

Marrowstone Point Field Trip by Linda Schroeder

Winter finally relented and allowed us nice weather for our first field trip of 2011. On May 18th we went to Marrowstone Point on Marrowstone Island. The weather was ideal and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Our small group included Bert Bartleson, Greg Jensen, Linda Schroeder, George Holm and his dog Zoe, and Nancy Elder and her dog Skip. The canines got along well and had as much fun romping around the beach together as we did.



Linda Schroeder photo

George Holm, Greg Jensen, Bert Bartleson and Nancy Elder

This is the location where, three years ago, we found two species that were new to science. One was a *Tricolia* species that has yet to be named. This one we have since found in other locations along the Washington coast side of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and would seem to be not at all uncommon when one finds the preferred habitat. The second was the tiny hermit crab, *Pagurus holmi* Ng & McLaughlin, 2009. It can only be positively identified under magnification and had eluded us at this site since it was first discovered and described. We were rewarded that day by finding one more specimen that Greg Jensen identified and photographed. Greg had also located this little hermit crab at around the same time last year at Manchester, Washington. So far it has only been found in the month of May.

We also spotted a few more species we had not yet sighted at this location. We identified two nudibranchs - *Rostanga pulchra* MacFarland, 1905 and *Dendronotus frondosus* (Ascanius, 1774). Only one of the *R. pulchra* was seen but we saw several of the *D. frondosus*. Two more species of chitons were also observed, one each of *Mopalia swanii* (Carpenter, 1864) and *Mopalia vespertina* (Gould, 1852).

It was a very enjoyable day and a successful field trip.



George Holm photo

Linda Schroeder and Nancy Elder examine a large boulder while Zoe and Skip check out the surroundings.



Gregory Jensen photo

A beautiful Checkered Periwinkle, *Littorina scutulata* Gould, 1849, about 5 mm, is the home of the newly described hermit crab, *Pagurus holmi* Ng & McLaughlin, 2009. The hermit crab was discovered during a club field trip to Marrowstone Island in 2008, and it was named for PNWSC member George Holm. Gregory Jensen found this specimen in May 2010 at Manchester, Washington. An additional specimen was found and identified during this year's field trip to Marrowstone Island.