



What's New and Cool in the San Juan Islands

Winter 2020

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

Dropbox of photos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rhxnbn1mdt7orhe/AAAm-2-CZQnXEMI7IBq5hBRca?dl=0>

On the Food and Farm Front

Bon Voyager

Chef Jon Chapelle, acclaimed former chef de cuisine then executive chef at the popular Doe Bay Cafe, has switched gears and opened Voyager Sandwiches and Seafood in downtown Eastsound, Orcas Island, with his partner Sara Lucia. As Jon says, "After cooking 'fancy' food we wanted to do something casual, where we would want to eat on a daily basis. We drew inspiration from PNW ingredients like local shellfish, seafood, and mushrooms as well as some of our favorite foods from our travels. Our bestselling sandwich has been our pork bahn mi. We fell in love with bahn mi sandwiches in Vietnam years ago." The menu also features, seasonal salads, small plates and bread from several islands-based bakeries. Contact: Jon Chapelle (360) 298-9261 voyagerorcas@gmail.com; <https://voyagerorcas.wordpress.com/>.

New King in West Sound

Renowned chef Raymond Southern, together with wife Holly, have taken over the historic Kingfish Inn and West Sound Cafe, now called Kingfish at West Sound. The restaurant is partnered with nearby OrcaSong Farm. They are working together to choose vegetables, fruits and flowers to augment the farm's offerings already extensive offerings, with more locally grown options to come. Guests will taste how the relationship between the earth, sea and delicious dishes is woven throughout this outstanding restaurant. Contact: Holly Southern (360) 376-4440 info@kingfishinn.com; <https://kingfishinn.com/>.

Girl Meets Dirt Meets Expansion

What started with a booth at the Orcas Island farmers market has become nearly a household name—Girl Meets Dirt Heritage Preserves—with a [profile](#) in *Saveur* magazine and a [segment](#) on the *Today Show*. The popular shop in Eastsound is expanding to add a tasting room and "give the kitchen a little breathing room." They offer informal tastings and delicious samples on a daily basis and welcome you to come by and see what's cooking (*the glorious smells are complimentary too!*), and shop the full lineup of everything they make—including the hard to find super small batch reserve jams. Contact: Audra Lawlor audra@girlmeetsdirt.com; www.girlmeetsdirt.com/.

Barn Owl Goes Big

Lopez Island's Barn Owl Bakery, a beloved supplier of wild-leavened baked goods, is kicking things up a notch in 2020 with the purchase of Grayling Farm, a former homestead-turned-art gallery that has been

vacant for several years. Sage Dilts, owner of Barn Owl, said “We knew right away that this place would be our home, our bakery, a community gathering space and art gallery, farm, and heritage grain center. We saw the potential to bring back the Grayling as a community hub, where folks from around the world can visit, learn, teach, eat, farm and share about bread, grains, and working with the land.” The new space and baking capacity will make it possible to utilize an online shop for mail order bread to ship favorites to fans further afield. Contact: (360) 468-3492; granary@barnowlbakery.com; <http://barnowlbakery.com/>.

A Taste of Cider

Madrone Cellars & Cider will be opening a downtown Friday Harbor tasting room in the Spring 2020. After two summers selling at regional restaurants, stores and the San Juan Islands Farmer’s Market, Madrone is happy to find a more permanent home on First Street. Madrone Cider has also been named a 2020 Good Food Award Winner. Every year, The Good Food Foundation strives to honor and celebrate producers who work towards and desire a sustainable and responsible American food culture. Madrone Cider’s 2018 Reserve Blend won in the Cider category, along with thirteen other cideries nationwide. This is the third award for Madrone Cider to take home. In the 2018 Seattle Cider Awards, their Ginger & Lime won a silver medal and their Kingston Blend won a bronze medal. Contact: Shaun Salamida shaun@madronecellars.com; <https://madronecellars.com/>.

Kitchen Boot Camp

Join Coho Restaurant chefs for Kitchen Boot Camp! They will be offering two sessions this spring that will help you bring the farm-to-fork flavors that you enjoy at the restaurant into your home kitchen. Chef Tim will demystify duck preparation, and Chef Jessica will share her gluten-free baking secrets. Register for one or both! \$75 per person for three hours. Participants will each hands-on session with new skills, recipes to share, plus a \$10 gift certificate to apply towards dinner. Contact: Coho Restaurant (360) 378-6330; reservations@cohostaurant.com; www.cohorestaurant.com/events/coho-kitchen-boot-camp-spring-2020-demystifying-duck-gluten-free-baking-secrets.

Walla Walla Winery Spring Showcase

Coho Restaurant will showcase select Walla Walla wines from Time & Direction Wines, Maison Bleu Winery, Abeja Winery, and Gramercy Cellars during four special wine dinner events this spring. Each five-course, locally sourced menu is specially tailored by Chefs Ryan and Tim to complement the featured wines, and guest hosts will walk diners through unique aspects of their wine production process and share tasting notes. Contact: Coho Restaurant (360)378-6330; reservations@cohostaurant.com; www.cohorestaurant.com/specials/walla-walla-wine-showcase-four-spring-wine-dinners.

Salty Success

There’s always something cooking at San Juan Sea Salt! 2019 saw the addition of their Passport Series, particularly the new Kimchi, Sriracha, and Spicy Thai salts rounding out the range of flavor profiles, along with new Cappuccino Caramels and the reemergence of the Steak and BBQ blends. 2020 is bringing the addition of several new flavors: Truffle Salt, Scorpion Salt, Scorpion Honey, Seafood Blend, and a surprise they’re calling Hippy Gold. Contact: Brady Ryan brady@sanjuanislandseasalt.com; www.sanjuanislandseasalt.com.

New Arts Offerings, Exhibits, & Events

To Be or Not to Be...Female!

Orcas Island Shakespeare Society's summer production of *Hamlet* will feature, for the first time, an all-female cast. The Orcas Island Shakespeare Society was recently started by Michael Armenia who has been interested in plays by the bard for 37 years and specifically the play, *Hamlet*. As a writer, language and it's use stokes his fire. He was quick to add, "enjoyment required, enchantment desired." His intention now is to "expose Shakespeare to the community" through "reading groups," "playing groups," (which are people who want to perform), and through encouragement and supporting community members who wish to produce different kinds of Shakespeare offerings. Contact: Michael Armenia info@orcasislandshakespeare.org

A Cascade of Poems

Seattle Poetics LAB (SPLAB), a literary arts-oriented nonprofit organization and the organizing entity of the Cascadia Poetry Festival, is presenting the seventh Cascadia Poetry Festival at the Multiverse on San Juan Island May 1-3, 2020. The Multiverse, a gallery and island cultural center, will provide an intimate setting for festival attendees to deep dive into the intersection of poetics and bioregionalism. In addition to poetry readings, there will be two panels and breakout sessions related to poet Robin Blaser, the practice of Cascadia and the bioregion itself. Contact: Paul Nelson (206) 422-5002; splabman@icloud.com; <http://cascadiapoetryfestival.org/tag/multiverse/>

Spring Into Wellness

The first annual Wellness Spring Retreat on Orcas Island is an opportunity to re-evaluate, re-focus and re-imagine the direction you want your life to go. The backdrop for this intimate retreat is the top-rated Pebble Cove Farm, where you'll feel a sense of awe and wonder the moment you set foot on the property. Holistic Success Coach Daniel Marty will facilitate the Retreat and introduce participants to powerful exercises and tools that enable you to see through a challenge, embrace all you can become and take charge of taking the next step towards the healthiest, joyful person you can be. Expect morning meditations, holistic movement/yoga classes and engaging group sessions where you'll explore a holistic approach to success and well-being on all levels in your life. Contact: Daniel Marty (206)718-7078 or Lydia Miller (360) 622-6460, pebblecovefarm@hotmail.com; <https://www.everydayinspiredliving.com>.

Tempestry

The San Juan Islands Museum of Art (SJIMA) isn't shy about displaying exhibitions that address hard topics like climate change, and the latest show is no exception. The Tempestry Project is an ongoing, collaborative, fiber arts project that presents climate data in a visual form through knitted or crocheted artwork. In the few years since the first Tempestry was knitted, panels have been created by fiber artists in nearly every U.S. state and more than 20 other countries. Multiple works are displayed together to show change over time. The yarn colors are standardized for each 5-degree temperature range. The project began in 2017 in neighboring Anacortes, Washington and has since spread throughout the country and around the world. The Tempestry Project will be on display at SJIMA through February 21, 2020. www.sjima.org.

Frozen Wind

The second season of Lakedale Resort's Sculpture Project series commenced last July with New York artist Anthony Heinz May. Over a two-week period, Anthony completed an amazing piece titled *Frozen Wind*. The piece resides in Lakedale's yurt village and was born of the need to top a 100-foot tree that had died. Instead of tearing the tree down, Lakedale invited Anthony to repurpose it into a work of art. In Anthony's words, "Part of the natural beauty of this tree is reconstructed to appear frozen in time, as if a human-made wind swept out across its original form...In precarious balance between artificiality and the real, this

tree captures an essence of modern dilemmas where the beauty of nature is warped by the dawning aesthetic of an omnipresent digital interface.”

Falcon Meets Crow

As the daughter of falconers, San Island singer-songwriter Rianna “Emree” Franklin based her stage name on a falcon. Like her namesake, her career is soaring to new heights, like meeting inspiration and rock star Sheryl Crow on NBC’s “Today Show” in December 2019 in a segment titled, “Women Who Rock: Music & Mentorship.” Crow had career advice for Franklin, not just about being a woman in the music industry but especially about using trauma and pain in the songwriting process. At the end of the interview, Franklin played her first single, “Hurt Forever,” for Crow. “I love it,” Crow told Franklin afterward. “It sounds like a hit. I’m afraid to say that because you never know, but it sounds like a hit.” To learn more about Emree Franklin, visit her website at www.emreefranklinpk.com.

New Products, Packages, & Experiences

Wavin’ Wildflowers

This spring, Shearwater Adventures is excited to offer Island Wildflowers by Kayak! Every spring, a few island nature preserves in the San Juans are carpeted with colorful native wildflowers. Pack a picnic lunch and enjoy a leisurely paddle to one of these special islands. Shearwater uses stable two-person kayaks and provides all the necessary paddling equipment – no experience is needed. Shearwater’s professional guides include detailed instruction, and they know where to look for the best wildlife sightings. Common sights include harbor seals, river otters, porpoises, sea stars, bald eagles, and more. Contact: Jeff Zbornik info@shearwaterkayaks.com; www.shearwaterkayaks.com.

Girl Paddle Power

Calling all Women! This summer you can enjoy three days of kayaking and first class camping on our **Women’s Weekend 2020 with Crystal Seas Kayaking**. Their “all female kayak crew” will teach you new kayaking skills and help you build confidence as a paddler and camper. This weekend is all about laughing and having fun in a safe and encouraging environment; while creating new friendships with ladies who share your passion for the outdoors. At the end of the day, you can relax while your guide prepares delicious, fresh and local, gourmet food and wine. Come alone or with a friend to experience our Women’s Weekend 2020 with Crystal Seas Kayaking. Contact: Brooke Friesen (360) 378-4223; adventures@crystalseas.com; www.crystalseas.com/cs-sj-tour-multiday-kayak-camping-details-womens.htm.

Bioluminescence by Boat

Paddle the calm waters around Roche Harbor with San Juan Island Outfitters to see the phenomenon of glowing bioluminescent plankton. Stirring of the water by small animals, fish, and paddle strokes ignite the reactive plankton creating a phosphorescent glow. The Bioluminescent Kayak Tour will be offered around new moons during summer months only. Nothing short of magical, this twinkly trip is sure to amaze. Contact: Emily Schaller (866) 810-1483 info@sanjuanislandoutfitters.com; www.sanjuanislandoutfitters.com.

Affinity for Doe Bay

Visitors and guests to Doe Bay Resort and Retreat on Orcas Island have always had the option of choosing an annual or seasonal membership to the Doe Bay Spa and Soaking Tubs, but in 2020 they’re rolling out a new Affinity Membership so guests and neighbors can enjoy all of Doe Bay’s exciting offerings while

receiving substantial discounts on massage, Doe Bay Store purchases, and food in the critically lauded Doe Bay Café. Membership benefits include no fee for spa use with your membership card, a 20% discount on all purchases in the Doe Bay Store, Doe Bay massage, and lodging, and complimentary guest passes. Interested in learning more? Call the Doe Bay front desk at (360)376-2291 or visit <https://doebay.com>

Elopement Escapes

Whether you arrive by air or by sea, the grounds of the historic Tucker House Inn & Harrison House Suites are a remarkable location to celebrate an elopement. They've designed a variety of packages beginning at just \$899 to help get planning started, including food and drink options, floral and ceremony design, video and photography services to capture the special day, and luxury add-ons such as in-room massages, gourmet dining at its own Coho Restaurant, and even private round-trip flights to the island from Seattle. Contact: Molly Sheridan (800)965-0123; reservations@tuckerhouse.com; www.tuckerhouse.com/weddings-events/weddings/elopement-and-vow-renewal-packages/

Nature and Stewardship

Greener Clipper

Travel service provider Clipper Vacations has become a member of Green Marine, a voluntary environmental program for the maritime industry in North America. "Minimizing our environmental impact is a responsibility we take seriously," said David Gudgel, Clipper's CEO. And from David Bolduc, the executive director of Green Marine, "It's great to see the Green Marine program gaining more recognition within the ferry sector to reduce waste and to operate in a cleaner, green, and more sustainable manner. Clipper Vacations participation will help them clearly benchmark performance and pursue continual improvement." Green Marine's environmental certification program provides a map for ship owners, port authorities, terminal operators and shipyard managers to voluntarily reduce their environmental footprint. Contact: Scott Meis smeis@victoriaclipper.com

Forest School in Session

Kaleidoscope Forest Preschool on Orcas Island is the first licensed full-day outdoor preschool in the nation – where instead of gathering around cubbies inside, kids play in the "mud kitchen," whittle spoons, and go on nature hikes. The preschool takes place entirely outdoors in all weather conditions from September through June. The curriculum is fluid, focusing on learner-led outdoor play that encourages curiosity and exploration. Amber Paulsen, Kaleidoscope's director, says outdoor schools like this are a proven way to combat "nature-deficit disorder" – the growing gap between human beings and nature. Her students, aged three to five, are thinking about their relationships to nature more, and are more self-aware, physically and emotionally. Outdoor early education has been popular in Scandinavia for decades but is recently becoming more prevalent in the United States. Contact: kaleidoscope@orcasonline.com; <https://ourkaleidoscopekids.com/forest-school>

Changing the Planet with Road Scholar

Not-for-profit Road Scholar, the world's largest educational travel organization, is launching six community-based programs as part of a series called *Our Changing Planet*, aimed at helping participants understand the local impacts of global climate change, and more importantly, outlining actions communities are taking to mitigate and adapt to these changes. In the San Juans, participants will be able to see the efforts to protect marine life, promote Leave No Trace, and work towards food and housing sustainability. "We developed this new series of environmental learning experiences to provide insights into the science behind global warming and to learn about real-life solutions being practiced throughout

the U.S. Participants will also learn what they can do in their local communities to protect the environment and will take away a deeper understanding of this complex issue.” said James Moses, President and CEO of Road Scholar. Learn more at www.roadscholar.org/planet or email Randy Martin randy.martin@skagit.edu.

Beaverton Forever

The San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) and the San Juan County Land Bank have teamed up to protect the Islands’ largest freshwater marsh in Beaverton Valley on San Juan Island. In 2019 the Land Bank purchased acreage connecting two existing preserves at opposite ends of the marsh, creating a newly consolidated 500-acre publicly owned nature preserve. The newly acquired property ensures permanent protection of the rural character and striking vistas at the edge of the county’s most populated area. The marsh also acts as a giant filter and sponge, serving the vital functions of freshwater purification, storage, and aquifer recharge.

Awards and Anniversaries

The 40th Expedition

San Juan Kayak Expeditions, the Island’s original sea kayak outfitter, celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2020. After living and paddling throughout the San Juans, Tim Thomsen started San Juan Kayak Expeditions to share his passion for paddling and the natural beauty of the islands with others. Tim, now joined by wife Sally, still owns and operates SJKE today. They will be celebrating the 40th anniversary all season long so be sure to check out the specials on www.sanjuankayak.com or their Facebook page to enjoy some savings, gifts, and prizes! Stop by their colorful outdoor kiosk at 275 A Street in Friday Harbor anytime this summer, call (360) 378-4436, or email sanjuankayak@rockisland.com.

Sailing past 50

Sponsored by the San Juan Island Yacht Club, the 50th Shaw Island Classic Sailboat Race will be Saturday, August 8, 2020. The race starts from Friday Harbor and circumnavigates scenic Shaw Island in either direction, arriving back in Friday Harbor for a lasagna dinner served by First Mates at the clubhouse. Contact: Jim Corenman (360) 378-5156 racecommittee@sjyc.com.

Cruising into 2020

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, ranked as the 8th most travelled airport in the U.S., is forecasting another record year in 2020. A testament to the Port’s commitment to international aviation growth—a larger, more efficient, and welcoming International Arrivals Facility will open in 2020. The Port of Seattle has also just won its second Cruise Critic Award for Best North American Homeport 2019. Cruise Critic, the world’s largest online cruise resource, additionally named Seattle ‘Cruiser’s Choice’ in their Top 5 Destinations of 2019. Contact: Patti Denny denny.p@portseattle.org.