

Padilla Bay Newsletter

A Joint Publication of the Padilla Bay Foundation and Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Spring 2014



Padilla Bay

National Estuarine Research Reserve

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is managed by the Washington State Department of Ecology under the National Estuarine Research Reserve System established by NOAA.

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The Padilla Bay Foundation is a membership-based non-profit organization formed in 1987. Its mission is to help preserve the Padilla Bay estuary in Skagit County, Washington, through support of Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Padilla Bay Foundation
www.padillabayfoundation.org
PO Box 1305
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
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For more news, research updates, program details, see our website at www.padillabay.gov.

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Foundation Receives Grant for Education Support

The floods of school children walking through Padilla Bay's doors this spring will find staff ready and waiting - thanks in part to a generous grant from the Mountaineers Foundation. When state budget cuts prevented a vacant education position from being filled, we turned to a seasonal, part time educator for help during the busy spring season. For several years now, the Padilla Bay Foundation has hired Chandler Colohan to help out. This year, the new grant will allow Chandler even more time for teaching and working on special outreach programs. Students will again enjoy an estuary soup chef with a real Texan accent!

Author, Jack Nisbet, Presents *David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work*

The Foundation is honored to host an afternoon appearance by Jack Nisbet, author of *David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work*. Nisbet will share images and stories from the journals, field notebooks and sketchbooks of this famous Scottish adventurer. **Saturday, March 22, 2:00PM** at the Breazeale Interpretive Center. This program is free, but registration is required. You can register online or call (360) 428-1558.



Make the Switch

Want to read more about the Padilla Bay Reserve? For research updates, photos, articles, book reviews, and other comings and goings at the reserve, check our electronic newsletter. It will arrive by email, with a brief overview of articles and events. A quick click takes you to Padilla Bay's website with the full story and details about programs and program registration. Sign up for the electronic newsletter on our website at www.padillabay.gov and click "Newsletter," or call (360) 428-1558.



How You Can Help

Grassroots involvement is the core of Padilla Bay Foundation's commitment to protecting our estuaries and supporting the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Members of the Padilla Bay Foundation contribute directly to environmental education and research at Washington State's only Estuarine Research Reserve.

Memberships can be for multiple years. Please consider payment of 2 or 3 years at a time, as this will save the Foundation considerable labor and mailing costs and insure that your dues work harder supporting the programs you care about.

Categories of membership are:

Senior/Student	\$25
Individual	\$35
Family	\$50
School/Organization	\$50+
Supporting	\$75
Sustaining	\$100+
Small Business	\$100+
Sponsor	\$250
Patron	\$500
Steward	\$1000

Send your contribution to:
 Padilla Bay Foundation
 PO Box 1305
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273
 (360) 757-3234
 a 501(c)(3) organization



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Presentations for March, April and May 2014

Penguin Response to Climate Change on the West Antarctic Peninsula

Antarctica plays an important role in the planet's climate and ocean dynamics. Though this icy continent has experienced long oscillations of warming and cooling on a geologic time scale, current predictions are for warming at an unprecedented rate. Marine animals such as penguins are conspicuous bellwethers of a rapidly changing ecosystem. Join David Drummond, wildlife biologist with the Merlin Falcon Foundation to learn more about changes in this important ecosystem. **Saturday, March 8, 1:00-2:30.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

Aquarium Tour and Fish Feeding

Padilla Bay's aquarium inhabitants are always changing. Join Padilla Bay's aquarist, Mark Olson for a behind-the-tanks view of our new system, and a close-up look at the amazing critters in the tanks. You may even meet Ruby, the octopus. **Saturday, April 12, 11:00.** No need to register. Just join us in the aquarium room at 11:00.



David Douglas: a Naturalist at Work

The Foundation is honored to host an afternoon presentation by Jack Nisbet, author of *David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work*. Nisbet will share images and stories from the journals, field notebooks and sketchbooks of this famous Scottish adventurer. **Saturday, March 22, 2:00.** Registration is required - online or phone 360-428-1558.

Amazing Amphibians: Frogs and Toads of Cascadia

Spring is a time of inspired renewal and frog choruses are part of this annual celebration! Western Washington is home to an incredible ten species of frogs and one species of toad. David Drummond, Merlin Falcon Foundation Biologist will discuss their field ID, adaptations, bio-ecology, habitat associations and conservation status. Join us to learn more about and to better appreciate these happy hoppers!



Saturday, April 19, 1:00-2:30. Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

The Ikkatstu Project: Message in a Plastic Bottle

Padilla Bay will be one stop on Ken Campbell's 150 mile trip in a kayak made from plastic water bottles. Leaving

Olympia on April 12th, and concluding in Bellingham on May 17th, the purpose of this expedition is to research plastic marine debris, participate in beach cleanups, and share presentations along the way on the issues facing Puget Sound. **Saturday, May 10, 7:00-8:30PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center. For more information, see the Ikkatsu website at: <http://ikkatsuproject.org/projects/message-in-a-plastic-bottle/>

Gardening for Wildlife

Would you like to transform your garden into a haven for hummingbirds, butterflies, other wildlife and people? Learn how you can provide food, water and shelter for wildlife, put native plants to work in your garden, garden more sustainably, reduce yard maintenance, and have your yard certified as a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary or Habitat. Leave with lots of resources and information for your garden!. Kristi Carpenter with the Skagit Conservation District, along with volunteers from the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards, will share a wealth of knowledge and experience. **Saturday, May 17, 1:00-3:00.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.



Spring Birding By Ear

Come and enjoy the busy breeding season for Padilla Bay birds. Libby Mills will lead beginners and experts alike, listening and watching for spring birds. The migrants are here and singing. Eggs are hatching and the feeding work has begun. Early mornings can still be chilly, so dress snugly. Binoculars are available for those who need them. We'll meet at the Interpretive Center and begin with a *slow* walk around Padilla Bay's uplands. **Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25, 8:00-12:00.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

The Breazeale Interpretive Center is open to the public
Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00-5:00.

Staff are available 7 days a week.

Register online or by phone.

www.padillabay.gov

(360) 428-1558



Monthly Youth Programs Offer Fun Learning

Mini Explorers are the 3-5 year old learners. We look at a new topic each month, with stories, games, hands-on observations, art projects, and plenty of action. Call the Interpretive Center to register or register online.

March 5 & 6, 10:00 & 1:00

Cnidarians!—*What's that, you say? We will learn about these transparent, pulsating, gelatinous jellies, anemones, and corals. We may even have some to touch!*



April 2 & 3, 10:00 & 1:00

Crabs!—*From their fierce pinchers to eyes on stalks, crabs are really amazing. Come and meet some face to face.*



May 21 & 22, 10:00 & 1:00

Estuary!—*Padilla Bay is a cool place where fresh water meets the sea. Come and find out more with games, stories, and action.*



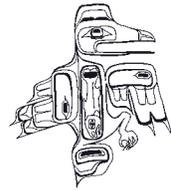
Junior Ecologists are 6-9 year olds who have fun exploring the estuary. Excursions to the beach, science experiments, games, art projects, and studying life in the bay—this program is guaranteed fun! Call the Interpretive Center or register online.

March 7 & 8, 10:30-12:00

Adaptations—*Finding food, staying safe, or finding a mate: adaptations help plants and animals in all kinds of ways.*

April 4 & 5, 10:30-12:00

Estuary Art—*Estuaries are beautiful places full of marvels. They have inspired artists for centuries, and they can inspire you, too. We'll look at beautiful examples of estuary art, and make some ourselves.*



May 9 & 10, 10:30-12:00

Explore the Upland Trail—*We'll have fun with activities all along Padilla Bay's 1-mile upland trail, sharpening our senses and discovering lots of treasures that most folks walk right past.*



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