

CHUCKANUT NEWS



CBCA Summer Social

Sunday, 6 August 2023 4 to 7 pm
 Chuckanut Firehall parking lot
 The Atlantics Band
 Cicchitti's Pizza Ice Cream Fun

All Chuckanut residents welcome!

Know Your Islands by Terry Lehn

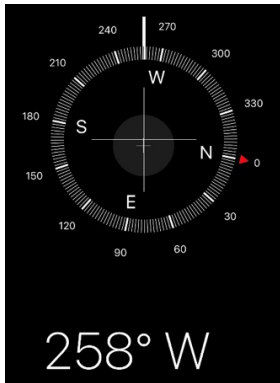
Almost every day I hike to the overlook on the Fragrance Lake Trail. Sixteen islands can be seen from there. Do you think you can identify each? Often, I have met people at the overlook who asked if I knew the name of one or more islands. I knew some of them but decided to learn to name and describe them all.

First, some quick Wikipedia facts about the islands. The San Juan islands are an archipelago of 400-plus islands, 128 of which are named. According to the USGS definition, the San Juan islands are only those within San Juan County (bounded by three major straits and Boundary Pass). Of the 16 mentioned above, only one, Orcas Island, is technically a San Juan Island. Even though Orca whales can often be seen around Orcas Island, the island's name did not result from this fact. Instead, it was named after the viceroy of Mexico whose long name included *Horcasitas* (the "H" is silent in Spanish).

Using Google Earth, I was able to determine the heading(s) from the overlook for each island (left and right for the larger islands). I captured this information to a spreadsheet along with max elevation, distance from the overlook and foreground to background as indicated by indentation. Note, for example, that Lummi is behind Eliza. I uploaded the spreadsheet to OneDrive so that I could pull it up on my phone at the overlook. Once there, I

Heading	Foreground			Max		
	Island	Behind	Behind 2	Behind 3	Elevation	Notes
z-216	Samish				120	
195-198		Hat			300	9.6 miles
z-221	Fidalgo					
203-231				Olympics	7965	81 miles; Mt. Olympus: @223
199		Dot			50	
200-201		Saddlebag			80	
203-205		Huckleberry			80	
210-238		Guemes			560	
227	Jack				40	
228-252			Cypress		1525	10.3 miles
235-244	Vendovi				330	6 miles
246-258	Sinclair				180	
255	Viti Rocks				35	
255-283		Orcas			2407	11 miles
257-273	Eliza				60	4.2 miles
258-302		Lummi			1665	
292-z	Portage				200	6.1 miles

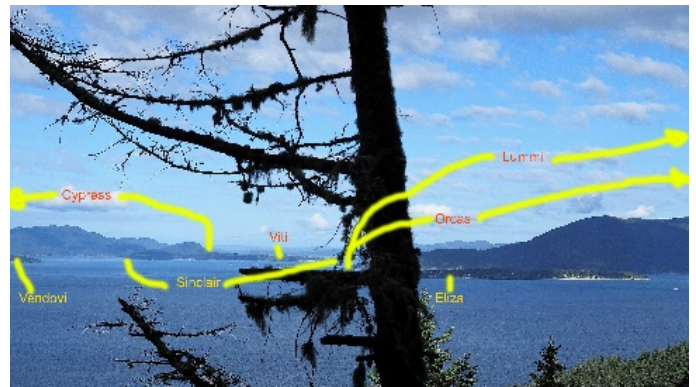
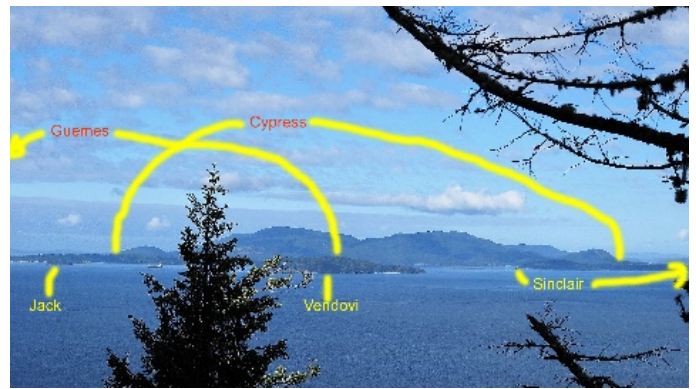
used my phone's compass app to point at the islands and confirm the headings. For example, the screenshot below is the result of pointing at the left side of Lummi.



I took three overlapping pictures to create the following panoramic image. On this day the Olympic mountains could not be seen.



I then annotated the pictures. They are shown as seen from the overlook, left to right (south to north). I suggest that you hike to the overlook and use the spreadsheet to identify the islands! Binoculars will reveal island detail. Then, YOU will impress our visitors with your island knowledge.



Considering a Vegetable Garden?

by Michele Terney

With the high price of food, you may be tempted to start your own garden. Cost and results may vary if you don't have a sunny spot and good soil. Sandy and loamy soil with good drainage is a must. You can try raised beds or large containers that have at least 8-10 inches of soil. Location should also have 6-8 hours of sunlight during the day. Early crops, before frost ends, will include onions, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and brussel sprouts. Seeds can be planted about May 1st. Let's look at some common vegetables you might want to consider growing.

Tomatoes - nothing tastes better than a vine ripe tomato. Buy tomato starts from your local nursery. Typical brands are Better Boy, Beefstake, Early Girl, Oregon. For really solid

tomato you may prefer Roma, Amish Paste, or Brandywine. These varieties are indeterminate which means they produce throughout the growing season, May to October. For salads, you may want smaller tomato varieties such as cherry or yellow pear. Hint: for best results remove the leaves on the bottom third of the tomato plant and plant at that depth. This creates a better root system to support the tomatoes.



Potatoes - a Washington State crop which grows well in Bellingham. Select potato variety. You will likely have potatoes coming up each year in same location. Hint: when planting potatoes, cut the potatoes so that each potato piece has at least one eye. Let the cut potato sit for a day to minimize the possibility of rot. About four weeks after your potato plant blooms you should have a plentiful harvest. Note: sweet potatoes are not known to grow well here.

Cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower - stagger your planting times so you have produce throughout the growing season. Hint: plant with about 18" spacing and cover with a suspended lightweight plant fabric to enclose the plants through mid-June to eliminate root fly maggot problems from killing your plants.

Other root vegetables include radishes, carrots and beets. These are best planted from seed. Be certain to thin 2-3 inches apart so they can grow to size. Plant spinach and a variety of lettuce for nice salads.



Round out your vegetable / flower garden with corn, zucchini, squash, snap peas and beans. Share extra garden produce with your neighbors. The Bellingham Food Bank appreciates fresh garden food donations. Happy planting and eating!

CBCA Directory

by Steve W-P

Web Site: Chuckanutcommunity.org

Recently the SWFA came to our neighborhood in response to a residence alarm. The owners were away and the alarm could not be turned off. Since the fire trucks attracted attention of nearby neighbors, the Supervisor was able to connect with the owners thanks to the CBCA Directory and resolve the issue. The Directory lists all homeowners in our area, whether you are a dues-paying member or not. Please keep your contact number(s) up to date as it could be helpful in an emergency.

Flock Camera Update

by Bob Earl

Our Flock Safety camera system is in its third year of operation, trying to deter passing and egregious speeding on Chuckanut Drive. During the first five months of 2023 residents

reported more than 40 of these speeding / passing events. We were able to identify license plates of 30 of the vehicles and report them to the State Patrol.



Traffic along Chuckanut gets worse every year. The annual contract expires in September. The CBCA Board proposes that we continue the Flock Camera for another year. As we did with last year's renewal of the Flock contract, we will rely on "crowd funding" to continue the camera system for another year. If you are interested in supporting this effort, **please contribute \$100** by sending a check to CBCA. PO Box 4403, Bellingham, WA 98227.

And, whether you contribute or not, if you observe dangerous driving on Chuckanut, please report the incident to me by email, text message, or phone call: bobearl@aol.com or 571-296-0184.

All About Rhubarb

by Linda Earl

What *is* rhubarb? It's a hardy perennial plant that grows on stalks, similar to celery. It is used more like a fruit but is actually a vegetable, a member of the Rheum (buckwheat) genus of plants, and grows well in cool climates. Rhubarb requires huge amounts of water to do well. The stems are edible, although the leaves, which are huge

and somewhat triangular shaped, are poisonous.

In 1947, a New York customs court judge ruled that rhubarb is legally a fruit, and the Department of Agriculture officially classified it as such, even though science still considers it a vegetable (tomato. . . tomahto, vegetable . . . fruit . . .). It has been cultivated in China for thousands of years. The best time to get rhubarb is from late March through June. Look for it in your local grocery store or at the Farmer's Market.

Whether a fruit or a vegetable, rhubarb tastes great in pies, crisps, and smoothies!

Linda's Rhubarb Crisp Recipe

8 servings

375 degrees

9" square greased baking dish

Ingredients:

6 Tblsp. cold butter, cut into small pieces

Rhubarb, 5-6 cups (trimmed, strings removed, cut into 1 1/2" pieces

1/4 C. white sugar

1 Tblsp. lemon juice

1 tsp. lemon zest

3/4 C. brown sugar

1/2 C. flour

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Pinch of salt

1/2 C. rolled oats

1/2 C. chopped pecans, walnuts, or almonds

Heat oven to 375. Grease a 9" square pan or gratin dish with butter. In a large bowl, toss rhubarb with white sugar, lemon juice and zest, and spread in baking dish.

In another bowl, mix cold butter with brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, and salt, using your fingers or a fork to combine until crumbly.

Crumble the mixture over the rhubarb and bake until golden, just turning a bit brown, about 48 minutes. Serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Yum!

Ski to Sea

by Rob Scofidio

Living the good life in Bellingham, WA, includes the yearly spectacle of the 50-year-old Ski to Sea race the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. Residents here either love or hate the race because it significantly swells the Fairhaven population over that weekend with all sorts of odd vehicles with kayaks, canoes and bicycles strapped to their roofs.

Ski to Sea is a 7-leg, 3-8 person, 93-mile relay race that on average takes 6-8 hours to complete. The field is made up of all types of skill sets from the most competitive of souls to those wanting to just be part of the spectacle.

The race begins at the Heather Meadows day lodge at the Mount Baker ski area, with a 4-mile cross-country ski leg that transitions to a 2.5-mile 'downhill' ski leg. 'Downhill' is actually an arduous climb on a snow-covered mountain trail in ski or snowboard boots while clinging to your skis/snowboard before transitioning to a relatively short downhill run back to the lodge. The skier/snowboarder then hands off to a runner for an 8-mile downhill run to the Shuksan Department of Transportation facility where a 41-mile road bike leg winds through the towns of Glacier and Maple Falls and ends in Everson.

There, a two-person canoe team begins an 18.5-mile trek on the Nooksack River, beginning at Riverside Park in Everson and ending at Hovander Homestead Park in Ferndale. There, a 14-mile Cyclocross bike leg winds south over various terrain features to Zuanich Point Park, where the final 5-mile kayak (the 'Sea' portion of Ski to Sea) leg works through Bellingham Bay, ending at Marine Park in Fairhaven. There the kayaker stumbles out of his or her kayak, and rumbles up the beach to ring a bell, signifying the finish. Marine Park is full of revelers enjoying the many festivities offered by locals. Ski to Sea succeeds due to the superb organization and execution by staff and volunteers.

This year I signed up for the final kayak leg on a team dubbed "Overcome by Events." Our team goal was to have fun, enjoy the experience, and finish the race. COVID had shut the race down in 2020 and 2021. The '23 race had nearly 500 teams signed up, a larger group than over the past several years.

Bellingham Bay is relatively shallow and because of the wide-open space is subject to varying conditions, especially when the wind is up. I waited at Zuanich Park, monitoring our team progress and preparing myself for the 5-mile paddle in front of me. The wind was up, out of the west, the bay churning with abundant white caps. The pre-race safety briefing forecast the conditions to calm over the afternoon, but that didn't happen.



I had prepared for the race by paddling in Chuckanut Bay, Lake Padden, and one paddle in Bellingham Bay. The former bodies of water are relatively protected from extreme wind conditions, so my earlier paddles did not adequately prepare me for the conditions I was about to encounter in the Bay that afternoon. I finally heard the call from the kayak leg officials that my Cyclocross teammate was about to enter Zuanich Park!

I received the baton from my teammate, made my way back to the kayak and with my son's assistance carried the kayak to the dock and launched out into the bay. I paddled around the breakwater rock formation into one of the

strongest headwinds I had ever encountered. The kayak course heads west past the Green Day Marker to the Outfall buoy, around the buoy back northeast toward the Cornwall beach and then back toward Marine Park. The wind was directly in my face for most of the course with what appeared to be 1.5-2.5 foot waves and side swells.

I paddled as constantly as I could but appeared to be making little progress. The bow of my kayak bobbed up and down, sometimes splashing water up to my face. I could see the various Police boats zipping around and stopping to help overturned kayakers as I moved through the course. I quickly realized there would be little to no chance of getting back into my boat if I was to overturn.

Fortunately, I was able to make my way through the course and eventually to the finish line in Marine Park. I could see and hear the crowd cheering encouragement. Finally, I was there, where the bell awaited to be rung. I was greeted by my family who told me that because of the hazardous water conditions, race officials had stopped kayakers from going out right after I was away. It was so good to be back on solid ground. I later learned the Police boats assisted 47 kayakers on that windy day.

That's one more Ski to Sea in the books. I'm not certain what the future holds, but for now I'll look back on those races and team camaraderie and be thankful for the good times and experiences. We are so blessed to live in this wonderful place. Be thankful, and enjoy it while you can!

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