

DHBA NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2021



Photo courtesy of Sarah Spoor (Campbell) taken Thanksgiving Holiday at DHBA

Notes from the BOT:

Greetings and Happy Holidays DHBA Members!

The Board of Trustees is busy transitioning after four long-time members rolled off in October. A very big thank you to Bryce, Kerri, Jon, and Duke for all you did over the last six years to put us on such sure footing moving forward. The new board convened to select roles for the next term. They are as follows:

- **President - John Mannetti**
- **Vice President - Jeff Garfield**
- **Treasurer - Chris White**
- **Secretary - Sharon Schell**

- **Maintenance and Buoys - Richard Mesher**
- **Special Projects & Committees - Rolf Gruen**
- **Special Projects & Dock - William del Valle**

Together we're excited to tackle projects such as, selling the boat, repairing the dock, hooking up the water line, cabin 4 renovation planning, and anything else needed to keep things running smoothly.

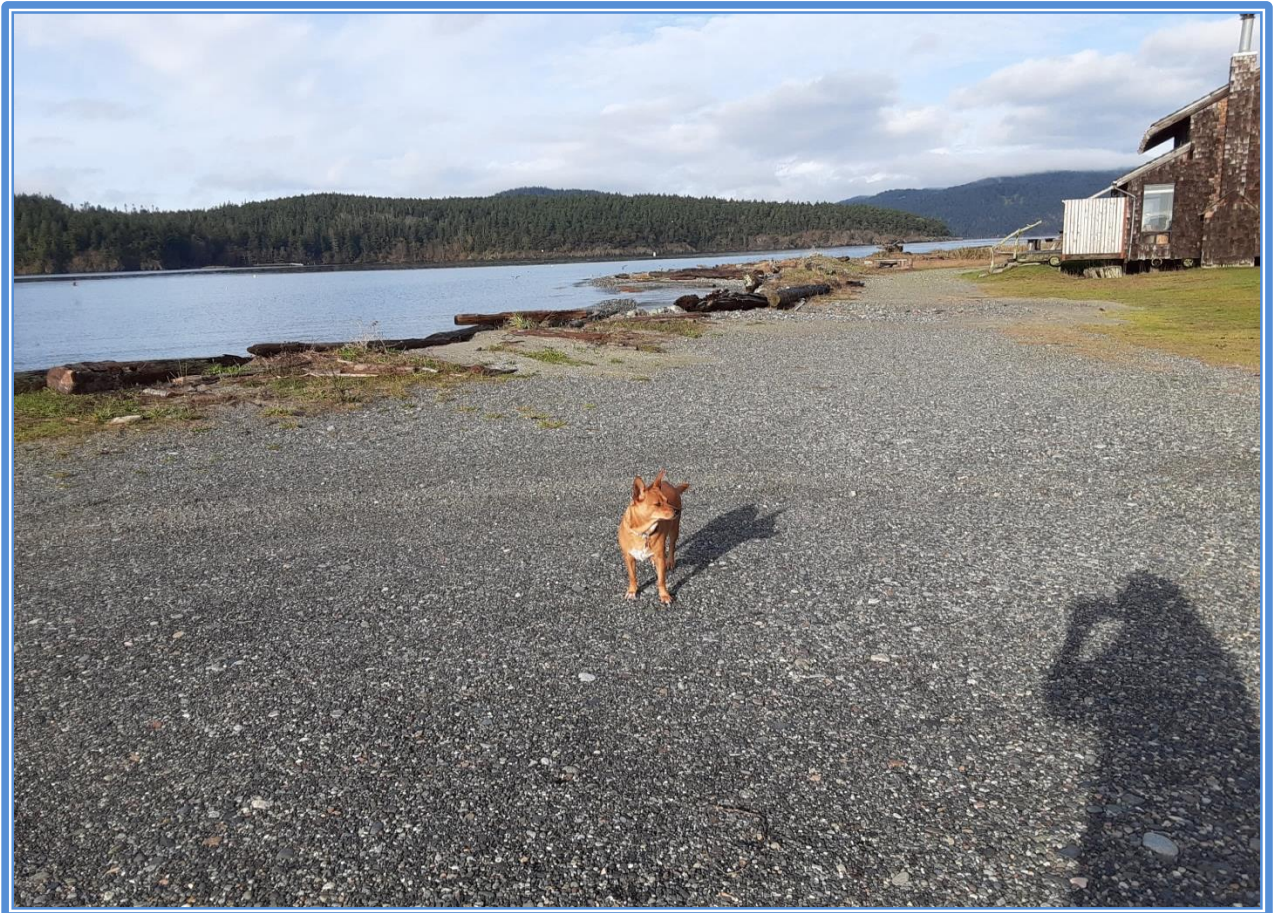
As we look to another year of some uncertainty, we continue to be grateful for the sanctuary Decatur has been and the responsiveness of Seth and Anita and all of our members to look out for one another.

Wishing you a very happy holiday season!

John Mannetti

Notes From the Caretakers

Well, our return to the Head has gone quite well. Prime time was a time to connect with members and friends we missed. We had a productive Board retreat where many decisions regarding the upcoming year were made. Although a bit unconventional, due to Covid-19, we managed to make progress working under a tent. The outdoor barbeque “garden” party was great! The weather cooperated, a ball game was playing and a nice time was had by all.



Meet Sunny, the newest addition to our family. Both of our other dogs, Beanie, and Sam, lived to the ripe old age of 14 and 16 respectively. Sunny is around two years old and was part of a broad rescue by Skagit County Humane Society, of overcrowded shelters in Texas. Between the “Covid” puppies, hurricanes and flooding there are an overabundance of animals that need help from that area.

She is quite friendly, doesn't bark at other dogs or people and is a cutie. We think she is part Basenji as she rarely barks. She is somewhat petite and only weighs around 35 pounds. Decatur Island is a perfect place for dogs and she is fitting in very nicely!

Halloween at DHBA



Halloween is a blast on Decatur! The children from the school made the rounds, using a sign-up sheet at the mail shed. The Warren Kendalls were staying in cabin 1 before we could set up the decorations. (The weather was not cooperating) No worries, they were able to open my Halloween totes and set up their own Haunted room in the loft!

Perhaps next year we could have more members and children join us here for a Halloween contest!



Maintenance Updates

We had a few storms in October and November that caused some flooding. Fortunately, the cabins were high and dry. As you will see, in the next few pictures, the water changed the landscape, especially around the dock area. We have moved all the dinghies from north of the dock to the southern side. This was necessary so Seth can replace where the dock ties into the bank, and rebuild the drive with gravel.

These repairs are ongoing right now and will be completed this winter. We have a contact here on the island that will be assisting with his backhoe.

We also had our Water System inspection, done every five years. We passed with flying colors with no violations! William Patterson, of San Juan County, was pleased to see we had a Water Facilities Inventories Manual (WFI) that we created after the first inspection.

Replacing the well created a large monthly savings. When we left in 2020 the electric bill for the pump house was around \$80 per month. Before we replaced the well this May, the monthly charges were around \$385. That's how much the well casing had degraded in such a short time!



Break through from the lagoon to our “pond”. The mallards like it.



You will note why we needed to move the dinghies from north of the dock, low lying bank.



This is the “before” picture that shows the need for repairs. This will all be rebuilt with a new concrete footer and boulders for erosion protection. The other dock sections have been moved into the lagoon for the winter. There, Seth will repair one of the sections that is missing some floats. He was able to repair three of our existing floats.



This view shows the washout from the first storm.
The roadbed is being rebuilt and will be filled in with gravel.



On the positive side, the view from cabin 5 has been upgraded! A new fire pit will be built before Spring.

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

Miscellaneous

On November 3rd we were fortunate enough to have a vaccination clinic. This clinic was sponsored by San Juan County and included vaccines, flu shots, and boosters. Oh, and donuts! This was advertised on the Decatur Island Facebook page and had a link for signing up. The location was conveniently located in the boat storage yard across from the school.

Seth received his booster, as his original vaccine was the J & J one. I had to wait another couple weeks to get mine, although we both did get the flu shots. I had my Moderna booster in town. Again, same as last time, I was laid out for around 24 hours!

Thanks to the islanders for setting this up!

Committee updates:

Cabin 4

Thank you to all for the helpful comments from the member survey in October. The Cabin 4 Group is working to update the proposed designs for another round of membership input. While it will be impossible to please everyone, we do hope to include all thoughts and comments in the design process. Sometime after the holidays you will receive a survey with three proposed designs, and we'll ask you to stack rank your selections. We hope, with this data, we can complete the design process. While there are many steps to follow (material choices, budget proposal, assessment, etc.), our intentions are to start the project fall of 2022 and have the newly renovated Cabin 4 back online Spring/Primetime 2023. If you have any immediate questions please send them to: Cabin4DHBA@gmail.com

What's showing up on our beaches?



Seth found this skate that washed up near the Pirate Ship. Looks just like the one that washed up last year for Heather and Shawn.

<https://www.seattleaquarium.org/animals/big-skate>

In early December my niece visited with a friend. On a new moon night, with a minus tide they went around the head with flashlights. The next three pictures are what they found.



A sea anemone just waiting for the tide to return.



Closed pink anemones



A large gray starfish (now called sea star)

Anita and Seth

The next newsletter will be out around February/March.