



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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May – June 2018



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Meetings & Events

May 8 – Excom meeting in Sequim, 2 – 4, Sequim Library

May 17 – The Battle Against Light Pollution, Port Angeles Library, 6 PM, Page 1

May 19 – Port Ludlow walk, 10 AM to 2 PM, Page 2

June 3 – Ebey's Landing hike, 11AM to 5PM, Page 2

June 12 – Excom meeting in Port Townsend 2 - 4, PT Senior Center



**Never yet was a springtime,
when the buds forgot to bloom.**

Margaret Elizabeth Sangster

The Battle Against Light Pollution

Thursday - May 17 - 6 PM - Port Angeles Library

2210 South Peabody Street



Light pollution - Peer through the lens of the International Dark-Sky Association and its efforts to combat light pollution and recognize Dark Sky Preserves.

~ Explore its causes, effects on wildlife and human health and its carbon footprint

~ Learn some astronomy and about our connection to the night sky

~ Hear how to effectively fight and eliminate light pollution

It's a fight we can win, if we have the will.

SPEAKERS:



David W. Ingram retired from the Boeing Company after a 34-year career in aviation and space technology. He leads the Dark Skies NW

Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association, serving dark-sky advocates in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. He is an officer of the Boeing Employees' Astronomical Society and the Seattle Astronomical Society, and works with a number of astronomy societies in the Puget Sound area. Learn more at <http://www.darksky.org/>



John L. Goar teaches high school science at North Kitsap High School in Poulsbo, WA. He is an officer of the Olympic Astronomical Society and the Astronomical League

(Binocular Messier Program Coordinator and Asteroid Observing Program Coordinator). He is also the Astronomy Outreach Volunteer for Olympic National Park and a Member of the International Dark-Sky Association. He was selected as the National Park Service volunteer of the year in 2016.

Group Executive Committee

We are governed by seven volunteers, with help from our conservation committees and interested members.

To contact Excom members or for more information email us at northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com

Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend. See Page 1 **Meetings & Events** for next scheduled meeting.

All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.



Officers:

Chair: Janet Marx

Vice Chair: Darlene Schanfald

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Genie Mixson

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker

Cherri Mann

Janet Marx

Genie Mixson

Krestine Reed

Darlene Schanfald

Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editors – Janet Marx and Genie Mixson

Janetmarx_76@msn.com

Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome



SEE YOU AT THE MARKET

Spring is in the air, the earth is warming, plants are growing, so don't forget your Farmers Markets.

Jefferson County 🥕 **Port Townsend** Mid-week market, Wednesdays 2 to 6; 🥕 **Port Townsend** Uptown Saturday market, 9 to 2; and 🥕 **Chimacum** market starts June 3rd, Sundays, 10 to 2

<http://jcfmarkets.org/>

Clallam County 🥕 **Port Angeles** market, Saturdays 10 to 2

<http://farmersmarketportangeles.com/market/>

🥕 **Sequim market**, Saturday 9 to 3 <http://sequimmarket.com/>

IF YOU MISSED The PBS documentary, *What Lies Upstream*, that covers the West Virginia's Elk River chemical spill and the Flint water crisis, you can [stream the film online](#) right now.



Bayer-Monsanto merger approved: The Department of Justice's Antitrust Division has apparently [approved Bayer's bid](#) to acquire Monsanto, creating a biochemical behemoth. Part of the deal requires Bayer to sell its seed treatment assets to BASF Corp. More than 1 million people wrote in opposition to the deal, including about 30,000 SierraRise supporters.



Up and Down Hill with the Sierra club

Just in time for spring, a couple hikes to look forward to

Sunday May 19: Port Ludlow Walking Trails

Enjoy a cool forest hike near Port Ludlow to meet people and get into nature. 10am to 2pm. Contact bill.volmut@gmail.com for meeting place and to sign up.

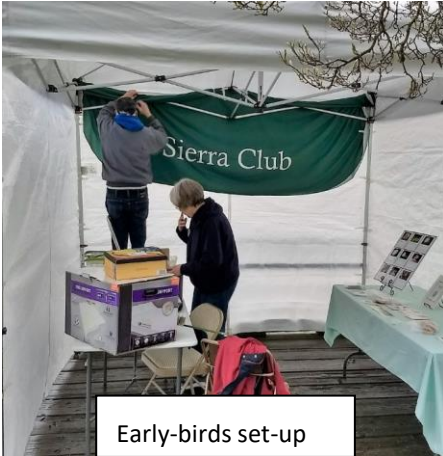
Sunday June 3rd: Ebey's Landing Growler Hike

Come with us to explore one of the most breathtaking areas in Western Washington, and learn about how it's the center of a recent military usage controversy involving the entire region. 11 am to 5 pm. Contact bill.volmut@gmail.com for meeting place and to sign up.

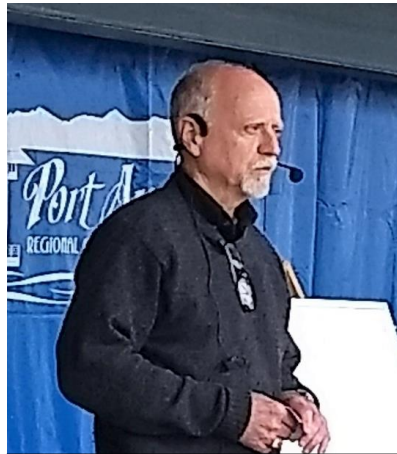
CELEBRATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Aka: The 2018 Geek-Out

The Sierra Club's North Olympic Group (NOG) teamed up with Olympic Climate Action (OCA) and The Feiro Marine Life Center on Saturday, April 28th to sponsor their second Celebration of Science and Technology at the Port Angeles City Pier. The day-long event featured 27 booths and seven speakers.



Early-birds set-up



Jim Waddell speaks on making sense of science



Thomas Locke speaks on Climate Change and public health



Onlookers watch Paul Kolesnikoff interpret Einstein



Wilder displays an electric vehicle



Power Trip Solar Energy booth

Special thanks to Sierra Club members:

Krestine Reed, chief organizer of the event who led the effort; Genie Mixson, Janis Burger, Ed Bowlby & Janet Marx who served on the planning committee; Ron Marx who set up & took down our booth; Norm Baker, Bob Sextro and Tammy Dziadek who manned our booth; Ingrid Carmean & Paul Hanson who worked all day "go-foring"; and especially Melissa Williams who manages Feiro Marine Center, a fellow co-sponsor



Future Scientist



Kinder Morgan Pipeline Expansion Update

April 8 - Kinder Morgan Canada suspended most work on the \$5.8 billion oil pipeline expansion threatening to pull the plug on the project completely unless the escalating political conflicts over the pipeline could be resolved by May 31.

While the project is fiercely opposed by British Columbia's recent change of government, the announcement was a blow to the federal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which approved the project and says it is in the national interest. Although the Canadian federal government has the power to approve major pipelines, the 10 provinces enjoy broad responsibility for resource development. That can result in a deadlock when a province opposes a decision made by Ottawa.

A few days later - Not well publicized, a few days later Canada's National Energy Board (NEB) quietly issued a decision that the parent corporation, the Houston-based Kinder Morgan, Inc. (KMI), would have to set aside a half-billion dollars to cover the costs of a potential oil spill. For Kinder Morgan, this decision has a deep financial impact.

The NEB denial now forces KMI to remain financially responsible for its subsidiary, throwing a monkey wrench into its plan to put no capital on the line for the pipeline. KMI had been working for years to build a financial firewall around its Canadian subsidiary and the risky and controversial Trans Mountain pipeline, pledging to investors that it would not use its own capital to build the pipeline.

Kinder Morgan Canada's annual report lists the formidable financial requirements to meet oil spill cleanup under the 2016 Pipeline Safety Act. These include absolute liability of up to \$1 billion regardless of fault as well as \$500 million of short-term cash on hand to pay for cleanup. Most important, the law holds the company accountable for unlimited payouts for damages and cleanup costs if found at fault for a spill.

"The upside of the project is limited by law; the NEB specifies a tariff rate that ensures that the company can only realize modest profits from the project. But the downside is quite literally unlimited: a single spill could potentially bankrupt the company. And for a company with a safety record as tarnished as Kinder Morgan's, the financial downside of a spill - including a \$500 million cash fund just to ante up for the Trans Mountain game - may prove to be one of the deciding factors that sours Kinder Morgan on the long-term prospects for the pipeline."

(Sightline Institute – for more information visit 2018/04/30/kinder-morgans-oil-spill-problem/)

DEGRADABLE vs. BIODEGRADABLE

Consumers often assume that a product labeled degradable is actually biodegradable. This is not the case. A degradable product disintegrates into smaller pieces when exposed to environmental conditions. It is not broken down completely unless it is biodegradable, and therefore, it will add to the growing problem of plastic pollution in the environment. Something that is truly biodegradable can be completely consumed or decomposed by living organisms, becoming beneficial to the environment.

Traditional plastics are manufactured from petroleum, meaning not only are they environmentally damaging to produce but they are also not biodegradable. It's estimated that most plastics will take hundreds or even thousands of years to decompose. Many plastics also release toxic chemicals like phthalates and BPA when they do start to break down.

BRINNON PLEASANT HARBOR MASTER PLANNED RESORT UPDATE

Jefferson County commissioners are rushing to approve regulations and a contract with Statesman Group that will:

- require Jefferson County taxpayers to pay to clean up failure of a resort that has a 1 in 10 chance of succeeding, [according to Washington State MPR guidelines](#)
- give taxpayers no control over sale of the property to another developer, the financial ability of any developer to proceed, or how many decades it can take to build the resort
- damage the environment

At the April 9th hearing by the county commissioners, the Brinnon Group presented:

- a letter from an experienced land use attorney on flaws in the legal documents the county is about to sign; see [Arambus&Eustis-Brinnon Group](#)
- a letter from a planner who has experience with resorts that fail [WechnerletterPHMPR](#)

Donations are appreciated to help pay for this and other legal work: [Donate-to-Brinnon-Group](#)

Thank you so much to the many people who have written, spoken at meetings, and donated to get us to this point. **Brinnon Group**



Please Take Note

There is an important public hearing scheduled for Thursday, June 7th at 1 p.m. in the Clallam County Commissioners' Meeting Room regarding the proposed Dungeness Bay oyster farm. This is your last chance to make oral and/or written public comment. Don't know what's proposed? Visit Clallam County Department of Community Development [DCD Case No SHR2017-00011](#) for application documents, public comments and status of the project. Be sure and read Al Bernstein's Olympic Peninsula Environmental News excellent article regarding this project [oly-pen-environmental-news](#).



SAVE OUR COAST HIKE

In February, Attorney General Bob Ferguson announced he will lead a "Save Our Coast" hike along our north Olympic Peninsula coastline. The hike will mirror the 22-mile route U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and 71 others embarked on exactly 60 years ago to demonstrate against a coastal highway.

History Link essay

The hike is scheduled to begin on August 19th with a public day hike open to anyone. Ferguson will organize a smaller group to hike the 22-mile route between Cape Alava and Rialto Beach. Ferguson plans to make this longer trip in three days. The hike covers rugged terrain, including traversing around headlands, and is for experienced hikers only.

Details of the route will be finalized at a later date. For more details visit [saveourcoasthike](#) Information on the hike will be updated on the hike's [Facebook event page](#).

REVIEW OF STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The state legislature wrapped up its 2018 legislative session on March 8th. The following topics are of interest to Sierra Club, NOG.

- **Oil Spill Prevention Act ([SB-6269](#))** – This bill passed with bi-partisan support. It protects Puget Sound from oil spills, closes a tax loophole for pipelines, and accelerates action to guard against heavy oils that sink and are very difficult to clean up.
- **Reducing Escape...Aquaculture ([HB-2957](#))** - It took a huge escape of Atlantic salmon from the net pen facility at Cypress Island to grab the attention of our state legislators to pass ([HB 2957](#)). This will phase out non-native fin fish farming in Washington state by 2022.
- **Climate Legislature** -The **low carbon fuel standard ([HB 2338](#))** stalled in the House early in the session. The Governor's **carbon tax ([SB 6203](#))** could not attract enough votes to move out of the Senate, despite numerous concessions to various interests and exemptions for most businesses. The **100% clean energy bill ([HB 2995](#))** made it through policy and finance committees and onto floor calendars in both the House and Senate but was not brought up for a vote in either body. The next opportunity will come as a peoples' initiative, [I-1631](#) which seeks to enact a carbon fee and invest in clean energy solutions for Washington state.
- **Orca Protection** – Over \$11 million was allocated for high priority work to reduce threats to orcas, which includes exposure to toxic pollution and harassment from vessels. This legislation will increase protections for our 76 remaining Southern Resident Killer Whale.
- **Forests and State Lands** – Funding to protect 850 acres of working forests in Jefferson County was allocated. This includes conservation for Marbled Murrelet.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **Federal preemption on agriculture:** The Sierra Club is opposing the Protect Interstate Commerce Act (dubbed the "States' Rights Elimination Act"), an extreme bill that would block states from setting any regulations on a wide swath of agriculture-related policies and products. [Read this article](#) to learn how destructive this bill could be.
- **A boost to soil health:** The Sierra Club is now supporting the SOIL Stewardship Act, which would improve the way that two major farm conservation programs (EQIP and CSP) operate. [Learn more](#) about the legislation that we hope is included in the farm bill.

Farm Bill Update:

- **House committee approves:** Not only did the House Agriculture Committee approve the farm bill on a party line vote; it made the legislation [even worse](#). One amendment creates a new program to lobby against global trade protections from genetically-engineered organisms. Another makes it easier to loosen substance restrictions for organic agriculture.
- **King bill added:** The worst amendment added was the [Protect Interstate Commerce Act](#) from Rep. Steve King, which would block states from setting stronger food or animal standards, such as California's cage-free egg requirement or shark fin ban. Such standards would no longer apply to out-of-state products. The Sierra Club opposed this language as a standalone bill.
- **Going to the dogs:** One amendment makes the dog and cat meat trade a federal crime, while another requires a new government estimate on the number of dogs imported into the U.S. each year!

YES ON I-1631

The Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy is a coalition of Washington organizations and individuals committed to building our state's economy, improving the health of our residents, and leading on the fight against climate change. This is a diverse coalition of environmental groups (including Sierra Club), clean energy advocates, various communities, health professionals, businesses and faith organizations who are supporting the initiative measure I-1631.

The measure would charge pollution fees on sources of greenhouse gas pollutants and use the revenue to reduce pollution, promote clean energy and address climate impacts, under oversight of a public board. At last, we have a chance for a citizen-initiated ballot measure to reduce pollution in Washington State. To learn more visit [1631jobsand clean energy](http://1631jobsandcleanenergy.com). To read the initiative measure text visit [Washington 1631Text of measure](http://Washington1631Textofmeasure.com).

We now have to work hard gathering petition signatures to get this measure on the November ballot. Petitions must be mailed in by June 27th. North Olympic Group members are needed to help with the signature gathering effort. Without your help we lose another chance to put clean energy on the ballot. If each of us would fill just one petition sheet with 20 signatures we could make an impact. To help with the signature gathering please email northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com or phone Janet Marx at 360-457-6605 with your contact information. You need to do this SOON as June is fast approaching.



Two Wolves - A Cherokee Story also known as **Grandfather Tells "The Wolves Within"**

An old Grandfather said to his grandson, who came to him with anger at a friend who had done him an injustice, "let me tell you a story":

"I too, at times, have felt a great hate for those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and does not hurt your enemy. It is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times. It is as if there are two wolves inside me. One is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him, and does not take offense when no offense was intended. He will only fight when it is right to do so, and in the right way.

But the other wolf, ah! He is full of anger. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper. He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is helpless anger, for his anger will change nothing.

Sometimes, it is hard to live with these two wolves inside me, for both of them try to dominate my spirit."

The boy looked intently into his Grandfather's eyes and asked, "Which one wins, Grandfather?"

The Grandfather smiled and quietly said, "The one I feed."



THE READERS CORNER

Review courtesy of Darlene Schanfald

The Oyster War by Summer Brennan

The author, Summer Brennan, takes the reader back to the late 1800s when native oysters from across the country were being harvested at high rates and sold commercially. The author covers the history of how Washington State oysters were over harvested for California consumption, and how the California would-be oyster farmers tried growing them around that State's coastline. In 1962, the shoreline that one farm occupied became part of a national park: Point Reyes National Park and Point Reyes National Seashore.

Then the focus of the book moves to the mid-1990s when one long-time oyster farmer sold to a rancher. In full disclosure, it was known that oyster farming at that site had to end in 2012 as it was being designated for Wilderness status. The rancher hoped to convince the National Park Service to extend his lease. The National Park Service refused. A controversy ensued as those sympathetic to the rancher debated the right of the government to deny extending the permit and since the oyster farm was there first. The case would be fought at congressional levels and in federal courts.

The Oyster War decision has set Wilderness Area precedent.

The author's poetic detail of the area's history and the investments by families in a way of life, over generations, is important reading. You can watch the author's interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfT2IGoIPwM>

This book is timely for two reasons. First, the WA State Department of Ecology approves no WA State Shoreline Master Plans unless they allow fin fish net pen farming and shellfish farming along WA State coastlines. Second, there is an application to farm 34 acres of oysters in 150,000 plastic mesh bags inside the USFWS Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge.



OUR ERODING NATIONAL PARKS

The national parks need reliable and adequate funding to properly preserve our history, culture and natural wonders. The currently proposed federal budget includes a 7% cut to the National Park Service. In 2016, the national parks received [record visitation](#) rates of nearly 331 million visits. Cuts to park staff [could lead to a](#)

Reduction in services to the public, closed facilities, and heavier workloads for remaining staff.

Conservation groups have also noted a provision in the infrastructure proposal that calls for the "disposition of federal real property" and suggests the privatization of two National Park Service Units: the George Washington Parkway and the Baltimore Washington Parkway. It would also leave the door open for divesting of other assets. Some are saying it is a slippery slope to more widespread sell-offs of parks and public lands. It's clear Secretary Zinke has no interest in managing our public lands for future generations, just an interest in being a rubber stamp for drilling and mining.

Some US Navy Facts to Ponder:

Altitude Navy says [FAA allows it to fly over rural areas](#) anywhere: 500'; [Over towns](#): 1,000'.



Degree [FAA says it is allowed](#) to regulate military aircraft operations: Zero.

Loudness of a Growler at 1,000' altitude (Navy figure): 113 dB.

Number of Navy analyses in Draft EIS on Growler noise more than 6 miles from the runways: 0.

Number of [days of quiet Navy averages with jet noise](#) to arrive at 65 dB as the level it says communities are exposed to: 365.

Number of times Navy found "significant impacts" in all EIS (Environmental Impact Statements) or EA (Environmental Assessments) in past 10 years: Zero

Potential military interest in [Quillayute Airport](#) near Forks, Washington: High.

Military interest in [conducting helicopter training operations over communities](#) around the Olympic Peninsula: High.

Accident rate for training operations in helicopters compared with fixed-wing aircraft: [Twice as high](#).

If you've noticed more Navy jet noise lately you can do something.

Make notes as to date & time and describe jet noise incidents. Keep a log book.

Call the Navy's **Noise Complaint Hotline: 360-257-6665.**

Email: comments.NASWI@navy.mil

For much more information: <http://westcoastactionalliance.org/3006-2>

One of the big myths about philanthropy is that it's all about donating funds for a cause. I like to look at it quite differently. Philanthropy is about 'giving' - not just in monetary terms but also in non-monetary aspects, like time, ideas, or being a volunteer. Donating money is just a small part of philanthropy. Pankaj Patel

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." Unknown