Celebrate State Parks Centennial with ShellFest in Belfair

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

Posted on : May 6, 2013 at 8:03 am

BELFAIR, Wash. - The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Washington State Parks Foundation invite the public to attend Centennial 2013 ShellFest at Belfair State Park in Mason County.

The event is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 25, at Belfair State Park, 3151 N.E. State Route 300, Belfair. The day will include exhibits, food, activities and education about restoring and protecting shellfish beds in Puget Sound as part of the Governor’s Shellfish Initiative.

Activities will include low-tide walks guided by local experts, ice tables and hands-on activities for children. Special presentations by the Skokomish Tribe include cedar bark pounding, short rope weaving demonstrations, songs and drumming and storytelling by Delbert Miller of the Skokomish Tribe. Lunch will be provided by Taylor Shellfish, featuring Chef Xinh Dwelley of Xinh’s Clam and Oyster House in Shelton. Lunch is free with a suggested donation of $5 a person or $15 a family to benefit the Washington State Parks Foundation. The Discover Pass is required in the park on event day.

The Washington State Parks Foundation is a non-profit organization formed specifically to support Washington State Parks by funding park improvements and programs. For more information, visit http://wspf.org.

Other event sponsors include the Washington BEACH Program, Washington Department of Health, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Pacific Shellfish Growers Association, Washington Sea Grant, Hands On Children’s Museum, Northwest National Wildlife Federation, Washington State University Kitsap County Extension and the Washington State Parks Volunteer Program. Shellfish have a significant influence on Washington’s cultural and culinary identity and as recreational, commercial and tribal resources. Event sponsors all have a role in protecting and preserving shellfish through Puget Sound cleanup efforts.

Belfair State Park is a 65-acre park on the southern end of Hood Canal. The park is noted for its saltwater tide flats, wetlands, beach grasses and pleasant natural areas for wildlife viewing, beach walking and saltwater swimming.

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The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission manages a diverse system of more than 100 state parks and recreation programs, including long-distance trails, boating safety and winter recreation. Washington State Parks turned 100 years old on March 19, 2013 and invites the public to events all year long. For more information, visit www.parks.wa.gov/events/. Discover Pass provides basic operating support to Washington State Parks. For information, visit www.discoverpass.wa.gov.