

# DHBA NEWSLETTER

June/July 2021



New batch of swallows outside DHBA office July 2021

## Notes from the BOT

The BOT hopes you all had an amazing summer at the Head. As you will see in this newsletter, Seth and Anita have settled back in, not missing a beat by continuing to make progress on our projects as well as keeping the head ready for your use in the busy primetime season.

The BOT are about to head to Decatur for our annual planning retreat. You will see our annual survey come to you by email in the next couple days. Please take some time to provide your input. We have used this the last couple years for building out our agenda and for where to focus the BOT / Caretaker efforts for the upcoming year.

As a reminder, we are going to need a number of volunteers this year to join the BOT. Jon, Duke and myself have all served 2 consecutive 3 year terms on the BOT and will be leaving the Board this year. Please send Bryce [dhbapres@gmail.com](mailto:dhbapres@gmail.com) if you have interest in joining the BOT.

We look forward to seeing you all in October at the annual meeting. We will do this again this year via video conference. Stay tuned for details.

Bryce - DHBA BOT President  
(on behalf of the BOT)

## Notes From the Caretakers

Well, we have made it through most of primetime with no issues! We are so glad to be back here on the Head. This summer we have reconnected with our friends on the island and have had many Saturday night dinners at Alma's Country Store.

Our John Deere Gator has enabled us to visit fellow islanders without worrying about who might need the truck. In addition, it has come in handy during our work week as we don't need to schedule time to use the truck to pick up mail, or have to walk multiple times up to the shop area.



## **Maintenance Updates**

The locker shed is a work in progress with the removal of old broken toys and puzzles and replacing with new, intact games! Seth went through the old fishing poles and discarded many that were just parts and pieces. The gas shed has another whitewash coat, and more debris was hauled away. More room was made for a few more motors.

Adjacent to the tennis courts Seth has been busy removing the rest of the fallen tree debris along with many, many bags of accumulated debris and garbage. A “new” wooden fence was put up to hide the necessary work in progress and the compost bin was moved to a better location with more sun. A new worm bed was set up to help with the cardboard that comes with our packages. Between the cardboard and the shredded paper we have plenty of composting material! The more garbage that does not need to be hauled away, the better!

The tennis court chain link fence should be repaired before winter. Members are utilizing it and it is functional until then.

Seth has been in contact with George Lamb regarding the completion of the waterline hook-ups this late Fall. They need to plan to complete this project before the King tides of winter. Digging trenches during a 10 foot tide is not feasible as the ditches fill in while excavating.

Kitchen inventory is being revamped as we upgrade some of the cookware and utensils. Thanks to Bridget Charters for her assistance. As a professional Chef she has access to a great variety of choices and great discounts!

Our truck needed to be taken off island once again. This time for an alternator replacement. Hopefully, this will be it for a while.

The Strait-a-Head also had some issues in June/July. Apparently, a mink got into the hold this past winter and left some remains of bones. This debris was caught up in the bilge pump which didn't turn off. The batteries were affected and needed to be replaced, along with the bilge pumps. The animal access has been closed off and we have coated that area with cayenne pepper and ammonia which minks and otters do not like. This shouldn't happen again as we will not be keeping the boat in the lagoon this winter. The boat is stored in a location high and dry on the island until spring.

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

## Orca Sighting on July 20<sup>th</sup>



On July 20<sup>th</sup>, we were fortunate enough to see about 7 or 8 Orcas go through the pass between the Head and James Island, heading North. As they came through on the northern end Roman Mach (Hoerlein family member) was able to get this fabulous video.

<https://www.facebook.com/100004823944837/videos/1207030913054977/>

According to our island resident expert, Jill Bliss, these were one of the transient pods. These Orcas do not only eat Salmon, they go after seals too. This particular group was playing and breaching and just having fun! These Orcas are also known as the Bigg's and they are identified by the dorsal fin, and/or saddle patches. Their "names" are T65A's (no A5), T37A's (no A1), T36A2, T36A3 and T137's. Jill worked for many years as a naturalist on one of the prominent whale boats out of Friday harbor.



## Olympia Oysters

Thanks to Jon Claus for arranging the purchase of approximately 600-800 Olympia Oyster seeds from Taylor Shellfish Farms. They are now safe and sound here at the Head in 4 separate oyster bags. Currently, they are attached to our dock. Later this fall we plan to attach them to the substrate on the northeast side of the Lagoon, away from the dock. This will be done by anchoring large “staples” made out of rebar with line between the bags.



This type of oyster is indigenous in the Salish Sea and is Washington State’s only native oyster. The Olympia is a slow grower with at least 3 years before they are large enough to possibly consume. Our goal is to use these oysters to keep the lagoon cleaner. Perhaps, as they grow we can spread them out into more bags and make them available to members to eat. Keeping them in the grow bags might be the better idea as attaching them to the rocks makes them fair game for the otters!

See this link below for more information on setting up our oysters.

<https://youtu.be/mXHd6UQKcVk>



### **Round Hole Log Pass**

We now have an easier way to walk through the driftwood to the beach. Begin at the Private property sign on the road near cabin one. Walk toward the Pirate ship on the road for approximately 80 paces. Look for two parallel logs-see picture at left. Stand between the two logs and look toward our flag.



If you are lined up with the flag you are in the right place! Step over that first small log and make a sharp left until you reach a branch sticking up. Make a sharp right and you will be on the beach. From the beach side, look for a very long log with a round hole in the end. See picture below. FYI no driftwood was cut creating this path. Enjoy!

## **DHBA Tips**

-As a reminder, only small driftwood, or old cedar shakes, should be burned in the outside fire pits. Occasionally Seth will bring down small branches that can also be burned.

-Please go through your motors, oars and especially your crab traps, shrimp pots, floats and label everything! Items not labeled will be disposed of before winter.

-Remove all items from the member freezer as it will be turned off in October.

-Please notify caretakers of any skiffs you are no longer using. We can put them on the Decatur Buy Sell Trade Facebook page.

-Before leaving DHBA at the end of the season make sure your dinghy is tied down and pulled up on the beach as far as the tie lines permit. We have King tides in the winter and we don't want any to float away.

-Please remove all items under Locker building at the end of the season. That area floods every year and all could be washed away.

-I realize that some members prefer their own cooking/kitchen items. Please refrain from leaving them behind for the use of others. We are trying to standardize all kitchen items and we simply do not have room for items left behind and they will be removed.

-We are looking for cost effective refreshes for Seth and I to complete in the off season. Your suggestions are welcome for small fixes that might make a big impact. Please note them in the white maintenance manual on the mantle.



## Decatur Island Updates

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade this year was awesome! We had a kazoo band which Seth and I marched in, along with a few of our brave members. See link below for your listening pleasure. We also had fully decorated golf carts, trucks, gymnasts and a dog costume contest!



<https://www.facebook.com/535893049/videos/299900708583147/>



Picture of one of our island's pumper trucks with spraying unicorn, of course....



Photo Courtesy of Sara Wietholter

<https://www.facebook.com/535893049/videos/322652886189989/>

This pumper truck is utilized in our fire training and is kept full in case of fire. The island has two pumper trucks which are stored across from the school in the Loveless' storage area.



We also had a dog costume contest.



<https://www.facebook.com/619571631/videos/352738922881515/>

That's all we have for now.

Anita and Seth