



Miller Bay Guardian

Friends of Miller Bay Newsletter

- Fall 2024 Edition -

President's Perspective



Did your summer feel as hectic as ours? For us the summer sun and long days meant lots of time outdoors working on our property, catching up on house projects, doing a little local exploring, and visits from family and friends. Things just seemed back-to-back this summer and our calendar felt overloaded.

Sometimes you have to ignore the “to do list”, forget the calendar, stop working, take a deep breath, and just bask in the moment. Then the chaos doesn’t seem so... hectic. When I look up—at the water, as the light changes and the tide recedes, and watch a seal cruising the shallows, or see an osprey hunting, or a crow and its buddies arguing about who knows what—it’s those simple moments in my own yard that remind me of the beauty of my surroundings and how blessed I am.

When family and friends come to visit it means we have to “clean” the house, make up the guest room, stock up on groceries, and do more dishes. But it also means we get to take some time and show them around this amazing place.

We are truly fortunate to live, work and play in this beautiful place we call home. Even more special is sharing it with so many resident critters.

That’s why the work of FOMB to help preserve and protect our local watershed is so important.

This year the FOMB Board has spent more time looking “in” and less time looking “out”, but we knew that was going to be the case. We are well on our way to completing the necessary steps to evolve the organization, and align it with our Change Initiative goals, adopted at the end of 2023. We’ve accomplished a lot: implemented an Annual Business Planning Process; updated all of our governing documents; written and adopted a Land Preservation Policy (see Connie’s article); introduced a Spring E-Newsletter; redesigned, updated, and launched our new and improved website (friendsofmillerbay.org); completed all the necessary paperwork, applied and **received our federal non-profit 501(c)(3) status**; and completed the Permitting paperwork for our Olympia Oyster Restoration Project. There has been a lot of “crossing t’s and dotting i’s” but I feel confident we

have built a foundation that we can “grow” on and one that proudly reflects the legacy of Friends of Miller Bay.

As the light in the sky changes, the fall salmon run progresses and our days get a little shorter, your FOMB Board of Directors will continue to build on this year’s foundation. Over the next couple of months, we’ll be focused on our Business Plan for 2025 and partnering with other local environmental groups. If you’ve got suggestions, please send them our way. Our 2025 plan will get us back outside working with you to steward, preserve, and explore opportunities to extend our reach and protect this amazing place. Please JOIN or RENEW your membership now and help FOMB continue to make a difference in our community. Thank you for your support!

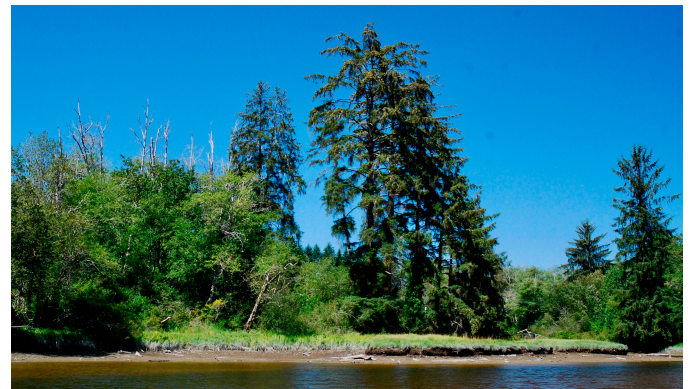
Take care, hope to see you out and about,

Michael

P.S. Join Us November 14th, 6-8pm at our Annual Meeting at the House of Awakening Culture.

FOMB Targets 40 Acres of Upland Woodlands Adjacent to Miller Bay Preserve!

By Joe Forsthoffer



Connie Reckord, former President of Indianola Land Trust and now FOMB’s Preservation & Acquisition Program Director, is helping Friends of Miller Bay lead the effort to protect 40 acres of woodland across Miller Bay Road, from the Miller Bay Preserve. You can get a glimpse of the land at its Northern edge, along Gunderson Road—there’s a faded sign designating the property as timberland that was last logged in 1976. In the half century since, nature has reclaimed much of the land, creating important habitat.

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Our Mission: To improve quality of life by preserving natural habitats in the Miller Bay Watershed

Putting those 40 acres into conservation will "create a much larger contiguous parcel that is wooded, that has streams, that is riparian in character and has some soon-to-be, big coniferous forests," Connie said. "It's going to extend that preservation upslope," she added.

The land is owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and after 50 years being fallow, has limited timber value, making it ideal for acquisition and transfer. Making that happen is a complicated, multi-year process with different potential partners. Friends of Miller Bay will play an instrumental role in facilitating the acquisition and preservation.

"Because it is DNR property there are some other avenues to pursue," Connie explained. "FOMB, Kitsap County and GPC can all collaborate to get this property turned over from the state to a local government entity through the state's Land Trust Transfer Program. This is a program that has worked successfully in the past."

The Land Trust Transfer Program operates on a two-year cycle, with the next cycle beginning in 2025. Next year, Friends of Miller Bay will work toward a partnership with Great Peninsula Conservancy and Kitsap County to propose transferring the land in 2026. Ideally, DNR would transfer the land at no cost. A second option would be for Friends of Miller Bay to purchase the land and turn it over to GPC for conservation.

Even if the land was transferred at no cost, funds through donations and grants would still be needed for the conservation easement and/or development of trails.

The goal is to ensure the property remains undeveloped and in a natural state. "It's an opportunity for Friends of Miller Bay to showcase what we've done and what we hope to do more of," said Connie.

"It seems to me that it is important for people to get on board with preservation of the natural lands that remain— where we can continue to protect the water, wildlife, vegetation, and amazing forests that we have in Kitsap County. Let's do what we can in our own backyard and maybe others will do it in their own neighborhoods," said Connie. We've got to preserve things now for future generations," she added.

Membership Matters!

Did you know that 100% of the funds we raise to acquire Preserve land goes directly to the land purchase and 'Conservation Easement' costs? That means that no money collected to fund Land Preservation projects, supports Friends of Miller Bay. *The only funds that pay our operating expenses* are from membership dues! Our **Membership Drive** is **critical** to continue the work we do. That's why we need **YOU**.

FOMB is evolving...

In 2023 we spent the year evaluating and analyzing our processes and procedures— creating our *Change Initiative* to build the organization for the future. Our Board worked very hard this year to review and hone our governing documents and policies, ensuring they fit our goals and support our project decisions.

We recently received our Federal tax-exempt status. Your contributions are now "tax deductible".

We are poised to THRIVE in 2025!

Our continued success will be dependent on membership! We appreciate your contribution and promise to continue to be thoughtful and thrifty in our spending.

We hope to continue giving you more ways to believe in Friends of Miller Bay— More ways to become informed and involved, and more reasons to endorse our work and mission. We value and appreciate your trust and commitment.

Be Like Pat!

Patricia Weagant is FOMB's first (and currently, *only*) monthly contributor. She is our "Premier" member! Years ago, Pat set up a monthly payment.



"I believe in the work FOMB does and want to be sure I continue to support their efforts. Setting up an on-going donation means I can set it up one time and I won't forget to renew!"
— Pat Weagant

We really appreciate Pat and wanted to give her a shout out—Thanks so much for your on-going support, Pat! We would love other members to **"be like Pat"**. Please consider setting up an on-going monthly contribution to FOMB- you can do this quickly and easily through the FOMB website. Paypal offers several options and it just takes a few clicks! <https://www.friendsofmillerbay.org/donate>

Please Join Us — All Are Welcome!

FOMB Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2024 6-8 pm

Suquamish House of Awakened Culture

"Puget Sound: A Hopeful Future"

By David B. Williams Naturalist/Author

Did you see Ellison?

By Kirsten Sharp



Many of you may have seen or heard about a special guest to the Indianola tide flats recently. The male elephant seal sighted around Indianola on August 17 and 18 is believed to be “Ellison”. He may be the same male spotted last summer in Miller Bay. Ellison is the offspring of a female elephant seal, named Ellie, who returns annually to molt in Mutiny Bay on Whidbey Island. Ellison is believed to be a regular visitor in the past few years. He is considered healthy, though a bit underweight. The “lazy” behavior we saw is normal elephant seal behavior. They “haul up” on beaches to rest and warm themselves. Ellison appears to have put on

What to do if you see a beached Marine Mammal

Recommendations from Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

Often “beached animals” are just hauled out taking a rest. They need space and time to rest and warm themselves. Please note the following when you see a resting animal:

- It is recommended to stay 50-100 yards from a resting animal
- Please do not disturb it
- Please stay calm and quiet around resting animals
- Keep pets and children at a safe distance (this is not only for the resting animal, but especially because bull elephant seals can move quickly when agitated and can cause serious harm).

If you see a marine animal that you believe is stranded or injured, please report it to:

Central Puget Sound Marine Mammal Stranding Network at (866) ORCANET and/or the Washington Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at (253) 208-2427.

a little weight since he was spotted molting around Ki-ana Lodge in June. The hope is that he is now out foraging.

A brief history: Northern elephant seals were believed to be hunted to extinction by 1892. A small surviving population of about 50–100 animals living off the western coast of Mexico, has grown to at least 220,000 seals (as of 2010). These elephant seals range from as far north as Alaska to as far south as Baja, California. According to the Encyclopedia of Puget Sound, “sightings of elephant seals were once considered rare in the Salish Sea, but increasingly, single individuals are known to haul out onto sandy beaches on Smith, Protection, and Whidbey Islands. In 2010, a local breeding population established itself along the lower west side of Whidbey Island in Puget Sound.”



Photos by: Rob Matthews

Fun Elephant Seal Facts:

- They are the largest pinniped and “true” seal species in Washington waters
- They can weigh up to 4,400 pounds and grow to 13 feet long
- They have a life span of 13-19 years and eat squid, school fish, sharks, and rays
- Their only natural predators are Bigg’s (Transient) Orcas and Sharks. (Other “Man-made” threats to Elephant Seals are entanglement and vessel strikes).

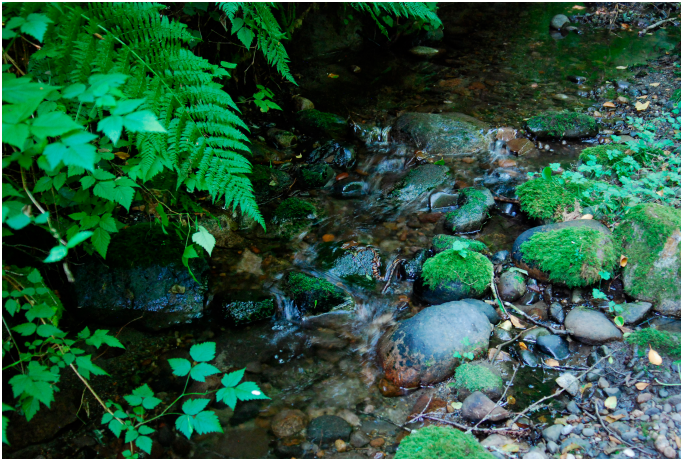
One Indianola family discovered the Elephant Seal, quite by accident. The seal had covered his body with sand—an effective use of camouflage. Two 5-year-old twins, described their encounter: “He growled when we got close... but that’s not what *elephants* do,” said Tate and Cole Icard. “They usually live in the arctic but they came down to eat all the salmon and fish and stuff,” the young witnesses added.



Cole & Tate Icard

Action = Impact | Exploring Our Water

Individual actions we take, and the choices we make have an impact on the environment. Collectively, our daily behaviors can contribute to improving the quality of life for all living things—in the Puget Sound region, our community, Preserve lands, and in our own backyards! That’s why aligning our goals and our behaviors is a core value for Friends of Miller Bay. Consider the environment when making decisions and taking action. Some things to think about...



- **Kitsap County Public Health** encourages homeowners to think about the pollutants they may be using on their property and what may be seeping into the land or draining into the streams, creeks and bays. They have a lot of helpful environmental information on their website <https://kitsappublichealth.org> . They also offer a helpful Homeowners guide on septic systems <https://kitsappublichealth.org/information/files/resources/EH-10.pdf> **Clean Water Kitsap** (Kitsap County Public Works) offers virtual and in-person options for FREE workshops to learn about septic systems, landscaping Do’s & Don’ts and protecting Kitsap’s precious water! Check out kcowa.us/SepticSense.
- Did you know that **Miller Bay has NO WAKE zones** governed by County ordinances? Enjoying the Bay is a wonderful benefit and

privilege of living here. When out boating, going fishing, waterskiing or wakeboarding, **boaters and water recreators need to be aware** that *parts of Miller Bay are protected by a **no wake zone***. No wakes zones and speed restrictions are defined and described in ordinances 10.36.130 and 10.36.270. *“It is unlawful for any person to operate a vessel at a speed sufficient to create a wake or in excess of seven nautical miles per hour, whichever is less, within one hundred fifty feet of any shoreline, pier, breakwater or restricted area”*. In the narrower parts of the Miller Bay, erosion of unarmored/natural shoreline is a concern. It’s also where Salmonoids are making their way out to Puget Sound and it’s the location of one of FOMB’s Oyster Restoration sites. Turbulent water can erode shoreline, and disturb the creatures that inhabit that space. Please be considerate of the Bay and neighbors when enjoying Miller Bay.

Cooperative Environmental Workshop Hopes to Increase Local Land Conservation

By Karen Molinari

How much land have we preserved in Kitsap County? How much open space is left to protect? Which lands are crucial to preserve? The Kitsap Environmental Coalition (KEC) has organized a meeting with local preservation groups to explore these questions and more. The workshop’s goal is to find ways to share knowledge about local lands and work on ways to cooperate on preservation efforts. Two representatives from each organization will attend the initial meeting on October 8th. Our FOMB participants will be Michael Flynn (President) and Connie Record (Preservation & Acquisition Program Director). Representatives from the following organizations are invited to attend:

- Great Peninsula Conservancy
- Skokomish Tribe
- Bainbridge Island Land Trust
- Illahee Forest Preserve
- Newberry Hill Heritage Park
- Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
- Bainbridge Island Metro parks and Recreation District
- Friends of Miller Bay
- Kitsap County Department of Natural Resources

KEC hopes to host a subsequent meeting in April 2025, that will include more participants. We will report back on this ongoing effort in the future.

Introducing Friends... Meet the Sooter/Choi Family



Leo Sooter, along with his wife Anna and son, Eli were introduced to the area visiting Leo's brother who was working for the Kitsap Sun. They lived on the Puget Sound in Seattle for many years and were looking to move to an area with better access to nature and decided to give the Kitsap a try. After looking through-out the area, they decided that Miller Bay was special. "When we came to look at the house, there were salmon jumping and loads of seals and eagles all around the bay-- It was definitely love at first sight," Leo explained. The family first heard about FOMB when they saw folks out cleaning up the shorelines around the bay. "I was impressed by the work they were doing and happy to see people out protecting the bay," Leo said.

Leo is appreciative of the diversity that Miller Bay and the watershed supports and is amazed at how much 'life' depends on a relatively small geographical area. He also recognizes that the work that's been done to preserve the entire ecosystem from the headwaters of Grover and Cowling creeks down to the bay is vital. He says "I spend a lot of time boating and kayaking, and I've seen sea lions, seals, coyotes, bears, racoons, beavers, otters, eagles and even swans all making use of this little jewel of protected water and wetlands". It gives him hope that these animals don't need huge wilderness areas to survive.

Growth and development are an inevitable reality and one The Sooter's fully understand, having lived in areas where preserving land is virtually impossible due

to prices and the amount of development that already exists. That's why he thinks the work FOMB and other land preservation organizations are doing, is so vital. He recognizes that we still have greenspace, with opportunities to preserve more critical wildlife corridors and watersheds throughout the region. "Our family also supports the Great Peninsula Conservancy— I know they often work closely with FOMB, and I appreciate how much thought they put into preserving the most critical areas on the peninsula," Leo said. "More people will move to this beautiful area in the future, and every dollar we spend on conservation now makes a huge difference." He added.

Friends of Miller Bay are grateful for Leo's generosity— He donates use of his spectacular photos for our website and newsletters. An accomplished nature photographer, Leo can be seen out in his boat, lying in wait to capture marine mammals and fowl doing what they do, beautifully! He recounted one of his favorite memories from the Spring of 2023, when he was able to observe a large pod of sea lions—one of his favorite animals— hunting herring in the bay. He enjoyed observing their seemingly boundless energy. "They spent a lot of time leaping out of the water, for what looked like, just the fun of it," Leo said. (See some of his Sea Lion "action" photos at <https://www.friendsofmillerbay.org/>).

Leo sums up his feelings about living here quite beautifully as well, "Miller Bay is a beautiful landscape, but for me it's really the health of the ecosystem that makes it special. I spend a lot of time doing wildlife photography, and no matter how many times I go out on the bay, I'm never disappointed".



Photos by: Leo Sooter

Olympia Oyster Restoration Project Update

Miller Bay's Olympia oysters were harvested to extinction by the 1870s. Friends of Miller Bay (FOMB) and Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) are working to restore these historic reef habitats to provide valuable ecosystem services.

2024 Project Update:

- **Permit Paperwork** - completed and submitted to Kitsap County and Washington State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife for approval in September 2024.
- **Monitoring Stations** - For the 4th consecutive year, Clam Island and Grover's Creek monitoring stations were installed in May, retrieved in September and delivered to Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) for analysis.
 - Microscopic examination of these stations found larval Olympia oyster spat recruited to the shells in 2021, 2022, and 2023. This is an excellent indicator for future success. We are awaiting the results of the 2024 analysis.
- **Oyster Garden Maintenance** – On-going maintenance will continue through Fall/Winter 2024. Our oyster garden includes 20 grow-out bags each containing 1,000 young oysters (approx. 20,000 oysters).

- **Oyster Transfer** – Seed oysters will be transferred from Clam Bay (PSRF Nursery) to Miller Bay in late Fall.

The Miller Bay Olympia Oyster Garden, and both of our monitoring stations indicate quality habitat that should promote future recolonization success.

All signs are positive for establishing our initial Olympia Oyster beds at Clam Island and Grover's Creek main drainage sites this fall. We'll keep you posted on next steps once the permits are approved. Thanks for your support!



THE CROWS OF MILLER BAY

By Robert Nichols

Did you know there is a special Northwestern Crow (*Corvus caurinus*), smaller and more slender than American Crow? This is the crow we see every-day along the shores of Miller Bay. Our property on the waterfront in the narrower, northern part of the Bay hosts a multi-generational family of forty or fifty Northwestern Crow. Together they form a small community that lives here year 'round-- raising their young, searching for food, joining in groups to talk to one another, and helping with grooming. Their gatherings often take on a festive atmosphere, with cawing so loud the crows begin to resemble drunken revelers! They have been known to sometimes attack their song bird neighbors, rob them, and destroy their eggs at breeding time. Crows guard against local predators-- eagles, hawks, and owls-- sending warning of danger.

Crows are not the only communal birds on the Bay. The large Canada geese form several families that swim together, fly in flocks, and, like crows, collectively raise their young. Perhaps the smallest community is formed by the Sanderlings, who fly in large tight formations along the shoreline, ascending and descending as one body, then spreading out on the edge of the surf like a marauding army, in search of small crustaceans.

These intelligent birds have traits that resemble another community on the Bay—*Humans!* In her recent book, *The Comfort of Crows*, Margaret Renkl points out



Photo by: Leo Sooter

that crows can use tools, recognize faces, bear grudges with people, mourn their dead, solve problems, and form intergenerational families.

I enjoy watching crows waddle along the beach in the funny way they swing one foot in front of the other, strutting along as if they were the police of all the other birds. With patience, all of the complex and fascinating behaviors of these highly intelligent birds can be seen just beyond your window, from early morning until the last hour of the day, when they fly away to their secret nests. We are privileged to see so much of their world as we dwell among them here on Miller Bay.

Summer Bird Count Report

by Nancy D'Archangel



Photos by: Leo Sooter

Miller Bay bird counts have resumed on a quarterly basis under the expert guidance of Bill Zwartjes. Bill has been birding in earnest since the mid 1970's and has taken advantage of living in many diverse locations across the U.S. to pursue his birding, also traveling to Europe and Central & South America. His list of birds totaled 260 when in 2015, he decided to do a modified "Big Year" of birding, which brought his total up to 610 species! Friends of Miller Bay is extremely lucky to have his expertise helping us.

For the Miller Bay count on July 11, the most popular spot was the tip of the Nooschkum spit across from the marina with about 5 dozen Canada Geese. Also visible from the marina boat ramp were the occupied Purple Martin houses at Paul Dorn's dock. We were delighted to count a half dozen Martins when we were there. These birds rely on humans for their nesting houses and generously repay the housing favor by providing great bug control, each bird eating hundreds of insects each day. Bill also spotted seven Killdeer, hanging out along the Nooschkum shoreline opposite the marina. Their distinctive cries and their heroic



"broken wing" displays, to distract predators from their nests, have made them one of my favorite birds. I recently learned that their newly hatched chicks are "precocial", meaning that with a little coaching, they can feed themselves as soon as they are hatched. The killdeer chicks are also very agile and can run at amazing speeds!

We counted a few Crows and Belted Kingfishers at all 5 sites around the bay plus 3 Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle, & 5 Great Blue Heron & of course, a smattering of Glaucous-winged Gulls.

We'd love to have you join us on these bird counts no matter your experience or skill level. They will be scheduled every 3 months & usually take 2 or 3 hours in the morning. Bringing a pair of binoculars will be very helpful. We will limit the count to the first 4 people who sign up each quarter. Respond to Nancy D'Archangel at: njdarchangel@gmail.com to be placed on the notification list.



What are our favorite reads, podcasts and screen watches? Read on to see what we have recently enjoyed. *Please check back every newsletter for great recommendations from the FOMB board.*

Fiction:

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt... A touching novel with a local PacNW setting, about a widow and her inspiring friendship with a giant Pacific octopus.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58733693-remarkably-bright-creatures>

Non-Fiction:

The Golden Spruce by John Vaillant... The true story of the history of the Haida people, the sacred golden spruce they revere and the killing of the spruce in a deeply misguided eco-tourism.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/88335.The_Golden_Spruce

Documentary:

The Biggest Little Farm...How a husband and wife took 200 acres of land near LA and turned it into a self-sustaining farm.

<https://www.biggestlittlefarmmovie.com>

Podcast:

GPS by Fareed Zakaria ... This weekly 45-minute podcast provides thoughtful insights and analyses into foreign affairs and global policies.

<https://www.cnn.com/shows/fareed-zakaria-gps>

FOMB's Land Preservation Policy

By Connie Reckord



As the summer comes to a close, it's worth looking back on those outdoor activities that have created so many special moments for you and your family and friends – a stroll in the woods, a quiet time on the water, or a summer adventure harvesting the bounty of our local waters. We all have benefited from the efforts of many to preserve our local lands and protect the waters that surround us. How does that happen, you might ask, in the face of continued growth and development in our region?

Friends of Miller Bay (FOMB) is one of many local organizations working to ensure there is a strategy to protect the natural resources we enjoy, whether it be for recreation, protection of wildlife, improving water quality, or maintaining visual quality of the region. FOMB has recently developed and formally adopted a Land Preservation Policy that guides our organization in making decisions about what projects to pursue, which lands are most critical to protect, how to go about accomplishing that preservation, and which partner organizations, agencies, or individuals could help in that endeavor.

Because there are usually many more opportunities than (volunteer or financial) resources, the FOMB Land Preservation Policy establishes criteria to make certain we are focusing first on projects or lands that, through preservation, will have the best chance of success and the greatest impact for our community. The criteria for assessing projects is stated in the policy: Projects should offer value in one or more of the following categories:

- Ecological Significance – unique environmental or conservation features such as habitat for endangered or threatened species, stream, shoreline, estuary, wetlands or wetland buffers, woodland, etc.
- Connectivity – connects or expands upon existing preserved areas, creating larger more contiguous habitat.

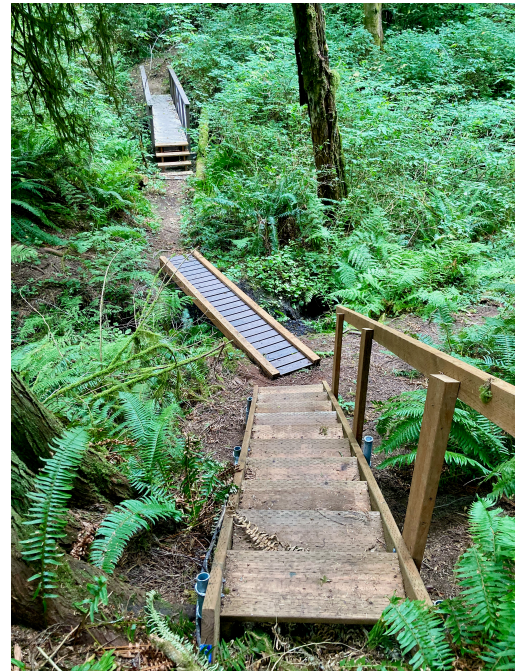
- Threat Level – land/water is under immediate or potential threat of development or degradation which would result in significant ecological loss if not preserved.
- Strong Community Support – conservation interests expressed by the local community are significant enough, and individuals/organizations offer notable fiscal contributions and/or volunteer effort to warrant action.
- Location – falls within the geographic boundary of the greater Miller Bay watershed or has direct impact to the Miller Bay watershed.

Some of the projects FOMB and our community have successfully helped protect include:

- Miller Bay Preserve – the 13-acre preserve that, when combined with GPC's adjacent lands, has protected 56 total acres of forest and 1,575 linear feet of shoreline;
- Cowling Creek Forest Preserve – nearly 2 square miles of forested area and 12 miles of streams, nearly half of which are fish bearing;
- Forest Above the Bay – recently acquired 2 acres of land, with some of the largest and oldest conifers above the bay, and connected directly to Kitsap County's Indianola Woodland Preserve protected through GPC's conservation easement;
- 81-acre Indianola Woodland Preserve.

We all know of many deserving lands that should be protected, for the reasons noted above. FOMB is actively working on preserving, through easement, acquisition, or donation, several more properties that will build on this legacy. There are likely projects or lands you know of that have special value and might be important candidates for protection and preservation. If so, we would love to hear from you -- *especially* if you are interested in supporting our efforts through the process!

Next time you are taking that walk through the woods or along the beach, or boating about the bay, enjoy that feeling-- knowing you've been part of our success in making this a most beautiful and meaningful place to live.



FOMB Receives IRS Approval for Tax Exempt Status!

We are pleased to announce that after a rigorous process of documentation and application, Friends of Miller Bay is now a public charity. We are exempt from federal income tax under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). This means that donors and members can make contributions *directly to Friends of Miller Bay*, and those donations are now **Tax Deductible**.

For decades, Friends of Miller Bay has been a Washington State non-profit organization. Now, with Federal tax-exempt status, we will be able to conduct independent fundraising for projects that meet our criteria, enabling us to more closely follow our Goals and Mission. We are also now eligible to pursue federal grant funding.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC) on future projects that meet both organizations' goals.

Obtaining our Federal Tax Exemption as a public charity, was a huge step and priority goal for our Board this year. We see great potential for our future!



Friends of Miller Bay

**100% Volunteer Driven
100% Member Funded**

- If you've donated before, we invite you to join FOMB and become a **member!**
- We encourage our loyal members to **renew** their annual membership now.

If you're able, please consider giving at a higher level this year!

Help Us Save Trees & Costs!

Be sure to include your **EMAIL ADDRESS** when you join/renew!

- It helps us reduce printing and paper use.
- It reduces our operating costs.
- It enables us to more immediately communicate and inform members.
- It's the smart thing to do.

We and the Environment Thank you!

Call for Volunteers!

FOMB is looking for a few good 'friends' to help us move some select projects forward.

- If you are good at data management or familiar with all things google, we would love to hear from you!
- If you are interested in helping with special events or fundraising, we would welcome your participation!
- If you love to work in the woods and are interested in learning more about Stewardship, we could use some "group leads" to assist with quarterly work parties.

Please get in touch with our Board. Email us at info@friendsofmillerbay.org Subject: Volunteering! We will put you in touch with the right people to get involved!

Thanks for your consideration!



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**Visit Our Website at
friendsofmillerbay.org**

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**100% Volunteer Driven
100% Member Funded
Help us Thrive in 2025!
Please Renew NOW!**

Join Us!

FOMB Annual Meeting & Special Presentation

Puget Sound- A Hopeful Future by David B. Williams – Pacific NW Naturalist & Author
Thursday, November 14, 2024 6 - 8 pm at Suquamish House of Awakened Culture

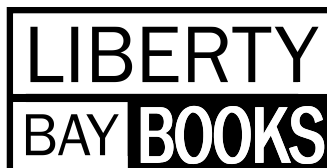
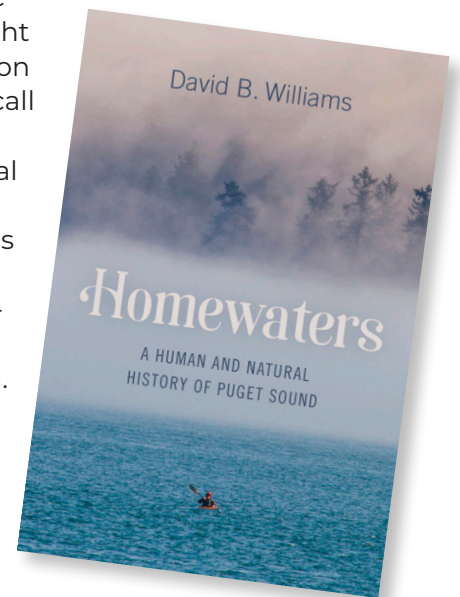
ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES NATURALIST AND AUTHOR DAVID B. WILLIAMS



Mark your calendars for the FOMB Annual Meeting on **Thursday, November 14, 2024**, from 6- 8 pm at the Suquamish House of Awakened Culture.

We are thrilled to feature David B. Williams, Seattle geologist, naturalist and author of several books about the local landscape. David's talk, "Puget Sound: A Hopeful Future" is based on his book, "*Homewaters: A Human and Natural History of Puget Sound*". "*Homewaters*" weaves history and science into a fascinating and hopeful narrative, one that will introduce newcomers to the astonishing life that inhabits the Sound

and offers longtime residents new insight into and appreciation of the waters they call home." Come and learn about our local history, ecosystem and support Friends of Miller Bay! David will be signing copies of his book for sale at the meeting. **20% of book sales at our meeting will be donated to FOMB!**



A special thank you to Liberty Bay Books for their partnership and handling book sales.