

KNOW YOUR ISLAND WALKS 2015

Sat. Jan. 24, 2015, 1-4pm. Meet Mike Vouri, Historian and Chief of Interpretation, San Juan Island National Historical Park, to "Take a Hike With Mike" before he retires. Hear about the pig war. If you think you've heard it all before, listen up! Mike keeps learning more and new aspects of our history on this island. We will walk and hear what he has found out. Meet and park: American Camp main parking lot. Distance: 2 mi. total. Terrain: park trail, not challenging. Rating: moderate. Dogs on leashes okay. Rain or shine.

Sat. Feb. 28, 2015, 1-4pm. Streets and Sidewalks: A tour of parks within the town of Friday Harbor. Meet Island Rec commissioners to walk to parks we see regularly but may know very little about! Can you name five? Meet and park at Friday Harbor Fields at the end of Carter St. in the cul de sac. Distance: 3 mi. RT maximum. Rating: easy. Terrain: paved sidewalks. Well-behaved dogs on leashes okay. Wheelchair accessible.

Sat, March 28, 2015, 1-4pm. Meet Kathleen Foley of the San Juan Preservation Trust and Tanja Williamson of the San Juan County Land Bank for a behind-the-scenes look at an exciting land acquisition project being undertaken for future public use. Learn about the Mt. Grant Preserve (formerly known as Lawson Ridge) and get a peek at its spectacular views of San Juan Island. Distance: 2 mi. RT. Terrain: old unpaved road and rough unfinished path with significant uphill and down. Altitude gain/loss 500'. Rating: moderate to difficult. No dogs, please. Rain or shine. Binoculars suggested. Meet and park at the Preserve entrance on West Valley Road. Look for sandwich sign saying "San Juan Preservation Trust/Land Bank Event." Parking is limited so please try to carpool.

Sat. April 25, 2015, 1-4pm. Join the Land Bank and Friends of Lime Kiln Society (FOLKS) to celebrate the Land Bank's 25th Anniversary and National Poetry Month with a nature-inspired poetry walk through Lime Kiln Point State Park and surrounding areas. Led by Land Bank Director Lincoln Bormann and poets Sally and Sam Green (WA State's first Poet Laureate), the trail will be laced with nature poems; a memorable opportunity! Meet and park: Lime Kiln Point State Park main lot (Discovery Pass or daily pass required). Distance: 2 mi RT. Rating: moderate with slightly difficult spots. Terrain: mix of rustic trails (some steep sections), developed trails and old roadways. No dogs, please. Rain or shine.

Sat. May 24, 2015, 1-4pm. National Historic Preservation Month! Meet architectural historian Boyd Pratt to tour the Nichols Neighborhood and Sunshine Alley. Learn how we grew from a short string of wood-framed buildings lining Spring St. to a downtown of fireproof masonry buildings. We will focus on the Brick-works and its part in the development. Meet at the Brickworks with suggested parking at the Courthouse parking lot. Distance: 1 mile. Rating: easy with possible upslopes. Terrain: sidewalk and pavement. Well-behaved dogs on leashes okay. Wheelchair accessible. Rain or shine.

Sat, June 27, 2015, 1-4pm. Join Land Bank Steward Doug McCutchen and local historian Boyd Pratt to explore the history of the early island industry: lime. Learn how hardworking settlers took advantage of our unique geology and geography to develop a resource which helped build our country's west coast, and the fact that the State Park and Land Bank Preserve have earned a place on the National Register of Historic Places. Meet and park: Limekiln Point State Park Visitor's Center (Discovery Pass or daily parking pass required). Length: 1.4mi. RT. Terrain: rustic trails (some developed and some rustic with short steep sections). Rating: moderate-difficult. No dogs, please.

Sat. July 25, 2015, 1-4pm. Meet Mike Buettell, Roche Harbor resident, volunteer trailbuilder, and mountain climber extraordinaire, to walk new trails in the Roche Harbor system. Explore "Tim's Trail" to the new Polywog Pond, go past Frisbee Golf, through Rouleau Forest, the Bent Cedar Trail and Sophie's Romp. Meet and park at the intersection of Roche Harbor and West Valley Roads. Distance: 3.5 mi. Terrain: gentle trails with 200' elevation gain. Rating: moderate. Dogs on leashes okay. Rain or shine.

Sat. August 22, 2015, 1-4pm. Meet Lee Taylor, Superintendent of San Juan Island National Historical Park, to walk a new favorite: the Westcott Bay Trail. Hear what has been learned about this recent addition to the park, its 70 acres and the lovely cove and surroundings. Meet and park at English Camp in the main parking lot. Length is approximately 3 miles RT. Rating is moderate. Terrain is wooded path. No dogs, please. Plan to rest at the Westcott Bay house for refreshments and celebrating trails. Rain or shine.

Sat. Sept. 26, 2015, 1-4pm. Meet Lee Taylor, Superintendent of San Juan Island National Historical Park, to walk at Mitchell Hill through cedar groves, Garry Oak woodland, and mossy balds. Hear about park plans for this area. Meet at English Camp main parking lot to carpool to trail head. Distance is a 3-mile loop. Rating: moderate. Terrain: wooded trail with significant ups and downs. Dogs on leashes okay. Rain or shine.

Sat. October 24, 2015, 1-4pm. Meet Ted Schlund, Chief Ranger at Lime Kiln Point State Park and San Juan Area Manager at WA State Parks and Recreation Commission, to explore our park and learn its status as well as that of the state system. There's much more than whale watching, as we learned on the June walk! Get to know Ted and his vast experience on the water and on land. Meet and park at Lime Kiln Point State Park (Discovery Pass or daily parking pass required). Distance: 2 mi. RT. Rating: moderate. No dogs, please. Wheelchair accessible. Rain or shine.