

Bowman Re-Born

Like seeing your newborn child every morning and evening for the next 20 years or so, I'm not going to get tired of looking at the new beach at Bowman Bay either.



Volunteer Jack Middleton helps four 5th graders pull a plant out of a pot. Many kind mentors helped the students transform the beach in a couple hours.

It's a thing of beauty, even if it's still rough on the edges and has a lot of maturing to do. It will go through many changes over the next few weeks, months, seasons and years, but these are just how growth happens, how a beach becomes part of the natural family at Bowman, settling in to its new home.

Trimaxx Construction finished on Monday, November 16. The beach had been designed at a steeper angle than what it should be to protect possible cultural resources under the landfill. But we all know nature speaks last, and most clearly.

The temporary fence went up Tuesday, the next day; at the same time, Mother Nature welcomed the beach with a sucker punch to the solar plexus, a 40 knot westerly for several hours that re-shaped the beach to nature's intended design.

The logs that had been carefully planted in the upper slope became planted by the wind and waves a few feet lower, at the slope the beach is designed to have. The logs quickly settled into place, and became a haven for detritus to gather around, creating habitat overnight as intended.

The storm also created a three foot escarpment, or mini cliff, between the real beach and the material above. That's okay. It won't last long. It will mingle and mix over the next few months, especially when summer waves bring some of the material back.

Remember, as Wolf Bauer taught us all, it's a shore process corridor. It's alive, it's dynamic, and now it will work things out because it can move without the rock wall to hinder the processes.

On Wednesday, November 18, Island View and Fidalgo Elementary schools each sent 75 fifth graders to join Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and North Cascades Institute leaders in planting over 600 native upland plants.

We are so grateful to each of these children and their adult helpers and guides who kept them energetic and engaged the entire time. Hearing how many of the students have come to Bowman before showed me how much this park is a part of this great community. And here they are planting this beach for generations to come to enjoy.

I am thrilled to see our newest baby join the park, and for the marine and upland life to reclaim the beach as part of the natural environment again.



A Bosman Baq Holidaq



The first ever Bowman Bay Holiday is already gathering Facebook buzz, because it sounds like a lot of fun, and at a time when going to the beach at night would be a nice alternative holiday adventure, right?

The five buildings at Bowman will be lit up like they never have before, inside and out. Santa will be sitting by the fire in the shelter, waiting for kids of all ages to share what they want. Hot cider and chocolate will be waiting there too, while carols and other holiday songs will echo across the lawn from the other shelter, where kids and adult crafts will be in full swing.

In the nearby campsites, several local businesses and service groups will have sites decorated for your viewing pleasure and hoping to win your vote as the best decorated site. It's all for fun and celebration of the changing of the seasons in a cozy and spirited backyard beach.

Come anytime between 5 and 8. It's all free if you have a Discover Pass; if not we can help you with that. Come have fun and enjoy the spirit of the evening, an evening at the beach with holiday cheer.

More Community Events

December 8, Tuesday, 6 - 8 p.m. Community Open House introducing the draft 2016 Comprehensive Plan for Anacortes

Anacortes City Hall (904 6th St.)

Hear more about and provide feedback on the draft Comprehensive Plan policies, proposed land use designations and priority implementation measures. Share your thoughts on the overall direction of the plan and any specific policies that you are particularly pleased with or concerned about. Provide input on land use designations and implementation priorities that are most important to you. The evening will include interactive open house activities and a presentation. You can find a draft of the updated 2016 Comp Plan here:

http://www.cityofanacortes.org/CompPlan20161stDraft.php.

December 16, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Sorry for Your Loss; How can I Help?

Anacortes Public Library

Claudia Cimini developed this talk from the first draft of her book about her experience as a young widow. She offers insight and guidance on what to say, what not to say, and how to be the most helpful to the people we care about. It's the information the author wishes she'd had for suporting bereaved friends and family before learning it through painful experience.



Our Blue Planet

A reminder for me of why I do what I do. If you need five minutes of beauty and inspiration today - take a look! It is so powerful and inspiring. For your viewing and inspirational pleasure:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H46jp8944u0

Cornet Bay Beach Makeover

It started on Monday, November 16, and is now done!

You can see the next phase of the Cornet Bay beach restoration project looking and feeling like a beach. All it needs is life -- plants, beach grasses, and the wildlife that will now find this place to be a home.



Strider Construction from Bellingham took care of changing a plain and lifeless landfill into a beach. The former muddy mess between the store and the park dock will slowly become a healthy, gravelly, natural beach.

It still needs native plants and beach grasses, obviously, which will be planted this coming spring by the Salmon Fisheries Enhancement Group and any interested volunteers. And it needs a couple tweaks, like adding a spur trail to join the gravel route to the road at the northeast end.

But looking back at what we had, and looking with fresh eyes at what we have now, I stand amazed. This area too is now a beach, a real beach. There is an active tidal marsh now, receiving drainage from the wetland to the south, and exchanging water at high tide with Cornet Bay. There are logs -- lots of logs now! -- on the beach just like a real beach, and a gravel mix that is just right for forage fish embryos.

Stars Among Us

"As of today, the sea star population has stabilized, even if it is not to the level before the wasting syndrome hit. There is not one Synflower star in sight, which is true for most locations on the Pacific coast from California to British Columbia.

"Deception Pass now has some Stimpson's Sun stars, Mottled and Ochre stars, and I found only one Mottled star wasting. Hopefully the winter will help them all healthy.

"Thank you for your support with my surveys."

Jan Kocian



Tursi Trail

It didn't take long for our trail volunteers to get busy building the park half of the Tursi Trail, to eventually connect Pass Lake with Donnell Road near Campbell Lake and then to Mt. Erie.



The group spent a big part of two different days roughing in the trail from the Ginnett area to the north boundary of the park, opening fallen trees off the route and making the trail walkable.

They grubbed and cleared and defined the route to make it accessible by anyone willing to make the three-quarter mile trek. It is still a

challenging route, with some steep elevation changes in a couple areas. The trail route avoids sensitive habits, but has many opportunities for views from rocky balds and deep forest glens.

A sweaty tip of my hat to SWITMO for organizing and doing so much of the work, contributing well over 100 hours to the trail so far, and to EarthCorps of Seattle, for also putting in 70 hours of work on the north end of the trail.

The remaining half mile of trail north of the park crosses easements obtained on private property in the area. Various partners are working to see if one final easement or purchase can be made to allow the

trail to follow the most logical and straightforward route between the park and Donnell Road. That section may completed this winter by volunteers organized by Skagit County.



Bridge Over Casual Water



After a four year wait for permits, we finally received permission to construct a very simple and noninvasive footbridge over a wetland area south of Goose Rock.

This bridge completes a trail built by SWITMO allowing hikers from Cornet

Bay Road to get to the top of Goose Rock, or visa versa, without stepping once on a roadway or passing through a campground or the restricted retreat center area.

On November 28, about 40 Audubon hikers, family members, and SWITMO members gathered at East Cranberry Lake to celebrate and honor the life of Bob Matchett by dedicating the bridge in his honor. Bob, a kind and helpful member of both Audubon's hiking club and SWITMO's trail projects, helped work on this bridge and trail.

Bob was a retired agronomist who enjoyed spending time in the rural outdoors. After retirement he and his wife Holiday moved to Guemes from California. He was active in bird watching, hiking,

kayaking, looking for agates, biking, helping others, noxious weed removal, breadmaking, beekeeping, planting and caring for his orchards, and volunteering at the



WSU-Mount Vernon Research Center. His last trail work was in February of 2014 at Dugualla State Park on Whidbey Island.

After a brief ceremony at the bridge thanking everyone responsible for helping make this bridge possible, there was a moment of silence for Bob, and then a hike across the newly completed bridge and back to East Cranberry.

How to Make an Interpretive Program Lesson #1:

Know Thy Audience

By Montana Napier, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Last month, I presented a program with an interpretive volunteer, Amos, at the Regency Retirement and Assisted Living Community in Oak Harbor. We spent two weeks researching the Civilian Conservation Corps and the building of the Deception Pass Bridge, the topics suggested by Regency's Community Ambassador, Sande Crank-Mulkey.

Together, Amos and I drafted the 45-minute talk. We wanted to keep the program entertaining and relevant to Regency's residents, which was difficult to plan without prior experience presenting to people over the age of 80. My main question at the time: "How do you provide opportunities for people to make connections to a place they cannot go and see themselves?"

I cannot deny that 'knowing my audience' and using generalized likes, dislikes and attributes of a generation made me uncomfortable. In fact, it continues to make me feel uncomfortable! As someone who does not particularly relate to the "Millennials," categorizing people by what period in time they were born into teeters on the edge of stereotyping.

However, at this year's AmeriCorps SERVES training, I attended a workshop called 'Building Effective Intergenerational Teams,' and

it encouraged just that. It was led by Viviana Aguilar, an educational consultant for more than 30 years. She began her workshop with an activity -- each table matched traits with those of the six living generations in America. The information we discussed felt, to me, similar to a marketing scheme.

It exposed the type of strategies that companies use when they play "psychedelic" music to appeal to Baby Boomer's wallets.

Typically, I think categorizing people by their age turns someone's life into a shallow generalization, but I decided to try to use Viviana's advice anyway. During the research process, I looked at the handout on the six living generations in America, studying the values of the "Mature/Silent" generation. I tried to pick-out the universal concepts within the generation's traits to use in the program. Those concepts were loyalty, economy, hard work, America's past, traditional values, legacy and devotion to one's country.

Amos and I approached the topic of the Bridge from an economic perspective – how did the construction of the Deception Pass Bridge affect Whidbey Island? Next I thought of ways in which the Civilian Conservation Corps changed the country, and then the program's theme statement was born: "Through the Civilian Conservation Corps, men affected by the Great Depression found a way to



uplift the local economy and to make something of themselves; while leaving their mark on the land, they changed America forever."

On the day of the program, we arrived early and met with Sande and other staff. First off, Sande *knew* her audience, offering the residents tea or coffee and an arm to lean on while they made their way into the

room. I watched what she did closely, trying to pickup on the subtle things I too should do.

I was handed a microphone so I tried my best to talk LOUD. While I spoke I scanned the faces of my audience for feedback, and quickly learned that presenting to this audience truly WAS different. At one point, Amos asked questions about people's experiences on Whidbey Island, and what changes they have witnessed over time. One gentleman told a story about his days in the Navy, the farms that used to be around, and how he met his wife while sending a telegram. A lady then told a story three times, each time different, about how she swam under the Deception Pass Bridge. Talk about a learning experience!

I realized my own abilities and how I take them for granted when I said "Feel free to come up and look at pictures of the CCC and the Bridge!" and it elicited no response. Sande then gracefully scooped up pictures and began to walk around the room, stopping in front of each resident as she described the picture. I noticed the residents smile. Amos and I followed her lead, and every single person smiled when I walked up to him or her with a picture. Even the lady who said she couldn't see thanked me.

In that moment, I realized I would not have been as appreciative of the individual effort made for me; I would have become bored waiting around as others got their turn. So, I could not deny or ignore the differences between me and the people around me. During the program, it was necessary to honor those differences with respect, patience and an open mind, as well as to think about what they wanted from me. Why did the roomful of twenty-something people go out of their way to attend the program, anyway?

An obvious answer to that question is for entertainment purposes, but I believe the greater one is of connection. Due to their life experiences, they either felt or wanted to feel an emotional and intellectual connection to the topic. Instead of treating the audience as a "blank slate," eager to make connections (i.e. children or young adults), I had to recognize how the CCC and the Deception Pass Bridge already had meaning in their lives. And I believe that is an important!

In memorium... Susan Alaynick



Our park and our planet lost a special friend this past week.

I am sad to report that Susan Alaynick died Wednesday, November 25, after a brief bout with lung cancer. In her inimitable way she said she came by it

honestly from 50 years of smoking (though she quit 7 years ago). She had been very well until 13 days before. She did not want a funeral but there may be a memorial plant walk at Deception Pass sometime in April.

Susan was a chairperson of the Washington Native Plant Society's local Salal chapter, and a generous expert on all of our plants around the park. I say generous, because she gave walks through this park and many other local native wildflower areas on Fidalgo Island to anyone who wanted to learn.

More than that, Susan also took a personal interest in protecting Deception Pass from invasive and noxious weed species attacking the park. She was a fixture on our annual Hope Island Scotsbroom removal parties. And few people know that she was perhaps the one mostly responsible for the removal of English ivy from Rosario Head. She devoted days and weeks west of the Maiden to remove the ivy plants and continued to remove fresh start-ups.

I will miss her cheerful presence and energetic dedication to making this park and planet a better place.

[photo by Brandy Shreve, Skagit Valley Herald]

Ship-Shape

Over 30 men and women from the Navy Information Operations Command, or NIOC, based at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island donated their Friday morning and their back muscles to helping clean up much of Deception Pass after the windstorm of November 17.

With large branches and tons of small branches and needles littering the park's roads and lawn areas, this

unit of NASWI changed the picture quickly at East Cranberry and along the North Beach and Cranberry Roads. They worked as only a military unit can three days after the storm to get the park looking shipshape again.

They raked and shoveled and scooped several tons of material into the back of park trucks, and then



helped us haul the debris away where we can chip or compost the material at a later time.

A big shout out to our neighbors and partners. We hope to schedule all our future storms to hit three days before this group returns.

Shrooming Habits

The Puget Sound Mycological Society browsed the forests and trails of the park again the first weekend in November, finding samples of hundreds of varieties of mushrooms to share with field trip participants. Dozens of learners and teachers gathered to examine what was found and learn about the incredible variety of mushrooms to be found here.

The group is careful to pick only those species that are not endangered overall and in adequate abundance at the location where they are picked.

The resulting smorgasbord of species gathered and displayed showed us all how prolific the autumn woods are in producing such a diversity of fungus.



Serenity Now:

A reporter's visit to Deception Pass this year:

 $\underline{http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Serenity-Now-True-beauty-of-Washington-s-6654103.php\#photo-9011545}$

Deception Pass Park Foundation

Membership has it's benefits:

Family: 10% off merchandise

Small Business/Partner: Deception Pass Notes,

Listing on website, brochure at bridge

<u>Patron:</u> 100 word description on website, recognition at annual meeting and Current

Associate: Discover Pass, 5 brochures at bridge

Benefactor: Amphitheater plaque, education

program sponsorship

Are you a member?

www.deceptionpassfoundation.org/membership/

Deception Pass Park Foundation Board

President: Liz Merriman Vice President: Barb Shaw Secretary: Rick Colombo

Treasurer:

Board Member: Jill Johnson Board Member: Matt Klope Board Member: Brian Shelley

Board Member:

Board Member: Terica Taylor

www.deceptionpassfoundation.org



Like, follow, and stay current with the Deception Pass Park Foundation on Facebook at

"Deception Pass Park Foundation"

Park Events

<u>December 6: Deception Pass Dash Kayak Race,</u> Bowman Bay

<u>December 12, 13:</u> Rainshadow Running 25k and 50k races at the park.

December 19: Bowman Bay Holiday, 5 to 8 p.m.

January 1: First Day Hike, Hoypus Point, 10 a.m.

April 2: Marathon in Park

April 16: Whidbey Island Marathon and ½ marathon

April 23: Plant Bowman Bay!

March, 2025: Deception Pass State Park's 100th birthday.

The Lakes: Status Report

Recent testing has cleared Cranberry Lake, which is again open for any and all activities. Swimming anyone?

Pass Lake still struggles with microcystins. It is open but at the warning level, which means please do not swim there, or allow your dog to swim there.

I have been working with agency environmental stewards and specialists around the Pacific Northwest. Studies are underway by many universities to find an answer to this mess. We are also looking into finding a way to do detailed analyses of the quality of the lake water's critical measurements which we can compare with similar studies done a couple decades ago, and to use as baselines for future changes in the lakes.

Let me know if you may be interested in getting involved in these studies. It will take someone (or "some-ones") with time to invest in learning how to do exact measurements, and the ability to get out occasionally to make the measurements. We will provide the training and the scientific equipment.

Capital Projects This Biennium

Kukutali Projects:

Grant money has funded a trail from the parking lot to an overlook near the lagoon, offering greater privacy to a park neighbor and offering interpretive opportunities to guests as they enter the Preserve.

We also received funding for a shelter at the west end lawn area of the island, a low impact facility to partner with the Swinomish tribe in having a gathering place in the traditional manner.

Sewer upgrades:

Our Quarry Pond campground, currently on a failing septic system, will be connected to the force main sewer line that will pump all effluent to the Navy base.

The main park sewer pumps will also receive upgrades to be able to handle the volume of effluent that the park processes throughout the year. And we hope the North Beach sewer pump system, which cannot keep up with peak demand, can be upgraded.

Cornet Bay Moorage:

Plans and designs are getting permitted for an improved pier, docks, and eelgrass protection at Cornet Bay's aging facility. This will add additional capacity to the docks, connect the docks that are currently unattached to the land, separate fishing activity and boating activity to some degree, and improve the health of the Cornet Bay ecosystem.

What's Open in the park:

Open to vehicles:

West Beach

East Cranberry

Cornet Bay

Goose Rock

South Bridge

Pass Lake

Bowman Bay

Cornet Bay Retreat Center

Quarry Pond Campground

Open to hiking:

All those places, and everywhere else!

- Rosario and North Beach open again March 1
- Cranberry Campground Lower Loop opens March 1
- Forest Loop and Bowman Bay campgrounds open April ${\bf 1}$

First Day Hike: Hoypus!

Hoypus Point! Hard to say but pleasant to walk. That is our destination **January 1 at 10 a.m.** from the Cornet Bay boat launch area for our fifth annual First Day Hike.



And a huge thank you to the Manufactured Home & RV Association and Washington State Employees Credit Union. Because of their generous donations we are able to provide all of the snacks and drinks free of charge to everyone who joins us.

And that's not all! Every hiker receives this year's version of the First Day Hike pin, courtesy of

Washington State Parks and our sponsors.

For those who wish more exercise, a side trail from Hoypus Point can take us up to the Fireside Trail, adding a couple miles to the hike.

Dress appropriately, ask for decent weather, bring anyone willing and able to make the trek, and come join in the fun and celebration.

Parking is free in all State Parks on January 1.

AmeriCorps interpreter Montana Napier and I will join as many New Year's Day hikers as wish to walk with us along the former road bed that has become a delightful route, one-mile each way. There is minimal elevation change along the route, with views of the bridge, Mt. Erie, Kiket and Hope Islands, and other Skagit Bay landmarks. Nearby old-growth forests overhang the mile of beach we will parallel.

At Hoypus Point we will look at the remains of the Dewey/Hoypus (or Fidalgo/Whidbey) or (Yokeko/Cornet) ferry route which was popular until that bridge got built. And at the point we will look at photos showing the various routes in operation, the only possible route connecting the two islands at this end. With recently discovered historical photos we will compare what existed 100 years ago with what we see today.

Back at the beginning (or the end) of the hike, once again the Deception Pass Park Foundation will host coffee and hot chocolate and other goodies to 'liquidate' our New Year's Day hike, the First Day of the year.

State Park Free Days, 2016

- January 1 (Thursday) New Year's Day and State Parks' First Day Hikes Day
- January 17 and 18 (Sunday and Monday) Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- March 19 (Saturday) Washington State Parks' 103rd birthday
- March 26 (Saturday) A springtime free Saturday
- April 22 (Friday) Earth Day
- May 8 (Sunday) A springtime free Sunday
- June 4 (Saturday) National Trails Day
- June 11 (Saturday) National Get Outdoors Day
- Aug. 25 (Thursday) National Park Service 100th birthday
- Sept. 24 (Saturday) National Public Lands Day
- Nov. 11 (Friday) Veterans Day

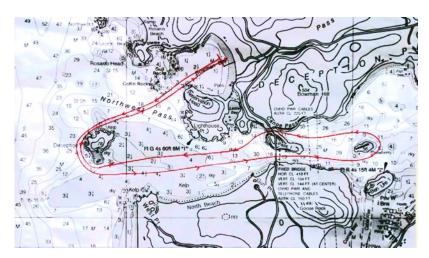
Tenth Annual!

a part of the fun if

Deception Pass Dash 2015

And more craziness as the Deception Pass Dash returns for its TENTH annual paddle, 6 miles of paddling from Bowman Bay, out to Deception Island, in to Strawberry, back to Deception, and back inside Bowman again.

canceled due to predicted to predicted storms and storms and heavy seas heavy seas The weather is always part of the dis cus sion. We have heavy between. knowing the human Come see the



had snow, we have had strong winds and seas, we have had calm, we have had everything in But most of all, we have had a great turnout by people they face a challenge to paddle that far as fast as they can with powered craft that they have brought to the race.

start; come watch them go under the bridge in both directions; come be you aren't a part of the frenetic energy.

Check out the YouTube video to see highlights of last year's event.

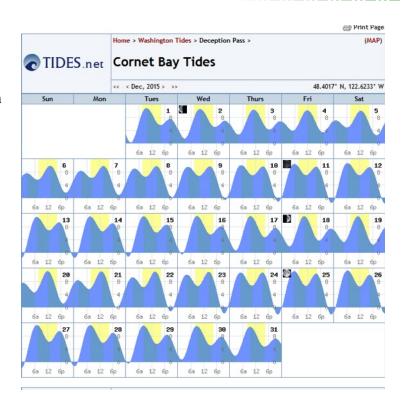
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBEm6v_pDaM

Rainshadow 25k and 50k

It seems crazy to me, but mostly because I'm too lazy to give it a go. Hundreds of otherwise sane people, far more sane than I, will be running 50 kilometers through the trails of the park on December 12, and hundreds more will run 25 kilometers on the 13th.

This popular event sells out within weeks of be open for registration many months in advance. Many of the runners stay at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center.

Come cheer them on if you want to see committed people enjoying the park first hand. They start at West Beach and cover just about every trail in the park before returning there a lot faster than I would.





2016 Lecture Series

January 15 7PM
"Climate Change Science in Haiku"
Gregory Johnson, Ph. D

School of Oceanography University of Washington

In 2014 the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a 2000 page report, a daunting read even for experts. Dr. Johnson has distilled the entire report into 19 illustrated haiku. His work of art provides powerful talking points and a visual guide to understanding this important document.

February 12 7PM

"Recent NE Pacific Warming or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Blob" Nick Bond, Ph. D

Washington State Climatologist and Senior Research Scientist

University of Washington

A huge area of abnormally warm water has formed along the Pacific coast. Coined "The Blob" by Dr. Bond, this phenomenon may be disrupting marine food webs and is associated with unusual weather events across the U.S.

March 18 7PM

"Sea Otters: A Natural History"

Jane Watson, Ph. D.
Department of Biology

Vancouver Island University

Extirpated from Vancouver Island by 1911, sea otters were reintroduced and their populations have grown. Dr. Watson will share the knowledge she has gained in her 25 years of studying these fascinating animals.

April 8 7PM

"Restoration of the Elwha River and its Estuary"

Ian Miller, Ph. D.

Coastal Hazards Specialist

Peninsula College, Port Angeles, WA

Two dams have recently been removed from the Elwha River and it again flows free. Dr. Miller and other scientists are monitoring the unrestricted river and the resultant ecological changes within the river basin and its estuary.

Lectures will be held at Northwest Educational Service District 189 Building, 1601 R Ave,
Anacortes

Protecting Skagit Marine Ecosystems Education • Citizen Science • Stewardship



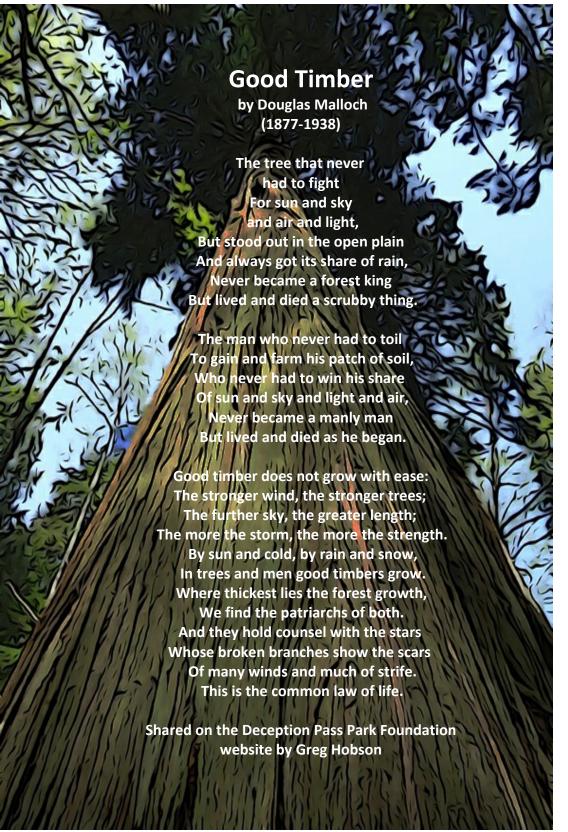
The 2016 Lecture Series is sponsored by Friends of Skagit Beaches.

Lectures are free and open to the Public.

For more information or questions contact: Matt Kerschbaum, 360-293-0773

Join Friends at www.skagitbeaches.org





This monthly update is sent to folks who have expressed an interest in keeping in touch with what is happening or in the planning stages at Deception Pass State Park.

We are grateful to have you welcome us into your inbox.

If you are not interested in receiving these monthly updates, please reply to this message and let me know. We have no intention of sending emails that you do not wish to receive.

If you wish to communicate at anytime with me or other park staff, please email, call, or visit us. This park is your park.

Jack Hartt

Park Manager

Deception Pass State Park

41020 State Route 20

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

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Deception Pass State Park Staff:

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Darlene Clark, Sr. Park Aide
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Mark Lunz, Maintenance
Montana Napier, Naturalist
Bill Ruh, Sr. Park Aide
Ben Shook, Ranger
Jason Stapert, Ranger
Bryce Watkinson, Ranger
John Whittet, Ranger
Marv Wold, Maintenance