

Celebrate Salt Creek 26-27 October 2012. An evening forum at the Joyce Grange (50870 Hwy 112, Port Angeles) and Saturday morning field trip at Salt Creek County Park (western beach access -along Salt Creek-parking lot).

Join us for a series of presentations that highlight why this corner of the world is so special. Including:

1. Paleo-tsunamis in the Strait of Juan de Fuca: A presentation by Sarah Sterling, Portland State University, with contributions by Ian Hutchinson (Simon Fraser University) and Curt Peterson (PSU). An evening workshop on paleo-tsunamis, 26 October 6:30 pm, Joyce Grange

2. Field workshop: 'Birds, Tsunamis, and Fish'-an overview of the nearshore with Barb Blackie, Western Washington University/Peninsula College, Sarah Sterling, Portland State, and Anne Shaffer, Coastal Watershed Institute. 27 October 8:30-2:00 Salt Creek County Access Parking lot



Figure 1. Cutbank in Salt Creek that reveals paleo-tsunami deposition

Background: Paleo-tsunamis. In the spring of 2012, a team from Portland State and Simon Fraser Universities collected geologic core samples from Salt Creek Marsh to determine the presence and extent of tsunami inundation and seismic subsidence at this location along the coast of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This work was part of a larger study designed to understand the mechanisms and impacts of paleo-tsunamis along the northern Washington Coast.

Part 1: Tsunamis along the northern Washington coast (evening lecture) We will discuss how tsunamis are identified in the field and through diatom analysis as well as how time frames are established for those identified events through radiocarbon dating. We will also discuss the general impact of the events and how correlation of those events from locations along the coast of the Strait of Juan de Fuca helps refine the picture of tectonic mechanisms that generate Cascadia subduction zone earthquakes.



Figure 2. Salt Creek and Crescent Bay

Part 2: Birds, Tsunamis, and Fish of the nearshore of Salt Creek estuary. Saturday Morning Field trip to Salt Creek Marsh We'll meet at the Salt Creek County Park creek access parking lot. We'll start the morning with a quick discussion about overall function of the Salt Creek nearshore, and do a coastal and estuary bird walk led by Barb Blackie WWU/Peninsula College. We'll then visit Salt Creek Marsh to discuss with Sarah Sterling, Portland State University, why this location is a good setting for studying paleo-tsunamis, and how evidence of past seismic events is collected. We'll also discuss strategies and techniques used for collecting radiocarbon and diatom samples. We'll finish with a quick beach seine with Anne Shaffer Coastal Watershed Institute, in the lower main channel of the river for a discussion on fish use of the nearshore. What a celebration. Join us!

For more information contact Anne Shaffer, anne.shaffer@coastalwatershedinstitute.org.