

The Current

News for May 2026 🗡️

Public Benefit From Public Resources

PENN COVE WATER FESTIVAL

Sat, May 9



Water Festival traditional canoe races started in the 1930s. They're the only tribal canoe races outside of a reservation

Penn Cove Water Festival showcases authentic Native foods, youth activities, and educational exhibits

Enjoy Native American arts & crafts, storytelling, music and dance performances

Coupeville Wharf is a great place to view the canoe races

From 1993-2005, the annual Water Festival logo and posters featured artwork by Coupeville artist Roger Purdue. Many of these posters are on view in the Coupeville Wharf lobby – in addition to historic photos of past festivals.

Water Festival Info



Welcome New Port Executive Director Marisa Michaud



The Port of Coupeville commissioners voted in April to hire Marisa Michaud as the Port's new Executive Director.

Current director Chris Michalopoulos retires on May 15 after nine years of public service.

Chris and Marisa will work together for the first two weeks in May. You can read more about Marisa's background here:

[Whidbey News Times](#)



Meet Marisa + Port Commissioners in person at the Penn Cove Water Festival. Visit the Port's information table at the head of the Wharf pier on Sat, May 9th From Noon – 2:00

Bon Voyage to Chris M

We say farewell this month to long-time Executive Director Chris Michalopoulos.

We thank him for his public service & wish him a happy retirement and success in any future endeavors!



Support Master Gardeners Greenbank Farm

Visit the annual plant sale early for the best selection!

**Looking for Gardening Ideas?
You can find research-based gardening tips + resources on this Master Gardener webpage:**

[Gardening in WA Info](#)

ISLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

Plant Sale

**SATURDAY
MAY 9**
Greenbank Farm
WHIDBEY ISLAND
9 AM - 1 PM

Selections from
our Master Gardeners
PERENNIALS
SHRUBS - NATIVES
VEGGIE STARTS
GARDEN ART



New Owner: Island Gifts & Collectibles *Greenbank Farm*

This month we welcome the new owner of the popular Greenbank Farm store Island Gifts & Collectibles.

You may know her: Kim Sittner managed Kim's Cafe on the Coupeville Wharf from 2000–2017.

The store name will stay the same and you can find the same high quality antiques and gifts.



And we say farewell to gift shop founder Song. She's stepping back to spend more time with her family, but pledges to not be a stranger!

Monthly Garden Workshops – Free! **May – September** *Greenbank Farm*

2026 Master Gardener Education Series

Master Gardener Education Garden at Greenbank Farm

765 Wonn Road - 3rd Sunday each month

Sunday, May 17, 1-2 pm

All About Dahlias

*Presenter Dave Thomas
Island County Master Gardener with over 60 years
of experience and passionate about dahlias.*

This talk will cover all aspects of growing and propagating dahlias. Experienced growers and novice enthusiasts will find answers to their dahlia growing questions.

Sunday, June 21, 1-2 pm

Regenerative Ecosystems

*Presenters Muri Mitschak, Exec. Dir., Pacific Rim
Institute & Jim Peskuric, Master Gardener & Sound
Water Steward*

Discover how regenerative ecology goes beyond simply sustaining our environment—it empowers us to actively improve and renew the world around us. Learn about Pacific Rim's initiatives to teach regenerative techniques.

Sunday, July 19, 1-2 pm

Soil Blocking for your Fall Garden

*Presenter Madeleine Spencer
Pierce County farmer and educator*

Learn how to use soil blocks to start your own seeds for fall vegetable gardens. Discussion will include how to make or source your own soil blocking mix, tools, veggies best suited for fall, and benefits of this method.

Sunday, August 16, 1-2 pm

The Importance of Biodiversity

*Presenter Tobey Nelson
Certified Professional Horticulturist*

In this talk we'll discuss research that points to wildlife benefits of combining ornamentals with natives in our gardens. We'll explore how and if a natives-only approach is truly the best for our garden ecosystems, and what other types of plants might be of benefit to include and why.

Sunday, September 20, 1-2 pm

Clematis: Queen of Climbers

*Presenter Laura Watson
An expert and author on Clematis*

Learn the details of care, simplified pruning, and recommendations for easy clematis to try in your garden. Includes informative and detailed handouts!



**Master Gardener Hotline
360.639.6058**



WSU EXTENSION
Island County

Seminars qualify for Continuing Education for Master Gardeners

Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Loren Imes at least two weeks prior to the event at WSU Extension 406 N. Main St. Coupeville, WA 98239
360-639-6059 or loren.imes@wsu.edu.

Pretty In Pink Prom Party

Greenbank Farm

Vintage Prom Fashion Show & Dance

Friday, May 15

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the cult teen classic film *Pretty in Pink*. To celebrate, two Greenbank Farm businesses invite you to this fun prom party in the Farm Barn.

A Prom for Everyone
(Adults, Teens, & Kids)

**Pretty in Pink
PONY CLUB
Prom Party**

Greenbank Farm (Barn A), Greenbank, WA

Friday May 15th, 2026

| |
|--|
| 6:30 - Doors open |
| 7:00 - Vintage Prom & Upcycle Fashion Show |
| 7:30 - Dancing w/ DJ Moose Moran |
| 10:00 - Awards & Prizes |
| 11:00 - Go home |

Tickets: \$15 in Advance, \$20 at the door

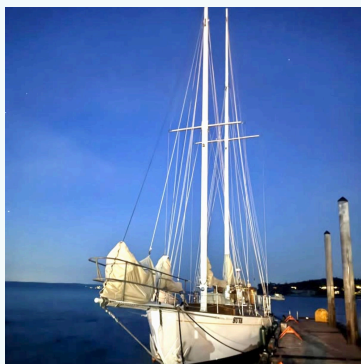
Libations & Snacks Available for Purchase

Brought to you by: Arline & Stella Vintage Emporium and Greenbank Farm Wine Shop

**Prizes for best prom
party outfits!**

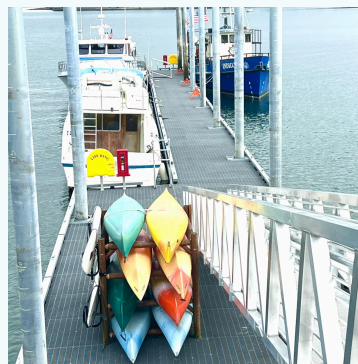
Prom Party Tickets

Experience Penn Cove By Boat



Schooner Suva is back at the Coupeville Wharf

[Suva Info + Tickets](#)



Rent a kayak to paddle Penn Cove

[Wharf Dog Paddle](#)

EAT LOCAL

Whidbey Island Farm + Food Resources



**Whidbey & Camano Islands
Roadside Farm Stands
Farm Stores & Farmers Markets**

Enjoy local food grown and raised right here in Island County!

Brought to you by Goosefoot Community Fund - www.goosefoot.org



**Whidbey Farm
Roadside Stands
[Search The Guide](#)**



2026 Senior's Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

This program benefits both low-income seniors and our local farmers! See if you're eligible for this \$80 debit card.

Applications are Now Open

Learn More and Apply Today!

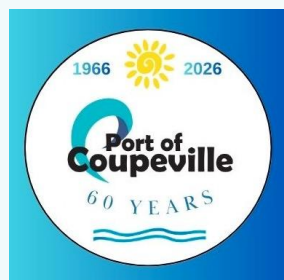
**Seniors Farmers Market
Nutrition Program
[Info + Application](#)**

May is National Historic Preservation Month

Port of Coupeville: 1966 – 2026 *History Highlight*

Port Purchases Coupeville Wharf in 1967 for \$26,000!

Last year, we celebrated the Coupeville Wharf's 120th anniversary, it was built in 1905. There were several owners over the years. The Port of Coupeville was created in 1966, and bought the Wharf and surrounding tidelands in 1967. The price was set at \$7.10 per foot for 4,133 feet of tidelands!



Historic Preservation Wins

After assuming ownership., Port commissioners considered building a large new marina. But Central Whidbey residents were beginning to consider historic preservation of their locale.



Coupeville's Front Street merchants wanted to see transient, not permanent, moorage on the waterfront, and agreed to be taxed for repair and maintenance of the historic Coupeville Wharf.



Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve

In 1973, the Coupeville Wharf was included as a central historic property in a newly-created National Register of Historic Places district. Local residents helped preserve four historic blockhouses, buildings and homes, and most significantly, the prairie itself.

In 1978, President Carter signed the National Parks & Recreation Act to establish Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve – the first district of its kind recognized in the United States.

Source: HistoryLink

Backroads Beastro

Opening Soon!

Excitement is growing for the opening of the new Greenbank Farm Cafe: Backroads Beastro.

Follow us on social media for grand opening news this month.



Paul Revere – and Sybil Luddington – Visit Farm



Democracy Fest Was a Big Success!

A good time was had by all at the non-partisan Democracy Fest held at Greenbank Farm in April.

Activities included a visit by Paul Revere and the lesser-known freedom rider Sybil Luddington – on the 250th anniversary of Revere's ride!



Fast EV Charging Stations Coming to Greenbank Farm

Construction work to install new Electric Vehicle chargers will begin in June. Farm businesses will remain open. Stay tuned for more details in next month's newsletter.



May Event Calendar

Port of Coupeville Board Meetings
Zoom Conference Call. For instructions on participating, visit the Port website here:
<https://portoc.org/commission-meetings/meeting-agendas/>

Sat, May 9
Master Gardener Plant Sale, 9:00–1:00
Greenbank Farm

Sat, May 9
Penn Cove Water Festival
Coupeville Wharf

Tues, May 12, 1:00
Port of Coupeville Commission Meeting
To participate, see instructions above.

Fri, May 15
Pretty In Pink Pony Club Prom, 6:30
Greenbank Farm

Tues, May 26, 1:00
Port of Coupeville Commission Meeting
To participate, see instructions above

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



Greenbank Farm is a unique + historic venue for special events + weddings.

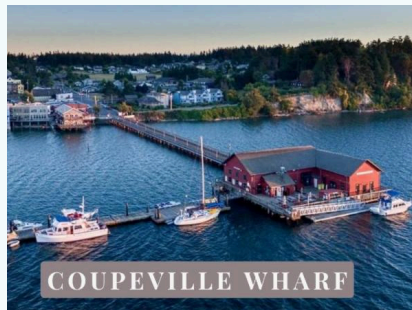
Nonprofit organizations receive 50% discount!

Learn more here:
[**Rent Greenbank Farm**](#)

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COUPEVILLE WHARF



GREENBANK FARM



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Phone: (360) 222-3151



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