

## FIDALGO SHORELINE ACADEMY MAY 14, 2016

### ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

**Eric Beamer:** Eric is the Research Director for the Skagit River System Cooperative, where he has worked studying the ecology of salmon freshwater, estuarine, and nearshore habitats since 1984. Mr. Beamer is a principal investigator in the following areas of research: Landscape processes influencing habitat conditions, identification of juvenile Chinook salmon life history patterns, monitoring effectiveness of estuary restoration projects for Chinook salmon recovery.

**Brenda Cunningham:** Brenda is a Biologist and Artist. She has worked for the National Park Service, as well as for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. She was the Stewardship Director at Skagit Land Trust until her retirement in 2007. She joined the Skagit Land Trust Board in 2009. Brenda is an avid bird watcher and amateur botanist.

**Emily Duncanson:** Emily is an Environmental Scientist with the Department of Ecology and is the project lead for Hartt Crowser and Arianne Fernandez, Baywide Cleanup Lead for Washington Dept. of Ecology.

**Dr. Cindy Ellison:** Cindy received her B.S. (2000) and M.S. (2003) in Biological Sciences from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and received her Ph.D. in Integrative Biology from FAU in 2010. For 10 years she worked with Dr. Herzing and the Wild Dolphin Project studying Atlantic spotted and bottlenose dolphins in the Bahamas. In 2014 Dr. Elliser moved to the Pacific Northwest and founded Pacific Mammal Research to study marine mammals in the Salish Sea, particularly harbor porpoises and harbor seals. She is the author of numerous papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals and has presented at international scientific conferences. Dr. Elliser also teaches biology and related courses as an adjunct professor at Skagit Valley College.

**Lance Ekhart:** Lance has traveled the Pacific Ocean by sailboat with his cameras since 1971 and the Salish Sea has been his main subject for 20 years. Currently living on his boat "Elenoa" in Anacortes, his work has appeared in numerous galleries and magazines. Be on the lookout for his "Eye of the Heron" show which is his current project.

**Jack Hartt:** Jack has been the Park Manager at Deception Pass State Park for twelve years where he manages six square miles and over fifteen miles of Puget Sound shoreline, including ten islands. He grew up on the shores of Puget Sound and the salt water is in his blood forever. He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Forest Management, and has spent the past 38 years of his working career devoted to Washington State Parks.

**Peter Hasse:** Peter is a local "Volunteer" who likes to get outside and do things to help our environment. For several years he has been the coordinator of a large group of "citizen scientists" that regularly search many Skagit County beaches for evidence of Forage Fish spawning. He is also the current chair-person for the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee.

**Chris Jordan:** Chris is an acclaimed photographic artist based in Seattle. His artworks explore contemporary mass culture from a variety of photographic and conceptual perspectives, connecting the viewer viscerally to the enormity and power of humanity's collective unconscious. Jordan's images edge-walk the lines between beauty and horror, abstraction and representation, the near and the far, the visible and the invisible, challenging us to look both inward and outward at the complex landscapes of our collective choices.

**Jason Morgan:** As of July 2015 Jason joined the permanent Northwest Straits Foundation staff as Marine Biologist after working under a full time internship to support the Derelict Fishing Gear and Nearshore Restoration Programs during 2014-15. Prior to joining the Foundation, Jason worked for six years in commercial fisheries management. Jason gained extensive field experience in the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program, and was a key component to the successful start of the IFQ Catch Monitor Program. In addition to a busy professional life, he is an active volunteer devoting time to community outreach and environmental stewardship programs.

**Lauren Platman:** Lauren comes to Friends of the San Juans after receiving her B.A. in Environmental Studies-Sociology from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. During her time at Whitman Lauren interned for the Wallowa Land Trust in Enterprise, OR and the Washington Water Trust in Seattle to learn the ins and outs of conservation. She also spent 4 months in Nepal studying sustainable development and researching restoration projects on the Bagmati River. Lauren is excited to work with FRIENDS on the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area Project over this next year and explore, research, and protect the uniquely beautiful Salish Sea.