



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Yule Log Celebration
- First Day Hikes
- Schafer Centennial Planning Begins
- Lake Sylvia State Park-Makes Best of Twin Harbors

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Haiku Trail	2
Fall Festival Ending	2
Salmon Bake Highlights	3
Schafer Centennial Plans	4
Satsop Bulb Farm Donation	4
L.Sylvia Best of Twin Harbors	5
EV Charging Stations	5

# FOSLS NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF SCHAFER & LAKE

WINTER 2023

## Schafer Park YULE LOG Celebration

Enjoy some family fun as we bring in the **YULE LOG** to celebrate the season from 1pm -4pm at Schafer State Park! Experience a Schafer Park historic tradition as we celebrate in the Large Community Shelter where the fire will be roaring and great memories will be made.

Children of all ages hunt for the Yule log and bring it back to be cut and put into the fire for good luck in the coming year.

Share your creative talents in the **GINGERBREAD AND HOLIDAY BAKING CONTEST**, which is open to all ages and all skill levels. Judging starts at 1:15.

Bring treats to share as well as your appetite, and learn how to ring the chimes and sing along to holiday music. Play Holiday Cornhole and warm yourself by the great fire.

Coffee and Spiced Tea will be provided by FOSLS. Enjoy the music and good cheer of the Season with the Friends of Schafer and Lake Sylvia (FOSLS).



## First Day Hikes To Ring In The New Year



Both Schafer and Lake Sylvia State Parks will be participating in WA State Parks's **FIRST DAY HIKES** on New Year's Day.

The hike at Schafer Park begins at 10 am and will include a hike around the new remodeled area.

The First Day Hike at Lake Sylvia State Park begins at 1:00 pm at the Swim Area.

FOSLS will provide refreshments. Bring the family, a friend, even the furry kind, and enjoy the first outing of the year. Take photos and share them with us!

## Fall Festival Visitors Enjoyed Haiku Trail's

Lake Sylvia Fall Festival visitors enjoyed the haiku trail's "little surprises." Inspired, and after a quick lesson, two visitors challenged themselves to write a haiku on the spot—they received Dove chocolates for their efforts!

Haiku are brief poems focused on a



Haiku by Susan Lee Roberts

single moment, written to delight the senses. Haiku invite readers to see an everyday scene in a fresh new way.

Many people enjoy "gingko walks", where they walk in nature, paying close attention to their surroundings. When they come across something catches their breath, they enjoy crafting a short haiku to remember their "aha" moment. Originating in Japan, haiku was introduced to the US in the 1800's and are now written in nearly every country. "But the haiku didn't have 5-7-5 syllables," some commented at the festival. When haiku were first introduced in the US, they were written with the 5-7-5 format based on Japan's 5-7-5 *kana* count. But syllables aren't the same as *kana*, and the 5-7-5 rule relaxed.

The Haiku Trail was sponsored by Montesano Haiku. All haiku were written by Washington poets and

were selected by a haiku judge. If writing haiku interests you, Montesano Haiku holds classes. Contact Susan at [MontesanoHaiku@gmail.com](mailto:MontesanoHaiku@gmail.com).



Haiku by Nancy Thiel

## LAKE SYLVIA FALL FESTIVAL ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE

The 2023 Lake Sylvia Fall Festival was a huge success with over 1000 visitors coming to the park. This year's event required over 40 volunteers, 3 buses, local schools, 40 Community Sponsors, 30 Artist Vendors, 6 musical acts, 7 food vendors and a large number of State Parks Staff. It was a beautiful day and there were lots of smiles which made it a great way to end this long time tradition which started in 2009 when state parks were put on the chopping block by a financially strapped legislature. FOSLS's goal was to bring more people into our parks to help increase the revenues to enable them to survive. We accomplished this goal and made lots of friends along the way. State parks are now doing well with the changes in revenue methods and the surge of visitors since COVID. So it was a poignant day when the FOSLS Board decided that we had fulfilled our goal and it was time to move on with new plans and ideas for engaging the public in our state parks. We look forward to creating new adventures for our local state parks visitors and we greatly



Artwork by Richard Eaves Woods

appreciate the many friends, volunteers, vendors and sponsors, who made the Fall Festival such a joy for the community each year. FOSLS could not have done this

without the many, many people who each contributed to making the festival a much anticipated annual community event. Thank you!



# Volunteer Appreciation Day Salmon Bake

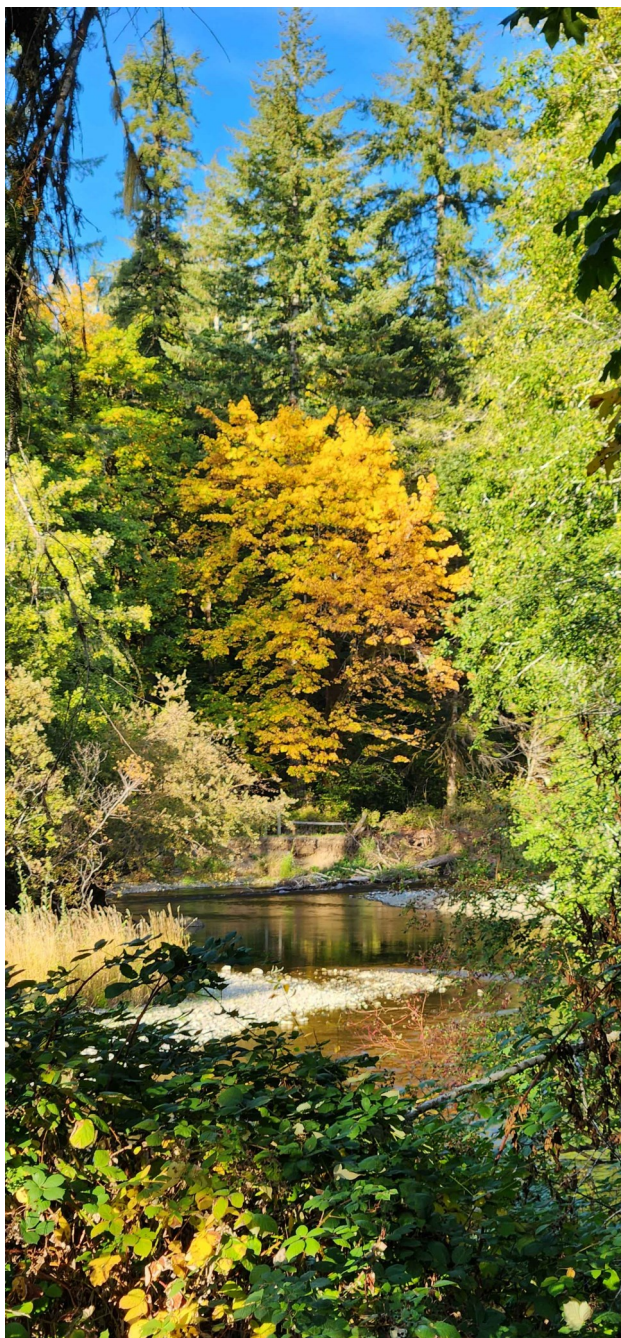
The October 7th sun smiled brightly on about 50 FOSLS members as they enjoyed a delicious salmon dinner at Schafer State Park. The dinner was provided by FOSLS in appreciation for the efforts of its volunteer members.

It takes a lot of volunteers to put on the activities and events that the FOSLS organization sponsors and this day was dedicated to these members and supporters for their service. It also takes the support of WA State Parks and Parks Staff and we wanted them to also know how much they are appreciated for the support they give us.

The event included a fine salmon dinner with lots of good food, beautiful flute melodies played by Rodney Jones, a Haiku trail guided by Susan Roberts and storytelling by Bret and Toby Anderson and Stet Palmer. We were excited to have several Schafer Family descendants attend as well, including Peter Shepherd, Peter Reid and Mark Vetter.







Schafer State Park in October - By Trina Young

## FOSLS Joins Local Chambers of Commerce

FOSLS has recently joined the Montesano Chamber of Commerce and also the Shelton-Mason Chamber of Commerce. We wanted to partner with these organizations to help promote our events at both Lake Sylvia and Schafer State Parks and participate more fully in our local communities. The Montesano Chamber of Commerce meets on the 2nd Wednesday at noon at Gepettos restaurant.



## FOSLS and State Parks Plan Schafer Park Centennial Commemoration

FOSLS and WA State Parks have begun plans for the commemoration of Schafer State Park's 100th anniversary in 2024. The date has been set for Saturday, July 20th and will include a picnic, music, historic displays of Schafer memorabilia and more. If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact us at [info@fosls.org](mailto:info@fosls.org).

## WEEKLY WEEDERS

Our Weekly Weeders crew have planted more native plants at Lake Sylvia including wild strawberries, Oregon Grape and Kinnikinnick.

They have also attacked the thistle, the ivy and Herb Robert at Schafer Park and removed some Scots Broom.

Thanks to this group there will also be small potted trees from Lake Sylvia available at the Yule Log celebration on Dec 3 at Schafer Park. If you would like to join the Weekly Weeders, contact us at [info@fosls.org](mailto:info@fosls.org). They meet every Wed at Lake Sylvia from 10 to 12.

## SATSOP BULB FARM BEAUTIFIES LAKE SYLVIA STATE PARK

In early November, Lake Sylvia State Park received a beautiful donation of several hundred daffodil bulbs in the day use area. The plants were generously donated by Kris Edem of the Satsop Bulb Farm and she even planted them with a fancy new planter she used. So this spring when you find yourself smiling at the cheery blooms, thank Kris!



# Lake Sylvia State Park Makes Best of Twin Harbors 2023

Lake Sylvia State Park was recently featured by the Aberdeen Daily World in their Best of Twin Harbors publication on pages 53 and 54. Now everyone knows what we already knew! Lake Sylvia is a GREAT place to visit, hike, and camp!

**BEST OF TWIN HARBORS 2023** 53

## Best Camping/RV Place: Lake Sylvia State Park

A hidden gem within the historic town of Montesano



Continued on Page 54

The fishing bridge

**BEST OF TWIN HARBORS 2023** 54

## LAKE SYLVIA

Continued from Page 45



The playground

whole lake. The trail gives visitors a chance to see the wetlands, as well as a close look at a man-made dam from the 1900s that loggers used to make hydroelectric energy. The trail also connects to a network of other trails that span the Montesano area.

The state park also features a tiny playground for kids.

The park has an ADA fishing dock and playground equipment.

Kayaks and paddle boards are available for rent from June through September. Rental fees are \$15 for two hours.

The park has 31 standard campsites, four partial-hookup sites, a dump station, as well as multiple full setup bathrooms. RVs are permitted, but cannot exceed 30 feet.

Although open year-round, the summer hours are set from 8 a.m. to dusk.

Admission requires a Discovery Pass.

## SCHAFER PARK REMODEL

The new renovations to Schafer Park will not be open to the public until Spring of 2024 due to construction project delays. You can view the new camp area and hiking trail however during a tour at the First Day Hike on Jan 1 at 10:00 am.

## NEW SCHAFER PARK EV CHARGING STATIONS

Included in the new remodel at Schafer State Park are two new Electric Vehicle charging stations. The stations are located directly to the right of the exit gate in the day use area as you leave the park.

Now you can let your car charge while taking a hike, fishing, or picnicking at Schafer State Park! FOSLS is hoping that the State will put in charging stations at Lake Sylvia as well.

## FOSLS DONATIONS MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS !

Are you looking for a gift for that special person in your life that will be meaningful and enjoyed for years to come? A FOSLS Donation can be made that will provide youth education, park enhancement and also a way to maintain and preserve your local State parks for future generations.

The Friends of Schafer and Lake Sylvia State Parks (FOSLS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your donations are fully tax-deductible as allowable by law. To make a tax deductible donation, go to our FOSLS website at [www.fosls.org](http://www.fosls.org), and click on the donate button on the home page.



## Potential Trails Project for FOSLS Volunteers

If you are interested in working on this project or want more information please contact FOSLS at [info@fosls.org](mailto:info@fosls.org) or the SWRTPO at <https://cwcog.altago.site/>.



### The Regional Trails Plan for SWRTPO

The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) is developing a Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO) Regional Trails Plan to connect the regional trail network within and to the greater surrounding area to support the next generation of trail users.

We want your help to identify infrastructure needs and recommend actions across the diverse communities stretching from the Pacific Ocean to Puget Sound, the foothills of the Cascade Mountains to the Columbia River

## DISCOVER PASSES MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Get access to millions of acres of state recreation lands in Washington with the Discover Pass. They are transferable between two vehicles and only cost \$30 for an entire 12 months.

Discover Passes are available from your local Park Ranger or at some of these locations:

Dept of Licensing offices, Dennis Co., and Timberland Bank.

Discover Passes are only \$30 for an annual, two-vehicle pass covering all Washington State Parks!

The Discover Pass may be purchased

- Online at [Www.discoverpass.wa.gov](http://Www.discoverpass.wa.gov)
- In person from any of nearly 600 recreational license vendors where state fishing and hunting licenses are sold
- By phone by calling 866-320-9933
- When you renew your vehicle license
- At State Parks headquarters and region offices, and at state parks when staff is available.





## FOSLS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022-2023

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

<b>President</b>	Karol Danner
<b>V President</b>	Jerry Buendel
<b>Secretary</b>	Linda Ronholt
<b>Treasurer</b>	Louise Baxter
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
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Helen Hepp	Board Member Emeritus, Weekly Weeders Committee
Karen Van Noy	Membership Committee

## IMPORTANT FOSLS DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- ♦ Nov 25 - State Parks Free Day - No Discover Pass Needed
- ♦ Dec 3 - Schafer Park Yule Log Celebration
- ♦ Jan 1 - Schafer Park First Day Hike  
- Lake Sylvia First Day Hike
- ♦ March - FOSLS Annual Meeting TBD

## CONTACT FOSLS!

FOSLS  
PO Box 642  
Montesano, WA 98563

[info@fosls.org](mailto:info@fosls.org)

## NEXT FOSLS BOARD MEETINGS

December	No Meeting
January 22	1:00 pm at Schafer Park In Person
February	Date to be determined due to holiday

Check our Facebook Page for updated information

## FIND FOSLS ON THE INTERNET !

[www.fosls.org](http://www.fosls.org)  
Instagram

[https://www.facebook.com/  
FriendsOfSchaferLakeSylvia/](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSchaferLakeSylvia/)

[https://www.facebook.com/  
LakeSylviaStateParkFallFestival/](https://www.facebook.com/LakeSylviaStateParkFallFestival/)

# FOSLS

*Friends of Schafer and Lake Sylvia State Parks*

Working Together to Support, Protect, and  
Preserve our Local State Parks

*Established in 2009*

## ANNUAL EVENTS

*First Day Hikes \* Spring Clean Up \* Trillium Trek  
School Education Programs \* Trail Cleanup \* Summer Community Picnic  
Lake Sylvia Fall Festival \* Salmon Bake \* Schafer Park Yule Log Celebration*

WWW.FOSLS.ORG INFO@FOSLS.ORG

