



Padilla Bay Newsletter

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

Spring 2018



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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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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Welcome to Our New Education Specialist

Though new to the position, educator Chandler Colahan is no stranger to Padilla Bay. Since 2011, Chandler has helped thousands of school children, parents, and teachers become acquainted with the excitement and mystery of Padilla Bay's mudflats and

eelgrass meadow. She's worked here as a seasonal educator for seven years, joining us for the busy spring and fall field trip seasons.

Chandler earned a BA degree in Ocean Science, Education, and Creative Expression from Western Washington University, Fairhaven College. She's taught kids at Moran Outdoor School on Orcas Island, managed passengers and crew on ships along the Northwest Coast, and counted jellyfish from a small plane. She's shared her passion for marine wildlife and the Salish Sea ecosystem aboard boats in the San Juan Islands, analyzed plankton in the lab, and taught watershed science and conservation in Moro Bay, CA. Whether the topic is Orca whales, surf scoters, tiny jellyfish or keeping streams clean and cool, Chandler has deep knowledge and teaching experience. Ask her about bioluminescence and her eyes light up like phytoplankton stirred by a kayak paddle.

Chandler will continue teaching classes and school programs. She will assist and coordinate Padilla Bay's volunteers, and can be found greeting visitors at the interpretive center on Saturdays. So stop in to say, "hello." We're delighted to finally have Chandler onboard as a permanent member of the education team, and look forward to exciting estuary education adventures in the coming years.

Swimming with Glass Jellies

Come see three new colorful and elegant jellyfish in our exhibits! Don't look in the aquariums however; our new 'jellies' are hand crafted glass light fixtures that brighten up the Hands-on Room.

These unique marine art lamps were commissioned and donated by Andrew House. Brad and Annabelle Fox and Andrew were also kind enough to carefully install these fragile glass 'creatures.' During our darker winter days, these curving glass jellyfish add an especially warm glow of color above the reading nook!



Third Sunday Upland Trail Nature Walks

Curious about native (or invasive) plants growing in natural spaces? Can't distinguish a cedar from a fir? Wondering what's blooming in the forest and meadows of the Padilla Bay region seasonally? Contemplating which natives make sense for your home garden?

Join professional horticulturist and volunteer walk leader, Robin Haglund and other plant-curious cohorts every third Sunday from March-October 2018 at 10am for a series of informal walks through the upland forests and meadows of the Padilla Bay Reserve and Breazeale Interpretive Center. Together we will expand our understanding of the flora and fauna that inhabit and contribute to the delicate balance here where the uplands connect to the Salish Sea. Each month nature will reveal new wonders, so put these FREE explorations into your calendar now. Grab a camera and join us to get outside where the wild things are! Children with accompanying parents are welcome, as are friendly, leashed dogs.

Meet the group under the upland trail arch, near the upper parking lot. **March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, 10:00AM.** 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 17, 7:00PM. Sounds in the Salish Sea, Scott Veirs, Ph. D., Oceanographer, President Beam Reach Marine Science & Sustainability School, Seattle, WA

April 21, 7:00PM. Exploring the Salish Sea Floor, Gary Greene, Ph. D. Marine Geologist, Director Moss Landing Marine Labs, Tomolo Mapping Lab, Orcas Island, WA

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



Become a Foundation Member

You can support education and research at Padilla Bay through an annual Padilla Bay Foundation membership. Your donation makes a difference!

Endowment Fund

Did you know the Padilla Bay Foundation has an endowment fund? To learn more about how your gift can last far into the future, check the Skagit Community Foundation's website at www.skagitcf.org.

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Presentations for March, April, and May 2018

Primo Plants for Potent Pollinators of All Kinds



Whether you garden in containers on a balcony or on a larger plot of land, adding plants for pollinators not only helps the environment and promotes better edible harvests, but it also ensures your garden is filled with beautiful flowers and fantastic fragrance day and night. Plus, pollinators – from bees to butterflies, birds to bats, frogs to beetles & more – provide nonstop outdoor entertainment and may even help with pest control and pruning! Join award-winning garden designer pioneering garden coach Robin Haglund of Garden Mentors® to learn how to develop a gorgeous garden with year-round interest plants that pollinators simply can't resist.

Saturday, March 10, 10:00am. Register online or call the Interpretive Center.

Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants

Come and experience a burst of spring growth. 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 wet and chilly, so dress appropriately. A notebook and pencil are useful. This 2 hour class is offered twice. **Friday, March 23 & Saturday March 24 2:00-4:00PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

Spring Birding by Ear

There's no better time of year to learn how to identify birds by sound as well as sight. In March, the early migrants and local residents are setting up territory. By late April, the crowd is 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. **Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14, 8:00AM-12:00PM.** Please register online or 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 April 28, 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 Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00-5:00.

Call or register online.

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Retire into Your Garden with Ease

As we age, the simple gardening tasks of our youth may now become daunting chores. Learning to plan, design, build and maintain simpler gardens and gardening lifestyles can still mean you have gorgeous, enjoyable outdoor spaces. Learn about great tools for debilitated or aging bodies, easy-care plants that add WOW!, and other tips for less-aches-more-ahhs in your garden. Whether you're young or old, a veteran gardener or the newly aspiring green thumb who just wants easier ways to garden, you'll enjoy this class. Robin Haglund is an award-winning designer, an engaging speaker, a gardening television writer and the founder of Garden Mentors®. She is also a Padilla Bay volunteer! **Friday, May 25, 10:00am.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

Songbirds of Your Backyard and Beyond - Part III

Before most of us are out of bed, birds are up and singing. They are busily claiming a territory, finding a mate, building a nest, feeding the family and defending their space. David Drummond, wildlife biologist/naturalist will teach this two-session, in-depth class about Passiformes or perching birds. He will cover field ID, habitats, range, breeding and behaviors of seven Northwest families of 18 species of the less vocal, but very intriguing behavioral ecology aspects. We will learn about: doves, pigeons, nighthawks, kingfishers, woodpeckers, shrikes, larks, magpies, jays, nutcrackers, crows and ravens with their fascinating natural-cultural history and intelligence. You will have a week between sessions for personal study and field observations at home and can bring your questions and/or photos to class. So, find your binoculars, field guides and come learn more about our feathered neighbors! **Saturdays, June 2 and June 9, 1:00-2:30PM.** Please call or register online.



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 or register online.

March 7 & 8, 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Our Feathered Friends—*Estuaries are important homes for all kinds of birds. Come learn with us.*

April 4 & 5, 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Food Chain Fun—*Who eats what in the estuary world? Come find out. We'll do a little eating ourselves*

May 9 & 10, 10:00AM only

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.

March 16 & 17, 10:30-12:00AM

Round and Round—*All*

April 13 & 14, 10:30-12:00AM

All About Algae—*From microscopic green fuzz to majestic kelp forests, algae is the foundation of life in the sea.*

May 4 & 5, 10:30-12:00AM

Songbirds of Padilla Bay's Uplands—*Beginning birding especially for young folks: we'll take a safari through the woods and meadows of Padilla Bay in search of the many small birds that make spring so exciting. Bring binoculars—or borrow ours, and dress for outdoors.*



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