



Ebb Tide



Vol. 12, Issue 11 The Newsletter of WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers Nov/Dec 2017

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

Meeting News

Beach Watcher Meetings

Tuesday, January, 23rd, 10 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Jennings Memorial Park Barn, 6915 Armar Road, Marysville
Speaker TBA

Meeting Agenda

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

Future 2018 Meetings Survey

It is important that we hear from you, Beach Watchers! Help us decide which location and what time we should be gathering for our 2018 bi-monthly (except summer months) meetings. We are referring to the meetings we normally host at Jennings Memorial Park Barn during the months of January, March, May, September and November. Things may change, so make your voice heard!

Please take 2 minutes to answer the 4-question survey below by December 6th, 2017.

https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2iCteTllfGQP81v

Featured Article

A look into killer whale stranding response – From The SeaDoc Society By Chuck LoPresti (Class of 2013)



The SeaDoc Society¹ has been prominent in Salish Sea marine biology. Their mission is to protect the health of marine wildlife and their ecosystems through science and education. In 2014, three veterinarians associated with the SeaDoc Society published their updated Protocol for Killer Whale Necropsy and Disease Testing². Because it is not impossible that Beach Watchers from Snohomish County might stumble upon a stranded marine mammal in the course of their activities, your editor is publishing an excerpt from the SeaDoc Society protocol. This excerpt covers some top-level

basics of the killer whale stranding response along with safety considerations. Although this material is intended primarily for veterinarians on the response team, it is hoped that this knowledge will help further our Beach Watcher community knowledge.

This protocol reminds us that any stranding response with Endangered Species Act-listed Southern Resident killer whales must be coordinated with NOAA Fisheries and authorized under the National Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program Permit.

[beginning excerpt]

LOGISTICS AND NECROPSY RECOMMENDATIONS

From a logistical perspective, advanced development of contingency plans will greatly facilitate identification, reporting, communication, recovery, necropsy and disposal of stranded animals. Key individuals for a killer whale stranding response should be identified and contact information provided to responsible government agencies, regional stranding coordinator, local aquarium facilities, and whale watching representatives and stranding networks. For example, the West Coast Marine Mammal Stranding Network has a protocol for initial communications and considerations for killer whale stranding response, including identifying logistics for performing necropsies (Appendix XX, the NOAA Fisheries NW Region Killer Whale Stranding Protocol, November 2012, see the website on footnote 2)

If a killer whale strands in an inaccessible or remote site, or is identified floating in offshore areas, efforts to recover the animal and relocate by boat to a more accessible site are strongly recommended. If the animal can be re-floated, this may be accomplished by a large rope or chain

¹ SeaDoc Society, UC Davis Wildlife Health Center - Orcas Island Office, Eastsound, Washington State, USA.

www.seadocsociety.org/

² KILLER WHALE NECROPSY AND DISEASE TESTING PROTOCOL, Updated May 15, 2014. Stephen A. Raverty, DVM, MSc, PhD, Diplomate ACVP, Joseph K. Gaydos, VMD, PhD and Judy A. St. Leger, DVM, Diplomate ACVP.

www.seadocsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/Orca-necropsy-protocol-FINAL-May-15-2014.pdf

secured around the peduncle or immediately behind the pectoral flippers and towed by a suitable vessel. To limit drag, the two front flippers should be tied together and maintained out of the water. To facilitate the post mortem examination, the animal should be positioned in lateral recumbency and secured ashore at high tide with exposure of the carcass attained with ebb flow.

As tidal changes may limit the duration of the examination, use of heavy equipment (cranes, backhoes, hoists) and flatbed trucks to transport the animal to a more secure facility or a diagnostic laboratory may be considered. These animals may weigh up to 6000 pounds and an appropriate vehicle should be employed. If the carcass is moved by truck, the vehicle should be weighed at a commercial weigh scale before and after transport to obtain the body mass of the carcass.

Should the animal require euthanasia, consultation with the regional stranding coordinator and a marine mammal veterinarian is required. Ante-mortem blood samples should be collected and appropriately stored for later clinical pathology (hematology and clinical chemistry), hormone analysis, serology, archiving, immune function and ancillary diagnostic and research investigations. With a fresh dead animal (code 2), post mortem blood may be collected from the tail flukes, dorsal fin, axillary artery, or heart. Even in animals with advanced states of decomposition, efforts to harvest tissues for histopathology, contaminants, genetics, parasitology, and molecular studies should be undertaken. Skeletal remains from animals in stages of severe decomposition (code 5) can also prove invaluable to ongoing studies in killer whale natural history.

SAFETY

Safety of the public and individuals involved with the post-mortem examination is a prime consideration. With any field necropsy, there is a risk of human exposure to potential zoonotic pathogens as well as interference with inappropriate public involvement. Use of face masks, protective eyewear and gloves is recommended. In areas with high public exposure, access should be restricted by pylons, tape or rope and use of law enforcement or fisheries officials may be warranted.

[end of excerpt]

The protocol has over twenty appendices attached with details for veterinarians performing necropsies, including special forms and lists of equipment, that are not reprinted here.

As Beach Watchers, our role is to educate the public on what to do – that is, recommend distancing from the animal and notify the proper authorities – if someone discovers a dead, stranded or injured whale. The **Marine Mammal Stranding Network** receives and handles reports of dead, injured, and stranded marine mammals. Below is useful contact information.



Useful contacts for reporting marine mammals to the authorities

To report a dead, injured or stranded marine mammal, please call: 1-866-767-6114

For law enforcement, harassments, and other violations, please call: 1-800-853-1964

For entangled marine mammals, please call: 1-877-SOS-WHAlE or 1-877-767-9425

or hail the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Ch. 16

To report derelict gear, please call: 1-855-542-3935

The following website also provides this information and additional links to maps with more detailed contact information for various jurisdictions by state (e.g. Washington State)

www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/stranding_maps_and_contacts.html

Educational Opportunities

Field Trip to Seattle Aquarium Sunday, December 3rd, 9:30 AM



Come explore the Seattle Aquarium with WSU Beach Watchers! **Thirteen FREE tickets are available for the first few that sign up with Carol Forsberg (Class of 2006).** Even if you don't get a FREE ticket, folks are welcome to join the field trip, but they will need to take care of paying their admission to the aquarium. Below are all the details.

Car Pool Time: Leaving 8:30 a.m. from WSU Snohomish County Extension Office

Meeting Spot at the Aquarium: Group will assemble in the hall in front of the big tank called *Window on Washington Waters* located after passing the ticket booth.

Lunch: Available at aquarium café at discounted price upon presentation of WSU Beach Watcher Volunteer Name Badge – so don't forget to bring yours!

Seattle Aquarium Website: [www.Seattle Aquarium.org](http://www.SeattleAquarium.org)

Aquarium Address & Phone: 1483 Alaskan Way Pier 59, Seattle, 98101. Phone: 206-386-4300

Remember to Sign up with Carol Forsberg (Class of 2006)!!! Even if you are not getting a FREE ticket, so we can get an accurate head count, send you any final details and wait for everyone before starting the tour. *Hope you can join us!*

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. 11th through March 29th.

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 volunteer commitment, tuition is \$775.

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

Storming the Sound Conference Thursday, January 25th, 9 AM – 4:30 PM Maple Hall, 104 Commercial, LaConner, WA

Storming the Sound is a conference for environmental educators in the north Puget Sound region, including the counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, Jefferson and San Juan. Every January teachers, environmental organizations and students gather in La Conner to share their interest and expertise in environmental education.

The **keynote speaker** will be Megan Bang, an Associate Professor of Learning Sciences and Human Development at the University of Washington. Megan is interested in STEAM education of youth, families and communities, with a central focus on Indigenous peoples historically disadvantaged by our education system



Registration costs \$10 and will open on December 1st. Check out the website for an agenda, conference logistics and more! www.pacname.org/regional-chapters/washington/storming-the-sound/#tab-id-3

**Sound Waters – A One Day University on Puget Sound
Saturday, February 3rd, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
South Whidbey High School, Langley, WA**



Sound Waters is a "one day university for all", bringing together people passionate about life in Puget Sound. Held since the early 1990s on the first Saturday in February on Whidbey Island, WA, Sound Waters now attracts 600+ people yearly. No prior knowledge is required to attend - just an interest in learning about and taking care of this amazing place that we call home.

Sound Waters offers attendees a choice of 60 or so fun and informative classes and presentations about the natural world and the fragile environment of this special place in the Salish Sea.

Keynote Presentation: *The Salish Sea – A Sense of Place*, by Dr. Florian Graner

Registration costs \$50 for adults, \$25 for active students, active teachers, active Americorps volunteers and active-duty military. An optional hot catered lunch will be available for an additional cost of \$14. **You can register online in late December.**

More information at <https://soundwaterstewards.org/sw/>

**Sustainable Seattle's 2018 Climate Resilience Summit
Saturday, January 6th, 8 AM – 6 PM
Seattle University, 901 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA**

The movement to build our climate resilience has powerful implications for the future of our region – from how we deal with the increasing threats of climate disruption to how we, as a community, not only recover but prepare to thrive in the face of climate change. Sustainable Seattle will convene the third in a series of conferences under the banner of our Pacific Northwest Resilience Challenge in January – the 2018 Climate Resilience Summit.

This conference will focus on issues of equity and how we can best support communities on the front lines of climate disruption. We invite you to join us as we examine the unique challenges and opportunities of preparing for the impacts of climate change.

Early bird registration is open through December 1st (prices go up on December 1st). See the website for more information: www.sustainableseattle.org/programs/pnw-resilience-challenge

Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk
Monday, February 26th, 7 – 8:30 PM
Olympic Beach Visitor Station, 200 Admiral Way, Edmonds, WA



Join the adventure of exploring the beach at night! Bring your family and friends for a beach walk under the stars and discover the amazing creatures that live on the beach with the help of WSU Beach Watchers.

This are FREE event for all ages! Hot beverages will be provided to warm up. Wear warm layers, rain gear and bring a flashlight. Sturdy footwear or rubber boots are recommended. No need to RSVP. There will be free parking in the streets. For more information, contact Yolimar Rivera at yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6029.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mussel Monitoring
Friday, December 1st, 6:30 – 9:30 PM



Puget Soundkeeper is looking for adventurous volunteers ready to spend an evening anchoring cages of mussels at Puget Sound beaches! Mussel Watch is a regional study coordinated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife that utilizes mussels to monitor water quality. In December, teams of volunteers throughout Puget Sound will install cages of mussels at a late night low tide. In February, the mussels will be collected and their tissues will be analyzed for the accumulation of various pollutants. This project focuses specifically on urban sample sites with high pollution loads. Less contaminated sites are included for reference.

Over the long term, this provides valuable information about improvements or declines in Puget Sound water quality.

Why are mussels used to study pollution? Mussels are prolific filter feeders that can filter anywhere from 20-50 gallons of water each day. Because of this, they perform an important ecosystem service- they clean our water! However, this also means they accumulate the chemicals present in their food and water in their tissues. Mussel digestive systems are relatively primitive and lack a functioning liver. They cannot metabolize contaminants and, instead, accumulate them unchanged in their tissues. This is bad news for mussels, but good news for science. Mussels will accumulate contaminants until they reach equilibrium with their environment (this generally takes 60-90 days, the same amount of time our mussel cages will be placed). Because these chemicals are not biotransformed, mussels provide a comprehensive look at what pollutants are present in a body of water over a period of time. This is a more robust measure than taking a sample on one particular

day, when conditions may be variable, and is more sensitive to low levels of contaminants that may otherwise go undetected.

Puget Soundkeeper has adopted 9 sites in the greater Seattle area and we are aiming to deploy our cages on **Friday, December 1st**. The cages need to be installed at the 0 tide mark, which on the 1st happens at approximately **8:00pm**. Our sites are listed below:

- Smith Cove
- Salmon Bay near Commodore Park
- Elliott Bay near Four Mile Rock
- Elliott Bay near Myrtle Edwards
- Elliott Bay near Harbor Island
- Seacrest Park
- Lincoln Park
- Arroyo Beach
- Seahurst Park

On the night of deployment, we will gather at the Soundkeeper office to review the installation protocol, collect materials, and head to our sample sites in teams. Please contact Hillary at hillary@pugetsoundkeeper.org to sign up and indicate your top two site preferences.

Howarth Park Beach Wrack Party Wednesday, December 20th, 10:30 AM

Scott Calhoun (Class of 2016) has shared that Beach Watchers have had such a great time doing this project in last few months that he thought we should do continue doing it! The next Howarth Park Beach Wrack Party (data collection and training) will be on Wednesday, December 20. We will meet on the beach near the base of the railroad bridge at 10:30 am. We have been taking up to 3 hours to complete the survey. We can use your help for any part of that time.



We 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 crack marine algae ID genius to contribute to the cause.

Our beach visit will likely be cold, windy, and maybe even – gasp – rainy or snowy on your way to the beach! Please dress in warm layers for wind.

This data collection post Howarth Park beach restoration will help researchers from the University of Washington, State of Washington, and Snohomish County make stronger conclusions about the

restoration efforts. We all want to know if the beach restoration money is having the positive effect 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 through winter, so stay tuned!

To sign up, please email Scott Calhoun (Class of 2016).

Howarth Park Beach Cleanup Friday, January 5th, 1 PM



Beach Watcher Dave Compton (Class of 2010) wants to keep the beach cleanup efforts going at Howarth Park and lead further cleanups. Join him to pick up trash and prevent pollution entering Puget Sound while keeping the beach clean!

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.

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.

Looking for Beach Watcher Volunteers!

Snohomish Conservation District's Annual Native Plant Sale Saturday, February 10th, 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe, WA



Snohomish Conservation District is hosting their Annual Native Plant Sale in February, which draws over 1,200 people throughout the day, many who are interested in backyard habitats, environmental stewardship, natural landscaping and native plants. **This is a great opportunity to recruit new Beach Watchers** and talk with landowners about natural yard care and household hazardous materials. Final perk is you can also buy your native plants in time for spring planting season!

There will be 3 or 4 shifts for this event. More details to come soon. If you are interested in participating, please sign up with Yolimar at yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6029.

Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk
Monday, February 26th, 7 – 8:30 PM
(Naturalists arrive at 6:30 PM)
Olympic Beach Visitor Station, 200 Admiral Way, Edmonds, WA



We are recruiting volunteers to help families discover the wonders of the beach during a night low tides under the stars! With support from the Snohomish County MRC (Marine Resources Committee) and the City of Edmonds, Beach Watchers and Beach Naturalists will be leading a low tide exploration in Olympic Beach, Edmonds.

Everyone is invited to wear warm layers, raingear, rubber boots or sturdy footwear, bring a headlamp or flashlight and join the magical adventure of low tide exploration in the dark. Hot beverages will be provided to ward off the chill.

To volunteer for this exciting event, please RSVP with Yolimar Rivera at yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6029.

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.

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

Howarth Park Beach Cleanups: Dave Compton

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**

Mission Beach Water Testing: **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: **VACANT**

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

Storm Drain Medallions: Ani Gothard-Williams

Veterinary Clinic Outreach: Karen Langseth

Youth Classroom Presentations: **VACANT**

A Wavy Column

Our very first Natural Resource Programs Volunteer Appreciation last November, was a wonderful event! About 60 or so volunteers participated from all our programs – Beach Naturalists, Beach Watchers, Energy Stewards, Glacier Peak Institute, Promotores de Energía, Promotores del Medio Ambiente, Sustainable Community Stewards, and Waste Warriors.

There was a generous buffet, folkloric Latin dances, bingo games, guest remarks, raffles, prizes, a photo booth, art exhibits and an interactive art wall! We also distributed “rock star” cookies to all volunteers, because you are all rock stars 😊



Photo credits: Sheryl Kelly

We also had a special recognition for volunteers that have gone the extra mile or have done significant work in our programs. From those recognitions, here are the people who belong to our Beach Watchers and Beach Naturalists programs.

Recognition Category: Veteran Beach Watchers – volunteers that have been active since the beginning of the Beach Watcher program in 2006

Carol Forsberg, Fred Benedetti and Bob & Lynn McCort

Recognition Category: Behind the Scenes – volunteers that work behind the scenes to get a lot of work done; never in the spotlight, but incredibly valuable.

Keri DeVilbiss

Recognition Category: Leaders and Mentors – hard working leaders that move the projects forward who are also inspiring mentors

Tim Ellis, Bernie Busch and Sandy Evans

Recognition Category: First Responders –the first to sign up when we need volunteers

Carol Ann Pinto

Recognition Category: Most Well-Rounded Volunteer – special category created for the volunteer that has been involved in most of our natural resource programs

Patricia Wangen

Recognition Category: Volunteer with Amazing Promise – special category created for a young man that we observed had a lot of potential and exceeded our expectations

Kyle Petersen

Recognition Category: Volunteer of the Year – for Beach Watchers, that was:

Craig Wollam

Volunteers do so much! Without you, our programs would not be possible. So thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Yolimar

(425) 357-6029, yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu

Project Spotlight

Last October, Beach Watchers held the first ever Team Leader Summit. Here is a brief summary from that meeting, that was provided by Tim Ellis (Class of 2015).

“On Monday, October 16th, many of the Beach Watcher project leaders met to establish a plan for the 2018 season. A major accomplishment was to set the schedules for many of the projects including:

- Intertidal Beach Characterization,
- Offerings of dates for youth education, and
- Beach Naturalist sessions.

We spent some time concentrating on each of these projects and gaining an understanding of many elements including resources required (both people-power and equipment), restrictions on projects (example: tides), and future impacts.

We finished the session with a greater understanding of the current projects in work by Beach Watchers, as well as what may lie in the future. We have an established schedule that we can work to! We also collected a list of items we can work on to make Beach Watchers even better!”

NOTE from Yolimar - Stay tuned for upcoming working group meetings in 2018 where any Beach Watchers can join us to help make our Beach Watcher project better ones.

Beach Watcher Member Section

Beach Watcher Events Google Calendar

Check out our Snohomish County Beach Watchers Google Calendar so you know what events are coming up. <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 128th Street, Everett. We meet every second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

Beach Watcher Basics

	Beach Watcher Breakfast!	Beach Watcher Facebook Page Like Us!	Beach Watcher Web Tools	Contributions to Ebb Tide
When Is It?	Monthly, 2 nd Wednesday, 9 AM	ANY TIME!	24 Hours a Day, Every Day!	Submissions last day of the month.
How Can I Find It?	Patty’s Egg Nest, 303 128 th St. SW, South Everett	www.facebook.com/snohomishbeachwatchers	www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/Snohomish/VolunteerInformationPage.htm	Arrives to your email every month
Why Should I Care?	Great conversations and getting to know fellow Beach Watchers!	Newsletters help organizations to stay together. 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 want submissions of articles, cool events, photos, etc., from Beach Watchers.
Want More Information?	See Working Group Lead or Team Leader Contacts above!			

Volunteer Milestones

The following volunteers reported the following milestones, so congrats for all your hard work!

5000 Hours	500 Hours	100 Hours
Craig Wollam (Class of 2010)	Chuck LoPresti (Class of 2013)	Scott Calhoun (Class of 2016)

Beach Watcher Highlights

Dates	Type	Title	Location / Time
December 3	Field Trip	Seattle Aquarium	1483 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
December 13	Social	Monthly Breakfast	Patty's Egg Nest, 303 128th St. SW, 9 AM
December 20	Volunteer	Beach Wrack Survey	Howarth Park Beach, 10:30 AM

WELCOME 2018!!!!

January 5	Stewardship	Beach Cleanup	Howarth Park Beach, 1 PM
January 10	Social	Monthly Breakfast	Patty's Egg Nest, 303 128 th St. SW, 9 AM
January 23	Regular Meeting	Beach Watcher Meeting	Jennings Park Barn, Marysville 10 AM – 12:30 PM
February 10	Festival	Snohomish Conservation District's Annual Plant Sale	Evergreen State Fairgrounds 8 AM – 4:30 PM
February 26	Education	Starlight Beach Walk	Olympic Beach, Edmonds 7 – 8:30 PM (Naturalists arrive at 6:30pm)

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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