

DHBA NEWSLETTER

April/May 2021



Notes from the BOT

Members,

Please join me in welcoming Seth and Anita back! With the Memorial Day wrapping up we are quickly transitioning into our summer primetime season. The BOT has put Seth and Anita to work with several pressing items that arose right as they returned to the island. You will see more in this newsletter, but we wanted to share that they have continued where they left off, jumping right in and quickly and efficiently getting up and running. Reminder: The Straight a-Head is back in service for member and guest use.

Your fellow members continue to move their committees forward. Thank you to the committees for their efforts and to you all for providing input in the recent surveys. The Chaos committee will share more details soon but please note that when you are on the island this summer, take time to inventory your crab pots, shrimp pots, and any items

that are outside your locker including: oars, motors, gas cans, etc. Please label what will stay on the island and remove anything that is no longer in good working order or not needed. We will have labels available soon and will be doing a big purge in the fall of items not labeled.

You will see some notes in this newsletter, our recent board meeting minutes, and a communication with an island resident posted on our website, referring to removal of large driftwood off of the South Beach. We ask you not to engage if you see this in the future but to help us document the situation by taking pictures or notifying Seth and Anita. Should you decide to take pictures, please try to frame the shot with a point of reference-such as the Pirate Ship in the background. The BOT is monitoring this and will share more if there are further updates.

The BOT has been discussing the upcoming transition of our team at the conclusion of our fiscal year and want to gauge interest of any members that would consider joining the Board this fall. Bryce [President], John (Claus) [Boats, Buoys, and Docks], and Duke [Special Projects], will all be reaching the end of their second term and will be leaving the BOT this year. These three seats will need to be voted on and filled in the fall, but we want to gauge interest early to allow time for members to explore what the commitment would look like. This could include talking to current Board members and or attending an upcoming BOT meeting to get more information. Please send a note to dhbapresident@gmail.com if you have interest and or questions.

The warm weather has arrived early. Hopefully, this is an indication of a nice summer season to come. See you at the Head soon.

DHBA BOT

Notes From the Caretakers

Wow, what a whirlwind of a year this has been! We left Washington in February of 2020 and headed to New York just as COVID was becoming a pandemic. Who knew? The trip took nine days, driving almost to Mexico to avoid snow, ice and wind storms!

The reason we moved to Oswego, New York was to have Seth's mother live with us, and out of the assisted living home. As it turns out, she is better off where she was with her bingo, structured activities and mealtimes with others of her generation. We realized that memory issues are hard to understand and are best left to the experts.

Flash forward fourteen months and, lucky for us, the caretaker position was once again available. Across the country we traveled one last time. With weather on our side it only took 5 days. Yeah! We are so glad to be here. We missed the Pacific Northwest, our friends, Decatur Head and the members. What a beautiful place. Thanks for having us back!



Maintenance Updates

What a busy 6 weeks we have had! Noticing that the electricity for the pump house had increased substantially, we investigated the water system. With George Lamb's help Seth was able to figure out that the problem was in the well itself. Thanks to A & A well drillers from Lopez, the well pump, tubing and applicable mechanics were replaced. The last well pump was replaced in the early 1990's. In these pictures you can see that the galvanized piping was substantially degraded. This piping was replaced with PVC along with a new 3 horsepower well pump.



Hiring a well company was necessary as the pump was down around 260 feet, with the bottom around 300 feet. This pump was attached to galvanized piping making for a very heavy pull. Part of the pump house roof was removed, and repaired by Seth in order to make room for the rigging. DHBA was fortunate to have this problem addressed in such a timely manner, as the drillers had another project on Decatur. Well contractors are in short supply here in the San Juan Islands. All in time for a projected busy prime time!



When we arrived cabin 5 and cabin 7 needed to have their hot water heaters replaced immediately. All good as new now and the old heaters have been taken off island to the transfer facility in town, along with old grills and accumulated garbage.



The pirate ship has been cleaned, boards replaced and “Play at your own risk” sign is up again. We have also painted a chalkboard inside and have supplied an eraser and colored chalk. There is also a new pirate flag and a “secret” compartment for Pirate booty.

Perhaps these upgrades will make the absence of the merry-go-round less noticeable. We had to remove this as the moving parts below were completely rusted out. With the help of Paul Johnson, a local welder, all of the components were hauled away to be used in his trade.



The duck and horse figures are in the shop for safekeeping for now. There are a couple of options. Donate them to the school or to the Loveless’ to install at the golf course near the library. Another possibility is to place them in concrete as stationary “bouncies” back near the Pirate Ship again. This decision is for the membership to make.

Our trusty Ford truck was barged to town for a new starter and a front ball joint replacement. The old one was cracked and in danger of falling off. Not a good thing if traveling down the hill onto the Head!

In the early spring many floats were stored up at the work shop area. Of the ten floats, eight are still fine. These will be re-attached to the docks over the next couple of months. The clean-up continues to the compost area from the fallen tree debris and branches. The wood has been purchased to replace the broken supports to the tennis court. This will be completed in the next couple of months.

For a more detailed description of maintenance completed please visit this link on our webpage. <https://www.decatourhead.org/updatesfaqs/>

DHBA Tips



Good news! The firewood situation has eased somewhat this spring. Due to the heavy westerly winds this winter many trees came down around the island. Numerous Douglas firs fell on the fairways at the golf course which allowed us to stock up.

However, please note that ten cords per year is a substantial amount of wood to cut and distribute for our members. We ask you to be conservative the burning of this finite resource. As a

reminder, only small driftwood, or old cedar shakes, should be burned in the outside fire pits.

Thanks to the members who have donated their newspapers for the fires in the cabins! We could always use more...

For your cooking needs, we have numerous herbs located outside the office and near



the laundry room. Snip away! We also have others in our side yard-happy to show you...

Chives, regular and garlic

Parsley

Oregano

Tarragon

Thyme, regular and lemon

Rosemary

Basil

We also have Swiss Chard that will be in abundance shortly! Our nasturtiums should be in soon for your salad decorating, and eating!



Recently, we have had a few issues with Decatur Islanders taking our driftwood. Although *all* of south beach is not ours, above the 7 foot mean high tide is DHBA private property. Should you see an islander removing large pieces please take a picture of them and their vehicle. When taking the picture try to include a frame of reference-such as the pirate ship. If you are not comfortable with this, just let us know. The BOT will decide if any appropriate action is needed. Please see email thread posted under member documents/misc., on our website for more details.
<https://www.decatourhead.org/governance/>

In the past, people have asked us if they could take small pieces for art projects. For example, the Decatur School wanted to find driftwood pieces that resembled the alphabet for an assignment and to decorate the school garden. The teacher, Joanne Colman Wester, asked permission first. That was just fine. However, taking flagpole sized posts and boards for a deck or fence is not!

Our driftwood protects the native environment including nesting birds. This resource also protects our road from washing away during King tides and storms in the winter. If everyone takes enough to build a fence or similar home projects, there will be no more driftwood. Similar beaches in the San Juan Islands have lost much of their shoreline as a result.

Decatur Island Updates

Alma's Country Store is open for the season! Operating hours are Thursday and Friday, 11-2pm. On Saturdays the market will be in full swing from 9:30-1pm. As COVID



restrictions relax more vendors will participate. There is a free room, around the back northwest corner, open during the market hours.

Ramy Tipton has sodas, milk, beer and wine and other sundries in stock. Just ask if you don't see what you need. When available, lunch (Burgers, fish and chips, for example) will be offered on Thursdays and Fridays. Saturday night dinners will be served from 6-8 pm. The options vary week to week, so check the corkboard outside the DHBA locker building for details and contact information.

We will be taking the fire safety course in June in preparation for another dry summer. Seth will be taking the lead in charge of the fire pumpers on the island as we are here all year round. Please let us know if you need a demonstration of our pumps during your visits.

Looking forward to a safe and "normal" Prime Time!

-Seth and Anita