie, Whidbey Camano Monthly Meeting - <i>121 N.E. Camano Drive, Camano Island,</i> |



Council Corner

The April Beach Watcher Advisory Council meeting highlighted several committee reports. Included was a “grant writing committee” update by Jackie Johnson. She noted that Rex Porter (BW '07) is generously donating his time to teach a series of classes on writing grant proposals. Each participant is writing a proposal for a specific purpose: Jackie Johnson for BW staffing, grant management and coordination; John Hastings for restoration; Linda Ridder for estuary and near-shore issues; Scott Chase for Shore Stewards; Kristen Cooley for global warming and education; Francis Wood on the pigeon guillemot study; Rex Porter on hypoxia in Island County; and Nancy Waddell on watershed stewardship, education coordination and service learning. Thanks to Rex and the whole committee for this new level of interest and expertise.

Mac LaMay, 2008 co-chair of Sound Waters and financial guru of the 2007 Sound Waters, discussed the complex financial end of Sound Waters due to the multiple layers of payment approval and reimbursement to vendors. Several options were discussed that might facilitate payments and deposits within the existing Lighthouse Environmental Programs (LEP) framework.

Jill Hein reported on the great success of the recent whale cruise. Thanks to the efforts of Jill and Finn Gatewood, the cruise was a sellout and returned a fundraiser profit of \$1,581.15 for Beach Watchers.

Kristen gave an update on the handheld monitoring devices, the “gizmos,” and reported that the planned units are no longer manufactured. However, this should not pose a major problem with the timetable for testing and deployment this summer. She also reported that Connie and Neal Clark, the BW '07 web angels, have taken command of the Beach Watchers website and are doing a marvelous job. Kristen said she and the group had an energizing and rejuvenating time at the Georgia Basin Conference in Vancouver, B.C.

Don Meehan complimented the *Seattle Times* for the Lance Dickie article about Beach Watchers, and reported that Brad Ack was impressed with Sound Waters.

Scott Chase updated the council on plans for a new Beach Watchers office on Camano Island, the map project, and the tremendous success of the Shoreline Workshops, especially at Harrington and Race Lagoons.

Jim Somers, BW Class of 2004

Musing from Stewart

I have noticed a change in the nature of vacations in the Beach Watchers stage of my life. A case in point is our semi-annual get-together with my sister and her husband. This time the event took place in Crescent City, California, a remote city nestled into the curve of a lovely bay, and tucked up against the northern portion of the Redwood Forest. It's a place that has been largely by-passed by the ubiquitous resort hotels that tend to crop up on such beautiful beaches.

Anyway, to my kin's credit, they had the decency not to say what I suspect they were thinking: “Boy, we used to be able to get together, talk about old times, play a little golf and dominos, or maybe go for a walk. Now it's all about turning over beach rocks or fawning over some minute form of undergrowth in the forest.” They could hardly be blamed if they noticed their brother and his wife have become mildly taken with hugging trees – which in the case of *Sequoia Sempervirens* is quite a handful.

Now, I'm always thrilled to come across an old growth fir or cedar. They're pretty substantial trees. But coastal redwoods are like conifers on steroids. While they share their forest overstory canopy with the taller fir, spruce and cedar, it doesn't take a trained eye to pick out the redwoods. They are behemoths with distinctive symmetrical three-point leaf clusters,



Photo by Stewart Congdon.
A *Pachigrapsis Grassipes* or Southern Lined Crab was a lucky find on an otherwise sparsely populated beach

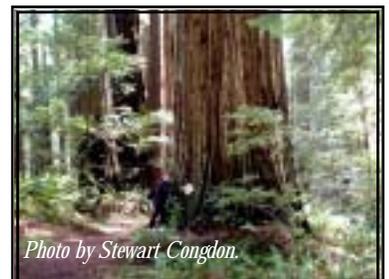


Photo by Stewart Congdon.

A would be tree hugger



and reddish brown, deeply-grooved bark. Under that bark is a cambium layer that feeds the redwood, even if a large portion of the trunk has been burned away. And inside all that is the brilliant red core which, until recently, was a prime source for “boxes, bins, bats, barns, bridges, bungalows, not to mention posts, porches, piles, pails, pencils, pillars, paving blocks, pipe lines...”*

Redwoods are particularly resistant to fire damage, due to the low degree of resin in their bark. Hence redwoods will have large *goosepens*, or gaping holes in their boles, sometimes reaching 100 feet or more up inside the tree’s trunk. These provide excellent homes for a variety of fauna. And even a redwood hulk that has been burned out from repeated fires can provide a hospitable place for the roots of alder or hemlock.



Alder growing out of a redwood hulk



Western Wake Robin

Redwoods will live up to 1000 years and then topple, making the forest floor a mass of nutritious nursing rubble for ferns, alders, or western hemlock. In time as the trees deteriorate, they provide soil for myriad herbs, fungi, and small understory trees.

While redwoods reproduce by seed, the odds of success are impacted, among other factors, by the thickness of the detritus on the forest floor. However, redwoods have the distinction of being able to reproduce by shoots which will emerge from a parent tree’s roots, sometimes creating small groves of sibling trees. Redwoods also can take root high on the trunk of a parent tree, sometimes on a burl, creating “reiterated trunks” which themselves may reach great height. The crotch of these reiterated trunks provides a lofty forest floor for the same vegetation found in the understory

*Evarts and Popper, *Coastal Redwood: A Natural and Cultural History*, Cachuma Press, Los Olivos, California.



A reiterated trunk parallels the main bole of this redwood.



Sibling shoots from parent tree

You see what I mean? I have a feeling vacations will never be the same. Now the next time I visit the redwoods, I’m going to walk in the forest at night. Then I’ll have an article about the largely nocturnal and very shy critters like the lizards, salamanders, frogs, owls and coastal murrelets that live there. I wonder how my kinfolk will feel about joining their eco-vacationing brother for that one.

Stewart Congdon, BW Project Coordinator, BW Class of 2006.





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



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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

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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!



New Volunteer Time Reporting Coming Soon

Neal and Connie Clark (Class of 2007) are building a new, easy to use, system for volunteers to enter their hours over the Web. It should be available mid June 2007.

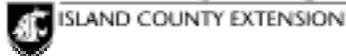
How to help:

Right now – send any ideas or pet peeves about how it should work.

In early June - we need people to test the new system, so when it rolls out in mid June, it is truly easy to use for most everyone.

Ready to help? Send email to webmasters@beachwatchers.org. Thank you!

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



“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.”

~Baba Dioum, Senegalese ecologist



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT BEACH LOG
June 1, 2007**