



Education,
Research,
Stewardship

Beach Log

MARCH 2008



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION

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Seining Effort Takes a New Direction

Beach Watchers seining team members met with tribal, local and federal government representatives at the Swinomish Tribal Center in La Connor on December 11, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans for the upcoming 2008 seining season. Our host was Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC), represented by Eric Beamer. Todd Zacky attended on behalf of the Tulalip Tribes and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries was represented by Kurt Fresh and Anna Kagley. Kim Bredensteiner (Island County Salmon Coordinator) and Janielle Marcelle from Island County Planning were also in attendance. Beach Watchers included Tom Albrecht, Ken Urstad, Barbara Brock, Bob Buck, Monem Mahmoud Abdel, Jim Somers, Melissa Merickel, Finn Gatewood and Scott Chase.

After reviewing prior years' seining results and reports, the discussion turned to the 2008 sampling plan. Both SRSC and NOAA Fisheries have come to the conclusion that sufficient data has been gathered to document juvenile salmon usage, abundance and timing at Harrington and Race Lagoons and Elger Bay. More

specifically, it has been shown that some Whidbey Basin populations of Chinook salmon (an Endangered Species Act listed fish) have a preference for Saratoga Passage pocket estuaries. Also, there are consistently higher densities of juvenile Chinook inside, versus outside, of the estuaries sampled. A direct correlation between pocket estuary juvenile Chinook abundance and proximity to natal Chinook Rivers (landscape connectivity) has been shown. Data from these sites also documented period use and size information for Pink and Chum salmon. The presence of forage fish such as Sand Lance and Surf Smelt was also observed.

The focus in 2008 will be to increase our understanding of juvenile Chinook salmon nearshore habitat as it relates to river origin. This research will link specific Chinook populations in our sampling areas to specific Island County habitats and natal rivers. Non-lethal fin clip samples obtained at sampling sites will be sent to NOAA Fisheries for DNA analyses to determine river source. This information is important because it will help Island County salmon recovery planners refine, prioritize and measure restoration and protection projects.

This shift in focus will result in changes for Beach Watcher seining teams in 2008. Since there is no longer a need for additional usage data, Race Lagoon and Elger Bay will be dropped from the bi-monthly sampling schedule. Beach Watchers will continue to sample Harrington Lagoon on Whidbey and English Bloom on Camano, however, they will become "Index Sites" to detect the first river out-migrations of juvenile Chinook. Their presence will trigger an intensive sampling effort at 11 Island County nearshore sites. Beach Watchers will help with this intensive sampling in Saratoga Passage and will be working with the Wild Fish Conservancy (formerly Washington Trout) at three west Island County sites and one at Possession Point.

Beach Watcher teams are excited about working with new partners and at new sites in 2008.

Bob Buck, BW class of 2004

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An Aleutian Adventure

My husband and I were recently presented an opportunity to spend the month of December midway down the Aleutian Chain on the island of Adak, Alaska. While most people have the good sense to travel to warmer climes in wintertime, we headed for Adak.

Located along the "Ring of Fire," this island experiences frequent earth tremors and neighboring volcanoes continue to spit fire from time to time. Adak is known as the "Birthplace of the Winds" for good reason. High winds sweep through; so much so that trees cannot grow there and heavy steel dumpsters are known to be blown over by howling gusts of wind.

During World War II, the native Aleut people, inhabitants of Adak for at least 4,000 years, were forcibly evicted from several Aleutian Islands because of wartime concerns. Adak became a military air field and later the site of a Naval Air Station. The naval facility grew and thrived for several decades but was closed during the late 1990s, and much of Adak was subsequently returned to the Aleuts. There is now a small community of people living there and trying to survive financially with fishing, crabbing, and other business endeavors.

What an adventure! During our stay, we experienced hurricane force winds, a rat incursion into our living quarters, and an earthquake that registered 7.2 on the Richter scale. Luckily we also had days of good weather, allowing me to hike down to explore the beach. Because of Adak's treacherous conditions, nighttime tidepooling was not thought to be a good idea. Instead, I went beachcombing, checking to see what the windswept waves had tossed up onto the beach. Some of what I found was familiar from



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

This *Pugettia gracillis* carapace shows the hooks for holding decorations.

the beaches of Island County, but there were also organisms foreign to Puget Sound.

Among the familiar species were our little Sitka periwinkles (*Littorina sitkana*), frilled dogwinkles (*Nucella lamellosa*), and bay mussels (*Mytilus trossulus*). For seaweeds, I found Turkish washcloth (*Mastocarpus papillatus*), rockweed (*Fucus* sp.), and sea sacs (*Halosaccion* sp.). A freshly-molted graceful kelp crab (*Pugettia gracilis*) carapace I came across was decoration-free, exposing the tiny Velcro-like hooks that the crab would use to pin on seaweed, sponge and other camouflage material.

Other more exotic finds were those of a species of winged kelp (*Alaria fistulosa*) with gas-filled compartments in the stipe, and hermit crab sponge (*Suberites* sp.). Hermit crab sponge settles on a snail shell and begins to grow, eventually overgrowing and dissolving the shell. A hermit crab who takes up residence in the shell can then carve out the interior of the sponge, remodeling it to suit itself and eliminating the need to move into a larger shell, since ongoing sponge growth continually adds on space for the hermit crab to expand into.



Picture on the left is an opening in a hermit crab sponge. The picture on the right is a hermit crab sponge broken open.

Among the kelp holdfasts were several mussels that appeared somewhat larger and heavier than our bay mussels and were covered with a beardlike accumulation of byssal threads. After a little research, I decided these were most likely northern horse mussels (*Modiolus modiolus*). Sand dollars initially appeared to be the same species we find in Island County, but a bit of time on the Internet revealed that the range of *Dendraster excentricus* extends north only as far as Juneau, Alaska and that the species on Adak beaches would be northern sand dollars (*Echinarachnius parma*). Taking a closer look, I realized that the flower-like pattern was more centered on the Adak sand dollars. The species and common names of our Island County eccentric sand dollar refer to the fact that the flower pattern is excentric, i.e. off-center.



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

The less excentric Northern sand dollar.

One afternoon, a crab boat pulled in with a load of Alaskan brown king crab (*Lithoides aequispina*). Quickly identifying my husband and me as the only tourists on Adak, the crew invited us to watch them unload the boat, get a hands-on look at the crabs, and walk through the processing area where the crustaceans were efficiently turned into frozen food. The large lithoid crabs, also known as golden king crabs, have a very spiny carapace up to 8 inches across and are primarily harvested along the Aleutian chain. Another better known species, the Alaskan red king crab (*Paralithodes camtschaticus*), is some-



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

An Alaskan brown king crab.

what larger (carapace to 11 inches wide) and is not as spiny. That species is more likely to be harvested from the waters of Norton Sound and Bristol Bay.

We also crossed paths with other Adak wildlife; sea otters, bald eagles, ravens, emperor geese, harlequin ducks, rock ptarmigan, and caribou (an introduced species) all made our list. Adak was truly a grand adventure!

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999

Beach Watchers Explain "What's on the Beach?"

Debbie Bitts and Sammye Kempbell educated both kids and adults with a presentation entitled "What's on the Beach?" at the Oak Harbor Library on March 8th. They talked to the kids about food webs, pollution, and dealing with seal pups on the beach, and brought displays to help them learn about identification of local beach life.



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Debbie Bitts helps the kids form a food web.

Although the presentation was geared for kids, the parents and other adults in attendance also listened intently, amazed to learn how long it took for various kinds of plastics and other trash to break down in marine waters.



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Sammye Kempbell shows the kids and their adults "What's on the Beach."

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999

Dates to Remember

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



Camano Isl and Events

- March 17 Elger Bay Shoreline Workshop**, All-day workshop for residents of that community.
- March 20 Cama Beach Park Docent Training Workshop**, 9 am to 3 pm Cama Beach Park, contact Tina, 387-7542.
- March 26 Making SenSe of Solar**, 7 pm 141 NE Camano Drive, Presented by Mike Nelson. "Taking Advantage of the New Washington State Solar Incentive Program," second of our lecture series.
- March 27 Camano BW Steering Committee Meeting**, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm Camano Beach Watcher Office
- March 29 Tire and Plastic Pot Recycling**, 10 am to 2 pm 141 NE Camano Drive
- April 7 Camano BW Monthly Meeting**, 9 am to noon 141 NE Camano Drive
- April 12 Sound Gardening Workshop**, 9 am to pm 141 NE Camano Drive
- April 19 English Boom Shoreline Workshop**, 9 am to 3 pm 141 NE Camano Drive
- April 23 The new Cama Beach State Park**, 7 pm 141 NE Camano Drive
- May 6 Camano BW Monthly Meeting**, 9 am to noon 141 NE Camano Drive
- May 8 FOCIP Education Days**, Camano Island State Park
- May 9 FOCIP Education Days**, Camano Island State Park

Whidbey Isl and Events

- March 18 Advisory Council Meeting**, 10 am to 1 pm call for location 360-679-7391
- March 18 LEP Board Meeting**, 1 to 3 pm WSU Extension Office, Coupeville
- March 25 Sustainable Living Workshop**, 6 to 7:30 pm Hayes Hall-Room 137 (across the hallway from O.H. library) at Skagit Valley College, Oak Harbor "Green Building, Rural, Residential and Commercial; LEED; Green Built; Energy Star and Low Impact Development"
- March 31 The Plastic Sea**, 1 to 4:30 pm at Race Road Fire Hall as part of BW Training. Speaker, Marcus Eriksen of Algalita Marine Research Foundation in California.
- April 5 Shoreline Landowner Workshop; Strawberry Point & Shorecrest**, 11 am to 5 pm at Cornet Bay Environmental Learning Center
- April 12 Gray Whale Cruise**, noon to 4 pm Coupeville Wharf, \$70 per person, includes lunch and beverages.
- April 14 Breakfast w/ Beach Watchers**, 8:30 to 9:30 am Neil's Clover Patch in Bayview
- April 15 Advisory Council Meeting**, 10 am to 1 pm call for location 360-679-7391
- April 15 LEP Board Meeting**, 1 to 3 pm WSU Extension Office, Coupeville
- April 29 Sustainable Living Workshop**, 6 to 7:30 pm Hayes Hall-Room 137 (across the hallway from O.H. library) at Skagit Valley College, Oak Harbor "Green Building Resources and Recycling"

*** **Cancellation Notice: The March 20th** class, "The Problem with Plastic," has been cancelled. Instead there is a class on March 31st (see above).



2008 Class Schedule

Beach Watchers are welcome to attend these classes as a refresher or to learn a new topic. Please inform Kristen if you are going to attend so accommodations can be made.

Date	Time	Class Title	Speakers
17-Mar	9:00 AM 1:00 PM	Growth & Shoreline Management Coastal Geology	Matt Kukuk and Jeff Tate Hugh Shipman
19-Mar	9:00 AM 1:00 PM	Native Plants Forestry	June Davis Don Hanley and Kevin Zobrist
24-Mar	9:00 AM lunch? 1:00 PM	Penn Cove Shellfish Tour - 2nd req Wharf Aquaculture/Shellfish SeaGrant/Education and Outreach	Ian Jefferds Graham Johnson Teri King Teri King
26-Mar	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 1:00 PM 2:30 PM	Salmon and the Nearshore Marine Mammals, incl Orca, Gray Whales Beach Watcher Projects Climate Change	Kim Breidensteiner Sandy Dubpernell Kristen Cooley Lara Whitely Binder
31-Mar	9:00 AM noon 1:00 PM	Chemicals and the Environment Beach Trash* The Plastic Sea	Monem Mahmoud Abdel Cheryl May Anne Murphy, Marcus Eriksen of Algalita Marine Research Foundation in California.
2-Apr	9:00 AM Lunch 2:30 PM	Education/Outreach Shore Stewards Puget Sound Birds	Kristen Cooley 3/4 day Scott Chase Craig and Joy Johnson
7-Apr	9:00 12:30	Seaweed blooms, environmental issues in Penn Cove Agriculture	Kathy Van Alstyne Kathy Van Alstyne Olivia Forte-Gardner
9-Apr	9:00 1:00	Waste Wise Recycling/Waste processing 2nd req	Janet Hall Jerry Mingo and Dave Bonvouloir
14-Apr	9:00 12:30 2:30	LID Forage Fish and Seining Whidbey Watersheds	Stacy Smith Kurt Fresh John Hastings, Nancy Waddell
16-Apr	9:00 AM 1:00 PM	Wetlands Sustainable Living - 2nd req	Matt Nash Jan/Nicole
21-Apr	9:30 1:00	Rosario and Beach Naturalist Cama Beach State Park	Sammye K, Adam Lorio Jeff Wheeler
23-Apr	9:00 10:30 Noon 1:00	Invasive Species Beach Monitoring Tides Beach Monitoring - Beach Monitoring Sign up	Jeff Adams Mary Jo Adams/Jan Holmes/Charlie Seablom/ Jim Somers Jan Holmes Mary Jo Adams/Jan Holmes/ Charlie Seablom/Jim Somers
28-Apr	9:00 10:30 1:00 2:30	County Government Soils and Biosolids Tidal Energy Turbines in Puget Sound Derelict Gear	John Dean Craig Cogger Craig Collar Jeff June
30-Apr		GRADUATION	



Travel with Beach Watchers and Friends

Now is the perfect time to plan your 2009 travels. 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. In February, 2009 (after Sound Waters, of course), a 14-day trip will go to Patagonia including Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn. An optional post-trip extension includes Iguassu Falls in Brazil and Argentina. In May of 2009, a 9-day trip to the Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia is arranged.

Both trips will benefit Beach Watchers financially without costing you any more than if you traveled solo. If we fill both trips, we will earn Beach Watchers more than \$10,000 for 2009. So, you can travel on a wonderful trip, benefit Beach Watchers, and spend your vacation with fellow Island County folks.

PATAGONIA, The Wilderness Beyond: February, 2009 (14 days, plus 3-night post trip)

Our adventure begins in Buenos Aires, Argentina. After exploring the city, our first land visit is to Perito Moreno Glacier (a UNESCO world heritage site), before crossing into Chile for a visit to Torres del Paine National Park to see 9,000-foot granite pillars rising above the steppe along with granite peaks rising more than 10,000 feet. We expect to see fleet-footed nandu, majestic Andean condors and a wide variety of other birds, amid stunning beauty. We hike in the park before traveling overland to Punta Arenas. Along the way, we travel through fertile pampas (grasslands) and stay at a typical estancia (sheep ranch) for one night, including a lamb barbecue. In Punta Arenas we embark on our ship for four nights, traveling the icy waters of Beagle Channel and Glacier Alley en route to Tierra del Fuego, where the group lands at Cape Horn to witness the confluence of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Our ship's crew includes naturalists and researchers who lead daily discussions, and activities that inform us about this area. We have opportunities to leave the ship, weather permitting, to visit elephant seal colonies, see glaciers, observe Magellanic penguins, hike in Magellanic forests, visit Cape Horn National Park, and visit Wulaia Bay, home to the Yahgan people, the original inhabitants of this region. We disembark the ship in Ushuaia, Argentina, dubbed the

"city at the end of the world." We travel to Escondido Lake, hidden high in the Andes mountains, before exploring Ushuaia. Our trip ends in Buenos Aires. Patagonia is known for high winds and heavy downpours. Most travel is by motor coach, but a significant amount of walking is offered. This trip requires travelers to have good balance and firm footing.

An optional 3-night post trip to Iguassu Falls (twice as wide and 65 feet higher than Niagra Falls), on the border between Brazil and Argentina, is available if enough interest is shown. We will view the falls from both sides of the border. This extension offers a bit more time in Buenos Aires to see the Parana River delta before our flight home.

A maximum of 24 travelers can join this adventure, run by Overseas Adventure Travel, the same group that ran three prior Beach Watchers' trips. Go to www.oattravel.com/gcc/general/default.aspx?oid=174532 to learn more and view photos. We will have an in-country guide with us for our whole trip. Our group will join 102 other passengers for the four nights on the ship cruising the Chilean fjords.

Exact pricing and departure dates are not yet available, but there is an incentive to sign up now. If you make a pending reservation and put down a \$500 per person deposit, you are sure of a place in our group. By doing so before May 31, you are guaranteed that the price will not be more than \$4495 (cabin B), \$4895 (cabin A), or \$5195 (Cabin AA) per person (land portion of the trip) regardless of what the actual price increase is for 2009 (and the price could be less). Once the date and price are determined, you have an opportunity to cancel and get your full deposit back before your pending reservation is converted to a standard reservation. Currently, the airfare roundtrip from Seattle for this trip is \$850 per person, and the post-trip extension is \$845 per person. The 2009 costs are unknown at this time. It is possible to arrange for the land-only portion and get yourself to and from Buenos Aires (though it is usually cheaper if they do it), and it is possible to extend your stay at the end of the trip (break away) for a very small charge. 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 a single traveler with a roommate if you want one.

To make a pending reservation, call 1-800-955-1925. Tell the agent that you want to make a *pending reservation* for the Patagonia Wilderness Adventure Trip with Group #G911420 for February, 2009. You



will be asked for credit card information to make a \$500 deposit per person. When we know the dates and actual costs (near the end of May, 2008), you will be asked to convert to a standard reservation and can pay in full to avoid any subsequent cost increases. PLEASE e-mail or call me when you have made a pending reservation, so I can double-check that you are in the right group's trip. They are asking me to double-check to avoid any errors on their part.

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

QUEEN CHARLOTTES: May, 2009 (9 days)

Our adventure to the Queen Charlottes (Haida Gwaii) will be May 22-29, 2009. I extend apologies for not being able to do it this summer, but the trip is already too heavily booked. The Queen Charlottes form the westernmost edge of Canada and are one of the richest biological and cultural areas in North America. Most of our time will be spent sailing along the eastern and southern coast of Moresby Island, called Gwaii Haanas. We will learn about the diverse natural history and issues that made preservation of Gwaii Haanas an environmental battle for many years.

This trip focuses on both the cultural and natural environments, including visits to ancient Haida villages and learning about the rich Haida culture. Haida watchmen greet us and tell us about ancient and modern Haida life and art. The annual spring plankton bloom provides a rich food source for up to a million seabirds breeding here. We hope to see puffins, auklets, albatross, oystercatchers, murrelets, and pigeon guillemots. Eagles and other raptors are common here too. Old growth forests and alpine zones, from the sea to meadows and bogs, can be seen from our hikes. This area is also rich in marine mammals, including a number of whale species, harbor seals, and Steller's sea lions. Tidal changes range up to 23 feet, creating extraordinary intertidal marine life. We explore Burnaby Narrows, described as the most productive aquatic zone in North America. There are opportunities to fish for our dinner. Land mammals, including black bear, black-tailed deer, and raccoons may also be seen. Several kayaks are aboard to allow daily kayak adventures for interested participants.

A maximum of 16 travelers can join this adventure, run by Bluewater Adventures. See <http://www.bluewateradventures.ca/destinations/queen.htm>.

Possible 2010 and beyond destinations; where would you like to travel?

The Americas:

Costa Rica, 13 days
Galapagos
Antarctica, 15 days (9-day cruise)

Asia and South Pacific:

China, Tibet, and the Yangtze River, 22 days
Vietnam, 19 days
Australia, 17 days

Africa:

Morocco, 15 days
South Africa, 19 days

Europe:

Turkey, 18 days (5-day cruise)
Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia, 16 days
Tuscany, Italy, 14 days

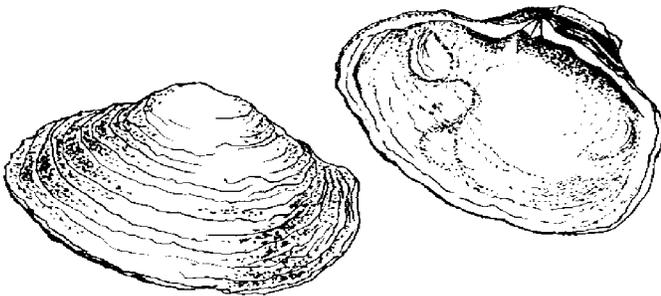
Their trips have been claimed as one of the 50 best trips in the world by National Geographic and are recommended by fellow Beach Watchers. Travel is aboard their 68-foot sailing vessel, in two-person cabins with three shared baths. Shore excursions are from inflatable boats, allowing us to experience this true wilderness in ways that few visitors can. Access to most beaches is only by boat or float plane. There is no set itinerary, except for inclusion of SGaang Gwaii (a World Heritage Site) and Hotsprings Island. This trip includes a visit to the Haida Gwaii Museum at the new Qay'lnagaay Heritage Center, with its magnificent totem poles, and a Haida dinner hosted in the modern village of Skidegate. You can spend additional time on Graham Island at the conclusion of your trip. The 2008 trip price was CANS\$3950 per person, based on double occupancy; pricing for 2009 is not yet known. The trip originates and departs from Sandspit, British Columbia, in the Queen Charlottes. I will explore airfare options from Seattle to see if I can negotiate a group price. Please do not yet book with Bluewater Adventures. I will provide

Continued From Page 7

updated pricing and date information as it becomes available, as well as instructions for signing up for the Queen Charlottes trip as soon as it is possible to do so.

Do go ahead and book directly with Overseas Adventure Travel for the Patagonia trip. Both trips are closed to the public now, but will open up if we don't fill all the spaces. Your non-Beach Watcher friends are welcome to join us too. 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@whidbey.com
 360-579-2521



Plastics in our Marine Environment Water Class

On March 31st from 1 pm to 4:30 pm we are very lucky to have Marcus Eriksen of the Algalita Marine Research Foundation in California, the leader in our country for research and education on the problem of plastic in our marine environment. He will be joining the Port Townsend Marine Science Center in providing training on the "Plastic Sea" to the 2008 Beach Watcher Training Class on Whidbey.

As you well know all Beach Watchers are invited to join any of the training classes and I encourage you to not miss this awesome opportunity. The class will start at the Race Road Fire Hall (prepare to be packed in tight) and will conclude with a field trip to Keystone spit for a demonstration of plastic beach sampling protocol that the Port Townsend Marine Science Center hopes Beach Watchers will adopt on a few beaches in Island County.

NOAA 2008 Environmental Hero Award

Jim Somers and Bob Buck, both graduates of the 2004 Beach Watcher class, just received word that they have been awarded the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Environmental Hero Award this year. This prestigious award is given to only ten volunteers in the entire USA annually and this year two of them will be from Island County Beach Watchers! The award is given to individuals that volunteer their time and energy to help NOAA carry out its mission, work tirelessly to protect and preserve our environment, and help protect the planet.

Anna Kagley and Kurt Fresh of NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center nominated Jim and Bob for their dedicated and enthusiastic work leading a team in collecting juvenile salmon data in pocket estuaries for the past three years and now expanding that effort in 2008. Both do much more than just salmon research and have racked up over 2,500 volunteer hours between the two of them in various projects. Island County Beach Watchers is very fortunate to have two such amazing individuals on our team, however they would be the absolute first people to tell you what an amazing team of volunteers they have helping them and how very many more environmental hero's exist in Beach Watchers. In Bob's words "I know Jim will agree with me that this is truly a TEAM award. This activity is all about showing up and getting the field work done. Every team member can be proud that their dedicated efforts have been recognized through this award."

I for one am very, very proud of Jim and Bob but I'm equally proud every day I work with all the phenomenal volunteers in this amazing organization.

Kristen





Creosote Removal in Island County

Lisa Kaufman, Restoration Manager from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), wrote to me yesterday to thank Island County Beach Watchers for all their help and support in the survey and removal of creosote material from our beaches. She shared the fact that since 2005, over 600 tons have been removed from Island County alone. That's almost HALF of everything DNR has removed so far from Puget Sound.

Next week, March 10 through 14, DNR's new Restoration Technician, Nate Rice, will be at Joseph Whidbey State Park and the adjacent Navy property for another creosote removal. You are welcome to stop by, but keep an eye out for the heavy equipment.

Their next goal for Island County is to resurvey the stretch from Keystone Spit to Ebey's Landing State Park on Whidbey Island. They want to see if there is a need to return to that area soon. They also want to continue efforts on Camano Island, including a return to some of the private properties that were surveyed previously.

There will be \$1,500 coming to Island County Beach Watchers for the work that was done, and DNR is incredibly thankful for ALL the efforts Beach Watchers make in Puget Sound.

If you are interested in helping with resurveys, please contact Ken Urstad on Whidbey Island and Duane Hoekstra on Camano.

Kristen

COASST Honors Two Beach Watchers

Sandi Dubpernell and Jill Hein have been selected as the 2007 COASST volunteers of the year. They have consistently walked their assigned beach which is the Puget Sound side of the land strip between Crockett Lake and Admiralty Bay. Mostly their walks are pleasant. And sometimes they find dead birds to identify. Jill even found a bird, short-tailed shearwater, from her homeland, Australia.

COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team) is planning on offering a class in Island County in May, the exact date has yet to be determined. Join COASST if you want to regularly walk a beach with a purpose in mind.

Arlene Stebbins, BW class of 2003

2008 Sound Waters was a Huge Success

On February 3, most of the 542 registered individuals were present for the 2008 version of "Sound Waters – A One Day University" at the new Coupeville High School. The morning started with Senator Mary Margaret Haugen recognizing the accomplishments of our (reticent) Extension Director, Don Meehan. David Dicks, executive director of the Puget Sound Partnership, provided an inspiring keynote address detailing the role of volunteer activities in the Puget Sound cleanup. Later, Mr. Dicks and Don Meehan held a lunch meeting with the regional Beach Watchers coordinators and Seattle Times op-ed columnist Lance Dickey, who subsequently published a highly complimentary article. This meeting, along with the Sound Waters event in general, has given executive director Dicks a new and enlightened perspective on the inclusion of volunteers in the pursuit of the goals of the Partnership.

The event was truly a WSU Extension project. Although it was planned and staged by a dedicated group of WSU Beach Watchers, we were aided by 18 terrific 4-H volunteers who served as all-day classroom assistants. In addition, Janet Hall and her Waste Wise crew took care of recycling, trash and helped promote the "plastics reduction" theme of this year's event. In their new location, the Lighthouse Docents Gift Shop appeared to have a highly successful sales day.

The WSU Beach Watchers' focus on plastics reduction appeared to have a successful kickoff, with the absence of dispensed water bottles and over 50% compliance by participants bringing their own reusable beverage container. In addition, for those who did not bring their own coffee cup, beverages were served in compostable "Eco cups." The Coupeville Senior class provided the coffee service in return for tips.

The 2008 Sound Waters was planned and carried out by a terrific group of WSU Beach Watchers volunteers. Several of the committee members will be moving on to other activities, so there is plenty of room for new people and fresh ideas on next year's committee. Planning should begin in May.

Jim Somers, BW class of 2004



Sound Thinking: The Life and Health of Puget Sound

The Lyceum Lectures for 2008 will be devoted to Puget Sound: how it works, what its current state is, and what the future holds in store. A stellar line-up of speakers will focus on science, policy, and personal action. The series runs on Tuesday evenings April 1 – May 6 from 7:30-9 pm at the Bayview Cash Store.

The Lyceum is sponsored by The Whidbey Institute at Chinook, WSU Island County Extension, Island County Marine Resources Committee, Whidbey Audubon Society and Whidbey Watershed Stewards. The cost is the same as last year: \$6.00 per lecture, or the full series for \$30. To register, call 360-321-1884 or e-mail to <info@whidbeyinstitute.org>.

April 1: Puget Sound and Our Place in It – John Lombard, author of *Saving Puget Sound: A Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century*; Senior Policy Analyst at AMEC Earth and Environmental, an environmental consulting firm; lecturer in Oceanography and in the Program on the Environment at the University of Washington.

April 8: Pollution in the Sound: Truths and Consequences – Nat Scholz, Environmental Conservation Division, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and a Whidbey Island resident.

April 15: Energy from the Sound: Harnessing Tidal Power – Mitsuhiro Kawase, School of Oceanography, University of Washington.

April 22: Protecting the Sound's Birds and Mammals – Kevin Ryan, Project Leader, Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex; and Dave Nyswander, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife.

April 29: Saving the Sound, One Step at a Time – Sarah Schmidt, Co-author of *Getting to the Water's Edge* (Island County Marine Resources Committee and WSU Beach Watchers); principal author of *Our Islands, Our Water, Our Future* (Island County Planning & Community Resource Enhancement Program).

May 6: The Partnership in our Future – David Dicks, Executive Director of the recently-established Puget Sound Partnership, charged by Gov. Christine Gregoire with developing and implementing a strategy for protecting and restoring Puget Sound by 2020.

Gray Whale Cruise

Saturday April 12th, noon - 4:00 pm

Coupeville Wharf (sponsored by WSU Island County Beach Watchers)

\$70 per person includes a four-hour cruise, lunch, beverages and on-board naturalists.

To reserve space, call 360-331-1030 or
email events@wsu.edu

Bring your friends too!



Beach Watchers class of 2008



Photo by Jill Hein

Left to right on class photo: Joan Dehn, Terri Purcell, David Sellers, Kevin Brutsche, John Purcell, Derek Pritchard, Dick Newsham, Murray Aston, Lili Yocom, Sue Newsham, Marilyn Brownstein, Jan Gross, Jeanne Brennan, Tessa Bevins, Mary Ann Imkamp, Enid Braun, Mary Williford, Chen Deering, Doug Kollasch (back), Kathy Sivertsen, Bob Gentz and Karen Fletcher. Not in photo – John Howard.

Nursery Pot and Tire Recycling Event!

It must be spring, as the WSU Beach Watchers and Waste Wise are gearing up for the annual plastic nursery pot and tire recycling event. The event will take place on both Whidbey and Camano on Saturday, March 29th from 10am-2pm. On Whidbey we will be at the Coupeville Transfer Station and on Camano we will be located behind the CASA Animal Shelter. Volunteers are needed for all types of jobs i.e. directing traffic, unloading tires and pots, sorting pots, taking money etc. There are two shifts: 9:45am-12pm and 11:45am-2pm. The good news for all you veteran “pot sorters” is we only have to sort pots bigger than 6 inches in diameter!

Ann Baum, class of 2007, is making a challenge to all her classmates that you need to come and volunteer for this event!!

Please contact Janet Hall at halljn@wsu.edu to let her know what shift you want to work.





Thanks to our Sponsors



"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 25, 2008**