

Padilla Bay Newsletter

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

Autumn 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.

Padilla Bay Foundation
PO Box 1305
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 757-3234

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Publication No. 06-06-007

Join the Skagit Stream Team

Skagit County is blessed with a myriad of streams, lakes, and rivers. Not only are these waterways our source for drinking water, but we also use them for irrigation, agriculture, industry, hydroelectric dams, and recreation.



The Skagit Stream Team is once again looking for a few good folks to monitor the quality of water in the Samish and Skagit River watersheds. Teams of 3 to 4 people check a stream's temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and depth once a month. Samples are then brought back to the Padilla Bay lab where another volunteer tests for fecal coliform and turbidity. The goal is to collect 9 months of accurate water quality data to share with interested agencies. The program provides hands-on learning about natural systems, land-use impacts, and stream/estuary health.

Orientation and training will be at the Interpretive Center on:
Wednesday, September 6th, from 6:00-8:30PM,
Thursday, September 7th, from 6:00-8:30PM
Saturday, September 9th from 9:00AM-3:00PM

If you'd like to volunteer or have any questions, call David Henry at Padilla Bay (360-428-1080), or Kristi Carpenter at the Skagit Conservation District (360-428-4313).



Note: Volunteers must be 18 or older, attend the September training, and commit one day a month through June '07.

Padilla Bay Foundation News

More Changes for the Foundation Board

The Padilla Bay Foundation Board bids farewell to Steve Bluhm. Though leaving the board, he will continue his valuable help as volunteer to the Reserve in grant writing. Heartfelt thanks to Steve for his contributions to the board while he served.

Two new members have joined the Board of Directors. Tim Manns recently retired after 34 years with the National Park Service. After assignments at Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Zion National Parks along with several historical areas in the eastern US, he was Chief Interpreter for North Cascades National Park. He is a long-time volunteer with Skagit Literacy and with the Skagit Land Trust, where his wife, Brenda Cunningham, is the Director of Stewardship.

Tom Richards has a background in marine science and oceanography. He served as a commissioned officer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for 28 years, concentrating on hydrography and nautical charting. He has been at sea in the Pacific, in Alaskan and California coastal waters, along the east coast, the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, and in the northeast Atlantic. After retiring in 1997, he worked as a consultant based at NOAA's Sand Point Regional Center on Lake Washington. He hasn't left the water, yet. He has his eye on a new small boat which he plans to moor at Cap Sante Marina in Anacortes.

Welcome Tim and Tom!

Foundation Members Day Saturday, September 9

Come and celebrate a successful year of support for the Padilla Bay Reserve. The Board of Directors would like to thank all members with a Saturday morning coffee, tea and pastries reception at the Reserve.

The event will feature a welcome by the Board of Directors, thanking members for their unfailing help in the 'Benefactors For The Bay' capital fundraising campaign. Then, Glen 'Alex' Alexander will be host and chef in the theater and classroom with estuary film, critters under the microscopes, and his famous Estuary Soup! You will be invited to view facility improvements and make your way over to the new research laboratory for a half-hour guided tour by Suzanne Shull. Suzanne is Padilla Bay's GIS mapping specialist under the research & monitoring program. Mark this day on your calendars and be looking for an invitation by mail soon. RSVP is requested. Members Day is Saturday, September 9 from 10:00 - 12:00.

Not a member? Come to Members Day and find out what it's all about. Or visit the Foundation website at www.padillabay.gov/npfriends.asp.

Padilla Bay Foundation
foundation@padillabay.gov
(360) 757-3234



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
Paul Dinnel
Ed Gastellum
Brian Hanson
Bobbi Krebs-McMullen
Sue Krienen
Cort Liddell
Tim Manns
Patsy Martin
Ralph Munro
Dave Reed
Tom Richards
Terry Stevens - Advisory Member
Kay Reinhardt - Administrator



Padilla Bay

National Estuarine Research Reserve

Summer Events

Presentations for September, October and November 2006

Padilla Bay by Kayak

There is no better way to see Padilla Bay. Enjoy paddling along the shores of the bay with an Island Outfitters guide and a Padilla Bay naturalist. No experience necessary. Minimum age is 12, with people under 18 accompanied by a parent. Please meet at 10:30 at the Padilla Bay Reserve for a brief orientation, with launching from Bay View State Park. Fee is \$65 per person, with proceeds benefitting the Padilla Bay Foundation. **Call Island Outfitters at 299-2300 for information and to register. Saturday, September 9, 10:30.**

Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, an organization dedicated to building awareness, appreciation, and respect for public recreation areas, is partnering with People for Puget Sound, Island Outfitters and Padilla Bay Reserve to promote responsible environmental stewardship. Come join Suburu/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers, North Moench and Ella Goodbrod, to learn more about responsible recreation. All who recreate in the outdoors are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 1-800-332-4100 or visit www.LNT.org. **Tuesday, September 26, 7:00.**

Birds in Video

Bob Hamblin has been doing video photography since 1982. His presentation is the result of over 50,000 miles of travel around the US observing and photographing birds, including rare and endangered species and unusual color morphs. Footage from Bob's project will be used in the production of a new Digital Video series identifying 600 species of North American birds. **Saturday, October 7, 1:00-2:30.** Please call or register online.

Owls Outback

To some cultures they are symbols of wisdom, while to others they are harbingers of doom and death. Join wildlife biologist David Drummond for a close look at these exceptional birds. This slide presentation will explore the cultural mythology, biology, ecology, field identification, and calls of local owls. **Sunday, October 15, 1:00-2:30.** Please call or register online.

Fall Bird Songs

Though the wild summer singing is done, fall is a great time to focus on newly arrived migrants and those persistent locals that stay through the winter. Join naturalist, Libby Mills, for a morning of watching and listening for birds around Padilla Bay. We'll begin near the Interpretive Center and end up carpooling to local spots on the Skagit Flats. 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. **Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21, 8:30-12:30.**

Early Settlers of Padilla Bay

Just where was Padilla? Who homesteaded at the mouth of Joe Leary Slough? Can you picture hotels in Bay View? Local historian and editor of the Skagit River Journal of History & Folklore, Noel Bourasaw will share stories and photos from early settlements around Padilla Bay from Fidalgo Island to Samish Island. This interactive presentation includes audience participation, so descendants of original settlers and "old-timers" are especially welcome. For a taste of local history, check The Journal website at www.stumpranchonline.com/skagitjournal/. **Saturday, October 21, 1:00-2:30.** Please call or register online.

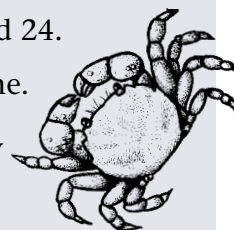
The Breazeale Interpretive Center is open
Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00-5:00.

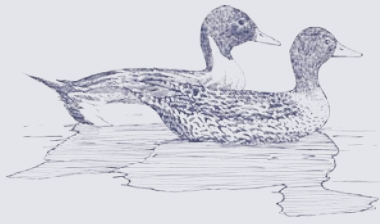
Closed November 10, 23, and 24.

Register online or by phone.

www.padillabay.gov

(360) 428-1558





Wildlife Cruise on the Island Express

Join us this year aboard the 65 foot Island Express II, a wonderful viewing platform for wintering birds and marine mammals. Sailing from Skyline Marina in Anacortes, we will look for the marine birds of the rocky shores and deep waters in Rosario Strait; the Brant Geese, Loons and Shorebirds of Padilla Bay's eelgrass meadow; and the raptors and swans of the Skagit Flats along the Swinomish Channel. The boat is enclosed and heated, with a spacious outdoor deck. Hot beverages and snacks will be available. The \$45 plus tax cost of this 4 hour cruise includes a donation to the Padilla Bay Foundation. **12:00 departure, Sunday, October 29.** Meet at 11:00 at the Island Adventures store at 1801 Commercial Ave., Anacortes. You may visit the Island Adventures website at www.island-adventures.com for more information. To register, contact Island Adventures at 800-465-4604.

Videos: Sundays at 1:00 & 4:00

September	3	Inland Sea: Puget Sound Fish Story 12
	10	The Return of the Salmon (30 min)
	17	Winged Migration (85 min)
	24	Puget Sound: Heritage at Risk (27 m)
October	1	The Worlds Below (40 min)
	8	Life at the Edge of the Sea (60)
	15	Owls Up Close (55 min)
	22	Return of the Plankton (27 min)
	29	Eyewitness Ocean (35 min)
November	5	Padilla Bay (20 min)
	12	Fabulous Wetlands (7 min)
	19	When the Salmon Runs Dry (60 m)
	26	Estuary! (15 min)



Nature Poetry Workshop

This year's workshop will feature Port Townsend poet and teacher, Lorraine Ferra. Lorraine has worked as a writer in residence since 1979, teaching in Utah, Washington, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Her poems, prose, translations, and critical reviews have appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies. She is the author of *Eating Bread*, a collection of poems, and *A Crow Doesn't Need a Shadow: A Guide to Writing Poetry From Nature*. She is founder and director of Wordtracks, a nature-based creative writing program for children and adults. **Saturday, September 16, 9:00-5:00.** There is a \$20 fee for this program. Please go to www.padillabay.gov or contact the reserve for registration information.

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 13 & 14, 10:00 & 1:00
 Food Chain—*Who's eating whom in the estuary? Come and find out with stories, songs and activities.*

October 11 & 12, 10:00 & 1:00
 Cider Pressing—*Turn the crank and enjoy a fall day in the Breazeale family orchard. Don't forget warm clothes!*

November 15 & 16, 10:00 & 1:00
 Fabulous Fishes—*Estuaries like Padilla Bay are important places for many kinds of fish, especially when they are young. Come and learn all about our finned friends.*

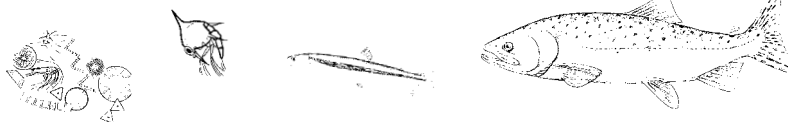
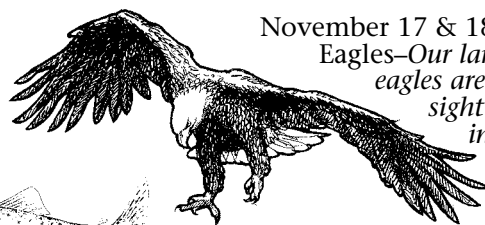
Junior Ecologists are 6-9 year olds who have fun exploring the estuary. Excursions to the beach, science experiments, games, art projects, and studying life in the bay—this program is guaranteed fun! Call the Interpretive Center or register online.

September 15 & 16, 1:00-2:30
 Wild about Water—*Wet, wonderful, wild water. We'll experiment and play and see how to take care of the water we can't live without.*

October 13 & 14, 1:00-2:30
 Cider Pressing—*Spend a fall afternoon out in the orchard, and learn about the Breazeale family farm.*

November 17 & 18, 1:00-2:30
 Eagles—*Our largest raptors, eagles are a common sight at Padilla Bay in the winter.*

Find out more about why the estuary is one of the eagle's favorite places)



Low Moore Named New Northwest Straits Commission Director

The Northwest Straits Commission has named Lew Moore as its new Director, replacing Tom Cowan, who recently retired. Moore, a resident of Everett, served as the chief of staff of Congressman Jack Metcalf, and was the co-facilitator of the bipartisan Murray-Metcalf panel that created the Commission.



“We are excited to have Lew Moore as our new Director,” said Commission Chair Duane Fagergren. “He was a key player in the founding of the Commission and understands the unique role we play in north Puget Sound protection.”

The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative was a result of the work of a diverse panel convened in 1997 by Senator Patty Murray (D) and then Congressman Jack Metcalf (R). This federally funded program takes a “bottom-up” approach to protecting and restoring the marine resources of the Northwest Straits. It blends well-founded science with grassroots consensus building through the actions of seven marine resources committees (MRCs). These groups are citizen-based, with representatives from the scientific community, local and tribal governments, and economic, recreational and conservation interests.

The thirteen member Northwest Straits Commission supports the MRCs by funding their volunteer efforts, insuring a scientific ecosystem focus, and undertaking regional projects. Projects undertaken by the Commission and the MRCs include removing abandoned gill nets and crab pots from Puget Sound, conducting nearshore habitat surveys, planting native Olympia oysters, and removing creosote logs from beaches.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to help continue the cooperative, action-based work of the Commission, stated Moore. “We will continue to work with local communities to take specific measures to improve the health of the beautiful waters we live by.” Moore joins Project Specialist, Sasha Horst, and Marine Program Coordinator, Ginny Broadhurst in newly remodeled offices in the Breazeale House.

For more information visit www.nwstraits.org

Teachers! EstuaryLive by Internet

EstuaryLive will kick off the 2006 National Estuaries Day celebration on September 29, 2006 by offering free live Internet field trips to four different estuaries around the country. Designed as interactive field trips for classrooms, this program can be viewed by anyone, anywhere in the US! Join a field trip and teach by experiencing the nation's coasts – without ever leaving your school. See www.estuaries.gov/elive or call Alex at (360) 428-1070 for more information.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
a marine conservation initiative

Puget Sound Kids Day September 23



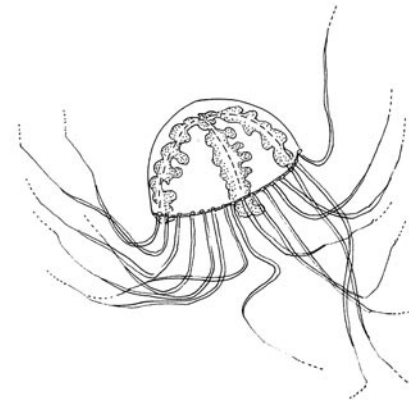
Since 1992 Padilla Bay has been helping kids and parents celebrate Puget Sound with its annual Kids Day celebration. The event has been a favorite from the start, and each year a wonderful group of energetic volunteers and staff brings activities, songs, door prizes, treats, and t-shirt printing to over 100 children.

Padilla Bay will be celebrating Kids Day on **September 23 from 1:00-3:00**. We need adult and high school volunteers to make it all happen, so call the Interpretive Center to help out, invite your friends and family, bring a T-shirt to decorate, and come celebrate this great Puget Sound.

Kids Day is a program of People for Puget Sound, a non-profit citizens' group working to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits through education and action. Their vision is a clean and healthy Sound, teeming with fish and wildlife, cared for by people who live here.

Check Inside for the Autumn Activity Schedule:

- Presentations
- Mini Explorers
- Junior Ecologists
- Films



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