



FOSLS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

FEBRUARY 2024

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Interpretive Program Series
- Lake Sylvia Work Party Scheduled
- Schafer Centennial Plans Underway
- Trillium Trek
- FOSLS Annual Meeting
- FOSLS Board Elections
- State Parks Commissioner Mark Brown retires

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Schafer Sasquatches and Shapeshifters

BIGFOOT 101

On Saturday, March 2, 2024, Bigfoot Scientific Field Investigator, Scott Taylor, will present information about Pacific Northwest sightings and behavior of the infamous Sasquatch. The presentation will cover evidence and observations that he has uncovered during his extensive field research. Included in the presentation will be a hands on workshop on how to make a casting of footprints in order to preserve the evidence. Scott is a Field Investigator for the Bigfoot Research Organization and has investigated 212 Bigfoot incidents and attended 54 Bigfoot field expeditions in his career. He regularly speaks at venues such as the Sasquatch Summit in Ocean Shores. He enjoys talking

about the subject with the public, sharing what has been learned about these fascinating forest residents. See <https://www.bfro.net/> for more information on the Bigfoot Field Research Organization.



SCHAFER SHAPESHIFTERS

Our second presenter of the day is Stet Palmer of the South Sound Story Guild, presenting stories about local Shapeshifter sightings.

Stet is a founding FOSLS member who grew up at Schafer State Park while his father was a Park Ranger there and has many stories to tell of the park and the mysterious happenings he has seen there. He is a regular speaker for the South Sound Story Guild in Olympia, WA. Come listen to his stories of Schafer Park and tell us if they are real - or not???

<https://www.southsoundstory.org/>

This is the first event in a series sponsored by FOSLS and the Community Interpretive Coalition. Read more about the Coalition on page 4.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MTG MARCH 9

The FOSLS **Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck** will take place at **Schafer State Park on Saturday, March 9th**. Enjoy a potluck lunch in the large community shelter at 12:00 noon followed by the annual membership meeting. **ELECTIONS** will be held for the FOSLS Executive Board positions and you will

hear the annual report on FOSLS activities and events. If you are interested in becoming a Board member, send us an email at info@fosls.org and let us know so we can make sure your name is on the ballot. Anyone interested in FOSLS may attend but only members in good standing are eligible to vote.

FOSLS WORK PARTY MAR 16th

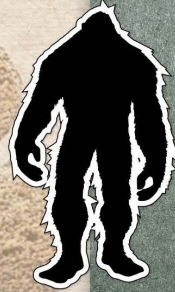
FOSLS Members will be helping State Parks staff clear the group camp site of downed limbs at **Lake Sylvia State Park on Sat. Mar 16th**. Meet at the Swim area at 10 am for your work assignment. Bring gloves, tools and your lunch.



Schafer Interpretive Series: SASQUATCH

Saturday, March 2, 2024
1-3 p.m., Shelter 1

Schafer State Park
1365 West Schafer Park Rd, Elma, WA 98541
(360) 482-3852

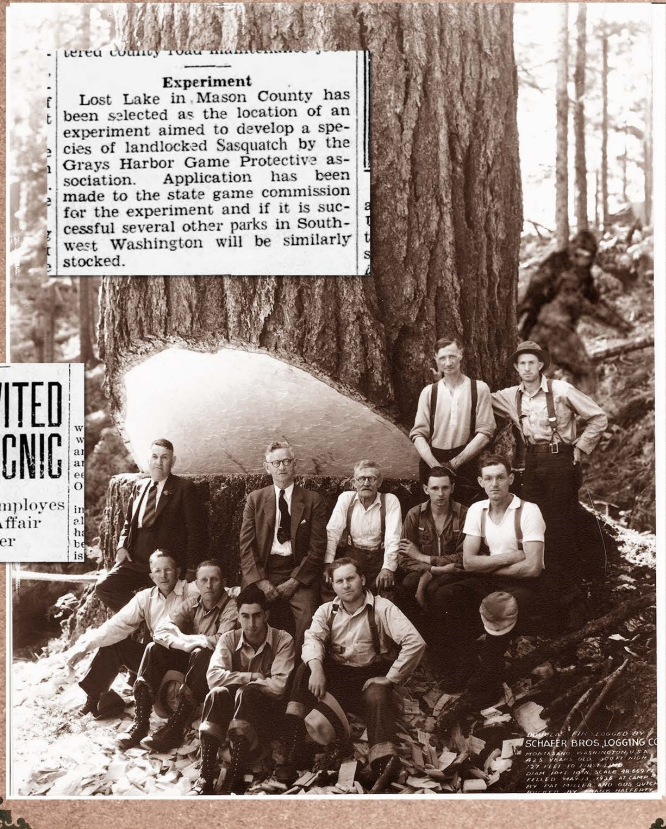


Schafer Shapeshifters:

Local storyteller Stet Palmer of the South Sound Story Guild, will present stories about local Shapeshifter sightings. Stet grew up at Schafer State Park and has many stories to tell of the park and the mysterious happenings he has seen there.

Bigfoot 101:

Bigfoot scientific field investigator, Scott Taylor, will present information about Pacific Northwest sightings and behavior of the infamous Sasquatch. The presentation will cover evidence that he has uncovered during his extensive field research as well as a demonstration on the casting of footprints.



Experiment
Lost Lake in Mason County has been selected as the location of an experiment aimed to develop a species of landlocked Sasquatch by the Grays Harbor Game Protective association. Application has been made to the state game commission for the experiment and if it is successful several other parks in Southwest Washington will be similarly stocked.

BIGFOOT INVITED TO LABOR PICNIC
Schafer Brothers Employees Plan Annual Affair on Satsop River



For more information: schafer@parks.wa.gov www.fosls.org Photos by: Trina Young & Peter Reid, Design by: Jake Lynch

New State Parks Community Interpretive Group Formed

FOSLS has become a part of an exciting new coalition of local agencies who share common goals protecting the environment and providing education and new outdoor opportunities for area residents. This will enable us to hold more events, share volunteers and resources and provide new discoveries for people of all ages.

The Community Interpretive Team has created a list of events that will provide opportunities to learn about our local environment. Members of the Community Interpretive Team include:

- FOSLS
- WA State Parks
- WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
- Mason Conservation District
- Pacific & GH Conservation Dist
- Americorps

Contact us at info@fosls.org if you would like to be a part of this exciting new group!

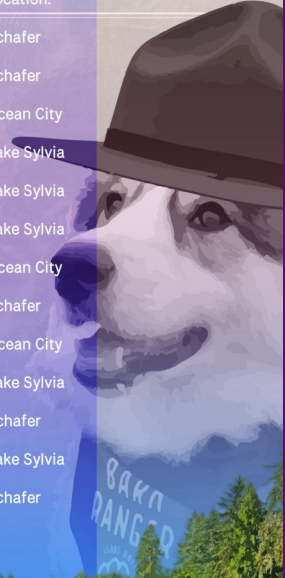
No Foolin! Annual FOSLS Dues are due April 1.



Washington State Parks Northern Shores Interpretive Series: Grays Harbor/Mason County



Date:	Event:	Location:
March 2 nd	Legends of the Northwest - Sasquatch	Schafer
March 23 rd	The Invasive Herb Robert	Schafer
March 30 th	The Invasive Scotch Broom and Gorse	Ocean City
April 6 th	Native Bees & Wildflower Craft	Lake Sylvia
April 13 th	Bigfoot	Lake Sylvia
April 20 th	Trillium Trek	Lake Sylvia
June 22 nd	Art in the Park - Photography Hike	Ocean City
July 27 th	PNW Bats - Evening Event	Schafer
August 24 th	Coexistence with Beavers	Ocean City
October 10 th	Fungi - Forest Bathing Stroll	Lake Sylvia
Late October	Return of the Salmon	Schafer
November 2 nd	Winter Tree Twig Identification	Lake Sylvia
Early December	Yule Log	Schafer



For more information: schafer@parks.wa.gov [facebook.com/FriendsOfSchaferLakeSylvia](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSchaferLakeSylvia)



Ranger Angela Galli takes the lead at the Community Interpretive Team meeting in January of 2024 planning the year's potential events on a cold winter day. The fire was appreciated by all!

If you are interested in volunteering with these agencies or events, please contact them directly or contact FOSLS at info@fosls.org. We have several of our FOSLS members conducting events for this group. If you have an idea for an interpretive event or would like to help, please let us know!



FOSLS WEEKLY WORK PARTY

If you like getting out in nature on a regular basis and if you like yard work, then we have an opportunity for you! Our Weekly Work Party meets every **Wednesday from 10 - 12**

under the guidance of Helen Hepp at Lake Sylvia and sometimes Schafer State Parks. Duties include transplanting native species, ivy and holly control, invasive weed removal, summer watering, landscaping and similar type projects. If you are interested, call **360-249-2573** for a weekly recording of the current projects and location. This is a fun group of people who share the common goal of preserving our state parks!

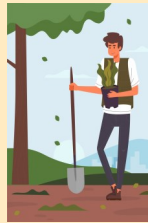


Image by FreePik

2024 Discover Pass FREE DAYS

- Saturday, March 9** - Billy Frank Junior's Birthday
- Tuesday, March 19** - State Parks' 111th Birthday
- Monday, April 22** - Earth Day
- Saturday, June 8** - National Get Outdoors Day
- Sunday, June 9** - Free Fishing Day
- Wednesday, June 19** - Juneteenth
- Saturday, Sept. 28** - National Public Lands Day
- Thursday, Oct. 10** - World Mental Health Day
- Monday, Nov. 11** - Veterans Day
- Friday, Nov. 29** - Autumn Day

Special Thank you to **Jake Lynch** for the amazing posters for our FOSLS Events! Jake volunteered his digital graphics skills to help us with these fantastic visual and artistic posters. Thank you Jake!

FOSLS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Volunteering on the FOSLS Executive Board is an excellent way to serve your community and help direct the stewardship of our local state parks while gaining new friendships. Meetings are monthly, currently on the 2nd Thursdays at 3 pm, in person or on ZOOM. If you have a skill or interest to contribute, or an interest in park stewardship please consider becoming a member of the Board. Email us at info@fosls.org today. Board Elections are March 9th at the Annual Meeting.

Schafer Interpretive Series: HERB ROBERT



Saturday, March 23, 2024
10 a.m. to 12, Shelter 1

Schafer State Park
1365 West Schafer Park Rd, Elma, WA 98541
(360) 482-3852

Kiley Smith, Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Control Board Coordinator will lead a walk during which she will share the importance of native plants and the problems of the highly invasive Herb Robert plant to local flora and fauna. Participants will be invited to join in the removal of Herb Robert.

All ages! Dress for the weather and bring garden work gloves. Light refreshments will be provided following the weed pull!

For more information: schafer@parks.wa.gov www.fosls.org



"I'm the Dread Pirate Robert, but you can call me 'Herb.'"
- *Geranium robertianum*

Design by Jake Lynch

FOSLS NEWS



SPRING TRILLIUM TREK

Please accept our invitation to help us count the trilliums in and beyond Lake Sylvia State Park on **Saturday, April 20th at 1 pm**. The trilliums are counted annually as we watch over the health of this spring perennial. Park Rangers will guide you on a leisurely hike through the woods to count these delicate beauties. Meet at 1 pm at the Legacy Pavilion for this guided hike for all ages. There will be displays of native spring flowers and information on the growth habits of the trilliums.



FOSLS Plans Schafer Centennial

FOSLS members are planning the 100 year commemoration of the dedication of Schafer State Park which will be held this year on July 20th. The event will include an official commemoration by WA State Parks, food, live music, historical displays from the Chehalis Valley Historical Society., vintage games and kids activities, and a square dancing program. Items for a planned time capsule will also be on display.

We are looking for volunteers willing to help out at this historic event. We have a variety of volunteer activities available, including parking, program distribution, putting up posters, assistance with games and activities, food service, cleanup and more. If you are interested in helping, please contact us at info@fosls.org.

Upon the dedication of Schafer State Park to the National Historic Register on Feb 9, 2010, the Daily World wrote the following about Schafer State Park:

".....The 119-acre park is on the Satsop River, just across the Mason County line, north of Elma

and Montesano. The park is known for its fishing territory and picnic areas, and the buildings are constructed from native stone.

The State Parks Department is asking for the park to be on the historic register.

The park was officially donated to the state by the Schafer brothers on Feb. 23, 1924, in honor of their father John, who had arrived in the Satsop area in 1871. His children, known as the Schafer brothers, had founded the Schafer Brothers Logging Company.

"During the period from 1893 to 1924, the Schafer Brothers logging operation traversed the whole history of logging methods in use during that time, and they went on to expand into operating sawmills, door manufacturing plants, railroads and cargo ships," according to the official nomination request, which notes all of the company's operations employed at least 3,000 people.

"The park contained 500-year-old trees that offered an image of what the Schafer family had seen in the area when they arrived in 1871," according to the nomination. "It was the first donation of park land by anyone connected with the timber industry and followed other early donations by private individuals and groups to help build the state park system in the 1910s and

early 1920s. The area had particular meaning to the brothers because the family had often fished and picnicked there in the years leading up to 1922, and it is located about three miles upriver from the original Schafer homestead."

In the 1930s, the park was home to several Works Progress Administration construction projects.

The nomination also pays tribute to the work done by Park Superintendent C. C. "Doc" Palmer to improve the park in the 1950s.

"Schafer State Park represents not only a unique example of the high quality craftsmanship of the WPA and other emergency programs of the 1930s but also a window into the settlement of the Satsop Valley, the vast lumber operations that were undertaken there and in the surrounding forests in the early years of the 20th Century, and the bounty available from the river stretching far back into the history of Native Americans in the Northwest,"

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, July 20th and help us celebrate!

Yule Log Celebration

winter solstice tradition
with red bow and holly
a yule log hides

on your mark. get set.
Go!
children charge to be *the one*

to the road
and still searching—
out of breath

with hands on hips
oldest boy grunts
a bull paws the ground

a different drummer
the quiet boy
finds the prize

horn blares!
toddler shouts
I found it first

kids touch the bark
congratulations
and grumbles

children drag roped log
to the fire
herd of cats

children in line
to chop the log
hatchet bounces

absent boys
girl tosses yule log
into the flames

watching the old
turn into ash
a new year

Susan Lee Roberts,
Montesano Haiku

YULE LOG CELEBRATION



Garrett Vetter, Finder of the 2023 Yule Log
He and his Dad, Anton Vetter are descendants
of the Schafer Family



Teamwork getting the log to the fire



Community members filling their plates
with Yuletide treats



FOSLS Member, Helen Hepp signing up new
members



FOSLS members Stet Palmer and Helen Hepp presenting retirement gifts to retiring WA State Parks Commissioner, Mark Brown and his wife Julie. Commissioner Brown has been an enthusiastic and avid supporter of FOSLS and has been to many of our events. He often was the MC at our Lake Sylvia Fall Festival and attended many of our Yule Log Celebration over his 12 year career at State Parks. He will be missed on the Commission but we hope to continue to see him at our events! Thank you Mark and Julie!

LtoR: Helen Hepp, Ranger Joe Fernandez, Ranger Angela Gali, Mark Brown, Julie Brown and Stet Palmer



FIRST DAY HIKE 1-1-2024 Lake Sylvia State Park



LAKE SYLVIA TEMPORARY SUMMER CLOSURE

Lake Sylvania State Park will be **closed from June 10 through September 30th** for road repairs. In a recent storm a culvert near the entrance to the park washed out and State Parks will now be replacing that culvert with a new bridge. This construction will require the temporary closure of the park. Because this is a weather sensitive project, they had no choice but to plan this work during the dry summer months. We know this is inconvenient but there is no other way to make this repair. In the interim, we would like to remind folks that our newly renovated sister park, Schafer State Park will be open and available for campers and day use. It is a beautiful park with a brand new campground waiting for your new adventure. For more information check out Schafer State Park at <https://parks.wa.gov/find-parks/state-parks/schafer-state-park>.

IMPORTANT FOSLS DATES FOR YOUR SPRING CALENDAR

- ◆ Mar 2 - Schafer Sasquatches and Shapeshifters 1-3
- ◆ Mar 9 - Schafer - FOSLS ANNUAL MTG 12:00 noon
- ◆ Mar 14 - Schafer Centennial Planning mtg 10 am via zoom
- ◆ Mar 16 - Lake Sylvania Work Party 10 am
- ◆ Mar 23 - Schafer Interpretive Series - Herb Robert 10 - 12
- ◆ Apr 6 - Lake Sylvania Interpretive Series - Native Bee Pollinators 10 - 12
- ◆ Apr 11 - Schafer Centennial Planning Mtg 10 am via zoom
- ◆ Apr 11 - FOSLS Board Meeting 3 pm
- ◆ Apr 13 - Lake Sylvania Interpretive Series - Bigfoot Presentation
- ◆ Apr 20 - Trillium Trek at Lake Sylvania
- ◆ May 9 - FOSLS Board Meeting 3 pm

Check our Facebook page for regular updates on these meetings and events.

FACEBOOK/FriendsOfSchaferLakeSylvia

www.fosls.org

FOSLS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022-2023

FOSLS meets on the 3rd Thursday at 3pm via ZOOM or in person. See our Facebook page for the ZOOM link and current meeting details.

President	<i>Karol Danner</i>
V President	<i>Jerry Buendel</i>
Secretary	<i>Linda Ronholt</i>
Treasurer	<i>Louise Baxter</i>
Stet Palmer	Board Member, Legislative
Trina Young	Board Member, Membership, Newsletter, Social Media
Joshua Shin	Board Member, Web Master, Compliance
Pat Wadsworth	Board Member, Shed Committee
Susan Duvall	Board Member

Helen Hepp	Board Member Emeritus, Weekly Weeders Committee
Karen Van Noy	Membership Committee

FIND US ON THE INTERNET
www.fosls.org Email: info@fosls.org
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSchaferLakeSylvia>

DISCOVER PASS

Annual Pass \$30 for all state parks or single use One-day Pass \$10.

Purchase in person at your local state park, or wherever state fishing and hunting licenses are sold.

Online purchases can be made at
www.discoverpass.wa.gov.

Purchase by phone at (866) 320-9933.

Or you can purchase a Discover Pass when you renew your vehicle license.

Thank you for supporting WA State recreation lands.



FOSLS DUES RENEWAL TIME

The FOSLS membership dues annual renewal date is April 1st of each year. Please remember to check the status of your dues by contacting Karen at info@fosls.org.

Individual dues are \$15 or 4 hours of volunteer time. Family membership dues are \$25 or 8 hours of volunteer time. Dues must be current to be eligible to vote in the Board Elections at the Annual meeting.

All dues are used toward the maintenance and improvement of our local parks and for FOSLS activities to promote future stewardship and public education of our local natural resources. Thank you for participating in this worthy endeavor!