

BARN BEACH RESERVE

BRIDGING ENVIRONMENT, ARTS, & CULTURAL HISTORY

Jeff Parsons, Director

Jeff Parsons has been the Director of Barn Beach Reserve since May 2005. Jeff is a lifelong resident of the state of Washington. He spent most of his childhood on the eastern side of the Cascades, living in Tonasket, Spokane and Yakima before moving to Edmonds mid-way through 8th grade. He attended Washington State University in Pullman and is a graduate of The Evergreen State College in Olympia. Before moving to Leavenworth in July of 2003, Jeff served for 7 years as the Executive Director of Audubon Washington - the Washington State office of the National Audubon Society. Previously, his career was spent in the Washington state legislative process, including 11 years on the staff of the House of Representatives, followed by 10 years as a political consultant and legislative lobbyist for a variety of clients, including Audubon, People for Puget Sound, and the Coalition for Gifted Education. Jeff serves on the boards of directors of North Central Washington Audubon Society, Icicle Arts and the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. Jeff and his wife Chris enjoy birding, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, skiing, music and art.

Jody Marquardt, Education Coordinator

Jody Marquardt joined Barn Beach Reserve staff in October 2005. She is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University (B.A. in biology) and Utah State University (M.S. in health, physical education, and recreation). Jody taught cell biology and golf at Wenatchee Valley College and spent 17 years teaching biology and coaching softball, golf, and basketball at Emporia High School in Kansas. She also has high school and college teaching and coaching experience in Minnesota and Utah. In 2001, she was named Kansas Softball Coach of the Year and Emporia USD Master Teacher; in 2002, she was NABT Outstanding Biology Teacher for Kansas. Jody is a lifelong environmental activist and outdoor enthusiast. She played 9 years of ASA women's major fast pitch softball in Utah and was twice named All American at shortstop. In 1976, she played softball for the San Diego Sandpipers in the country's first women's professional softball league. While a public school teacher in Kansas, Jody was an active NEA member and advocate, attending 11 National Representative Assemblies and serving as local president and negotiator. Currently, she is president of and sings alto in Columbia Chorale in Wenatchee and directs the adult choir at Faith Lutheran Church in East Wenatchee. Jody's husband is a Lutheran minister, and they have four children and one grandson. Jody enjoys hiking, biking, golf, gardening, reading, wood refinishing, and updating her mother's property in East Wenatchee.

Gail Roberts, Naturalist, Office Manager, Spring Bird Fest Coordinator

Gail Roberts joined Barn Beach Reserve in March 2006. A Washington state native, she started her working career as a graphic artist, and enjoyed that line of work for 18 years. Then she returned to college, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Management from Washington State University, and worked for the US Forest Service in Leavenworth, WA, as a wildlife biological technician where she delineated habitat, performed surveys for Threatened and Endangered species, analyzed data, and wrote NEPA documents (and enjoyed hiking every day!). At Barn Beach Reserve, Gail has continued to contribute her knowledge of wildlife and ecology for BBR by starting an herbarium, garnering BBR's first citizen science project, collecting and preparing bird study skins, and contributing to environmental education. Gail is an avid gardener, and is currently working through the process to become a certified WSU Master Gardener. Additionally, she is a hiker and birder, and enjoys training her Siberian Huskies. She is an active member and dog trainer in the Wenatchee Kennel Club, competes in dog sports such as obedience, agility, and mushing, and coordinates the Siberian husky rescue effort for Central and Western Washington (she has fostered and rehomed more than 200 dogs).