

# ANNUAL REPORT

Friends of Skagit Beaches

November 2014

## 2014—A Year of Growth & Transition

During the past year, Friends has continued its popular programs like the Fidalgo Shoreline Academy, Winter Lecture Series, and Trail Tales project. We've also added a new program this year, *Films with Friends*, kicked off by our fall fundraising event—the *Filmraiser*. In addition, Friends has been a partner in helping to plan and make possible the transition of the WSU Beach Watcher volunteer program to a new home at Padilla Bay—with a proposed new name—*Salish Sea Stewards*. We have added some new faces to our Friends Board and will be saying a fond farewell—and *Thank You!*—to long-time board members. Our programs would not be possible without the support of our members, whose donations and member dues are a primary source of funding for our work. So, here's a "Friendly" reminder that it's time to renew your annual membership.

## 2015 Membership Drive

January is the beginning of our non-profit year, so it's time to sign up as a new member or renew your membership. Membership dues can be paid at our website <http://skagitbeaches.org> using our PayPal link or by mailing your check with the membership form in this newsletter to our PO box. We have several categories of membership and of course greatly appreciate any extra donations received.

Individual member	\$30.00
Family	\$50.00
Student (18+)	\$10.00
Students (under 18)	Free (5 hours service suggested, optional)



*"My mother grew up in Anacortes, and her father worked at the old mill for several years. Our family enjoys walking and biking the Tommy Thompson trail when we visit, and we've been so pleased to see the progress on the clean-up of the bay and the planting of native plants along the shore. We also really appreciate the interpretive signs and photos that have been installed. I enjoyed watching this film, good job!"*

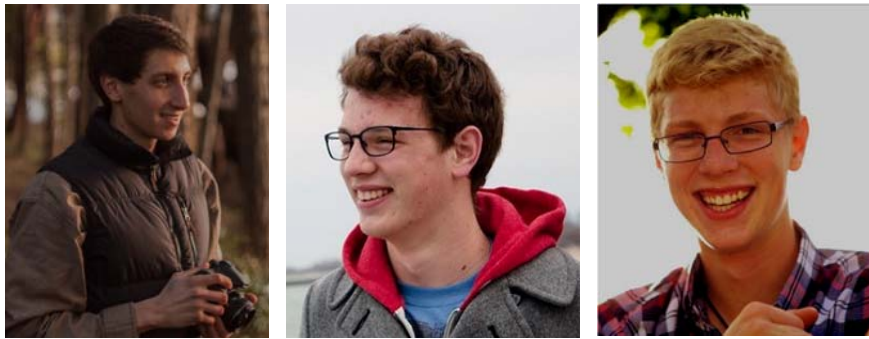
Autumn Scott via Facebook



Trail Tales volunteer Bob Weathers leads interpretive walk

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Trail Tales Filmmakers—2014 Short Documentaries

## Non-Profit Highlights

Friends continues a trend over the past several years of growing in terms of funding and outreach programs. In spite of the growth, we continue to be a completely volunteer-run organization with no paid staff. Our Board has worked hard to ensure we are directing our funds to valuable activities and supporting important local projects and events.

Friends was founded in 2008 by a group of Skagit Beach Watchers looking for a way to raise money locally to fund volunteer activities. This year we see the end of the WSU Beach Watcher program in Skagit County, but our mission continues, shifting to support the new program at Padilla Bay. We are also sponsoring more of our own programs, like the Fidalgo Shoreline Academy, Winter Lectures Series and the new Fall Film Series. In the coming year, we will continue to provide high-quality educational opportunities and help raise funds to ensure the continuation of the new volunteer program.

## 2015 Board election

Pattie Hutchins and Pat Steffani have served on our board since Friends was founded but will be retiring from the board this year. Tracy Alker will also be leaving the board to focus on her work with the Skagit Marine Resources Committee. We thank all of them for their service. We are seeking new board members and will hold an election at our annual meeting in January. Interested? Email [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org).

Friends of Skagit Beaches Annual Meeting  
Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 – 2:00 PM  
Padilla Bay Breazeale Interpretive Center

The 2014 Board of Friends of Skagit Beaches invites members, family, and friends to our annual meeting and the election of the 2015 Board members. We will have a brief business meeting, election of 2014 directors, lunch, and then turn the meeting over to the new Padilla Bay Volunteer Program Coordinator to discuss development of the new program. We expect the business meeting and elections to be brief to leave time for food and socializing. Friends will be providing a lunch entrée, but if you would like, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

## Film Production

New this year under funding from the Ecology Trail Tales grant, Friends President, Betty Carteret, has worked with young area filmmakers to produce four short documentary films. Ryan Hasert (left), a recent WWU graduate produced two films about Ecology's Anacortes Baywide Cleanup program shown in October. Local brothers Lucas (WWU, right) and Henry Holgeerts (Anacortes High, center) produced two films about the Fidalgo Bay watershed and water quality working with Denise Crowe at Shannon Point Marine Center, showing in November. Friends hopes to continue working with talented young film makers in the upcoming year. View their films on Vimeo channel at:

<https://vimeo.com/user33200738>

Here's what Ecology staff are saying about Trail Tales short documentaries:

*"... this is excellent. I am very proud that I have played a part in these efforts, and grateful that you are helping to share our work with local residents. I am a Skagit County native, and I have a lot of passion for the work we are all doing in and around Fidalgo Bay."*

*Seth Preston, Communications Manager, Air Quality & Toxics Cleanup Programs, WA Ecology*

## Trail Tales

Friends is into the fourth year of the Trail Tales project funded through a grant from the WA Ecology Public Participation Grant program. Our dedicated team of volunteers completed another outstanding season of interpretive programs along the Tommy Thompson Trail. Denise Crowe (WWU/SPMC) taught the “Down to the Sea” watershed class to over 250 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Anacortes Middle School. Surveys of participants continue to rate the program very highly and the Dept. of Ecology points to hold Trail Tales as an example project for others considering applying for grants. Sixteen new interpretive signs are in development and will be installed next spring and then added to [Trail Tales website](#).

The current grant will end on June 30, 2015 and applications for the next two year grant period starting July 1, 2015 are due on January 5th. We are planning to submit an application but will likely make some changes in the scope and activities. We are interested in developing a citizen science component for the next grant period that would add intertidal monitoring at one or two of the completed cleanup sites. We would also like to continue making short films with students next year.



### 2014 Trail Tales Volunteer Programs



## Financial Report (as of 11/10/14)<sup>1</sup>

Starting balance of 1/1/14 .....	\$6,384.27
<b>2014 unrestricted funds:</b>	
Member dues .....	\$910.00
Fundraising & Donations.....	\$8,928.33
<b>Total unrestricted income .....</b>	<b>\$9,838.33</b>
Expenses paid from unrestricted account.....	\$5,730.40
<b>Total unrestricted balance as of 11/10/14.....</b>	<b>\$10,492.20</b>
2014 funding to others not yet dispersed .....	\$4550.00 <sup>2</sup>
<b>2014 restricted funds:</b>	
2014 restricted grant income .....	\$5,425.73 <sup>3</sup>
Amount paid from restricted grants.....	\$771.43
<b>Restricted balance as of 11/10/14.....</b>	<b>\$4,654.30</b>
<b>Total assets as of 11/10/14.....</b>	<b>\$15,146.50</b>

<sup>1</sup> A more detailed financial report will be presented at our annual meeting.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$4,500 grant to Padilla Bay Foundation for new volunteer program and \$50 support to *Storming the Sound*

<sup>3</sup>The Trail Tales grant was renewed for period of 7/1/13 to 6/30/15. This reimbursement grant for \$118,000 is administered separately and subject to review and audit from the WA Department of Ecology. All grant funds are projected to be spent by end of grant period.

## Winter Lecture Series

In 2015, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Winter Lecture Series that started as a Beach Watcher class project in 2005. We'll offer one lecture per month January thru April at the NW ESD Building in Anacortes. Series flyers will be available soon to pick up around town and will also be posted on our [website](#) by early December. Last year, we saw a continued increase in attendance with over 100 people at each lecture. Come early to get a good seat!

### Speaker Lineup for 2015

- January 9th—*Frozen Footprints*, Dr. Andy Bunn, Western Washington University
- February 13th—*Sea Level Rise*, Dr. John Ryczyk, Western Washington University
- March 13th—*Assembling Washington*, Dr. Scott Babcock, Western Washington University
- April 10th—*Unlocking Secrets of the Ocean*, Dr. Deborah Kelley, University of Washington



## Project Highlight



### Monofilament Line Recycling

Friends provided funding to Beach Watcher Don Coleman for a project to build and install monofilament fishing line recycling tubes for a number of locations around Skagit County docks and boat launches. These recycling tubes will help prevent these plastic lines from getting into our waterways and entangling sea life.

**Thanks Don for your hard work!**

## Padilla Bay Volunteer Program

Catherine Buchalski, formerly the Skagit WSU Beach Watcher Coordinator, has accepted the new Volunteer Program Coordinator position at Padilla Bay. She officially assumed her new assignment on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and will report to Terry Stevens, the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (PBNERR) Manager.



The Padilla Bay Foundation will have overall program and financial management while PBNERR will provide the facilities, operational and administrative support, and day-to-day oversight. In addition to the funding provided by the Foundation and PBNERR, additional funding has been pledged from the Skagit Marine Resources Committee, Skagit County Public Works (Water Quality) and Friends of Skagit Beaches. A truly collaborative project!

An Advisory Committee with representation from each of the stakeholders met in late August to provide the Foundation with their requirements and input. The details of the new program are currently being worked out. Expect some exciting announcements in the coming weeks!

If you have ideas for the new program that you would like to share with Catherine, she can be reached at her new email [cbuchalski@padillabay.gov](mailto:cbuchalski@padillabay.gov)



## Trips, Tours & Just Plain Fun

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Tesoro Refinery hosted a perimeter tour on their chartered bus. It included stops where project staff and managers provided information about refinery operations, oil transfer (ship & rail), marine water protection, oil spill response, and conservation efforts.

July 12<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Deborah Kelley hosted a tour of the 274-ft UW research vessel Thomas G. Thompson the day before setting sail. The voyage was to complete construction of a cabled observatory off the Oregon coast. <http://interactiveoceans.washington.edu/>

August 28<sup>th</sup> – Trail Tales, Beach Watcher and Salish Sea Stewards volunteers took a trip to the Port Townsend Marine Science Center for a presentation on their citizen science program. We also learned about their new *Gone Green? Go Blue!* Initiative.



Trail Tales volunteers led by Bruce McDanold visited the historic Cap Sante Amphitheater



### 2015 Membership Campaign [New members and renewals]

Membership Donation:  \$30 per person       \$50 per family or organization       \$10 student (over 18)

Renewal       New member       Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a receipt (Friends of Skagit Beaches is a 501c3 non-profit and donations are tax deductible)

Other comments/requests:

\*Thanks for your support. We do not share member names, addresses, or emails.

*Protecting Skagit County shorelines and marine waters through education, citizen science, and stewardship.*

### Key Partnerships

Friends has established strong working partnerships with a number of agencies and non-profits in pursuit of our mission. Here are some organizations and activities we have supported in 2014 through financial or in-kind support:

- Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve & Foundation
- Skagit County Beach Watcher volunteers
- Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizens Stewardship Committee
- Skagit Marine Resources Committee
- Emerson High School
- Pacific Biodiversity Institute

### Trail Tales Partners:

- City of Anacortes
- Port of Anacortes
- Samish Indian Nation
- WA Ecology
- WA DNR



As a way to highlight our new short films, Friends conceived the idea of offering a Fall Film Series. This is a natural expansion of our popular Winter Lecture Series and adds another opportunity to engage our

local community and get people thinking. This year's film lineup included *The Last Ocean* about harvesting Chilean Sea Bass in Antarctica; *Bag It* about issues of plastic pollution; *Flow*, about privatization of water rights around the world; and *The Whale—The True Story of Luna* about an orca lost from its family in the Pacific Northwest.



### National Estuaries Day—2014

## Fidalgo Bay Day & National Estuaries Day

Friends partnered with the Skagit Marine Resources Committee and others to again sponsor the annual Fidalgo Bay Day celebration on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Samish graciously offered their Fidalgo Bay Resort facilities at no cost while Friends provided the required insurance coverage for the event. This family oriented event provides both education for adults and lots of fun activities for kids (of all ages!) Again this year the popular beach seine activities thrilled attendees with a variety of sea life to see.

For the second year, our Trail Tales program organized a companion event to celebrate National Estuaries Day with education stations along the Tommy Thompson Trail. Over 60 *Discover Passports* were passed out to participants, mostly families. Again this year, the Samish Indian Nation offered a "Discovery" station with information about their Canoe Family and rides aboard their traditional canoe.

**Friends of Skagit Beaches**  
**P.O Box 481**  
**Anacortes, WA 98221**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

## Fidalgo Shoreline Academy



The 2014 symposium was a big success again. The highlight was the presentation by Dr. Deborah Kelley from the UW School of Oceanography on research being done off the Washington and Oregon coasts along the Juan de Fuca Ridge. There, UW scientists and students are investigating volcanoes and hydrothermal vents in addition to installing a cabled observatory.

Three sets of parallel sessions offered presentations on a variety of topics and Trail Tales walks.

The symposium provides an affordable “day of learning for everyone” that also helps raise funds to support coordination of the volunteer program now affiliated with the Padilla Bay Foundation. Friends is providing a grant to the Foundation to coordinate planning for the spring 2015 symposium.

To keep abreast of Friends events and activities, sign up to receive our online newsletter at our [website](#). You can also like us on Facebook to follow our Trail Tales activities as well as Friends events. Visit our website and [calendar](#) to find information on what’s happening.

Learn more at [www.skagitbeaches.org](http://www.skagitbeaches.org)

## Contact Us

Email or call one of our board members for more information about our non-profit and programs.

**Friends of Skagit Beaches**  
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[friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org)

### 2014 Board of Directors

Betty Carteret, President  
Wayne Huseby, V. President  
Pat Steffani, Treasurer  
Regan Weeks, Secretary  
Board members:  
Tracy Alker  
Phyllis Bravinder  
Morty Cohen  
Pattie Hutchins  
Dick Shiley