



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SHARING ISLAND COUNTY'S SHORELINE WONDERS

Do you love the beauty of Island County? Are you charmed by the ebb and flow of the tides, the seasonal visits of migrating birds, the return of mature salmon after growing strong in the ocean and the drama of orcas passing close to shore?

If these natural surroundings lift your spirits and draw your curiosity, you already have gifts of great value to share with others, and by sharing these gifts you can make a difference in the stewardship of our islands and in the lives of people who live here and visit here.

A sense of wonder is one of your gifts and it's not just for children. I'll bet you can remember (no matter how old you were when it happened) the first time you saw a killer whale swim by, or you dug up a clam and took it home for a delicious meal, or even the first time you watched barnacles wave their feathery "legs" to catch plankton for their dinner. Your delight and wonder in these everyday things on our islands can invite grandchildren, neighbors, friends, even strangers to have WOW! moments they will savor for a lifetime and you will fuel their interest in our wonder-filled natural world on display here in Island County.

Don't be shy about your enthusiasm – it's contagious!

Your spirit of adventure and exploration is another gift you can share. There are beaches to walk, trails to follow, bays to explore by boat or kayak, whale-watching outings – the list is almost endless. In addition, thanks to the Island County Marine Resources Committee, the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and a number of other organizations, you will find informative signs and displays throughout the county to help you understand and share details about many locations. You will find exploring is fun and informative and that one layer of discovery leads to more and deeper exploration.

Explore boldly and invite others to join you!

Your willingness to share what you know is another gift. It's helpful to keep in mind we are all learners on a journey and an honest "I don't know the answer" is absolutely the right response when it's true. A good question can lead to great fun learning together and is an ideal way to push yourself and your friends to learn even more.

Other questions about our shorelines may seem basic. I'll bet you can remember being asked questions that made it clear the questioner knew little about the sea and the shore. These questions open a great opportunity to share correct information and encourage more questions and more learning. Strive to be a "Guide on the Side" who encourages and enjoys curiosity and discovery.

Assemble an Adventure Basket. Now is the time to prepare to share the shoreline with seasonal residents, tourists, children, grandchildren, and friends and invite them to join you in the adventure. To pave the way as you follow your own interests, I recommend you create a collection of information and supplies that will make it easy for you (and your friends and visitors) to head out the door for an adventure. My adventure collection includes maps, brochures from local museums and displays, books, sea-life identification cards, information about parking and passes, a favorite shade/rain hat, doggie bags and more. Yours will be unique to you.



Barbara's adventure basket.

In my home, I have a beautiful basket brimming with these materials. It nudges me to be creative about my personal adventures and is very helpful for my visitors looking for their own adventures.

Barbara's adventure basket

Here's my list of essential information and books:

- Sea-life identification cards (available at the Langley Whale Center)
- Tide log for the current year (available at hardware stores or the Moonraker)
- *Hiking Close to Home* (available at bookstores in Island County)
- *Getting to the Water's Edge* (available at bookstores in Island County or through Sound Water Stewards' website)
- *Exploring Camano Island* (Available at hardware and gift stores on Camano)
- Washington State Parks information (Deception Pass and Fort Casey Park offices)
- Washington State Birding Trails (Available from Audubon Washington)
- *Sibley Field Guide to Birds of North America* (Available at bookstores and on the web)

And destination brochures:

- Island County Historical Museum, Coupeville
- Coupeville Wharf Display, Downtown Coupeville
- Langley Whale Center, Langley

And websites to search:

- Whidbey Camano Land Trust: wclt.org
- Sound Water Stewards of Island County: soundwaterstewards.org
- Whidbey Audubon Society: whidbeyaudubonsociety.org
- Island County Marine Resources Committee: islandcountymrc.org
- Washington Sea Grant Shoreline Ambassador Program: wsg.washington.edu/shoreline-ambassador-program

When you are ready to dive deeper in your exploration and learning, consider becoming a member of Sound Water Stewards (applications for the 2021 training waitlist are now open), Whidbey Audubon, or another local organization such as those listed above.

When you expand the circle and deepen the knowledge of people who find joy in Island County's shorelines, you support good stewardship of our wonderful natural surroundings.

I encourage you to delight in WOW! moments, explore boldly, learn eagerly, share your knowledge generously and kindly. Then, repeat the cycle again...and again...and again...and again...

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