

From: [Falzetti, David](#)
Bcc: [BrownScott, Jennifer](#)
Subject: BRANT Summer Edition
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Attachments: [Brant_Summer_2018.pdf](#)

Hello Refuge Volunteers and Staff, attached is the latest edition of the *Brant* hot off the presses. Thank you to the editor, Jason West, for another outstanding edition! We hope you enjoy it.

The *Brant* is your newsletter. Please consider submitting articles and/or photos for future editions. Thank you, Dave

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THE BRANT

VOLUME 3

FRIENDS OF DUNGENESS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SUMMER 2018

Clallam County Commissioner Mark Ozias Visits the Refuge

One of the Friends' goals is to engage with local leaders and representatives to show them the importance of the Refuge and introduce them to the Friends. This summer the Friends invited Clallam County Commissioner Mark Ozias to visit the Refuge. Mark accepted the invitation and visited in August. We discussed the positive effects the Refuge has on our community and Mark offered helpful insights about obtaining local grants to help fund the Friends projects. After the meeting Lorenz gave a tour of the native plants being grown for habitat restoration at Protection Island.

REFUGE EVENTS

**Friends 2018 Annual Meeting
Thursday, November 8th**

Meet at Dungeness River
Audubon Center at 2:00pm.
See additional information on
page 2 of this newsletter.



Lorenz Sollmann takes Mark Ozias and the Friends on a tour of the native plants outside the Refuge office.



A productive meeting with Clallam County Commissioner Mark Ozias in August.



Golden Paintbrush seeds grown at the Refuge will become plants on Protection Island.

A Note from the Friends President

As I end my term on the Friends board, I want to say “Thank You” to all the members of the Board, past and present, for the marvelous work they do for the Friends of Dungeness NWR. I especially thank Bruce Brod for his excellent and thorough work as treasurer, and Linda Gutowski for her grant-writing skills. The board is a great team.

Since its founding in 2000, the Friends have come a long way. Thanks to Fish and Wildlife Service for sending Margaret and me to the training at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia last year. We have been able to become part of a much larger community of Friends groups across the country, and even out into the Western Pacific (Think Midway, Guam and the Marianas).

We learned that all friends groups face similar challenges of budget and recruiting and training volunteers. We can exchange our ideas and problems within this Friends community.

I see great days ahead for Friends of Dungeness NWR. Keep up the great work!

John Maxwell, President



A Rough-Skinned Newt makes his way across the main trail in July.

Notice of Friends Annual Meeting

Time and date: 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 8, 2018

Location: Dungeness River Audubon Center

The agenda includes hearing annual reports, confirmation of current board members, and a program by The Friends of Dungeness River Audubon Center.

Come and hear the exciting plans for expanding the River Center.

“Cookie potluck”, with tea and coffee (please feel free to bring cookies!)

CONTACTS

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National Wildlife Refuge**

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FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellie Ausmus

Bruce Brod, Treasurer

Jessie Christiansen, Vice President

Linda Gutowski

Jeanie McNamara, Clerk

John Maxwell, President

Margaret Maxwell

Steve Muller

Dan Shappie

Jason West

FRIENDS COMMITTEES

Environmental Education

Environmental Restoration

Jessie Christiansen

Fundraising

Linda Gutowski

Outreach

Jason West

Refuge Protection

Margaret Maxwell

Native Plant Tour Educates and Informs

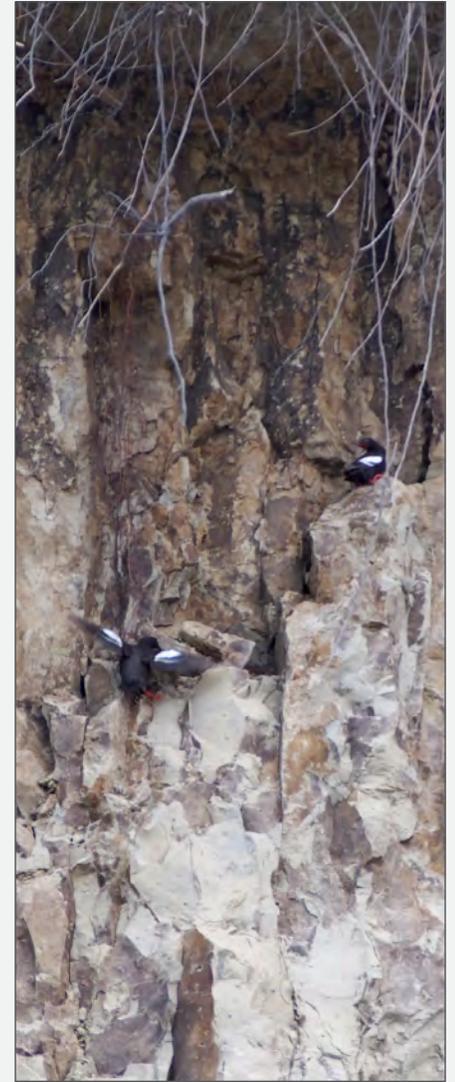
Clallam Conservation District Executive Director Joe Holtrop led native plant tours in June for Refuge volunteers. The tours took over three hours, following paths through the Dungeness Recreation Area. Joe identified numerous native plants and explained where they thrive and how to best incorporate them into landscaping at home. More information about the Clallam Conservation District and their programs can be found at their web site: <https://clallamcd.org> [CLICK HERE](#)



Joe Holtrop educates volunteers about native plants and answers many questions.

Pigeon Guillemots on the Bluffs

Members of the auk and puffin family, Pigeon Guillemots nest in the bluffs along the shore. On this July day they were quite active and entertaining, feeding in the shallow water and bringing food back to the bluffs.



Friends Accomplishments

You may wonder what it is that the Friends do. Well, here's a partial list of our activities and accomplishments so far this year:

Volunteer support

- Hosted the volunteer recognition banquet (March).
- Provided lunch for volunteer training (April).
- Sponsored mid-season volunteer picnic (August).
- Provided food for end-of-season volunteer picnic (October).

Environmental education: Co-sponsored programs with Refuge staff and the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

- Marine Mammals (February).
- Insects (May).
- Leave No Trace (May).
- Native plants (June).
- Geology (July).

Refuge Protection: Worked to protect our Refuge and refuges across the country.

- Clallam County letter requesting a fireworks buffer zone.
- Commercial Oyster farm in Dungeness Refuge tidelands.
- Dungeness County Park.
- Atlantic Salmon Farming.
- International Migratory Bird Treaty.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- 2019 federal budget, National Wildlife Refuge System appropriation.
- Invitations extended to County Commissioner Mark Ozias and U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer to visit the Refuge.

Environmental Restoration (supervised by Refuge staff)

- Removed non-native plants from the Dawley property, Protection Island, San Juan Island archipelago, Graveyard Spit and the forest above Dungeness Spit.
- Planted native species, including golden paintbrush on Protection Island.
- Monitored and removed green crabs.
- Watered garry oak saplings in new oak savanna near Refuge office.
- Worked on fencing and other preparation of oak savanna to create a native plant meadow.

Plans for the Future

Our plans for the future include developing an educational app for the Refuge, planning a Family Discovery Day for August 2019, and a video on the restoration of Protection Island.

FRIENDS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Two board positions open in January 2019.
- Membership chair
- Media coordinator
- Social media outreach

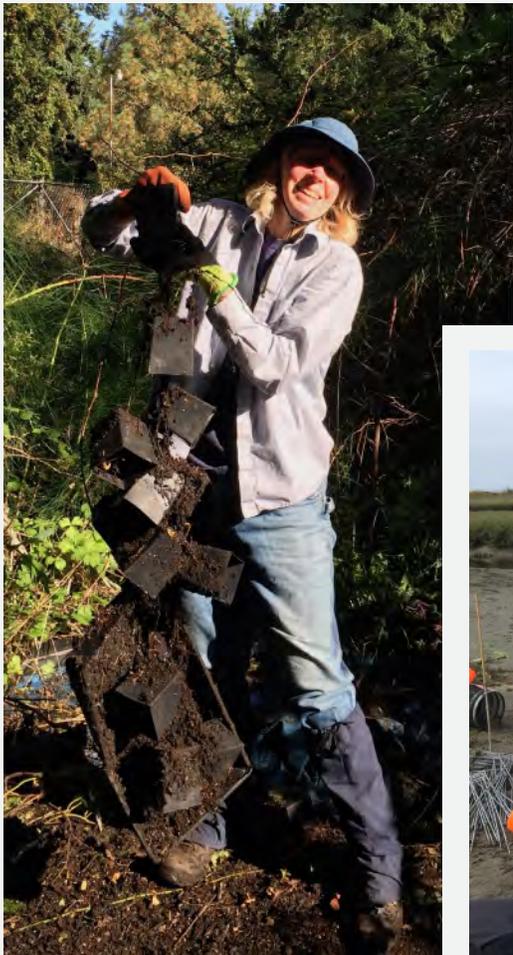
Please contact us if you would like to work with the Friends.



The summer picnic was well attended.



Weed Warriors in action. Photo: L. Davis/USFWS



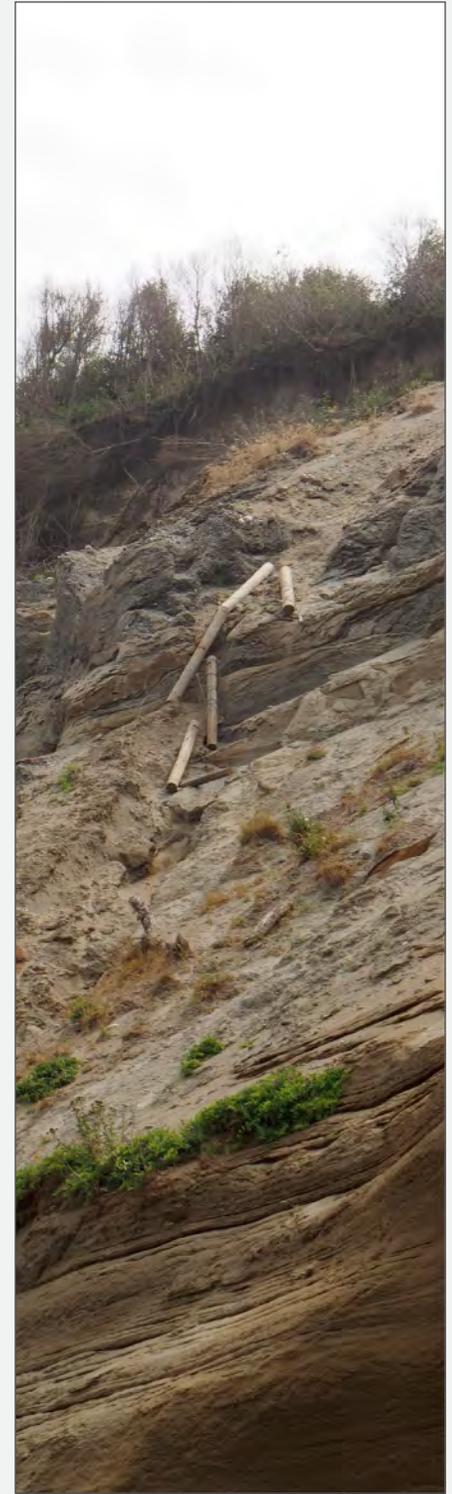
Weed Warriors. Photos: L. Davis/USFWS



Green Crab Team. Photos: L. Davis/USFWS

Summer Slide

If you've been out to the Refuge this summer you probably know about the fresh slide on the bluffs which closed one of the parking areas in the County Park.



Fencing falling down the bluffs.

Fallen bluff material will help grow the spit and has closed one of the viewpoint parking areas.