

Padilla Bay Newsletter

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

Spring 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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**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
PO Box 1305
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
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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.

Publication No. 16-06-005

The Coastal Volunteer Partnership at Padilla Bay Welcomes New Coordinator, Samantha Russell

Six weeks after graduating from Huxley College of the Environment at Western Washington University, Samantha Russell started a three year adventure as a Peace Corps Volunteer on a small island in Fiji. She worked in a small village on an integrated “ridge to reef” approach to environmental conservation- implementing projects such as a composting pig pen, tilapia fish ponds, restoration work with mangroves, coral planting and sea cucumber propagation. Her main focus was to educate and build capacity within the community to improve environmental resource management skills.

Always up for an adventure, Samantha is an outdoor enthusiast and loves to travel. She has traveled to 5 Continents and 16 countries with plans to visit many more. Samantha has worked as a substitute teacher, aquatic invasive species boat inspector, algae technician, research assistant, photographer, barista, and blueberry picker. Outside of work at Padilla Bay, you can find Samantha camping, mushroom hunting, kayaking, or exploring with her dog Wynn, always with coffee in hand.

Samantha loves the Pacific Northwest and is dedicated to supporting the volunteerism that restores and preserves the Salish Sea. She is excited to be the new Program Coordinator for the Coastal Volunteer Partnership and looks forward to working with you at an event soon!





New Padilla Bay Volunteer of the Month Award

Did you know that more than 40 volunteers gave over 1,000 hours of volunteer service to Padilla Bay in 2015? While volunteers are priceless, there is a way to put a numerical value on their contributions. The National Hourly Volunteer Rate values one hour of volunteer service at \$23.07. Washington's Volunteer Rate of \$27.54 is one of the highest in the country. Volunteers offered \$23,000-\$29,000 worth of time supporting our programs and services in 2015!

To acknowledge the immense contribution of our volunteers, Padilla Bay has initiated a new "Volunteer of the Month" award. This honor will be awarded to the volunteer who gave the most service hours to Padilla Bay Reserve in the previous month. Our first awardee is a dedicated volunteer and a Padilla Bay Foundation board member, Anne Middleton. Anne began volunteering at Padilla Bay when she retired from teaching in LaConner. Anne says her reason for coming back year after year is because, "It is so fun to still be able to work with students — one of my main volunteering activities. Seeing students' faces as they hold a shore crab for the first time, or walk into the oozy tide flats in pursuit of digging for a sand worm, is what it's all about! The Reserve is giving our next generation of Salish Sea stewards some of their first estuary hands-on experiences. I love helping the creative, dedicated teaching staff!"

Many thanks to Anne, and all of our wonderful Padilla Bay volunteers!

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.

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 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

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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) |
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Padilla Bay

National Estuarine Research Reserve

Spring Events

Presentations for March, April, and May 2016

Spring Birding by Ear

There's no better time of year to learn to identify birds by sound as well as sight. In April, the early migrants and local residents are well established. By late May, everyone is here, loudly competing for airtime. Join naturalist, Libby Mills, listening and looking for spring birds around Padilla Bay. Be prepared for a **slow** walk around the reserve uplands. (Bring warm clothes and a warm drink. You may want a lightweight folding chair.) Binoculars and field guides are available at the Interpretive Center. Meet in the Padilla Bay parking lot. **Sunday, April 17 and Saturday, May 28, 8:00AM-12:00PM.** Please call to register.

Ecology of Northwest Native Trees

Join us for a NEW class on an old favorite! Wildlife biologist, David Drummond, director of the Merlin Falcon Foundation, will share the latest research on our northwest forests and trees. We will begin by learning the local families and species of conifers and deciduous trees from lowlands, foothills and up onto the Cascade and Olympic mountain slopes both east and west of the crest. We will focus on life zones and "communities" and will use field guides, reference books, online references and field experience. The 2-part class will also consider the many challenges of forest survival: avalanches, wind throw, insect infestation, fire, disease and root/fungal interactions with neighbors. You are welcome to attend one or both sessions.

Saturday April 16 and Saturday April 23, 1:00-2:30PM.

Please call to register.



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, May 7, 11:00AM.** No need to register. Just join us in the aquarium room at 11:00AM.

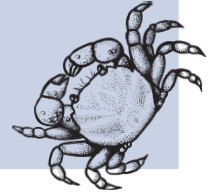
The Breazeale Interpretive Center is open to the public Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00-5:00.

Staff are available 7 days a week.

Call to register.

(360) 428-1558

www.padillabay.gov



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.

Friends of Skagit Beaches Lecture Series

Coming up this spring at the Northwest Educational Service District 189 Building, 1601 R Ave, Anacortes, these lectures are free and open to the public.

March 18, 7:00PM. Sea Otters: a Natural History, Jan Watson, Ph. D. Department of Biology, Vancouver Island University.

April 8, 7:00PM. Restoration of the Elwha River and its Estuary, Ian Miller, Ph. D. Coastal Hazards Specialist, Peninsula College, Port Angeles, WA.

Check the Friends of Skagit Beaches website for more information: www.skagitbeaches.org.

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 2 weeks before program to register.

March 16 & 17, 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Estuary Babies—Padilla Bay is home to all kinds of animals when they are young. We'll look at tiny plankton and try to match up parents with their babies.



April 13 & 14, 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Awesome Algae—Sometimes green, sometimes red or brown, algae offers food and shelter to estuary animals.

May 11 & 12, 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Amazing Amphipods—Here's one of the most important critters in the estuary food web. Sometimes called beach hoppers, these teeny crab-cousins are fun to catch -- especially if you're a fish! Bring a jacket for the beach.



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 2 weeks before program to register.



March 18 & 19, 10:30-12:00AM

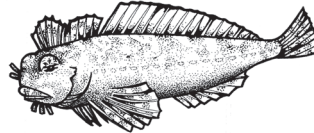
Eagles—Our largest raptors, eagles are a common sight at Padilla Bay in the winter. Find out more about why the estuary is one of the eagle's favorite places.

April 15 & 16, 10:30-12:00AM

Fantastic Fish—From a fancy-finned sculpin to sleek-as-a-snake gunnels, Padilla Bay's fish are full of surprises.

May 27 & 28, 10:30-12:00AM

Trees—Celebrate spring and explore the forests above the Interpretive Center. We'll see how important trees are for animals, clean water, clean air, and people.



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