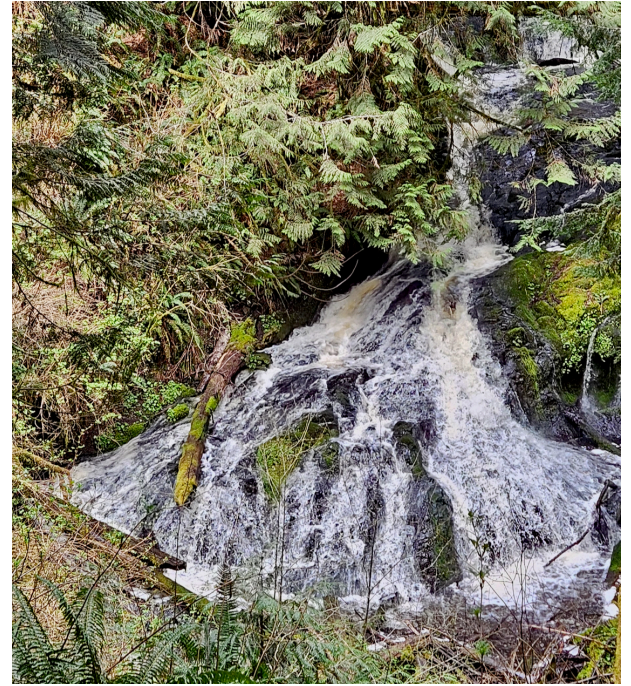




Natural History Society Newsletter

April 2026



Port Ludlow Trails

by John Goldwood

The Port Ludlow community is home to over 30 miles of hiking trails that cross multiple environments including saltwater shoreline, riparian habitat, second-growth forest and meadows. Most of those public trails have been created by resident volunteers of the Port Ludlow Trails Committee, with additional access provided by trails on DNR and Rayonier property.

As is true of many Salish Sea coastal towns in Western Washington, Port Ludlow was established in the mid-1800s due to the abundance of extensive stands of conifer timber in close proximity to a good site for a lumber mill along with a sheltered harbor that permitted the shipment of finished lumber to markets on the west coast and Asia. Our hike will include a trail that was created recently on what was a former railroad built to accommodate the shipment of logs from Beaver Valley down to the sawmill and shipping port on Ludlow Bay. Markers along the trail share bits of history from the logging years but also demonstrate the power of Nature to return to a natural state in approximately 80 years.

Outing: Explore Ludlow Creek and surrounding habitat

Join the Natural History Society on **Wednesday, April 29**, from **8:30 am – 12:00 pm**, with an optional extension for an afternoon hike for anyone interested. This will be a loop hike of approximately 2.5 miles, with some steep sections where you may want hiking poles for safety. The creekside experience includes cascades of Ludlow Creek making its way to Ludlow Bay. We'll enjoy birding with Jackie Canterbury, wildflowers, old growth and second growth forest, ferns and mosses, and learn some history of logging in this area. For those interested, after lunch/snack break, I'll lead an easier four-mile hike on the Timberton Trail. RSVP to John at john.goldwood@gmail.com

Book Club Selection

The Natural History Book Club will meet by Zoom on **Monday, April 27, from 3:00 to 4:30** to discuss *You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World* by Ada Limón. Find more information about the Book Club at: olympicnature.org/book-club/.

Editors: Wendy Feltham & Dave Rugh

Photo credit: Ruby-crowned Kinglet in April © Wendy Feltham and Port Ludlow Falls © John Goldwood