



Western Washington University
Western CEDAR

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2022 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
(Online)

Apr 27th, 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Six Years of Adult Education about the "Wonders of the Salish Sea"

Deborah Simpson
Nature Vancouver

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Six Years of Adult Education about the “Wonders of the Salish Sea”

Deborah Simpson, B.Sc., MAEEC

Mission

Connect people to the Salish Sea eco-system (SSE) in deep & meaningful ways through **community education**.

Goals

- Promote understanding of SSE
- **Instill a sense of awe and wonder**
- Inspire an ethic of care
- **Build relationships**
- Bridge experts and public
- **Link to community**

Thanks to Nature Vancouver, Transition Salt Spring, & Vancouver Parks and Recreation.

History

2016 – 2019 Vancouver BC. # of people: 25 – 60

2021 – 2022 Virtual. # of people: 120 – 200

Components

- ❖ Entry level education
- ❖ Passionate **presenters**
- ❖ **Ally** organizations
- ❖ Widespread **promotion**
- ❖ **Accessibility** features
- ❖ Frequent **communication**
- ❖ Team of **planners**
- ❖ **Curated** series
- ❖ **Alumni** group
- ❖ Non-aligned
- ❖ **Fun!**

Participant Data

1. **Age. Range:** 22 – 80. **Average** 59 (2019)
2. **Knowledge of SSE. Range:** Beginner to expert. **Average:** “Somewhat knowledgeable.”
3. **Connection to SS.** Love of nature, curiosity, recreation, concern for environment.
4. **Location** (2022): Southern Gulf Islands, Metro Vancouver, Van. Island, Puget Sound, other WA

WSS is gratefully offered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the **Coast Salish peoples**.

Outcomes

- Interest “sparked”
- **Connections made**
- Advocacy adopted
- **Community expanded**

Future Plans

- Hybrid virtual and in-person
- **Increase accessibility**
- Target distinct groups
- **Monthly alumni sessions**
- Education credits
- **Volunteer training**

Feedback

“Greatly increased my desire to preserve SSE.”

“**Presenters’ passion is contagious!**”

“Got to know other people”

“**Wish it was longer.**”

“Will determine how I vote.”