

rehabilitation by San Juan Island’s own Wolf Hollow Rehabilitation Center. The bird was originally found on Orcas Island, and actually rides the ferry to San Juan Island and then takes the boat back home.

Flight of the Fisherbird, Nora Martin

For children grades 4-7, this is a somewhat edgy novel treating the history and beauty of the San Juan Islands as well as the complexities of good and evil in every human heart.

Jessie’s Island, Sheryl McFarlane with illustrations by Sheena Lott

For children up to twelve years, this book illustrated with watercolors details the many things to do and see on a visit to a “boring island in the middle of nowhere.”

Fiction for Adults

Madonnas of Leningrad, Deborah Dean

Alternating between Marina’s youth in Leningrad where she worked in the Hermitage Museum and the present, where she attends the wedding of her granddaughter on a fictional San Juan island, this complicated story explores art, memory, and memory loss.

You May Now Kill the Bride, Deborah Donnelly

The bride wears purple and lavender, and while the wedding does not take place at Pelindaba; it is set on a fictional lavender farm. The premise is that the wedding planner stumbles into bad things on the way to other people’s weddings, so you might not want to hire her for your San Juan Island nuptials.

Death on a Casual Friday, Sharon Duncan

Scotia MacKinnon lives aboard her sailing yacht in Friday Harbor, where she works as a PI for attorneys and insurance companies until she gets caught up in helping a woman who claims she’s being stalked. The author deliberately plays with some of the geography of the island, but writes about a place she knows with more than affection.

Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson

In a deep fog, alone in his boat, a fisherman is lost at sea. Was it an accident, or was it murder? The trial of a rival fisherman—a Japanese-American World War II veteran whose family was interned—seeks to find justice. The complex histories and racism of the fishing families, the newspaper reporter covering the trial, and the community are

interwoven in a series of flashbacks and trial testimony.

Summer Island, Kristin Hannah

On deadline to write a nasty expose of her mother, a bitter and cynical daughter comes home to help when her mother has been injured in an accident. Exploring her family’s past, the daughter learns that woman she hated all those years is not the woman she thought she was—she is forced to grow up, and to allow herself to love.

Educating Waverley, Laura Kalpakian

Set on Isadora Island (think Orcas), a member of a timber baron family founds a school for girls after World War I. A school girl’s isolation, school friendships, and first loves shape her entire life and the lives of those around her.

Folly, Laurie R. King

A single woman recovering from a psychotic break rebuilds a house on a private island west of San Juan. Her family thinks she’s crazy to attempt such a project with her history; their fears, and hers, may be justified. Award-winning author King gets the setting of the San Juans right, and perhaps even more important, picks up on the nuances of island characters.

Amber Beach, Elizabeth Lowell

In her quest to find out what happened to a stolen fortune in amber, Honor heads to the San Juan Islands, but she needs a guide to run the boat. She doesn’t know that Jake used to be involved in the family business, and he assumes he is being set up to take the fall. Alone together at sea, the two face betrayal, temptation, relentless enemies, and a mutual hunger for the other.

Critical Mass, Steve Martini

A burned-out lawyer opts for a quieter life on San Juan Island, but becomes embroiled in the search for nuclear devices gone missing from a Soviet storage facility.

Sea of Troubles, Janet L. Smith

A murder mystery set on Orcas Island, with a lot of local touches, including a visit to the “hospital” in Friday Harbor.

San Juan Islands

Recommended Reads



Photo: Robin Jacobson

History

The San Juan Islands: Illustrated Supplement to the San Juan Islander

This reprint of a 1901 pictorial supplement to the *San Juan Islander* newspaper summarizes early historical events and contemporary economic activities in San Juan County. Its current value may be its photographs of historic buildings and profiles of prominent islanders of the time.

San Juan: the Powder Keg Island, Jo Bailey-Cummings and Al Cummings

Recounts the story of the Pig War and the settlers of that time, using diaries, letters, and newspaper articles.

Who the Hell Was San Juan? Examining the Roots of San Juan Islands Place Names, Doug Cardle

This book of place names and origins of the San Juan Archipelago was compiled in 1982. Through interviews and examination of various historical charts and maps, the author creates a fairly comprehensive list. Many of the name origins come from old stories. This book remains one of the best available sources for lore and place name information.

Roche Harbor: A Saga in the San Juans, Lynette Evans and George Burley

Ninety pages, including dozens of photographs, of the history of the Roche Harbor community, the John S. McMillin family, and the resort of the same name through 1972, when the booklet was published.

Making History: The People Who Shaped the San Juan Islands, Lucille S. McDonald

Historian McDonald tells stories of the San Juan

Islands from before the Pig War through most of the 20th century.

The San Juan Story, C. T. Morgan

About twenty pages of text and thirty photographs give the briefest overview of the islands’ history. Tidbits on institutions like the medical center, the gravel pit, the Santa ship, San Juan Airlines, and University of Washington Friday Harbor Labs are given. Outdated travel guide information is also included.

Magic Islands: A Treasure-trove of San Juan Islands Lore, David Richardson

A 95-page history of the islands including early Spanish and English explorers. Includes the Pig War, pioneer days, the founding of Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor, Orcas Island and Rosario, etc. A chapter covers notable boats and ferries in the history of the county through the 1960s.

Pig War Islands, David Blair Richardson

The first part of the book chronicles Pig War history while the second half profiles the subsequent century of San Juan archipelago history, focusing on key events and personalities.

The San Juan Islands: Into the 21st Century, JoAnn Roe

This book sets out to tell the history of the islands after the resolution of the Pig War. The chapters are organized around themes like boats, occupations such as fishing, logging, and farming; lighthouses, youth camps, and places such as parks, Rosario Resort and Roche Harbor; and emphasizing the history of the second half of the 20th century and up to 2011.

Friday Harbor, Then and Now, F.H. VanCleve

Contains drawings of local buildings and

descriptions of their former uses. Because this book was written in 1972, it is best used in conjunction with the *Historic Friday Harbor on Foot: Historic Downtown* walking guide, which is more current. It can be difficult to recognize the buildings described in the 1970s given their current uses.

Friday Harbor, Mike Vouri

Historic photographs tell the story of the town and the community, including its schools, the salmon cannery, Victor Capron, Circle Park, and other town features on the occasion of its centennial, published in 2009. Look for other books in the *Images of America* series, such as *Roche Harbor*, *Orcas Island*, *San Juan Island*, and *Lopez Island*.

The Pig War: Standoff at Griffin Bay, Mike Vouri

This detailed history published in 1990 might put off a casual reader, but a bit of persistence pays off as the story moves along and the prose engages the reader. Celebrate the fact that the San Juan Islands' history attests that territorial disputes can be resolved by diplomacy rather than violence.



Photo: San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau

Outpost of Empire: The Royal Marines and the Joint Occupation of San Juan Island, Mike Vouri

Vouri's second book about the Pig War, published in 2004, combines pictures and commentary to tell the story of the 1860-72 occupation of English Camp at the northern end of San Juan Island while the American Army occupied the other end of the island.

The Pig War, Mike Vouri

This is a book of pictures from the joint occupation of San Juan Island up into the 20th century after the two military camps were formed into San Juan Island National Historical Park. Part of the *Images of America* series, published in 2008.

Roche Harbor, Richard Walker

Historic photographs on the development of the community, lime, the McMillin family, the barrel factory, and the resort itself are presented with captions and small amounts of text.

The Salmon Bank: An Ethnohistoric Compilation,

Jacilee Wray

From the 1890s to the 1930s, the Salmon Bank off the south end of San Juan Island was the site of many fish traps that were used to catch seasonal runs of salmon that fed the canneries in Friday Harbor. Jacilee Wray interviewed several old time islanders about these operations, most notably Bill Jakle. A well-researched ethnography of a vanished way of life.

Native Americans

The Indians of Puget Sound, Myron Eells

This historic ethnographic monograph of Northwest Coast Salish people, primarily the Twana or Skokomish from further south than the San Juan Islands, provides a record of their arts and material culture circa 1875-1907.

Haboo: Native American Stories from Puget Sound, Vi Hilbert

This collection of stories covers Western Washington, so the stories are not necessarily from or about San Juan County. They are transcribed as they were orally recounted, without editing or revision.

Northwest Coast Indian Art: An Analysis of Form, Bill Holm

Although not specific to the islands, this book explicates the organization of form and space as well as the symbolism of Native American art of the Pacific Northwest. Discusses secondary and minor elements and the use of color.

Deciphering a Shell Midden, Julie K. Stein, editor

The papers in this collection are primarily the result of a dig conducted at English Camp, (called British Camp in the monograph) on San Juan Island from 1983-1989. The papers that comprise this collection are organized into a section on describing site location, environment, and stratigraphy, followed by a section of specific analyses organized by material types (sediments, lithics, floral remains, faunal remains).

Exploring Coast Salish Prehistory: the Archaeology of

San Juan Airlines, built the Friday Harbor Airport, and his adventures in establishing scheduled air service to the islands after World War II.

Light on the Island: Tales of a Lighthouse Keeper's

Family in the San Juan Islands, Helene Glidden

Profiles a childhood on Patos Island from 1905-1913 as the daughter of the light keeper. Strong language may put off some readers. A sense of fun pervades the book. Some readers question the accuracy of the text.

Island Ebb and Flow: A Pioneer's Journal of Life on

Waldron Island, Frances K. Lovering

A year by year account of life on Waldron from the 1930s through the 1970s. Packed with details about raising chickens, Waldron mail service, the Waldron island public school, and many individual Waldron families, but hard to keep up with as there is no narrative to hold the memoir together.

Underpinning: a Vivid Recollection of Life in Washington State in the Early Part of This Century, Caroline Reed

Written in the 1980s, this memoir recalls a childhood in the early part of the 1900s: the hardships the family faced before automobiles were common in San Juan County; the enjoyment of picnics, parades, and games children played; and the difficulties brought on the family by the advent of World War I.

A San Juan Islands Journal, Jo Ann Ridley with photographs by Mary Randlett

Not really a journal at all, but a set of polished essays, some constructed in the 1970s and others in the early 2000s. Essays address topics such as counting eagle nests from a small airplane, reef netting, the old ferryboat the *Vashon*, and Emelia (Lee) Bave's *San Juan Saga*—her dramatic rendition of the Pig War. The author was a correspondent for the *Journal of the San Juans* and wrote a column in the seventies called the "Courthouse Mouse;" one essay remembers the mouse.

The Building of Roche Harbor Resort by the Tarte Family, Neil Tarte

This first person account was transcribed from narration, and would have benefited from an editor. Neil Tarte tells about his family and their efforts to buy the Roche Harbor Lime Company and repurpose it into what is now Roche Harbor Resort.

John Franklin Troxell, Fish Trap Man, Beryl Troxell Mason

In this memoir of her father, Beryl Troxell Mason recounts the career of John Franklin Troxell as a fish trap man--operating the enormous nets-strung-on-poles contraptions that could catch thousands of salmon in a single day. The book not only describes how a fish trap worked--with plenty of diagrams, maps, and photos, but also provides a lot of local history, particularly of Lopez Island.

James Francis Tulloch Diary 1875-1910, James Francis Tulloch

Still relevant after a century, this memoir of one of the earliest island pioneers rings with the voice of a true islander—community minded, wry, independent, crotchety, and cantankerous. He founded the Orcas Episcopal Church, a farmers association, and participated in political affairs, and he loved to rail against the deer in the garden.

Fiction for Children

The Summerfolk, Doris Burn

A story book for reading aloud to younger children. A grumpy old islander shares his disdain of tourists with the young folk. But in the imagination of a young boy, visitors become new friends and sail with him to other worlds.

Andrew Henry's Meadow, Doris Burn

A charming illustrated story of a somewhat troublesome and loner boy who leads all the children of town away to live in children's village where he builds each a special house suited to their interests. When the children are reunited, their families learn to support Henry's interests in inventing.

My Champion, S.K. Carnes

Inspirational for all ages, this book is for older grade school children, but many might have trouble with the picture book format. Its rich illustrations with original oil paintings swirl with color. This horsey story with the happy ending will appeal to many little girls and some older ones as well.

Flicker's Round Trip, Ann Hanson

Illustrated with lively watercolors by the author, this is the true story of a flicker chick rescue and

year reflect on an orientation to life that is respectful, joyful, and participatory. Intellectual, spiritual, and political philosophy are combined with local knowledge in one man’s musing on how we develop a new relationship with the planet through gardening.

Boats, Boating and Maritime

Diving the San Juans, Dareld and Janine Clark
This guide provides information about 60 different diving sites in the San Juan archipelago ranging from Alden Point in the north to Deception Pass in the south. For each site the authors provide four types of information: habitat and depth, dive profile, directions, and hazards.

Gunkholing in the San Juans, Al Cummings and Jo Bailey Cummings
This cruising guide describes the San Juan Islands for the mariner in words, photographs, and miniature charts. Bits of lore, origins of places names, public tidelands, aids to navigation, marinas, and good anchorages are noted.

Nautical Highways: Ferries of the San Juan Islands, Robert Demar and Robin Atkins



Photo: © Mark Gardner

Black and white photographs taken at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries depicting ferries serving the San Juans. Captions identify some places and individuals.

Ferry Guide Map of the San Juan Islands, Ferry Tale Productions

While containing much outdated information, the map and guide accurately name many points of interest along the Thatcher Pass route from Anacortes through the islands to Sidney, B.C.

Biography

Lopez Island: Foul Play on the Friendly Isle, City Confidential Television
This episode of the TV crime program covers the true story of the murder of Captain Rolf Neslund by his wife, Ruth Neslund.

No Regrets and Other True Cases, Ann Rule



Noted crime writer Ann Rule details the trial of Ruth Neslund for the murder of her husband Rolf Neslund in 200 pages, with photos. It is one of several profiles in this bestseller.

Memoirs by Islanders

In Season: Culinary Adventures of a San Juan Island Chef, Greg Atkinson
Charming personal essays accompany recipes for each of the seasons. Based on a column that ran weekly in the *Journal of the San Juans* during the 1980s and 1990s.

Living High: an Unconventional Biography, June Burn
June and husband Farrar Burn literally staked one of the last homestead claims in the United States on Sentinel Island. The book recounts the adventurous Burn family’s early years in San Juan County, earning their living fishing, gathering gull eggs, working for the Roche Harbor Company, writing, selling songs, raising their children--North and South Burn--and life on Waldron Island. They also traveled extensively, living on a shoestring while celebrating life.

Island Bush Pilot, Roy Franklin
In language so plain the reader almost hears him speaking, Roy Franklin narrates how he founded

San Juan Island, Julie K. Stein
Describes archaeological work for lay readers and serious archaeologists alike on the early life of Native Americans at San Juan Island National Historical Park at Cattle Point and at English Camp in Garrison Bay.

Indian Fishing Early Methods on the Northwest Coast, Hilary Stewart
Profusely illustrated with photographs and drawings, this anthropological study reports in lay terms the techniques and tools used by Native American fishers. Like Stewart’s other books, *Artifacts of the Norwest Coast Indians*, *Cedar*, and *Looking at Indian Art*, this book is not specific to San Juan County, but addresses regional techniques. Includes explanations from members of various tribes of how hooks, harpoons, nets, and traps were manufactured and used as well as a section on fish cooking and fish preservation, and the tools used for these purposes.

Economic Life of the Coast Salish of Haro and Rosario Straits, Wayne Suttles
This 1951 doctoral dissertation remains the most extensive description of the life of Native Americans of the San Juan Islands. Chapters address subsistence, including hunting and gathering on land and sea; manufactures, including textiles, watercraft, and housing; society, individual possessions, and life cycles.

Coast Salish Essays, Wayne Suttles
A collection of academic anthropology articles addressing cultural issues of the Coast Salish peoples, not specific to the San Juan Islands.

Natural History

Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific Coast: an Illustrated Guide to Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, Eugene N. Kozloff
The go-to resource for lay identification of a variety of different life forms found on beaches, in tide pools, and in near-shore waters. Organized around habitats, black and white illustrations or photographs illustrate many common plants and animals, including shellfish, jellyfish, sea weeds, etc.

Rainshadow World, Susan Vernon
This delightful tour of a year of wild plants and animals in the San Juan Islands is both informative and evocative. Vignettes bring the reader up close

to personal encounters with butterflies, birds, amphibians, foxes, whales, flowering plants, and more. Historical notes from early explorers are interwoven with contemporary scientific reports. The book is primarily the product of the author’s keen observation.

Orcas, Eagles and Kings: Georgia Strait and Puget Sound, Steve Yates
Lyrical prose with glorious full color photographs about life in the islands and the region. Chapters cover Vancouver’s voyage, traveling with the whales, the horrific decline in marine bird populations, and SCUBA dives and amazing sea life images that the non-divers among us might not otherwise see.

Geology

Roadside Geology of Washington, David Alt and Donald Hyndman
Contains a short chapter about the San Juan Islands. A detailed description of glaciation is found in *Orcas, Eagles and Kings*, by Steve Yates.

Geology of the San Juan Islands, Ned Brown
The geology of the San Juan Islands is extremely complex. This is the latest, and most up to date, of a series of attempts at describing and explaining that complexity. Ned Brown, former professor of Geology at Western Washington University, has condensed decades of field work into a succinct narrative, well-illustrated with photos and geologic maps.

Plants

Wild Plants of the San Juan Islands, Scott Atkinson and illustrated by Fred Sharpe
Black and white illustrations help identify plants in the field, and accounts relate edibility and origin of non-native species. Organized by habitat, the book makes it fairly easy for the beginner to identify new plants and to learn about plant communities.

Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and Alaska, Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon
With color photographs and individual species descriptions, this field guide provides a good key for identifying native plants in the San Juan Islands.

The New Savory Wild Mushroom, Margaret McKenny

and Daniel E. Stuntz, Revised by Joseph Ammirati
This handbook is designed for use in the Pacific Northwest by fungi hunters who want a field guide that will help identify edible mushrooms and discern them from poisonous ones.

Mosses, Lichens & Ferns of Northwest North America, Dale Vitt, Janet Marsh, and Robin Bovey

Although not specific to the county, this reference offers a comprehensive guide, including individual species accounts, for the identification of mosses, lichens, and ferns.

Animals

Marine Birds and Mammals of Puget Sound, Tony Angell and Ken Balcomb

Geographic distribution and habitat specificity combined with a regional map made this a useful resource for learning about particular bird species when it was written. As the environmental data was recorded in 1982, a more useful guide might be Monika Weiland’s *A Guide to Birds of San Juan Island*. The illustrations hold their value.

2016 Matriline ID Guide, Center for Whale Research
This spiral-bound guide depicts the family trees of the Southern Resident Killer Whales that live in the Salish Sea surrounding the San Juan Islands. Identification photographs of each animal found in the annual census are provided to enable an observer to identify individual whales.

2016 Transient ID Guide, Center for Whale Research
Similar to the matriline guide, this guide provides individual identification photographs of the whales that comprise the transient—or Bigg’s Killer Whale—population that travels from Alaska to California eating marine mammals.

Amphibians of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, Charlotte C. Corkran and Chris Thoms

This comprehensive field guide includes species descriptions, color photographs, distribution maps, discussions of amphibian habitats, life cycles nad population status;. A useful reference for identifying amphibians.

Whales and Other Marine Mammals of Washington and Oregon, Tamara Eder

An introductory field guide that includes some animals that won’t be found in the inland waters of the Salish Sea, but is more comprehensive and less outdated than Rich Osborne’s *A Guide to Marine Mammals of Greater Puget Sound* or

Tony Angell and Ken Balcomb’s *Marine Birds and Mammals of Puget Sound* (although each of these continues to be useful in many respects.)

Killer Whales, John K.B. Ford, Graeme M. Ellis, and Kenneth C. Balcomb

Useful for the background on the then-thirty-year research on the orcas of Washington, southeastern Alaska and British Columbia. The catalog of individual identification photographs is outdated, many of those animals are dead, and new ones have joined the population.

Birding in the San Juans, Mark G. Lewis and Fred A.



Photo: San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau

Sharpe
This guide to San Juan archipelago birds provides abbreviated, geographic-specific species accounts, but unfortunately, climate change and other environmental factors have led to population changes that mean some of the tips on what time of year and where to watch for some species are outdated. Black and white illustrations enhance the text. For more current location-specific information see *A Guide to Birds of San Juan Island* by Monika Weiland.

Dragonflies of Washington, Dennis Paulson

Featuring excellent color photographs, this is the best field guide to use when identifying dragonflies in the San Juan Islands.

The Butterflies of Cascadia – A Field Guide to All the Species of Washington, Oregon, and Surrounding Territories, Robert M. Pyle

This is the best field guide to use when identifying butterflies in the San Juan Islands, including information on the Island Marble Butterfly long thought extinct but recently discovered on San Juan and Lopez islands.

Reptiles of Washington and Oregon, Robert M. Storm and William P. Leonard

A discussion of the life histories and habitats of turtles, lizards, and snakes supplements individual species accounts that come with color photographs and range maps.

A Guide to Birds of San Juan Island, Monika Wieland

Two types of information are offered: a detailed listing of publically accessible sites on San Juan Island, with hand-drawn detailed maps, and brief lists of the bird species to look for at each site. The sites represent different habitats on the island, and the reader learns what birds might be found in these habitats. The second section of the book is a species guide that lists which species might be found on the island, grouped taxonomically.

Marine Wildlife of Puget Sound, the San Juans, and



Photo © Mark Gardner

the Strait of Georgia, Steve Yates

This guide includes marine mammals, birds, fishes, invertebrates, and seaweeds. It utilizes line drawings, provides brief descriptions of habitats as well as ranges, and offers some life cycle information about the wildlife it covers.

Guidebooks

Natural Areas of the San Juan Islands, Terry Lee Domico

This guide profiles 60 different natural sites within the San Juan archipelago. Some lands are publicly owned, others are private, all have some public access. The profiles point to special features of each, including distinct flowers, trees, geologic features, wildlife, and views.

You Know You’re an Islander When..., Jan Jameson and Jeanie Rouleau Burns, with drawings by Sam Connery

A light-hearted look at what makes islanders different. “You remember when the ferry would off-load and the town was still empty.”

A Place in the Islands: How Private Land Owners Shape the Future of the San Juan and Gulf Islands, Islands Trust and the San Juan Preservation Trust

This beautiful booklet informs prospective and current landowners about some of the special features of the island landscapes; makes suggestions to consider before undertaking development; and provides resources for how to get information on site development, water, and protection of existing features of island properties.

Historic Friday Harbor on Foot: Historic Downtown, San Juan Historical Museum

A walking tour of the historic town. Profiles historic homes and other buildings, as well as giving a history of Friday Harbor.

Gardening

Deer-proofing Your Yard & Garden, Rhonda Nassingham Hart

While not Northwest-specific, this book list plants deer like; plants deer don’t tend to like; provides some general designs for different types of gardening conditions like shade or sunny, dry or wet; and discusses repellents and designs for fences. A nice feature of the book is that it provides pros and cons, rather than recommendations, so the reader has the information to choose for herself.

Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Arthur Kruckeberg

With chapters on grasses, trees, shrubs, and perennials, a well-organized standard.

Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest, Russell Link

A very ‘down to earth’ approach, with chapters focusing on maintaining whole habitat; as well as chapters on focusing on mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, fish, and insects. Includes lists of species to plant to attract different kinds of wildlife; plans for building bird nest boxes and bat houses; and what do about “wildlife-related problems.”

Why We Garden: Cultivating a Sense of Place, Jim Nollman

Chapters like essays on gardening throughout the