



Annual Picnic—July 27, 2008

2008 Annual Beach Watcher Picnic
Rosario Beach - Deception Pass State Park
Sunday, July 27th noon to 4pm (or later)

The picnic this year will give us an opportunity to thank Kristen for the 2 and half years she has devoted to Beach Watchers and wish her well in her new job with Puget Sound Partnership.

We will also be celebrating Kristen’s and Steven’s upcoming wedding by having a wedding shower.

Main dish of barbecue brats and hamburgers and steamed mussels will be provided and attendees are asked to bring side dishes of salads or desserts and beverage of choice. (along with plates/mugs/eating utensils, of course).

Come, celebrate, and enjoy our wonderful beaches and the accomplishments of Beach Watchers.

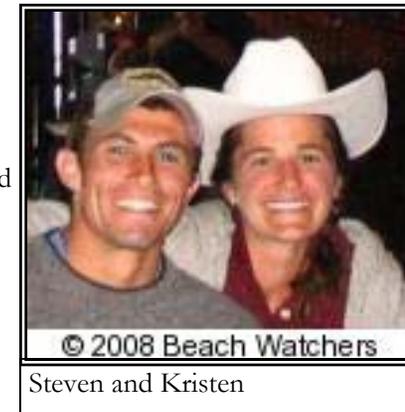


Table of Contents	
Monitoring update	2, 3
Calendar	4
Whidbey Watershed Stewards New Coordinator.....	5
Eel grass study	5
FOCIP Education Dau.....	6
Whidbey Watershed Stewards Deck Replacement..	6
Travel with Beach Watchers.....	7
Beach Watchers Retreat	8

Enjoy Your Summer

Sure hope that you are all enjoying the summer and whatever adventures it brings to you this year!

Whidbey Island beach monitors have so far chalked up data on five beaches. Teams have been to Crescent Harbor, Partridge Point, Ala Spit, Pratt's Bluff, and Freeland Park Beach. Check out the team photos here and for more pictures and writeups, visit the new and improved website monitoring update at <http://wsu-bw-island-intertidal.blogspot.com/>. Camano Island beaches and more Whidbey beaches will be added to the web update as they are done, so check in frequently for the latest scoop!

WHIDBEY ISLAND MONITORING HIGHLIGHTS

Crescent Harbor's crackerjack team kicked off the 2008 monitoring season on April 8th, braving chilly temperatures and intermittent April showers to collect data from that beach. Eight veteran BWs turned out and set right to work. Charlie Eddy took care of data sheets as Monem Mahmoud Abdel, Oz Allen, and Melissa Merickel laid out the profile line. A lined chiton (*Tonicella lineata*) proved to be a popular find, as was a polychaete that demonstrated its remarkable eversible pharynx, with tiny jaws that popped into view as the pharynx shot out. Mike Eddy tagged another species of polychaete as a "fangworm" or "sabertooth worm," because of two protruding structures emanating from its mouth. A mottled sea star (*Evasterias troschelii*) was found, its rays encircling a black mussel-sized rock that it was apparently trying to feed on, setting up a situation that was possibly the invertebrate version of the Hardrock Café. All concurred that the outstanding find of the day was a predatory purple ribbon worm (*Paranemertes perigrina*), with its proboscis lassoed around a larger polychaete, the doomed polychaete destined to be its dinner.



The Crescent Harbor monitoring team.

It was a small but determined group who took on **Partridge Point** on May 7th. Overcast skies could not dampen their enthusiasm as they identified over one hundred seaweed, seagrass, and invertebrate species. Brand new Beach Watcher Lili Yokom dove right into monitoring, her eagle eyes picking up several species that would have otherwise been missed. She reported that the highlights of the day for her were finding sea cucumbers (*Cucumaria miniata*) and brittle stars. Brian Giles spotted a Northwest ugly clam (*Entodesma navicula*), a species uncommon on Whidbey beaches. Jan Holmes and Libby Hayward focused on documenting quadrat data, sorting through a thick blanket of layer upon layer of seaweed and surfgrass (*Phyllospadix* sp). Exploration of the rich fauna yielded kelp crabs (*Pugettia productus*), pygmy rock crabs (*Cancer oregonensis*), porcelain crabs (*Petrolisthes*), red (*Ophlitaspongia*) and purple (*Haliclona*) sponge, and several small sunflower stars (*Pycnapodia beliantoides*).



The Partridge Point monitoring team.

May 8th found the **Pratt's Bluff** team checking out their stretch of beach, located on Whidbey Island's east side near Greenbank. Finn Gatewood led the team and reports that her highlight for the day was finding an opalescent nudibranch (*Hermisenda crassicornis*). Two other nudibranch species were also discovered that morning, a shaggy mouse nudibranch (*Aeolidia papillosa*) and a barnacle-eating nudibranch (*Onchidoris bilamellata*), as well as a bubble snail (*Haminoea* sp.), which is a nudibranch cousin. While Libby Haywood was fascinated by a newly molted and still soft red rock crab (*Cancer productus*) found near its outgrown and discarded exoskeleton, Ken Urstad was more focused on the gunnels and clingfish (*Gobiosox*



The Pratts Bluff monitoring team.

maeandricus) found concealed beneath the beach rocks. Kathy Fritts and Doris Hood brought along friends who were amazed as the hidden life on the beach was revealed. The team documented nine species of seaweed and more than 40 species of animals.

A pair of bald eagles preformed a low-level flyover to get the **Ala Spit** team off to a great start on May 10th. The team of nine, led by Sammye Kempbell, was delighted by the sunshine and warm spring temperatures as they peered under rocks and combed the eelgrass in search of biota. Charlie Seablom found an eelgrass limpet and also a single sprig of invasive *Spartina*. Other standout finds of



The Ala Spit monitoring team

(*Haliplanella*), green and purple ribbon worms (*Emplectonema gracile* & *Paranemertes paregrina*), tiny *Lacuna* snail eggs, smooth white barnacles (*Balanus crenatus*), and everybody's favorite little red arachnid, *Neomolgus*. As the monitoring procedures progressed, the beach also played host to Bonapart's gulls, eight great blue herons, and a Columbian blacktail deer.

It was a gung ho group that showed up at **Freeland Park Beach** on May 11th. Nancy Bartlett arrived via kayak, and Sharon Dunn brought along her cute-as-a-button, new fluff-ball of a puppy, Chaco. Bob Buck headed up the team of nine and reports that the high point of the day for him was finding a tiny 5-rayed sea star tucked among the mussels on the side of a rock. Libby Hayward was surprised by the presence of many highly frilled, bright orange *Nucella lamellosa* (snails). Nancy Bartlett spotted a clump of nudibranch eggs and her husband, Tom, got a good explanation of what moonsnails (*Euspira*



The Freeland Park Beach monitoring team.

lewisii) eat, from Eugene Thrasher. Eugene dug a moonsnail out of the sand and discovered that it had its mantle wrapped around a good sized clam, apparently intending to dine on the unfortunate bivalve. One rather startling finding at this beach was the incredible number of nonnative purple varnish clams (*Nuttallia obscurata*) now being found there. A sample dig using a small shovel yielded a dozen of the two-inch bivalves, in just one scoop. This clam was first documented in Washington waters in 1993, having previously been noted in the Strait of Georgia. It is native to Asia.

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999

Dates to Remember

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



CAMANO ISLAND

- July 16 Intertidal Monitoring: Sunny Shores.** 8:30 am to 12:30 am Camano Island: Sunny Shores. (TBD Lines); -1.3 tide at 10:36 am (Tide-Kayak Point). Contact: Skip.
- July 29 Intertidal Monitoring: Utsalady.** 7:00 am to 11:00 am Camano Island: Utsalady. (TBD Lines); -2.3 tide at 8:50 am (Tide-Crescent Harbor). Contact: Pam C.
- July 30 Intertidal Monitoring: Camano Island State Park.** 7:45 am to 11:45 am Camano Island State Park. (2 Lines); -2.7 tide at 9:43 am (Tide-Greenbank). Contact: Jeff W., John C., and Duane H.
- July 31 Intertidal Monitoring: Camano State Park (2nd day).** 8:30 am to 12:30 am Camano State Park. (TBD Lines); -2.9 tide at 10:33 am (Tide-Greenbank). Contact: Jeff W., John C., and Duane H.
- Aug 1 Intertidal Monitoring: Pebble Beach.** 9:30 am to 1:30 pm Camano Island: Pebble Beach. (TBD Lines); -2.7 tide at 11:25 am (Tide-Sandy Point). Contact: Derek. Draft Schedule
- Aug 4 Camano BW Monthly Meeting.** 9:00 am to 12:00 noon 141 N.E. Camano Drive, Camano Island, 98282
- Aug 15 Intertidal Monitoring: Mabana** 9:00am to 1:00pm Camano Island Mabana. Contact Barbara B. This is rescheduled from June 30th

WHIDBEY ISLAND EVENTS

- July 14 Breakfast w/ Beach Watchers.** 8:00 am to 9:00 am Neil's Clover Patch in Bayview, Whidbey Island . Monthly Beach Watchers Breakfast! Mark your calendars and come out and meet with your friends over coffee.
- July 15 Advisory Council Meeting.** 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Call 360-679-7391 for current months location Whidbey
- July 15 LEP Board Meeting.** 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm WSU Extension Office, Coupeville, Monthly LEP meeting
- July 22 Sustainable Living Workshop** 6pm to 7:30pm Hayes Hall Room 137(across from library) at Skagit Valley College, 1900 SE Pioneer, Oak Harbor. Getting Friendly with the Natives; Waterwise Landscaping.
- July 27 Annual Island County Beach Watcher Picnic** 12-4pm Rosario Beach 15510 ROSARIO BEACH ROAD, ANACORTES WA. All Beach Watchers and their families are invited. It is a potluck so please bring a dish to share. Meat will be provided. This is also a wedding shower/farewell Kristen party so you don't want to miss out on all the fun! Call 360-679-7391 if you have any questions.
- July 31 Digging for Dinner: Learn how to dig for clams the right way!** 10am to 11am Penn Cove, across from Hwy 20 from Zyslra Rd. Whidbey Island

New Education Coordinator for Whidbey Watershed Stewards

Whidbey Watershed Stewards is delighted to announce that Kim Bredensteiner is our new Education Coordinator. You'll remember her from her presentations to Beach Watcher classes when she was the Island County Salmon Recovery Coordinator. She left that post and formed her own business, and we're happy to have ten hours a week of her time.

Kim has a great deal of earlier experience with environmental education and service-learning. She will help develop our education program in many areas, including adult education, and we look forward to more partnering with BW and other local organizations.

You can contact Kim at education@whidbeywatersheds.org or 360-672-0781, or leave a message at the WWS, 360-579-1272.

Thanks to all who have signed up as Outdoor Classroom teachers, Smolt Counters, or planters and mulchers. We appreciate it! Our deck replacement project begins July 14, and we can use your help. Contact Debbie Bitts, 360-341-2599.

Nancy Waddell, director, WWS
info@whidbeywatersheds.org

THANKS
TO
OUR
SPONSORS

PugetSoundPartnership
our sound, our community, our chance



Measuring the Health of Our Water's Eelgrass

Island County Beach Watchers have started a major new program with funding from the Island County Marine Resources Committee. Beach Watchers will be building a video survey system so we can measure the eelgrass beds around Island county. These marine grasslands are a major component in Puget Sound's "web of life". They also are a major indicator of the water quality in the near shore areas.

The first objective is to combine the Video, GPS, depth, and temperature measuring equipment ; train our volunteer team; and take underwater videos in Cornet Bay. We will follow the Washington DNR measuring methods and they will check that our data can supplement the data they collect.

Later we will work with other researchers (Friday Harbor Laboratories) to measure areas in Holmes Harbor and to help develop new methods for planting and improving the health of the eelgrass growing areas.

This is a high profile project with an aggressive time line. We will provide early video results to the MRC by June 30th.

Jan Holmes '90, Neal Clark '07



FOCIP EducationDay

Thanks to 24 Camano Island Beach Watchers, we once again supported the Friends of Camano Island Parks (FOCIP) with their annual 2nd Grade Education Days project. Each day, May 8 and 9, there were 120 students, 30 or so parents along with about 25 FOCIP guides. We explored the forest, interacted in a program about estuaries; learned tips about safe camping and then after lunch took part in the activities of our six stations at the beach. The students come from local elementary schools on Camano Island and Stanwood.

Thursday, May 8, was a very cold day at Camano Island State Park when we began setting up at 9:30 am and it stayed chilly throughout the entire day. The four divers we



Listen up

What's under the rock?

had were able to retrieve wonderful critters from depths of 25 - 30 feet to have in the touch tanks. They picked up a few bottles as litter and it was discovered that there was an octopus in one of the bottles; an added treat that was added to the aquarium display. A number of Beach Watchers explored the Rocky Shore area and also discovered lots of specimens to add to the aquariums.

Friday was warmer. However the tide wasn't low until later in the day which meant we weren't able to thoroughly explore the Rocky Shore and retrieve as many



Sea stars in touch pools

interesting critters to have in the aquarium as we as we had on Thursday.

As in the past years, we had six stations set up and the groups of students rotate through each area learning about the critters. We have touch pools so students can see and gently touch the marine specimens not usually visible; the natural beach of the rocky shore where discoveries are made looking under rocks and seaweed-all the time being instructed to carefully replace the rocks; barnacle feeding where students hear about the life cycle of barnacles and try to catch bubbles as "food", black hole is an activity where the students reach into a fabric covered bucket and without looking pull out an item that the leader has shown them; aquariums is always an exciting area which gives a



Setting up the aquarium

Kids inspecting the aquarium

close up view of the smaller sea critters--we had nudibranchs, an octopus, jelly fish, shrimp, clams, fish, sea stars on display; a new game of critter concentration was added this year--students matched pictures on cards with pictures on wooden discs that had been placed face down on a table.

Help Replace the Deck at the Maxwellton Outdoor Classroom.

Starting July 14 Whidbey Watershed Stewards are replacing the deck. No machines can come in to help. Everything will be going in and out by hand or wheel barrow. Work times are 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Saturday for about three weeks.

To get more information call 360-579-1272 or email info@whidbeywatersheds.org
Nancy Waddell, director,

Travel Update with Beach Watchers and Friends

Travel plans are firming up for 2009 Beach Watcher-sponsored travel. **We now have dates and pricing for both trips. With 2009 dates and pricing published for the Patagonia trip, all new reservations will be charged at the 2009 rate (see below).** The Queen Charlotte trip price has been reduced, just for us, by \$200 per person. We hope you and your friends will join us in a trip to Patagonia and/or to the Queen Charlottes next year. Spaces are being held for us for a limited time for both trips. We hope you will want to travel with fellow Beach Watchers and friends in 2009 and raise money for Beach Watchers at the same time. Both trips will benefit Beach Watchers financially without costing you any more than if you traveled solo (as long as we have at least 12 travelers on each trip).

PATAGONIA, THE WILDERNESS BEYOND: FEBRUARY 17-MARCH 3, 2009 (14 DAYS, PLUS 3-NIGHT POST TRIP)

The Patagonia trip will run from February 17 to March 3, 2009 with a three-day post-trip extension to Iguassu Falls beginning on March 3. 2009 prices have increased due to increased fuel prices and our declining dollar. As of now, pending reservations will no longer be accepted and the new pricing is in effect. Our reserved spaces will only be held for us until June 30, 2008, so please sign up soon.

2009 prices are \$5395 (cabin B), \$5845 (cabin A), or \$6045 (Cabin AA) per person (land portion of the trip), plus \$500 per person for the air add-on round-trip from Seattle, and approximately \$90 per person in taxes. The post-trip extension is \$995 per person. It is possible to extend your stay at the end of the trip (break away) for a very small charge, but you need to declare your intention to do this when you make a reservation. Prices are based on double occupancy and there is an additional cost for a single person who does not want a roommate. We will try to match single travelers with a roommate, if you want one.

To make a reservation, call Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) at 1-800-955-1925. Tell the agent that you want to make a reservation for the Patagonia: The Wilderness Beyond Adventure Trip with Group #G911420 departing on February 17, 2009. If you want the post-trip extension, you need to reserve it when you make your main trip booking. You will also need to tell the OAT agent which cabin category you prefer. You will be asked for credit card information to make a \$500 deposit per person.

You can opt to pay in full at the time you make your reservation to avoid any subsequent cost increases; the agent can explain other payment options. If you want trip insurance, you need to get it when you pay in full. PLEASE e-mail or call me when you have made your reservation, so I can track our group's progress.

This will be a fabulous trip. I hope you (and maybe your friends) can join us!

QUEEN CHARLOTTES: MAY 23-30, 2009 (9 DAYS)

Our adventure to the Queen Charlottes (Haida Gwaii) has shifted to May 23-30, 2009 (dates could still vary by a day or two) Good news! The 2009 trip price will be CAN\$3950 per person, based on double occupancy plus 5% GST, if you book by November 15, 2008. They will hold all 16 spaces for us until that time. After November 15, the price will increase to the new 2009 rate of CAN\$4150 per person plus 5% GST, and they will start to book others into our group. Crew gratuities are not included.

The trip departs from Sandspit, British Columbia, in the Queen Charlottes, and the price does not include transportation to and from Sandspit, or accommodations before and after the cruise. **To make a reservation, please call Bluewater Adventures at 1-888-877-1770 (604-980-3800). Tell the agent you want to reserve a place on the May 23, 2009 trip sponsored by Beach Watchers. You will be asked to place a \$500 deposit, with the balance due 75 days before sailing.** You may also register on-line, but be sure to specify the May 23, 2009 sailing date and Beach Watchers affiliation. Please also let me know when you sign up.

See the trip highlights and web links below for additional information. Please let Linda Ridder know if you are interested in either or both of these trips, or if you have questions. It would be great to fill both trips. As always, your feedback is much appreciated.

Linda Ridder, BW Class of 2005

aderidl@mbidbey.com

360-579-2521 (home), 425-531-0236 (cell)

Beach Watcher Retreat

September 3—5, 2008

Join your fellow Beach Watchers in a retreat at the "Top of the Watershed", North Cascades Institute, September 3rd - 5th, 2008

Call today to make your reservation 360-679-7391 or email beachwatchers@wsu.edu (registration/payment due by July 1)

Need another nudge - listen to the first hand experience of Adam Lorio**

The natural beauty of the site alone is worth the drive up the valley. The peaks surrounding the center have inspired generations of famous writer and poets like Gary Snyder and Jack Kerouac. From the campus you can see Colonial and Pyramid peaks, and Sourdough Mountain, site of a historic fire lookout. The small footprint of the campus (within North Cascades National Park) invites the non-human residents of the area to be part of the local community. Chef Charles is a wonderful chef dedicated to using locally available food; his cooking is the main reason that I actually gained weight in grad school.

Some of my favorite early fall activities were hiking to the waterfall, exploring the deer creek loop trail, canoeing on Diablo Lake and watching the sunset down the Newhalem Gorge.

**Adam Lorio (Interpretive Specialist, Deception Pass State Park) worked/lived at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center on Diablo Lake as a graduate student in 2005. That experience has given him a unique perspective on his current work, just across from the mouth of the Skagit River.

Social Events Committee

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