

# Miller Bay Guardian

Vol. 19 No. 1

Fall 2019



Paul Dorn having a teaching moment with his friend, Fisher Swanson.

## Paul's Perspective

### 2019 FOMB Projects Were a Big Success

Thanks to all those who donated the time and/or funds that enabled FOMB to have a very successful year. Most notably, we partnered with Great Peninsula Conservancy to help raise funds for the purchase of thirteen acres of Miller Bay nearshore and uplands along Miller Bay Road.

Miller Bay and its many small watersheds are geologically young but environmentally complex and beautiful ecosystems. By current archeological research, *Homo sapiens* has lived in, or passed through, these lands for an estimated 14,500 to 15,000 years. That's amazing given the last ice age did not recede until around 14,000 years ago. The Puget Sound lowland temperate forest ecosystem that emerged became one of the most biologically productive ecosystems on our planet, nourished by a mild wet climate and the enormous biological nutrient input contributed by anadromous salmonids. *Homo sapiens* has altered this ecosystem for thousands of years, but the past 150 years has brought stunning changes to the landscape with the human population surge.

FOMB works hard to support local habitat conservation efforts and educate and involve citizens of all ages in our projects. As Miller Bay's watersheds human population increases, many native mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and plant species are displaced. The stream water that local Tribes drank safely from for millennia is no longer safe to drink without treatment. Protecting habitat is the first step in arresting the decline of native animal and plant species and restoring water quality. One advantage of small watersheds is that new

neighbors can meet old neighbors and extend hands to help minimize our adverse changes to the landscape. FOMB is not anti-growth, we are pro-environment and recognize we must use our wits to maintain a healthy environment for all that call this place home.

Your 2019 support was vital to continue numerous FOMB projects and activities: FOMB volunteers completed the Second Annual Miller Bay shoreline cleanup, assisted Trout Unlimited's native fish count at Grovers Creek outmigration trap, maintained the native Olympia oyster bed re-introduced in 2018 with Puget Sound Restoration Fund's help and assistance, continued our monthly Miller Bay marine bird counts, collected mussels for county PSP testing, worked with Clean Water Kitsap documenting aquatic insects in Cowling Creek, maintained Cowling Creek Forest Preserve trails, assisted GPC with Grovers Creek Preserve reforestation projects, fought the proposed aerial application of glyphosate on commercial forests within the Miller Bay watersheds, supported the North Kitsap Heritage Park Stewardship Plan, and hosted numerous work parties.

Again, to all our 2019 donors, a sincere thank you from the FOMB board. We deeply appreciate your generosity. If you are not a FOMB member, please consider joining us.

Best wishes to all our neighbors for a successful, happy, and healthy 2020.

-Paul Dorn

## FOMB Annual Meeting

Suquamish House of Awakened Culture  
Thursday, November 14th at 7 pm.

A program titled, *Winter Weed Wanderings*, will be presented by Dana Coggons, local weed expert and coordinator for Kitsap County's Noxious Weed Program.

Bring your friends and family to this free presentation!

For more information, email  
[info@friendsofmillerbay.org](mailto:info@friendsofmillerbay.org)

## FRIENDS OF MILLER BAY OFFICERS

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-Dick D'Archangel

*The undeveloped waterfront of the Miller Bay Preserve.*

### Project of the year

## Miller Bay Preserve

You have probably noticed the signs on either side of Miller Bay Road, just south of the Gunderson traffic light, that say "You helped us save this land!" These 13 acres have had "for sale" signs up for a long time and in the summer of 2018, Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC) with the assistance of FOMB president Paul Dorn, applied for a ESRP (Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program) grant to purchase this property. Out of 49 applications, this project was rated 5th overall in the state and GPC was awarded \$150,000 toward the purchase price. GPC allocated \$105,000 from donor contributions and asked FOMB if they could raise \$150,000 from the local community to fully fund the purchase of this property.

To raise these funds FOMB launched the Miller Bay Pre-

serve Project in mid June of 2019, soliciting pledges from many individuals in the area who have supported us in the past. In addition, a gala fundraiser was held at Lynn and Jerry Grinstein's Indianola home in late July. When the party was over, we found that we had exceeded our fundraising goal. It was amazing. There is no doubt this community values its natural environment.

Hats off to the Grinstein's for their generosity and to Teresa Dwyer who conceived and coordinated that event, and most of all to you who stepped up to protect this important stretch of Miller Bay waterfront and its beautiful upland forest.

Our hope for the future is that the 40 acres of DNR land uphill from this property will be transferred to the county and placed in a protected status, to preserve its critical habitat and provide passive recreational opportunities.

It also could be merged into other properties upstream from the Grover's Creek hatchery and no longer be called the Miller Bay Preserve. We'll see what the future brings! 🐾



-Nancy D'Archangel

*The sign on Miller Bay Road being installed by Dick D'Archangel telling of the successful purchase of the Miller Bay Preserve.*



-Nancy D'Archangel

*Upland forest in the Miller Bay Preserve.*



## Cowling Creek Forest Preserve Action

### CCFP Forest Management 2012-2019

By Erik Pedersen - GPC Stewardship Manager

In 2012, Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC) stewardship staff met with FOMB representatives Paul Dorn and Dick D'Archangel to discuss our shared goals for the Cowling Creek Preserve in an effort to write a forest management plan for the property. These goals centered on guiding the forest towards becoming as ecologically healthy as we possibly could, given our finite resources, while avoiding commercial forestry practices. The eastern two-thirds of the property was logged more recently than the western third, and the alder and maple trees growing there were outcompeting the kind of conifers we hope will someday provide the backbone of an old-growth forest on the property.

Given our goals, in the near term, the plan called for thinning alder and maple, planting underrepresented native conifer species, and controlling invasive plants. The plan also included using the thinned alder and maple to mimic mature forests by creating "habitat piles" and "constructed downed logs." Young forests lack woody debris for small mammals, such as voles, to hide and make nests in, and these constructed downed logs and habitat piles help provide that.



FOMB and GPC started in 2013, by focusing on a 1.2-acre section in the greatest need of thinning and replanting. The alder and maple in this section were almost completely suppressing the growth of conifers, and the area featured an almost complete lack of woody debris for habitat. FOMB and GPC gathered volunteers for work parties that focused on thinning the alder and maple to roughly 12-15' spacing, and planting underrepresented conifers – mainly cedar, hemlock and grand fir. Volunteers also built multiple habitat piles and constructed virtual downed logs.

In 2015, FOMB and GPC added additional underrepresented tree and shrub species in a roughly half-acre area adjacent to the north of the area planted in 2013.

The next most pressing need for the forest was to plant the corridor surrounding Cowling Creek with conifers. In 2016, GPC worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a cost-share program, to begin this labor-intensive process. EQIP required thorough underbrush clearing for each planting site before GPC was able to plant cedar and hemlock at 12-15' spacing. We installed protective tree tubes around each seedling, and completed three rounds of clearing competing vegetation in the following years.

GPC devoted a significant amount of staff time toward this EQIP project, and FOMB supported the effort with multiple work parties' worth of volunteer time, but the unique aspect of this project was our utilization of prison crew labor from Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW). The inmates in the MCCCW work hard and enjoy getting outdoors and doing work in forests like the CCFP. The crews usually



-Nancy D'Archangel

*Alders dominate the eastern quarter of the CCFP*



-Nancy D'Archangel

*CCFP's healthier western side*

consist of 5-8 women, and a female guard always accompanies them.

In 2019, the MCCCW and GPC completed what we hope is the last needed round of clearing around the seedlings in the Cowling Creek ravine, and that the trees can fend for themselves going forward. In a few years, when the tree tubes have served their purpose, GPC will organize their removal.

GPC and FOMB hope to conduct additional rounds of thinning/replanting in the eastern half of the Cowling Creek Forest Preserve in the coming years, and help the Preserve continue to grow into a mature, ecologically healthy forest. 🌿



As a faithful volunteer, and with his skills as a photographer, videographer and publisher, John Williams has helped FOMB in many ways. He is now the publisher of Salish Magazine, which takes inquisitive readers outdoors with in-depth storytelling about what people can see firsthand in our public forests and beaches.

*"....Salish Magazine uses 21st century methods to deliver engaging stories."*

A key focus of the magazine is to illustrate the interconnectedness woven through our ecosystems, using lenses of history, science, and culture. From in-depth views of mushrooms to the mysterious lives of sea anemones, Salish Magazine uses 21st century methods to deliver engaging stories that are interactive, rich in visual imagery, scientifically correct, yet fun to read.

The magazine is available online at: [salishmagazine.org](http://salishmagazine.org). 🌿

## *A lifetime on the bay*

# A Visit with Master Basket Maker

## Ed Carriere

By Robert Nichols & Nancy D'Archangel

On a sunny afternoon in August, Nancy D'Archangel and I visited Ed Carriere, the famous basket maker and Suquamish elder, at his home overlooking the Miller Bay sandspit. We were there to write an article for the Friends of Miller Bay newsletter.

Ed met us at the door and after a warm greeting, he led us through a home busy with paintings, carvings (one wall was lined with traditional canoe paddles he had carved over the years), and baskets of various sorts such as clam and "burden baskets," along with cedar strips and nettle fibers coiled in piles for future work. The house was a clutter, but the clutter of a busy man, who at age 85 was about to paddle his hand carved canoe from Suquamish to Lummi Island near Bellingham.

Conversation came easily because Ed is a natural story teller. We talked about his life and ancestry. He was born and has lived his entire life on the spot where he now resides. With its views over Puget Sound and Mount Rainier looming in the distance and with Bainbridge Island and Suquamish forming distant shores, Ed's home looks out on the sea, land and

piles on the beach, cut out their livers, and hauled them to Seattle in cans. The livers sold for \$2,600.

Another uncle showed Ed the way to catch ducks by stretching nets between poles on the spit at low tide and then at high tide driving the ducks into them on the spit's outside shore. Other neighbors like Virgil and Madeleine Temple, who lived at Jefferson Head, made a delicious duck stew with the ducks Ed caught using her favorite "hell divers" or others such as Mallards, Widgeons, Brandt geese, Canvasbacks, Butterballs, and Black Ducks, very meaty birds and Ed's favorite.

These uncles and other relatives taught Ed how to live off the land and water. They showed him the enormous clam beds by the Indianola dock; he learned about clams and crabs that grew in abundance in Millers Bay; Dungeness crabs growing to eleven or twelve inches across the back, sometimes even thirteen inches. These he sold with his boyhood friend Larry Cheetham at the Indianola store and up and down the streets of the town for twenty-five cents for the regular size, and thirty-five cents for the biggest ones. They would sell out in an hour. Uncle Herman led Ed to the oyster beds in the upper part of the bay, where the oysters often grew to more than a foot long.

Ed learned the hard way about shot guns, when he failed to follow his uncle's instruction to hold the gun tight against his shoulder. The recoil from the gun knocked him flat on his back on the beach. Nonetheless, Ed learned how to hunt as well as to fish, crab, and clam.

Living off the land was not always idyllic. On two occasions Ed nearly lost his life. One evening Ed and his friend Larry Cheetham were fishing for pogies off a float tied to the Indianola dock. Ed was wearing hip waders, and when he reached to steady himself on the dock, he slipped and fell in. His boots quickly filled with water dragging him down toward



*The sandspit as it looks today. -Dale Croes*

mountains that formed his world and that of his ancestors reaching back to Chief Wahalchu and the 160 acres that constituted the extended family's ancestral grounds.

Here Ed grew up playing with his cousins, and learning to fish and hunt, guided by his family elders. His Uncle Herman taught him to make gill nets for catching salmon and set lines for dog fish. Using a 600-hook set line, he caught dog fish that were four or five feet long. One day a huge school of dog fish came past Indianola. Ed and his uncle surrounded the school with their nets, but the weight of the fish was so great they had to wait until low tide to empty them. They threw the fish into



*The sandspit in 1925 showing the Indian Trust Land in the foreground including Chief Wahalchu's allotment of 160 acres & the house where Ed was born. The closest building in the foreground is the chief's barn where he kept his horses. There was an old Indian trail along the steep bank just up from the beach that led out to the spit that Ed used for years growing up. In the early days the horses were also known to use the trail onto the spit, then swim the channel to Nooschkum and eat the apples in the orchard there.*



the bottom. Ed was able to grab Larry's outstretched hand by a single finger and was pulled out. Luckily for Ed, Larry was tall with long arms and strong hands. In just a few seconds, Ed would have lost his life. On the second occasion Ed's hand got snagged by one of the steel hooks on a set line as the line was being towed into position. The driver of the boat did not realize Ed was hooked and for many painful minutes Ed was dragged along and nearly drowned before he was noticed. He was rushed to the doctor in Poulsbo who at first refused to help him since the Indians were supposed to use the Indian hospital a full days journey away, but then reluctantly sawed off the hook with a hack saw. Ed was a bit put out because he had a hack saw at home and could have done the job himself!

We asked Ed how he would describe his life. He said he began as "the poorest little Indian boy ever!" Raised by his great grandmother Julia, they survived on the sixty dollar a month welfare check that the state sent for Ed's support and the coins she received for laundering clothes for people in Indianola. But today his life is entirely different. His land has grown in value as real estate. He travels widely in the world. He can buy expensive things. His basket making has made him famous.\* The day after we finished our visit, Ed was slated to fly to Washington, D.C, invited by the Museum of the American Indian to compare his baskets with those in the museum's collection.

*\*For more information about Ed and his renown as a basket maker, you may read Re-Awakening Ancient Salish Sea Basketry. Fifty Years of Basketry Studies in Culture and Science, written by Ed and his friend Professor Dale Croes, an archeologist at Washington State University, copyrighted by Northwest Anthropology LLC, 2018.*



Ed's well known clam basket.

-Nancy D'Archangel

## A lot of help from my friends

### FOMB's Heroes

by Nancy D'Archangel

There is a group of unsung heroes operating behind the scenes at Friends of Miller Bay who have become invaluable to us. These are folks that saw a need and stepped up to help out in a big way.

Not long ago, when FOMB launched their new website, ardent FOMB supporter, Michelle Amicucci offered to maintain it for us. What an incredible help this has been! If you haven't visited [friendsofmillerbay.org](http://friendsofmillerbay.org), be sure to check it out. Michelle has done an outstanding job and that has freed up the board to attend to other projects. She is also into her 3rd year of volunteering as leader of the monthly bird counts on Miller Bay and writing up the year end summary. She is indispensable!

Not to be outdone, Michelle's sister Renee takes the monthly birding data, records it for us, and then creates the nifty graphs that you see on the website in the bird section. Her charts have been an excellent way to compare the number of birds counted both month to month and year to year now that we have more than five years of data collected.

Allison Moore (FOMB treasurer Sharon Nichols' granddaughter) was finishing up her degree last year and was learning how to create maps using the latest software. She volunteered to create a new trail map for the Cowling Creek Forest Preserve which she spent many hours perfecting. The result is an excellent map that benefits visitors in the Preserve. This map should be on our website soon.

Lynn & Jerry Grinstein are the angels who stepped up and so generously volunteered their time, energy and expertise hosting our gala fundraiser for the Miller Bay Preserve in July 2019. The night was executed with incredible class and attention to detail that made for a very successful and memorable evening. We cannot thank them enough for all that they did.

Last but not least, we salute Teresa Dwyer. Despite being a busy mom and business woman, Teresa juggled her regular duties with the almost full time job of coordinating FOMB's fundraising gala. Teresa teamed up with the Grinstein's and made quick work of raising the \$150,000 required to finish off the purchase of the Miller Bay Preserve. On top of everything else, she was great fun to work with! We never dreamed the project would be over almost as soon as it was launched. We are indebted to Teresa for her outstanding job!



Ed holding his woven nettle fiber netting.

-Nancy D'Archangel

*Okay, I'll admit it. I'm a bird freak!*

## Miller Bay Bird Survey

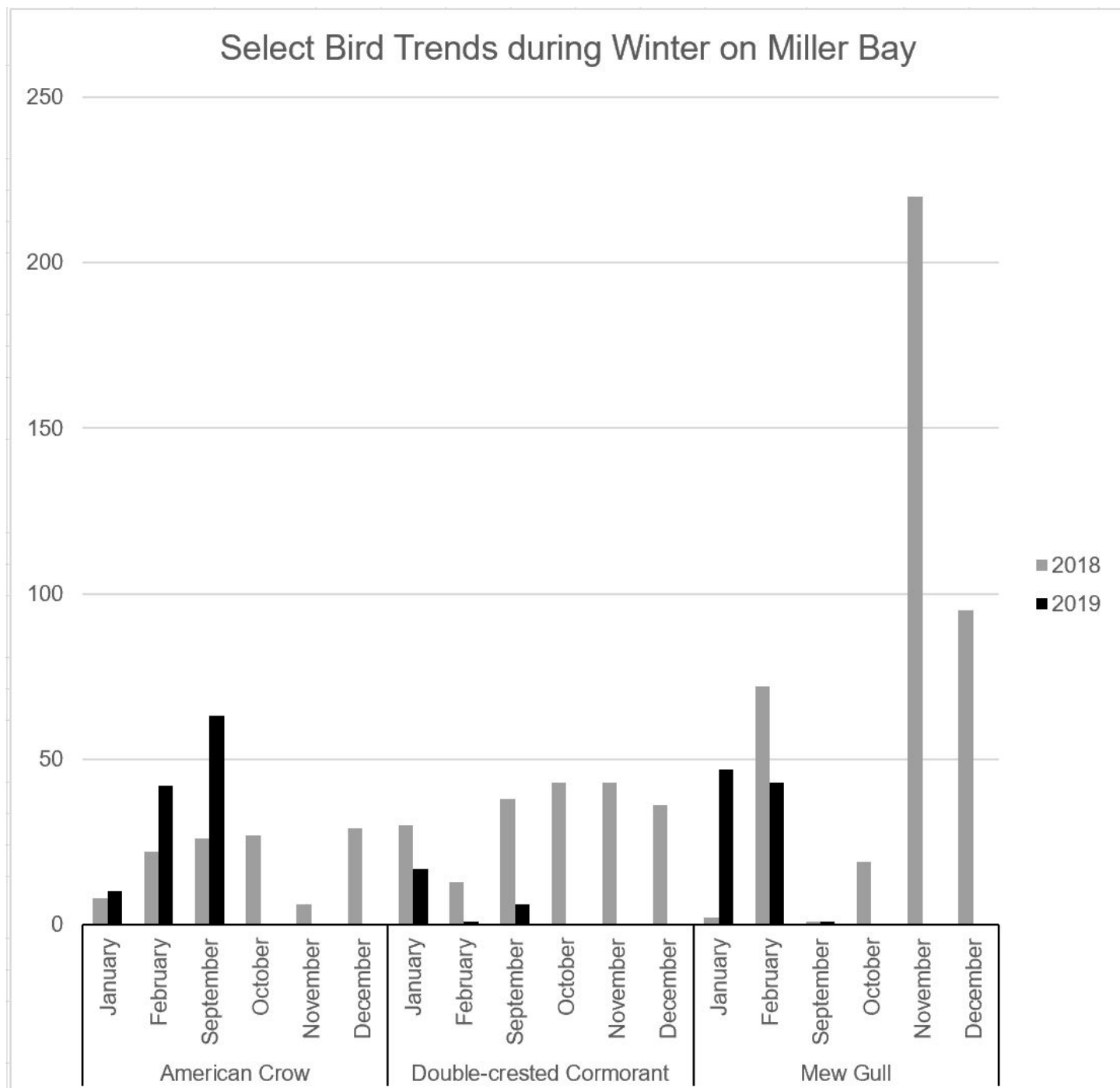
By Michelle Amicucci

I don't necessarily know a lot about birds, I learn something new every day, but I love watching them. And now, I'm trying to recognize the bird by its song and/or call -- such a wide repertoire! Not an easy task for someone who could possibly be tone deaf! And what, pray tell, is the difference between a song and a call? Well, the short version is that a bird song, usually produced by the male, is an advertisement of territory and breeding availability, and, in most species, is limited to the breeding season.

Bird calls, on the other hand, tend to be unmusical, acoustically simpler, and less complex than the proclamatory songs, and they serve a variety of practical, non-sexual func-

tions. Most have to do with coordinating behavior among other members of the species. Types of calls include location calls (to communicate whereabouts between pairs or among members of a flock), warning sounds, sharp notes to intimidate or drive away enemies, and begging pleas. There are also many non-vocal modes of communication by sound: wing drumming and tail snapping (think humming birds!) are some examples.

One bird's raucous – and unmistakable - call often heard on Miller Bay in the summer is the Caspian Tern. This summer, we counted 57 in one day in June! The Caspian Tern is the largest tern in the world, with a thick, bright-red bill and a solid black cap in the summer. They feed by cruising over the water looking for fish, then plunging to catch them. They are very vocal, giving loud raucous screams, beckoning you to look skyward! (if you haven't already seen the video of them diving





Caspian tern

-Kyle Blaney

for fish posted on the FOMB website, it's worth a look!).

As usual, the majority of the birds we counted were winter migrants, once again affirming that Miller Bay is a valuable resource for many species, particularly for migratory birds like the Osprey but also for our year-long residents like Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons and Belted Kingfishers. The shorebirds were represented by Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs and Sandpipers. The time of day we count is done for the convenience of the birders and is not based on the height of the tide, therefore shorebird numbers may not be accurately reflected because there isn't always shore visible during the counts.

Of the 13 species of ducks observed, American Wigeons and Buffleheads made up the majority of ducks present. Interestingly, the past several years showed both the American Wigeon and Bufflehead counts trending downward, but we saw an increase in their numbers in the winter of 2018. Overall, 2017 appears to have been a low-count year for most of the birds on Miller Bay.

The Mew Gull, easily recognizable because of its smaller stature and petite bill that lacks a broad, dark ring, has an increasingly impressive presence here. Their peak numbers appear to be in the Fall and Spring. Previous high counts were 154 in April 2011 and on our November 2018 count we had a jaw-dropping 220! Double-crested Cormorants, the most widespread cormorant across the U.S. and Canada, appears to be arriving earlier (September instead of October) and leaving earlier (March instead of April), with a peak number of 59 counted on November 2017.

One new bird observed this year for me was the Spotted Sandpiper. Although not uncommon, I hadn't observed this little shorebird before, but now recognize the constantly bobbing tail and listen for the two-or-three noted whistled call as they flush from shorelines.

We include American Crows in our counts, whose numbers have been relatively consistent seasonally (about 38 per count), but after the 2017 summer, the numbers have flattened to average 20 crows per count.

If you're interested in learning more about birds, there is a lovely app called "Bird Note" with a daily 2 minute story about birds.

If you are interested in joining us on our birding days (no experience necessary!) please email Nancy D'Archangel at [info@friendsofmillerbay.org](mailto:info@friendsofmillerbay.org).

## Restrict personal fireworks???

### Loud Fireworks Affect Wildlife

By Nancy D'Archangel

Personal fireworks have always been a part of our family's celebrations until about 15 years ago. Some friends had invited us to view the Kingston Fourth of July fireworks from their boat moored in the Kingston Marina. As dusk fell, we made our way down the ramp to the dock and numerous rockets and explosions started going off. Suddenly a Great Blue Heron, who must have been settled somewhere in the marina, took to the sky startled by the noise. As he tried to get away from the racket, explosions continued from every direction causing him to panic and fly one way and then another trying to escape. It was distressing and heartbreaking to witness and I suddenly realized that the way we choose to celebrate our holidays, might not be such a good idea. And it doesn't just freak out our wild friends. It can also cause great anxiety for some of our pets, children, the elderly, and veterans.

The West Sound Wildlife Shelter has an excellent article on their website, [westsoundwildlife.org](http://westsoundwildlife.org) addressing the issues of personal fireworks and what you can do to minimize the detrimental effects.

It seems that I am not alone in my desire to change one of our traditional ways of celebrating. Bainbridge Island has recently voted to ban personal fireworks. 🐦



Lead birder Michelle Amicucci with Nancy D'Archangel counting birds on Miller Bay.



## *A Lesson in Patience, Persistence and Perseverance*

# Bulkhead Removal and Shoreline Restoration Project on Miller Bay

By Sheri & Michael Flynn

Miller Bay is an amazing marine estuary ecosystem. Those of us fortunate enough to live on its shores appreciate the birds, fish, sea mammals and ever-changing tides. It's a wonderful place to live and recreate!

We are fairly new to the bay, (we bought our home in late Spring of 2017). By the following Spring, it became apparent that our bulkhead was failing. We have 200 ft of low to medium bank waterfront with 115 ft of concrete bulkhead and 85 ft of natural shore. A crack that was barely noticeable a year before had grown and the wall was beginning to separate. Once we moved in full-time, last summer, we were shocked to see how much the wall had moved. About 30% of our bulkhead was leaning severely and the crack in the main wall, below our deck and boat ramp, was completely separated—about 8 inches.

We immediately contacted Shore Friendly Kitsap for an on-site consultation last August. We were impressed at how promptly they organized an on-site meeting and a complimentary evaluation with a coastal geologist—To assess our site for erosion risk and determine if it was a good candidate for bulkhead removal and soft shore restoration. They also referred us to other government agencies we'd need to contact for further advice, and provided a list of experts and an application for a grant to conduct a full geologic study/report.

### Conception

Longtime nature lovers, we were eager to explore the possibility of restoring our shoreline to a more natural state. After talking with a number of local experts, we learned we could make a significant positive impact on Miller Bay and improve the overall health and diversity of the marine life we had quickly come to cherish.

Consultations with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife's Area Habitat Biologist were very positive. His enthusiasm for our eco-system was contagious. The fact that our shoreline was heavily shaded with overhanging trees and already had portions of rock rubble beach, dune grass, and native plants on its banks, meant it would provide excellent protection for forage fish and salmonoids making their way into the Puget Sound. It also gave us a good idea on what we could do as far as restoring the rest of our shoreline and what it might look like. He thought our property was an excellent candidate for restoration with a big net gain to the environment. He even suggested we may be a good case study to "fast-track" our permits through the process and all the federal, state, and local departments we'd need to work with. This was sounding very good to us!

### Our goals:

1. Improve the environment for the Bay's fish and wildlife
2. Create more natural beauty by restoring our shoreline using soft shore techniques

3. Create easier and safer access to our waterfront for recreation

All the consultants we met with were in agreement—Removing the Bulkhead and restoring the shoreline was the right thing to do and would save us money upfront and reduce maintenance long term (we were told concrete Bulkheads have a life expectancy of about 30 - 40 years). Some people estimated it could save us up to half the cost of replacing our failing bulkhead with a new hard-armored solution.

### We were sold!

Our application and grant process went smoothly and surprisingly quickly. We were awarded a grant from Shore Friendly Kitsap to get us started (September 2018). With the promise of a "streamlined" permit process, we dove in!



*Our failing bulkhead prior to installing a "soft" shoreline.*

-Sheri Flynn

### The Real Process Begins

Here's where things begin to get more tedious. We researched and selected a company that had geologic study and design services. We thought it made sense to choose one company that could do both, to reduce hand-offs and ensure consistency. Unfortunately, our study was delayed, but the end result was, we would be able to restore most of our shoreline by removing the bulkhead, re-grading the bank as needed, adding some soft shore protection (anchored logs), and adding beach nourishment to match the rock rubble beach that already exists. We would, however, have to add a small section of rock wall to protect our waterfront deck, stairs and boat ramp (about 35 ft of the 200' of shoreline). This wall would also protect an old Fir tree that is the favorite hunting perch for Osprey, Bald Eagle and a roost for Heron. We were excited! We would be able to accomplish all of our goals!

### The Lengthy Design and Preconstruction Phase

As with most building projects, each step can seem to take forever. With much prodding and a lot of follow-up, our design came in 2 months late and over-budget. This was not a great way to start, it was Feb 2019 and we wanted to be ready for construction at the open of Miller Bay's "fish window" August 1. Given the horror stories we'd heard about the permit process we started to feel the pressure. We pushed forward. Design in hand, we were ready for our multi-department, on-site meeting coordinated by the Shore Friendly staff. Representatives from Shore Friendly Kitsap, Kitsap County Stormwater



Management and Environmental Planning, and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife were to come evaluate our site, advise us on how to proceed, and define the documentation we needed. They would decide what permits we would need from each department. Unfortunately, it took 3 times re-scheduling to get all the 'powers that be' together. We finally had our on-site consultation March 15th and thought we were ready to proceed.

This is where what sounded so simple and streamlined, became one surprise after another. There were several steps necessary that we were not made aware of, nor could we have anticipated! It ended up that we would not be given any waivers (so no short-cut or streamlined options). An incredible amount of paperwork was necessary prior to submitting for permits. This phase became a full-time job for Michael. It took

Acceptance Letter for the SDAP on July 9th, followed by the HPA on July 17th (record time from what we hear!) Yay! We would have everything ready in time for construction during the "fish window" of August 1st - February 15th. Too soon to celebrate, we still had to submit for the Building permit (which required the approved SDAP and HPA). We got the engineering drawing done and stamped for the rock wall and submitted the permit application on June 5th. With a few extra phone calls to help expedite the process, we received our Building Permit August 1st—Just in time! There was a lot of redundancy between the documents required for the HPA, SDAP and Building Permit, because unfortunately, it's not that easy to link permits from different departments, that support the same project in the county's computerized system.

### Construction!

Of course, our project did not start on time, by late August or 1st of September, as expected. As of this writing, we are in week 2 of a very wet and messy construction phase. And Mother Nature isn't cooperating with this unseasonably wet September! The construction work will be completed this Fall, but at this point, the re-planting phase probably won't be completed until Spring 2020.

### Summary

As with any big project, there are often delays, unexpected costs, extra steps, high expectations and sometimes, some disappointments. We were so committed to making a positive impact on the Bay—we faced each tedious task fueled by the intention to do the right thing for the environment.

While the Shore Friendly Kitsap folks are committed and great to work with on the front-end, it seems that all the departments involved in consultation and approval for shoreline restoration, on the back-end, have a long way to go to make the process more applicable, efficient and cost effective. A "streamlined" permit process doesn't exist... yet. One must be prepared for a LOT of extraneous paperwork; questions that do not apply, but must be answered; and far too much red tape that seems redundant and frustrating. When talking with Bay neighbors, we often heard, "Why does it take so long and cost so much to do the right thing?" We don't want to scare people away from improving the Bay's environment, but we do believe the agencies involved need to make it cheaper and easier if they want more property owners to opt for a more natural shoreline solution.

In the end, we know we are doing the right thing and we hope to be thrilled with our new waterfront. Then, the past year's efforts will all feel worth it. We still believe soft-shore solutions and shoreline restoration is the best thing to do for the Bay's ecosystem (and that of the greater Puget Sound), but we must forewarn others that the process is time-consuming and costly. We are willing to answer questions and advise those who may want to consider this kind of project—Just remember, one must have patience, persistence and perseverance to make it happen! 🐟



*Soft shoreline after reconstruction*

-Jim Haskins

him about 6 weeks to obtain all of the necessary paperwork, answer all the questions and of course, hire the consultants and get all of their reports finalized for submission. We would end up needing:

1. An environmental impact study conducted by a certified environmental biologist (including Flood Plain and Habitat Assessment and Mitigation Strategy).
2. A SEPA (State Environmental Protection Act - Environmental Checklist)
3. A consultation with the Suquamish Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to support our SEPA
4. An SDAP Grading 1 (County Site Development Activity Permit)
5. An HPA (State Hydraulic Project Approval)
6. A JARPA (Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application) to support the HPA and SDAP
7. A Building Permit (for the rock wall), and
8. 2 notarized and Recorded Covenants/Bonds to allow for Inspections for Erosion Control and Stormwater Drainage throughout the construction process.

Simultaneously, he researched contractors in our area, obtained bids, and picked a contractor. It took from March to May to get all of these steps completed. We submitted our application and uploaded all the documents for the County and State permits (SDAP and HPA) on May 9th and received our



PO Box 37  
SUQUAMISH, WA  
98392

FOMB Special Presentation: *Winter Weed Wanderings*  
By Dana Coggons - Kitsap County Noxious Weed Coordinator  
Suquamish House of Awakened Culture - Thursday, November 14, 2019 7:00 PM

Next Year's Cleanup: July 11, 2020

### Miller Bay Cleanup

The 2nd Annual FOMB Beach Cleanup was conducted this past July headed up by Sharon Nichols with assistance from Janine Moss. It was purposely scheduled after the 4th of July holiday in hopes of finding any residual fireworks debris, which is toxic to wildlife, along with flotsam and trash.

If you live on waterfront property, we welcome your assistance at next years cleanup by picking up your own beach refuse and leaving it just above the high tide mark in the special orange bags provided by Kitsap County. These will be made available 10 days or so before the cleanup on July 11, 2020.

We again thank Matt Mattson at Island View Marine Center for his assistance with this event. 🙏



-Paul Dorn

Trash being removed from a Miller Bay beach by Brian Kenward

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