



*Education,
Research,
Stewardship*

Beach Log

MARCH 2007



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION

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2007 Snow Goose Festival

Despite inclement weather and low attendance, Beach Watchers volunteers on Camano Island joined with Waste Wise volunteers in staffing a joint booth and activity table at this year's 2nd annual Snow Goose Festival on Camano Island, held February 24 and 25. This year's event had bird watching at nearby locations and various activities in downtown Stanwood and at Four Springs Preserve on Camano. Our kids' activity table featured a Beach Watchers coloring book with several different birds, based in part on a coloring book created by the San Juan County Beach Watchers. Sheila Pera (BW Class of 2003) found some of the mostly white birds a bit boring, so created some great fantasy examples to stir the kids' imaginations. Another activity was making envelopes out of old calendar pages, an idea borrowed from Waste Wise. During periodic lulls, you



Photo by Scott Chase

Sisters color as mom holds the Beach Watchers' "Snow Goose Coloring Book."



Photo by Scott Chase

From left: Beth Horton (BW Class of 2002), Jim Turk (BW Class of 2006) and Nancy Salvadalena (BW Class of 2006, and Waste Wise volunteer) worked the crowds at the Snow Goose Festival.

could find the table full of adult exhibitors from ours and other booths, making envelopes and origami swans. The exhibits were in an enclosed barn, and it was somewhat chilly; fortunately, the volunteers dressed appropriately.

Making the trip from Whidbey, Dan Pedersen joined Sarah Schmidt (BW Class of 2000) to give the presentation "Getting to the Water's Edge" to a good-sized group in the park's main house. Their talk was received enthusiastically, and some who didn't already have the book took the opportunity to purchase one. Other events at Four Springs included a concert by the South End String Band and a big barbecue dinner.

Scott Chase, Camano Island BW Coordinator



Monitoring Highlights

Harbor Porpoise Death Investigated

The discovery of a dead harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) found washed up on Whidbey's West Sunset Beach set wheels in motion to try to determine what killed the animal. NOAA marine mammal veterinarian, Dr. Stephanie Norman, headed a team of five who performed a necropsy on the porpoise. Jill Hein, Beach Watcher and Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network member, participated and assisted in the collection of specimens.



Mary Jo Adams photo

Jill Hein (left) bags and tags a specimen collected by Dr. Stephanie Norman.

This was an important animal to study because the species is in the midst of an "unusual mortality event." This NOAA designation was made in November because during the first 10 months of 2006, 64 harbor porpoise deaths were documented along the Washington-Oregon coast. Prior to this, the most recorded in one year were 34 in 2003, so it was a very significant increase in numbers. Special protocols were followed in the necropsy to be sure as much information as possible could be gleaned from the animal.

Among the observations made during the procedure was that something, probably a large shark, had taken a big chunk out of the dorsal surface of the porpoise. Not only was tissue missing, but ribs were broken; a finding that could not be attributed to scavenging birds. In addition, Dr. Norman pointed out wound edges with the zigzag pattern typical of a bite made by big sharp teeth.



Mary Jo Adams photo

This 5 ½ foot long harbor porpoise was found washed up on West Sunset Beach on Feb. 22, 2007.

There were also massively enlarged lymph glands throughout the body, possibly a sign of the fungal infection *Cryptococcus*. This organism is a newly emerging pathogen in the Pacific Northwest. Usually found in the tropics, *Cryptococcus* was documented on southern Vancouver Island in 1999 and has since been identified as the culprit infecting and sometimes even killing humans, dogs, cats, and porpoises. Dr. Norman noted that if this animal has *Cryptococcus*, it will be the first one found with this infection in waters south of the Bellingham, Wash. area.

A third finding was that the porpoise was pregnant. The foot long, perfectly formed fetus was sent along with other specimens for further study.



Jill Hein photo

A foot long fetus was found in the left horn of the uterus.

Cause of death for the porpoise was not determined during the necropsy; specimens of internal organs, blood, spinal cord, blubber, muscle, etc. will undergo further laboratory scrutiny before that final determination is made.

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999



Invasive Tunicate Found in Whidbey Island Waters

While attending a recent scuba divers' workshop about invasive tunicates, I was surprised to learn that one had been found in Whidbey Island waters. On March 2, as he was photographing tunicates on the underside of a Lagoon Point dock, local diver and underwater photographer Jan Kocian spotted *Ciona savignyi*. It was submerged under only one to two feet of water. He had been at the same place two weeks earlier and had not seen the tunicate then, so he believes the presence is a very recent arrival. Returning a week after the initial discovery, he found two more. One was attached to the tube of a feather duster worm (*Eudistylia vancouveri*) and the other to a native tunicate (*Boltenia villosa*).

The scuba divers' workshop, held in Anacortes, was sponsored by the Puget Sound Action Team and taught by Janna Nichols of REEF and Washington Scuba Alliance. She told us that *Ciona savignyi* can reach sexual maturity in just a few weeks; therefore it can spread rapidly. In Washington waters, it has been found in Hood Canal, Des Moines, Alki, and under Maury Island barges. Janna said that although the exotic tunicate is more common in water 40 feet deep or more, it also seems to like dark areas, which is why it is showing up on the undersides of boats and docks in very shallow water.

For more information and photos of this invasive tunicate, check out the Pacific Northwest Critter Watchers webpage at the site: <http://www.pnwscuba.com/critterwatchers/ciona.htm>. There are links on the page to information about Washington's two other invasive tunicates, *Styela clava* and *Didemnum* sp., as well.

One other piece of information covered at the meeting and also on the webpage is that there are two things *Ciona savignyi* is likely to be confused with. One is other tunicates from the genus *Corella*, which share the translucent appearance but have a rather rectangular shape in contrast to the elongated body of *Ciona*. The other is squid eggs. This was realized during a *Ciona* removal dive in Hood Canal, when one diver emerged from the water with a bag full of the cephalopod eggs!

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999

Shoreline Workshops Highlight Pocket Estuaries and Seining

Workshops will be held on Whidbey and Camano to educate the people who live around pocket estuaries on the importance of those locations to migrating salmon. The neighborhoods include Elger Bay on Camano Island and Race Lagoon, Harrington Lagoon, and Ala Spit on Whidbey. Sponsored by Puget Sound Action Team, each workshop will begin with Linda Lyshall of Puget Sound Action Team talking about conservation and the property owner, followed by Scott Chase explaining how to prevent non-point pollution in their home and yard. Aundrea McBride of the Skagit River System Cooperative will talk about shoreline processes, and Kurt Fresh of NOAA Fisheries will speak on salmon and the nearshore. After lunch, participants will head down to the seining locations (Elger Bay on Camano; Harrington Lagoon on Whidbey), where Beach Watcher volunteers will show the neighbors the fish that live in their estuaries.

If you know anyone who lives in these neighborhoods who you think would benefit from learning about the importance of pocket estuaries and the Beach Watches seining efforts, be sure to let them know about these workshops. The Elger Bay workshop will be held Sat. March 17, and the Whidbey workshop on Sat. April 14. To register, contact Scott Chase (on Camano) at schase@wsu.edu or (360) 387-3443, ext. 258. The planning for these workshops has included several Beach Watchers on Whidbey and Camano; Shore Stewards; Island County Planning Department; Puget Sound Action Team; Island County Marine Resources Committee; WRAC; and Whidbey Watershed Stewards. Additional participation has included Whidbey Island Conservation District and Whidbey Camano Land Trust.

Scott Chase, Camano Island BW Coordinator





Dates to Remember

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



Events on Camano:

Saturday, March 17, 2007. *Elger Bay Shoreline Workshop.* South Camano Grange Hall, 9:00 a.m. An all-day workshop for residents to learn environmental aspects of living on the shoreline. Registration is required. Contact the BW office, (360) 387-3443 x258.

Friday, March 23, 2007. *Beach seining* at Camano Island Elger Bay. 6:30 a.m. Contact Barbara Brock, 360-387-7903 or wbbrock@wavecable.com.

Saturday, March 24, 2007. *Tire and Plastic Plant Pot Recycling.* 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Transfer Station off Can Ku Road. For info call (360) 678-7974.

Saturday, April 21, 2007. *Tire and Plastic Plant Pot Recycling.* 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Transfer Station off Can Ku Road. For info call (360) 678-7974.

Saturday, April 28, 2007. *Sound Gardening Workshop.* Camano Community Center, 9:00 a.m. This workshop will cover native plants and composting for healthy gardens as well as a presentation 'Geology and Shoreline Processes' by Tim Walsh, Dept. of Natural Resources.

Events on Whidbey:

Monday, March 19, 2007. *Beach Watcher Events Team Meeting.* Noon at Ingris Johnson's. If interested, call her at (360) 678-4889.

Tuesday, March 20, 2007. *Beach Watcher Advisory Council Meeting.* On Camano Island. Call Dave Baumchen for more information, (360) 387-2236.

Wednesday, March 21, 2007. *Marine Mammal Stranding Network Training.* Race Road Fire Hall, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Call Sandy Dubpernell to register, (360) 678-3765.

Wednesday, March 21, 2007. *Rosario Beach Naturalist Training.* Rosario Beach kitchen shelter, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Sammie Kempbell and Adam Lario will be teaching. Call (360) 679-7391 for more info.

Saturday, March 24, 2007. *Tire and Plastic Plant Pot Recycling.* 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Coupeville Solid Waste Facility. For info call (360) 678-7974.

Monday, March 26, 2007. *Prairie Incentives Workshop.* Presented by Whidbey Camano Land Trust. Registration due by March 22. (360) 222-3310. At the Au Sable Institute, 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday, March 30, 2007. *Seining at Ala Spit.* 11 a.m., call Joe Beck for more information, (360) 321-5048.

Friday, April 6, 2007, *Breakfast With Beach Watchers, North,* 8:30 a.m., Whidbey General Hospital

Monday, April 9, 2007. *Seining at Race and Harrington Lagoons.* 7:30 a.m., call Bob Buck for more information (360) 321-2334.

Thursday, April 12, 2007. *Seining at Ala Spit.* 9 a.m., call Joe Beck for more information, (360) 321-5048.

Friday, April 13, *Breakfast With Beach Watchers, South,* 8:30 a.m., Three Cats Café, Freeland

Saturday, April 14, 2007. *Free Shoreline Workshop.* 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Coupeville Rec Hall. You must register with Shore Stewards at (360) 387-3443 ext. 258.

Sunday, April 15, 2007. *Grey Whale Cruise with Beach Watchers.* Noon to 4 p.m. leaving from the Coupeville Wharf. Call (360) 679-7391 to get info and tickets.

Thursday, April 19, 2007. *Whidbey Evening Educational Series.* Whidbey General Hospital Conference Room, 6:30 p.m. Overview of Puget Sound Georgia Basin Research Conference by volunteers who attended.

Saturday, April 21, 2007. *Tire and Plastic Plant Pot Recycling.* 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Coupeville Solid Waste Facility. For info call (360) 678-7974.

Monday, April 23, 2007. *Seining at Race and Harrington Lagoons.* 8:00 a.m., call Bob Buck for more information (360) 321-2334.

Tuesday, April 24, 2007. *Septic System Workshop.* 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Monroe Fire Station in Oak Harbor. Call (360) 678-7974.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007. *Seining at Ala Spit. 8:00 a.m.* Call Joe Beck for more information (360) 321-5048

Saturday, April 14, 2007, *Welcome the Whales Day Festival & Parade, 10 am - 5 pm in Langley. Parade at 1:30 -* For more information on the event, contact Orca Network at 360-678-3451 or susan@orcaneetwork.org.



A Beach Watcher is Remembered

Susan Berta was the Beach Watchers coordinator when Penny Bowen joined Beach Watchers and when Rosie washed ashore. Here she shares her memories...

One of the things that stands out in all my wonderful memories of Penny was her involvement with "Rosie" the gray whale. None of us had ever been up close and personal with a dead whale before, and weren't sure how we might react. When Matt called me, and I called in our troops of BW volunteers, it was a surprise to see Penny among those most enthralled with the whale. It was through Penny's (and Brian Giles') enthusiasm that we decided to retrieve the gray whale skeleton; we originally were just going to take the skull. I remember Penny down on the beach helping muck out the bones and having such a good time, even though the smell was awful. She always said the smell was what she remembered the most, and that it didn't seem to go away even after clothes were washed and/or thrown away; she thought it might be stuck permanently inside her nostrils!

Penny was also a wonderful and strong first BW board President, who helped form what is now an active board that helps shape what BW is all about, and she took BW through changes and transitions gracefully and with thought and care; she truly loved the BW program, and became good friends with many of us through BW activities.

Penny also helped with the Free Lolita campaign, and



Penny Bowen 1940-2007

we have fun memories of a moonlight cruise on the Cutty Sark after our first Lolita fundraiser, with Penny at the helm, wondering what those little green things on the LORAN navigation screen were...luckily Capt. Stone took over before we ran into the mussel rafts!

And our trip down to see Keiko off from Newport on his way to Iceland – I didn't think it was possible for six silly women to have such a good time.

Penny's last seven years were a struggle, but she continued to smile, and to teach us all so much. She handled these years of uncertainty, treatment, and continued bouts of ups and downs with such grace and acceptance, living each day as best she could, that we began to think she would live forever. I treasure each moment, each visit, lunch,

wedding, or event we had with Penny these last years, and feel very fortunate to have had such a wonderful friend in my life, and to have memories of her smile and the sound of her laughter. It seemed fitting that the news of her passing came the day we were headed to Baja to visit the friendly gray whales. I think Penny may have been there with us as the moms brought their calves up to our boat – I could almost see her reaching out to touch them...

Susan Berta



2007 Low Tide Days

Seattle

April

18	12:15P	-2.4
19	12:58P	-2.9
20	1:45P	-2.9
21	2:34P	-2.3

May

4	12:50P	-1.6
5	1:28P	-1.7
6	2:10P	-1.5
15	10:26A	-2.0
16	11:07A	-3.1
17	11:51A	-3.7
18	12:36P	-3.8
19	1:22P	-3.3
20	2:11P	-2.5
31	11:15A	-1.8

June

1	11:49A	-2.1
2	12:27P	-2.3
3	1:07P	-2.4
4	1:50P	-2.2
5	2:35P	-1.8
12	9:18A	-1.9
13	10:03A	-3.0
14	10:47A	-3.7
15	11:33A	-3.8
16	12:18P	-3.6
17	1:04P	-3.0
18	1:50P	-2.1
28	10:14A	-1.5
29	10:51A	-2.0
30	11:29A	-2.4

July

1	12:09P	-2.6
2	12:50P	-2.6
3	1:32P	-2.3
4	2:14P	-1.5
11	8:56A	-2.2
12	9:46A	-2.8
13	10:34A	-3.1
14	11:20A	-3.1
15	12:04P	-2.7
16	12:46P	-2.1
28	10:29A	-1.8
29	11:10A	-2.2
30	11:50A	-2.4
31	12:30P	-2.1

Port Townsend

April

18	11:16A	-1.9
19	12:01P	-2.4
20	12:48P	-2.5
21	1:39P	-2.0

May

15	9:29A	-1.7
16	10:10A	-2.7
17	10:53A	-3.3
18	11:38A	-3.4
19	12:26P	-3.0
20	1:15P	-2.3
31	10:18A	-1.6

June

1	10:52A	-2.0
2	11:29A	-2.2
3	12:10P	-2.2
4	12:53P	-2.1
5	1:38P	-1.7
12	8:25A	-1.8
13	9:08A	-2.8
14	9:51A	-3.4
15	10:36A	-3.5
16	11:22A	-3.3
17	12:08P	-2.8
18	12:54P	-2.0
28	9:18A	-1.5
29	9:54A	-2.0
30	10:32A	-2.3

July

1	11:12A	-2.5
2	11:53A	-2.5
3	12:34P	-2.2
4	1:16P	-1.5
11	8:04A	-2.3
12	8:52A	-2.8
13	9:39A	-2.9
14	10:24A	-2.8
15	11:08A	-2.5
16	11:51A	-1.9
28	9:34A	-1.8
29	10:14A	-2.1
30	10:54A	-2.2
31	11:33A	-1.9

August

9	7:48A	-1.7
10	8:42A	-1.8
11	9:30A	-1.8
12	10:13A	-1.5



Beach Monitoring Schedule, Summer 2007

Thanks to Charlie Seablom who is coordinating things this season
...and to Mary Jo and Jan our beach sleuths who will be out there with us again.

Columbia Beach		Bill Blair	341-6593	bchblairs@pioneernet.net
Cornet Bay		Heather Leahy-Mack	679-2025	heather-leahy-mack@comcast.net
Coupeville Town Park		Mary Jo Adams	240-1245	mjadams52@comcast.net
Crescent Harbor	4/20/2007	Mary Jo Adams	240-1245	mjadams52@comcast.net
Double Bluff Cirque		Eugene Thrasher	730-1215	
Double Bluff Wahl Farm		Julie Buktenica	221-0465	buklow@whidbey.net
Footprint Rock				
Freeland		Fletcher Davis	331-4181	davises@whidbey.com
Harrington Lagoon		Donna Keeler	678-4045	donna.keeler@verizon.net
Honeymoon Bay	6/15/2007	Finn Gatewood		mrcfinn@whidbey.net
Langley		Yvonne Palka	321-5603	palka@whidbey.com
Ledgewood Beach		Jan Holmes	678-3905	jlholmes@whidbey.net
Maxwelton				
Maxwelton Tide Pool		Jeannie McElwain	321-5277	epiphany@whidbey.com
North Hastie Lake		Susan Nunn	678-9019	nasus@coupeville.net
Old Clinton		Winnie Wheeler	341-4712	jeff.wheeler@parks.wa.gov
Point Partridge		Brian Giles	675-0596	bgiles@pugetsound.net
Possession Point		Jim Shelver	579-8063	
Rolling Hills		Charlie Seablom	675-3239	candp.seablom@verizon.net
Rosario		Jan Holmes	678-3905	jlholmes@whidbey.net
South Lagoon Point		Jan Holmes	678-3905	jlholmes@whidbey.net
South Whidbey SP		Libby Hayward, Finn Gatewood	331-6006	libby@whidbey.com
Sunlight Beach		Brian Giles	675-0596	bgiles@pugetsound.net
Trails End	6/1/2007	Finn Gatewood		mrcfinn@whidbey.net
West Sunset		Bob Lawes	675-2085	lawes@whidbey.net

Monitoring season is fast approaching, on the previous page is a list of low tide days for the spring and summer. I am the new monitoring coordinator and would like to hear from team leaders when you pick your date. I would also like to hear from anyone who isn't on a monitoring team but would like to help. My email is candp.seablom@verizon.net.

Charlie Seablom, BW Class of 1993

Annual Book Sale

The Admiralty Head Lighthouse gift shop is hosting its annual book sale for all Beach Watchers, Waste Wise and Lighthouse volunteers. Since these books are a great addition to anyone's library, it's an opportunity to stock up on books at a discount. You may order any book in the Lone Pine Catalog as well as any book on the shelf in the lighthouse gift shop.

Catalogs, price lists, and order forms will be in the lighthouse break room. If you find books you wish to order, just complete the order form and make payment by Sunday, March 18. All orders are prepaid. Completed order forms and your payment should be left with Gloria at the lighthouse.

Books will be available for pickup at the lighthouse by the end of March. You will be notified by e-mail or phone when your order is in.

Cheryl Thomas, BW Class of 1999



Volunteer Naturalist Training

What do you think...?

Sammye Kempbell and crew logged in 3500 interactions with visitors at Rosario Beach and tidepools last summer. They talked to them about the interesting marine life they would be seeing, and helped them understand the need for the most critter-friendly tidepool practices. 3500! Do you suppose they need some help out there?

Rosario is an hour's drive from the south end of Whidbey Island, and not too far from Camano to be reached. Volunteers are needed to spend a portion of a day, especially when the tides are low, helping people enjoy and protect this precious spot. There are two ways you can get into the act.

Rosario Early Season Beach Training, Half-Day, will be held Wed. March 21 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Rosario Beach kitchen shelter. Park naturalist Adam Lorio and BW Sammye Kempbell will teach Working with Visitors, The Story of the Maiden, and Best Beach Behavior.

Beach Naturalist Training, Three Day, for those interested in becoming volunteer beach naturalists, including those who do the half day early training. The three day training is being offered at no cost in May and June in a cooperative program developed by Beach Watchers organizations in Island, Skagit, Whatcom, and Snohomish counties. The lead trainer will be naturalist Doug Spark of RE-Source, who will be assisted by Beach Watchers and staff from Washington State Parks.

Once trained, these volunteers will be formed into teams to help school groups and the public enjoy and care for Rosario, as well as other beach parks they visit. If you are interested in training, contact Stewart Congdon at scongdon@wsu.edu, phone either Stewart or Kristen Cooley at 679-7391, or contact Sammye Kempbell at 678-0797 or sammyek@iglide.net.

Early Beach Training for Deception Pass: Wed. March 21, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Rosario Beach kitchen shelter.

Beach Naturalist Training: Classroom, Wed. May 30, at Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Field training, Sat. June 2, at Rosario Beach and Washington Park; and Classroom, Wed. June 6, at Shannon Point Marine Center. Times to be announced.

Stewart Congdon, BW Class of 2006 and BW Projects Coordinator

Whidbey Watershed Stewards

After the long winter, it's time once again to plant and to teach! Volunteers are needed for our March plantings, May fish count and Outdoor Classroom sessions from April to June.

We'll resume work on our South Whidbey creek restoration projects on March 24, 31 and April 7. Meet at the Outdoor Classroom (Maxwelton Road, Clinton) by 9:30 a.m. to carpool to the site to plant native trees and shrubs; we'll work until 2 p.m. Children are welcome!

Our Outdoor Classroom sessions for elementary grades happen from mid-April to early June; focus is on birds. Volunteer training is Tuesday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to noon; lunch is provided. Additional student service learning projects (mostly on planting) are also in the works.

In May we'll count young salmon (smolt) coming down Maxwelton Creek. This is more physical work, but very satisfying. We take daily counts through the month, just below the Outdoor Classroom. Contact us for more information.

Let us know if you can help with any of these projects! Call 360-579-1272 or e-mail info@whidbeywatersheds.org. Thanks!

Nancy Waddell, Director, Whidbey Watershed Stewards (formerly Maxwelton Salmon Adventure)

Gray Whale Boat Tour

SAVE THIS DATE !!

Gray Whale Cruise, April 15th,
noon - 4:00 pm,

Coupeville Wharf

(sponsored by WSU Island
County Beach Watchers).



Are You Tracking Your Volunteer Hours? We Are!

If you've been intending to report your BW hours and just haven't gotten around to it, you're in luck! Reporting our volunteer hours continues to be a challenge for many of us. For some it's daunting. Others wonder what purpose the reporting serves. I'm working with Kristen and others to re-vamp the system for tracking and reporting the hours we're spending doing BW activities. With the promise of more details to follow soon, here's my short-term request since **March 31 marks the end of the quarter for reporting hours:**

- Watch for a revised, simplified form – coming soon!
- If you have a format (paper or digital) that you're currently using and liking (and you don't want to convert yet), continue using it, for this reporting period.

Hike and Haiku

When you stand under a soaring cedar tree, or on the edge of a bluff looking out over the Sound, just saying "That's magnificent" may not satisfy your inner poet. There's an alternative way to experience the place where we live, by going hiking with Elizabeth Davis, author of *Wind Whispers Softly: Northwest Forest Haiku*. Hiking and contemplation are complementary experiences. And neither is meant to be rushed. Elizabeth can help us slow down along the trail and enjoy a simple and elegant rock fern, a lacy branch of a hemlock tree, or the grandeur of a Douglas fir. She does this by haiku, a Japanese poetry form that consists of three lines with 17 syllables, 5-7-5. Here is one of hers, from an article by Karen Sykes in a Seattle Post-Intelligencer "Getaways" section:

"Nurse Log"

Fallen tree looks dead.

But, no, it's a birthing place:

Vital plants spring forth

(Elizabeth Davis)

Hike and Haiku: Sun. May 20, South Whidbey State Park. Meet at 2 p.m. in the main parking lot. Registration is limited. Please call the Beach Watchers office, 679-7391.

Welcome the Whales Day is April 14

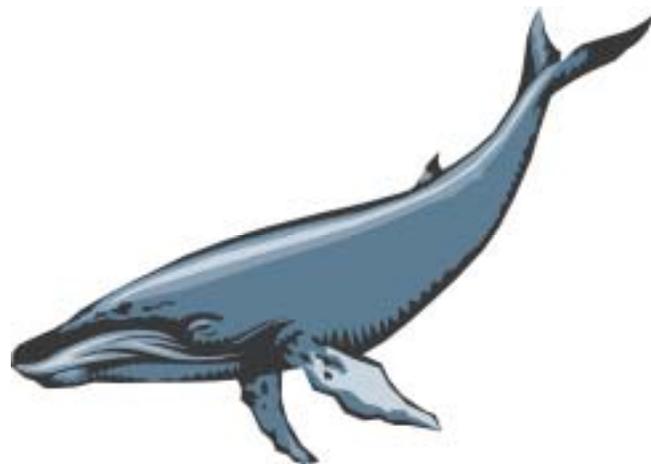
Join Orca Network and Gary the Gray Whale for the 4th annual Welcome the Whales Day Festival & Parade on Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Langley.

This event honors and celebrates the spring arrival of our resident gray whales to Whidbey Island with fun and educational activities, music, presentations, gray whale watch tours and a parade of species featuring the very handsome 20 foot Gray Whale, Gary. Begin now to design your critter costume for the parade – or if you find you don't have time, come early in the day and join our costume-making workshop.

We hope you will join this fun celebration, and come strut your fur, fins, or feathers with us as we welcome home our favorite spring visitors, the majestic Saratoga Gray whales. For more information, contact Orca Network at 360-678-3451 or susan@orcانetwork.org.

Volunteers are needed to help welcome the whales! Opportunities range from assisting in costume-making activities, posting flyers on parked cars before the parade, helping with set up and take down, or helping to carry Gary and other large puppets in the parade. We are especially looking for volunteers interested in doing a costume-making activity using recycled products or thrift store goods. If you would like to volunteer or support the event, contact Susan Berta at info@orcانetwork.org or 360-678-3451.

Susan and Howard, Orca Network





Travel with Beach Watchers – Where do YOU Want to Go?

Help us plan the next Beach Watchers Travel adventures. Beach Watchers and friends traveled to Kenya in 2005, Peru (Amazon and Machu Picchu) in 2006 and New Zealand in 2007. Each of these trips brought together a small group of local Whidbey and Camano Island folks who had fun together, learned a lot about other cultures and natural habitats, and benefited Beach Watchers financially at the same time. Approximately \$12,000 has been added to Beach Watchers budgets over the past three years as a result of your willingness to travel together. If you find this appealing, we need to know *where* you would like to travel in the next few years. Here are some possible destinations for “big” trips. Please let us know what interests you. As plans develop you will have an opportunity to sign on or not; indicating interest does not obligate you to participate. Non-Beach Watchers are welcome to come along too, so your friends and neighbors are welcome.

Here are some possible destinations and *approximate* mid-season 2007 prices per person (prices vary by date). Linda would like to begin planning trips in a three-year cycle to give everyone plenty of time to consider taking part. In order for Beach Watchers to benefit and to be sure we can travel as our own group, we must book at least 12 places more than four months in advance. Overseas Adventure Travel (for detailed information, go to oattravel.org) is the tour operator for these trips. Group size on non-cruise trips is limited to 16 travelers with a local guide focusing on understanding the country's people, culture and natural environment – all for a very good economic value.

The Americas:

Costa Rica, 13 days (\$2345) - two options (national parks or general)

Route of the Maya (El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, & Belize), 14 days (\$2745)

Machu Picchu & 4 day cruise in Galapagos, 19 days (\$4745 to \$5145)

Amazon & 3 day cruise in Galapagos, 11 days (\$3445 to \$3645)

Chilean 5 day cruise of Fjords & Patagonia, 15 days (\$4995 to \$5295+)

Argentina, Chile, Patagonia, Cape Horn...(4 night Tierra del Fuego cruise), 14 days (\$5270-\$5470+)

Antarctica, 15 days (9 day cruise) (\$7245)

Asia & South Pacific:

China, Tibet, & the Yangtze River, 22 days (\$3195)

India, 17 days (\$4095)

Vietnam, 19 days (\$2545)

Japan, 14 days (\$3845)

Australia, 17 days (\$4745)

Thailand 16 days (\$2145)

Africa:

Botswana, Namibia, & Zimbabwe, 19 days (\$5545)

Cairo & Nile, 15 days (\$2995)

Capetown to Cairo, 21 days (\$5995)

Israel, 15 days (\$3545)

Morocco, 15 days (\$3195)

Safari Serengeti, 14 days (\$4545)

South Africa, 19 days (\$4245)

Europe:

Burgundy, France (cruise), 12 days (\$3245)

South of France (cruise), 16 days (\$3845)

Greece and Greek Islands (cruise), 15 days (\$4495)

Greece and Dalmation Coast (cruise), 16 days (\$5145)

Holland in Spring (cruise), 12 days (\$2895+)

Holland and Belgium (cruise), 12 days (\$

Turkey (5 day cruise), 18 days (\$3745)

Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia, 16 days (\$3995)

Czech Republic, Slovakia, & Hungary, 15 days (\$3395)

Ireland, 13 days (\$3145)

England's lakes and Scotland, 14 days (\$3895)

Sicily, 12 days (\$3195)

Tuscany, Italy, 14 days (\$3595)

Please let me know *where* you want to travel in the next three years (the above or other destinations). Contact me at 360-579-2521, ADERIDL@whidbey.com, or 6978 Sills Road, Clinton WA 98236. If enough interest is demonstrated, a trip could be arranged as early as late fall, 2007.

Linda Ridder, BW Class of 2005





"It's Nae Mine"

I wonder about this whole *possessions* thing. I'm not sure we're getting as much bang out of it as the bucks would suggest. I remember when I bought my first car – a used 1950 Mercury. I looked it over and thought "That's *my* car...*my* engine...*my* radio...*my* back seat...*my* frayed carpet!" What a huge sense of ownership.



For a while we lived in houses provided by churches where I was working. But I remember when we bought our first home. It was the same thing all over again, only on a much bigger scale; "That's *my* tree...*my* grass...*my* soil...*my* building." (Well *ours*, but you get the point).

That was quite a contrast to the attitude about the land of, say, America's first people. If I understand my history correctly, they may have claimed their territory and held it fiercely. But they still could never conceive of owning that land.

Actually, what I was thinking about more was the people we met while we were living in Scotland for a time – you know, the country where the people are born with a genetic imprint for gardening. We lived in the countryside. I mean, where we lived in Scotland would have made Island County look downright urban. And we lived with gardeners and farmers.

Most of the farms there aren't that big. So the farmers aren't rich. Well, they aren't as poor as they profess either. But it was when we asked a farmer once about his level of success, that I heard it again, "Och, I'd nae be a farmer i't were for the money. Farming is my life. I hae' the good fortune to 'bide on the land for a time and care for't. But it's nae mine."

I think what we are getting better at understanding in this place is just that: Titles and deeds are deceptive. We-home owners, municipalities, counties, the State–have the good fortune to live here on this Island or on this Salish Sea for a time, and care for it. But it's not ours.

Knowing that, I think, kind of affects one's attitude. Possessing, maybe seems less important than liv-

ing like gardeners or like stewards of the land and the sea. When we get over possessing, maybe we turn to thinking more about relating, and helping others in the community to relate in harmony to their environment; not to mention to each other.

Maybe there is something beyond this whole *possessions thing* I'm still working on it. But it does seem like a stretching and freeing idea.

Stewart Congdon, BW Class of 2006

Recycle Tires and Plastic Plant Pots

These are going to be exciting events, taking tires and plastic plant pots! The pots are a new adventure so I really don't know how many folks will come, but we definitely need MANY volunteers. There will be two shifts, 9 a.m.–noon and noon–3 p.m., and many different jobs; directing traffic, taking money, helping unload tires and pots, stacking pots and putting them in super sacks.

PLEASE let me know if you can help out! Contact me at halljn@wsu.edu or 678-7974 or 321-5111, ext. 7974 or 629-4522, ext. 7974.

And...if you volunteer, you can bring all your pots for free. Also, if any one wants to take away pots, that would be great. Re-use is better than Recycle! Let you neighbors know about these events and watch the papers for details:

- Sat. March 24, and Sat. April 21, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Coupeville Transfer Station or on Camano off Can Ku Road.

Janet Hall, Waste Wise Coordinator



File Photo



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.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS
Town of Coupeville



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.



*"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
April 6, 2007**