



FRIENDS of
FORT WORDEN
STATE PARK

COMMUNIQUE

WWW.FWFRIENDS.ORG

Autumn

2009

This year's **Wildlife and Nature Art Exposition** happens again at the Commons on the Fort Worden campus, **October 10 and 11**, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The Expo's focus animal is the orca whale and the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, along with the Whale Museum, from Friday Harbor, will be offering presentations throughout both days. Families with kids are encouraged to attend and learn about the local pods that inhabit the Sound and how humans affect their ecosystem. Admission to the Expo and presentations is \$3/individuals, \$5/families.

On Friday, October 9, members of the Friends of Fort Worden and special guests are invited to an exclusive Expo preview and a Meet-the-Artist reception, following a short annual meeting. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served.

**MEMBER
BENEFIT**

If you are a member we hope to see you there at 6:00 p.m., if you are not, we'll look forward to having you with us during the Expo. Once there you will have the opportunity to join this important organization that contributes to the overall health of Fort Worden State Park.

The Expo is a venue that provides an opportunity to be educated through art about our environment and the wildlife that thrive in it. Some of the artists, educators themselves, include carving - Ken Campbell, Terry Woodall; painting - Larry Eifert, Lisa Kaplan, Pamela Stoehsler, Susan Swapp, Diana Whitney, Kim Middleton, Sallie Zydek; scratchboard - Diane Versteeg, Julie Fulkerson; ceramics - Jeremy Keller; jewelry - Cliff Scharf; pencil - Monica Van der Vieren. Information about the artists and the Expo are at www.wildartexpo.org.



Gladiator of the Glade - Terry Woodall



Table - Jeremy Keller



Trillium - Monica Van der Vieren



White Crown Resting - Susan Swapp

Wildlife & Nature Art Exposition

Fort Worden Commons
October 10 & 11, 2009



Wolf - Lisa Kaplan



Sea Lion and Cormorant - Diane Versteeg



Heron - Pamela Stoehsler



President's Column *Rick Sepler*

The historic buildings at Fort Worden are enduring reminders of the use of the site prior to its conversion to a state park. However, these structures are aging and many are in need of stabilization and/or rehabilitation. Due to the lack of available funding at the state level for restoration, this issue is perhaps the most significant challenge that faces the Fort into the future.

Recently, a number of agencies, organizations and individuals have seen a way of turning this challenge into an opportunity by creating a center for historic preservation at Fort Worden. The center would teach restoration skills using the existing buildings as learning laboratories. This would provide two benefits: restoration of buildings in the Fort and "hands-on" experience for students.

Port Townsend provides an ideal locale for a program in historic preservation; the city has a rich and elegant architectural heritage, and

Preserving what is important

historic Fort Worden provides a magnificent campus setting for the program. It is anticipated that the center will offer an intensive introduction to the theory and practice of historic preservation and will explore a range of issues including "hand's on" preservation techniques, adoptive reuse strategies, and the economics of preservation.

Presently the City and County, State Parks, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and the School of Woodworking are working diligently to lay the groundwork for the establishment of the center. This includes developing both educational and funding plans. All of the participants have been encouraged by the initial support received from both existing organizations in the field and from potential funding sources. Work continues, with a directed workshop to be held in early November, to focus planning efforts.

If successful, this initiative will have a profound and positive effect on the Fort, and will help us preserve what is important.

Park Manager's Report *Kate Burke*

Washington State Parks continues to need your continued support for the license tab donations program. The 2009 Legislature passed a law establishing this program to keep state parks open. Starting with tab renewals due in September 2009, notices and new registrations include the \$5 donation that goes directly to operate state parks and keep them open. The state budget says specifically that parks will remain open as long as adequate donations are collected through this program. For more information, visit www.parks.wa.gov. Payment of tab renewal fees and any donations are made to DOL online, by mail, or in person at vehicle licensing offices.

Please spread the word about this opportunity to your families, friends and neighbors. We really need your help in keeping our treasured parks open.

Thank you for your support

Fort Worden Area continues to review all operations looking for ways to reduce spending. We are cutting back on the amount of hours spent providing various services where we can, trying to avoid significant negative impacts to our customers. We are still in a much reduced budget for 2009-11 and anticipate our budgets will not increase until possibly the next biennium, which will begin in July of 2011. So we are tightening our belt everywhere!

This is when we need our Friends the most. Through their hard work in the Guardhouse Gift Shop and various enterprising projects and special events, such as the upcoming Wildlife Art Expo, they have been able to fund numerous improvements at the park that all our visitors can enjoy. The Friends are a lifeline for Fort Worden State Park. Please renew your membership and encourage others to join.

Treasurer's Report *David Sepler*

Over the past year and a half, Friends of Fort Worden have contributed funds for projects and equipment that have enhanced the park and directly benefited visitors.

Your donations have gone to:

- Cutlery for the rental housing,
- Oral History Program supplies,
- "Doggy-pot" bags,
- TV set for Commons,
- Halloween Spooktacular hayride,
- Wildlife and Nature Art Expo,
- USO building window treatments,
- Port Townsend Chamber of Commerce pre-holiday mixer,
- Guardhouse electrical fixture retrofit,
- Bench in front of the Wheeler Theatre,



New Wheeler Theater bench.

- Magazine racks for the Park Office Building,
- Lunch for the visiting veterans of the 369th EASR,
- Bike racks for various locations throughout the park,
- The Music of North India performance,
- Motor Pool Building, #365 restoration.



Newly installed bicycle racks.

Income: \$5,994
 Transfer from
 Guardhouse Proceeds:
 \$15,000
 Capital Expense:
 \$12,743
 Ending Bank Balance:
 \$76,759

Membership Application

\$25 - Friend \$50 - Associate
 \$100 - Companion \$ 500 - Life Member

Please make your tax-deductable check to
Friends of Fort Worden State Park
200 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Please designate my contribution to the following project (s):

Thank you for your generous support.

I would like to become a member of the
Friends of Fort Worden State Park and help
preserve this special place for future generations.

Name - if different from label on opposite side.

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

Email

Historic Preservation at Fort Worden

Tim Lawson

In the June "Practical Historic Preservation Class" five veterans from the Washington State Veterans Conservation Corps learned the fundamental theory of Historic Preservation and completed the restoration of the eastern facade of the Motor Vehicle Pool building (Building 365) at Fort Worden. This class was supported by a generous grant from the Friends of Fort Worden and with materials and staff assistance from Fort Worden State Park.

The school is growing its Historic Preservation program by offering Maintenance, Weatherization and Window Restoration

workshops for the owners of old homes in Fall 2009. The school is planning to teach longer courses through practical restoration projects at the Fort and in Port Townsend in 2010. **Port Townsend School of Woodworking** is transitioning to a new non-profit and will be partnering with the City of Port Townsend, the Fort Worden Collaborative, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to create a center for Historic Preservation at Fort Worden.



Friends host veterans group

Patience Rogge

It was an emotional homecoming for a score of Korean War era veterans of the **369th Engineer Amphibious Support Regiment** when they visited the scene of their youthful military service on April 23.



Under the leadership of their former sergeant John Singhose of Port Angeles, the veterans and family members gathered at the Coast Artillery Museum for a tour followed by lunch at the Commons hosted by the Friends of Fort Worden. A stop at the Guardhouse Gift Shop evoked memories of its days as the Army stockade, although no one admitted to spending time in the cells, all were pleased with the quality of the merchandise the shop carries.

Many of the men had participated in the Fort Worden Oral History Program, relating the stories of their time at the fort and overseas assignments, and brought photo albums and other memorabilia to share. Each received a copy of "Conversations With the 369th," a bibliography of interviews with members of the regiment compiled in observance of their reunion in 2007.

The group stayed at the Harborside Inn and enjoyed a special dinner at the Belmont, showing once again how Friends of Fort Worden activities contribute to the local economy.

Friends at the Fair

Friends of Fort Worden and Friends of Fort Townsend sponsored two adjoining booths at the Jefferson County Fair, August 14-16, which provided public outreach and information.

Volunteer Coordinator **Jean Dunbar** set up the Friends of Fort Worden booth and staffed it throughout the three days of the fair with help from only three volunteers. Jean fielded questions about the future of the park, handed out brochures provided by Park Partners, hiking trail maps, and applications for commemorative brick pavers, along with pamphlets of Fort Worden schedules and activities. Posters and display boards offered additional information about Friends of Fort Worden and their contributions to enhancing the park visitor's experience.

"People love this park, are anxious about its future and were very supportive. We need their support and cooperation and this was an excellent cross section of local citizens to reach out to and thank," wrote Jean in her report to the Friends' board. She emphasized that the Friends of Fort Townsend deserve special thanks for providing the tent that housed the two booths.

Friends of Fort Worden State Park - Board of Directors

Rick Sepler - President • Patience Rogge - Vice President
Wendy Los - Secretary • David Sepler - Treasurer
C.Overman - Membership • Kate Burke - Ex Officio
Cheryl Goerger, Gwen Lovett - At Large



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200 Battery Way
Port Townsend, WA 98368

fwfriends.org

Friends of Fort Worden website, www.fwfriends.org has a new up-dated look, thanks to the efforts of webmaster **Cheryl Goerger of Arrowleaf Web Design**.

The new look includes easier access to pages dedicated to various activities of the Friends, such as the Brick Paver Program, the Guardhouse Gift Shop and the Fort Worden Oral History Program, as well as more graphics featuring views of the park.

For on-line shoppers, the service **iGive** offers an additional opportunity to support the Friends of Fort Worden. A percentage of every purchase made from their extensive list of participating merchants is contributed to Friends. Visit www.iGive.com for details on how your shopping dollars can help us help the Fort.

A Note of Appreciation to express our gratitude to the volunteers who have made this a super summer at the Guardhouse Gift Shop Visitors Center: **Laura and Bob Thomas, Nancy and Mervyn Hatton, Luci and Mike McGinty**. In an economically tough year, the work of volunteers like these made a big difference for Fort Worden.

-- David Sepler, Guardhouse Manager and Treasurer

A Thank You for Your Support goes to all of our new and renewing members since the last newsletter: Alan and Mary Brulger (MT), Frank and Kay Randolph, Linda Olson (TX), Peter Walker (CT), Mike and Luci McGinty, Cal and Carol Lovegren, Betty O'Bryan (WA), Rick and Mary Sepler, Mike Comforth, Dennis Daneau, Linda Martin, Polly Nyby, Ann Pougiales, Gerald Ames, Debbi Steele, Richard Wagner, Aletia Alvarez, Floyd Henspeter, Mary Hewitt, Dick and Eleanor Stickney, all of Port Townsend.

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Zebras - Sally Zydek

Oral History Program Reaches Out

Patience Rogge

Editing the more than 300 oral history transcripts of stories collected since 2002 has been a daunting yet rewarding task. As each transcript is read, a more complete picture of life at Fort Worden over its history as a military installation, Juvenile Diagnostic and Treatment Center, and State Park unfolds. Although the chore of checking spelling and grammar can be tedious, reading about the lives of the real people who served, lived, worked, or visited Fort Worden has fascinated me for the past seven months.

Just as I was beginning to work on ideas of how to let the world know of this treasure trove of source material for playwrights, poets, and authors I received a call from Tina Denzel-Peterson, the Interpretative Specialist at Cama Beach State Park.

Ms. Denzel-Peterson and her volunteers at Washington's newest state park wanted some advice about starting an oral history program for their site, which opened last year on Camano Island. After a long conversation about the technicalities of what is involved with release forms, training volunteers, archiving, and collections preservation, she invited me to give a presentation at Cama Beach. In return for my presentation, I was offered the use of a cabin for the night. The offer was too good to refuse, although it meant public speaking and preparation.

On July 23, I arrived at Cama Beach with a prepared speech on the details of organizing a program and some visual aids for show and tell. An audience of 16 people ranging from toddlers to seniors gathered in the former general store to hear the lecture.

One look and I knew I was in trouble. I took a poll--did they want to know how to organize an oral history program or did they want to hear stories? The overwhelming choice was stories, so I threw away my speech and spent the next 90 minutes telling the story of Fort Worden as told to our volunteers by the everyday, ordinary people who had lived through some extraordinary times and seen some amazing events.

Visit www.fwfriends.org beginning next month to read snippets of these stories--some humorous, some scary, some sad, but all intriguing--gathered by the Fort Worden Oral History Program.