



Newsletter

Fall 2008

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

Dear Friends:

Welcome to Fall! What a beautiful time of year at Fort Worden and on the Olympic Peninsula. The weather is still very pleasant and there are so many activities to enjoy outdoors and indoors. This summer has been particularly busy with the many new programs and the culmination of Fort Worden's Long Range Plan. We have had numerous public input sessions on the plan which some of you attended. I know many of you have been following the story in the local papers. For those of you who have not kept up with the planning process, the following summarizes the plans and recommendations we are requesting the State Parks and Recreation Commission to approve on September 25 in Yakima, WA.

Fort Worden Design Guidelines for Rehabilitation

Fort Worden is State Parks' only National Historic Landmark. This is the highest designation for a historic facility. So, it was incredibly important to ensure that the Fort and its historic buildings are improved and treated in a manner that preserves its historic integrity and characteristics while allowing programming and alternative uses to proceed. This document outlines the recommended historic preservation treatments of Fort Worden facilities and landscape.

Fort Worden Site and Facility Use and Development Plan

As Fort Worden grows and evolves towards the Life Long Learning Center, this plan does not identify specific program uses of buildings, but assigns each building a "use category" such as an accommodation, administrative, program classroom, or auditorium. This approach provides flexibility but still allows planning for infrastructure, circulation, transportation and other park wide systems.

Future Governance and Management

The State Parks Director appointed seven members, three staff, and a Special Attorney General to the Fort Worden Task Force. This Task Force was charged with evaluating the park governance and recommending a management structure best suited to achieve the vision of a Life Long Learning Center.



The Task Force's evaluation included three underlying premises:

1. The status quo has not produced a satisfactory result and does not appear financially sustainable over the long-term;
2. The current management structure tends to isolate partner organizations and creates little incentive for them to work together for the good of the park as a whole;
3. The agency alone cannot achieve the Commission's vision for the park.

A vibrant, sustainable life-long learning center will require the park and its non-profit and business partners to work together effectively – sharing resources, expanding program offerings, caring for facilities, building financial support, and better collaborating with one another.

The Task Force concluded that management by a non-profit is the structure best suited to achieving the life-long learning center vision. Staff concurs with this recommendation, and understands that implementation will require resolution of significant and challenging issues – particularly those related to safeguarding employment and benefits of park staff; committing the agency to set levels of financial support; and ensuring that this spectacular park remains a public asset.

These are exciting plans for the park's future, the resident and non-resident organizations, and for the public who will benefit from access to better facilities and to world class programs and events.

Fort Worden's future will depend on your continued support and help. You are a vital part of our success.

Thanks as always to you, our Friends, for making this park special to everyone.

Kate Burke
Fort Worden Area Parks Manager



From the President:

If you are reading this, you will likely agree that Fort Worden is a unique and special place: Unique in its one-of-a-kind combination of natural areas, historic structures, and increasingly vibrant activities and uses; Special in the relationships, memories, and connections that the Fort has with the local community, the state, and points beyond.

Maintaining and preserving these character-defining qualities in the face of a changing world will not happen without dedicated involvement from those who cherish and value the Fort. As an organization, the Friends of Fort Worden strives to focus the efforts of those whose lives have been positively touched by the park to contribute to activities and projects that enhance and enrich the Fort.

This year the Friends of Fort Worden have been an active participant in the long-range planning process for the future of the Park. This planning process is extremely important as it will define the future administrative structure, allowed uses, activities and facilities for the park. It will also provide a blueprint and strategy that will help address the years of deferred maintenance for park buildings and infrastructure.

Although many are concerned with the changes the plan might bring, inactivity and stagnation will not serve to protect or preserve Park resources. The Park is now at a tipping point: either it moves forward towards implementing a sustainable funding scheme or it will likely slide into building and facility closures resulting in the erosion of existing programs. This decline can ultimately lead to the demolition of buildings on-site.

The choice for the future is ours as a community. As Friends of Fort Worden, the time has come for us to act in support of a positive planning that ensures an enduring legacy for the future. Towards this end, the Friends will seek a more active role in helping with the selection of the future park management entity and implementing the Master Plan in the coming year.

*Rick Sepler
Board President*

From the Treasurer

At the end of August, the financial picture for the Friends of Fort Worden shows a solvent organization.

The Guardhouse gift shop sales are running ahead of 2007, thanks in part to Bill Conklin's donation of Northwest Sampler products, which have proved to be quite popular with our customers. The proceeds of the Fort 2 Fort Bike Ride added to Friends' coffers. Our bank balance currently exceeds \$80,000.00.

Friends of Fort Worden contributed to the Fort in some of the following ways:

- \$1,000.00--Wildlife Art Expo reception
- \$1,500.00--Art in Public Places reception
- \$850.00--Purchase of antique furniture for Alexander's Castle

We are planning to create an internet mail order business featuring the merchandise sold in the Guardhouse gift shop, as well as many other exciting innovations that will help us in our mission to provide enhancements for Fort Worden that fall outside the State Parks budget.

David Sepler, Treasurer

Fort2Fort Bike Ride

The sound of pedaling feet greeted the overcast morning of June 8, 2008, as the Friends of Fort Worden hosted the 3rd annual Fort2Fort bicycle ride. Although the day was overcast, 197 brave riders challenged the elements and rode via three routes out and back from Fort Worden to Old Fort Townsend and/or Fort Flagler State Park. While the skies were gray, the riders were glowing in their accounts of another successful Fort2Fort!!

This year's event received extensive coverage in the Seattle Times, Port Townsend Leader and Peninsula Daily News. As in prior years, key local sponsors helped insure that the ride was financially viable before the first rider left McCurdy Pavilion. In addition, an army of volunteers helped ensure a well run and by all accounts much enjoyed event. Special thanks to the Friends of Old Fort Townsend and Fort Flagler who assisted at the rest stops.

We are actively planning for the fourth annual Fort2Fort Ride. We intend to do more marketing throughout the region and are planning several other exciting improvements and additions. We are faced with finding an alternative date for the ride due to the closure of the Hood Canal Bridge in May and early June of next year. In the next few weeks we will be making an announcement of our revised ride date. We hope that you can join us next year on our "ride with history!"

The Friends of Fort Worden wish to thank the following sponsors and volunteers for helping to make this years ride a success:

Sponsors:

- Arrowleaf Web Design
- City of Port Townsend Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
- PT Brewing Co.
- PT Chamber of Commerce
- PT Cyclery
- PT Food Co-op
- Sirens Pub
- Windermere Realty / Sandoval

Volunteers:

- Board of Directors, Friends of Fort Worden
- Friends of Fort Flagler
- Friends of Old Fort Townsend
- Dawn Braden
- Kate Burke
- Jerry, Gail, Abby, Andy, Allison Danner
- Jean Dunbar
- Owen Fairbanks
- Scottie Foster
- Cheryl Goerger
- Brwyn Griffin
- Patrick Kane
- Jane & Dave Peterson
- Pat Rubida
- Loren Seely
- Renee Sepler
- Mary, Robbie, Mackenzie Sepler
- Steve Shively
- Jessie & Bonnie Stenehjem
- Hattie Stenson
- Sally Talbert
- Eric Toews
- Mike Zimmerman

Thank you to the following businesses that offered discounts on food or lodging to the riders:

- Admiralty View Guest Studio
- Ajax Café
- Dos Okies BBQ
- Elevated Ice Cream
- Harborside Inn
- Inn at Port Hadlock
- Inn at Port Ludlow
- Katie's Kottage
- Macadoo's Barbeque
- Skunk Island Cottages
- Sweet Laurette's Café & Patisserie
- Subway
- The Spot

*Rick Sepler
Fort2Fort Coordinator*

From the Membership Chair:

The Friends of Fort Worden State Park want to thank you - the membership - for all you have done to help the Friends of Fort Worden make this another successful year. It has been each and every one of you, "chipping in" to make so much of a difference.

Some annual highlights included our participation in the Rhody Parade, where we garnered First Prize in the antique car category, thanks to Brian Norvell and his 1931 Model A Ford. Our booth at the Jefferson County Fair seemed to overflow, everyday, with Friends, visitors, and cotton candy. The Fort2Fort Bike Ride and the Wildlife Art Expo were two other popular events that our memberships supported. In March, the annual membership meeting, which featured a presentation by famed mountaineer Jim Whittaker, was preceded by a Friends-only reception. We hosted a public reception for the dedication of Gayle Bard's oil painting, **The "Chinese Garden" at Fort Worden** in June.

Your help is always appreciated at events. We encourage all of you to renew your membership this year, and, please encourage your neighbors to join this worthy group, and be a part of all the good things going on at the Fort.

The Guardhouse continues to be our home at the Fort, and you will always get special treatment when you visit. Stop by to see us and chat a spell while you check out all the new things happening with the Friends of Fort Worden.

*Harvey Crow
Membership Chair*

Meet Your Board Members:

Wendy Los, Secretary

A long and winding road brought Wendy Los to Fort Worden and her position as board secretary.

Her journey began in Cheshire, England, where she attended boarding school, then wound through college in England where she studied journalism. Wendy arrived in North America in 1965 when she emigrated to Canada, and since then, she has lived in 26 homes in various locations in Canada, the US, and abroad.. On the day of the first moon landing, Wendy arrived in the United States. That was 1969. In 1976, Wendy moved to Washington State and finally settled in Jefferson County in 1997. All this moving about was connected to her husband Joe's work as a civil engineer.

Wendy is an exceptional volunteer. She has earned her 10-year pin at the Port Townsend Visitor Information Center, has worked at the Guardhouse gift shop, and has edited transcripts and conducted interviews for the Fort Worden Oral History Program.

When asked about her work as secretary of the Friends of Fort Worden, Wendy replied that she has found it very rewarding because it has given her the opportunity to learn so much in a beautiful place she loves. Wendy urges all Friends members to get involved and take advantage of the chance to enhance their Fort Worden experience.

Patience Rogge

From the Fort Worden Oral History Program

Although the number of veterans and their family members from the World War II and Korean War eras are dwindling rapidly, the Fort Worden Oral History Program will continue to collect the life stories of those who have lived, worked, or visited the Fort during its long history. We have concentrated on seeking staff members and residents from the Juvenile Diagnostic and Treatment Center days over the past several months. This phase of the Fort's history has been unfortunately overlooked by historians. The stories we have gathered have been fascinating. They give a clear picture of an experiment in the treatment of juvenile offenders at a particular point in time.



Val Didjurgis, one of the original volunteers for the Oral History Program, has retired as the program's archivist. Val's work in keeping track of donated items and interviews, entering them in the State Parks' Past Perfect program has been marked by a high degree of professionalism.

Andrea Barberi continues her excellent work as the program's transcriber, putting in long hours committing taped interviews to readable formats. Her dedication to the task has brought the entire backlog up to date, so that the files now contain more than 300 transcriptions available for scholars, genealogists, and people seeking source materials for plays, novels, or poetry.

Cindy Lesh is taking a well-earned hiatus from her job as interview scheduler, but will return in a few months after her travels around the western states.

The program has several volunteer opportunities available. To learn more, contact me at 360.344.4481.

Patience Rogge

From the Archives

Fort Worden Muffins

A recipe by Bessie Martin, wife of Master Sargeant Wesley Martin US Army, stationed at Fort Worden from 1907 to the 1930's

- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 2 cups flour
- pinch salt
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts.
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup raisins



Mix all together, bake at 350 for 18 minutes. Makes 12 regular muffins, 36 mini-muffins or one 9"x13" pan. Best baked the day before serving. Store tightly covered. Freezes well.

Wildlife At The Fort

Mark your calendars and plan to join the Friends of Fort Worden as we present:

The 4th annual Fort Worden Wildlife & Nature Art Exposition
Saturday and Sunday, December 13 & 14, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
The Commons at Fort Worden State Park

Admission is free to Friends members, \$3 general admission and \$5 per family. The Expo presents more than 20 local and regional artists and their wildlife and nature artwork in several different media including serigraphy, watercolor and acrylic painting, sculpture, wood carving, and photography.



The Wildlife Art Expo is a venue that provides the opportunity for people to be educated, through art, about our environment and the wildlife that thrive in it. This year's Expo features the fisher, recently reintroduced into the Olympic National Park. National Park rangers will present information about the fisher and the reintroduction effort.

In addition to the art galleries there will be Audubon Society bird walks in the mornings, several wildlife slide shows throughout the day, and on-going children's hands-on activities. Check out participating artists and their work on our new website www.wildart.com.

Christopher Overman

CLIP & SEND TO:

Friends of Fort Worden
200 Battery Way
Port Townsend WA 98368



Friends to Host Chamber Mixer

Get a head start on your holiday shopping! Friends of Fort Worden invite the public to join us for pre-holiday cheer at the Guardhouse on Wednesday, November 19, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.



Friends will host an after-hours gathering with the Port Townsend Chamber of Commerce and community members are welcome. The Guardhouse gift shop will offer a special 10% discount on all merchandise purchased during the event.

Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be available as well as the opportunity to beat the crush of last minute shopping.

HELP THE FRIENDS HELP FORT WORDEN

YES! I want to do my part to enhance Fort Worden State Park Conference Center by making the following contribution:

___ \$500.00 ___ \$250.00 ___ \$100.00
___ \$75.00 ___ \$50.00 ___ \$25.00

_____ OTHER

I am unable to contribute, but I'd like to volunteer with Friends:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____



FRIENDS OF FORT WORDEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Sepler, President
Patience Rogge, Vice President, Newsletter Editor
Wendy Los, Secretary
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