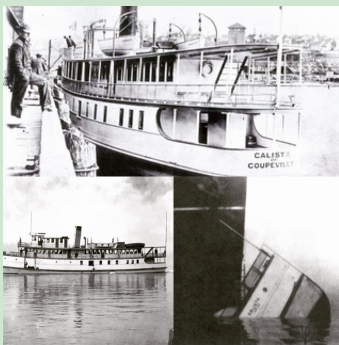


# *The Current*

*News for August 2022*



## **From Our Community**



### **M/V Calista 100th Anniversary 1911-2022**

One hundred years ago, the steamboat Calista sailed for the last time. Calista was constructed in 1911 and was one of the main passenger ferries that comprised the Mosquito Fleet. It linked Whidbey Island via the

Coupeville Wharf to the mainland.

In 1922, it sank in the Puget Sound after colliding with another ship in heavy fog, fortunately no lives were lost. Other passenger ferries including the Whidby (without an "e") and Fairhaven continued service, but when the Deception Pass bridge was built in 1935 transportation to/from the island slowed as people drove their cars.

[Read more history about Calista here](#)



## One of Pacific Northwest's Most Beautiful Bike Rides



The annual Tour de Whidbey bike ride takes place on Saturday, August 20. Riders enjoy breathtaking views from vantage points all around Whidbey Island, and there's something for everyone with many different route lengths to choose from.

Throughout the day, Greenbank Farm serves as a rest stop where bike riders can enjoy treats from local businesses. The event is an important fundraiser for the Whidbey Health Foundation, funds raised help provide health care to all island residents.

[Learn more about Tour de Whidbey here](#)

## On the Wharf

### New Sound Water Stewards Underwater Video



An exciting new video project is underway at the Coupeville Wharf. A youth group is working with Sound Water Stewards to create an underwater film "What's Under Your Feet." It's an educational film to raise awareness of marine life in Penn Cove. Once complete, the public will be able to view it in the Wharf lobby.

This new video continues our ongoing partnership with Sound Water Stewards. The organization helped create the marine life educational displays on exhibit at the Coupeville Wharf. The display includes large marine mammal skeletons, and beautiful interpretive displays that share in-depth information about



everything from Gray Whales to Mussels and how people have lived alongside the wildlife here for thousands of years.

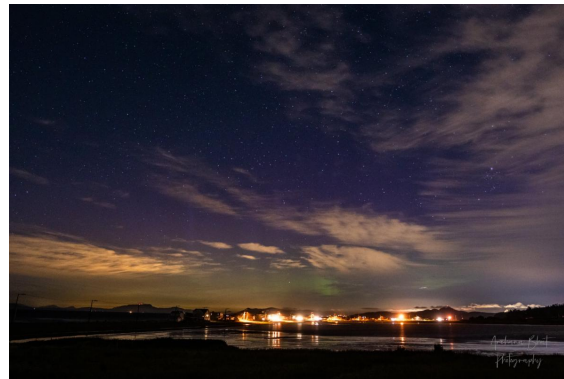
[Learn more about the Wharf marine educational displays here](#)

## **Northern Lights from Coupeville Wharf**

Below is a stunning photo of northern lights from the Coupeville Wharf looking out over Penn Cove. Also called Aurora Borealis, the northern lights are a special treat in dark summer skies. If seeing auroras is on your bucket list, be sure to keep an eye on local weather reports for conditions that make them visible in island skies.

[Follow the National Weather Service & NOAA's Aurora forecast website here](#)

*photo credit: Archana Bhat*



## ***At Greenbank Farm***

### **A Dog Day at Greenbank's Off-Leash Area**

At Greenbank Farm's off-leash dog park, the question comes up regularly: "Why pick up after my pet? What is the difference between local wildlife scat and that from my dog?" The answer is threefold.

#1 Local wildlife takes in nutrients from the *local* environment and then returns them as a nutrient resource, creating a type of closed loop nutrient cycle. The issue is that our dogs are neither local wildlife nor take nutrients from the local environment. Our canine friends eat an extremely nutrient-rich diet not related in any way to the local environment. This high nutrient load scat is not coming from the local environment but is adding to it, often high in nitrogen and phosphorous. This is not the closed-loop system provided by local wildlife.

#2 Partially because of their diet, and also because of who they are, our canine



friends carry high levels of bacteria and parasites that are harmful to the local environment.

#3 The local environment must accommodate scale – there are almost 90 million dogs in the US and on a sunny day it feels that half of them are playing at Greenbank Farm! The sheer number of dogs, the nutrients, bacteria, and parasites in their poop – all together create an imbalance in the natural system. And that ecosystem is connected to the wetlands on the Farm, and ultimately the Puget Sound. A study by the National Institutes of Health on a Florida recreational beach found that one incident of dog feces was equal in dangerous microbial load to over 6000 bird fecal events.

So, what can we do to make our time at the Farm safer for the environment?

- Let your pet do their business, ***bag it, and throw it in one of the many receptacles around the Greenbank Farm dog trails or place the bagged poop in your trunk to dispose of in the landfill.***
- Never scoop your poop in a plastic or “biodegradable” bag and drop it! The environment is then affected by the microbial load from the poop and now must contend with plastic debris.
- At home, be sure to scoop the poop in your yard as it occurs or at least every other day. Don’t let it sit and allow the microbial load to leach into the ground and end up in the water. And of course, send your bagged poop to the landfill.

We look forward to seeing you and your fur friends at the Greenbank Farm!

If you see a problem at the off-leash park, please report it to the Port of Coupeville office at [projectmanager@portofcoupeville.org](mailto:projectmanager@portofcoupeville.org)



### **Farm Flowers Are Blooming!**

Greenbank Farm's Pea Pods are starting to bloom. Pictured here are dahlias from Salty Acres, one of five farmers who cultivate gardens on the Port property.

[Here's a list of the farms and links to their websites to learn more:](#)

## **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, Aug 10, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Port of Coupeville Board Meeting,**

## **Waterfront Wednesdays at Coupeville Wharf**

The popular Busker Series continues On Wednesdays at 4:00 through August – with the Coupeville Wharf as the backdrop. Celebrate "hump" day and support local businesses!

To participate, see instructions above.

**Sat, Aug 20, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Tour de Whidbey**

Break Station for this annual bike ride.  
Greenbank Farm

**Wed, Aug 24, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

**Port of Coupeville Board Meeting,**

To participate, see instructions above.

**Sat, Aug 27, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Community Flea Market**

Greenbank Farm

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

**Rent Greenbank Farm**

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

Find out  
more



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