

Dancing with the Media

The planning of Cama Beach State Park has taken biblical time. However, an announcement is momentarily forthcoming on its' opening this year-whoops, I mean before the end of next year. Hallelujah!

The media will besiege us with questions about the park and CWB's role in it. Here is a cheat sheet on what to say.

First of all, most questions will be irrelevant. What we want the public to know is not necessarily what the interviewer asks. Our job is to pass on the important, unique and exciting features of Cama Beach Park in spite of what the interviewer asks. Yes, I know your mother told you about respect and humility to others. But we are now in the era of the sound bite. No one has the time or patience for tired clichés or dreary statistics. Your response to questions will be about the unique, exciting and fun opportunities at Cama Beach such as the last and largest Native American Midden in Puget Sound and its historic role, the last of Puget Sounds' 1930s waterfront resorts, and CWB, a hands-on history maritime museum where people can learn traditional maritime skills and try out traditional boats. History at Cama will be as juicy as the best apple on the trees of natural and cultural resources.

Here are some of the extraordinary features of Cama Beach

- CWB's programs and boats-activities for all ages and abilities.
- The most pristine shoreland on Puget Sound a whole nautical mile (6000 feet) long!
- A 1934 waterfront resort with 1934 cabins to rent.
- A plethora of docents from State Parks, Beach Watchers, Friends of Camano Island Parks and CWB to give guided walks, talks, and sails.
- Nature's wonders- Grey whales feeding in the spring, orcas in the fall, and migrating water fowl in spring and fall. A special treat is an annual snow goose festival in Stanwood/Camano Island at the end of February. There are colonies of Great Blue Herons, there are Bald Eagles, River Otters and deer. The Park's Cranberry Lake wetland and its rich diversity of plants, amphibians and birds. The wetland, forest and tidal area are sanctuaries of indigenous native animals and plants.
- Activities and programs including Mother's Day Sailing, Wooden Boat Fishing Regatta, Wooden Canoe Heritage Meet, Stanwood/Camano Maritime Heritage Week, Evening talks, regattas, expeditions, story telling for pre-schoolers, sailing instruction for youth and adults, workshops in boatbuilding, casting, lofting, oar making, half models, sign carving, varnishing, navigation, caulking, tool sharpening, marine photography and painting, native canoe carving.
- A partnership of State and CWB. An opportunity to see how each partner enhances and expands the experiences of visiting this extraordinary park.

-Dick Wagner