

# Padilla Bay Newsletter

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

Fall 2015



**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.

[www.padillabay.gov](http://www.padillabay.gov)

[swood@padillabay.gov](mailto:swood@padillabay.gov)

10441 Bay View-Edison Road  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
(360) 428-1558



**PADILLA BAY  
FOUNDATION**

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](http://www.padillabayfoundation.org)  
PO Box 1305  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
(360) 757-3234  
[foundation@padillabay.gov](mailto:foundation@padillabay.gov)

For more news, research updates, program details, see our website at [www.padillabay.gov](http://www.padillabay.gov).

To request materials in a format for the visually impaired, call the Reserve at 360-428-1558, Relay Service 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.

Publication No.15-06-016

## Volunteers Collect and Recycle Fishing Line

Did you know that more than 80 % of marine debris is plastic? If you're an angler in the Skagit County area, you can do something to prevent some of that waste from reaching the Salish Sea! Back in 2014, volunteer Don Coleman, initiated a project to prevent used, tangled and broken fishing line from entering our local waters. Don researched similar programs around the state and the nation, consulted with marina and park staff, and secured funding from the Friends of Skagit Beaches to buy supplies. For the last year and a half, Don was busy building, installing, and regularly emptying these monofilament recycling tubes. We are proud to say that 18 collection tubes have been installed throughout Skagit County where you can recycle your used fishing line. Tubes are currently located at the following marinas, parks and fishing holes:

Fidalgo Island: Skyline Marina, Washington Park, Fidalgo Bay RV Resort  
Cap Sante Marina, Campbell Lake, Heart Lake, Bowman Bay, Pass Lake, Cranberry Lake,

LaConner: Twin Bridges Marina, Swinomish Channel Boat Launch, LaConner Marina

Mount Vernon: Edgewater Park

Upper Skagit River: Conway Boat Launch, Baker Lake, Lake Shannon, Steelhead Park, Marblemount Fish Hatchery

The Coastal Volunteer Partnership (CVP) at Padilla Bay is now heading up the oversight of this project, and has more than 10 CVP volunteers monitoring the 18 sites. At this time, we can only recycle monofilament fishing line, a single-stranded, strong, flexible plastic. We have a central collection bin here at the Padilla Bay Reserve, which anyone is welcome to bring line to. Once the bin is full, we will send it off to Berkley Conservation Institute in Iowa, where they recycle the plastic into new products. The end goal is to completely remove the line from the waste stream and the environment. Many thanks to Don Coleman for getting this project started, to our dedicated volunteers for keeping the tubes clean, and to all of you for recycling your line!

We have a few more tubes that don't have a home. If you have a site in mind, or are interested in monitoring a tube, please call the CVP Programs Coordinator, Catherine Buchalski at (360) 428-1559.





## 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

## Foundation Board Members

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**Padilla Bay**

National Estuarine Research Reserve

# Autumn Events

## Presentations for September, October, and November 2015



### Sounds of Fall Migration

Join naturalist, Libby Mills, as we see what's going on in the southbound bird migration. Wear comfortable walking shoes and be prepared to explore Padilla Bay's uplands and the "west 90" of the Samigh Flats. Bring water and a snack. Binoculars and field guides are available at the Interpretive Center. Meet in the Padilla Bay parking lot. **Saturday, September 12 and Saturday, October 24, 8:00AM-12:00 noon.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.



### Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants

Come and experience our annual fall excursion searching for edible and medicinal plants. Join naturalists Marlee Osterbauer and Terri Wilde as they share extensive knowledge of plant uses and folklore. Weather may be chilly, so dress appropriately. A notebook and pencil are useful. This 2 hour class is offered twice. **Saturday, October 3 and Sunday October 4, 2:00-4:00PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

The Breazeale Interpretive Center is open to the public

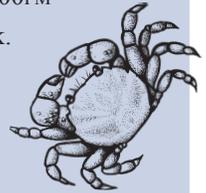
Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00AM-5:00PM

Staff are available 7 days a week.

Register online or by phone.

[www.padillabay.gov](http://www.padillabay.gov)

(360) 428-1558



### Aquarium Tour and Fish Feeding

Come and find out what's new and exciting in our aquariums. Join aquarist, Mark Olson for a behind-the-tanks view of the system, and a close-up look at the amazing critters in the tanks. **Saturday, October 17, 11:00AM.** No need to register. Just join us in the aquarium room at 11:00AM.

### Padilla Bay's Great Blue Herons, or "How I Spent My Summer Watching Chicks"

The heron colony on March's Point is believed to be the largest nesting area for Great Blue Herons in all of Western North America. Thanks to our live video camera mounted in the colony, volunteers at Padilla Bay have been documenting all the drama and excitement of Great Blue Heron nesting. Jim and LaVerne Scheltens will share the results of their observations during the 2015 season, and show wonderful, close-up images of our local birds in their nests. **Saturday, November 14, 1:00-2:00PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.



Photograph by Jim Kennedy

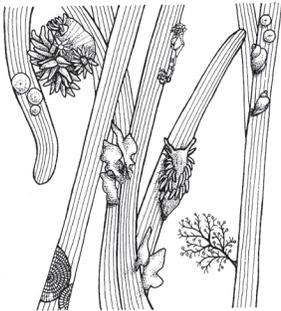
## Monthly Youth Programs Offer Fun Learning

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.

**September 9 & 10, 10:00AM & 1:00PM**  
How Animals Eat—*You won't find forks and spoons on Padilla Bay's beach, but estuary animals have all sorts of ways to make sure they get enough to eat.*



**October 14 & 15, 10:00AM & 1:00PM**  
Cider Pressing—*We'll head for Padilla Bay's orchard, learn about the people who farmed here, and have fun cranking the cider press. Wear warm clothes for wet, fall weather.*



**November 18 & 19, 10:00AM & 1:00PM**  
Have to Have a Habitat—*Padilla Bay is a perfect home for so many plants and animals. Come and learn about all sorts of different estuary homes.*

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.

**September 11 & 12, 10:30AM-12:00 noon**  
Migration Adventure—*From baby crabs heading out to deeper water to swallows who fly halfway around the globe, estuary animals are often on the move. Come find out more!*



**October 23 & 24, 10:30AM-12:00 noon**  
Cider Pressing—*We'll head for Padilla Bay's orchard, learn about the people who farmed here, and have fun cranking the cider press. Wear warm clothes for wet, fall weather.*



**November 6 & 7, 10:30AM-12:00 noon**  
Salmon Run—*Fall is the perfect time to learn all about Washington's coolest fish. From tiny streambed fry to glistening, ocean adults, here's a fish that's fun to learn about.*



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