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News Release

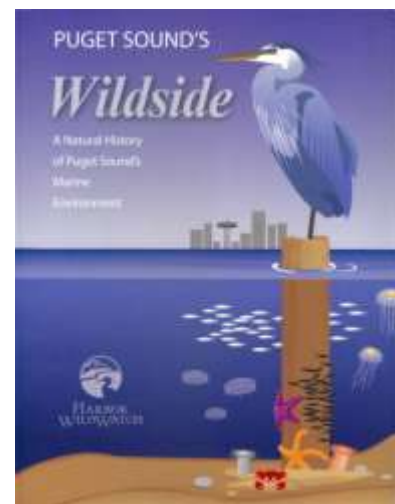
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July 20, 2010

“Puget Sound's Wildside” is topic of public science panel discussion

A panel of three scientists will discuss the natural history of Puget Sound, the marine animals that inhabit the Sound and an overview of Harbor WildWatch, a non-profit environmental education organization based in Gig Harbor that provides learning opportunities to people in the Puget Sound area. The presentation will be held after hours at the [Olympia Timberland Library](#) on Thursday, August 5 from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.

A new edition of the book “[Puget Sound's Wildside: A Natural History of Puget Sound's Marine Environment](#),” published by Harbor WildWatch in 2009, will be available for purchase. The book is the only comprehensive natural history reference guide for the Puget Sound ecosystem. This edition includes colorful graphs and illustrations to capture children’s interest. It is interactive as well as informative and presents scientific information in laypersons’ terms.



Panelists:

- **Michael Behrens** is a marine ecologist and professor at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. His research focuses on the ecology of herbivorous fishes, disease ecology, and the scope and threats of wildlife importation.
- **Megan Healy** is Adjunct Professor of Environmental Science at Centralia College and a beach naturalist with Harbor WildWatch in Gig Harbor.
- **John Valentine** is a scientist turned middle school teacher who has used the beach at Kopachuck State Park as his classroom laboratory for 16 years. He is also a beach naturalist for Harbor Wildwatch.

Lindsey Johnson will moderate the discussion. Johnson received her Master’s in Marine Affairs & Policy from the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science in Florida. She assists Harbor WildWatch in their marketing endeavors and volunteers for their beach programs.

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

