



Natural History Society Newsletter

June 2025



Spectacular Anderson Lake by Dave Rugh

Anderson Lake State Park is a 496-acre day-use park with a 70-acre lake surrounded by a forest of cedar, Doug-fir, maple, willow, and alder. Meadows display an array of wildflowers. Trails around the lake provide nature viewing. Note that dogs must be kept on a leash since the water is dangerously contaminated from cyanobacteria due to runoff from surrounding farms. There are many types of birds on the lake, and swallows swoop overhead grabbing insects in flight. Sometimes you can watch an Osprey diving into the water to grab its lunch. Overhead there may be various hawks and eagles, while in the bushes and forests, you may listen for dozens of other bird species often singing in the spring.

This lake has a long, interesting geological history, having been formed by tectonic plate movements that forced volcanic eruptions depositing hard rocks now seen as a ridge on the eastern edge of the Park, including the dramatic Tamanowas Rock. During the ice ages, tall masses of ice gouged this area, scraping against the bedrock, making a basin which has been filled with water that we call Anderson Lake. Some evidence of glacial deposits are in moraines and erratics, including Peregrine Rock, the largest erratic on the Quimper Peninsula.

Land was purchased for Anderson Lake State Park in 1947, and the park was dedicated on July 21, 1969, thanks to The Nature Conservancy. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the Jefferson Land Trust have helped protect much of the surrounding area.

Outing: Anderson Lake State Park

Join the Natural History Society on **Tuesday, June 17th** for an outing to Anderson Lake led by Oma Landstra and Michele Olsen. We'll be there from 10am to 1pm, including a walk on the Anderson Lake Loop trail (3.2 miles, moderate rated). Oma notes that there we be many wildflowers and peaceful views of the lake as we walk together, and maybe the local Northern Pacific Treefrogs will put on a display. We may see baby Western Toads. Bring your lunch and something to drink. We will picnic together beside the lake. Restrooms and picnic tables are available. A Discover Pass is required for your car. Please RSVP to Marcia for details and signups: marciaschwendiman@gmail.com

Book Club Selection

The Natural History Book Club will meet at the Land Trust's Illahee Preserve on **Monday, June 23, from 3:00 to 4:30** to discuss *Wild Forest Home* by Betsey Howell. Find more information about the Book Club at: olympicnature.org/book-club/ Directions and information about the Illahee Preserve: <https://saveland.org/protected-properties/illahee-preserve/>

Editors: Wendy Feltham & Dave Rugh

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