

# Friends of Whidbey State Parks (FOWSP) 2018 Accomplishments

**January** 95 people attended the 1st Day Hike at Fort Ebey!



We served cocoa, cookies and had a campfire. Janet Hall, Parks Interpretive Specialist, led the hike.



Friends Website and Facebook page go Live: [www.friendsofwhidbeystateparks.org/](http://www.friendsofwhidbeystateparks.org/)  
[www.facebook.com/FriendsofWhidbeyStateParks/](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofWhidbeyStateParks/)

3 Community Meetings were held at the Oak Harbor, Coupeville and Freeland libraries to share our plans for the Friends group.

**We received our IRS 501(c) (3) Nonprofit status!**

## February

**Fort Ebey Campground Cleanup:** On a frosty morning (28 degrees), 16 Friends volunteers cleaned up 50 campsites and filled 3 large truckloads with debris in preparation for the March 1st campground opening. Volunteers enjoyed hot cider and cookies.



**Sound Waters University:** We shared an information table with State Parks staff

## March



**Team work party at South Whidbey SP for our State Parks' 105th Birthday**

23 volunteers cleaned up the day-use area around the main parking lot and the roads leading to the old campsites, including the group camp. 4 truckloads of large branches were collected, and invasive weeds were removed. Cookies and hot cider were served.

**Team Leader and Volunteer Training** by State Park staff, Central Whidbey Island Fire and Rescue, WSU Extension Noxious Weeds Program Coordinator and the Friends group

## April FOWSP became an Official State Parks Friends Group!

5-year agreement with the Washington State Parks and Rec approved April 30th.

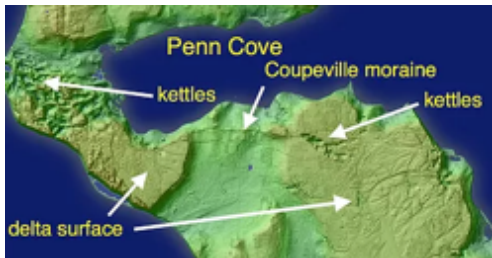
**Ebey's Landing Trail Work Party:** On April 14th Friends volunteers helped the Friends of Ebey's Landing stabilize the bluff trail at Ebey's Landing.

## May



**Joseph Whidbey SP Cleanup:** 8 volunteers removed rocks and driftwood on the grass around the beach picnic area dug up and bagged poison hemlock; dug grass out of the concrete rounds below the water faucets; flagged rebar; cleaned stairs to the beach; removed moss from under picnic tables; and worked on the boardwalk/moved large rock with the assistance for park staff to improve the trail.

## June



**Grant Heiken, retired Volcanologist & Geologist,** completed a **Geo Parks** project to provide information and maps about areas that have interesting geology in our parks. Check out [Geo Parks](#) on our website.



## July

**Weeding at Fort Casey to get ready for the Big Guns Celebration:** 6 volunteers hand-weeded the battery area that leads to the Big Guns and weed-whacked the area around the small guns.

**Petition to have Speed Reduced on Smugglers Cove Road,** as it bisects South Whidbey State Park submitted to Island County.

## August



### **Big Guns Celebration on Aug. 11: Our Big Guns Cake Team was amazing!**

The Friends group purchased 2 large photo cakes. Our Cake Team volunteers served cake to guests during a heavy rain and thunder storm. Go Team!

**Amazon Smile program:** Our Friends group was approved to receive donations.



### **Family Discovery Day August 25th**

Friends members greeted families and handed out prizes to kids at this fun, educational event organized by Kelly Zupich, Sound Water Stewards Coordinator.



## **September**

**Friends 2019 Operating Plan submitted to Washington State Parks**

**Annual State Parks Friends Conference:** Two Board members attended the 2-day conference at Cama Beach State Park.

## **October**

**Haunted Fort, October 26 & 27**

Friends members served food to Haunted Fort volunteers and helped with parking.



## **November**

**Adopt-A-Trail and Adopt-A-Park Area guidelines** approved by park staff.

**Island County Commissioners Approve Study** needed to reduce the speed on Smugglers Cove Road.

## **December**

***Thanks to all of our members who have been helping to care for and support our local Whidbey State Parks this year!***