

# Padilla Bay Newsletter

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

Winter 2013-2014



**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.

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

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10441 Bay View-Edison Road  
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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](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).

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## Make the Switch

You'll notice a change with this issue of the Padilla Bay Newsletter. Short and sweet, we've included basic information about our Padilla Bay Foundation, and information about upcoming programs and presentations. 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 will then take you to Padilla Bay's website with the full story and details about programs and program registration. Sign up for the new newsletter on our website at [www.padillabay.gov](http://www.padillabay.gov) and click "Newsletter," or call the Interpretive Center at (360) 428-1558.



## Welcome to New AmeriCorps Staff

Brooke Bannerman is the new research and monitoring WCC/AmeriCorps at Padilla Bay! She was born and raised in Bellingham, WA. Brooke graduated from Western Washington University in June 2013 with a B.S. in Environmental Science, emphasis in Marine Ecology. She worked on a Bull trout study at Ross Lake, North Cascades National Park after graduating. Brooke's favorite hobbies are snowboarding, mountain biking, fishing, camping, hiking and soccer.

Patrick Barnes is the new facilities and operations corps member. Born in central New York state, he received a degree in Physics from Hamilton College in 2011. After graduation, he had opportunity to travel to Florida for an internship with the US Fish and Wildlife service. Since then, he has spent his time travelling and working as a field and lab technician, and can't wait to explore Washington.

Anna-Mai Christmas is the newest member to hold the education assistant position. Originally from the Caribbean island of Dominica, she recently completed her Masters degree in Environmental Science with a focus in Invertebrate Behavior from Western Washington University. Though she comes in with a strong research background, she is excited to incorporate her scientific knowledge into environmental education.



## 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

President: Jude Apple  
 Vice-president: Glenda Alm  
 Secretary: Paul Dinnel  
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 Gail Smith  
 Rebecca Spurling  
 Tom Woodard  
 Sylvia Yang

Terry Stevens - Advisory Member  
 Kay Reinhardt - Administrator

Board meetings are held at 5:30pm each 3rd Monday of the month.

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



## Presentations for December, January, and February 2013-14

### Raptor Class

The Skagit Flats are nationally recognized for their hundreds of wintering birds of prey. This class will teach about different kinds of raptors, emphasizing field identification and the particularly fascinating element of winter behavior. Instructor Bud Anderson has studied raptors for over 35 years, and has an incredible knowledge of local populations and peregrine falcons. This 5 week class meets Tuesdays from 7:00-9:00PM beginning January 7, with a Saturday field trip. The class fee is \$175 per person. To register, send check or money order to the Falcon Research Group, PO Box 248, Bow, WA 98232.



### Introduction to Hawks of the Skagit

Learn to recognize the most common species in our area with raptor biologist and falcon aficionado, Bud Anderson. A slide presentation from 9:00-11:00 will introduce you to raptor biology, field characteristics, and common behaviors. The afternoon field trip runs until around 2:00 and is limited to 15 participants. **Saturday, January 4, 9:00-11:00.** Register online or by phone. There is a separate registration for the field trip.

### 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, January 18, 11:00.** No need to register. Just join us in the aquarium room at 11:00.

### Treetops to Truffles

New research is exposing an amazing subterranean connection between mushrooms and trees where both are dependent on the other. Come explore this relationship as well as other fascinating aspects of forest ecology. David Drummond, Merlin Falcon Foundation Biologist will present major tree species field ID, habitat zones, human connections, and representative wildlife found in woodlands of the Olympics and on both sides of the Cascade/Coast mountains. Get ready for your spring adventuring! **Saturday, February 1, 1:00-2:30.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

**Swans in the Skagit Valley** The swan as a mythical creature goes back to the earliest human cultures. Each year, the Skagit is the winter home of thousands of swans that nest in the arctic. Swan biologist, Martha Jordan will present swan mythology and life history, as well as current issues and tips for finding and observing swans without disturbing them. **Saturday, February 15, 1:00-2:30.** Please call or register online.



photo: USFWS

### Winter Birding

Don't let the short, cool days of winter keep you inside! Libby Mills will lead beginners and experts alike, listening and watching for winter's birds. We'll find tough little songbirds who stay through the worst of weather and the "big guys"—the raptors and waterfowl who know that winter is the best time to be here. Bring warm and dry layers, a snack, and maybe a hot thermos. Scopes are handy. Binoculars are available for those who need them. We'll meet at the Interpretive Center and carpool. **Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23, 8:30-12:30.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

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

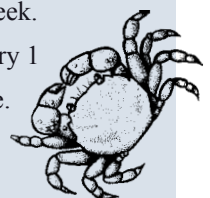
Staff are available 7 days a week.

Closed December 25 & January 1

Register online or by phone.

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(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.

### December 11 & 12, 10:00 & 1:00

Wrack and Wreath—*Come and sift through treasures left by the waves and create wonderful holiday decorations.*

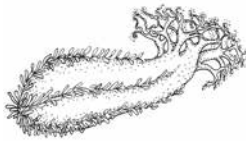
### January 15 & 16, 10:00 & 1:00

Stars of the Sea—*Meet a sea star face to face and find out all about these colorful creatures and their spiny friends.*



### February 12 & 13, 10:00 & 1:00

High Tide, Low Tide - *Life's not so easy for estuary animals when the water goes away. Find out what animals and plants do to cope with the changing tide.*



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.

### December 13 & 14, 10:30-12:00

Wrack and Wreath – *Awaken your inner artist and create wonderful holiday decorations using natural treasures from Padilla Bay.*

### January 10 & 11, 10:30-12:00

Echinoderms: the Sea Star Clan—*Stars, urchins, cucumbers and more, these relatives have amazing secrets to share.*



### February 21 & 22, 10:30-12:00

Hawk Watch - *Learn about all the hawks that live in the Skagit Valley. Bring coat, hat, and binoculars if you have them—or borrow ours.*



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