

# Padilla Bay Newsletter

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

Autumn 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](http://www.padillabayfoundation.org)  
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For more news, research updates, program details, see our website at [www.padillabay.gov](http://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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## What I Did on my Summer Break



No road trips to the beach or summer jobs at the local mini mart for these student interns. Hillary Thalmann and Jennifer Baxtor spent their summer splashing through eelgrass beds and slogging across Padilla Bay's mudflats. Their field work and data entry/analysis contributed to an ongoing mapping project using GIS and aerial photography to determine changes in coastal habitats. We're studying how climate change and the accompanying sea level rise might impact the the 8000+ acres of eelgrass and other intertidal habitats in Padilla Bay.



Jennifer returns to Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment in the fall to finish her BS. Hillary, a WWU graduate, starts a Master's program at Oregon State University at Newport.

Education intern, Ben Peterson also spent time on the mudflats, but his summer experience involved teaching scores of children and families how to navigate the mud and discover the animals and plants living there. Ben taught preschoolers about amphipods, introduced teachers to lessons on ocean habitats, led high schoolers into eelgrass meadows, and added excitement to Padilla Bay's Facebook page. Ben also returns to WWU to finish his degree in environmental science focused on marine ecology, anthropology, and environmental education.

Internships are made possible through generous donations to the Padilla Bay Foundation in support of research and education programs at the Reserve.





**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 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  
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Like us on Facebook.



**Welcome Roger Fuller, Padilla Bay’s new Coastal Resource Specialist.**  
 See our e-newsletter for more details.

**Padilla Bay Foundation Board Members**

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# Autumn Events

## Shorebird Primer

Probe the world of shorebirds with David Drummond, wildlife research biologist and naturalist with the Merlin Falcon Foundation. This presentation will explore the biology, ecology, and field identification of these amazing Padilla Bay migrants. **Saturday, August 25, 1:00-2:30PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

## Fall Birds of Padilla Bay and the Samish Flats

Join naturalist, Libby Mills, to see who's stayed and who's arrived. Wear comfortable walking shoes and be prepared to explore Padilla Bay's uplands and the "west 90" of the Samish Flats. Bring water and a snack. If you don't have them you can borrow binoculars. Meet in the Padilla Bay parking lot. This class is offered twice, Saturday, September 8 and **Sunday, September 9, 8:00-11:00AM.** Register online or call the Interpretive Center.

## The Art of Gyotaku Fish Printing



Come have a try at the ancient art of Gyotaku printing. Artist and fisheries biologist, Bruce Koike will provide all the materials and guidance you need to create your own frameable print. There is a \$60 fee for this program. This workshop is offered twice: **Saturday September 15 and Sunday September 16, 1:00-4:00PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.

## Orca: Stealth of the Sea

Over the millennia, a specialist marine predator has been evolving in the world's oceans. Orca to some and Killer Whale to others, this amazingly diverse member of the Cetacea is here in our local Salish Sea. David Drummond, wildlife biologist and naturalist will offer a close look at its adaptations, breeding biology, behavioral ecology, and movements. We'll cover recent research on global ecotypes, population maintenance and impacts

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

Closed November 22, & 23, 2018

Register online or by phone.

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to Orca survival. Join us for this insightful talk on a keystone species of our shared aquatic planet! **Saturday, September 22, 1:00-2:30PM.**

## Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants

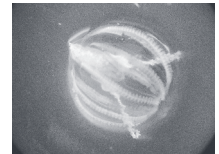
Fall is harvest time - in our gardens, and in our fields and forests. Join naturalist Marlee Osterbauer in this search for wild edible and medicinal plants. She will share extensive knowledge of plant uses and folklore. Weather may be chilly, so dress appropriately. A notebook and pencil are useful. This class is offered twice, **Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27, 2:00-4:00PM.** 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 our amazing critters. **Saturday, November 3, 11:00AM.** No need to register. Just join us in the aquarium room.

## Plankton of the Salish Sea

Though we all love the colorful sea stars and frolicking otters, it's the tiny world below that keeps our Salish Sea ticking. Learn about the hidden majority of life that flourishes in our local waters and beyond. In this talk, we will explore the secret world of plankton and look at how these microscopic organisms play vital roles in ecosystems of the Salish Sea. **Saturday, November 10, 1:00-2:00PM.** Please register online or call the Interpretive Center.





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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. Register online or call the Interpretive Center to register.

**September 5 & 6, 10:00AM & 1:00PM**

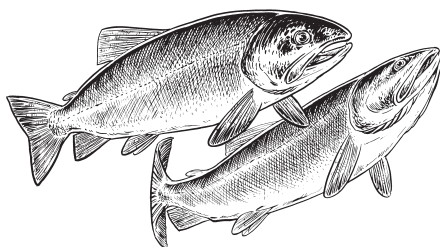
Salmon – *Here is an amazing fish with an incredible life story. Come hear the river-to-sea adventure of the Salish Sea’s most famous fish.*

**October 10 & 11 10:00AM & 1:00PM**

Cider Pressing–*Turn the crank and enjoy a fall day in the Breazeale family orchard. Don’t forget warm clothes!*

**November 7 & 8, 10:00AM & 1:00PM**

Rocks up Close–*From exploding volcanoes to tiny grains of beach sand, rocks are the greatest! This is a fun introduction to geology.*



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! Register online or call the Interpretive Center.

**September 7 & 8, 10:30AM-12:00 noon**

Octopus–*Come explore the mysterious world of these amazing eight-legged creatures.*

**October 12 & 13, 10:30AM-12:00 noon**

Cider Pressing–*Turn the crank and enjoy a fall day in the Breazeale family orchard. Don’t forget warm clothes!*

**November 16 & 17, 10:30AM-12:00 noon**

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.*

