

# DHBA NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



Front of “new” greenhouse

## **Notes from the BOT:**

Greetings DHBA membership and happy spring! A few updates from the BOT as we go into the summer season. Seth and Anita have done an outstanding job getting the Head ready for prime time after a long winter. A big thanks to them for making great progress during a shortened weather window. We continue to market the Straight Ahead with Inside Passage Yachts and are hopeful we can get the boat sold before the summer.

In celebration of the DHBA 50th anniversary of this year, the BOT would like to collect memories and pictures from throughout our 50 years! We've created a link to upload pictures to here: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/xnb8gmjWFleUzgRMjCOU>. So go ahead and upload your favorite shots! We'll be providing access to the membership and potentially a collage of pictures on our web-site so we can all share in the memories.

Finally, I'd like to welcome new members Matt and Megan Snow! Though you are no strangers to the Head, we wish you many happy years on Decatur!

Keep an eye out for the summer letter, and wishing you and your families all the best.

Sincerely,  
John Mannetti  
DHBA President

## Notes From the Caretakers

Spring surely is a welcome sight here at Decatur Head! On our cover is the greenhouse we built this spring! See below for more pictures. We have built more vegetable beds for plenty to share. Swiss chard, broccoli, kale, beans, snow peas, parsley, basil, chives, oregano, thyme and rosemary should be plentiful. Even a new type of container corn! Most of this build was reclaimed lumber and old windows given to us by neighbors.



Back of the greenhouse. More donated windows and door...with a little color added



Inside greenhouse. The windows originally came from a “Highway house” that was barged over when the Route 5 was built. A little stained glass and paint and voila!

## Maintenance Updates



Maintenance Man! (photo courtesy of Chris White)

The dock is back in and ready! Seth rebuilt the land based portion along with two new concrete footers for support. Then gravel was spread, rocks were laid and we have the start to the rebuilding of this area. We have been moving large boulders (with the help from a friend with a backhoe) into place along the drive in front of cabin 5. This is an ongoing effort as we add more boulders and smaller rocks. Then some gravel, topsoil and then plugs of the grasses that grow naturally along the berms in front of cabin 7 and 8. Building up this area will help with the flooding each winter.



### Gravel for drive

We had a combination of 17 yards minus  $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 5 yards 2" gravel delivered by Dupar Construction. This particular gravel interlocks so it won't float away during our King tides. The brown color washes away.



Dock ready to go. We are waiting for dry weather to finish the sand paint. Fish cleaning table is more readily accessible.



New firepit in front of cabin #5. Gravel spread out and large boulders in place to fill in as we rebuild this berm.

See the following pictures to illustrate how the King tides affect Decatur Head. This leads to quite a bit of clean up to keep us busy during the winter doldrums.....



Caretaker porch January flooding



January flooding under office and lagoon drive





Logs left behind after January flooding-between cabin 5 and 6



After clean-up. Large logs were removed with backhoe a few weeks ago



Debris left behind after January flooding



All gone!

Do you remember these chairs from cabin 1? Broken and dirty?



See them now! Seth cleaned, stripped repaired and oiled. I made new outside cushions with extra pillow for your head or lumbar support.





New backboard for tennis practice



New firewood storage shed and support for backboard

The tennis court will be resurfaced in late May, early June. We need at least 4 days of temps above 50 degrees with no rain. Before resurfacing we will pressure wash and Seth will repair dips and cracks and improve drainage around the outside perimeter. We are planning on striping for Pickleball too, depending on the time constraints.



Maintenance Man at work again. Work in progress.



Front complete. Back to be completed in the Fall

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

# **Around the Island**

## **Fire training:**

50+ Decatur Island Property Owner's have completed the Basic Training led by Jordan Pollock and Kyle Dodd, experts in wildland firefighting. Because of the elevated interest and need to ensure readiness, there is another opportunity for you to participate.

**SAVE THE DATE: June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 | 4-hour morning or afternoon session.**

We encourage all that are interested to attend training, and highly encourage those that are full-time or mostly full-time residents of Decatur. No experience necessary - everyone is welcome!

### **Wildland Firefighting Basics**

This four-hour course is designed to provide an initial responder a broad overview of numerous firefighting areas specific to our island. It is taught to National Wildfire Coordinating Group standards and includes:

- Incident Command Structure (ICS).
- Communication.
- Safety.
- Sizeup.
- Fireline Hazards.
- Fire Behavior and Weather Review.
- Fuels.
- Topography.
- Apparatus Placement.
- Hoselays.
- Handline Construction.
- Mopup.

Through a blended approach of online learning and practical skills, participants will learn and practice safe and effective wildland preparedness and incident response training for our island.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT:**

1. Online course materials to review. (1 hr)
2. Onsite training with one of our four community fire trucks. (4 hrs.)

### **WHEN:**

**JUNE 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**4-hour morning (8am - noon) or afternoon (1pm-5pm) session.**

### **WHERE;**

**Storage building area across from the school**

**If you are here on the Head during that time, and are interested in attending, let me know-Anita**

### **Another opportunity for Emergency training:**

HOLD the date: June 11th at the school San Juan EMS and Robin DeLazerda from Sheriff's Dispatch will be coming to Decatur to teach Basic First Aid and CPR and talk about how our county system works. More details to follow.

If you are here on the Head during that time, and are interested in attending, let me know-Anita

## **Committee updates:**

### **Cabin 4**

Thank you to all that participated in the Cabin 4 Design survey. We had 34 votes!! Fantastic. Drum roll? Through the Rank Choice survey method Design Alternative #3 was the winner! We are getting back to work with refining design (centered on Alternative #3 with respect to a few suggestions & comments) and will present the final design and budget to the BOT.

We will send out the full results via a separate email.

### **Dinghies**

DHBA now has five dinghies available for members.

8 ft White/Orange Livingston Calypso – this will be kept at the dock, in the water, for convenience

8 ft White Walker Bay with wheel

12 ft Silver Aluminum SeaNymph

12 ft Red Aluminum Lund

12 ft Blue Aluminum Harborcraft

These dinghies are all labeled "DHBA" on the transom and will be located near the flagpole. Oars will be kept underneath the dinghies during prime time, to be put in the locker building for the winter.

## What's showing up on our beaches?



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lemming>

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> Seth spotted this little creature near the hanging swing on our outside beach, west of the Pirate Ship. There are a few types of lemmings in the Pacific Northwest. Long-time residents (75 years) of Decatur Island have never seen one. It was just following the tide line and didn't seem worried at all that a human was within a few feet!

Trumpeter swans showed up in the pond on December 28<sup>th</sup>. They left after one day-too cold!!!! Geese and their little goslings just made their appearance this past week in late April. Along with the Herons-so Spring is here!

Seth and Anita