



Education,  
Research,  
Stewardship

# Beach Log

FEBRUARY 2007



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION

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## PSAT Funds Assure Initial Wharf Exhibit Completion!

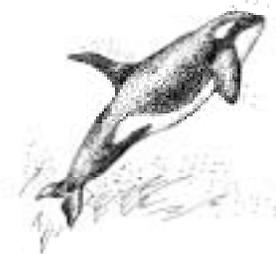
On Thursday, February 8 Beach Watcher Coordinator Kristen Cooley was notified that the Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) will provide \$6,450 to enable completion of the first marine environmental exhibit to be placed at the Coupeville Wharf. The funds will be used primarily for the production of informational panels and printed materials.

The establishment of an exhibit in the breezeway of the Wharf building has been on the drawing board for several years. Plans began to take shape two years ago when several pieces of useful equipment were acquired from the Poulsbo Marine Science Center which was closing its doors. The underwater camera, water quality monitoring buoy, and several microscopes seemed like the ideal items around which to build an exhibit.

Recently the focus has changed. Thanks to BW Terri Dix, a designer of interpretive exhibits and presentations, we learned that effective exhibits attempt to tell a story to which visitors can relate. Cameras and microscopes can help tell the story. But if they are used without purpose, they are ineffective in provoking thought

The exhibit that is being planned now will focus on the whales of Penn Cove and Saratoga Passage. Beginning with the capture of orcas in Penn Cove in 1970 (*the*

*past*), visitors will see how we have progressed to treasure orcas today; how their primary food source (Chinook salmon) is being depleted (*the present*); and how people are working to reverse the trend through such actions as low impact development and



watershed restoration (*the future*). Information on Gray whales—Rosie—and Dall's porpoise—Rudie—will be included. This initial exhibit will be in place later this spring as the PSAT contract will require its funds to be used by June 30.

Meanwhile, the Port of Coupeville commissioners are considering a draft 20-year Comprehensive Plan that, if adopted as written by an advisory committee, could lead to the Wharf becoming an environmental education center. If and when opportunities arise for expansion, the draft plan contemplates Beach Watchers assuming a major role in planning and creating the additional exhibits.

*Graham Johnson, Class of '06*

*Graham Johnson heads a team of Beach Watchers in this growing partnership with The Port of Coupeville, fulfilling a shared vision of a marine education center on the historic Coupeville Wharf.*

## Beach Naturalist Training

*Be a Volunteer Naturalist at Rosario Beach*

Training Schedule:

**Wednesday, May 30, Classroom Training,**  
Padilla Bay Center.

**Saturday, June 2, Field training**  
Rosario Beach and Washington Park (Anacortes)

**Wednesday June 6 Classroom Training**  
Shannon Point (Anacortes)

*For information or to sign-up for training as a  
Volunteer Beach Naturalist on Rosario Beach,  
Contact Stewart Congdon, BW Projects Coordinator  
679-7391, email scongdon@wsu.edu*



## Monitoring Highlights

### Ledgewood Beach Tidepooling Adventure

Catching a break in the windy, rainy weather that plagued the holiday season, Jan Holmes and I decided to head to Ledgewood Beach for a nighttime tidepooling expedition. As we hiked down the beach with headlamps and lanterns, Jan marveled at the changes winter storms had wrought. Areas usually covered by cobble and small boulders were blanketed by a thick layer of sand. Further along, we found a rocky area and set about peering into the nooks and crannies. Ledgewood Beach has an amazing diversity and includes some species that would seem more at home on the



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Thickclaw porcelain crab—*Pachycheles* sp

high energy beaches of the outer coast.

One unusual critter we saw was a thickclaw porcelain crab (*Pachycheles* sp.). This little guy looks like he has not only been eating his spinach, but also taking steroids and working out to pump up the size of his claws. Like other porcelain crabs, these are filter feeders, using feathery appendages called maxillapeds to comb diatoms and other plankton out of the water.

Another species uncommon on Island County beaches was the white spotted anemone (*Urticina lofotensis*). This hard-to-miss Cnidarian has a scarlet red-



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Many sunflower star—*Pycnapodia helianthoides*—were exposed as the tide receded at Ledgewood Beach

column with white tubercles. Jan spotted one in a tidepool with its tentacles extended. Buried in sand up to its disk, we dug away some of the sand and exposed its column to confirm its identity.

Other species were more familiar. We observed more than 20 sunflower stars (*Pycnapodia helianthoides*), with diameters of a foot or less, on the beach that evening as well as several ochre (*Pisaster ochraceous*) and mottled (*Evasterias troschelii*) sea stars. An erratic held a large colony of aggregating anemones (*Anthopleura elegantissima*) so we stopped to see if any hungry shaggy mouse nudibranchs (*Aeolidia papillosa*) lurked among them. Sure enough, we found three of the little anemone predators. Tentacles with stinging pneumatocysts are enough to deter most creatures that would prey on anemones but shaggy mouse nudibranchs are apparently oblivious to this defense. After feeding on the anemone, stinging cells and all, the little sea slugs move the pneumatocysts through their digestive tracts to the fringe on their back, thus mobilizing them for their own defense.



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

White spotted anemone—*Urticina lofotensis*

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999



### Rosario Night Trip

Stewart and Jean Congdon ventured to Rosario on Jan. 18 when the tide fell to the -2.3 foot level. Although Stewart has encountered some of our marine species as a scuba diver, this was their first nighttime tide-pooling adventure and they were awed by the diversity of the nighttime beach. Stewart's assigned "critter" to learn about during BW training was the gumbboot



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Stewart and Jean Congdon check out Rosario

chiton (*Cryptochiton stelleri*) so he was delighted to finally meet one in person. Both Stewart and Jean agreed that the foot-long brick red mollusc looked very much like a meatloaf! Other exciting finds were those of gunnel eels and porcelain crabs (*Petrolisthes* sp.) tucked away under a rock, a leafy horn-mouth (*Ceratostoma foliatum*), a blood star (*Henricia leviuscula*), and a brachiopod.

At least six clown nudibranchs (*Triopha catalinae*) were counted as well as three shaggy mouse nudibranchs (*Aeolidia papillosa*), one of which seemed to be having a

very bad hair day! Other nudibranchs were leopard (*Diaululu sandiegensis*), Nanaimo dorid (*Acanthodoris nanaimoensis*), and chalk lined (*Dirona albolineata*).

Another remarkable find was that of a six-rayed sea star (*Leptasterias* sp.) that was hanging by the tip of one ray to expose its underside where it held a clutch of eggs. While most sea stars just broadcast their gametes into the water, this little star broods its young, the mother hunching her body over them for protection. This brooding behavior lasts about 2



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Brooding star with eggs found at Rosario

months until the young are ~2mm in diameter. While brooding, the mother cannot eat because the eggs block her oral cavity. It's easy to understand why they were tagged with their other common name, "brooding star."

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Gumbboot chiton

Dates to Remember  
Upcoming Camano Island and Whidbey Island Events  
and Other Items of Interest



## Whidbey

**Thursday, March 1, 2007.** *Beach Watcher Training Begins.* Accepted applicants only.

**Friday, March 2, 2007.** *Breakfast with Beach Watchers.* Whidbey General Hospital Cafeteria, 8:30 am.

**Friday, March 9, 2007.** *Breakfast with Beach Watchers.* 3 Cat's Café, 8:30 am.

**Thursday, March 15, 2007.** *Whidbey Evening Educational Series.* Trinity Lutheran Church, 6:30 pm. Hazel Shipman will be giving her famous presentation.

**Wednesday, March 21, 2007.** *Marine Mammal Stranding Network Training.* Race Road Fire Hall. Please call (360) 679-7391 to register.

**Thursday, April 19, 2007.** *Whidbey Evening Educational Series.* Whidbey General Hospital Conference Room, 6:30 pm. Overview of the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Research Conference.

## Camano

**Wednesday, February 21, 2007.** *Wildlife Habitat program.* Camano Center. 7 pm. The presentation features Pat Powell with Whidbey Camano Land Trust speaking on habitat conservation efforts and ways land owners can protect properties for the future.

**Friday, February 23, 2007.** *Beach seining* at Camano Island Elger Bay. 6:00 am. Contract: Barbara Brock.

**Saturday & Sunday, February 24 & 25, 2007.** *Snow Goose Festival.* Four Springs, Camano Island. 9 am to 4 pm each day. Beach Watchers will have an educational booth at Four Springs.

**Monday, March 5, 2007.** *Camano Island Beach Watcher Monthly Meeting.* Camano Community Center. 9 am. The featured speaker will be WDFW biologist, Julie Stofel who will be speaking on the conservation efforts for the bald eagle and the marbled murrelets.

**Friday, March 9, 2007.** *Beach seining* at Camano Island Elger Bay. 6:00 am. Contract: Barbara Brock.

**Friday, March 23, 2007.** *Beach seining* at Camano Island Elger Bay. 6:30 am. Contract: Barbara Brock.



## Council Corner

The January Advisory Council meeting commenced with the welcoming of new members Duane Hoeksra, Jill Hein, and Skip Ingraham. Jackie Johnson who was elected in November joined current members Bill Thurman, Don Ingram, Sammie Kempbell, Dave Baumchen, Ron Wilkenson and Jim Somers. Recognition and gratitude was given of the completed terms of Elaine Rost Don Leak and Rich Steele.

Outgoing president Ron Wilkenson conducted the election of officers for the current year. Those officers are: president – Jim Somers, vice president – Dave Baumchen, secretary – Skip Ingraham, and treasure – Bill Thurman for the third year.

In addition to the monthly treasure's report bill Thurman discussed the extraordinary contributions by Linda Ridder through the travel program she has organized. Not only do these trips provide an outstanding travel experience but they have provided a major financial kickback to Beach Watchers because of the number of participants involved. The entire Beach Watcher family owes a debt of gratitude to Linda for her outstanding efforts. Please consider these trips in your own travel plans.

The major focus of the council meeting was a report by Wharf Committee chair Graham Johnson concerning the progress of the Coupeville wharf project. He reported that the draft report of the Coupeville Port Commission Comprehensive Plan has incorporated a marine education center on the wharf as a major component. This would involve extensive Beach Watcher involvement. Graham and the committee, with the aid of BW Terry Dix, is in the process of developing a theme around which the educational aspect can be developed.

The current thinking involves a story as told by the whales – Rosie, Rudy, and the 1970 orca capture. The council went on record strongly supporting the Comprehensive Plan with regard to the marine education center.

Graham reported that Gabrielle Thurman was relinquishing her role in the project due to outside commitments. Graham and the council wish to thank Gabrielle for her contributions over the past couple of years.

The council also discussed progress with the naturalist training program – specifically at Rosario, the further development of ICOSAT, and the idea of project focus on the part of the council

*Jim Somers BW. 'Class of 04.*

*Jim is the president of Beach Watchers Advisory Council*

## ALA SPIT SEINING BEGINS



Running out the net and check-

After more than a year of planning, research has begun to determine the cause of erosion of Ala Spit. The Beach Watchers' part in this project is seining to sample the juvenile salmon population in this important pocket estuary.

Seining operations began February 13, under the supervision of Eric Beamer of Skagit River System Cooperative. He was joined by Eric Doyle of Herrera (The primary contractor) and Beach Watchers Joe Beck, Jim Somers, Bob Buck, Finn Gatewood, Arlene Stebbins, Ken Urstad, and Stewart Congdon, plus 2007 BW class members Tom Albrecht and Steve Young. From Island County Planning Department, were Janielle Marcel, and Chris Wilson.

No salmon were found on that day, the season being early, but they did net a mixture of shrimp, sculpin, sticklebacks, and sand lance. Joe Beck ('06) is the volunteer team leader of the Ala Spit Project. Seining will continue twice monthly through June.



The Crew



## Tidepooling at Washington Park, Anacortes

Close to 40 people showed up for an evening tidepooling expedition at Washington Park in Anacortes the evening of January 19. This event was a joint project organized by Skagit County Beach Watchers and People for Puget Sound. In spite of intermittent rain that at times fell as a downpour, everyone appeared to be having a great time. After a pep talk focusing on safety and beach etiquette, the group hit the beach.

The Skagit County BWs are an enthusiastic group and came armed with small Tupperware containers to hold critters as they were examined and identified. One curious lad displayed a rockweed isopod (*Idotea wosnesenskii*) that he had found. A Beach Watcher's explanation to him that it



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Picture of Rockweed isopod (*Idotea wosnesenskii*) taken from the EZ-ID web page.

was an isopod did not seem to make much of an impression so she revised it, telling him that it was a "big bug" and with that, his face lit up. Island County BW Pattie Hutchins told us that a highlight for her was finding peanut worms (Sipunculids). Skagit/Snohomish County BW coordinator Chrys Bertolotto was fascinated by the aggregating anemones (*Anthopleura elegantissima*).

As we were walking back to the shelter house, someone asked how many eggs a barnacle would spew into the water during reproduction. I didn't know but told her I would look it up and send her an answer. After getting home and into dry clothes, I hit the books and found the answer to be very interesting. As it turns out, they don't spew any eggs into the water!

Except for a few parasitic species, most barnacles are hermaphroditic. Relative to their size and in order to reach others of their species, barnacles have the largest penis in the animal kingdom. Rita O'Clair notes in her book *Southeast Alaska's Rocky Shores: Animals*, "if a barnacle were six feet tall, it would have a penis capable of extending at least 10 feet!" Usually the eggs are

fertilized by another individual but self fertilization may also occur. The fertilized eggs are then stored in a special sac within the mantle cavity of the mother barnacle until they mature into a larval stage called nauplii. At this point they are released into the water.

Our common acorn barnacle (*Balanus glandula*) can produce 1000–30,000 nauplii at a time and they do this 2-6 times per year. The nauplii later molt into a larval form called a cypris and this is what finds a place to settle and glues its head to the rock. After that, another metamorphosis takes place transforming it into a juvenile barnacle. One interesting note about the barnacle's larval stages is that the nauplii feed on plankton to build up reserves as they will not eat while in the cypris stage.

Predators, smothering by other organisms, and a host of environmental factors take their toll making mortality rates high for young barnacles. Those *Balanus glandula* who do survive take several years to reach their maximum size and have a life span of 8-10 years.

In spite of the soggy weather, the trip to Washington Park was an evening of fun and learning!

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Picture of peanut worm (*Sipunculids*) taken from the EZ-ID web page.

## COASSTing the Shoreline

All you COASSTers have received a copy of the Annual Report from COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team) for 2005-06. Here are some brief excerpts to update birders and anyone else who may be interested in the findings of the COASST team of citizen scientists in the Puget Sound area (some plagiarism involved).

The Great Blue Heron was the most common species found in Puget Sound, behind the Glaucous-winged Gull, Double-crested and Brandt's Cormorants and Common Murre.

Jill and Clarence Hein and I were unusually lucky to discover a Short-tailed Shearwater. This bird breeds on Southern coasts of Australia and New Zealand and migrates across the Pacific Ocean to Alaska. It is generally found at least 50 km off shore. A "big wind" must have deposited this unfortunate fellow (or gal) 150 km inland.

Bill and Alice Blandin found a Red-breasted Merganser in Elger Bay. They took care to stay upwind as it was quite odoriferous. Jill and I must have less sensitive nasal receptors, (possibly deadened by the very strong odor of dead marine mammals) because our birds hardly stank at all.

The COASST total to date now stands at 94 species identified from Southern Oregon to the recently-added areas of Southeastern Alaska. New species include Horned Puffins, Parakeet Auklet, Emperor Goose, Red-legged Kittiwake, plus two long-distance

fliers – the Laysan Albatross and South Polar Skua (this Skua nests in the Antarctic and comes north during the polar winter). Two new waterfowl were found, the Northern Shoveler and Snow Goose, as well as two owls – Northern Saw-whet Owl and Western Screech Owl. In addition, a Peregrine Falcon and Winter Wren were also reported.

A chart listing all the species reported over the past several years is available in the Annual Report. If anyone is interested in a copy, call me at 360-678-3765.

Twenty species of special concern were identified. "Concern" appears to increase each passing year. These birds are the Emperor Goose, Laysan Albatross, Peregrine Falcon and Red-legged Kittiwake. Increased survey efforts and geographic expansion no doubt have increased chances of finding rare, unusual and endangered species. However, changes in the environment are bringing new species to the Pacific Northwest. Species of concern accounted for 48% of all birds found by COASSTers in 2006.

Finds of oiled birds was quite low (seven birds) and included Common Murre, Black-footed Albatross and Cassin's Auklet. All were found on the outer coasts. The number of entangled birds was also low (nine) and included Common Murre, Brandt's Cormorant, Surf Scoter, Western Grebe and a large immature Gull. One Brandt's Cormorant with fishing line attached was found at Fort Casey.

COASST volunteers put in 4900 survey hours in total, plus 2700 hours in travel time. This equates to one person working full-time for more than 3.5 years to match that effort. You can see what an important role volunteers play in COASST efforts. COASSTers walked nearly 10,000 km round trip. No wonder I'm out of breath!

COASST could always use more volunteers. This is a great opportunity to do something productive (and easy) while enjoying a stroll on the beach. If you would like to take part in seabird surveys, call Kristen Cooley for the upcoming training schedule.

*Sandy Dubpernell, BW Class of 1993*



Pigeon Guillemot found in September at Fort Casey



Fishing line

Brandt's cormorant entangled in fishing line found at Fort Casey

## Storming The Sound

If you haven't had the opportunity to attend a *Storming the Sound* conference, I highly recommend you do so in 2008. I attended this year's and was so exhilarated that I want to share my experience with you.

Storming the Sound is a conference for environmental educators in the North Puget Sound region, including the counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, San Juan, Jefferson, and Clallam. This is a great opportunity for teachers, environmental organizations with education programs, and students with an interest in a career in environmental education. Registration is limited to the first 130 people, with preference given to those in the target region.

The conference is held in Maple Hall in LaConner from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Many environmental sponsors bring displays and materials and are available to answer questions about their programs. This is a great way for participants to network and catch up on what other groups are doing.

This conference is very different from our own WSU Beach Watchers' Sound Waters. Participants do not choose the sessions they want to attend prior to the day of the conference. Upon arrival, participants are asked to select the sessions they want to attend. Descriptions of presentations for each session are posted on the back wall of the hall and are available on a website prior to the conference. Changes can be made up to the session time.

I arrived at 8:30 a.m. to check in, get a cup of organic coffee, read descriptions of the session offerings (there are three sessions in the day) and sign up for the ones I wanted to attend. I had time to meet the exhibitors and look at their displays.

At 9 a.m., Glenn "Alex" Alexander, Padilla Bay's Educational Director, welcomed everyone and introduced the keynote speaker Tom Hunter, who sings and write songs that celebrate the power of music in learning and life. He is a seminar presenter for the Bureau of Education and Research and a presenter at statewide and national events of

the National Association for the Education of Young Children. We sang together and celebrated the power of music in celebrating the beauty of the natural world. He made several observations that I want to remember:

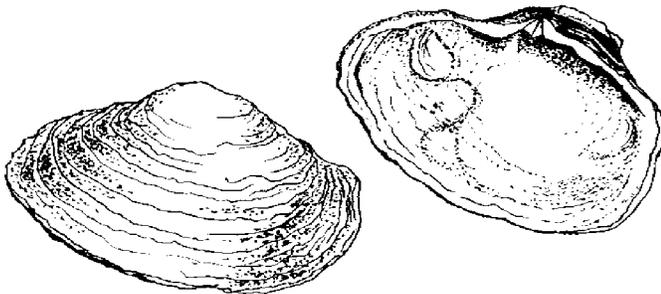
- Participation in the outdoors is key to understanding the environment (as opposed to performance)
- Always consider your audience: What is their response? Was it what was intended?
- Good teaching is by invitation, not instruction; the WOW of learning captures the audience
- Don't forget to ask kids what they want to learn
- Engage learners in details that invite them to become participants

The first session I attended was "*Connecting Human Communities and Natural Ecosystems through More Effective Environmental Education*" presented by Wendy Scherrer. The points she made that I hope to incorporate in my interactions with others are:

- Ask yourself how you can affect people who live, work, and recreate in an area to gain awareness, knowledge, and understanding about the environment that results in cooperative effects and actions to restore the environment
- Use the best science available when diagnosing and setting priorities for the environment
- Don't limit yourself when choosing partners (business)
- Empower people. Don't preach about what they are doing "wrong"
- Tell the truth

The second session I attended a panel discussion, "*Comprehensive Curriculum K-12 on Puget Sound.*" The panel was moderated by Glenn Alexander and addressed questions about a possible new comprehensive regional curriculum. Panel members included Judy D'More, Education Coordinator, Curator and Educator for the Port Townsend Marine Science Center; Stephanie Raymond, Education Coordinator for People For Puget Sound; and Nicole Ricketts, Outreach Specialist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. From the discussion I brought away several key things to remember:

- Guiding principles for any curriculum must include:
- Civic participation, an arts component, systems understanding, and be inquiry-based





- A "Sense of Place" should sell a curriculum (provide opportunities to experience place)
- Hands-on learning
- Teaching others how to see both sides of an issue

My final session was called "*e3Washington*." Presented by Lee Whitford of the Northwest Cascades Institute (NCI), this session introduced a new initiative, *e3Washington*, that incorporates education, environment and the economy. Lee summarized the goals, process and initial findings from the Northwest Regional Summit held in Skagit County and organized by NCI and the Environmental Education Association of Washington. The new initiative involves community members (business, agriculture, education, government agencies, nonprofits and recreation) in developing a comprehensive statewide environmental education plan. Key points of her presentation included:

- *e3Washington* will support sustainable, thriving environments for everyone in the state
- Environmental learning should be community focused and coordinated
- To learn more about *e3Washington*, connect to the website [e3washington.org](http://e3washington.org)

I hope this report will get you excited about attending next year's *Storming the Sound* conference. A delicious lunch is provided (all organic) and there is no charge for the conference. What a terrific opportunity to immerse oneself in learning about environmental education and its future in the Northwest.

*Roxallanne Medley, BW Class of Spring 2003*

## Sound Waters Another Successful Year

The 2007 "Sound Waters – A One Day University" held on February 3d was a resounding success. The hard working committee won't be meeting again for a while – well, maybe three months. With the advantage of power for the event this year, a highly efficient registration team, along with their volunteers (the usual suspects) and technical experts, made the process go like clockwork all day long. The Committee reported there were 502 registered participants including presenters. Six people came from other states (CA and OR) and 62 from off Island County. Online registration accounted for 250 attendees

The program began with an award to thank Senator Mary Margaret Haugen for the contributions she has made to the WSU Extension Programs for many years, which includes sponsoring legislation for the lighthouse license plate. Newly elected Island County Commissioner John Dean was welcomed as one of the registrants attending classes.

Brad Ack, Director of the Puget Sound Action Team, delivered a powerful message regarding the health, or lack thereof, of the Puget Sound. For the first time the Sound Waters program was developed around this theme. As a call to action, classes were categorized according to the way they fit the priorities of the Puget Sound Partnership. The PSAT made a significant financial contribution to Sound Waters in addition to furnishing the keynote speaker, and one of the class presenters.

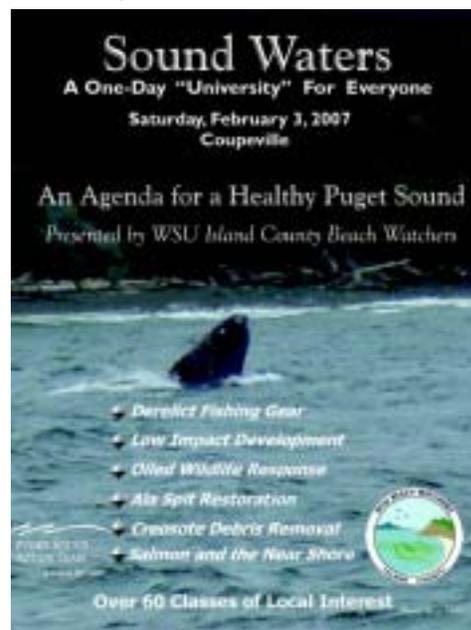
Sixty-three classes were available from which participants could select three. Of the sixty-three, twenty were new to Sound Waters this year. It should be noted that over 93% of registrants were able to get their first choice(s) in class selection.

Lively entertainment was provided by the Shifty Sailors during the lunch break – thanks Vern. A wide array of exhibits was available and appreciated by all during the entire course of the day.

2007 Sound Waters was a huge success because of the contributions of the Puget Sound Action Team, the Coupeville School District, Oak Harbor Starbucks, the generous presenters, and the many sponsors. Thanks to everyone.

See you again in February, 2008.

*Jill Hein '05, Jim Somers '04*





## **CENTRAL PUGET SOUND MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING NETWORK**

Authorized by NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service. In partnership with Island County Beach Watchers, the Orca Network, Matt Klope and Dr. Stephanie Norman, DVM

What do we do?

1. Provide public education and safety information to avoid adverse reactions between people and marine mammals
2. Act as liaison between government agencies and the general public.
3. Assist the limited resources of federal services with volunteer time.
4. Collect data for inclusion in national data base via photographs and written documentation.
5. Alert principals for possible collection of specimens required for research, testing and educational displays.

**TRAINING CLASS:  
MARCH 21, 2007 (WEDNESDAY)  
6:30 PM TO 9:30 PM  
RACE ROAD FIRE STATION**

Presented by Dr. Stephanie Norman  
Class fee:\$20 (for the text book)

**THIS CLASS WILL PREPARE YOU TO RESPOND TO CALLS ON DEAD OR STRANDED MARINE MAMMALS, TO IDENTIFY THE SPECIES, DETERMINE AGE AND GENDER AND POSSIBLE CAUSE OF DEATH. CERTAIN SAMPLES AND SPECIMENS MAY BE COLLECTED FOR NECROPSY, EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES OR FURTHER RESEARCH.**

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL  
SANDY DUBPERNELL AT 360-678-3765 (sandradubpernell@yahoo.com)  
OR SUSAN BERTA AT  
1-866 ORCANET (susan@orcaneetwork.org)**

**Note: you must be willing and able to examine dead animals, some of which may have serious wounds and a ripe odor.**



## No Kidding Serious

First of all: My congratulations to all those responsible for this year's Sound Waters. It takes a wonderful kind of audacity to bring together sixty experts from all over the state and five hundred other folks, some of whom even came from outside the state.



So, I'm wondering if it was just me, or was there a particular mood about this Sound Waters. It seemed to me that the day acquired a sort of unplanned theme, something like "*This is no kidding serious!*" It could have been an intensity generated by Brad Ack in his "State of The Sound" keynote. Or maybe it was that, plus the news out of France that the world's most eminent scientists have said we humans are *sure'nuff* warming up the planet. Or maybe for me it was also the words from *The Highest Tide*, "We need to pay attention," rattling around in my consciousness.

Whatever it was, I felt it at Sound Waters. And, you understand, this is from a recently converted non-ecosteward. You know what I mean about the times when someone says something, and it leaves just an eerie silence in a roomful of people? I think I almost flunked BW training when, after some terribly important and rather dry lecture on a subject that seemed pretty far removed from what I thought beach watching would be all about, I asked, "What exactly does this have to do with the thing that drew us into Beach Watchers?" From that moment on, the entire class of '06 was devoted to reclaiming me, one of the most misguided of all humanity, environmentally conscious-wise.

By the time we graduated the job had been done, and I could see the interaction between everything from paved parking lots to polychaetes. Knowing that the populations of indicator species—marine mammals, salmon, herring, birds—are thinning just brings the reality home again. What we are about is *no kidding serious!*

My point is this: The reason many of us became Beach Watchers hasn't changed. It's still about good

company, interesting activities, genuine fun, and a chance to use our gifts for change. But what came home at this Sound Waters, for me at least, was, "All the same, *this is no kidding serious!*"

Thanks for caring enough to volunteer,  
Stewart Congdon, Beach Watchers Projects Coordinator, BW Class of 2006



## Special Rosario Training

Hey Beach Watchers,

This is your chance to have a great impact on the children that come to visit Rosario Beach this spring. This is where education truly begins, with the younger generation. Please join us for the training in March.

Last year we had 42 classes (2,264 students) from April through September. It was great fun, but we sure do need some help for this year. It will begin again in April.

It is wonderful when other Beach Watchers join in, as it makes the job much easier and more fun. The kids are so interested and have such a good time. When there were too many children for the beach, we broke them up so one group on the hill could hear the Story of the Maiden while the other group was on the beach.

This year is going to be even better, with new signs for the Story of the Maiden. Adam Lorio, our new Interpretive Specialist, will have special tasks for the classes when they come to the tide pools. Gee, imagine that, a plan! I am excited to help get the new program off and running. And you will love Adam – he is just a great young man with a lot of experience and energy.

So keep your eyes peeled for the time and date of training in next month's Beach Log.

Sammye Kempbell, BW Class of Spring 2003



**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, and Stewart Congdon who help pull it all together each month.



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](mailto:kcooley@wsu.edu).



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Town of Coupeville



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."*

*~Baba Dioum, Senegalese ecologist*



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT BEACH LOG  
MARCH 2, 2007**