

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Join today or renew your membership!



Legislature Considering Major Investment in Fort Flagler



FoFF Board members meeting with Representative Steve Tharinger (third from left) last October.

The Washington State Legislature is currently in session and considering operating and capital budgets for the coming two years. With utilization of the state's parks up dramatically in the past year (about 30% at Fort Flagler!), the Governor has proposed significant new capital investments: \$4,136,000 in the case of the capital budget for Fort Flagler. This funding is much needed and much more than Flagler has ever been allocated in the State budget!

The Friends of Fort Flagler has made advocacy in the legislative process a major priority. In recent weeks we have held virtual meetings with all of our 24th District Representatives: Representatives Tharinger and Chapman and Senator Van De Wege. All are strong supporters!

Stay tuned to help send a message to our elected officials. They need to keep hearing from us.

Presenting: The Acrobats of Puget Sound!



Ever wonder what type of marine mammal can climb to the top of a jetty or buoy? Or wonder what just porpoised out of the water with such grace? Join Dr. Greg Frankfurter to learn about these acrobatic and curious neighbors, we call sea lions. Dr. Frankfurter will discuss their lifecycle, successes, challenges and where to find them in the Puget Sound.

Dr. Greg Frankfurter is the veterinarian at SR3 (Sealife Response+Rehab+Research) and he has made it his career to work in wildlife rehabilitation. He graduated UC Davis with a veterinarian degree and his work has included increasing global marine mammal disaster response readiness, including expanding preparedness for disaster affecting marine mammals. Dr. Frankfurter enjoys finding novel uses for existing and emerging technologies to improve wildlife handling, care and management. Join us an evening of fun and information!

Date: February 17, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST (Zoom on-line)

Website for webinar tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sea-lions-of-puget-sound-on-february-17th-600pm-tickets-138717498773>

Park Improvement Projects Ahead!



One of the current park benches....Care for a seat?



It's gone now but this was the original Mystery Bay picnic shelter

Friends of Fort Flagler will be taking two significant projects this year.

First, we'll be replacing the numerous benches along the Park trails and adding two additional benches in prominent locations to allow visitors to rest, relax and enjoy the view. Vigo Anderson is heading this project up.

Second, we will replace the Mystery Bay picnic shelter that was torn down a few years ago after the log structure had rotted beyond repair. We are grateful that Ernie Baird has stepped forward to organize the effort.

Last year Peter Vanags, son of the late Andy Vanags, organized a fundraising effort for the shelter replacement project. His father, who lived across from the entrance to the park was known to refer to himself as "the hermit of Mystery Bay." He was saddened to see the shelter torn down, so it is a fitting tribute to him that we are rebuilding the structure.

Vigo and Ernie can both use volunteers to help with construction. More details will be coming on specific needs, but let us know if you are willing to help out by going to the volunteer section of our FoFF website <https://friendsoffortflagler.org/volunteer>.

Save the Date: April 24th Beach

Cleanup as part of Earth Day



Beach Clean-Up April 24th

Mark your calendars.

2021 will be Friends of Fort Flagler's first planned Earth Day beach clean-up. This is your opportunity to be part of the solution to beach debris and plastic pollution. More information will be published as we get closer.

[Become a Member](#)

The Friends of Fort Flagler needs YOU!

Our mission—to restore, preserve and protect the natural and historical resources at Fort Flagler State Park—is more important than ever. FoFF is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that is especially important these days, with park usage way up and state supported staffing down. Becoming a member is easy!

Have you been a member of the Friends of Fort Flagler in the recent past but are not on our current roster? Consider renewing your membership for the 2021 year!

Thank you for your continued support!

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