

Turn Point Light Station

TPLPS 2022 Newsletter

Turn Point was open in 2022 and we had lots of visitors. The whales even visited more often than in recent years. All in all it was a win-win situation for us and our visitors.

COVID kept us closed in 2020. 2021 was open with masks required. We chose to also require masks in 2022 which only resulted in a few visitors refusing to mask up. One docent tested positive and we had to close for several days. We suspect he was exposed prior to arriving on Stuart Island.

For 2023 we hope to be back to normal with masks optional. We have filled our docent slots through 2024. Please send an email to info@tplps.org if you would like to be a docent in the coming years. We also keep a list of prior docents that can be called at the last minute when the need arises. We had to do this several times in 2022.

One docent in 2022 spent many of her early years on Stuart Island. Her father owned about 40% of the Island at one time. She and her husband jumped at the chance to be docents and thoroughly enjoyed their stay except for him needing medical attention in Friday Harbor due to a bad cut. He returned with no further incidents.

Personnel

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) selected a new manager for the San Juan Islands National Monument. She is Brie Chartier (pronounced Chart-e-a) and comes to the Islands from California. Here is a picture of her visiting Turn Point:



Director-Historian Jim Bergquist and Brie Chartier at Keepers' Quarters

Resource Management Plan (RMP)

The BLM has been working on a management plan for their properties in the San Juan Islands. This will guide us in what we can do at Turn Point. For example, it will possibly allow us to house our docents in the Keepers' Quarters and maybe a campsite for kayakers. (Note: the RMP was approved in early 2023 and is now being implemented).

Restoration

Not much has happened in the historic buildings at Turn Point. The garage is not considered historic as it was built in 1954. The garage door has been a hazard for many years and deteriorating plywood allowed mice to enter. TPLPS proposed to replace it with a modern door and new plywood that resembles the original. The project was approved and the work completed. Here are a before picture and an after picture:



Before



After

Yacht Club Work Parties

For many years the Bellingham Corinthian Yacht Club has come to Turn Point on the 4th Saturday in June. This is just before the station opens to tourists with docents present. They provide a valuable service to TPLPS as they get the station looking pretty spiffy. We thank them for their service and dedication to Turn Point. Here is a picture of the 2022 crew:



2022 Bellingham CYC Work Party

2022 Docents



Week 1 – Pat and Dan Hutto

Week 2 – JoAnn Jordan & Lynn Heesen **

Week 3 – Alida Smit & Stephen White

Week 4 – Geoff & Patti Stuebs

Week 5 – Paul Verhoeven & Marylou Emerson

Week 6 – Ann Testerman & Betty Kuehn **

Week 7 – David Aynardi & Carol Tobin

Week 8 – Lily Paull & Rick Hancock **

Week 9 – Judi McCallum & Kristi Larson

** Replacements for last minute cancelations.

Looking Forward

There are several issues that are slowing down our progress at Turn Point.

BLM – Personnel

TPLPS would like to see the Recreation Planner position filled soon with someone who is knowledgeable of the uniqueness of the San Juan Islands and lighthouses.

BLM – Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Now that the RMP is approved, we need to work closely with BLM to move forward with getting the Keepers' Quarters ready for our docents. This will require drilling a well, constructing a septic system, and rewiring the building. There will also be safety issues to address like emergency exits and fire alarms.

TPLPS – Leadership

The leaders of TPLPS are aging and we need some youth to step in and carry the ball forward. It has worked fairly well with Jim and Linda Bergquist on Stuart Island close to Turn Point and Mike and Margaret Jonas on Orcas Island near the post office and bank. It will be hard to replace them. We are always looking for new blood to join our leadership team, especially ones from the San Juan Islands.

TPLPS Board

Margaret Jonas – Founder/President	Mike Jonas – Founder/Director
James Bergquist – Director/Historian	Linda Bergquist – Director
Warren Hendrickson – Director	Kurt Bartelheimer - Director

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