

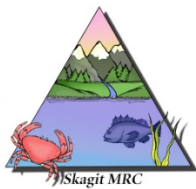
Fidalgo Bay Day 2014

A Public Education Program Sponsored by
Skagit County Marine Resources Committee



Photo by Paul Dinnel

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A Message for Team Ric

As many of you may know, Skagit Marine Resources Committee (MRC) member Ric Boge is battling a serious form of cancer. Early in the year, Ric agreed to take the MRC lead on the Fidalgo Bay Day event. Promoting Fidalgo Bay Day was an entirely natural thing for Ric to do since he has always been a strong proponent for being a good steward of our environment. Being the great organizer that he is, Ric had things going very well. Unfortunately, by early June, he was forced to cease virtually all of his outside activities and devote all of his time and energy to the serious fight against cancer.

Because of the excellent work done by Ric in the early stages of planning, other volunteers were able to pick up where he left off and put on another great Fidalgo Bay Day. We only wish that Ric could have joined us! Thank you Ric for laying the groundwork and getting us started!

For those that may not know, the family has created a page on the Caringbridge website called Team Ric. Please take some time to visit and send Ric and his family your support and positive messages. We all miss Ric and pray that he can return to his good work in our community in the very near future.

*This report was prepared by WSU Skagit County Beach Watcher, Wayne Huseby

Fidalgo Bay Day 2014

Saturday, September 13th, turned out to be a picture perfect day for our 11th annual Fidalgo Bay Day! Weather-wise, the summer of 2014 has been one of our best ever. It was a fitting way to wind down a fabulous summer!

The Samish Indian Nation again graciously offered to host our event at their wonderful Fidalgo Bay Resort Convention Center at no charge. The Convention Center is located along the beautiful shores of Fidalgo Bay in the heart of the Samish Fidalgo Island ancestral homelands. It is an absolute perfect venue for our event. The rich history of the Samish peoples on these grounds makes the venue extra special. It simply would not be possible to offer the public a high quality family event like Fidalgo Bay Day (FBD) at no charge without the generosity of the Samish. Thank you Samish Indian Nation!

For the second year, the organizers of Fidalgo Bay Day and National Estuaries Day (NED) collaborated to combine the two celebrations into a single event. By all accounts, combining the two events was a huge success. The organizers of National Estuaries Day setup nine (9) educational displays and demonstrations along the Tommy Thompson Trail. Many of the same people walking along the trail, who decided to stop by one of the displays, subsequently opted to check out the food, displays, and events at the Convention Center. Conversely, people coming to the Convention Center were provided information about NED displays and activities. It was a win-win for both events!

As noted in the opening of this report, this year's event was organized by Ric Boge of the Skagit MRC. Unfortunately, Ric had to step back from his Fidalgo Bay Day organizational duties in early June and devote all his time and energy fighting a very serious form of cancer. Ric had done a splendid job of getting event off to a great start! In July, Beckie Arnold, a Beach Watcher and Trail Tailer, volunteered to step forward and carry on what Ric had so ably started. Beckie received lots of help and assistance from several people, many of whom had experience with organizing and conducting FBD. Some of the key players included Paul Dinnel who arranged for the acquisition and preparation of the shellfish as well as the seine net; Lin Folsom who arranged for the chowder, treats, and associated permits; Sue Ehler who organized the children's activities; Catherine Buchalski who helped with overall event coordination; and Tracy Alker who handled event supplies and logistics. A special thanks to Erica Pickett for her expert advice and encouragement.

Support from our local restaurateurs was outstanding again this year with three local establishments, Mary Ann's Kitchen, Adrift Restaurant, and Johnny Picasso's, each offering up samples of some of the best clam chowder in the Northwest! The Gere-A-Deli generously provided us with their famous "to-die-for" brownies for the guests to enjoy with tea, coffee, or juice.



A great big “Thank You” is in order to Taylor Shellfish for again donating hundreds of dollars worth of delicious oysters and clams. The oysters were expertly prepared and grilled using Paul Dinnel’s special garnish and the clams were stewed Paul’s special sauce. What a treat! Paul’s shellfish preparation helpers included Vicki McNeil, Erik Dinnel, Dixon Elder, and Carol Philips. A Friday night crew led by Paul, Vicki, Lin Folsom, and Erica Pickett met at Mary Ann’s Kitchen to prepare Paul’s special garnish and sauce. The gathering at Mary Ann’s is now a FBD tradition!

Following up on last year’s success, the Samish again offered FBD guests an opportunity to crew in a traditional Samish canoe, an absolutely gorgeous craft (see following pictures). After being fitted with life jackets, crew members were introduced to Samish traditions in seamanship while plying the calm waters of Fidalgo Bay. The canoe trips were extremely popular with a trip scheduled approximately one every half hour from 11:30 am until 2:30 pm. They had a full canoe on virtually every trip!

Fidalgo Bay Day was officially opened by Samish Tribal Council member Dave Blackinton. Dave welcomed all of the gathered guests in a traditional Samish manner. Leslie Eastwood, Samish General Manager, then lead the guests in a Samish prayer of thanks. The opening concluded with Sam Barr, Natural Resources Technician, playing and singing a Samish song. Many of the guests commented on how much they enjoyed and appreciated the opening ceremonies.

Denise Crowe, Outreach Coordinator, along with several student volunteers from the Shannon Point Marine Center again brought their popular Touch Tanks. The students manned the tanks and patiently explained to the spell bound children exactly what they were seeing. For some of the kids, this would be there first “up close and personal” encounter with real live sea critters.

Rosie Cayou-James, Bill Bailey and family members again prepared a traditional Samish style luncheon featuring salmon grilled over an open alder fire with corn on the cob and Rosie’s famous fry bread.

Fidalgo Bay Day has always been about families, especially the children. This year was no exception. Sue Ehler and Catherine Buchalski, with help from many others, organized several different activities for the kids this year. Some of the activities were popular holdovers like button making while others were new. Based on the many smiling faces observed (see pictures), I would say it was a big success!

The Welcome and Check-In Desk counted 338 guests this year. We know there were some guests that did not check-in so the actual count was probably somewhat higher. Of those that officially checked in, approximately 50% were from the city of Anacortes with another 14% from neighboring Skagit County communities. About 20% of the guests were from neighboring counties. A full 15% of the guests were from out-of-state or out of the country. We even had guests from as far away as New Zealand and Germany! For a full breakdown of the guests, see the graphic on the following pages.

Putting on a successful Fidalgo Bay Day requires the talents and efforts of many people. This year, over 50 people volunteered their valuable time to make sure everyone had a positive experience and a good time. In addition, over two dozen organizations contributed their time, expertise, products, equipment, facilities and/or money. A BIG thanks go out to each and every one of them!

Because of Ric’s unfortunate illness, planning, organizing, and coordinating this year’s event was a little more challenging. Given the fact that Beckie Arnold had very little experience with Fidalgo Bay Day, she did a masterful job pulling everything together. Catherine Buchalski deserves special recognition for stepping up to assist Beckie in those crucial final few weeks before the big day. Thank you Beckie and Catherine!



Fidalgo Bay Day 2014

Breakdown of Guests by Origin

(338 Total Guests)

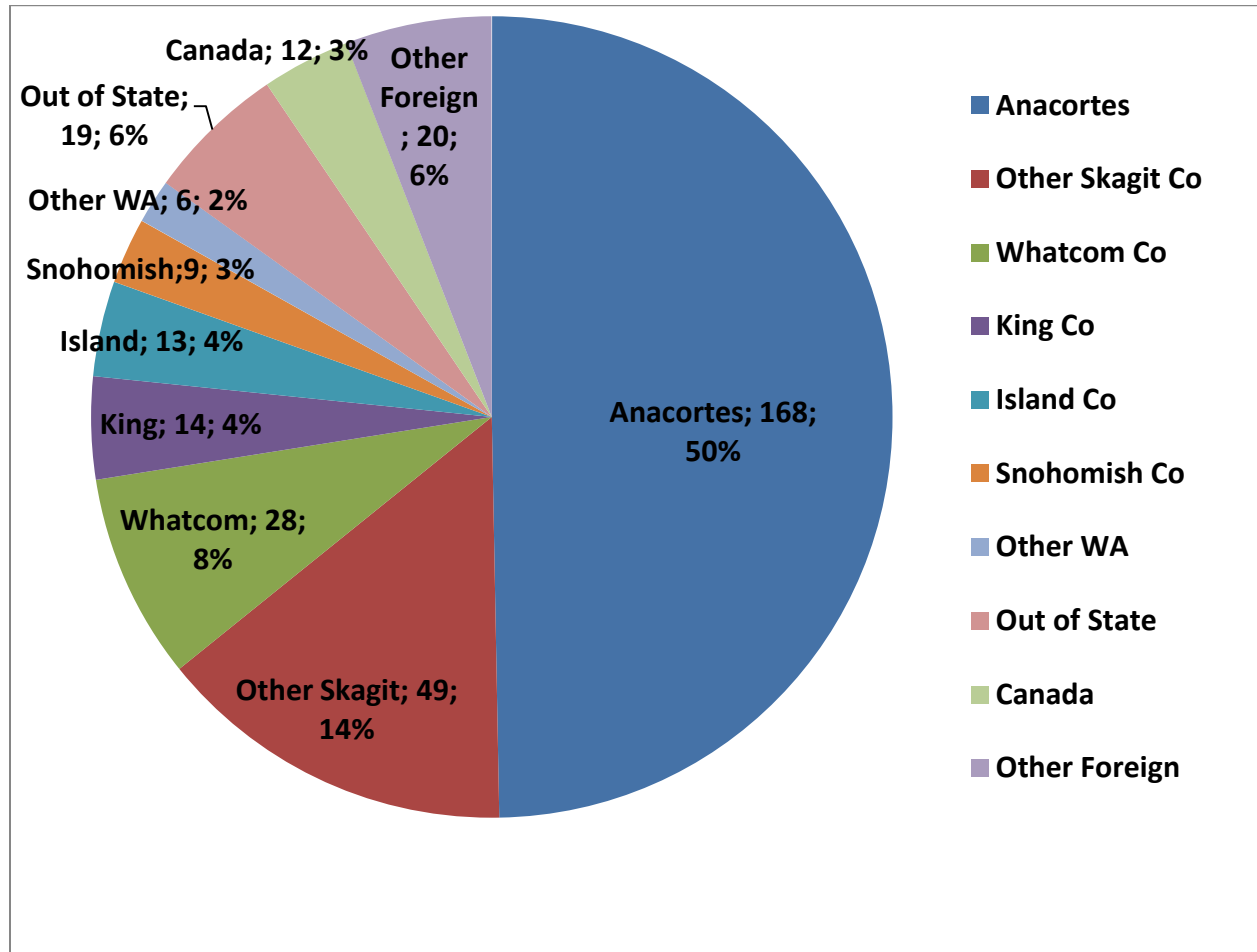




Photo by Ivar Dolph

Raffi Manion and Betty Kuehn man the Welcome and Check-In Station.



Photo by Ivar Dolph

Leslie Eastwood, Samish General Manager, leads the gathered guests in a Samish prayer of thanks to open the Fidalgo Bay Day celebration.



Photo by Lynn Karns

Samish Tribal Council member Dave Blackinton along with Education Program Manager Adam Lorio and Nat. Resource Tech Sam Barr give instructions to the “crew” prior to launch.



Photo by Lynn Karns

Samish Education Program Manager Adam Lorio launches a tribal canoe with some very excited crew members on a tour of Fidalgo Bay. Everyone had a great time and learned a bit about Samish culture.



Photo by Ivar Dolph

Mom and kids learn together about threats to our local marine environment.



Photo by Lynn Karns

Making buttons of marine critters. Lots of fun!



Photo by Ivar Dolph

A student volunteer from the Shannon Point Marine Center tells some fascinated kids about the sea “critters” in the Touch Tanks. The Touch Tanks are a perennial hit with everyone!



Photo by Ivar Dolph

A future scientist checks out what is under the microscope.



Photo by Lynn Karns

Samish master carver and artist Bill Bailey prepares barbequed salmon as the featured entrée in their Samish lunch. Along with Rosie's famous fry bread and corn-on-the-cob, it is always a popular item with the guests!



Photo by Ivar Dolph

Delicious Taylor Shellfish oysters expertly prepared by Paul Dinnel and his helpers. Some of the best in the Northwest!



Photo by Lynn Karns

Serving up those fabulous grilled oysters and clams. Yummy!



Photo by Ivar Dolph

Guests relaxing on the patio enjoying the view, food, and company.



Photo by Ivar Dolph

Never too young to come and have fun at Fidalgo Bay Day!



Photo by Ivar Dolph

Volunteer Claudia Dillman helps the kids with their crafts



Photo by Paul Dinnel

Tom Richardson takes the lead setting the net while Wayne Huseby and ??? hold anchor.



Photo by Erik Dinnel

Retired WFDW fish biologist Dan Penttila identifies the catch and provides us with interesting facts about each. Betty Bookheim, WA DNR, and Paul Dinnel, SPMC/MRC offer expert assistance.



Photo by Nancy Olsen

National Estuaries Day was held concurrently with Fidalgo Bay Day along the Tommy Thompson Trail. Here some families pick up their passports from Betty Carteret, President of Friends of Skagit Beaches.



Photo by Nancy Olsen

National Estuaries Day information display stations along the Tommy Thompson Trail.

Participating Organizations

Adrift Restaurant
Anacortes Boys' & Girls Club
Cayou Family Catering
Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizens' Stewardship Committee
Friday Harbor Whale Museum
Friends of Skagit Beaches
Gere-A-Deli
Johnny Picassos
Mary Ann's Kitchen
Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding network/OrcaNet
Northwest Straits Foundation
Pacific Biodiversity Institute
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Puget Sound Energy/Green Corps
REsources
Salish Sea Biological
Salish Sea Stewards
Samish Indian Nation
Shannon Point Marine Center
Skagit Conservation Education Alliance
Skagit County Marine Resources Committee
Skagit County Public Works/Water Quality
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Skagit Land Trust
Taylor Shellfish Farms
Tesoro
Trail Tales
Washington Environmental Council
Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
WSU Ext. Skagit County Beach Watchers

Volunteers

Phyllis Bravinder, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Betty Bookheim, WA Department of Natural Resources
Betty Carteret, Trail Tales
Morty Cohen, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers; Skagit MRC
Don Coleman, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Bill Clark, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Donna Davidson
Claudia Dillman
Erik Dinnel, Skagit MRC
Paul Dinnel, Skagit MRC
Aundrea Doll, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Ivar Dolph, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Bev Dressen, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Sue Ehler, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Dixon Elder, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Tammy Ennen, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Liz Faletti, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Lin Folsom, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Bob Freedman, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Pete Haase, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Mike Hendon, Skagit MRC
Wayne Huesby, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Pat Johnson
Peyton Kane, Trail Tales
Lynn Karns
Betty Kuehn, Trail Tales
Canda LePage
Jay Lind, Skagit MRC
Keith Magge, Skagit MRC
Raffi Manion, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Mary Lou Meader
Vicki McNeil
Dan McCroskey, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Mary McCroskey, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Mike Muhondro, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Jazz Morgan, Trail Tales; Skagit MRC
Bev Mowrer, Emerson School
Kari Odden, Skagit MRC
Charlie O'Hara, Skagit MRC
Dan Penttila, Salish Sea Biological
Scott Peterson, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Erica Pickett, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Elizabeth Richards, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Tom Richards, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Karen Richman, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Maddie Rose, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers; Skagit MRC
Tricia Sharp, Skagit MRC
Eric Shen, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Gordon Sijogren, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers; Skagit MRC
Caroline Spehar, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Pat Steffani, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Mae Tabor, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Carol Taylor, Skagit MRC
Sheila Tomas, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers; SFEG

Bob Weathers, WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers
Regan Weeks, Trail Tales
David Young, Skagit MRC
Patricia Young, Skagit MRC