



Friends of Fort Flagler State Park Newsletter

November, 2020

From Christmas Hunt to Christmas Bird Count on December 3rd @ 6PM

Friends of Fort Flagler is excited to offer an opportunity to hear from Gary Eduardo Perless, an Audubon volunteer naturalist.

Join us to learn how a holiday tradition changed from killing to counting our feathered friends. Gary Eduardo Perless will be sharing his experiences with us about the Christmas Bird Count on



Marrowstowne Island and offer tips on identifying the types of birds that call Fort Flagler home.

The program will be offered online and free to the public. **To register, please send your name, email and the city of residence**

to FortFlaglerFriends@gmail.com. Upon emailing us, we will send you the links and instructions.

Gary Eduardo Perless is a volunteer naturalist with the Audubon Society, leading walks throughout Jefferson County. Gary has a degree in Geography, has worked as a science teacher, outdoor educator, and conservation promoter for a Peruvian cloud forest reserve near Machu Picchu. Gary has dedicated his life to connecting people with nature and educating the public on critical environmental issues.

Park Volunteer Activities on Pause

Governor Inslee’s new directives aimed at slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus have resulted in a moratorium on initiating new volunteers or new projects until at least mid-December. We have had many offers in recent weeks to volunteer for work in the park. Unfortunately we’ve had to hit the “pause” button. We hope to get back to further work on the Trail Stewards and special projects efforts soon. Stay posted.

FOFF Launches Citizen Science Initiative

Friends of Fort Flagler is enthusiastically promoting the use of the iNaturalist mobile app & website to record observations of wildlife within the boundaries of the park.

iNaturalist allows users to take pictures of flora and fauna and will suggest identifications of the species with amazing accuracy. If it can’t identify what you’ve seen, you can submit it with a general category (e.g. “Mushroom”), and other users will chime in with their identifications. Once it’s confirmed by two observers, it becomes research grade. Data from the app has been used in research projects and publications all over the world.

The Fort Flagler iNaturalist project, which contains observations recorded within the boundaries of Fort Flagler State Park, already has 1,000+ observations logged. Find the project here: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?project_id=84945

Any observations you record in the park will automatically show up on this project.

Look out for signboards – like these two featuring a Russula mushroom and a native Douglas Squirrel – posted throughout the park, encouraging visitors to download and use the app to document the natural history of our park. The posters contain a QR code visitors can scan to install the app on their smartphone and start using it right away.



Be A Citizen Scientist!

Join the **Fort Flagler iNaturalist Project** and be part of the virtual community of citizen scientists helping document life forms in Fort Flagler State Park.

1. Download the free iNaturalist App to your phone or device
2. Create an account for your observations
3. When you see an interesting bird, insect, plant, fungi or any living thing, take a photo and upload to iNaturalist. Make sure your GPS locator is turned on to identify the location.
4. iNaturalist will help you both identify the organism, as well as add it to the Fort Flagler database.

Just scan this!
*Or visit [inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)

The Fort Flagler iNaturalist Project is an effort of The Friends of Fort Flagler, a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to restore, preserve, and protect the natural and historical resources of Fort Flagler.



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WWII Theater Building Foundation Receives TLC

FoFF has long had its sights on restoring and refurbishing the theater building built during the



World War II era. We are delighted with the fact that this project made the Washington State Parks Commission's list of proposed projects for funding in the upcoming state capital budget. If you have wondered what the orange netting is on the South side of the building, it screens off the work that Washington State Parks staff is doing on shoring up the foundation. Wind and rain have taken their toll over the years, and rot has set in in the posts, beams and joists that support this face of the building. This project will be complete in the coming months and the building will have been saved for further renovation at a future date.

First Virtual Program on Pacific Harbor Seals was a success!

We had 55 attendees to our first natural history program on October 3rd. We hope to continue expanding our program and seeing our attendee list increase.

Friends of Fort Flagler would like to thank Casey Mclean for taking time out of her busy schedule to share her knowledge with us.

Some of the takeaways from the program:

- Pinnipeds (seals & sea lions) sleep in the water, but only one side of the brain sleeps at a time. Whereas on land, they sleep entirely as humans do. This highlights the importance of not disturbing them when they are on land.
- Harbor Seals eat up to 60 species of fish. Salmon is only one of the species they eat, but more importantly, they are eating a salmon predator, Hake.
- They usually stay underwater for 3-5 minutes but can stay under for up to 30 minutes and dive as far down as 1500 feet.
- Harbor Seals, unlike humans, exhale all their breath before going under water.
- Harbor Seals are pregnant 10-month months of the year, but 2 months are delayed implantation.
- Mother's milk is 50% fat milk.
- You must stay 150 feet away from any seal.
- Harbor Seal mom will not come back if people or dogs are too close to the pup.



- Antibiotics and other drugs are not filtered out at the water plant and those chemicals end up in the Sound and ocean.
- If you see a stranded or hurt seal, please call the stranding hotline 866-767-6114 or look up the closest stranding network near you at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/report>.

If you have any questions, about this program or any future natural history programs, please feel free to send to FortFlaglerFriends@gmail.com.

Become a FoFF Member!

Friends of Fort Flagler needs YOU! Please take a minute to join or renew your membership. If you sign up now, your membership will be effective for the entire year 2021.

Why is membership important? First, it strengthens our ability to advocate for the park. Second, it helps us financially meet FoFF's goals of improving and protecting the park, especially in a time when concerts and other fundraising activities are not possible.

You can choose from the following membership categories:

- \$15.00 Basic family membership
- \$100.00 Supporting membership
- \$500.00 Lifetime membership

If you join at the Supporting or Lifetime membership levels we'll send you a hand-crafted cup from Millbrook Pottery that features the FoFF logo and Todd's original artwork.



Go to our website and hit the "Become a Member" button to join. www.friendsoffortflagler.org

Check out our New Website!

Friends of Fort Flagler is pleased to present its new, upgraded website. Our goal is to have a platform that makes it easy to learn about the park, join the membership or find out about volunteer opportunities. Check it out! <https://friendsoffortflagler.org>

Thank you for your continued support!

