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Beach Watcher Meeting Dates

Skagit County Beach Watcher Regular Meetings:

Wednesday, January 19
11:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Padilla Bay Reserve, Main Meeting Room, Bow, WA

A Gathering of All Classes: Celebrating 5 years of Beach Watchers in Skagit County

Skagit Beach Watchers of all classes and friends are encouraged to attend. Please join us for potluck-lunch and celebration. The first half of the meeting will be for revisiting why we are Beach Watchers and hearing from select members of previous classes, active or not, what inspires them.

There will be a running slide show of Beach Watcher adventures through the years. Project leaders will share updates at 1 p.m. The next meeting will be the 3rd Wednesday in March. FOSB will hold their annual meeting following, so please stick around as new members are voted in.

FOSB Board will be providing soup and bread as part of the potluck for the meeting. Others are encouraged to bring side dishes and finger food to share. Contact Catherine Davis for ideas at cathmdav@yahoo.com or (360) 766-6705.

Wednesday, March 16
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Padilla Bay Reserve, Main Meeting Room, Bow, WA

Speaker TBD

Skagit Beach Watcher meetings are preceded by a brown bag lunch and presentation from a community organization. Come at 11:30 p.m. to catch-up with fellow Beach Watchers or come at 12:00 p.m. when we'll start the presentation. Updates begin at 1 p.m. Bring a new friend and introduce them to Beach Watchers! Meetings are held every other month.

Feature Article

Tips for a Waste Wise Holiday

by Maribeth Crandell, Environmental Educator, Oak Harbor Public Works in Island County

This holiday season over 1 million extra tons of waste will be generated each week. Here are some simple tips to trim the trash while you trim the tree.

1. **Off to shop?** Bring your own reusable bags. Shop local to support families in your own community. Save time and gas, and have a more relaxing experience.
2. **Buy Green** durable goods that help the receiver live sustainably (stainless steel water bottles, bike helmet, bike lock or lights, reusable shopping bags, a worm bin or gardening tools, native plants for the yard, solar radio or yard lights, etc.)
3. **Pack it in.** Choose gifts that require very little packaging, like a gift certificate for a dinner out, a movie, a gym membership or class registration.
4. **No Peanuts or Bubble wrap-** Ask mail order catalogs to pack with paper. If you do get peanuts or bubble wrap, take them to a mailing or shipping store like UPS or Pony Express in Oak Harbor. Shops that mail breakables may also welcome it.
5. **Wrapping paper? No thanks.** Use old maps, festive posters, or colorful newspaper. Use raffia, second hand ribbon or yarn. Decorate with evergreen branches or fir cones instead of bows. Take gift wrap from your gifts, fold it neatly and store it under the cushions on the sofa to “iron out the wrinkles”.
6. **Kid’s Crafts-**Use brown paper bags or paper produce bags decorated with (potato) stamped stars, snow scenes or other holiday designs.
7. **“Re-use Holiday Cards.** Cut out the main image and use it as a gift tag. Or make a card out of old file folders. If you have to buy new cards, look for cards made of recycled paper, and buy from charities.
8. **Holiday Parties** – Use cloth table cloths and napkins, real silverware, plates and glassware. Bring containers for leftovers. Decorate a 5 gallon bucket for recyclables and a plastic tub for worm food with instructions pasted to it.
9. **Home decorations** – Don’t get carried away. Tone down the lights, inflated snowmen and wire reindeer. No one wants to hear a recorded “Ho, Ho, Ho” over and over for a solid month. LED lights are the most efficient and come in a variety of colors. They’ll save money and energy. Turn them on for a few hours in the evening, then pull the plug or put them on a timer so they’ll turn off at bedtime. Take a walk in the woods or clean up your yard after a storm to find evergreen branches. Tie them with bailing twine or strips of decorative cloth and hang swags on your porch posts.
10. **Kid’s project** – Turn over your wire tomato cages and let the kids weave them with evergreen boughs and holiday lights and you have a kid size tree.



11. **The Tree**-Consider an artificial tree that can be used year after year. Or get a live native tree so it can be planted outside after the holidays. If your yard is too small for a big evergreen tree (remember they can grow to 200-300 feet tall) donate it to the local parks. You may even get to plant it.
12. **Tree Decorations** – Save the metal lids from frozen juice containers and make decorations by pounding out a design on it with a hammer and nail. It will look like an old fashioned tin cupboard door. String popcorn and cranberries (or rose hips) and hang them in the trees or shrubs outside for the birds. Look on-line or at the library for directions to make origami figures to hang from the branches.
13. **Once the holidays are over**, if you've used a cut tree, you can mulch it or take it to composting facility that will do it for you. Sometimes local scout troops or service clubs will collect trees for composting as a fund raiser.
14. **Remember that the best things in life aren't things.** They're experiences. Consider what is most important to you. What are your most treasured holiday traditions? Then chose what you want to emphasize during this special season.

Ideas:

- Read favorite Christmas stories aloud each night.
- Make a special outing to find just the right tree.
- Walk in the woods to look for natural treasures to decorate your home; fir cones, evergreen branches, sprigs of holly berries, hemlock or cedar.
- Go Christmas Caroling with friends and family.
- Make a Gingerbread house.
- Make a Giving Tree – find a bare branch and put it into a vase on a table top.
- Find things for re-gifting and put them under or hang them from the branches. Anyone visiting over the holidays can choose something. Gifts might include books, crafts, home-made jam, jewelry, small toys.



Featured Project: Winter Lecture Series

Winter Lecture Series
Project Leader: Matt Kerschbaum

The Winter Lecture Series started in 2006 with a core group of dedicated Beach Watchers, lead by Betty Carteret, BW '05. It was offered once a month over the month. Experts were brought in on a variety of topics relevant to the Salish Sea. Presentations ranged from 60- 90 minutes.

This year's series is shaping up quickly. Behind the scenes, volunteers met early this fall. They racked their brains and came up with a list of topics and speakers. The committee of six Beach Watchers has finally chosen their topics. Each committee member chose one lecture to be the steward of. That means arranging for the speaker, coordinating times and facilities and making sure the lecture goes smoothly. Bios are collected toward the end of the year and send to the outreach committee. Posters are made, fliers and press releases!



They hope to generate enthusiasm for this special place and that each one of us comes away with an increased understanding of our natural community. All lectures will be held at the Anacortes Library-- January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, and March 22.

They look forward to seeing you there this winter. If you would like to get involved in supporting any of their efforts, contact project leader Matt Kerschbaum at cherrytree2@comcast.net or (360) 293-0773.

Skagit County Opportunities

Vermi Composting

Skagit County Master Composter/Recyclers

Monday, November 29

6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Skagit Valley Community Food Coop, 202 South First Street, Mount Vernon, Rm 309

Learn the different ways to harness the work of the worm in these fall workshops. Register by with Jodie at (360) 336-5087 x 136 cooproom@gmail.com.

Septics 101: Learn How Your Septic System Works And How to Take Care of It

Skagit County Public Health Department

Monday, November 29

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Padilla Bay Reserve

Thursday, December 2

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Alger Community Hall, 18731 Parkview Lane, Burlington

Wednesday, December 8

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sedro Woolley City Hall, 325 Metcalf St., Sedro Woolley

The purpose of the FREE Septics 101 class is to inform homeowners about how septic systems work, how to monitor their function, how to save money operating them, what the public health concerns about septic systems are, and how to maintain them in order to prevent problems.

Pre-registration is recommended for Septics 101. To register or for further information contact the Skagit County Health Department at 360-336-9380.

Things You Can Do Too Make a Difference in Your Watershed

Skagit Conservation District

Tuesday, November 30

6:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Padilla Bay Reserve

Want to get involved in cleaning up the Samish, but don't know how? Join SKD and learn how Samish residents can get involved and do their part to clean up, protect and preserve the watershed.

Discussion topics will include ideas for managing water on your own property, joining a neighborhood stream group, volunteer and education opportunities, how you can provide input, and much more!

The event is FREE. Pre-Register to Kristi Carpenter at 428-4313 or kristi@skagited.org.

Marblemount Hatchery Tour Guide Training

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Saturday, December 4

10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

Lucy Degrace reports that she has 5 volunteers signed-up as guides for this winter. Ideally, she needs 12-15. Interested Beach Watchers can count these hours on the WSU System.

As a Hatchery Tour Guide, you can teach the public about these and other fascinating facts of the Marblemount Hatchery and Skagit salmon during the 2010-11 season. Volunteers will lead tours each Saturday and Sunday from December 5 through January 30. Registration required.

Call or email for more info or to sign up: 360-336-0172 or ldegrace@skagitfisheries.org.

Water Quality Monitoring

DOE BEACH Program

Every other Tuesday; December 7

DNR beach on Samish Island

Two Beach Watchers head to the beach every other Tuesday morning to take four water samples and collect other data; air and water temperatures, wind direction and velocity. Observations are reported to the Department of Ecology. It's an enjoyable way to spend 30 minutes on the beach for a good cause. Please contact Lyn Bishop or Pamela Maxwell if you wish to be involved; lynsbishop@frontier.com, (360) 757-0346.

Septics 201

Skagit County Public Health Department

Thursday, December 9

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WSU NW Research Station, 16650 SR 536, Mount Vernon 98273

Septics 201 class is to provide the homeowner with an onsite sewage system the opportunity to meet the above requirements as set forth in SCC 12.05.160 and WAC 246-272A-0270.

Septics 201 class attendance is limited to the following Skagit County home owners:

- Home have conventional gravity, a pump to gravity, or conventional pressure on site sewage systems
Installed with an approved, issued, and completed permit
- Not immediately adjacent to a marine shoreline
- Attended a Septics 101 class in Skagit County (or equivalent as approved by the Skagit County Public Health Department)

Call Wade Bessett at 360-336-9380 or email him at wadejb@co.skagit.wa.us to sign up for a Septic's 201 class.

For more information contact Skagit County Public Health by telephone at 360-336-9380, by email at health@co.skagit.wa.us, or in person at 700 S. 2nd Street, Room 301, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 during from 8:30-4:30 on any day that county offices are open (Monday – Friday except for holidays and county furlough days).

Samish Watershed Landowners Critical Areas Ordinance Workshop

Skagit Conservation District

Thursday, December 16

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place in Mount Vernon

Join Skagit Conservation District to learn about the County's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO).

Topics will include an overview of what are considered critical areas, how livestock management and other agricultural activities are regulated under the CAO, how a farm plan is developed and implemented, assistance programs, and more!

Please **pre-register** by Dec. 13th by contacting Betsy Stevenson, betsyds@co.skagit.wa.us

Annual Board Meeting/Election of New Members

Friends of Skagit Beaches

Wednesday, January 19

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Padilla Bay Reserve, Main Meeting Room, Bow, WA

FOSB annual meeting and election of Board members will be held after the Regular Beach Watchers January meeting. They are looking for Beach Watchers volunteers who would be able to serve as Board members for 2011. Names should be forwarded to Catherine Davis and/or Betty Carteret-- cathmdav@yahoo.com, sydst2@wavecable.com.

2011 Beach Watcher Lecture Series

Anacortes Library, 1220 10th Street

Friday, January 14

7 p.m.

The Gulf Oil Spill and Its Implications for Puget Sound

Jon Neel, Washington State Department of Ecology

Friday, February 11

7 p.m.

Jelly Fish Gone Wild

Dr. Jennifer Purcell, Marine Scientist, WWU, Shannon Point Marine Center

Friday, March 11

7 p.m.

Kiket Island: History, Resources and Future Plans

Jack Hart, Park Manager, Deception Pass State Park

Friday, April 8

7 p.m.

Deep Sea Ocean Communities

Jonathan P. Kellogg, Department of Oceanography, UW

Tuesday, March 22

7 p.m.

A Sea Change – Imagine a World Without Fish

The movie will be held in celebration of Anacortes Library's Centennial.

The Winter Lecture Series is co-sponsored by WSU Skagit Beach Watchers and Friends of Skagit Beaches. They are free and open to the Public. For more information or questions contact: Matt Kerschbaum, at cherrytree2@comcast.net or (360) 293-0773.



Regional Activities

Marine Educator Open House

Seattle Aquarium

December 4, 2010

9:30am – 3pm

Join Seattle Aquarium for an exciting day of activities & experiences all about the marine world. Meet Aquarium Educators and learn about classes, outreach, continuing adult education, and more.

Free admission for educators and up to four additional family members.

Register online at www.seattleaquarium.org/learn

Active WSU Beach Watcher Working Groups/Contacts

If you would like to get involved with any of Beach Watcher efforts, share your ideas or generally stay connected with the following activities, please contact the WSU Beach Watcher listed or Brian Stafki at bstafki@co.skagit.wa.us, (360) 428-4270 x 223.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eelgrass Meadow 4th / 5th Grade Education Pack: Fran Jepperson • Beach Clean-up: <i>AVAILABLE</i> • Beach Naturalists: Pattie Hutchins & Erica Pickett • Beach Seining: Lin Folsom & Tom Richards • Beach Watcher Training: WSU Coordinator • BEACH Water Quality Monitoring: Lyn Bishop & Pamela Maxwell • Clean Samish: <i>AVAILABLE</i> • Creature Features: Tim Manns • Display Outreach and Education Events: <i>AVAILABLE</i> • Intertidal Baseline Monitoring: <i>AVAILABLE</i> • Fidalgo Bay Day: Erica Pickett • Friends of Skagit Beaches: Betty Carteret • Fundraising Committee: Pattie Hutchins, Betty Carteret • Grants Committee: <i>AVAILABLE</i> • Letter Box: Carol Spehar & Pat Steffani • Marine Invasive Species Monitoring: Sue Ehler • Monofilament Recycling Stations: Sue Ehler | <p>Regional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Planning / Educational Booths: Local Coordinators • Ebb Tide/Flood Tide Newsletters: Bob McCort <p>Skagit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastics Monitoring: Pattie Hutchins & Sue Ehler • Realtor Workshops: WSU Coordinator • Recreational Crabber Outreach: Chris Brown • Restoration & Biota Monitoring: WSU Coordinator • Room Reservations & Speakers/Bi-Monthly Meetings: <i>AVAILABLE</i> • Samish Recreationalist Outreach: WSU Coordinator • Skagit Watershed Quest Letterbox: Pat Steffani & Carol Spehar • Tool Kit for Middle/High School Education: Jourdan Keith • Trail Tales: Betty Carteret • Youth Events and Education: <i>AVAILABLE</i> • Young Beach Stewards: WSU Coordinator • Welcome Wagon: Pam David • Winter Lecture Series: Matt Kerschbaum |
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Program Coordinator's Column

Special congratulations go out to our newest Beach Watchers, Class of 2010! They are David Leatham, Christine Longdon, Lynne Karns and Jourdan Keith. I will give opportunities for each of them to introduce themselves over the coming months in the newsletter as part of a NEW featured Beach Watcher section. They have successfully completed the 100-hours of coursework and training to become Washington State University Extension Beach Watchers. They have studied watersheds, estuaries, marine life, human impact, outreach methods, research, stewardship and other topics.

Now that they have completed their training, they will be looking for opportunities to contribute toward their 100 hours. Some of them wasted no time and started volunteering this summer and have already logged some hours.

We started the class last spring with 12 enrolled in the class. Unfortunately, life happened for some and the Beach Watcher commitment was lower.

When I think back to going into new groups and work, I remember the role that my mentors played for me. I think about the opportunities and guidance they gave me. It gave me a greater understanding as they introduced me to the area, projects and other students or volunteers. It gave me the confidence as I learned more and felt a greater connection. It took awhile, but eventually I was able to take on more and more leadership. That was good, because, eventually my mentors and to move on. That was when I became a mentor to the new class. I took a certain sense of pride in that as I felt a great deal of value for what was provided.

WSU Skagit County Extension has been teaching and training Beach Watchers since 2005, nearly every year. There have been 73 volunteers trained. There are some 30+ active volunteers at this time. Many of the projects that were started by each of these classes are still going strong. It was pointed out to me though, that the class needed new members within that project. Eventually torches will need to be passed. We can strive to include classes of 2009 and 2010 in what we are doing. Chris Brown, BW '09 picked up the torch of Recreational Crabber Outreach after only one year on the project. It was good that his project leader saw the potential and interest. When the time came, Chris was (nearly) ready and has done well.

That also means that we need to ensure there is a steady stream of volunteers coming into our program. WSU Beach Watchers will continue to age and evolve into improved and new projects. I am receiving more and more requests from the community for Beach Watchers effort—especially for citizen science and monitoring. I hope I can continue to say that this group is vigorous and enthusiastic to help.

In order for the WSU Skagit Beach Watcher program to grow and thrive—we need your help. April 1st will be the beginning of the next Regular Beach Watcher Training. We are accepting applications now—I have received one so far. I would like to see at least 45 applications—I think that is possible. Beach Watchers of all class play a role in that recruitment effort. Every day, you have the opportunity to talk to people about the program. Your friends and associates are the people we need.

If 15 Beach Watchers hosted friend-raising house parties, we could reach up to 300 people in a very direct way

If every Beach Watcher talked to 5 people, we will have talked to 350 people. If 15 Beach Watchers hosted friend-raising house parties and our display was there—or even better, you invite me to help you with a presentation, we could reach up to 300 people in a very direct way. That would like give us at least 45 new Beach Watchers.

Thank you for your contributions and Happy Thanksgiving!

Brian Stafki, M.Ed., WSU Skagit Beach Watcher Coordinator, bstafki@co.skagit.wa.us, (360) 428-4270 x 223

Beach Watcher Highlights

Beach Watcher Calendar Dates all in One Place!
Is your Beach Watcher or Watershed Event Upcoming? Submit it to Brian for inclusion!

SKAGIT Dates	Type	Title	Location / Time
Mon, Nov 29	Workshop	Vermi Composting	Skagit Coop, Mount Vernon, 6:00 p.m.
Mon, Nov 29	Workshop	Septics 101	Padilla Bay Reserve, 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Tue, Nov 30	Workshop	Things Too Make a Difference in Your Watershed	Padilla Bay Reserve, 6:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Thu, Dec 2	Workshop	Septics 101	Alger Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Sat, Dec 4	Training	Hatchery Tour Guide	Marblemount Hatchery, 10:00 a.m.
Sat, Dec 4	Open House	Marine Educator Open House	Seattle Aquarium, 9:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Tue, Dec 7	Monitoring	Water Quality Monitoring DOE BEACH Program	DNR beach on Samish Island
Wed, Dec 8	Workshop	Septics 101	Sedro Woolley City Hall, 2:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Thu, Dec 9	Workshop	Septics 201	WSU NW Research Station, SR 536, 12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Thu, Dec 16	Workshop	Samish Watershed Landowners CAO	County Commissioners Hearing Room, 2:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Sat, Dec 18	Picnic	The Walrus and Carpenter Picnic	Elliot's Oyster House/beach, 6:30 p.m.- 11:00 p.m.
Fri, Jan 14	Lecture	The Gulf Spill and Implications for Puget Sound	Anacortes Library, 7:00 p.m.
Wed, Jan 19	Celebration/Meeting	Beach Watcher Regular Meeting/Reunion	Padilla Bay Reserve, 11:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Wed, Jan 19	Annual Meeting/Election	Friends of Skagit Beaches	Padilla Bay Reserve, 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Fri, Feb 11	Lecture	Jelly Fish Gone Wild	Anacortes Library, 7:00 p.m.
Fri, Mar 11	Lecture	Kiket Island: History, Resources and Future Plans	Anacortes Library, 7:00 p.m.

SKAGIT Dates	Type	Title	Location / Time
Fri, Apr 8	Lecture	Deep Sea Ocean Communities	Anacortes Library, 7:00 p.m.
Tue, Mar 22	Movie	A Sea Change—Imagine a World Without Fish	Anacortes Library, 7:00 p.m.

WSU 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.