



## A Centuries-Old Scavenger Hunt

by Bayview Resident, Ali Spahn

Do you like riddles and puzzles and discovering something special that hides in plain sight? Have you ever wanted to be a part of a secret society? If so, then you will find amusement in the little-spoken about hobby called Letterboxing.



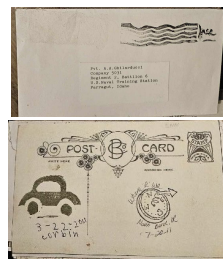
While walking our dogs in **Farragut State Park** last December, my husband came across a crusty, old metal box under a tree.

Intrigued, we opened the box to find multiple hand-written postcards. My imagination went wild. Could this be a hidden box filled with lost love letters of the past? What a find!

We were pressed for time, so we decided to take the box home to review the contents. What we discovered was not only interesting but a view into an old "secret world". Included in the box were past written articles regarding the history of Farragut State Park and multiple old handwritten and blank postcards. I had no clue what we should do or who I should contact, so I began a quest for information: On to the Internet.



by Marianne Love  
<https://www.sandpointonline.com/sandpointmag/sms96/Farragut.html>



According to legend, in 1854 a Victorian gentlemen hiker put his calling card in a bottle and stuck it into a bank at Cranmere Pool, in a remote part of Dartmoor in southwestern England. In 1888, a small tin box replaced the original bottle. Over the years, the hobby developed; current reports indicate that as many as 10,000 letterboxes are presently hidden in Dartmoor, now a National Park. Visitors from around the globe prowl the heath at Dartmoor in search of the elusive boxes and the artful stamps inside.

Currently, there are two major Letterboxing websites: Letterboxing North America (<https://www.letterboxing.org/>) and Atlas Quest (<https://www.atlasquest.com/>)

Letterboxing.org states: "Letterboxing is an intriguing



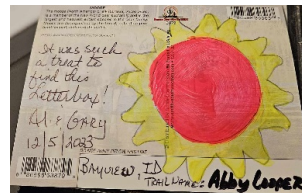
Cranmere Pool Letterbox

treasure hunt style outdoor activity. Letterboxers hide small, weatherproof boxes in publicly accessible places (like parks) and post clues to finding the box online on one of several Web sites. However, clues to finding some of the most highly sought boxes are passed around by word of mouth."

I was astonished to find there are 26,146 Atlas Quest members in the United States and that the U.S. is #1 in the world of active boxes currently at 111,240 (as listed in the Atlas Quest Statistics). And there's so much information on each site it can be mind-boggling. For example, the sites have information on Stamp Exchange, Trip Planner, Blogs, a Code of Conduct, an AQ Premium Membership with benefits and much, much more.

According to Randy Hall, author of **The Letterboxer's Companion**, "Letterboxing is an intriguing mix of hiking, puzzle solving, treasure hunting, and rubber stamp artistry, topped off with the thrill of discovery. The basic idea is simple. Clues, usually posted on a web site, will lead the person who correctly follows them to the secret location of a letterbox."

Individual letterboxes usually contain a log book, an often hand-carved rubber stamp and occasionally contain an ink pad. Finders make an imprint of the letterbox's stamp on their personal log book and leave an imprint of their personal stamp on the letterbox's logbook.



Titillated, I had to get into the game, so I created my own stamp (a sun), registered my trail name, AbbyCooper, on the Letterbox.org website, and placed our postcard in the

letterbox including a recent "**Bayview Shore Lines**" newsletter. Now we are an official letterboxer.

We organized the contents and, of course, returned the letterbox to the original location in Farragut State Park. Here's the link to the original post for this letterbox: <https://www.letterboxing.org/boxes/view.php?boxId=54538>

Who would have thought we would come across this secret society on a walk in the park? Wonders never cease. To learn more, you can view a hilarious YouTube video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMmb1S\\_X\\_t0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMmb1S_X_t0)

# Ode To the Wild Side

*A Less Grumpy Old Man*

As shocked as we old-timers are over the rapid growth exploding around us, our wild neighbors have it even worse. Imagine losing your home, family and access to the grocery store all at once! Even my prepper friends would need help in that case.

That's what habitat loss is for wildlife. Life and death with few choices. While homelessness for humans is bad enough, the delicate balance of nature is unforgiving. As forests and fields become suburbanized, survival trumps fear bringing wildlife near.

Development, logging, and forest fires force wildlife into smaller areas seeking territory, food and shelter. This may include your back yard where your pets are seen as competition for home range or prey. Although peaceful coexistence can occur, it takes effort.



Trust me most wild animals would prefer not having to be anywhere near humans. Fear of us, our guns, fire, dogs and cats is universal in nature. And for their sake that is sadly a good thing.

More often than not wildlife are left with no choice. The few that easily adapt are usually not appreciated when they eat our gardens, shrubs or God forbid little fluffy . . . my sympathies . . . but life is death in the wild!

There are ways you can make things easier for yourself and nature. Keep your domestic animals safe and under control. Nature-proof your immediate property. Re-wild areas with native plants to help animals large and small. If you must use lethal control do so legally and humanely.

We all love nature until it inconveniences us. Even after winter is past, early spring remains a challenge for all but the scavengers doing cleanup. Here's to all the survivors, "Cheers for longer days and warmer nights with the flowers and forage of spring!"

## Other News:

David Maine is head boat mechanic at Scenic Bay Marina. With over 30 years of experience gained at Mark's Marine in Hayden, he's now ready to assist you with all your boat summerizing needs. The boat shop is located behind JD's Bar & Grill. Call 683-2243 to schedule your appointment.

## Council's Scholarship

Deadline is March 31. Information on the scholarship criteria and application can be found at: <https://bayviewcommunitycouncil.org/scholarship../>

## Coffee with Sheriff Norris

March 13, 9 a.m. at Ralph's Coffee House & Cafe.

# BWSD Response To Uploading Zoom Videos

*editorial by Sheryl Puckett*

The Bayview Water & Sewer board members decided at their monthly meeting on January 18 to **not** upload Zoom meeting recordings to their website. The Board's chair, Shon Luoma, contacted ICRMP Insurance to get their take on this.

While I understand ICRMP perspective, I disagree with their reasoning and believe that uploading meeting recordings can enhance transparency and accountability within our community.

Let's closely examine each point ICRMP made (blue ink):

1. **It's not a requirement.** Answer: While it may not be a strict requirement, many organizations, including governmental bodies and public institutions, have adopted the practice of making meeting recordings available to the public. Doing so fosters trust and demonstrates a commitment to openness.

2. **Given our size and the resources involved it's not advisable.** Answer: The size of the district is irrelevant. I understand the concern about resource constraints and the desire for professional quality recordings. However, the intent is not to propose an elaborate setup. The Zoom generated video might **not** guarantee perfect audio or video quality but it would fulfill the intended purpose effectively.

3. **Casual remarks made during meetings could lead to security risks.** Answer: If everyone conducts themselves professionally, I don't see this being an issue. And if this was the case then why do so many other organizations do it? This is an excuse, not a reason to not do it.

4. **If someone were to scrutinize sections of our videos, it could pose problems for us.** Answer: This one is my favorite reason for not uploading the Zoom meeting videos. For the last three years excerpts taken videos of BWSD meetings have been uploaded to the Facebook page called **Bayview Insider**. Several board members have commented on the videos so they're aware that this exists. Therefore, this reason for not uploading the videos absolutely has no merit. Perhaps, residents would like the ability to watch the entire meeting or fast forward to what they find interesting to watch.

Uploading the monthly meetings allows community members to review the meetings at their convenience. In these challenging times, when virtual access is crucial, this modest step could significantly enhance communication not to mention this is what their membership wants. In conclusion, I believe that uploading Zoom meeting recordings aligns with your commitment to transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

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