



Newsletter Spring 2008



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

FRIENDS
OF
FORT
WORDEN
STATE
PARK

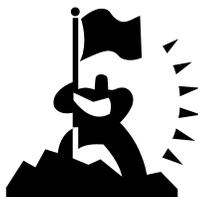


FAMED MOUNTAINEER WHITTAKER TO SPEAK AT FRIENDS' ANNUAL MEETING

Jim Whittaker, the first American to summit Mount Everest, will be the featured speaker at the Friends of Fort Worden annual meeting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 26 in the Commons.

Whittaker, a Port Townsend resident, recently returned from New Zealand where he represented the United States at the funeral of Sir Edmund Hillary, who with Sherpa Tenzig Norgay was the first human to reach the top of the world's highest peak. Whittaker is also known for his activities teaching US Army special forces mountaineering skills during the Korean War era and for his close friendship with the late Senator Robert Kennedy. His credentials include a career with outdoor equipment maker REI. He also is in demand as a motivational speaker at corporate and organizational gatherings.

Friends plan a members-only wine and cheese reception before the annual meeting to begin at 6:00 PM in the Commons. Copies of Whittaker's autobiography, **A Life on the Edge: Memoirs of Everest and Beyond**, will be available for sale and signing. For members of the public who wish to attend the reception but are not already enrolled as Friends of Fort Worden, memberships will be available at the door. The general meeting is free of charge and open to the public.



PLAN NOW FOR THE 2008 FORT2FORT BIKE RIDE

THE RIDE

The Friends of Fort Worden invite you to take a ride with a lot of history!

Join us for the third annual Fort2Fort bicycle ride from historic Fort Worden State Park located in beautiful Port Townsend for a supported tour along quiet roads through scenic Jefferson County to either Old Fort Townsend (a Fun Ride of 16 miles roundtrip or a more challenging 35 mile loop) or Fort Flagler (62 miles round trip for a metric century). All proceeds from the ride will benefit Fort Worden. Participants will receive a goodie bag containing a route map, special t-shirt, and other surprises.

APRES RIDE

After the ride, join us at "RIDEFEST" in the McCurdy Pavilion and listen to local musical talent on stage while sipping a cool libation in the Port Townsend Brewing Beer garden.

HOW TO REGISTER

To register for the ride, visit us at [HYPERLINK "http://www.fort2fortride.org/"](http://www.fort2fortride.org/) www.fort2fortride.org to print a registration form and send it with your fee to F2F Ride, 200 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Deadline for advance online and mail-in registration is June 1, 2008. However, late registrations will be accepted until 10:30 a.m. on Ride Day at the McCurdy Pavilion at the official Start/Finish Line, Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, WA. US funds only; no refunds will be given. Children under 12 are welcome to ride for free with a registered parent rider. Members of Friends will receive a special discount on the registration fee as a membership benefit, so join or renew now and save!

TREASURER'S REPORT, by David Sepler

In financial terms, 2007 was a successful year for the Friends of Fort Worden. Beginning with the Fort2Fort Bike ride and concluding with the Wildlife Art Expo, the Friends were able to add dollars to our Capital Fund.

The Guardhouse was equally successful, completing the year ahead of 2006 and able to match last year's transfer of funds. Friends memberships and donations from individuals as well as money market funds added to the grand total.

Our fiscal year ending has been changed to December 31st and will be in sync with the calendar in the future.

Looking forward to 2008, we will again sponsor the Fort2Fort Bike Ride and Wildlife Art Expo, donate funds for replacing bike racks and new benches by the Wheeler Theater, installation of a commissioned work of art at the Commons, and provision of doggybag bags, sandwich boards and traffic cones. A new hooded backstop for the baseball diamond on the Parade Ground is on the drawing board. We continue our outreach to the community through our membership in the Port Townsend Chamber of Commerce.

Now for the numbers:

Previous fiscal closing 3/30/07; Bank Balance - \$64,990.00

Current fiscal closing 12/31/07; Bank balance - \$ 80,889.00

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Patience Rogge

In 2007, David Sepler took over the post of treasurer and Guardhouse gift shop manager, replacing Dave Backman. During his tenure on the Board, Dave had overseen the financial growth of Friends and had done exceptional service keeping the Guardhouse operations running smoothly as well as handling the commemorative bricks project.

It is in part due to Dave's stewardship of Friends' funds that we have been able to support enhancements to Fort Worden. We donated to the repaving of the tennis court in order to improve the safety and enjoyment of local and visiting tennis players. To help Park Manager Kate Burke attend conferences and seminars that will add to her effectiveness in running the Park, Friends has set up a fund to cover registration fees and travel expenses; we have also set aside money to support a graduate student to work on special projects for Fort Worden. Neither of these items is covered by the State Parks budget. Our contribution to the Washington Arts Commission Art in Public Places program upgraded the budget for acquisition of a piece of public art. Later this year, Fort Worden will see the results of the project when landscape painter Gayle Bard unveils the commissioned work in the Commons.



On a sunny April day, several Friends helped a crew of local teenagers organized by Christopher Overman of Hostelling International Olympic Hostel uproot poison hemlock on the hillside path in front of Bliss Vista. At the noon break, the tired and dirty volunteers enjoyed lunch in the Commons provided by the Friends.

Some of our activities are not as grueling, for instance, being in the Rhody Parade to publicize the second annual Fort2Fort Bike Ride. We had a presence at the Jefferson County Fair in August and sponsored the Wildlife Art Expo in October. In November, Friends hosted a mixer for Port Townsend Chamber of Commerce members. That month, Dr. Phyllis Solomon joined the board to serve along with Harvey Crow, Gwen Lovett, Wendy Los, Rick and David Sepler.

Three generations of the Sepler family - David, Rick and Robbie - have been hard at work organizing and promoting the Fort2Fort Bike Ride on Sunday, June 8. Riders of all levels of skill are welcome. Festivities at the ride's conclusion include a beer garden featuring Port Townsend Brewery's popular brews, music by Dogfish and the Catsharks and other local musicians.

It has been an honor to serve as president of the Friends of Fort Worden for the past two years. I hand the gavel to Rick Sepler at our next board meeting and ask all our members to give him your support during his term as president.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT by Kate Burke

It's been a very busy winter and spring at Fort Worden Area Parks. We've gone through some significant changes due to our Long Range Plan process which have been quite exciting.

We have expanded to include two new partners and two new concessionaires at the park that have been attracted to the Park based on the new vision of a life long learning or destination learning center.

Madrona MindBody Institute, Fort Worden's moving arts and well being studio (I love that tag line) has joined our partnership collaborative with an amazing array of NIA, dance, pilates, and yoga classes. Allison Dey and Aletia Alvarez are the collaborative and inspirational duo behind the transformation of the gym into one of the most incredible spaces at the park. I highly recommend you try one of their classes and see the beautiful interior of the gym. You can also check them out at their website – HYPERLINK "<http://www.madronamindbody.com>" www.madronamindbody.com



The Port Townsend School of Woodworking is being established at Fort Worden by a trio of extraordinarily talented men. These men have initiated a full time school for those interested in sharpening (no pun intended) their skills or for those who are want to start a life long hobby of woodworking. Jim Tolpin, John Marckworth and Tim Lawson, the founders, offer an abundant selection of classes and are set to host their Grand Opening March 8 at the newly renovated Power House building at the Park. You can learn more about their classes and this power trio at HYPERLINK "<http://www.ptwoodschool.com>" www.ptwoodschool.com

Bon Appetit has started as our new food service provider at the park in December. Their mission to provide local, sustainable and healthy foods was a perfect pairing with Fort Worden's commitment to sustainable environments and individual health, renewal and transformation. Bon Appetit has an awesome Sunday brunch that features the produce from our local farming community and has transformed the coffee shop into Local Goods, featuring the breads and pastries from Pan D'Amore and cheeses from Mount Townsend Creamery. We're very excited

about the new executive chef, Jay Payne from the Wild Coho, who will be joining the BA team in mid-March. Jay will bring a new level of quality to our food that will enthuse all of our guests and visitors. There will be more changes as they develop a new selection at the Cable House Canteen this summer. HYPERLINK "<http://www.cafebonappetit.com/fortworden>" www.cafebonappetit.com/fortworden



Port Townsend Hospitality took over linen and housekeeping services at the park in January. We are so thrilled that Carla VanderVen, long time employee at Centrum, made a successful bid for the service after Randee Slehofer retired. Carla knows the park inside and out after 20 plus years of planning and implementing workshops. She cares deeply about the park and its visitors.

The Long Range Plan is progressing and there will be input and information opportunities for Friends and the public. On March 13 at 6:30 PM in the Commons, there will be the first of three public meeting to update everyone on the status of the planning process and the assessments. There will be a second public meeting in April and the last one in May. I hope you will be able to join us. The plan is expected to be wrapped up in June in order to get the final approval on the direction and recommendations from the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in August.



In the meantime, there are plenty of events, programs and volunteer activities for you to get involved in to support our Friends, the park and the park partners. I encourage you to contact any of the Friends' Board members to volunteer your time and talents.

Two events needing volunteers are the Third Annual Fort2Fort Bike Ride on June 8 and the 4th Annual Fort Worden Wildlife and Nature Art Expo on October 3-5.

Thanks as always to you, our Friends for helping us achieve our goal of enhancing the visitors' experience.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT by
Harvey Crow, chair

Once again, it is time to thank our membership for your support of the Friends of Fort Worden. For the past three years, membership numbers steadily increasing. 2007 year-end membership totals rose to one hundred and twenty, not counting ex-officio members. Next year offers prospects of even higher membership numbers. It is important for you to know that every membership dollar goes directly to the Fort to support its activities, and not to the state general fund. In addition to numerous activities such as the Wildlife Art Expo and the Fort2Fort Bike Ride, the Friends, with the expert help of volunteer camp hosts, continue to operate the Guardhouse gift shop and visitor information center.

Remember that membership has its rewards, including discounts on purchases of the unique merchandise available at the Guardhouse, free or reduced admission to Friends events, exclusive invitations to special events, plus the warm feeling that you have supported one of our state's scenic and cultural treasures. For all of you on-line shoppers, we have found an easy way for you to contribute to Friends--we are listed on iGive.com Part of the money you spend at sites listed with them go to support our enhancements to the park. We encourage you to renew your membership, and to tell your friends and neighbors about the Friends of Fort Worden.

FORT WORDEN ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM PROGRESSES by Patience Rogge

A huge backlog of untranscribed oral history interviews made the status of the Fort Worden Oral History Program look glum until a volunteer stepped in last summer. In the few short months since she began helping with the program, she has not only transcribed over 200 interviews, but has also indexed all the military era interviews and put the entire body of cataloging on CDs.

To date, more than 300 interviews of people who have served, lived, worked, or visited Fort Worden during its long history have been archived and cataloged, the tapes duplicated, and participants thanked. This treasure trove of the true stories of the men and women of Fort Worden will soon be available on the Friends web site www.fwfriends.org for historians, students, genealogists, poets, playwrights, novelists as rich source material.



In 2007, the program issued its first publication "Conversations With the 369th", a catalog of interviews with members of the 369th Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment who served at Fort Worden and Fort Flagler during the Korean War era. Their stories are especially interesting, since many of the soldiers participated in the building of the US airbase at Thule, Greenland while others were sent to Camp Desert Rock, NV to take part in early atomic tests.

For more information on the Fort Worden Oral History Program, contact me at 360.344.4481.

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 _____



CLIP & SEND TO:
Friends of Fort Worden
200 Battery Way

FRIENDS OF FORT WORDEN
FELLOWSHIP REAPS REWARDS

The third annual Wildlife and Nature Art Exposition proved to be one of the most exciting and successful events sponsored by the Friends during 2007. This amazing opportunity for artists and art fans to come together has grown larger each year since it started in 2005. While Kate Burke, manager of Fort Worden Area Parks, had coordinated all aspects of the Exposition in previous years, as planning for the event began it became clear she would need an assistant.

The Friends board responded by funding the first-ever Friends of Fort Worden Fellowship. Last July, the Fellowship was granted to Liesl Slabaugh a Port Townsend resident who recently completed a Masters degree in Public Administration. With her new degree in hand, Slabaugh was eager to acquire some real life experience in a public organization, especially one evolving in such an innovative direction as Fort Worden State Park.

Burke assigned Slabaugh the task of coordinating and marketing the Art Exposition. "It was exhilarating to have a specific project to work on," noted Slabaugh, "and to correspond with artists from the region about this unique opportunity."

Slabaugh promoted the Wildlife Art Expo through websites, print media, flyers, postcards, handbills, and emails. She also set up nature walks, arranged a sea otter presentation, and helped plan a special opening reception.

"The weekend of the Expo was windy and rainy," Slabaugh remembered, "which proved to be perfect weather for an indoor arts event." As soon as the doors opened, people began streaming into the show. Attendance reached all-time highs, and sales from artwork set a new record.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patience Rogge, President
Rick Sepler, Vice President
Wendy Los, Secretary
David Sepler, Treasurer

AT LARGE

Harvey Crow, Gwen Lovett, Phyllis Solomon

Ultimately the Fellowship created a win-win-win situation: The region benefited from a bigger and more dynamic Wildlife Art Expo, Burke's workload was lightened, and Slabaugh enjoyed working closely with a visionary leader.

ORIGINAL BATTERY VICARS GUN
FOUND by Alfred Chiswell

When Bruce McCall, a member of the Coast Defense Study Group, spotted an artillery gun tube sitting atop a memorial in Chewsville, Maryland, he recognized it as a model 1897 five inch seacoast gun. After investigation, the gun tube bearing serial number 22, was traced back to the number one gun emplacement of Battery Vicars at Fort Worden.

The gun had left Fort Worden for Fort Monroe, Virginia in December of 1917. There it was fitted onto a field carriage and sent to France in August, 1918 to see action in the First World War. After hostilities ceased, the weapon was returned to Aberdeen Proving Grounds and dismounted from its carriage in 1919. Sometime thereafter, the gun tube found its way to Chewsville, a small crossroads hamlet outside Hagerstown where it became part of a memorial "In honor of those of served in defense of their country." For many years the memorial, across the street from the Bethel United Methodist Church, has been part of the local landscape.



Efforts are underway to bring this original gun tube back to Battery Vicars and place it on display, hopefully on a reproduction carriage. The U.S. Army has notified the people in Chewsville of Fort Worden's desire and Fort Worden has been certified as a custodian of this type of military artifact. However, many residents of Chewsville are reluctant to part with this familiar piece of their town. Negotiations are underway for the retrieval of the weapon and transporting it here to Fort Worden. A fund drive will be announced when the Army has declared its final intentions to transfer the weapon to Fort Worden for display in Battery Vicars.

For more information on the status of the project to return this historic artifact to its original place at Fort Worden, contact Alfred Chiswell at the Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum, 360.385.0373.