

WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watcher 2018 Education Projects

Beach Days!

Mukilteo Lighthouse Park Beach Days

Leads: Tim Ellis & Linda Lambert (Classes of 2015)

We have been carrying our successful beach naturalist education program at the Lighthouse Park beach over the past 11 years! Every summer is full of educational activities and leadership at the beach. Starting in June and continuing throughout the summer, WSU Beach Watchers are on the beach during multiple low tide days to offer education about beach creatures. In addition, we have a 2 x 3' portable "Gentle –Touch Tank" set up on the beach trail for anyone to enjoy and learn from. We also update the kiosks at the park each quarter with useful information and local opportunities.



Kayak Point County Park Beach Days

Sandy Evans (Class of 2012)

Kayak Point County Park has over 30,000 users each month in the summer. WSU Beach Watchers roam the beach with answers to many of your questions about beach animals, Puget Sound and ways to keep the waters and wildlife healthy. This program is offered on low tide days from June – August each summer, and other occasional outings such as Earth Day. Come visit us in the small building on the pier and learn with us!

Edmonds Olympic Beach Days

Lead: Nancy Engen (Class of 2010)

WSU Beach Watchers have partnered with the City of Edmonds Discovery Program Rangers to bring information about the Olympic Beach Sanctuary and the amazing creatures that live there! This is the third year that we'll work at Olympic Beach during low tide dates this summer. We hope you can join us!



Winter Starlight Beach Walks

Lead: Yolimar Rivera Vázquez (staff)

WSU Beach Watchers host 1-2 starlight beach walks each year between January and February. It is an evening of discovery under the stars! Anyone of any age is welcome to join WSU Beach Watchers during these free public events and learn about their favorite beach creatures. Flashlights, appropriate winter / waterproof clothing and sturdy footwear is recommended for these types of events. We typically have hot beverages to warm you up after the cool and fun beach walk.

For Teachers! Classroom and Field Trip Education Opportunities

Kendra Schmiedeskamp (Class of 2017) and Yolimar Rivera Vazquez (staff)

In our popular 'Puget Sound Marine Youth Education' program, we present educational lessons to classes of children from local schools, home-schools and after-school programs. We offer age appropriate marine ecology classroom presentations throughout the county year-round and low-tide field trip support at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park and Kayak Point beaches during the late spring. Concepts covered include marine organisms' adaption strategies, plankton, food webs, eelgrass ecology, stewardship ethics and biodiversity. Each year, we reach over 1500 students, teachers and chaperones between mid-April to mid-June alone!



It's never too early to schedule for next year! Contact Yolimar Rivera Vazquez at yolimar.rivera@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6029.



Veterinary Clinic Outreach

Lead: Yolimar Rivera Vázquez (staff)

Beach Watchers deliver each quarter pet waste kits with handy information to veterinary clinics around the County, so they can share these with their dog owning clients. This outreach teaches dog owners why is it important to pick dog poop and gives them the tools to properly dispose of it.

Find us at Festivals

Lead: Chrys Bertolotto (staff)

Beach Watchers travel and teach on the way. We share basic information about Puget Sound and how our personal practices can, and do touch the health of the Puget Sound waters and wildlife. This year, you can find us at the Snohomish Conservation District's Annual Plant Sale in Monroe, Festival of the River in Arlington, Edmonds Waterfront Festival, Evergreen State Fair in Monroe and at the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival. Each year, we might change the number and location of festivals we attend to, so stay tuned for what else may come in 2018!



ESCAPE CORD

Recreational Crabber Education

Leads: Yolimar Rivera Vázquez (staff)

Beach Watchers engage with recreational fishermen during the summer crabbing season to share tips on how to keep crab pots and eat more crab! Over 12,000 crab pots are lost every year in Puget Sound while continuing to catch over 120,000 crabs. Beach Watchers partner with the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee to share educate about this issue while providing escape cords and sharing useful tips like best places to crab.



Beach Watchers on Facebook!

Leads: Jim Traugott (Class of 2017) and Christine Gormley (Class of 2016)

Beach Watchers share educational content about the environment and the Puget Sound landscape through their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/snohomishbeachwatchers. We also share our events and local educational or volunteering opportunities. Follow us by clicking “Like” on our page and keep in touch on the latest Puget Sound and Beach Watcher news!



Educational Field Trips for Volunteers!

Leads: Judy Atkins (Class of 2013) and Carol Forsberg (Class of 2006)

Are you considering becoming a Beach Watcher? Are you wondering how are you going to continue learning after the core training? No need to worry! Beach Watchers hold 3-4 field trips every year to continue learning about Puget Sound and the connections between people, the land and the waters. Past field trips have included visiting the Seattle Aquarium, Hibulb Cultural Center (picture on the left), Taylor

Shellfish Farm Hatcheries, and more! Besides field trips, we continue offering educational opportunities via our monthly newsletter and our quarterly meetings. The learning opportunities never stop!

Projects On Hold

These are the projects that are currently inactive due to funding

Story Time for Preschoolers

Beach Watchers bring the beach and intertidal creatures to preschoolers and their families with story time in libraries around the county. Interspersing the reading of age-appropriate books with short hands-on and art activities allows Beach Watchers to inspire a love of nature, and Puget Sound in particular, at the young age that each of us is forming our connections to place.



Storm Drain Marking Project (on hold until 2019)

WSU Beach Watchers partner with the City of Mukilteo to help involve the residents of Mukilteo and Snohomish County in a community service project to place medallions on curbs that have storm drains. The medallions are a reminder that "*Only Rain Goes Down the Drain*" and that everything that goes down the drain, ends up in Puget Sound!