



What's New & Cool in the San Juan Islands

Autumn Edition, 2019

Note: Contacts and phone numbers below are for media follow-up and may not be the best contact for consumers

Grand Openings, Lodging Upgrades

Breakfast and Bed

Setting itself apart from other island lodgings, Otters Pond B&B is more of a "breakfast & bed," as the new owner, Amanda Zimlich, is a Northwest native and a classically trained, professional chef. The breakfasts at Otters Pond B&B are quickly becoming legendary amongst her guests, as she offers a unique and delicious breakfast each morning, prepared using organic ingredients from her garden and island farms, and eggs laid fresh each morning by her hens, The Golden Girls. Otters Pond Bed & Breakfast is a boutique luxury five suite inn situated at the water's edge of Otters Pond, next to Moran State Park- a birder's paradise. Contact: Amanda Zimlich zimlich12@icloud.com; www.otterspond.com/

Thyme for Main Street

For the last two decades, Eliza and Chris Morris, the wizards behind the curtain of Island Thyme Bodycare, have been developing their soap and skincare line and connecting with customers at local stores and farmers markets. The longtime dream of creating a more permanent storefront came true when they took over Crow Valley Gallery in the heart of Eastsound. Now called the Island Thyme and Crow Valley Shop and Gallery, the space will continue to showcase the work of other local artists. The first official art opening starting this August will feature the work of Susan Mustard, who works primarily in oils but also makes collages from old book covers. Contact: Eliza Morris info@islandthyme.com www.islandthyme.com/

New Piper for Point to Point

There's a new kid on the block at Point to Point Air, a popular on-demand air taxi service between the San Juan Islands and destinations across the Pacific Northwest. The Piper Cherokee 6, PA 32-300 is called the "Big 6" by pilots and aviation enthusiasts. A low wing, fixed gear aircraft that is capable of seating up to 6 passengers (5 comfortably) will get you quickly to your destination. While you travel at 140mph or more, you will enjoy the recently upgraded paint and leather interior with modern GPS based avionics. The Cherokee 6 has front and rear baggage areas with two doors for loading, a door at the front of the aircraft as well as a large double door in the back. Once airborne, Seattle to Friday Harbor is only 40 minutes away! Contact: Jeanne Howe jeanne@point2pointair.com; www.point2pointair.com

Food, Wine, and Chefs

Say 'cheese' (and wine and jam)!

Orcas Island Winery is partnering with Girl Meets Dirt Archipelago Preserves for a DIY Cheese Board Workshop to kick off the Orcas Island Farm Tour on September 27th. Local vendors and makers will be featured during this sip, learn, and create style workshop. Participants will be able to take their goodies home. Contact: Tera Landman orcasislandwinery@gmail.com; <https://orcasislandwinery.com/>

Poppin' oysters

Celebrate the bounty of the Salish Sea with a pop-up dinner series in August and September at Buck Bay Shellfish Farm on Orcas Island, hosted by Kids' Table. Each dinner will feature 8-12 courses for ten diners around a single long table right on the water overlooking Buck Bay where Mark Sawyer and his family has been farming shellfish for three generations. The 6-8 wine pairings will focus on local, natural, and lesser celebrated varietals. Dinner dates: August 23th, 25th, 30th, and September 1st, and 6th, 2019. Each dinner is \$100/person. For more information, or to make a reservation, email kidstablefood@gmail.com. <https://www.kidstablefood.com/upcoming-events>

Raw Deals at Friday Harbor House

There's no better way to enjoy summertime in the Pacific Northwest than unwinding with fresh seafood, craft cocktails, and panoramic views. Located on the restaurant's Portside deck, The Raw Bar at Friday Harbor House offers the freshest local seafood--from Washington oysters, mussels, and scallops to tuna poke, Dungeness crab, and more. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the harbor view--frozen margarita in hand. The Raw Bar at Friday Harbor House is open daily through October, noon - 5.p.m. Contact: Megan Filarski meganf@greenrubino.com; www.fridayharborhouse.com/raw-bar

A little bit sweet

Friday Harbor Chocolates has added Keto-friendly, no sugar added, and CBD-infused truffles to the array of mouthwatering temptations. The sweets shop specializes in handcrafted chocolates from accomplished chocolatiers in the San Juans as well as mainland Washington and Oregon. Try one (or several!) today with owner Aylene's selection of Ports and Northwest-made dessert wines, including varietals from San Juan Vineyards and Lopez Island Vineyards. Contact: Aylene Geringer info@fridayharborchocolates.com; www.fridayharborchocolates.com

Exhibits & Activities

Natural Art

The three fall exhibits at the San Juan Islands Museum of Art showcase important aspects of the natural world. Food for Thought by Robert Dash offers a micro perspective on how one part of nature--our food--is connected to climate change. Tide of Transitions by Cathryn Mallory was inspired by the vast kelp forests of the Pacific Northwest. The Natural World of Malcolm Curtis Ross shows off Ross' love for his extensive garden and local forests. Madrones are a favorite subject as he captures their varied colors through the four seasons. Exhibits open September 27th and run through December 9th, 2019. Contact: Diane Martindale diane.martindale@rockisland.com; www.sjima.org

San Juan Island Half

Run where the sea meets the sky -- on San Juan Island. Coming May 2020, Orca Running is proud to present the San Juan Island Half, featuring quite possibly their most scenic course. The course is stunning, and the island is a wonderful place to spend a weekend. Bring your family, run the race, and then stay to explore the island and make memories together. www.sanjuanislandhalf.com

Lighting up the night

This season Shearwater Adventures is excited to introduce their new evening Bioluminescence Tours (2-hours in duration) launching from Orcas Island. In late summer and early fall, the bioluminescence is at

its peak. They use stable two-person kayaks and supply all of the necessary paddling equipment. No experience is needed. Shearwater's professional guides provide detailed instruction, and they know where to look for the best wildlife sightings. Common sightings include harbor seals, otter, porpoise, sea stars, bald eagles and more. Contact: Jeff Zbornik info@shearwaterkayaks.com; www.shearwaterkayaks.com

Kayaking with a twist

Outdoor Odysseys has partnered with local Washington breweries, wineries, and yoga studios for a twist on their classic kayaking trips! They run Beer and Kayaking trips with Icicle Brewing from Leavenworth, Bellingham's Wander Brewing, and Seattle's Fremont Brewing. Their wine trips are with Boudreaux Cellars of Leavenworth, and their yoga and kayaking tour is run with various yoga instructors from the Seattle area. Contact: Christina Deierling (360) 378-3533 paddle@outdoorodysseys.com; www.outdoorodysseys.com/sea-kayak-tours/specialty-tours/

Adventure on Lopez

Western Washington tour company Outdoor Adventures has brought their love of adventuring to Lopez Island, offering kayaking tours and rentals at Spencer Spit State Park. Explore the Salish Sea on one of their tours, from early morning excursions to sunset paddles, and discover the Islands from a pelagic perspective. Contact; Bryan Turek info@outdooradventurecenter.com www.outdooradventurecenter.com/adventure-category/adventure-tours/sea-kayaking-tours/

Pinot and Pilates

The Studio and Coho Restaurant are partnering on a pop-up evening of Pilates and Pinot on September 18th. Sweat and stretch at the Studio, then sweeten the palate with a wine tasting and some nibbles at Coho. www.cohorestaurant.com

Nature and Stewardship

Killer Socks

It started with Salmon-Safe beer to benefit the [SeaDoc Society](#), and now there's a new Orca Sock from KAVU to benefit San Juan Island's Center for Whale Research, the leading voice for the critically endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales (orcas). The Orca Sock features rad killer whale patterns in a wool/synthetic blend, and twenty percent of the profits from their sales will go toward the study and conservation of orcas. The new Orca Socks will sell for \$25 and available at KAVU stores in downtown Seattle, Ballard, and online at www.kavu.com.

Access Granted

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board have awarded San Juan County nearly 4 million dollars in grants for projects that build and maintain outdoor recreation facilities and conserve wildlife habitat. Among the projects is the purchase of ten acres along the western shore of Lopez Island for a public beach and for launching hand-powered boats. The area is part of the Cascadia Marine Trail. Rarely used in the past because there was no way for paddlers to launch or take out, this project will fill the gap. Orcas Island's Moran State Park will expand with the purchase of 55 acres that will extend the park's trail system and give visitors access to the shoreline for the first time.

Keepin' It Clean

A new sewage pump-out for recreational boaters is now open at the Shaw Island General Store. Longtime owners Steve and Terri Mason hope it will be both a convenient amenity for customers and help protect the water quality of the Salish Sea. Funded by Washington State Parks' Clean Vessel Act program, the new pump-out facility provides service in a high need area and adds to a much larger network of pump-out facilities across the state. Boaters should call the store ahead of time for service at (360)468-2288.

Awards and Anniversaries

Ale Accolades

San Juan Island Brewing Company brought home the gold medal at the 7th Annual Washington Beer Awards for their Quarry No. 9 Pale Ale in the English Pale Ale category. This is the second Washington Beer Award for the two-year-old company—their Bull Kelp ESB won a bronze medal in 2018. Don't miss their Oktoberfest on October 12th! Contact: Sean Aylward sean@sanjuanbrew.com; www.sanjuanbrew.com/

An Excellent Storm Season

San Juan Island author Susan Wingate received a 2019 Book Excellence Award for her psychological thriller *Storm Season*. Drug abuse is a key element threading through the action, and Wingate hopes the story will resonate with women who have children at-risk, and that they will come away from it feeling empowered to overcome the odds. The Book Excellence Awards is an international competition dedicated to recognizing both independent and traditionally published authors and publishers for excellence in writing, design, and overall market appeal.

Super Stars

Friday Harbor High School's Aerospace Design Team, also known as Island Orbital Technologies (IOTech) became World Champions at the 2019 International Space Settlement Design Competition World Finals. Alongside teams from four other schools – India, Uruguay, Canada, and the U.S. – IOTech created a 60-person aerospace corporation, Rockdonnell, which won this year's world finals at the Kennedy Space Center, Center for Space Education. Their 50-slide design briefing is the result of an incredible amount of work, collaboration, communication, design, redesign, compromise, ingenuity, and imagination.

Dropbox of hi-res images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/st2jjdm7cu7ipjo/AABk0yPi9fTBg3x5YLn4iYiqa?dl=0>