



What's New and Cool Spring 2021

Dropbox of images: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/l1vxqcyreawobf/AABnNNGeTJtwN6vWd-ziFr_fa?dl=0

On the Food and Farm Front

Piquant Piquenique

Piquenique wines is the brainchild of Tess Bryant and Niccolo Coturri. Together, they produce beautiful fruit pet-nats (short for *petillant naturel*, which roughly translates to naturally sparkling) made from apples, grapes, pears, quince, plums, medlar, and blackberries. The fruit is sourced from organic farms and historic orchards on San Juan Island as well as neighboring Waldron Island and a mainland orchard near Bellingham. The goal is to capture the freshness of fruit and feature the broad array of appley-ness from the different farms and orchards. Everything is hand-picked, processed, and produced without additions - no added sugars, colorants, yeasts, oak, or sulfites at any time ever. Everything is fermented and aged in glass or stainless steel, and nothing will be disgorged. Bottled to be fizzy and fresh, and available from Ursa Minor's wine shop on Lopez Island. To find out more, visit

<https://ursaminorlopez.square.site/product/piquenique-cuvee-annie/864?cs=true&cst=custom>

Two Decades of Lavender

Pelindaba Lavender Farm is entering its 20th season growing organic lavender and handcrafting the broadest range of lavender products (that we know of) in the U.S. This summer will be the purplest, most fragrant, and most immersive for farm visitors in Pelindaba's 20-year history. A uniquely sensory experience awaits visitors to celebrate all things lavender in a safe, family-friendly way throughout the blooming fields. Newly redesigned educational exhibits and scheduled workshops will provide avenues for lavender learning, along with a lavender scavenger hunt for all ages throughout the farm grounds. Outside activities in the fields—lawn games, kids coloring station, gourmet lavender treats and ice cream to enjoy in shaded picnic areas, u-pick in the cutting field—will create lasting memories for the whole family. Stunning photo ops are newly set up around the grounds to capture the perfect Instagram-worthy shot. The farm store and nursery will be open for visitors to explore lavender to the fullest and, probably, find a few farm-made goodies to extend The Complete Lavender Experience® as they travel home. For more details: contact Amelia Baggett amelia@pelindabalavender.com or visit www.pelindabalavender.com/visiting-the-farm-a/278.htm

Rooted on Orcas Island

This summer, island entrepreneurs Cole Sisson and Shea Sasan will open the doors to their new wine bar and cafe in the heart of Eastsound. The concept is modeled after some of their favorite spaces in Europe, where one can enjoy a full range of experiences throughout the day. There will be something for everyone starting with espresso and toasts in the morning, moving to lunch bowls and paninis in the afternoon, and transitioning to a wine bar with a comprehensive cheese and charcuterie program at night. The space will be a cultural hub featuring winemaker dinners, guest chefs, cooking classes, and room for wedding parties, family gatherings, and reunions. Cole and Shea are excited to use their combined experiences to present an expression of their deep roots to this island and devotion to the community. **Roots** is a culmination of their friendship, journey, and return home. Contact: Cole Sisson colesisson@rootsorcasisland.com

Brewvado

Lopez Island Brewing Company and Brewvado Tap Room is the vision of Mike and Lia Noreen. At the moment, it's probably the smallest nano-brewery in Washington with a 1/3 barrel brew system, producing sixty 22-ounce bottles per batch. They envision an island-owned brewing company with a tasting room in Lopez Village that creates jobs for island residents and producing enough beer for all the stores and restaurants on Lopez. There are five federally and state-approved labels: the original Lopezian Style Pale Ale, Watmough Bight IPA, Fried Friar Spiced Belgian Style Quadruple Ale, Red Irish Lord (an Irish Style Red Irish Ale), and Upright Head Imperial Stout. For more information: www.lopezislandbrewingco.rocks/

New Products, Services, & Shops

Bike on the Bay

New cycling company Orcas Bikes offers guided 3–4-hour tours with stops at Orcas Island's local highlights. Enjoy the stunning scenery and try some fantastic island-sourced food and drink, such as the Bike on the Bay starting at Buck Bay Shellfish Farm and hitting highlights of Moran State Park such as Cascade Falls. Or Wine on the Westside starting in downtown Eastsound, swinging by to visit the alpacas at Orcas Moon Farm, and finishing with a glass of wine at Orcas Island Winery. They'll also create a custom tour, depending on client interests. For more information: <https://orcasbikes.com/>

Wine and Whales

Deer Harbor Charters is excited to team up with the local partner Doe Bay Wine Company to offer two exciting adventures on the water this summer. The first, "Wine & Whales," is a whale watching trip with a twist—an onboard happy hour featuring Orcas Project wines by the glass! Their popular "Wine Cruises" will also resume featuring sunset cruises around the island while

sipping wine and taking in the sites. Both offer an opportunity to spend time out on the water. For more information, call 360-376-5989 or visit www.deerharborcharters.com.

Huggable Leather

Orcas Island Leather Goods is already making waves in advance of their unique retail store opening this spring. Hands-on stations to learn leather crafting skills, a custom design-your-own hat bar, and the introduction of Huggle (the softest doggie mascot imaginable) combine for an unforgettable and delightful shopping experience. Accessorize your Huggle with hand stitched dragon wings or customize your favorite DIY kit by hot-stamping a personalized name or monogram! Owners Mindy Sonshine and Mike Connell plan to extend many of these experiences to their website www.orcasislandleather.com over the next month, but for now, you'll want to get yourself into the store for the most immersive experience. Contact: Mindy Sonshine mindy@orcasislandleather.com

Events

Behind Studio Doors

The San Juan Island Artists Studio Tour is excited to be including both returning and new island artists with this year's tour. They want to celebrate with island residents and thank them for their support during the last year with this opportunity to safely visit open studios and outdoor displays. Come and see new works and see the visual arts surrounding us in the island community (Social distancing observed). For full details and a list of artists, visit www.sanjuanislandartists.com/

Magpie

A magpie is a creature that loves collecting bright and shiny objects. Micki Lippe, renowned jeweler and magpie extraordinaire, welcomed 15 jewelers from the Seattle Metals Guild into her studio nest of trash. Transforming a bit of the tread from a car tire, it becomes a dark, black matte surface. A piece of broken glass takes on a mysterious beauty. All these objects collected by Micki, have been transformed by each artist into a newly constructed piece of wearable art. Engaging you to rethink your concepts about what is precious, each piece in this Magpie series creates a visual narrative of its own. The show opens at Waterworks Gallery in Friday Harbor on April 22 and goes through June 3, 2021. Contact: Jennifer Smith jennifer@waterworksgallery.com and visit www.waterworksgallery.com/artists/magpie-exhibition/jewelry

Nature & Stewardship

New App, New Visitor Center

Outdoor enthusiasts can explore more efficiently with a new app from the National Park Service that consolidates information for all 423 NPS sites into one user-friendly hub. Now, rather than

downloading individual apps for each park to access useful resources, people can simply open the National Park Service app and get answers or whichever spot they're curious about, like the San Juan Island National Historical Park and the new visitor center at American Camp. Park hours, visitors' centers, and maps are available on the app. The National Park Service will replace the 40+-year-old visitor center at the American Camp Unit in the same location with a visitor information and orientation facility designed with an exterior plaza, gathering and demonstration space, and picnic areas. The new visitor center was co-developed alongside affiliated tribes and will have the most robust storytelling of Coast Salish peoples in the San Juan Islands. To follow the construction progress, check out www.nps.gov/sajh/blogs/vc-construction.htm

A Centennial Summit

The new Summit Visitor Center at Moran State Park on Orcas Island will be opening this spring, just in time for Moran's Centennial Celebration on June 18th. As the name suggests, the new Visitor Center will be on the summit of Mt. Constitution, the highest point in the San Juan Islands. Much of the new center's wood comes from Moran itself—trees that blew down in a windstorm and were locally milled for use in the park. Inside will be interpretive panels telling the story of the natural history of Mt. Constitution, like the only lodgepole pine forest in the Islands and the infamous piebald deer. Nearby is a stone observation tower built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936. With nearly a 360° view of the surrounding islands, the Cascade Mountains, and sometimes even the Olympics. Moran is the fourth largest state park in Washington at over 5,000 acres. Shipbuilding tycoon Robert Moran, inspired by John Muir, made an initial donation of approximately 3,000 acres to the state in 1921. The park has since grown into an Orcas Island favorite where you can sample nature in all its facets—forest, five freshwater lakes, waterfalls, wildflowers, birds (eagles, ravens, other woodland birds), and more than 38 miles of trails for [hiking](#), mountain biking, and horseback riding. Moran is open year-round for camping and day use, and you can reserve ahead online or check at the park entrance for availability. Reservations necessary from Memorial Day through Labor Day. For more information: <https://parks.state.wa.us/547/Moran>

New Baby, New Hope

The Center for Whale Research is thrilled to confirm that a new calf, L125, has been born into the Southern Resident killer whale community. L125's size and shape are typical of a calf in good physical condition and was estimated to be between four and six weeks old at the time. L125's mother is L86, named Surprise due to her own surprise birth, and also has an older brother, L106, born in 2005. L125 is the first calf born into L pod since January 2019 and joins the two born into J pod in late 2020, J57 and J58. J57, known as Phoenix, is a young male born to J35 Tahlequah who made headlines in 2018 when she carried her deceased neonate for 17 days and over 1,000 miles. J58 Crescent was recently confirmed to be female, providing an additional shot of hope for this critically endangered population. For more details: www.whaleresearch.com/l125

Podcast of the Pods

SeaDoc Society is excited to announce a new limited podcast series, [*Pod of Orcas: Saving Southern Resident Killer Whales*](#), debuting April 1 on all podcast apps. Only 75 Southern Resident Killer Whales remain in the wild, and they're looking directly at extinction if things don't change. They are emotionally intelligent animals with complex family dynamics and a deep spiritual connection to the tribes and First Nations who've been in the Salish Sea since time immemorial. The six-episode series features amazing guests and will explore salmon, noise, contaminants, history, culture, and what we could learn from the conservation of other charismatic species like mountain gorillas. For more information and to download:

www.seadocsociety.org/podoforcas

Kelp for Orcas

Visitors to Orcas Island will notice a new addition as they arrive on the ferry this summer—the Orcas Island Marine Interpretive Area. A metal kelp forest climbs the wall, cradling a crab, and makes for a unique selfie spot as well as protection for the wall. Zack Leck, an artisan blacksmith, created the kelp and crab. Sculptor Bruce Myers has designed pavers with stainless steel raindrop inlays, and six boulder-like benches will be installed later this spring. Two interpretive signs are being installed along with a flexible art and education board to showcase the variety of marine environment projects across the County.

Writing, Art, and Music

A Light on Patos

Since 1893, a light has been shining from Patos Island, the northernmost island of the San Juan archipelago. Built to guide ships through treacherous waters, the lighthouse was also a happy home for many, including Edward Durgan and his family in the early 1900s. Boundary waters smugglers and rumrunners once visited the island to stash their contraband, and it was a front-line guard for the nation during World War II. Operated for 81 years by the U.S. government, the light was automated in 1974 and is now maintained by the Coast Guard. Join authors Edrie and Terri Vinson, members of the Keepers of the Patos Light, as they explore the history of this unique Washington landmark in their new book, "Patos Island Lighthouse," available in bookstores on March 29, 2021.

A Time to Blossom

The San Juan County Arts Council is putting together a spring-themed art contest, A Time to Blossom, that will showcase the San Juan Islands and the magic of spring. The birds, tulips, daffodils, fawns, lambs, calves, the endless bounty of life that is growing around us every day. The artwork will be displayed in participating local business windows to create an art walk down Spring Street in Friday Harbor. Vote for your favorites here: www.atimetoblossom.com/

The Alchemy of Collaboration

When Washington's stay-at-home order went into effect last March, Alchemy Art Center got to work creating a community mosaic that islanders could participate in from home. The project, a 15-foot salmon made up of about 240 individual tiles, was intended to create a feeling of connection and collaboration during an incredibly difficult and isolated time for everyone. The salmon image was chosen for its key role in our Salish Sea ecosystem and a symbol of our interdependence. Now, one year later, that first quarantine salmon is glazed, assembled, and proudly installed on the main art building at Alchemy. This summer, Alchemy is bringing this project to the San Juan Islands Sculpture Park. Every Sunday from June 20 to September 19, visitors to the Park can find Alchemy Art Center Director Maria Michaelson facilitating a tile creation station. Participants will be able to create a unique clay tile to be incorporated as one of the hundreds making up what will ultimately be a freestanding, double-sided sculpture permanently installed at the Park. Contact: Maria Michaelson alchemyartcenter@gmail.com or visit www.alchemyartcenter.com/

Honoring the Next 7 Generations...Online

Last summer, Samish leaders said after successfully holding their tribal business meetings virtually, they decided to try moving their cultural program online as well. The Samish cultural programs, called Chelángen, preserve the Samish people's traditions, culture, and language. In addition to an ancestral lineage language class, the tribe also offers a host of other classes for Samish citizens. A popular Samish history class is taught by the tribal chairman along with beading classes, drum-making classes, traditional medicine, blanket making, cedar harvesting, a "chat and craft" time where people can work on their own projects but together virtually, and many others. Samish citizens are widely dispersed geographically, but many live in the tribe's traditional territories of the western San Juan Islands and nearby. The online classes have brought Samish citizens together, with everyone able to attend using their computer and internet, from anywhere in the world. Find out more: www.samishtribe.nsn.us/departments/chel%C3%A1ngen

Awards and Anniversaries

75 Years of Kenmore

Three high school friends reunited after World War II and founded Kenmore Air in 1946. With one airplane and a single hangar near a swamp at the north end of Lake Washington, Bob Munro, Reg Collins, and Jack Mines created what was to become one of the largest and most respected seaplane operations in the world. To celebrate their 75th anniversary, the company is offering \$75 scenic flight tours from the Kenmore/Lake Washington terminal. Their iconic seaplanes are sanitized and ready to fly! For more information: www.kenmoreair.com

#1 in the Country

Washington state was ranked as the nation's best state by U.S. News and World Report released in a new report. Washington has held the top ranking since 2019. Washington's low-carbon energy system and robust secondary education continue to rank among the nation's best, as does the state's economy, the fastest growing in the nation. The San Juan Islands have one of the highest rates of electric vehicles per capita in the state, and the main energy provider's electricity is 97% greenhouse gas free. <https://www.usnews.com/info/blogs/press-room/articles/2021-03-09/washington-is-the-best-state-in-the-us-says-2021-best-states-rankings>