

Padilla Bay Newsletter

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

Summer 2016



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
(360) 757-3234
foundation@padillabay.gov

For more news, research updates, program details, see our website at 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.

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Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail 2016

Summer brings the return of sun, fun, and this great activity for the whole family. Letterboxing is a mix of treasure hunting, art, navigation and exploration. Groups hide waterproof boxes throughout Skagit County with the goal of getting people to explore this wonderful region and experience our watersheds. Creatively written clues lead hunters to specific locations where boxes are hidden. Inside each box there is a logbook, a stamp and other cool and educational prizes for the letterboxers to collect along the trail.

This year the Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail, hosted by the Skagit Conservation Education Alliance, will be working with two 5th grade classrooms from Bayview Elementary School for a new twist to the Trail. These talented and enthusiastic students will be creating letterboxes, with themes all about our local watersheds. They will be hiding them along the Upland Trail here at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

In addition, Skagit conservation partners including the Padilla Bay will be hiding boxes throughout the county, making for a fun filled trail!

Clues will be released June 9, 2016, so mark your calendars, get outdoors this summer, and participate in this exciting and educational adventure! For clues and information about the 2016 Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail, go to the Skagit Conservation Education Alliance website at www.skagitcleanwater.org. For more information about letterboxing, go to www.letterboxing.org.





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

Visit our blog at www.padillabayfoundation.org.

Members Day 2016

Foundation members—join us on June 11, 1:00PM-3:00PM for our 2016 Members Day. Padilla Bay Education Coordinator, Glen (Alex) Alexander will provide a historical look at the National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

Foundation Board Members
 President: Paul Dinnel
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 Secretary: Kara Kuhlman
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Name _____ Address _____ City/State/Zip _____ E-mail address _____	Membership Category _____ (see reverse) Membership Amount \$ _____ Extra Donation \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Charge my card (VISA/Mastercard)
mail to: Padilla Bay Foundation P. O. Box 1305 Mount Vernon, WA 98273	Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Summer Events

Workshops for Teachers

We're offering two great workshops this summer. Please call the reserve or check our website for details and registration information.

Watershed Words Wednesday, June 29, 2016

This day-long session will be jammed with tips for using writing and your own school campus as a context for learning. The curriculum integrates outdoor observation, investigation, and creative writing with the core subjects English, science, social studies, and the arts.

Carbonated Water: Inquiry based strategies for teaching ocean acidification in middle and high school classrooms, Wednesday, August 17 - Friday, August 19, 2016

Explore climate change and ocean acidification in the Pacific Northwest. Use NGSS three-dimensions: Cross Cutting Concepts, Core Disciplinary Ideas, and Science and Engineering Practices and identify these in classroom activities/lessons. Explore online data to develop an activity or investigation using local environmental data.

Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants

Come and experience our annual celebration of early summer's bounty. Join naturalists Marlee Osterbauer and Terri Wilde in this search for wild edible plants. They will 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, June 4 and Sunday June 5, 2:00-4:00PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

Northwest Merlin Behavioral Ecology

Listen to the forest talking~ If you're up early, you may hear the long-call of the Douglas Squirrel overhead. Or, was it a male Merlin advertising his nest platform "portfolio?" With years of study and patience, wildlife biologist, David Drummond of the Merlin Falcon Foundation has begun to unravel their exciting tree canopy habits, habitats and bio-ecology. Join us for a unique insight into this kindred Temperate Rainforest beauty! **Sunday, June 12, 1:00-2:30PM.** To register, call the Interpretive Center.

Sounds of Summer Birds

Feeding the brood is the name of the game for summer birds, and it's the tail end of the bird song season. Join naturalist, Libby Mills, listening and looking for summer birds at Padilla Bay. Be prepared for a **slow** walk around the reserve uplands. (Summer mornings can be chilly, so

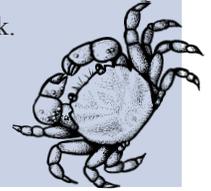
The Breazeale Interpretive Center is open to the public
Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00-5:00.

Staff are available 7 days a week.

Register by phone.

(360) 428-1558

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bring warm clothes. You may want a lightweight folding chair.) Binoculars and field guides are available at the Interpretive Center. Meet in the Padilla Bay parking lot. **Saturday, July 2 or Sunday, July 3, 8:00AM-12:00 noon.** To register, call the Interpretive Center.

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, July 23, 11:00AM.** No need to register. Just join us in the aquarium room at 11:00AM.

Fidalgo Bay Day

Don't miss this fun-filled celebration with activities for the whole family. Beach seine, canoe rides, fish prints, sea creature touch tank, salmon BBQ and much more. **August 27, 11:00AM-3:00PM** at the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort. Check the Skagit Marine Resource Committee website for info.

Mud Flat Safaris

When the tide goes out at Padilla Bay, it goes all the way out! Come explore this huge expanse of mud, teeming with life. Fearless guides will lead you on a trek into the seldom seen world of the estuary's mud flat. Come with old shoes that tie or snug boots. All ages welcome. The programs begin at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, and end at Bay View State Park. Call the Interpretive Center or register online.

Saturday, July 2 from 10:00AM-Noon

Tuesday, July 19 from 10:00AM-Noon

Wednesday, August 3 from 10:00AM-Noon

Tuesday, August 16 from 10:00AM-Noon

Beach Seines

No need to get your feet wet to see what's living out there in the bay. Just meet on the beach at Bay View State Park and watch while we pull a fish net through the water. Come and learn more about our fine finned friends! No registration necessary

Friday, July 15 at 12:30PM

Saturday, July 30 at 12:30PM

Saturday, August 13 at 11:00AM

Tuesday, August 30 at 1:00PM



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Breazeale Interpretive Center
10441 Bay View-Edison Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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Padilla Bay

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.

June 22 & 23, 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Wiggling Worms—*Come face-to-face with Padilla Bay's most incredible worms. No wonder our fish are so well-fed.*

July 20 & 21, 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Mudflat Safari—*Join us for an excursion on Padilla Bay's mudflat. Bring a jacket and snug boots or shoes that tie.*

August 10 & 11, 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Trees are Terrific, Trees are Great!—*Where would we be without the biggest of the plants? We'll take a short tree hike, so dress for the weather.*

Junior Ecologists are 6-9 year olds who have fun exploring the estuary. Excursions to the beach, science experiments, games, art projects –this program is guaranteed fun! Call the Interpretive Center to register.

June 24 & 25, 10:30AM-Noon

Animal Tracks—*Put on your detective hat and join this trek to the beach to see who's been walking through the mud. Bring a jacket and snug boots or old shoes that tie.*

July 15 & 16, 10:30AM-Noon

Polychaete Worms—*Worms are the coolest, especially when they live in the estuary mud. Become a polychaete expert and check out these amazing animals. Bring old shoes that tie or snug boots.*

August 5 & 6, 10:30AM-Noon

Mudflat Safari—*Join us for an excursion on Padilla Bay's mudflat. Bring a jacket and snug boots or shoes that tie.*

Watershed Art and Discovery Day - Saturday, June 18, 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Play, create, and learn all about estuaries and the wonderful creatures that inhabit our local ecosystems through fun interactive exploration and art!

- Create your own estuary collage
- Wildlife stamp making
- Construct your own jellyfish
- Create a miniature wildlife habitat village

Activities and classes will be taught by Artist in Residence, Barbara Summers, and Skagit Conservation Education Alliance staff. Please call the reserve or register online. www.padillabay.gov