



Weekender

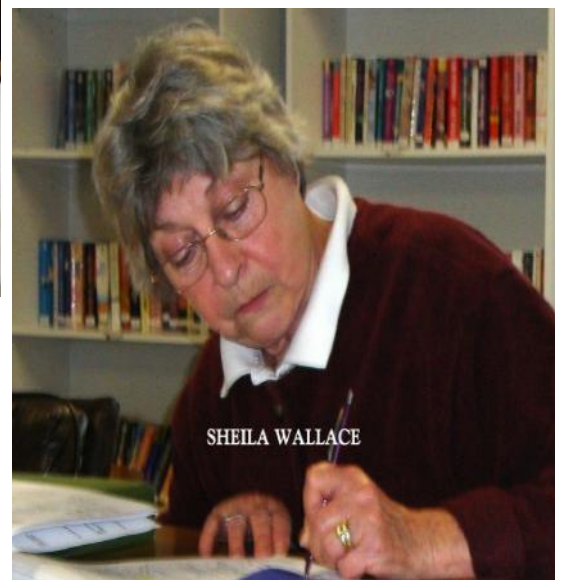
February 4, 2010

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SURFSIDE BOARD APPOINTS TWO NEW CO-CHAIRS FOR THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Sheila Wallace and Valerie Harrison were appointed as co-chairs on the Community Relations Committee. They were approved by a unanimous vote by the Surfside Board. Each has served as members of this committee and have been active in Surfside activities. Congratulations Sheila and Valerie and thank you for your service.



OFFICE HOURS



BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS
9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
SATURDAY 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Bunco Group

Surfside Bunco Group

Meets the second Tuesday of Every

Month at 6:30

- Every month beginners are welcome
- This will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Surfside Board/Community Room at 6:30 pm
- One table snack will be provided. Bring you own drinks.

- This is a perfect chance for you to join a group and not have to host in your home.
- To get in on the FUN, call Valerie at 665-0804.
- This group is both men and women
- Cost is five dollars a month
- Come have fun!
- **Everyone is welcome. You do not**

have to be a member of Surfside to play!



Neighborhood Watch Meeting

On Sat. Jan. 30th, captains from the Surfside Neighborhood Watch groups met at the Surfside Community Room .

Larry Clark was presented with a certificate thanking him for his participation in the watch programs. Larry introduced Paul Jacobson, the new Surfside deputy. Larry and Paul answered questions from the captains as well as members of the audience.

Ed Archer spoke to the committee on the plan "Map your neighborhood" (MYN) This plan outlines actions to be taken in your neighborhood following an emergency.



SUNDAY COMPACTOR HOURS



**SUNDAY COMPACTOR
HOURS
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2010

Tentative Board Agenda

February 20, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

Surfside Homeowners Association

Note: The Board Room will open at 8:00 am to allow time for Board members to review and discuss agenda items and materials among themselves as needed prior to the start of the meeting.

Call to Order - Regular Board Meeting – Flood

Safety in the Workplace – Flood

Floor Comments (20 Minutes)

Adopt Agenda – Flood*

Approval of Minutes of the January 16, 2010 Regular Board Meeting– Flood*

Old Business

Operations Manual Final – Board Approval/
Adoption*

Storage Building Placement Approval*

Resolution – Surfside Pension Plan Renewal*

New Business

No New Business to discuss

Communications

Incoming

Outgoing

Meetings & Contacts

Staff & Committee Reports

Comments (10 minutes)

Recess to Closed Session on Personnel, Legal, & Contract Issues or Employee Matters (If necessary)

Reconvene to Open Session for Action Items (If necessary)

Floor Topics for the Good of the Order

Adjourn*

*** Requires Board Action**

RIVER OTTERS



Figure 1. River otters are powerful swimmers with snake like agility; their small eyes are adapted for seeing food items in dark or murky water

River otters (*Lutra canadensis*, Fig. 1) have long, streamlined bodies, short legs, webbed toes, and long, tapered tails—all adaptations for their mostly aquatic lives. Their short thick fur is a rich brown above, and lighter, with a silvery sheen, below. Adult male river otters average 4 feet in length, including the tail, and weigh 20 to 28 pounds. Female adults are somewhat smaller than males.

Although seldom seen, river otters are relatively common throughout Washington in ponds, lakes, rivers, sloughs, estuaries, bays, and in open waters along the coast. In colder locations, otters frequent areas that remain ice-free in winter—rapids, the outflows of lakes, and waterfalls. River otters avoid polluted waterways, but will seek out a concentrated food source upstream in urban areas.

River otters are sometimes mistaken for their much larger seagoing cousin, the sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*, Fig. 2). However, male sea otters measure 6 feet in length and weigh 80 pounds. Sea otters are acclimated to salt water, and come to shore only for occasional rest periods and to give birth. In comparison, river otters can be found in fresh, brackish, or salt water, and can travel overland for considerable distances.

Facts about Washington River Otters

Food and Feeding Habits River otters are opportunists, eating a wide variety of food items, but mostly fish. River otters

usually feed on 4- to 6-inch long, slowly moving fish species, such as carp, mud minnows, stickle backs, and suckers. However, otters actively seek out spawning salmon and will travel far to take advantage of a salmon run. River otters can smell concentrations of fish in upstream ponds that drain into small, slow moving creeks, and will follow the smell to its origin, even in urban areas. River otters also eat freshwater mussels, crabs, crayfish, amphibians, large aquatic beetles, birds (primarily injured or molting ducks and geese), bird eggs, fish eggs, and small mammals (muskrats, mice, young beavers). In late winter, water levels usually drop below ice levels in frozen rivers and lakes, leaving a layer of air that allows river otters to travel and hunt under the ice. River otters digest and metabolize food so quickly that food passes through their intestines within an hour.

Den Sites River otters use dens for giving birth and for shelter from weather extremes. Birthing dens are lined with small sticks, shredded vegetation, and other available material. Den sites include hollow logs, log jams, piles of driftwood or boulders, and abandoned lodges and bank dens made by nutria or beaver. Dens are well hidden; those located at the water's edge will have an entry far enough below the surface to prevent it from being seen and/or frozen shut. River otters also den under boat-houses, duck blinds, and other human structures up to ½ mile away from water.

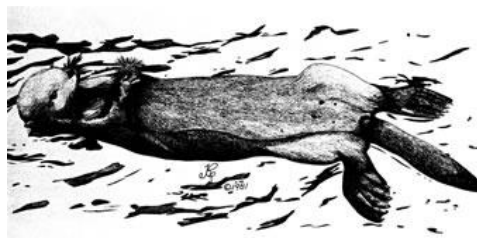


Figure 2. The river otter is sometimes mistaken for its much larger seagoing cousin, the sea otter (shown here).

Reproduction and Family Structure

River otters have what is called delayed implantation; the fertilized egg does not attach to the uterine wall for a period of time after breeding. Thus, gestation ranges

from 285 to 375 days. Two to four pups are born March through May. Young otters begin playing at four weeks of age and learn to swim at about seven weeks of age. When eight to ten weeks of age, the pups begin exploring beyond their den and are introduced to solid food. In late fall, the pups leave to establish their own territories. During this time, wandering youngsters are seen far from water, traveling on land between lakes, ponds, and from one stream drainage to another. The basic social group for river otters is a female and her offspring. (Before and after breeding, male otters usually lead solitary lives.)

Mortality and Longevity Essentially safe from predators while in water, river otters are more vulnerable when they travel on land. Predators take mostly young river otters and include coyotes, bobcats, domestic dogs, cougars, and bears. Humans trap river otters to control fish predation in private ponds and commercial fish hatcheries and to prevent damage to private property. The most significant impacts on river otter populations include reduced water quality from chemical pollution and soil erosion, and stream-bank habitat alteration by developments.

Viewing River Otters

River otters are active day and night; around humans they tend to be more nocturnal. Otters spend their time feeding and at what appears to be group play. They also dry their fur, groom themselves, and mark their territory by vigorously scratching, rubbing, and rolling on the ground. River otters are active year round, and, except for females with young in a den, are constantly on the move. They tend to follow a regular circuit that is covered in one to four weeks. Males can travel 150 miles within a particular watershed and its tributaries in a year. A family may range 10 to 25 miles in a season.

To observe river otters, sit quietly on a high place (a bridge, overhanging bank or tree, or pier) above a known feeding area,

RIVER OTTERS CONTINUED

trail, or slide. Find an angle from which you can avoid surface glare. A pair of polarized sunglasses and binoculars is useful. River otters are wary and their hearing and sense of smell are well developed. However, they are fairly near-sighted and they may not notice you if you stay still.

Never instigate a close encounter with river otters. They have been known to attack humans, and females with young are unpredictable.

Trails and Tracks

When traveling on land river otters walk, run, or bound. Bounding is their fastest gait. When bounding, the front and hind feet are brought toward each other causing the back to arch and the tail to be lifted off the ground. Otters make trails along the edges of lakes, streams, and other waterways. Trails often lead from one cove to another across a small peninsula, or alongside shallow rapids. Trails are 6 to 7 inches wide and may lead to slides or dens. Look for tracks in soft mud, damp sand, or fresh snow (Fig. 3).

Slides

Slides are a common sign of river otter presence and there are often several in a river otter's home range. Slides are about 1 foot wide and located at water's edge—frequently on islands in lakes, or in openings under bushes or brambles along creeks and streams. Slides are made in grass, dirt, sand, or snow. There is often a trail from the water's edge to the slide.

Droppings

River otters thoroughly chew their food, so their droppings contain only fine bits of fish scales, bones, and shells. The texture is oily, the smell fishy. Droppings are left on prominent spots at the water's edge, along trails, and near dens. Fresh river otter droppings are shapeless, slimy, and green; they darken with age.

Calls

River otter sounds include chirps (similar to a marmot), growls, whines, and, when alarmed, an explosive *hah!*

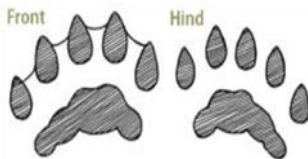


Figure 3. River otter tracks show five pointed toes around a small heel pad. Tracks are 3 to 3½ inches wide and 3 to 4 inches long. (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.)

River otters are often blamed for preying on wild game fish, particularly trout. Nevertheless, studies indicate that the bulk of the river otter's diet consists of non-game fish species.

However, river otters—particularly families containing young pups in spring—occasionally cause severe problems in fish hatcheries and private ponds. Otters also den under houses, decks, and other structures near water, and the smell of their droppings and discarded food remains can be unpleasant.

To prevent conflicts or remedy existing problems:

Eliminate access to feeding sites and other areas. Because river otters have heavy bodies and aren't jumpers, a 4-foot high fence constructed with 3-inch mesh wire can keep them out of an enclosed area, such as where fish or aquaculture activities are concentrated (Fig. 4). Because river otters are strong, fences should be sturdy and extend 6 inches below the surface to prevent otters from pushing under the fence. Alternatively, include a wire apron on the animal side of the fence to prevent otters from entering from underneath (Fig. 5).

A double-wire electric fence, with wires set 6 and 10 inches above ground will also deter river otters. Such a fence can stand alone, or supplement an existing perimeter fence (Fig. 6). A single wire

can be used around docks and houseboats.

River otters are resourceful and will thoroughly investigate fence lines to find a way into a food source. They are known to use abandoned animal burrows as routes under fences. So, inspect fences regularly to make sure river otters have not dug or pushed their way under or worked their way over them.

Provide fish with hiding places. Give fish safe places to hide by constructing sturdy hiding places on the bottom of ponds using cinder blocks, ceramic drain tile, wire baskets made from leftover galvanized fencing, or upside-down plastic crates held in place with heavy rocks. In larger ponds, attach a group of cut conifer trees to a heavy anchor on the bottom of the pond.

Eliminate access to convenient denning sites. Close potential entries under porches, houses, sheds, and other structures with ¼-inch mesh welded-wire (hardware cloth), boards, or other sturdy material (Fig. 7). Aluminum flashing, or aluminum or stainless-steel hardware cloth is recommended in saltwater areas since galvanized materials quickly corrode.

Eliminate noxious odors. Commercial odor-eliminators can be used to remove the smell of otter droppings and other debris under structures. Such products are available through hospital supply houses, drugstores, pet stores, and from the Internet using the keywords "Pest Control Supplies." If the smell is really bad, the beams and other areas under the structure may have to be cleaned with a bleach solution (1½ cups of household bleach in 1 gallon of water). Be very careful of fumes.

GAME NIGHT

Game night is canceled until further notice.

100 DAYS OF COLOR PROGRESS



January 7, 2010 Peeking thru



January 26, 2010 Color Showing



February 4, 2010 one more spot of yellow

FREE FIREWOOD !

There is still **FREE FIREWOOD AVAILABLE**

Located to the south and west of the 315th Street bridge on H Street.


Come by cut it up and haul it away! Hurry Hurry it is going fast



FUND RAISER FOR LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA

"Hello! My name is Gary Williams and a member of Surfside. I will be participating in the Big Climb - a stairclimb up 69 flights of stairs - on March 21st. While I'll be gasping for air, the real challenge is to help fight blood cancers. All proceeds benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Please support me by going to <http://www.bigclimb.org/> and clicking donate. Type in my name, "Gary Williams" and then donate to my cause. It's that easy! Thanks for supporting me in the fight against blood cancers!"

February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Architectural Committee 9:00 am Community Relations Committee Meeting 1:00 pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Architectural Committee 9:00 am Bunco 6:30 pm	10 RV Committee Meeting 9:00 am	11 Lands and Buildings Committee Meeting 1:00 pm	12	13
14 	15	16 Architectural Committee 9:00 am	17	18	19	20 Board Meeting 9:00 am
21	22	23 Architectural Committee 9:00 am	24	25	26	27
28						