



FOSLS NEWSLETTER

WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER 2024

"We were all so impressed! The park looked amazing, the event was well organized and there were SO MANY PEOPLE! Way to go Schafer!"



HAIKU

Selected by
Montesano Haiku

In the pines
My spine
Straightens

by Tyrone McDonald

Acorn pail
Tree by tree
The boys collect a
forest
By Joshua St. Claire

2024 Marks Big Year For FOSLS

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

This year has been a big year for our FOSLS organization and we want to thank all of you for helping us make it a huge success! We cannot complete the important projects, events, and outreach that are necessary for the survival of these parks with-

out you and the generous volunteer spirit that you share with us and we are grateful for your support. Whether you volunteered at work parties, pulled ivy, attended meetings or helped plan one of our events, you made a difference this year and helped ensure the continued legacy of our precious Schafer and Lake Sylvia State Parks.

Thank you! SCHAFER PARK REMODEL COMPLETED

2024 marked a new era at Schafer State Park with the opening of the brand new \$4 million dollar campground renovation. The park looks amazing and had a very busy year with as many campers as Lake Sylvia had in 2023. The small staff did an amazing job meeting the demands of increased visitation and all putting the finishing touches on the new facilities.

Our FOSLS Team did a great job planting and maintaining the new plantings along the trails and helping the Park Staff with signage and the remaining modifications to the new area.



FOSLS Volunteers setting up for the Schafer Centennial

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RECORD ATTENDANCE AT SCHAFER CENTENNIAL

This summer's Centennial Celebration was a huge hit with well over 1000 visitors attending the event, vying for the title made by multiple community groups in the early days of the park. The sun shone brightly down on an overflow crowd on July 20th but the heat did not stop the fun.

FOSLS and Parks Staff planned it well with activities going on all day long. A huge contingent of over 50 Schafer Family members descended on the park to commemorate the event as an important part of their family history. There was free food, live music, children's activities, a poetic

Haiku trail walk, and free special wooden Centennial souvenirs, handmade by FOSLS and Parks staff.

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Stet Palmer set up the old office furniture from his Dad's time as a Ranger at the park in the 1950's with artifacts from the old park ranger days. Stories were shared and a special dedica-



Former Schafer Park Ranger ,Dewey Skaggs who served at the park from abt 1961-1964



“This park hasn’t had an event this large in many decades. Great work!”



Schafer Family Descendants celebrating 100 years

RECORD ATTENDANCE Continued

tion was held, led by retired WA State Parks Commissioner Mark Brown, with WA State Parks Director Diana Dupuis and Commissioners Williams and Merri-man. There were Displays showing the park through the years, including tools used to construct the old buildings, major floods and news articles highlighting the park’s history. The Schaffer Family and the Chehalis Valley Historical Society had a booth loaded with historical photos, commemorative items and artifacts of the Schaffer Family history. There was even a lively old thyme square dancing demonstration at the end of the day by the Harbor Haylofters and another group from Olympia. Ranger Angela Galli collected a variety of memorabilia to include in a time capsule that will be hidden away at the park on a

future date. The items were on display throughout the day. Even Bagley the Beaver showed up for photos with the kids. “I want to thank the staff and volunteers for putting in an incredible amount of time into the planning of the event,” Miles Wenzel, Region Manager for the SWV, said. “Special kudos go to (Ranger)Angela Galli for spearheading the parks planning and overseeing the grounds and facilities being shined to a bright luster. This park hasn’t had an event this large in many decades. Great work!” Park Staff and FOSLS Volunteers put on an event that will be remembered for another 100 years at this very special place called Schafer State Park!



2024 Marks Big Year *continued*

NEW INTERPRETIVE SERIES

Another new feature at our Parks is the new Parks Interpretive Series coordinated by Ranger Angela Galli and a coalition of local agencies with FOSLS. We scheduled 16 different interpretive events throughout the year at Schafer, Lake Sylvia and Pacific Beach State Parks. Topics included flora and fauna from Bats, Bees and Bigfoot, fish and fungi, plants and photography and big cats, bears and beavers! It was an amazing variety of educational opportunities that we hope more people will discover in the coming year. If you have an idea for a workshop or expertise in a particular topic let us know as we will begin planning the 2025 year soon.

SCHAFER PARK CENTENNIAL

WA State Parks and FOSLS hosted the 100th Year Celebration of the establishment of Schafer Park into the WA State Parks system. This monumental celebration saw well over 1000 visitors and campers helping to commemorate this important date in the history of this park. Over 50 Schafer family de-

scendants attended and nearly 40 volunteers stepped up to help organize and ensure the celebration went smoothly. This historic event will live on as a testament to the love the public has for this special park. We are so proud to have been a part of it!

LAKE SYLVIA CLOSURE

Sadly road construction at Lake Sylvia caused the closure of the park this year from June through December. The silver lining is that we will have a newly repaired road into the park to last generations. The Park will be open on Jan 1st, just in time for the 2025 First Day Hike.

NEW FOSLS STORAGE SHED AT LAKE SYLVIA

After 2 years time wrangling permits for storing FOSLS equipment, tools and supplies, the shed is nearly complete. Work began in the spring and is now nearly complete, waiting on good weather in the new year for final painting and putting in shelves. The project was begun by FOSLS member Tim Flumerfelt, who sadly passed away before work could begin. His good friend Bob



Carter picked up where Tim left off and helped to streamline the design. Bob, along with volunteer Terry Kissick and Pat Wadsworth generously donated hundreds of hours building the shed during the park closure this summer. We plan to have a small celebratory picnic when the shed is totally completed.

JOIN US!

FOSLS is very proud of our accomplishments this year and we have proven that one small group CAN make a difference! But we do need help and we welcome anyone who wishes to come join us in ensuring our state parks are still here for the next generations!



HAIKU

*“fallen Leaf
in my hand a
tree
walks with me”*

*Maurice Nevile,
Canberra,
Australia*



GIVING TUESDAY

FOSLS has launched a new fundraising campaign for Giving Tuesday to help us in sponsoring the new projects we are planning.

We are hoping to purchase this coming year 2 new solar speed limit signs for Schafer State Park to help control speeding through the park. We also plan to improve the walking path from the large community

shelter to the restrooms. This path needs to be rebuilt to meet ADA standards so that more people can access these restrooms. Additionally we help to fund the Interpretive Series and other projects that may arise throughout the year at both parks.

If you would like to help with a recurring monthly gift, you can go

to our website at www.fosls.org and click on the donation link. All donors with a minimum donation of \$15 per month will receive a full FOSLS membership through Mar 31, 2026.

All donations are tax deductible and support our work at Lake Sylvia and Schafer State Parks.

Contact us at 360-791-9169 for more info.





2025 FIRST DAY HIKE

JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
1:00 PM
LAKE SYLVIA STATE PARK



OUR 2024 SEASONAL PARK AIDES



This year we were blessed with terrific park aides at Schafer and Lake Sylvia State Parks. These outstanding young people all went above and beyond to help FOSLS during the 2024 season and their help was greatly appreciated! We wish them well on their path to their chosen careers and hopefully we will be fortunate enough to see them again in the coming season. Thank you all for your enthusiastic support of our state parks!



Abby Fritts –

3rd season return. First Season was with Schafer then the next season was with Sylvia and 2024 was Sylvia but she worked Schafer. She is a Grays Harbor College Forestry Bachelor graduating June 2025. Abby was also a great sport wearing the Bagley the Beaver costume at several events.

Joseph David Martin –

1st season with parks he was a Lake Sylvia aide that covered Schafer for the bulk of the season. He is currently on his way to become a teacher. Elma is his stomping ground and I believe this school season he is a substitute teacher for schools in the Grays Harbor area. He was a key employee to getting the painting projects done at Schafer for the Centennial and Sylvia. He finished his last painting project at Sylvia. He painted the exterior to the day use restrooms and campground restroom at Sylvia.

Paloma Giossi –

1st season with parks. Paloma showed great leadership skills helping all the newbie aides with tasks. Paloma has been and continues to be a great asset for Schafer. Their season was extended till sometime in December.



Cristhian Armenta –

2 seasons with parks. He was a Sylvia aide that worked his season at Schafer. Cristhian is a sophomore at the University of Washington majoring in Biology and Astronomy. Cristhian is a hard worker. He started the season late, his first day was just 2 days before the Centennial and he didn't miss a beat. I believe his plan is to work seasonal with parks till he graduates. He is just a positive person to have on our seasonal crew. His main contribution to special tasks was to replace bad boards on picnic tables. And he too worked up to the last minute of his season replacing boards on picnic tables.



Holden Newman –

Holden first worked with parks in 2022 at Lake Sylvia and then he returned to work Sylvia for the 2024 Season and as you know he covered Schafer. Holden has strong customer service skill set and would do anything to help out park visitors. Holdens #1 goal is to become a permanent employee with parks and our fingers are crossed for him. We believe he would be such a positive asset for parks.

FIRST DAY HIKE AT LAKE SYLVIA

New Years Day



Lake Sylvania First Day Hikes Lake Sylvania State Park

January 1, 2025

1:00 - 2:30pm

Hike Options

1.5 Lake Trail – Open to all ages

Meet at the Legacy Pavilion at 1pm. The hike will begin there and will go around the lake, 1.5 miles. The trail can be slippery and muddy, so rain/mud boots are heavily recommended.

Forest Bathing Stroll

Forest bathing, or shinrin-yoku, is a Japanese practice of immersing in nature for health and wellness benefits. The hike will begin at the Legacy Pavilion. The walk is a gentle easy stroll through the park and group camp.

Basic Hike Information:

Length of Hike: **.5- 1.5 miles**

Where to Meet: **Legacy Pavilion**

Is this Hike for Beginners? **Yes**

Suggested min age of children to attend: **8 yrs old**

ADA Accessible? **No**

Stroller Accessible? **No**

Are leashed dogs allowed? **Yes**

Restrictions: **No restrictions**

Registration Required: **No**

Things to bring: Dress for the weather. **Rain boots.**

Cancellation Info: Alert on parks.wa.gov/Sylvia

01
JAN

Kids Hike - .5 Mile

Our kids hike begins at the legacy pavilion. The group will be led by staff over the bridge and up through group camp and back toward the dam and back to the legacy pavilion.

Along the way plant species and little critters will be discussed.

2024 INTERPRETIVE SERIES



PHOTO HIKE by Nan Clute of FOSLS at Ocean City State Park

**OTHER
INTERPRETIVE
EVENTS**
Covered
**Bees, Herb Robert,
CoExisting with
Beavers, and
Return of the
Salmon**



Mushroom ID by GH Coastal Shores & Spores at Schafer State Park



BATS by the Woodland Park Zoo



BIGFOOT 101 by Scott Taylor at Schafer Park



COUGARS AND BEARS by Cole Janowski of WDFW at Schafer Park



COASTAL BIGFOOT by Mark Myrsell of the Wesport Aquarium at Lake Sylvia



**HOLIDAY
WREATH
MAKING**
by Trina Young of FOSLS at Schafer Park





SCHAFER CENTENNIAL PHOTOS





Henry James 2024 Yule Log Finder



2024 YULE LOG CELEBRATION
SCHAFFER STATE PARK





**Friends of Schafer
and
Lake Sylvia State Parks**

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Phone: 360-482-2551
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Facebook: FriendsOfSchaferLakeSylvia



FOSLS EXECUTIVE BOARD

*FOSLS meets on the **2nd Thursday at 2pm** via ZOOM or in person at the Montesano Library. See our Facebook page for the ZOOM link and current meeting details.*

President	Trina Young -Newsletter, Social Media
V President	Jerry Buendel
Secretary	Linda Ronholt
Treasurer	Louise Baxter
Stet Palmer	BoardMember,Legislative, Student Education
Karol Danner	Board Member, Student Outreach
Nan Clute	Board Member, Publicity
Joshua Shin	Board Member, Web Master, Compliance Officer
Pat Wadsworth	Board Member

Helen Hepp	Board Member Emeritus, Horticulture Committee

Don't Forget to Renew Your FOSLS Dues!

\$15 - Individual

\$25 - Family

OR

4 hrs or 8 hrs volunteer work

Pay dues online at www.FOSLS.org



FOSLS WINTER CALENDAR

YULE LOG CELEBRATION

Sun Dec 8 at 1:00pm

Schafer State Park

FIRST DAY HIKE

Wed JAN 1 at 1:00pm

Lake Sylvia State Park

FOSLS BOARD MEETING

Thurs Jan 9 at 2:00 pm

Montesano Timberland Library