



## Newsletter Fall 2001



*“A park without friends cannot survive ...  
it has no soul, no front line of defense.”*

### **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Hello Friends! Late October in Port Townsend brings cloudy skies, gusty winds, and sudden rain showers. For me, the fall months are a time of reflection. A time to sit by the fire, to catch up with family and friends, and think of the coming year.

This is my first year serving as president of the Friends of Fort Worden State Park and my first contribution to the newsletter. I love Fort Worden for the same reasons many of you do: its graceful historic buildings, the peacefulness of its natural areas, the incredible beauty of its scenic vistas, and the human activity that is the heartbeat of the park. I am involved as a member of the Friends of Fort Worden because our state parks play a vital role in our society. They offer us quiet places surrounded by nature, where we can relax and re-energize ourselves. They preserve many of our state’s historic treasures, ensuring that they will endure for future generations. Lastly, our state parks provide high quality camping and recreational opportunities.

While our state park system is formally funded by a combination of park revenues and taxpayer funding, this funding does not go far enough. While the public’s use of state park facilities increases dramatically every year, unfortunately the funding for state parks has not. The result is that much needed maintenance of buildings and facilities does not occur, and park staff is stretched to the limits. While Friends groups are not the end-all answer to this funding shortage, we play an important support role. Participation in Friends groups says to our community and our legislators that we cherish our state parks and that we take individual responsibility for ensuring their continued existence and success.

The Friends of Fort Worden were very active in 2001 and accomplished many things. The Guardhouse information center was in its second full year of operation and saw an increase in days of operation, volunteer participation, customer visits, and revenue. Trail and grounds maintenance volunteers pulled nearly all the scotch broom (a non-native, invasive plant) from around Chinese Gardens Lagoon. A great deal of Friends’ volunteer time and effort went towards organizing and planning for the 2002 “Come Home to Fort Worden” 100-year anniversary. This newsletter contains more information on these events and how you can become involved.

Next year we look forward to more accomplishments and contributions to Fort Worden. The Friends have provided funding for the construction of a host RV site

### **2002 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION – A REALLY BIG SHOW!**

The Fort Worden 2002 Centennial promises to be the biggest event in this part of the state next year. Four major celebrations will take place throughout the year, kicking off with Anniversary Days May 10 to 19, followed by Centennial Days July 1 to 7, Enhancement Days October 11 to 20, and ending with Grand Memory Days December 6 to 8.

The Friends of Fort Worden State Park has donated \$1,000 to the event.

Here’s an opportunity for each of you to become more involved. The centennial committee is looking for volunteers in all sorts of capacities. Three information sessions for prospective volunteers are scheduled for November. They take place November 7 at 7 p.m., November 11 at 3 p.m. and November 14 at 2 p.m. All will be held in Building 204, upstairs south, at Fort Worden State Park. If you want to be able to tell your grandkids, “I was there,” plan to attend one of the sessions and become part of this history-making celebration.

Laurie Medlicott, longtime member of our Friends organization, has been selected as the Volunteer Coordinator for the park. You can reach her at the park office at 344-4442.

this winter. The park host staying in this site next season will work at least 20 hours per week in the Guardhouse information center, allowing the Guardhouse to be open more days.

The Friends are also looking forward to developing, in consultation with state parks historic preservation staff, a restoration plan for the historic “dinky” steam locomotive. This locomotive was excavated in the 1970s and was originally used in the construction of the fort. It may be the oldest locomotive in the state. And, of course, the events celebrating Fort Worden’s 2002 centennial will provide a wonderful opportunity to return to Fort Worden and gain new memories that will stay with us forever.

So thank you for your contribution to the Friends of Fort Worden State Park. It means a lot and that you care.

*Jeff Randall*

## FRIENDS' BENCHES

Come spring, look for benches gracing the porch at the Guardhouse. The Friends' Board of Directors has approved the purchase of two traditional benches, one to be placed on each side of the door. They will provide a resting spot for visitors and complement the building.



## VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER AND GIFT SHOP REPORT

This past year of operation for the Visitor Information Center and Gift Shop in the restored Guardhouse was a highly successful one, thanks to the tireless efforts of our enthusiastic volunteers.

Visitors from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Scotland, Switzerland, Wales and The Netherlands, in addition to folks from just about every state in the country, were among those who signed our guest register.

Sales in the well-stocked gift shop have generated funds for park projects. All gift items relate to the Fort Worden experience and we have plans for additional stock in 2002.

As a member of The Friends of Fort Worden State Park, you receive a 10 percent discount. Remember the Gift Shop when you are doing your Christmas shopping. November and December hours will be Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the end of December with additional hours planned for the holidays.

Starting in May of 2002 when the Centennial celebration begins, we are planning to be open daily. We will need additional volunteers to staff the facility. If you have a few hours to spare on a weekly or biweekly basis and enjoy helping people, consider volunteering.

Stop by the Guardhouse during the above hours and leave your name and phone number or call Grant or Barbara Davies at 379-8430. We'll pass your name along to Terri Dungworth, volunteer coordinator for the guardhouse with Patti Ragan assisting. You'll be contacted as we head into 2002. A session covering the information center and retail training will be held in early spring.

Thanks to our volunteers and to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Guardhouse operation.

*Grant and Barbara Davies*

## MAINTENANCE REPORT

This year, the volunteer maintenance activity focused on the removal of Scotch Broom at the Chinese Gardens area of the park. We got off to a great start in April during the Earth Day weekend when a good turnout by Friends members combined with a crew from a Coca Cola distributorship in Bellevue enabled us to pull up a truly amazing number of plants. Work parties continued on a monthly basis through the summer.

The regular crew consisted of Joe Payne, Rosemary Russell, Bryan Schrader, Curt Danielson, Alfred Chiswell, Mike Smallwood, Emma Burnfield, Nora Burnfield, Betsy Barclay and Mark Burnfield. Other participants included Britt Danielson, Allen and Lynne Dunham, Julie Matthes, Shelly Testerman, and Jeff Randall. We estimate that at least four tons of that noxious weed Scotch Broom were taken to the compost facility.

*Mark Burnfield*

## A GATHERING OF FRIENDS

In October, Fort Worden State Park was host to the annual gathering of Friends groups from around the state. Facilitated by Kathy Randall, Washington State Parks and Recreation Friends Program Manager, several dozen people from 14 groups participated in the two-day session, exchanging ideas and sharing successes.

Among those attending were representatives from the South Cle Elum Depot, Birch Bay State Park, Mount Spokane State Park, Fort Flagler State Park, Fort Casey State Park/Admiralty Head Lighthouse, Camano Island Parks, Moran State Park, Old Fort Townsend State Park, Fort Canby State Park, Goldendale State Park Observatory and Bridle Trails State Park

The gathering presented a great opportunity to showcase our park. Many of the participants toured Fort Worden and stayed in park housing.



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