

The Current

News for July 2022



From Our Community



September Eat Local Month *A Sustainable, Resilient Community Begins with Food*

Whidbey Island Grown Cooperative (WIGC) is planning the annual Eat Local Month this September. A wide variety of food and farm activities will take place around Whidbey Island throughout the month.

For 5 years, WIGC has held a harvest-time event to showcase and celebrate local food and community. Past events have included farm tours, u-pick events, farmer meet and greets, farm to table dinners, and workshops. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to celebrate the bounty of Whidbey Island! Stay tuned for events happening at Greenbank Farm.



Penn Cove Featured on Seattle's KING-5 TV



The historic Coupeville Wharf is located on beautiful Penn Cove, home to the world-famous mussel farm – the first and oldest mussel farm in North America!

On a drive along Madrona Way on the south side of Penn Cove, you can see the shellfish rafts – there are 42 in all. In addition to mussels, clams and oysters are also harvested.

And be sure to visit the Coupeville Wharf lobby's education area to learn more about Pacific Mussels. Check out this segment to see [How mussels are grown and harvested on Whidbey Island](#)

On the Wharf

Orcas Sightings & Reminder About Boat Rules



The Coupeville Wharf is located on the world-famous Penn Cove where many recent Orca sightings have recently delighted both locals and tourists!

While it's always exciting to spot an Orca, the boat in this photo is too close.

With summer in full swing, and because the Wharf is a working marina, we want to remind boaters of state rules about distance to Orcas:

- Boats to stay 300 yards from Southern Resident orcas or killer whales on either side.
- Boats to stay 400 yards out of Southern Resident orca's path/in front and behind the whales
- Boats to go slow (<7 knots) within 1/2 mile of Southern Resident orcas
- Disengage engines if whales appear within 300 yards.

- Boats to stay 100 yards from all other marine mammals (e.g. humpback whales, gray whales, sea lions and seals).

Below is a handy graphic for boat rules in US and Canadian waters. **Review the rules for boating around Orcas**

photo credit: Axel Kappes



At Greenbank Farm

Noxious Weed Plan at Greenbank Farm

Greenbank Farm has updated and expanded its noxious weed plan for 2022. Noxious weed is the legal term for invasive plants, in other words, non-native plants that displace native desirable plants.

The primary plants targeted at the farm in 2022 are the Class B Poison Hemlock, Tansy Ragwort and Purple Loosestrife and of course the infamous Class C Bull Thistle.

For our plan this year we met with Seth Luginbill the Island County Noxious Weed Coordinator to better understand our requirements under RCW 17-10 and make sure we are identifying, mitigating, and removing noxious weeds in the proper manner. From this meeting a plan was formed which consisted of a survey of Greenbank Farm, mapping of the identified patches, attaching removal goals to each patch and begin removal. We are strenuously tackling our primary weeds this year and set a 90% removal rate for each identified patch except for the Purple Loosestrife, which is a wetlands plant and is being tracked by Seth.



There are several ways to mitigate and manage noxious weeds: prevention, biological controls, methods to promote desirable vegetation, mechanical and chemical. At the Farm, we are using two of these methods; mechanical

(mowing, pulling, cutting, etc.) and biological. One of our biological methods is to allow the Cinnabar Moth caterpillar (*Tyria jacobaeae*) do its work on the Tansy Ragwort. If there are enough caterpillars on the plant, we will allow them to have the plant if we know they can destroy the plant. The photo shows the caterpillars at work.

If you see noxious weeds at the farm, please photograph and report them to the Port office at projectmanager@portofcoupeville.org



Multi-Purpose Greenbank Farm Pond

The Greenbank Farm pond is a lovely picnic spot and/or a special place to enjoy a tranquil moment. It also attracts wildlife and hosts many birds during migration seasons.

The pond was created (see bottom photo) to serve another important function: it's designed to serve as fire suppression for the historic Greenbank Farm barn, which was built before sprinkler systems existed. The pond was recently drained to inspect the pump system, and re-filled. Hopefully, we will never need it for this, but it's good to be prepared for an emergency.

Upcoming Events

Port of Coupeville Board Meetings

Zoom Conference Call. For instructions on participating, visit the Port website here:

<https://portoc.org/commission-meetings/meeting-agendas/>

Wed, July 13, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Port of Coupeville Board Meeting,

To participate, see instructions above.

Fri, July 15, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Pierce Arrow Car Tour

Pre-WWII classic cars on display

Greenbank Farm

Sat, July 16, 5 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Ragnar Relay Stop

"Northwest Passage" running relay route – Blaine, WA to Langley, WA

Greenbank Farm

Greenbank Farm Dog Off-Leash Area

During summer, our dog off-leash area is more popular. We're pleased to offer this outdoor area for your four-legged family members. Please be sure to read the rules on sandwich boards at the entrances.

Wed, July 27, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Port of Coupeville Board Meeting,
To participate, see instructions above.

Sat, July 30, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Community Flea Market
Greenbank Farm

Wed, July 27, 6 p.m.
Port of Coupeville Board Meeting,
To participate, see instructions above.

Stay updated on all of our upcoming events
by checking our [events calendar](#).

Rent Greenbank Farm

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and special events. Call us at 360.222.3558
or click on the link below for details on how
to rent the farm.

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more



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