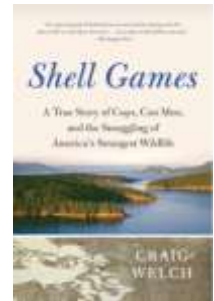


April 4, 2011

**“Shell Games” author Craig Welch discusses:
Wildlife smuggling in Puget Sound**

Craig Welch, author of "Shell Games: A True Story of Cops, Con Men, and the Smuggling of America's Strangest Wildlife," will discuss his book on wildlife smuggling in the Puget Sound. Meet Welch at the [Olympia Timberland Library](#) on Thursday, April 14 at 8 p.m. The library will be open only for this after-hours event. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.



Complete with hit men, mysterious arsons, midnight boat chases, would-be mobsters, undercover investigations, wiretaps and double-crossing informants, *Shell Games*, a nonfiction book, reads like a detective novel. A blend of natural history and crime caper, it's a real-life drama about the theft of some of the world's most unusual creatures, including the geoduck. Often the butt of jokes for its name and shape, the geoduck is traded for millions of dollars on the black market.

Welch is the chief environmental reporter at *The Seattle Times*. A journalist for two decades, he's been twice-named national Society of Environmental Journalists' Outstanding Beat Reporter of the Year, most recently in 2010. Welch's website reveals some of his activities out in the field that could make for additional exciting reading: "He has hunted seals with tribal fishermen in Alaska, hitched helicopter rides with scientists in the melting Arctic, prowled the Oregon woods for endangered owls, and tracked the development of Wyoming's oil fields." The website is www.craig-welch.com.

The Olympia Timberland Library is located at 313 8th Avenue SE. For more information, call the library at (360) 352-0595 or go to www.TRL.org.