



Padilla Bay Newsletter

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

Summer 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.

Padilla Bay Foundation
www.padillabayfoundation.org
PO Box 1305
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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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The Plankton Counter

Curiosity and dedication: these two words describe Colleen Ebright, a longtime volunteer with the Padilla Bay research and monitoring team. Colleen has been identifying and counting zooplankton with Padilla Bay researchers for over four years. Throughout this time she has spent hours and hours upon even more hours staring through a microscope — adjusting the light here, taking a picture there, and always counting, counting, counting. Though it can be tedious she keeps things fresh with her curiosity. Who is this new plankter? Why are there so many annelid worms? Why is the plankton so different this year?



Always interested in things marine, Colleen spent many years in Hawaii wearing many hats. She was a boat captain for a glass bottom boat and whale watching company. She was a naturalist for Hawaii Forest and Trails where she got to show off the waterfalls and volcanoes. She dove with whale sharks and listened to singing humpback whales. And if that's not enough to make you jealous, she worked in a breeding nursery for seahorses.

The beauty of Hawaii and its tropical charisma hasn't jaded Colleen to our temperate critters. When asked what her favorite zooplankton is...long pause...the wheels are spinning and images are flashing...what will she decide...Monstrillodia copepods! These bizarre copepods are parasites in marine worms, and only swim through the water column as adults looking for love. Their mysterious nature and distorted bodies are the apple of Colleen's eye.



Volunteer, Colleen Ebright

Thanks for your dedication, Colleen and for keeping all us number-crunchers curious.
— *Nicole Burnett, Padilla Bay lab manager*



Taste of Padilla Bay

Enjoy our annual auction dinner Saturday, August 11, 2018. This year's benefit fund-raiser will support education programs at Padilla Bay.

Building Resilience in Forest and Aquatic Ecosystems

This year's Smith/Aguero Trust Presentation on the Environment features two prominent scientists studying climate change effects on terrestrial and aquatic environments. Join Dr. David Peterson of UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences and Professor Roger Fuller with WWU's Institute for Applied Ecology for a look at resiliency of natural systems in the face of climate change. Saturday, June 9, 1:00-3:00pm. Contact the Foundation to register at foundation@padillabay.gov or (360) 757-3234.

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

We will be serving a sumptuous summer buffet with tastes of the cuisine of Hawaii as we recognize our newest Reserve. Our event features both a silent & live auction.

The event will be outdoors under canopies and in the historic Breazeale Farm Barn. Watch for more details and ticket information.

Foundation Board Members

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- Treasurer: Deb Canon

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

Summer Events

Workshops for Teachers

Please call or check our website for details.

Preschoolers in the Great Outdoors: Exploring Nature with Young Children

June 19, 9:00AM - 12:00 noon – Learn the importance of experiences in the natural world that cultivate a sense of place, foster development of the whole child, and build ecological awareness.

Teachers on the Estuary: Feet-in, Hands-on

Tuesday, July 9 – Thursday, July 11, 9:00AM-4:00PM
Explore climate change and ocean acidification in the Pacific Northwest with field experiences and local data.

Songbirds of Your Backyard and Beyond - Part III

David Drummond, wildlife biologist/naturalist continues his in-depth class about Passiformes or perching birds. In these final two sessions, he will cover field ID, habitats, range, and behaviors of the less musical (though often vocal) bird families. 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 may attend one or both classes, and can bring your questions and/or photos to class. **Saturdays, June 2 and June 9, 1:00-2:30PM.** Please call or register online.

The Crab Tracker: Mapping the European Green Crab Invasion

European green crabs are listed as one the world's 100 worst invasive species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. These crabs were first detected in the Salish Sea in 2016, raising concerns that this species might damage our local ecology and economy. Do green crabs deserve this reputation? What consequences might we expect if green crabs establish in the Salish Sea? Researcher, Patrick Barnes will share his research tracking green crabs. **Saturday, July 7, 1:00-2:30PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants

Come and celebrate of early summer's bounty. Join naturalist Marlee Osterbauer in this search for wild edible plants. She will share her extensive knowledge of plant uses and folklore. A notebook and pencil are useful. This 2 hour class is offered twice. **Friday, July 27 and Saturday July 28, 2:00-4:00PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

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

Closed July 4, 2018

Register online or by phone.

(360) 428-1558 www.padillabay.gov



Sounds of Summer Birds

Join naturalist, Libby Mills, listening and looking for summer birds at Padilla Bay. Be prepared for a **slow** walk around the reserve uplands. Binoculars and field guides are available at the Interpretive Center. Meet in the Padilla Bay parking lot. Offered twice, **Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 18, 8:00AM-12:00 noon.** Register online or call the Interpretive Center.

Octopus

When Padilla Bay hosts an octopus in its aquarium, we have Kirt Onthank to thank. Kirt is Associate Professor of Biology at Walla Walla University, and has spent many summers studying octopus at the Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory on Fidalgo Island. Come hear about his research and learn more about this charismatic invertebrate. **Tuesday, July 17, 1:00-2:00PM.** Register online or call the Interpretive Center.

Aquarium Tour and Fish Feeding

Join aquarist, Mark Olson for a close-up look at our amazing aquarium critters. **Saturday, July 21, 11:00AM.** No need to register. Just join us in the aquarium room.

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. 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.
Saturday, July 14 from 10:00AM-12:00 noon
Tuesday, July 24 from 10:00AM-12:00 noon
Thursday, August 9 from 10:00AM-12:00 noon
Saturday, August 25 from 10:00AM-12:00 noon

Beach Seines

No need for SCUBA to see what lives in the bay. Just meet on the beach at Bay View State Park and help pull a fish net through the water. Come and learn more about our fine finned friends! No registration necessary
Wednesday, June 27, 3:00PM
Tuesday, July 17 at 11:30AM
Wednesday, August 22 at 12:30PM
Tuesday, August 28 at 3:00PM



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Breazeale Interpretive Center
10441 Bay View-Edison Road
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Padilla Bay

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.

June 20 & 21, 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.*

July 19 & 20 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Mudflat Safari—*Join us for an excursion on Padilla Bay's mudflat. Bring a jacket and snug boots or shoes that tie.*

August 23 & 24, 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Wiggling Worms—*Come face-to-face with Padilla Bay's most incredible worms. No wonder our fish are so well-fed.*

Junior Ecologists are 6-9 year olds who have fun exploring the estuary. Excursions to the beach, science experiments, games, art projects –this program is guaranteed fun! Call the Interpretive Center to register.

June 15 & 16, 10:30AM-Noon

Here Comes the Sun—*The sun is the source of energy for all living things, including estuary plants and animals. Learn how sunlight keeps us all on the move.*

July 21 & 22, 10:30AM-Noon

Crusty Crustaceans – *Meet the estuary's crabs, shrimp, and crusty creatures*

August 18 & 19, 10:30AM-Noon

Mudflat Safari—*Join us for an excursion on Padilla Bay's mudflat. Bring a jacket and snug boots or shoes that tie.*

Watershed Art and Discovery Day - Saturday, June 23, 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Play, create, and learn all about estuaries and the wonderful creatures that inhabit our local ecosystems through fun interactive exploration and art! Learn about the Skagit Letterbox Trail and be the first to see the clues.

- Create your own estuary collage
- Wildlife stamp making
- Gyotaku fish printing
- Construct your own jellyfish
- Create a miniature wildlife habitat village
- Upcycled plant pots

Activities and classes will be taught by Artist in Residence, Barbara Silverman Summers, and Skagit Conservation Education Alliance staff. Please call the reserve or register online. www.padillabay.gov