



**Education,
Research,
Stewardship**

Beach Log

OCTOBER 2007



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION

WSU Beach Watchers P. O. Box 5000 Coupeville WA 98239 360-679-7391 ; 321-5111 or 629-4522 Ext. 7391 FAX 360-678-4120
Camano Office: 121 N. East Camano Dr., Camano Island, WA 98282, 387-3443 ext. 258, email: schase@wsu.edu
E-mail: Kcooley@wsu.edu meehan@wsu.edu beachwatchers@wsu.edu Web address: www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu

Beach Watchers Tour Deception Pass



September 8th was a picture perfect day. Twenty-one Beach Watchers and friends toured Deception Pass by boat, with an interesting historical narrative given by the crew. They traveled through Canoe Pass and returned under the Big Bridge.



Monitoring Highlights

Whidbey Island's 2007 monitoring season wrapped up on August 26th at **Sunlight Beach**. This sandy beach has the longest profile line on Whidbey Island and in spite of a tide that dropped only to the -1.2 foot level, the line stretched 3100 feet to the water's edge. The day got off to a shaky start when one monitor returned to Jan Holmes' car to retrieve a forgotten camera, setting off the car alarm that blared through the otherwise peaceful Sunday morning quiet of the neighborhood. After silencing the alarm, the team got down to work.



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Don Steadman take a reading

Sunlight Beach has a variety of backshore plants just above the high tide line. Team members identified gumweed (*Grindelia integrifolia*), yellow sand verbena (*Abronia latifolia*), beach pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*), native dunegrass (*Leymus mollis*), large headed sedge (*Carex macrocephala*), and



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

The Sunlight Beach Monitoring Team.



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Debbie Bitts examining a moon snail.

both American (*Cakile edentula*) and European sea rocket (*C. maritima*). Further down the profile line they found sand dollars (*Dendraster excentricus*), ghost shrimp (*Neotrypaea californiensis*), several marooned jelly fish, tide-pools where sculpins and small flat fish zipped about, and quite a lot of Japanese eelgrass (*Zostera japonica*). Debbie Bitts picked up a moonsnail (*Euspira levisii*) to examine its massive mantle. Nancy Bartlett spotted a small brooding anemone (*Epiactis* sp.) lying on the sand near the water's edge, possibly dislodged from eelgrass. Don Steadman was delighted by a bald eagle that winged its way over the team, chased by an indignant osprey, and Libby Hayward reports that her favorite find was a moonglow anemone (*Anthopleura artemisia*) ingesting a jellyfish. To add to the day's adventure, a friendly neighborhood dog named Ziggy accompanied the team most of the morning and after a bit of furious digging in the sand uncovered a moon snail shell.

Mary Jo Adams, BW Class of 1999



2007 Beach Watcher Training Schedule for October

- Tues., 2, Day Road Fire Hall, 3253 Day Road, Greenbank, WA 98253
 9:00 – 12:30 **Native Plants:** Our very own June Davis! Fieldtrip to South Whidbey State Park
 1:00 – 3:30 **Low Impact Development & the State of the Sound:** Linda Lyshall, Regional Liaison - Snohomish and Island counties for Puget Sound Partnership
- Thur, 4 Coupeville United Methodist Church, 608 N Main St.
 9:00 – 10:30 **Surface Water:** Rex Porter, Marine Resources Committee
 10:30 – 12:30 **Water Quality and Toxins:** Mahmoud Abdel Monem, Ph. D Professor and Dean Emeritus Washington State University
 1:00 – 3:30 **Outreach, Education & Learning Styles:** Kristen Cooley, Program Coordinator
- Tues, 9 Coupeville Rec Hall
 9:00 – 11:30 **Ground Water:** Doug Kelly, Island County Health Department
 Noon – 1:30 **Soild, Biosolids and recycling municipal wastewater sludge in Washington:** Dr. Craig Cogger, Extension Soil Scientist and Research Soil Scientist
 1:30 – 3:30 **Mycorrhizal and Fungal Relationships in the Environment:** Scott Chase, Shore Stewards Coordinator
- Thur, 11 Coupeville Rec Hall, Ledgewood Beach and Freeland
 9:00 – Noon **Coastal Geology:** Hugh Shipman, coastal geologist with the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program of the Department of Ecology
 12:30 – 3:00 **Green Building:** Nicole Luce and Janet Hall
- Tues, 16 Coupeville Recreation Hall*
 9:00 – 10:30 **Aquatic Invasive Species:** Jeff Adam, Washington Sea Grant Marine Water Quality Specialist
 10:30 – 11:30 **Island County Government:** John Dean, Island County Commissioner
 12:00 – 4:00 **Aquaculture Shellfish and Outreach:** Teri King, Washington Sea Grant Marine Water Quality Specialist
- Thur, 18 Coupeville Rec Hall, Farms and Forests
 9:00 – Noon **Farming and Agriculture:** Olivia Forte-Gardner, Island County WSU Extension Agriculture, Sustainability and Land Stewardship Coordinator
 1:00 – 4:00 **Forestry Stewardship:** Don Hanley and Kevin Zorbrist, WSU Extension Foresters
- Tues, 23 Coupeville Rec Hall
 9:30 – 12:30 **Growth and Shoreline Management:** Jeff Tate and Matt Kukuk, Island County Planning
 1:00 - 4:00 **Household Hazardous Waste and Environmentally Friendly Cleaner:** Waste Wise
- Thur, 25 Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
 10:00 – 2:00 **Estuaries and Education:** Susan Wood, Padilla Bay Education Coordinator
- Tues, 30 Graduation Celebration, Coupeville Rec Hall
 9:00 – 11:30 **Class Presentations**
 Noon – 1:00 **Lunch**
 1:00 – 2:00 **Graduation Ceremony**



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



Whidbey Island

Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 2 - 30, 9 a.m., **Beach Watcher Training**, Coupeville Recreation Hall
 Friday October 5, 8:30 9 am **Breakfast With Beach Watchers**, Whidbey General Hospital Cafeteria
 10:00 am **Field Trip/Tour: Nichols Bros. Boat Builders**
 Wednesday October 10, 10 9 am **Sound Waters Committee Meeting** - Room 131
 Friday October 12, 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast With Beach Watchers**, Neals Clover Patch, Bayview,
 Tuesday October 16, 11 am **LEP Meeting** - 101 NE 6th St., Coupeville, WA
 1 pm **BW Advisory Council Meeting** - 101 NE 6th St., Coupeville, WA
 Wednesday October 17, **Field Trip to Woodinville Recycling Center**
 Thursday October 18, 6:30 a.m. **Evening Educational Series**, Whidbey General Hospital Conference Room,
 Coupeville
 Friday November 2, 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast with Beach Watchers**,
 Whidbey General Hospital Cafeteria
 Friday November 9, 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast w/ Beach Watchers** - Neals Clover Patch, Bayview
 Wednesday November 14, 10 a.m. **Sound Waters Committee Meeting** - Rm 116
 Thursday November 15, 6:30p.m. **Evening Educational Series** - Dr. John Bower,
 Marine Birds Trinity Lutheran Church
 Tuesday November 20,
 11 a.m. **LEP Meeting** - 101 NE 6th St., Coupeville,
 1 p.m. **Advisory Council** - 101 NE 6th St., Coupeville

Camano Island

Monday October 1, 9 a.m. **Camano Monthly Meeting** - 141 N.E. Camano Drive
 Wednesday October 24, 1 a.m. **Stranded Marine Mammal Training Class**, Camano Center, 141 East Camano Dr
 Monday November 5, 9 a.m. **Camano Monthly Meeting** - 141 N.E. Camano Drive



ALERT!!

The Whidbey Island South end monthly BW breakfast is the second Friday of each month at Neil's Clover Patch in Bayview, at 8:30 AM. Our next breakfast will be October 12. Contact is Nicole Luce.



2916



This is a conference you may be interested in. Chrys Bertolotto, Snohomish/Skagit BW coordinator, and I will be giving a presentation on Beach Watchers Thursday, November 8th at 11 am. The cost for the four days of the conference is \$250 for members, \$325 for non-members, or \$100 a day for members, and \$120 a day for non-members. There are scholarships available throughout the conference and if you are very interested in attending but don't think you can afford it give me a call.

Kristen, BW Coordinator

Join us for
Reinventing Green:
Environmental Education in a Changing World
November 8 - 10, 2007
Marriott Seattle Airport Hotel
Conference Registration Open

Registration for the 17th Annual EEAW Conference is now OPEN and, for the first time in EEAW history, you can register ONLINE. Just go to our website www.eeaw.org.

Scholarships Available

To assist with conference registration fees, scholarships will be awarded from the Mike Mercer Young Adult Scholarship Fund and the EEAW Educator Fund.

Exhibitor Opportunities

Our 2007 conference will draw a diverse group of over 400 leaders and educators from across the Pacific Northwest and, to increase exposure for our exhibitors, the conference will feature an Exhibitor Reception on Thursday evening November 8.

The Conference

This year's conference will be an exciting opportunity to learn, network, and strengthen commitments to environmental education throughout our state.

The conference will foster dynamic links between education, environment and economy, and empower educators, students, business and governmental leaders and others to leverage the power inherent in these sectors to create a more sustainable future. Featured at the conference are:

- Session themes: Teaching and Learning Green, Eating and Growing Green, Building Green, Naturally Green, Powering Green and Living Green
- [Dr. Peter Senge](#), Senior Lecturer at MIT who specializes in translating systems theory into tools for better understanding of economic and organizational change; [Dr. Sylvia Earle](#), oceanographer, author, and Explorer in Residence at the National Geographic Society; and [Dudley Edmondson](#), author of *Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places*.

Field trips featuring the best of a region rich with educational resources such as the Seattle Aquarium, UW Burke Museum, Woodland Park Zoo, Island Wood Learning Center, and the Duwamish River Cleanup Tour.

For further details on the conference, visit our web site at www.eeaw.org/conference
Register today and secure your place in history by being part of "Reinventing Green."

Environmental Education Association of Washington
P.O. Box 6277
Olympia, WA 98507-6277
Ph: 360-943-6643
Fax: 360-943-6638



Help Create Salmon Habitat with Whidbey Watershed Stewards.

Volunteers are needed to create riparian plantings on private land along the Lower Quade Creek. A large new culvert was installed there this summer for better Coho salmon passage. Now we will re-plant to shade the creek and eliminate invasive reed canary grass.

These are the dates:

Saturdays 9:30 am-2 pm

October 13, 20, 27, November 3

We meet at the Maxwellton Outdoor Classroom in Clinton to shuttle (or bike or walk) to the site because parking is limited.

MSA will provide all equipment. Bring boots for sure, gloves if you want them, and rain gear if needed. We'll also provide snacks and good company. Bring a lunch if you want something more substantial.

Please call 360-579-1272 or email to let us know which days you're coming. Beach Watcher credit applies. Thank you, thank you!

Nancy Wadell

Farm Tour Helpers Needed!

WSU Extension is gearing up for the 2nd Annual Whidbey Island Farm Tour could use your help.

This year, the tour will take place over two days; **Saturday, October 6, and Sunday, October 7.** The Farm Tour FREE to the public, and is a very family friendly event. Hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days. Most of the farms (19 on this year's tour, some for both days, others just for Saturday) will have their own volunteers to help them move the public through their sites, but they can always use a few extra hands. Last year most sites were visited by more than 300 people!

I Just Love My Routine!

Up in the morning, brush-shave-comb, go to the gym, shower, put the coffee on, eat my cereal with a banana sliced exactly twenty-five times, do my crossword. Order is so good. I need to add golf daily, practice guitar (I'm taking lessons!), putter in my perfectly arranged garage, and travel. But I have this job. So, at the end of the month, I'm going to try retiring for the third time.



Working with Beach Watchers volunteers for the last year, I have had the chance to observe people who have truly mastered the art of retiring. I have also had the chance to observe people who have mastered the art of volunteering. And I am so proud of you all!

For example, do you know our volunteer naturalists who were trained this spring, logged in 6000 contacts on Rosario Beach during the season? Then there were the seiners who have pretty much taken over Race and Harrington lagoons from NOAA, and who knew exactly what they were doing when they crewed for Skagit River Systems Cooperative at Ala Spit. I worked closely with the beach monitoring teams, and Holy Cow! They know what they are about! When there is an oil spill to assess for the DOE, we now have a team of phone contact people and trained on-call volunteers ready to go out into *the field* to check it out, saving the tax payers considerable money by the way. And I don't forget the women who get this newsletter out every month.

This isn't all you have been doing by a long shot. It's just what I have had a hand in. There is a reason Island County is a shining star in the view of the people who are watching the future of Puget Sound. And you Beach Watchers are at the heart of it.

So, I am convinced that I can get everything I need to into my orderly day if I just don't have to go to work. And included in the routine will be me trying to somehow keep up with my fellow volunteers in Beach Watchers. That's a challenge. And it's a privilege.

Stewart Congdon, BW Project Coordinator, BW Class of 2006



Friends of Beach Watchers

Thanks to all who give so generously to the Beach Watcher Program throughout the year. Many thanks, also, to those who give to our ongoing educational efforts but prefer to remain anonymous.

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 Kristen Cooley 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.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Puget Sound Refinery

Town of Coupeville



Join "Friends of Beach Watchers"

Yes! I would like to join *Friends of Beach Watchers*. My tax-deductible donation supports the Beach Watchers in their efforts to continue environmental education and research programs dedicated to preserving the quality of the environment in and around Island County.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for:

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____ Other

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY, OR AFFIX A RETURN MAILING LABEL

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

May we list your name as a contributor? yes/no (please circle)

May we add your name to our general mailing list? yes/no (please circle)

Please make checks payable to L.E.P., and mail to PO Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239 Thank you!



Volunteer Hour Awards!

As you know volunteers earn awards for the hours they have accumulated making this program so incredible. At milestones of 100, 500, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000 and now we've had to add a category of 4,000, you are recognized for this amazing effort, given a certificate and a pin.

There are so many volunteers who have reached a benchmark since last years picnic that I will be covering these accomplishments over the next few Beach Log issues. This month I will be highlighting volunteers who have earned, to date, 1,000 hours or more.

My information on volunteer hours depends on what you submit. No submitting, no recording, no awarding. Many, many of you are sooooo close! Please take the time to input your hours so that we can thank you!

Kristen, BW Volunteer Coordinator

Class	Name	Award
1993	Dubpernell, Sandy	4000
1994	Van Patten, Ed	4000
2002	Baumchen, David	2000
2003	Kempbell, Sammye	2000
2000	Kind, Phyllis	2000
1999	Wilkinson, Ron	2000
1994	Cooper, Pam	1000
2000	Deck, Rudy	1000
2005	Hein, Jill	1000
2003	Hoekstra, Sue	1000
2003	McDougall, Judi	1000
2000	Mello, John	1000
2003	Perry, Tom	1000
2003	Perry, Vicki	1000
1998	Somers, Jim	1000

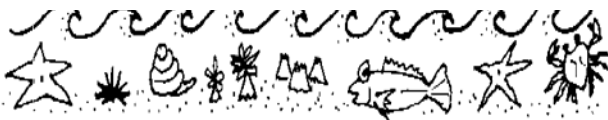
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*“In the end we will conserve only what we love;
We will love only what we understand;*

*We will understand only what we have been
taught.”*

~Baba Dioum, Senegalese ecologist



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT BEACH LOG
OCTOBER 15, 2007**