



FRIENDS of
FORT WORDEN
STATE PARK

COMMUNIQUE

WWW.FWFRIENDS.ORG

Winter 2009

Artists Praise Wildlife Show

The fourth annual Fort Worden Wildlife & Nature Art Exposition opened just ahead of the largest snowstorm in recent history, on the day the snow began falling. A few of the artists themselves were not able to attend but the twenty who did showed their work and talked with attendees who braved the frigid weather. The lectures were well attended with Dean Butterworth's presentation of the fisher reintroduction program in the Olympic National Park showing twice on Saturday. Paul Lutus presented his adventures with

bears in Alaska on Saturday, and his stories of his encounters with whales and birds of the far north on Sunday.

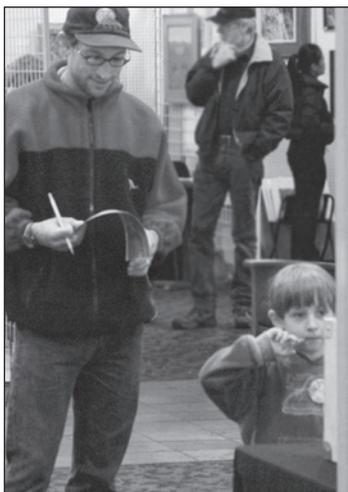
Afterwards the artists praised the organizational efforts of the Expo (along with the fabulous food). Most felt well taken care of, and gave high marks for bringing art and education together using the lectures and youth activities. Even though attendance and sales were down considerably from previous years, several artists expressed interest in returning.



Upon entering one was caught up in the bronze sculptures of Jocelyn Russell from WA.



Jeremy Keller from Oregon created a ceramic world of nature's impressions.



A pint-size future art aficionado and his assistant filling in the Scavenger Hunt puzzle.



Terry Woodall, also from Oregon, offered his high quality imaginative wood sculptures.

A special *Thank You* to the many volunteers that assisted at the Exposition including members of the Friends, the Interact Club at P.T. High School, and the Cooking Gals.

Special assistance was also provided by the staff at Fort Worden State Park.



The winner of the sculpture by Jocelyn Russell went to Martha Lee of Sequim, WA.

Parks Manager's Report

Kate Burke ~ Fort Worden Area Parks Manager

These past few months have been a series of challenges and opportunities, of peaks and valleys.

State Parks' budget has been dramatically affected by the economic conditions within our state. The budget shortfall for the State of Washington in our upcoming biennial year is expected to be close to \$7 billion. All state agencies are in the process of making brutal cuts to their operational budgets. Fort Worden Area Parks are included in this exercise.

Fort Worden Area Parks consists of three parks – Fort Worden, Old Fort Townsend and Rothschild House. Old Fort Townsend has been selected by the Executive Staff in Olympia to be part of the thirteen parks to be closed in 2009/11. In the Governor's budget, State Parks is being asked to take a minimum 10-percent cut. The Governor's support of State Parks is evident in this, as well as in her additional capital appropriations the past few years, with money to make improvements for the future. The reduction that State Parks is being asked to take totals about \$10 million. The park closures represent \$3.5 million of the cut. The other \$6.5 million is from cuts to staff, programs and park improvements.

As we face our future, it is imperative for us to think more creatively about how to solve problems in less traditional ways. Our entire country is facing this unprecedented time by rethinking how to do business and succeed – we need to embrace that same attitude. There are a lot of very smart people in our community and in our Friends' groups.

The Friends of Old Fort are in need of our support as we face a potential closure of the spectacular Old Fort Townsend State Park, a true gem in our area. Please contact them to find out what you can do to support their efforts – Nancy Steinberg, foft@broadstripe.net.

Thanks you for your continued assistance at Fort Worden and let us reach out to our other Friends at Old Fort Townsend and help them too.

Fort Worden Oral History

Patience Rogge

We extend our deepest sympathy to Laurie Medlicott on the passing of her husband Bill. Laurie organized the Oral History Program as part of the Fort Worden Centennial Celebration in 2002. She worked tirelessly to recruit volunteers to make the celebration a success, and continued her dedication to the park long afterwards as Volunteer Coordinator. Bill played a large role in all her activities, and we will miss him.

President's Column

Rick Sepler

As many of you are aware, faced with soaring deficits and hard financial choices the Governor's recently released budget proposes to close Old Fort Townsend State Park. While cost-cutting and program reductions for Washington State Parks was widely anticipated due to the current financial crisis, the proposed closure of specific parks was a harsh introduction to current realities.

Although State Parks is not being directed to sell Old Fort Townsend, it is preliminarily investigating the feasibility of a transfer of the facility to a local entity. The most likely recipient – Jefferson County – is facing its own financial troubles after budget cuts and layoffs late last year. The County is clearly not in a position to acquire and manage another park. Other groups that have been discussed, albeit preliminarily, as possible operators are the Trust for Public Lands, the Nature Conservancy and the Jefferson Land Trust.

Faced with an uncertain future, Old Fort Townsend needs friends – now more than ever! Fortunately, Old Fort has an active constituency and its own Friends organization to lend support to future efforts. However, as fellow community members and supporters of public parks, it is important that the Friends of Fort Worden offer their assistance in developing a strategy that leads to the sustainable operation and continued public use of Old Fort Townsend.

It is clear that there will be many difficult choices ahead. It is also certain that the long term solution for Old Fort Townsend will not be easily or quickly found. However, I'm sure you will agree that it is in our community's best interest to diligently work towards identifying a solution. I'm confident that if we all apply ourselves, we will be able to keep Old Fort public and open...with a little help from our Friends!

The Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center recently informed us that they now require copies of all interviews of armed forces personnel collected by its partners. Since we have at least 200 such interviews, many of them running to scores of transcribed pages, our major task for the coming months will be to meet this requirement. We thank the Friends for their financial support, which will relieve the park office copier of a monumental job.

Answering requests for source material is an important function of the program. Recent inquiries came from a high school student in Arkansas writing a report on a World War II veteran who served at Fort Worden and a noted author of Northwest fiction who contacted us for information about the years when Fort Worden was home to the state Juvenile Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

More about the Fort Worden Oral History Program is on the Friends web site www.fwfriends.org.

Meet the Board - *Gwen Lovett*

Few people can claim as close a connection to Fort Worden as Friends' board member Gwen Lovett.

Gwen was born at St. John's Hospital in Port Townsend while her father served as a master sergeant in the U.S. Army at Fort Worden. From infancy to age five she lived on the post in a house on Noncom Row. She grew up in Astoria and attended Oregon State University. After 35 years in Southern California, where they worked and raised their family, Gwen and her late husband Frank returned to Port Townsend to live.

Gwen re-established her connection to Fort Worden by attending meetings of the Friends in its formative days, and by volunteering with Centrum registering participants in festivals and workshops and helping out in the office. Since she joined the Friends' board three years ago, Gwen has become the unofficial hospitality chair organizing refreshments for Friends mixers. Recently she staffed the host table at a Winter Wanderlust event at the Commons, greeting guests and handing out Friends membership information. Her part-time job at the Wine Seller in Port Townsend, where she assists with twice-monthly wine tastings, gives Gwen the opportunity to meet both visitors and locals.

Gwen is proud of all the support Friends supply to Fort Worden, from supplying money to enhance the visitors' experience to organizing events such as the Fort2Fort Bike Ride and the Wildlife Art Expo. Her wish for the Friends is to be more visible in the community and to attract more local members.

Treasurer's Report

David Sepler

The Friends of Fort Worden balance sheet is positive at this time and we look forward to many opportunities to support Fort Worden in 2009.

Friends sponsored several events during 2008, such as the Fort2Fort Bike Ride, Wildlife Art Expo, and the Hallowe'en Spooktacular. We also contributed to many less visible projects at the Fort.

Membership

While the Friends has a large mailing list of interested folks, actual up-to-date and current members consist of less than 30, with a contributed revenue of less than \$600.

We will be offering some new things this year to entice people to become members and continue to support the Friends' efforts at Fort Worden State Park. One of the more cosmetic changes is the newsletter you hold in your hand, the Communiqué, and it is how we will notify you of upcoming events, and associated member discounts, along with enjoyable ways you can be a part of the Fort community.

As Fort Worden transforms itself into a Lifelong Learn-

From the Archives - A Tropical Treat

In honor of the Fort Worden Oral History Program interview with Harry Fridman of San Juan, Puerto Rico, a US Navy veteran of World War II, we present a Puerto Rican custard... TEMBLEQUE

Ingredients

1/2 cup cornstarch
1 cup water
2 cups coconut milk, canned or fresh
1/2 teaspoon vinegar (if using canned milk)
1/4 cup orange blossom water
1/4 cup sugar
pinch of salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
grated lemon peel or cinnamon or melted chocolate

In a heavy 2-quart saucepan, dissolve cornstarch in water. Add coconut milk (and vinegar if canned milk is used), orange blossom water, sugar and salt. Cook on medium heat, stirring constantly with a whisk, stir in cloves and continue to medium heat until mixture comes to a slow boil. When a small amount forms a soft ball when dropped in 1/2 cup cold water, it is done.

Remove from heat and spoon into 8 dessert dishes, sprinkle with lemon peel, cinnamon, or chocolate. ---*Smithsonian Folklife Cookbook*

2008 was an unusual year for the Fort Worden Guardhouse Gift Shop. Compared with the activity of last year, when we had seen substantial increases in business, September to December 2008 reflected the overall downturn in the national economy. Despite the decline in sales for the last months of 2008, the Guardhouse Gift Shop was able to make a significant transfer of funds to the Friends' account. Once again, we thank the volunteers who give their time and efforts to make the operation of the Guardhouse possible.

ing Center, the Friends will be taking a more active role and finding their place among the existing partners and their programming strategies. The Friends will still focus on enhancement projects for Fort Worden that benefit everyone who visits. In fact, your membership dues and donations go directly into such projects instead of the state's General Fund. A few recent projects have been, the Fort2Fort bicycle ride, Gayle Bard's landscape painting in the foyer of the Commons, and the Wildlife and Nature Art Exposition.

Please consider renewing your annual membership dues and help preserve and enhance Fort Worden State Park. If your name is yellowed through on the address label it's time to renew! We look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your contribution.



200 Battery Way
Port Townsend, WA 98368

New Members

Chris Wickham - Olympia
Doug & Kathi White - Silverdale
Robert Leporati - Port Townsend
Jan North - Port Townsend
Patt Roche - Port Townsend

Friends of Fort Worden State Park

Board of Directors

Rick Sepler - President
Patience Rogge - Vice President
Wendy Los - Secretary
David Sepler - Treasurer
C. Overman - Membership
Cheryl Goerger, Gwen Lovett - At Large
Kate Burke - Ex Officio

Visit our website
www.fwfriends.org

Membership Application

I would like to become a member of the
Friends of Fort Worden State Park
and help preserve this special place for
future generations.

- \$25 - Friend
- \$50 - Associate
- \$100 - Companion
- \$ 500 - Life Member

Please make your tax-deductable check to
Friends of Fort Worden State Park

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

Email

Clip and mail to
200 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368
Thank You