



# Ebb Tide



Vol. 12, Issue 9

The Newsletter of WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers

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WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers gratefully acknowledge the financial support from our partners.



## Meeting News

**Beach Watcher Meetings**  
**Jennings Park Barn, 6915 Armar Rd, Marysville**  
**10 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Speaker: Dr. Scott Pearson, WA Fish and Wildlife  
Presentation: *Seabirds*

**Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

Speaker TBA

*All Meetings Agenda*

10 AM – 11 AM	Beach Watcher News / Updates
11 AM – 12 PM	Guest Speaker
12 PM – 12:30 PM	Mingle and Clean Up

## Featured Article

### The Solar Eclipse: My Story

By Sara Chapman (Class of 2017)

August 21, 2017, Monday

Ilwaco, WA

Cape Disappointment State Park

North Jetty, Columbia River Bar

On a whim Sunday morning, August 20th, eclipse eve day, I decided to embrace the eclipse and drive to an area of totality, Madras, Oregon, highly rated on the news with lots of reporters and people already on site and supposedly traffic light. I threw clothing, bedding, pillows, and sustenance into car and off I went, 11:30 am.

Fortunately (it will become evident later why I say this), traffic on 405 South was jammed in the Bellevue area before exit heading east, so again on a whim, changed my mind and decided to head west to the ocean, realizing that is where I really wanted to be rather than some hot, dusty, unknown interior of Oregon. Even if the marine layer may block the eclipse I wanted the sound of surf, smell of ocean, big sky, people, sand under my feet. I knew my intended destination well from having made myself familiar with it last summer.



I headed south on I-5 which jammed up in Fife, so headed west to take back roads in Kitsap county and toward Olympic Peninsula. Perfect drive after that glorious blue-sky day, through Montesano, Raymond, South Bend, Willapa. Arrived in Ilwaco late in day near 5pm, not really expecting to get a campsite, but as luck would have it, got one of the last camping spots at Cape Disappointment State Park, #140. First, I went to the jetty to walk for a while toward the end where the infamous and dangerous area called Peacock Spit is located on marine nautical charts. The ocean waves, tides and currents merge at the powerful mouth of the Columbia River at this point, causing the Columbia River Bar (3 miles wide, 6 miles long) to be known as the "Graveyard of the Pacific".

As I began the walk out the north jetty, I was moved by this rock sculpture, a sentinel guardian of sorts, someone had created to protect us. I find these everywhere I travel where there are rocks. I then returned to walk the beach barefoot in the warmed sand, "earthing" it is called. Feeling the vibrations, connecting with the earth. "Grounding". The wind was WNW about 5 knots, temperature cool with low at 55, high at 65 degrees for the day. I realized I packed for warm interior Oregon, not the cooler ocean, so was a bit chilled even after layering up all that I could. Should have brought wind breaker, or even a parka.

Around 7:30 pm at sunset, I headed for camp site to have a bite to eat and get ready for night, as the sun was preparing to set and temps dropping fast. Campsite was nicely wooded and private, although it was backed up to the road which normally I would not like, but since I was sleeping in my car it really did not matter. It also



was light traffic at end of campsites on that stretch of road. It seemed winds were picking up.



Snuggled up in Big Agnes (aka Agnes), my dear sleeping bag. Got out pillows to use as foot rest, and one favorite “marshmallow” (very soft) pillow for my head. Put on my reading head lamp, pulled out my book of choice, Highest Tide (a great book to read while near salt water and if you enjoy the critters of the sea), and read until I fell asleep. I was really excited about the eclipse, hoping it would be visible. Car windows open, I felt wind on my face most of the night and heard the roar of ocean.

I woke around 6 am to look up through my skylight (moon roof) in car to see trees swaying with wind, gray skies, and fog wafting through the trees. Oh no! I quickly stuffed Agnes into her stuff sack, got dressed as warm as I could, realizing I did have gloves, my wool cap, and a pair of socks and light hiking boots in the back of the car rather than just the sandals I wore on my feet, and took off to the beach to scout out my viewing spot for the eclipse. The wind was cold, but I did see several driftwood structures that would provide shelter from the wind, although I would be looking West and with the sun rising in the East, I was not sure if it was the best spot, especially because there was a tree covered hill just to the east, potentially blocking the sun at least until it rose higher up. I decided to go check out the Lewis and Clark look out site at McKenzie Head on a bluff, looking south across the Columbia River. I hiked up the trail and that is when I finally partially saw the sun through wafting fog and clouds. Could be a good spot I noted, but wanted to check out the jetty and that is where I settled.

I stopped at the viewing spot near Waikiki Beach, below the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse to listen to channel 1650 am on the radio, which gives you 24/7 marine weather. The winds and seas were building to small craft warnings, but should hold off until the afternoon, and weather changing on Tuesday with partly cloudy as a system blows in. Good enough for me for the day. Low tide at 7:05 am, -1.3 ft. I should have planned better so I could go explore the tide pools at Beards Hollow on Discovery Trail or the cave at Waikiki beach. Both only accessible during minus tides. Rats, another day. I was focused on the eclipse.

Found the parking area partially vacant, mostly filled with the vehicles of fishermen on the jetty, not eclipse watchers yet. Walked the beach but very chilly, the only protection from wind might be behind a slight rise in a sand dune covered with dune grasses. I walked out the jetty a ways, but turned back it was so cold, no protection out there, but back a ways on jetty I thought I might get protection behind a few clumps of dune grass which is where I settled looking south across the waters of Columbia with sun to the east. I liked being near the fishermen, hearing their chatter. The jetty is a big draw, Chinooks and Silvers being caught this time of year. The distant Bay dotted with many small sports fishing boats, others crabbing with their buoys bobbing in the bay set fairly close to protection of jetty.

I heard the horns of several large container ships as they entered the channel warning the small fishing boats in the channel to get out of their way. The consistency of the foghorn at Cape Disappointment Lighthouse a comfort. I could see the sun occasionally as it peeked out from the lifting fog. That was encouraging. It was gorgeous with its reflection shimmering like diamonds on the powerful waters of the Columbia River Bar. I did indeed by chance pick a good viewing spot.

I went back to car grabbing my folding camp chair, Agnes, (in case it got colder as the eclipse reached maximum of 97%), food and beverage, solar glasses, headlamp (in case it got dark), my phone for its camera but realized the battery had really run down overnight. I hoped it would last

through the eclipse since I did not feel I had time to charge it with car plugin. The sun was occasionally showing itself as the fog billowed by in the gusty wind.

I burrowed in behind a nice clump of dune grass slightly out of the walking path of fishermen positioning themselves for the best fishing spot on jetty, not really having the eclipse on their minds. Quite warm actually in my spot at about 8:15 am, less than an hour from start of eclipse. I was so excited, I hoped the fog lifted and yet I realized the fog is a great filter.



Down the jetty from me was what looked like a fairly professional photographer setting up with tripod and large camera equipment. I took the opportunity to grab a photo of him through the fog. To me it depicted the grandeur of the day. You can just barely see a small fishing boat in the background behind him and the bluff housing the lighthouse. More people started to arrive looking for their favorite viewing perch. So we were a small group blending of fishermen and sky watchers.

In Ilwaco, WA the eclipse began at 9:06am, PST. It reached maximum of 97% magnitude at 10:17, ending at 11:36 am. At 8:45 am, I was settled in and

began to notice more than just the fog and people. I heard the mighty roar of the ocean as the surf crashed upon the shore. I decided to get my feet naked, out from my light hiking boots, I wanted to feel the sand, the whole experience.

Ahhhh, yes, so good. More people arrived. There are many, many small sports fishing boats way out in the channel bobbing around. I wished them well, but hoped they keep out of the shipping lanes. The sun warmed me even through the light fog. I saw pods of dolphins right in front of jetty, hearing several families' exclamations pointing them out to their children. We saw harbor seals and a few salmon jumping. Quite magical I must say with the shimmering sun on the water. I saw several small flocks of pelicans flying overhead, the usual seagulls, some terns fishing, and I think red footed guillemots. Oh, I was so glad I chose that spot. And amazingly enough, just 6 minutes before the beginning of eclipse, the fog lifted and the sun shone brightly upon the Columbia with the cloud bank receding to the Oregon coast. I sat back in my chair resting my head and neck on the back and put on my solar glasses looking upward toward the skies. Low and behold the first glimpse of the moon began to cross the sun with the slightest black impression on the upper right of the sun. It was amazing to watch as it slowly continued its path consuming more and more of the sun. At 9:25 am, only 15 minutes into eclipse, I noticed a drop in air temperature. I was so glad I had my back to the wind nestled into the tall dune grass. I heard others complaining of the cold. Reporters and experts suggested not taking pictures with cell phones as it could damage them, but I also noticed my battery was now dead. Are you kidding me? Now? OMG, note to self, go buy yourself a portable



charger. Duh! As I gave myself a somewhat gentle slap on the forehead. Silly girl. But it will not dampen this experience. I just absorbed, observed and embraced it.

I observed the moon was now casting a shadow upon the water dulling to the right those diamonds shimmering on the water. The small sports fishing fleet that was in the rays of the sunshine was now in the shadow of the moon. Fascinating. The birds seemed to have stopped flying but the marine life, dolphins and harbor seals, did not seem to be phased by all that was occurring. I continued to watch the shadow grow, casting a broader area while more and more of the shimmering water disappeared as we then approached the 97% magnitude. It got quite cold, so I pulled out Agnes and climbed in, all warm and toasty. I got quite emotional and tears flowed down my cheeks as I realized the magnitude of this eclipse and how teeny tiny we are in the scope of this universe. I was awe struck and humbled. I wiggled my toes in the sand apparently hoping to ground myself to this experience. Agnes has a zipper that opens at the foot of the bag so my feet can always get to open air when needed. And they did like the open air and the sand right then. 10:17 am, cold and the Columbia is almost entirely in the shadow. The top of sun now only showing the smallest sliver behind the moon. And yet at 97% it does not get as dark as I had hoped. It felt like a normal gray day at the ocean but I know it was not, it was a magical day. A large ship seemed to have stopped mid channel. Maybe the captain decided to stop to observe the eclipse. I liked to think so.



As soon as “magnitude” was over I began to feel the warmth of the sun return. Wow, so immediate. As the sun continued to return about 10:45 am I noticed the birds began to fly again. I heard a fisherman exclaim he caught a fish during the eclipse. Haw, Bragging rights! I also noticed a bird had caught a fish in its talons and was struggling to make it to shore heading directly into the ever-increasing winds. I couldn't quite tell what kind of bird, not an eagle, but maybe a young one, no white head. Note to self, I should have brought binoculars. I continued to sit in my cozy chair and envelop myself in the experience. The large container ships continued in and out of the Columbia, a few of the small

fishing fleet came closer to the jetty. Small boats pulled their crab pots and re set them. The incoming tide roared even louder as the day passed. The dolphins and harbor seals continued to feed. At one point, I looked at my watch to see the time. I took a double take. It had stopped exactly at 11:36am PST, the end of the solar eclipse. What? I thought to myself. I asked a passing fisherman the time. He told me 12:50 pm. Hmmm? I sat there long after most sky watchers had left. To them it was mostly over after magnitude and departed. I continued to watch, observe and warm to the returning sun. I was so comfortable in my nestled little spot, I sat and read my book late into the afternoon until the marine layer of fog and clouds again began to push inland around 4pm.

I realize it wasn't just about watching the sun, it was about observing everything around me before, during, and after the eclipse.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah I think of the song, what an experience!!!

## In the News

### **Puget Sound Nutrient Dialogue Continued**

*A report by Charles A. Lo Presti (Class of 2013)*

Back in July, the Washington State Department of Ecology's Puget Sound Nutrient Source Reduction Project sponsored a public workshop on the condition of nutrients in Puget Sound at Green River College. The Puget Sound Nutrient Dialogue brought together subject matter experts from the region to discuss how nutrients (especially unhealthy levels of nutrients) are playing a role in changes such as low DO (dissolved oxygen), excessive algae blooms and jellyfish populations, changes to food web dynamics and more. The organizers are sharing the proceedings of their workshop. Nutrients should be of special interest to the water quality sampling teams.

The project webpage [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget\\_sound/reducing-nutrients.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/reducing-nutrients.html) is updated with information from the Puget Sound Nutrient Dialogue including: presentation slide decks, speaker information, a summary report of the day's discussions, and a link to their Flickr album with great pictures from the event. More is on the way: video recordings of the presentations will be posted to the webpage when they are ready and to Ecology's YouTube channel.

The presentation had at least 120 attendees (full disclosure: your editor was signed up to attend but couldn't make it – his bad – so he will try to report what he's been able to find out). At least eight presentation slide shows are posted on the website. All are worth perusing. Dr. Bilhimer presented on the project and its goals and included material on the state of Puget Sound with regard to nutrients. There were presentations on eel grass and kelp, on changes in Puget Sound water quality as observed from long term marine water monitoring, and much more. There was a panel discussion on the Salish Sea Model, a new model developed by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories in collaboration with the Department of Ecology with EP funding. Because Puget Sound traps the circulating waters, various nutrients and materials can get trapped in the Sound waters. There is much for Beach Watchers to learn here.

In addition to workshop materials, Ecology is publishing a new blog each month on the ECOconnect blog through the rest of 2017. They are calling it the Puget Sound Nutrient Watch. Each month bloggers will discuss different ways that nutrient over-enrichment is impacting Puget Sound and how they are using the Salish Sea Model to understand how much we are affecting the nutrient problem. We will highlight new publications, studies, and web resources that talk about Puget Sound's nutrient issues.

Check out: <http://ecologywa.blogspot.com/search/label/Puget%20Sound%20nutrients>. Or just type "ECOconnect Puget Sound Nutrients" into your internet browser search engine.

To get updates on the Puget Sound Nutrient Dialogue, you can subscribe to their list-server: <https://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=PUGETSOUND-OXYGEN>

For more information contact Dustin Bilhimer, PSNSRP Project Manager, Washington Department of Water Quality, at [dustin.bilhimer@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dustin.bilhimer@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-407-7143.

## Recent Atlantic Salmon Release in Puget Sound

*From The Islands' Sounder, Friday August 25, 2017.* "Update on Salmon Escape in the San Juans". This article describes how the Atlantic Salmon release that occurred on August 20<sup>th</sup> is not the first release of the non-native salmon into Puget Sound, but it cites large releases recorded since 1996. <http://www.islandssouder.com/news/update-on-salmon-escape-in-the-san-juans/>.

### Educational Opportunities

#### **Taylor Shellfish Field Trip Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM 2128 Chuckanut Dr. Bow, WA**

Taylor Shellfish Farm has offered to give us a tour of their facilities. We will tour the facility as their guide, Nicole, explains their growing and harvesting process for oysters, geoducks and mussels on the tide flats of Samish Bay. Taylor Shellfish has been in business since 1890.



The facility is near Bellingham, but we don't need a ferry for this trip, so carpooling should be a little easier than Penn Cove. Contact Judy Adkins (Class of 2013) to RSVP and to organize carpooling. We could use the Extension Office on 128th to carpool from for the south county people, but anyone north of there should find another place to meet up and leave cars. According to Google Maps, it is approximately 57 miles (1 hr and 20 min) from the Extension Office to our destination.

The Taylor Shellfish website is <https://www.taylorshellfishfarms.com/about-us>.

**Please RSVP to Judy Atkins** (Class of 2013) or contact her for any questions. They can accommodate up to 30 people.

### **Apply for the 2017 Sustainable Community Stewards Volunteer Training! Training Dates: Wednesdays, September 20<sup>th</sup> – November 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 9:15 PM Deadline to Apply: Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

Be the change you want to see in your community! Join the Sustainable Community Steward volunteers in teaching good environmental stewardship practices to county residents while at the same time learning and having fun working with other like-minded volunteers.

This 34 hour training is structured to give you an introduction into the many different facets of sustainability, and opportunities to practice approaching these behavior changes with the public. Whether you're interested in water pollution, recycling, or climate change, this training will have something for you.

Over the past 5 years, Sustainable Community Stewards have diverted over 15,000 pounds of food waste from the landfill, tested over 900 cars for leaks, and taught over 500 people how to make their own non-toxic tub scrub. You can be a positive change maker, educator, and researcher in your own neighborhood by joining this program!

Through this training you'll learn from expert presenters on sustainability, and learn how to change behaviors for the better! Your opportunity to share the knowledge you gained will come after the training. We bring green cleaning recipes and samples to local food banks, provide waste education in food courts at festivals and conferences, and test cars for oil leaks at parks and businesses. We also need volunteers to help manage our Facebook page, write newsletter articles, and more! There's something for everyone!

The training will be held at McCollum Park in South Everett on **Wednesdays, from 6pm-9:15pm September 20th-November 8th**. The \$35 fee will cover your materials and speakers fee. Waivers are available. To apply, download the [2017 SCS Application](#) and submit to Stephanie Leeper **by Wednesday, September 13th**.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Leeper, Sustainable Community Stewards Coordinator, WSU Snohomish County Extension at [s.leeper@wsu.edu](mailto:s.leeper@wsu.edu) or 425-357-6027.

## Plastics Summit

### *A Dialogue About Challenges and Opportunities*

**Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM – 4 PM**

**Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd Ave S, Tukwila, WA**



You are invited to a one-day forum highlighting current knowledge of plastics, from microplastics in marine waters to plastics recycling challenges.

Plastics are everywhere and their impacts and management are a growing concern: plastic single-use food service ware, new flexible packaging displacing traditional recyclables for food and in e-commerce, low value plastics in the recycling stream, curbside recycling contamination, lack of markets, marine debris and micro plastics to name a few!

Tackling these challenges will take innovation. Many

efforts are going on around the pacific NW and nationally.

## OVERVIEW

The goal of the Plastics Summit is to present technical, scientific, and up-to-date information about current issues, challenges and opportunities regarding plastics. The day brings together local and national scientific researchers, agency staff, industry reps, K-12 teachers, students, elected officials, and interested public in a cross-sector dialogue. The organizing themes of the day will be three topics of current concern and interest:

- **Packaging:** Current trends, hot topics, barriers and challenges for flexible packaging, and innovations by businesses. Confirmed speakers include Nina Goodrich, Sustainable Packaging Coalition; David McLain, Printpack; and Sego Jackson, City of Seattle.
- **Plastics Composition/Contamination Issues:** Recyclability issues, compostability, bioproducts, additives. Confirmed speakers include Karl Englund, WSU; Katie Pelch, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange; Bill Orts, Western Reg. Research Center, USDA-ARS; and Susan Thoman, Compost Manufacturing Alliance
- **Microplastics in regional waters:** Microplastics research results in the Pacific NW. Confirmed speakers include Peter Ross, Vancouver Aquarium; Peter Hodum, University of Puget Sound; Julie Masura, UW Tacoma; Kathy Conn, US Geologic Survey.

**The keynote presenters will be:**

- Nina Goodrich, Director of the Sustainable Packaging Coalition & Executive Director of GreenBlue. Nina leads research and promotes principles of sustainable materials management for packaging innovation.
- Dr. Peter Ross, Vancouver Aquarium. Peter has been one of the lead researchers on toxic chemicals in orcas and has recently been studying microfibers in the marine environment.

**REGISTRATION** - *Includes lunch and snacks:*

General \$45 (Regular registration in Advanced)

NGO/vol \$25

Students \$10

Teachers Free

At the door \$60.00 (Walk-in registration)

Please **register here:** <http://plasticssummit.brownpapertickets.com>.

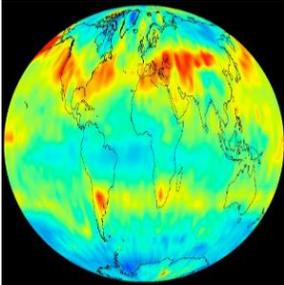
Scholarships available for this event. If interested or if you have any other questions, contact Heather at [heather@zerowastewashington.org](mailto:heather@zerowastewashington.org).

**BIG THANKS TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

Sego Jackson and Pat Kaufman, Seattle Public Utilities; Kris Beatty and Lisa Sepanski, King County; Alli Kingfisher, WA State Department of Ecology; Sydney Harris and Anya Savrasov, US Environmental Protection Agency; Hannah Johnson, HumanEco Design & Consulting; Marie Novak, Cascadia Consulting; Ashley Bolden, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange; and Heather Trim and Eva Dale, Zero Waste Washington.

Thank you to Seattle Public Utilities, King County, Cascadia Consulting Group and WSRA for their sponsorship support of this event!

**8th Annual Northwest Climate Conference**  
***Working Together to Build a Resilient Northwest***  
**October 10 – 11**  
**Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, WA**



Learn the latest about climate in Tacoma this October for the 8th Annual Northwest Climate Conference. This conference annually brings together more than 300 researchers and practitioners from around the region to discuss scientific results, challenges, and solutions related to the impacts of climate on people, natural resources, and infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest.

The conference is the region's premier opportunity for a cross-disciplinary exchange of knowledge and ideas about regional climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation science and practice. The conference also provides a forum for presenting emerging policy and management goals, objectives, and information needs related to regional climate impacts and adaptation.

This conference is sponsored by the WA Department of Ecology. More information can be obtained at <http://pnwclimateconference.org/>

**Conference registration opened in June.** For questions and information, contact Lara Whitely Binder at [lwb123@uw.edu](mailto:lwb123@uw.edu) or #nwclimate2017 (Twitter).

**Save the Date! 2017 ECO Net Summit**  
**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Brightwater Education Center, Woodinville**

*With a special focus on Equity & Social Justice, join your fellow ECO Net members for a day of inspiration, networking, and collaborative learning sessions! Agenda and registration information coming soon – mark your calendar for this can't miss event!*

**Questions? Contact Kristen Reichardt at [kristen.reichardt@kingcd.com](mailto:kristen.reichardt@kingcd.com) or (425) 282-1927**

**Master Gardener Program**  
**Accepting Applications for 2018 Training**

Join over 350 Snohomish County Master Gardeners in sharing good gardening and environmental stewardship practices with county residents by becoming a WSU Snohomish County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Community Educator.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2018 Master Gardener training class, which starts in January. Training focuses on familiarization and learning how to use resources to research, educate, mentor, and answer horticulture



questions for the public in a collaborative environment. All training is open book and no memorization is expected.

Training involves approximately 80 hours of classroom and workshop instruction held once a week on Thursdays, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> through March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Tuition for this extensive training program is \$275 plus a volunteer commitment of 40 hours each year for two years working, learning and having fun with other like-minded volunteers on a variety of horticultural and environmental educational projects. Without the volunteer commitment, tuition is \$775.

For more information and an application, please visit the Extension website at <http://tinyurl.com/y8srkp2y> or call the Extension Office at 425-338-2400.

**Call for Presentations**  
**Sustainable Seattle's 2018 Climate Resilience Summit**  
**Saturday, January 6, 2018**  
**Seattle University**

The 2018 Climate Resilience Summit in Seattle, WA will identify strategies and catalyze action for a cross-sectoral, inclusive movement to advance climate resilience in the Pacific Northwest. For more information, see the website announcing this event at:

<http://www.sustainableseattle.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2018-Summit-RFP-Final.pdf>

Proposals for presentations are due October 10 no later than 5 p.m.

Questions? email [Nancy@sustainableseattle.org](mailto:Nancy@sustainableseattle.org).

BJ Cummings, Executive Director, Sustainable Seattle  
[bj@sustainableseattle.org](mailto:bj@sustainableseattle.org), 206.622.3522 (office); 206.458.0284 (cell)

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Last Chance for Summer Festival Outreach



Beach Watchers are committed to educating about the connections between Puget Sound, Orca health and stormwater pollution, as well as what each of us can do to recover Puget Sound, through our festival outreach events. Sign up with Yolimar ([yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu](mailto:yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu) or 425-357-6029) to share your passion for Puget Sound and an array of simple solutions to keep pollution out of our local waterways. **Let Sue Gilman or Anne-Ly (Class of 2017) know which shift(s) and festivals you want to attend.**

Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>  
Shift 1: 4:00 – 7:15 pm

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
Shift 1: 10:30 am – 1:30 pm  
Shift 2: 1:15 – 4:15 pm  
Shift 3: 4:00 – 7:15 pm

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
Shift 1: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Shift 2: 12:45 – 3:00 pm  
Shift 3: 2:45 – 5:30 pm

## Beach Watcher's Day of Caring Event

### Pollution Prevention in Mukilteo

Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM – 1 PM

Meet at Mukilteo City Hall, 11930 Cyrus Way Mukilteo, WA



Pollution gets into our waters many ways! In Mukilteo, there are over 4500 storm drains that send dirty storm runoff - from our roads, parking lots and yards - directly into Puget Sound without treatment. WSU Beach Watchers are working with the City of Mukilteo to reduce stormwater pollution going into the Sound by marking street curbs with steel medallions that read "No Dumping. Drains to Sound" by as many storm drains as possible – a good visual reminder that this is untreated water!

Because the storm drain marking project needs to happen while it's dry for 24 hours prior to the event, the backup service project plan in case of rain is to head out to Edgewater Beach where we would do a beach cleanup and other needed clean-up work for the newest park in the City of Mukilteo. Both are needed projects! Let's keep pollution out of Puget Sound!

Join us during this Day of Caring sponsored by United Way of Snohomish County!

To learn more and to participate, please register at:

[http://getconnected.uwsc.org/aem/general/need/?doc\\_id=4342&need\\_id=285558](http://getconnected.uwsc.org/aem/general/need/?doc_id=4342&need_id=285558).

## Howarth Park Beach Wrack Surveys Continue



The next data collection and training will be on **Wednesday, Sept 20**. Volunteers will meet on the beach near the base of the railroad bridge at **10 am**. In July and August, Beach Watchers took about 2.5 to 3 hours to complete the survey. We can use your help for any part of that time.

Volunteers will be identifying eelgrass, marine algae, and human debris (plastics). The marine algae will be divided up into *Ulva* (sea lettuce), *Fucus* (rockweed), and other. So you don't need to be a marine algae ID genius to help us.

Researchers from the University of Washington, State of Washington, and Snohomish County collected beach wrack data before the Howarth Park beach restoration and are now collecting the post-project data. Unfortunately, they have money to do only a couple of days of collection. That's where Beach Watchers come in. If we can collect beach wrack data from several more months, the researchers will have a much better data set and their resulting conclusions will be much stronger. We all want to know if the beach restoration money is having the positive effect that we hope. This data set will help us know.

**We would like to have a minimum of 4 volunteers this month.** We can probably use a maximum of 20. There will be more collection/training dates into the winter. Please contact Scott Calhoun (Class of 2016) to sign up, if you can help with time on the beach.

## Fall 2017 Howarth Park Beach Cleanups

International Coastal Clean Up Day at Howarth Park Beach last June was a success with some dozen Beach Watchers and Naturalists participating. We collected several bags of trash at an estimated recovery of 90 lbs. of garbage and recyclables, and one lucky volunteer found a \$20 bill in the sand! *Who says it doesn't pay to keep things clean?*



Beach Watcher Dave Compton (Class of 2010) wants to keep the efforts going and lead further cleanups. Join him **Tuesday, September 26th, 2 PM** and **Wednesday, November 1st, 10 AM** to pick up trash and prevent pollution entering Puget Sound while keeping the beach clean!

On both days, we'll meet in the lower parking lot of Howarth Park prior to going to the beach. **Please join us by signing up with Dave!** Dress for the weather and bring rubber coated garden gloves or pickers if you have them. We will have some of both available if you don't have these items.

**Can't join us on the dates above?** September 16<sup>th</sup> is the International Coastal Cleanup project. Puget Soundkeeper is organizing a cleanup on that date and you can register with them at: [http://www.pugetsoundkeeper.org/th\\_event/puget-sound-coastal-cleanup-2017/](http://www.pugetsoundkeeper.org/th_event/puget-sound-coastal-cleanup-2017/).

**Stay tuned for additional days in 2018!**

**Got a favorite beach you'd like to see get cleaned?** Contact Dave and/or Yolimar do discuss how you can help to expand this new project.



### **Water Monitoring Classes Adopt A Stream Northwest Stream Center 600 128th St. SE Everett, WA**

Would you like to volunteer to monitor the water quality of local creeks? Sno-King Water Watchers is a Community-Based Water Monitoring program in the north King / south Snohomish County area, offering a comprehensive series of water monitoring classes this fall. Total class and field time is 18 hours. Schedule:

#### **Introduction to Water Monitoring – Thursday, September 21, 7-9 pm**

Learn about streams and watersheds, types of pollutants, how citizens can gather credible data about their local waterbodies, and action strategies they can employ to improve water quality while engaged in Community-Based Water Monitoring. This class is a **prerequisite** for other classes.

#### **Biological Monitoring - Saturday, October 14, 10 am-3:30 pm**

Did you know that there is a whole community of insects that live on the bottom of your local streams? Stream bugs are a great indicator of stream health. Learn how to collect, identify, and categorize these creatures. Mix of classroom and field work.

#### **Physical/Chemical Monitoring - Saturday, October 28, 10 am-4:00 pm**

Water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH are all important variables for local salmonids and other creatures that live in our streams. Clear, clean water is important too. Learn to use a citizen science kit to monitor these important variables. Mix of classroom and field work.

#### **Bacteriological Monitoring - Saturday, November 4, 10 am-2:30 pm**

What are bacteria? Which ones are harmful? What are standards for *E.Coli* in Washington waters? Learn about simple, low-cost methods available to citizen scientists to evaluate their local waterbodies for bacteriological contamination. Mix of classroom and field work.

#### **Registration**

All classes will be conducted at Adopt A Stream's Northwest Stream Center, 600 – 128th St SE, Everett 98208. To register, e-mail [snokingwatershedcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:snokingwatershedcouncil@gmail.com). You can find more information on our website <http://snokingwatershedcouncil.org/water-watchers/>. Registration fee is \$35. Scholarships are available. The Sno-King Watershed Council is an all-volunteer, 501c3 non-profit organization.

## Working Group Leads

If you would like to get involved with any of these efforts, share your ideas or stay connected with the following activities, please contact the WSU Beach Watcher listed. If you are interested in any of these lead spots, please contact Chrys Bertolotto at (425) 357-6020 or [chrys@wsu.edu](mailto:chrys@wsu.edu).

**BEACH Program:** Tim Ellis

**EBB TIDE Newsletter:** Chuck LoPresti

**Edmonds Summer Naturalists:** Nancy Engen

**Facebook Communications:** Jim Traugott and Christine Gormley

**Festivals:** Anne-Ly Kahle and Sue Gilman

**Howarth Park Beach Wrack Surveys:** Scott Calhoun

**Intertidal Beach Monitoring:** Craig Wollam and Paul Granquist

**Kayak Point Beach Days:** Sandy Evans

**Kayak Point Youth Spring Field Trips:** VACANT

**Monthly Breakfast:** Bill McLaughlin

**Mukilteo Lighthouse Park Kiosks:** Scott Montgomery

**Mukilteo Lighthouse Park Naturalist Team:** Tim Ellis and Linda Lambert

**Office Work Parties:** Linda Lambert

**Online Calendar Notices:** Carol Bradley

**Pre-School Library Readings:** Gail Dillaway

**Social Committee:** Kathy Traugott, Linda Whatley, Darla Gay Smith, Judy Atkins and Carol Forsberg

**Storm Drain Medallion Project:** Ani Gothard-Williams

**Veterinary Clinic Outreach:** Karen Langseth

**Warm Beach & Mission Beach Water Testing:** Cheryl Jensen

**Youth Classroom Presentations:** Keri DeVilbiss

## Project Spotlight

Happy September Everyone! I can't believe summer is almost over. It was a great time to be outdoors at the beach, at festivals, in the streets doing storm drain marking, we even had a solar eclipse! There are so many different projects that could be featured in this section, but since we don't always have a solar eclipse, I thought I'd share my Beach Watcher experience working at the Mukilteo Lighthouse Park beach during the eclipse.



It was a foggy, but magical day at the beach. Monica Star, Class of 2017, brought "Moon Pies" and made a beautiful art piece (see below) that the volunteers who worked at the beach that day doing low tide interpretation got to sign. We had a "predict the corona glow" art activity for kids (and even some adults joined in!) and shared a couple pairs of eclipse glasses with those that didn't brought their own – safety first! Those that stayed after the eclipse was over, had a great time with Beach Watchers tidepooling. Here are some pictures of the event:



It was a fun time this summer! But the fun and volunteer opportunities are not over! There is another storm drain marking event for Day of Caring (sponsored by United Way of Snohomish County) on September 15th (that's next week!) and a few opportunities to do beach cleanups at Howarth Park throughout the fall – these cleanups are a new project that we hope to continue doing regularly! Check out the “Volunteer Opportunities” section for more details.

Yolimar

[yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu](mailto:yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu), (425) 357-6029

## Wish List for Snohomish County Beach Watchers

**Programs Wish List** – we could use two **poster staplers** with **staples** for the Mukilteo Lighthouse kiosks and for posting flyers and other promotional materials in bulletin boards and other venues.

Please contact Yolimar at (425) 357-6029 or [yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu](mailto:yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu) if you have items you would like to donate to the cause. Team leaders can also put in wish list items to assist with their projects and activities by sending their wishes to Chuck Lo Presti (Class of 2013) to announce in the Ebb Tide.

## Beach Watcher Member News

### Beach Watcher Gear Available

Chrys and Yolimar has a shipment of lovely blue Beach Watcher hats and they are available for \$15.00 each. Also, there are Beach Watcher vests (Large and larger) at \$61.87, and long sleeve T-shirts (small and medium) available at \$21.90. Patches are still \$3.50. They are accepting cash or checks only. You can be totally decked out in Beach Watcher gear. Contact Yolimar or Chrys if you'd like to purchase some of this Beach Watcher gear.

### Beach Watcher Events Google Calendar

This is a reminder that we would like to make all Beach Watchers aware of – a link to the Snohomish County Beach Watchers Google Calendar so you know what's coming up. Enjoy!

<http://beachwatchers.wsu.edu/snohomish/events/index.htm>

### Beach Watcher Monthly Breakfast

Come, join us for fun filled conversation and breakfast at Patty's Egg Nest on 128<sup>th</sup> Street, Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. where we will celebrate the following and maybe more!

### Volunteer Recognition

Let's congratulate the following volunteers for their hour reporting milestones!

#### 100 Hours Reported

Carol Bradley, Class of 2016  
Paul Sockwell, Class of 2016  
Monika Star, Class of 2017  
Maroa Velice, Class of 2016

#### 500 Hours Reported

Tim Ellis, Class of 2015

#### 1000 Hours Reported

Paul Granquist, Class of 2010  
Michael Kyte, Class of 2014



WSU Snohomish County Extension staff will honor the volunteers who make so much happen: Beach Watchers, Beach Naturalists, Sustainable Community Stewards, Energy Stewards, Waste Warriors, Promotores del Medio Ambiente, Promotores de Energía, and Glacier Peak Institute. This night is all for you.

WSU Extension will provide appetizers, entertainment, dinner, and of course, your well-deserved recognition! The celebration will be held in the Cougar Auditorium of WSU Extension in Everett (600 128th St. SE Everett, WA). Invitations and requests to RSVP will follow soon.

Raffle and Bingo prizes will also be available! Anyone can participate to win a Bingo prize, but to win a raffle prize, you'll need tickets! Curious how to get your tickets? The more volunteer hours you report, the more tickets you'll get. So what are you waiting for? **Report those volunteer hours!**

### Beach Watcher Basics

	<b>Beach Watcher Breakfast!</b>	<b>Beach Watcher Facebook Page <a href="#">Like Us!</a></b>	<b>Beach Watcher Web Tools</b>	<b>Contributions to Ebb Tide</b>
<b>When Is It?</b>	Monthly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 9 AM	ANY TIME!	24 Hours a Day, Every Day!	Submissions last day of the month.
<b>How Can I Find It?</b>	Patty's Egg Nest, 303 128 <sup>th</sup> St. SW, South Everett	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/snohomishbeachwatchers">www.facebook.com/snohomishbeachwatchers</a>	<a href="http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/Snohomish/VolunteerInformationPage.htm">www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/Snohomish/VolunteerInformationPage.htm</a>	Arrives to your email every month

<b>Why Should I Care?</b>	Great conversations and getting to know fellow Beach Watchers!	Great way to Get and Share Information.	Find anything you need – events calendar, link to volunteer hour database, notices, flyers, great web links, and more!	Ebb Tide is the main way that volunteers get information. We could use submissions of articles, cool events, photos, etc., from Beach Watchers.
<b>Want More Information ?</b>	<b>See Working Group Lead or Team Leader Contacts above!</b>			

## Beach Watcher Highlights

Dates	Type	Title	Location / Time
September 8-10	Festival	Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival	Mukilteo Lighthouse Park. Various times (see page 10)
September 13	Social	Monthly Breakfast	Patty's Egg Nest, 303 128th St. SW, 9 AM
September 15	Stewardship	Day of Caring – Storm Drain Marking Event	Meet at Mukilteo City Hall, 9 AM – 1 PM
September 18	Field Trip	Taylor Shellfish Farms, south of Bellingham	2128 Chuckanut Dr. Bow, WA 10 AM
September 19	Regular Meeting	Presentation: Seabirds	Jennings Park Barn, Marysville, 10 AM – 12:30 PM
September 20	Research	Beach Wrack Survey	Howarth Park, Everett 10 AM – 1 PM
September 26	Stewardship	Beach Cleanup	Howarth Park, Everett 2 PM
October 11	Social	Monthly Breakfast	Patty's Egg Nest, 303 128th St. SW, 9 AM
November 1	Stewardship	Beach Cleanup	Howarth Park, Everett 10 AM
November 8	Social	Monthly Breakfast	Patty's Egg Nest, 303 128th St. SW, 9 AM
November 9	Volunteer Appreciation	Volunteer Appreciation Event	Cougar Auditorium, McCollum Park, 6 – 9 PM
November 15	Regular Meeting	Speaker to be announced	Jennings Park Barn, Marysville, 10 AM – 12:30 PM

*WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers is a program of Washington State University Extension. All Extension programs are consistent with federal and state laws and regulation on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.*

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