



**CLUES are at :** [www.Atlasquest.com/boxes/](http://www.Atlasquest.com/boxes/)  
 Under name type: **2013 Skagit Watershed**  
**UPDATES at:** Facebook: Skagit Watershed Letterbox  
[www.SkagitCleanWater.org](http://www.SkagitCleanWater.org)  
**Trail ends October 6**  
**End of the Trail Celebration**  
 Padilla Bay (Breazeale) Interpretive Center  
**Saturday, October 12**

Special thanks to the **Washington Foundation for the Environment**

# 2013 Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail

**Letterboxing is fun, outdoor recreation for families and friends.** There are educational boxes up and down the Skagit Watershed —stop and learn something about where you go. A Conservation Partner hides a box, shares clues to find the box and its surprises. There are 19 boxes hidden — some are new, some are old, some have new material, some will surprise you. There will be event stamps to seek at free events in July through October. **Start** by creating or purchasing a small journal, a map or use a piece of paper to use as a log journal, and your own ink-stamp, or stickers if you would like, to stamp and log into the Box's own log journal. The box has a stamp and ink pad (or stickers) for you to stamp into your log. Leave a note, make a note. Put the stamp and ink pad back in the plastic bag, and with the book back into the box and the box back in its hiding place. Find them all for a prize at the End of the Trail Celebration. **The adventure continues until October 6, 2013.** The **End of The Trail Celebration is on Saturday, October 12 at Padilla Bay Breazeale Center.** Clues can be found at: [Atlasquest.com](http://Atlasquest.com), go to **Letterboxes**, enter in Name: **2013 Skagit Watershed**. For information: [Info@skagitcleanwater.org](mailto:Info@skagitcleanwater.org) or Facebook: [Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail](https://www.facebook.com/SkagitWatershedLetterboxTrail) (or call 360 428 1054).

**1** Directions: for the **Friday Creek Habitat Stewards** box. Pomona Grange Park, 5625 Old Highway 99 N., Burlington, WA 98233. Heading either north or south on I-5, take the Bow Hill Exit #236. Head east on the Bow Hill Road and follow to stop sign at intersection with Old Hwy. 99 N. Turn left (head north) on the Old Hwy. 99. Pomona Grange Park will be on your right take the first entrance into the parking lot.. After parking, find and face the kiosk with the "Living Roof." Take a turn to the far right heading down the farthest trail. Wander amid the Classic Rain Forest notice the tall cedars, fern and vine maples. Go passed the Big Leaf Maple bedecked with Licorice Ferns. Continue on the trail stopping at the sign describing the Western Red Cedar. Continue on your quest until you see a small nurse stump hosting snowberries and ferns on your right. A tall Birch is its nearest neighbor. Peer between the nurse stump and the birch and you will spy the box you seek. Continue on the trail that will lead you to the glories of Friday Creek--Samish River's largest tributary.  
 Late in summer you just might see a Chinook Salmon making it's way home.

**2 Skagit Conservation District - WHAT DO RAIN GARDENS AND RAIN BARRELS HAVE IN COMMON? Directions:** Heading north on I-5, take the College Way Exit in Mount Vernon (#227). Head EAST on College Way for approximately 1 mile. Turn LEFT (head north) on Continental. Drive & follow 1 block to the Skagit County Administration Building (1800 Continental), which will be on your right. Turn right into parking lot. **Clues:** From parking lot, face the building and walk to the "Dave Brookings Rain Garden" kiosk, which will be to your right and overlooking the beautiful rain garden. Note that this garden has also been certified as a "wildlife habitat" by the National Wildlife Federation – do you see the sign? Now, review the kiosk and enjoy the overlook of this beautiful rain garden. Did you know this rain garden helps protect Kulshan Creek and the Skagit River? Walk to sidewalk and stroll south (please stay on sidewalk for this venture so as not to disturb the beautiful plants). Note the **Rain Garden Scavenger Hunt** signage on your left – follow 12 signs to complete the scavenger hunt and to learn how rain gardens benefit our community. Now, look straight ahead and find 3 blue rain barrels perched at the south end of the building. The 3 blue rain barrels shelter what you are seeking. To find out what rain gardens and rain barrels have in common (and the "secret word") peek in "Top Secret" envelope tucked inside the letterbox.

**3 Skagit Land Trust** Our letterbox will be near the interpretive sign at **Green Road Marsh Conservation Area**. To get to the marsh, take Cook Road (if coming from the west) or I-5/99-N (if coming from the south). From the Cook Rd exit off I-5, at the intersection of 99 and Cook Rd, go left on 99. Take your first (sharp) right onto Kelleher Rd, and Green Rd will be a little ways on the right. Park along Green Rd near the sign.

**4 US Forest Service/National Park Service**

1. Think of the largest river in Skagit County...
2. Follow the river to the town with two names...
3. Look for a shield and arrowhead embedded in stone, on the Northern Side of the highway...
4. Do you need a map or hiking information????
5. Turn around, face North, take a couple steps into the covered area.
6. On the left, look under the lid and what you are looking for will be inside.

**5 Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group**  
 Marblemount Hatchery is located at 8319 Fish Hatchery Lane off of Hwy 20. From I-5, travel on Hwy 20 East 46 miles to Marblemount. Turn right on Cascade River Road, then turn right on Rockport Cascade Road, and then right on Fish Hatchery road. Continue on Fish Hatchery Road, and park in the far (west) end of the lot. **Cross the footbridge towards the Visitor Center. Outside, a symbol of our country guards your target.** Be sure to take the trail down Clark Creek for a great view of the confluence of Clark Creek, Jordan Creek, and the **Cascade River (don't forget to look for fish!)**

**6 North Cascades National Park Service** Your journey begins in the National Park when you cross the river near rising peaks. South across the narrow bridge at Newhalem visitors seek; Your questions are answered; a bulletin board directs you to the next clue! Read all about camping and hiking and discover what is true. \*\* Clue is on the bulletin board. Letterbox is along the **To Know at Tree trail** near Loop A at **Newhalem Creek Campground**. Talk with a ranger about our age-appropriate Junior Ranger Program.

**Collect the stamp images and secret words.** There are stamps to be found at special events like: Anacortes Arts Festival, the Skagit River Salmon Festival, Fidalgo Bay Day and the End of the Trail Celebration. Receive a special stamp for taking pictures of your family picking up and properly disposing of trash found on the trail. Know the Watersheds, enjoy and preserve the trail!  
**Trail ends October 6. End of the Trail Celebration is Saturday October 12 at Padilla Bay, 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

**7 Skagit Public Utility District** — From the Skagit PUD parking lot, look for the blue rain barrel. Consider the water inside the barrel; it could contain molecules that dinosaurs once drank. Head north and go around to the east side of the building to the front lawn. See the fountains? Follow them south—1,2,3. Once past the third, continue towards the trees. Search and you will find, something blue beneath the pine. Now, head back to the fountains, take your shoes off and put your toes in the water! You deserve it. Look to the east for the Cultus Mountains, which is where this water came from."

**8** I-5, take Kincaid Street Exit west into downtown Mount Vernon. After the railroad tracks, turn right on 3rd Street, and follow it under the overpass. Turn Left into the **Skagit Food Co-op's** parking lot. For the treasure you seek — go up the stairs. That is where we have all our wares. Look for the baskets made with love & care, by women in cooperatives where the wages are fair.

**9** Another **Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group** box can be found at Edgewater Park is located at 600 Behrens Millet Road Mount Vernon, WA 98274. From I-5, take the Mount Vernon Kincaid Street exit and go west. Third Street will take you through downtown Mount Vernon and over the bridge into West Mount Vernon. Take the first left into Edgewater Park, and park in the first gravel lot on the left. Look for what's celebrated at the Skagit River Salmon Festival on September 7, 2013; Leaper holds a hidden treasure.

**10** In the garden you must go, **where all of Mother Nature's plants do grow!** Take the path to the right, past the gazebo and towards the shack! Don't be scared and don't look back! Keep on going towards the right! Where it seems that nothing grows is a special thing happening. Find the box in a place where Mother Nature is trying to rejuvenate! At the WSU Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center Discovery Garden **Skagit County Master Composter/Recycler Program.**

**11** For the **La Conner Chamber of Commerce** box go due west from Mount Vernon 12 miles, or go due east from Anacortes 15 miles and take La Conner-Whitney Rd. and go around the roundabout until you are headed due east. Pull into the driveway where you see lots of salmon-safe and certified organic produce and flowers for sale. If you arrive between 10am and 6pm you will be able to find the letterbox. (It was their tasty organic strawberries we savored at the Kickoff).

**12 Fir Island Road** to where the snow geese spend their winter and we find a cornucopia of goods in summer, its close there you want to take a left or right depending on your direction and go nearly to the end of the road. Find the RVs and Boats and you will be close to a box. Best to go between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM the box might be inside to protect it from the mischievous you will have a chance to say Hi to Mary if she is there. **Sponsored SCEA and Blake's.**

**13 Back on the road and over the bridge** where the road turns to Best—a little grocery store offers a rest, a cool drink and a dog waste station. This a stop is on the way to a Pleasant Ridge to see a view of the greater watershed. Will you find it here or will you find it there, at the farm stand or the grocery store. The stand is help-yourself and pay in the old box, the grocery store is open 7:00 AM-7:00 PM. Be sure to see the wonderful view from the stand. From a dog to a bear it is there that a look right and left will hint to a plant—do you know what it is? There isn't much that grows here with leaves so big for shielding a box **Sponsored SCEA and the Rexville Grocery.**

**14 Wylie Slough** (Skagit Wildlife Area- Skagit Unit) – **Sponsored by Skagit Audubon Society.** Take Interstate 5 to Exit 221, just south of Mount Vernon in Skagit County. Go west from the freeway and take the first right onto Fir Island Road, following the sign for Conway/La Conner. In 1.8 miles, turn left onto Wylie Road and continue for 1 mile to a T-intersection and a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife sign. Turn left onto the unpaved entrance road. Drive a short distance to an intersection and bear left. Continue until you reach the parking lot. Park and walk over to the gravel path on top of the levee. The path is separated from the parking area by a log fence. Turn left on the gravel path and walk (south) to its far end near the restrooms. When you reach the last fence post, look to the right and notice the unmaintained path leading through the grass to the right. Stand facing that grassy path with your back against the last fence post. Notice the group of red alder trees next to the path forming a tight cluster of 5 or 6 trunks ahead of you. These are the first trees along the grassy path. Walk to those trees (about 55 steps from the post). Gently move the Salmonberry bushes in front of the largest tree aside and look beside or behind the tree to find the letterbox on the ground. Just beyond where the letterbox is hidden, the path descends slightly to cross a small stream. **If you come to this crossing, you've gone too far.** Please note that you need to have and display a Discover Pass (\$10/day or \$30/year) or a Washington State fishing or hunting license to park at this area. The Discover Pass may be purchased on-line, over the phone, or at many stores. Go to [www.parks.wa.gov/discoverpass/](http://www.parks.wa.gov/discoverpass/). The fees help pay for the **maintenance of state lands.**

**15 Anacortes Community Gardens Box**  
**Sponsored by Transition Fidalgo & Friends of Skagit Beaches.** Take State Rt #20 West to Anacortes and then head north on Commercial Ave. Turn right on 28<sup>th</sup> street (Jack in the Box on adjacent corner), arrive at 28<sup>th</sup> St & Q Ave. The Anacortes Community Gardens is located directly behind Storks Restaurant and Bowling Alley. **Grow your own:** What do we do when the power runs low? We stock up on water, and let candles glow. But what do we do when the oil runs out? Put up solar panels and ride bikes all about! Best part of all, is what shall we eat – Growing with friends, right under our feet.

**16** Each Saturday from 9 - 2 and each Wednesday from 4 - 7 You can join in the fun and shop for foods from heaven! You follow the sunshine in the sky over in Anacortes ...and make your way to the Old Town Depot plaza where the **Anacortes Farmers Market** is held. In the plaza there are booths selling wonderful things, some are veggies, some are treats, and also some are blings. The Market Manager's booth is where you will find what you seek. Just ask the smiling folks there to let you take a peek. We hope you enjoy the letterbox but that you also stay to play. You'll hear live music and likely find this visit the highlight of your day.

**17 ? Washington Park**  
**WSU Beach Watchers** From I-5, take State Highway 20 to Anacortes, and then follow the signs that lead you through town- 4 miles to the San Juan Ferry. RT #20 veers off to the right and down to the Ferry Terminal, move to the left lane and continue straight ahead on Sunset Avenue to the Washington Park entrance. Once in the park, take the "loop Road", that will take you on a scenic ride around the western Headland of Fidalgo Island. The road is open from 6AM to dusk for walkers, but does not open for cars till 10 AM. Drive/or walk the "Loop Road"- 1 and 5/8 miles through forest up to the "twisted Juniper tree" overlook above Burrows Channel and Burrows Island view. There is a 6-8 car parking place with port-a-potties at top of hill. PARK and walk back on the road about 100ft to a road marker on the right side of the road with " 1 /2" written in ink on it. The marker is on the ground in front of a clump of **red-trunked madrone trees.** Turn left and cross the road diagonally another 16 paces. Look into the woods for a hollow stump - 10 foot off the road. The Letterbox is in the stump. Be discreet finding a box and **please replace the bark "camo".** **The "twisted tree" overlook** is a marine observation site for a Harbor Porpoise Research Project. **Please return to top and look for Harbor Porpoise in the waters below. ?**

**18**

Down in a meadow  
at Padilla Bay

There is a letterbox  
right before the upland trail

Once you step off  
the parking lot  
make sure you look  
to your right

There are some small  
native shrubs  
with wood chips in sight

But don't look there,  
make sure to peek right  
behind in the tall grass,  
it's only a bit hard to find

**Padilla Bay National  
Estuarine Research Reserve**  
10441 Bayview-Edison Road -  
just north of Bayview.

**19** Over a river or two and through the woods and by the cliffs you go. Find

**Taylor Shellfish Farm.** Don't miss the lighthouse and the store or you have not completed your trip to Bow. The letterbox is neither here nor there. So take a stroll and enjoy the view: the ocean, the islands, the eagles, and maybe sailors in the sea and in the skies. **And make sure you end where you properly put dog doo.**