

# Padilla Bay Newsletter

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

Summer 2006



**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.

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## Inside

- Foundation and Volunteers .....p. 2
- Presentations for Summer.....p. 3
- Youth Classes .....p. 4
- Harbor Seals in Padilla Bay .....p. 5
- Breazeal House Remodel.....p. 6

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## Nicole Burnett Joins Padilla Bay's Research Team

Researchers welcomed Nicole Burnett to the Padilla Bay staff with a grateful sigh of relief. Her Lab Manager position has been vacant since July, and despite the scrambling of other staff to fill in, work has been piling up.

Besides staying on top of lab equipment and supplies, Nicole will work mainly with the System Wide Monitoring Program, a nationally coordinated program that tracks longterm changes in estuaries around the country. Nicole will manage Padilla Bay's weather station which now supplies real-time data, available online at <http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/QueryPages/du-almmap.cfm>. One click on the website map will give you current temperature, humidity, wind (velocity and direction), light, and rainfall.

Nicole will also be analyzing water samples collected at various monitoring sites each month for nutrients and chlorophyll. In the past, samples have been sent away for analysis, but Nicole will be setting up the Padilla Bay lab for in-house analysis. Data is sent to a central database, and is available at the SWMP website, <http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu>.

Nicole studied at Ohio University and the University of South Carolina where she received a degree in Marine Science. She then earned her Masters in Marine Science at Western Washington University. She lives just north of Ferndale. Welcome, Nicole!





John M. Marzluff and Tony Angell will speak at Padilla Bay Wednesday, June 21

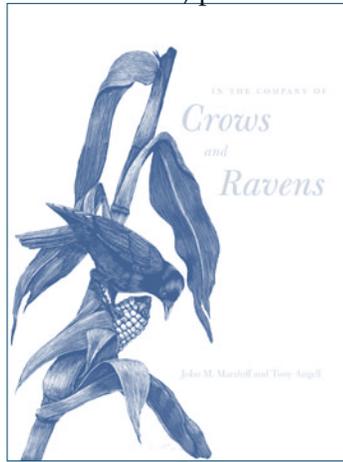
## Crows, Ravens and People: a Fascination with Amazing Birds

From the cave walls at Lascaux to the last painting by Van Gogh, from the works of Shakespeare to those of Mark Twain, there is clear evidence that crows and ravens

influence human culture. Yet these authors also claim the reverse - that people have had an influence on the lives of crows throughout history. The Padilla Bay Foundation offers an evening presentation by authors and illustrator, Tony Angell and John Marzluff. They will speak about their new book, *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*, published by Yale University Press.

John Marzluff is Denman Professor of Sustainable Resource Sciences and professor wildlife science, College of Forest Resource, University of Washington. Tony Angell is a freelance artist and writer on Lopez Island.

**Wednesday, June 21, 7:00PM**  
Scott's Bookstore will have books available for signing.



## Board of Directors Update

We send a fond farewell to active and effective board member, Tom Smith. Tom has served on our board for several years and was instrumental in helping our foundation meet its recent ambitious fund raising goal. Tom has been transferred from his position as Refinery Manager at Shell Puget Sound Refinery in Anacortes to assume managerial duties in Houston. His presence and energy on our board will be missed. Thank you, Tom for all you've contributed!

Long time board member Charles O'Hara has agreed to take Tom's place as Secretary. Charles is with the Office of Planning and Community Development with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. We thank Charles heartily for stepping into the open officer's position.

Three new members have joined the board this year. Steve Bluhm is a resident of Samish Island and an active volunteer in Skagit County. Dave Reed is the manager of Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company, based in Anacortes at March's Point. And newly arrived from Ohio, Sue Krienen is the new manager of the Shell Puget Sound Refinery in Anacortes. Welcome to all of you. We look forward to working together on the many projects coming our way this season.



Padilla Bay Foundation

## How You Can Help

Grassroots involvement is the core of Padilla Bay Foundation's commitment to protect Padilla Bay and support the Padilla Bay Reserve.

Membership in the Foundation means you are contributing directly to environmental education and research right here in Western Washington.

Categories of membership are:

Senior/Student	\$20
Individual	\$30
Family	\$40
School/Organization	\$50+
Supporting	\$60
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

President: Richard Treston  
Vice-president: Gail Smith  
Secretary: Charlie O'Hara  
Treasurer: Deb Canon  
Past-president: Kraig Kemper

Lyn Bishop  
Steve Bluhm  
Paul Dinnel  
Ed Gastellum  
Brian Hanson  
Bobbi Krebs-McMullen  
Sue Krienen  
Cort Liddell  
Patsy Martin  
Ralph Munro  
Dave Reed  
Terry Stevens - Advisory Member  
Kay Reinhardt - Administrator



**Padilla Bay**

National Estuarine Research Reserve

# Summer Events

Presentations for June, July, and August 2006

## Padilla Bay by Kayak

There is no better way to see Padilla Bay. Enjoy a day of paddling along the shores of the bay with an Island Outfitters guide and a Padilla Bay naturalist. No experience necessary, just come with a lunch, water bottle, and warm clothing (rain gear, non-cotton layers, hat). Minimum age is 12, with people under 18 accompanied by a parent. Please meet at 10:30 at Bay View State Park. Fee is \$65 per person for a 5 hour trip, with proceeds benefitting the Padilla Bay Foundation. **Call Island Outfitters at 299-2300 to register. June 3, June 17, July 8, and August 5.**

## Summer Singing – Birding by Ear

Summer tropical migrants are all here, raising their young and guarding the home territory. Join naturalist, Libby Mills, for a morning of watching and listening for birds around Padilla Bay. Perfect for beginners and experts alike. Wear warm, outdoor clothing, and pack binoculars, field guides, and snack or lunch. Each class limited to 15 participants. Please call to register or use our website. **Sunday, June 11 and Monday, June 12, 7:30-11:30.** (The singing starts early!)

## Great Blue Herons of Padilla Bay

March's Point on the west shore of Padilla Bay boasts one of the largest heron nesting colonies known, with about 300 active nests. This year, a group of volunteers with Leadership Skagit mounted a video camera in the colony, allowing live viewing of nesting behavior. Join Brenda Cunningham of the Skagit Land Trust for an update on the colony and a close up look at the live video image. **Sunday, June 11, 1:00-2:00.** Please call or register online.



## Crows, Ravens and People: a Fascination with Amazing Birds

Artist/writer, Tony Angell and writer, John Marzluff will be talking about their new book, *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*. See



article at left for details about this unforgettable opportunity. **Wednesday, June 21, 7:00PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

## Science in the National Parks

Scientists studying in Northwest national park areas, exploring topics from forest carnivores and glaciers to archeology and gene flow in tailed frogs, will report on their research at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center June 23 and 24. Come and hear the latest in research findings from North Cascades, Mount Rainier, and Olympic National Parks, San Juan Island National Historical Park, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, and more. **Friday, June 23, from 9:00AM to 3:00PM and Saturday, June 24 from 9:30AM to 3:00PM.** For a complete schedule of presentation, see Padilla Bay's website.

## Charging Critters in Watercolor

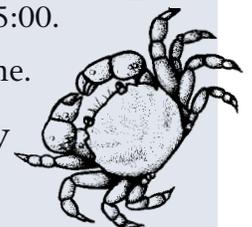
Join local artist and naturalist, Roxanne Grinstad for this fun watercolor class painting seashore animals. Learn techniques for capturing the texture and shape of animals and plants of Padilla Bay. Bring a watercolor set, assorted brushes, several 9x12 sheets of watercolor paper and a water container. Great for both beginners and experienced painters. **Saturday, July 8, 1:00-3:00.** Please call or register online.

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

Register online or by phone.

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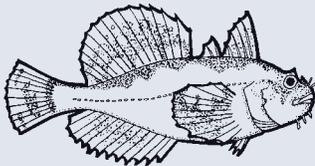


## Mud Flat Safaris

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. **June 28 from 12:30-2:30, July 7 from 10:00-12:00, July 26 from 12:30-2:30, August 9 from 10:00-12:00, and August 22 from 10:00-12:00.**

## 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. **June 30 at 10:30, July 1 at 10:30, July 15 at 11:30, August 4 at 11:00, and August 26 at 10:00.**



## Films and Videos:

### Sundays at 1:00 & 4:00

June	4	The Rivers (54 min)	
	11	Heron Cove (60 min)	
	18	The Natural Forest (23m)	
	25	Seasons in the Sea (55 min)	
	July	2	Creating Future for People/ Salmon
July	9	Pacific Estuaries (28 min)	
	16	Owls Up Close (55 min)	
	23	Secrets of the Salt Marsh (20 min)	
	30	Search for the Giant Squid (60 min)	
	August	6	Padilla Bay (20 min)
	13	Yellowlegs, Eelgrass, Tidelats (60 m)	
	20	Forage Fish/Tiny Tails of Survival (29)	
	27	Estuary! (15 min)	



## 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.

June 28 & 29, 10:00 & 1:00  
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.*

July 12 & 13, 10:00 & 1:00  
Mud Flat Safari—*Head for the mud to see what lives beneath the tide in Padilla Bay. Come with a jacket and snug boots or old shoes that tie for this trek to the beach.*

August 23 & 24, 10:00 & 1:00  
Amazing Amphipods—*Often called beach hoppers or sand fleas, these common critters can certainly hop in the sand. Let's go collecting and see how important the little things are.*



**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.

June 23 & 24, 1:00-2:30  
Mud Flat Safari—*This is our exciting annual trip to Padilla Bay's mud flat. There's no better way to experience the bay! Bring a jacket and snug boots or old shoes that tie.*

July 14 & 15, 1:00-2:30  
Wiggling 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 a jacket and snug boots or old shoes that tie.*



August 11 & 12, 1:00-2:30  
Bivalve Bash - *Come meet (and eat) the 2-shelled critters of Padilla Bay. We'll be going to the beach, so be ready for mud (snug boots or old shoes that tie.)*



## Harbor Seals in Marine Reserves

by Leslie Hill



Marine reserves, areas where fishing and other harvesting activities are banned, are becoming a popular management tool used to conserve marine biodiversity and to manage fisheries. After an area is protected from fishing, there tends to be rapid increases in abundance and average size of fish species.

Adria Banks is currently a Masters of Science Candidate in the Biology Department/Marine and Estuarine Science Program at Western Washington University. Her graduate advisor is Dr. Alejandro Acevedo-Gutiérrez. Before enrolling at WWU, she received a BS in Zoology from the University of Washington. Adria's research is partially funded by a Padilla Bay Research Assistantship in Estuarine Science and Coastal Zone Management.

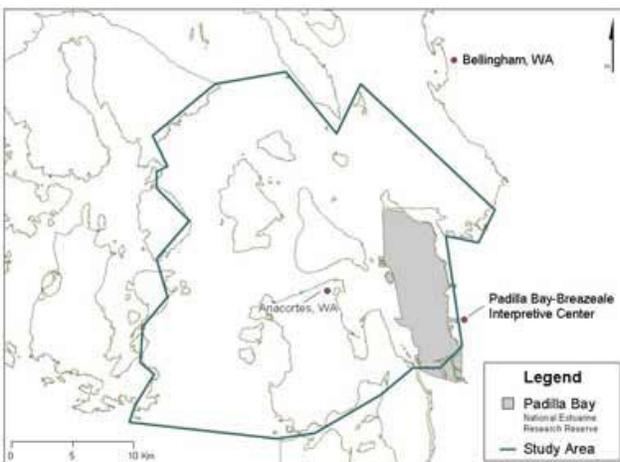
Due to the increase in size and quantity of prey species in protected sites, one would expect predators to respond by increasing their feeding in these areas. Yet, there is a lack of information regarding the responses of top marine predators to these areas of higher fish abundance.

Currently, eight marine reserve sites are being considered in Skagit County for management of bottomfish - including rockfish and lingcod - whose numbers have decreased significantly since the 1980s. Rockfish and lingcod are also known to be important prey of harbor seals, the most widely distributed and abundant pinniped in Washington State. These predators, therefore, have great potential to affect local fish stocks in the San Juan Islands and surrounding waters.

Adria Banks, a Masters student at Western Washington University, is researching the abundance of harbor seals in the area and their response to prey distribution. This project aims to answer the following questions: 1) What is the current abundance of harbor seals in and around Skagit County candidate marine reserves, including Padilla Bay? 2) Does harbor seal abundance vary seasonally or annually in the study area? 3) Do harbor seals respond to differing prey distributions on a small spatial scale (less than 1 km)?

Adria is using airplane and boat-based surveys and scan sampling from land to count and observe seals in the area shown on the map. SCUBA divers measure bottomfish density three times a month.

The answers to these questions will set the stage for continued monitoring of these sites after protected status has been awarded and will increase our understanding of fine-scale predator-prey dynamics that should be considered in marine reserve design.





### Breazeale House Remodel

The dust has settled, contractors have gone, and staff are back in the Breazeale House. Fresh paint, new windows, insulation, and an efficient furnace have made the office space more comfortable and much more energy efficient. A new data network, energy efficient lighting, and moving a few closet walls made it more usable. But the farm house charm and the view out the windows still remind us of the Breazeale family. Edna Breazeale had the house built in 1949 for her brothers, Fred and Marcelus and their mother, Anna. Edna lived there after her retirement from teaching in 1959 until her death in 1987.

### Check Inside for the Summer Activity Schedule:

- Presentations
- Mini Explorers
- Junior Ecologists
- Films



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Breazeale Interpretive Center  
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