



Hello! It's a cold wet spring in the Pacific Northwest but the dragons don't seem to mind....I'm in a sumi show at the Freeland Library in Freeland, Whidbey Island and will be teaching a [class for families on May 28th](#). Have had lots of fun at Kirkland, WA schools and will be part of a [South Whidbey Arts Festival, June 10-11](#).

**[Northwest Beaches: Penn Cove Water Festival, Saturday, May 14th](#)
[Dragons: More Native American Dragons](#)
[Asian Art: Super Simple Sumi Water Serpent](#)**

[Northwest Beaches: Penn Cove Water Festival, this Saturday, May 14th](#).

Even though the dragons don't mind the cold and the wet, we do! So come get a spirit lift on Whidbey Island this Saturday at the Penn Cove Water Festival from 11am-6pm on the Coupeville Waterfront in Coupeville, WA. This year celebrates the [20th anniversary of the festival](#), the main attraction being the fabulous Native American Canoe Races.

Before white contact there may have been as many as 10-20,000 Native Americans living around Puget Sound. At a ratio of one canoe for every 10 people there would have been between 1,000-2,000 canoes out on the Sound on a regular basis. And who wouldn't want to race against



Yvonne Palka

Yvonne is the award-winning sumi-e artist who wrote and illustrated *Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist*. A retired college professor, grandmother, biologist and naturalist, she is passionate about introducing children and adults to the wonders of the natural world.

[VISIT YVONNE'S BLOG](#)

their friends and rivals when boats were gathered together?

Today the Festival provides the setting for Northwest tribes to share their heritage not only with canoe races, but also Native arts and crafts, story telling, dance performances - and food! And also a big tent for kids activities! Check out the [Island County Historical Museum](#) for more history. Come to Coupeville on Saturday!

"Your book, [Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#) was really good. The pictures were amazing! My favorite part was when the young dragons, Jaxon and Allie played 'dragon soccer' while Zorg was watching, stuck in the mud!"

4th grade student, Ben Franklin School, Kirkland, WA

Dragons: More Native American Dragons.

Remember Mishipesshu, the great water lynx, from the last newsletter? What about other Native American dragon myths? Well, it turns out that there aren't many stories about dragons per se, but there are lots of stories about horned water serpents and flying thunder beings, each of which could be considered a type of dragon. Adrienne Mayor, the author of a fascinating book, "[Fossil Legends of the First Americans](#)", recounts legends of many tribes of Native Americans that probably have their origins in the fossil remains of the great mosasaurs (marine reptiles) and pterosaurs (flying reptiles).

Imagine coming upon great bones, skulls and teeth lying on the ground or sticking out of a riverbank, not to mention great undulating 50 ft spines like ridges on the landscape. Wouldn't you come up with myths and stories to explain their presence? That's what many groups of Native Americans did, and, for the most part, they treated these sites as sacred places of power. The closest creature to a dragon seems to be the [horned water serpent \(see pictograph\)](#), [Untkehi](#) (Dakota).

It reminds me a little of the rocks at Shi Shi Beach in [Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#) - are they just rocks or are they the backs of dragons.....?



Dragon Fire Ocean Mist

Written & Illustrated by
Yvonne Palka

[BUY NOW](#)



Family canoe at the Penn Cove Water Festival



Horned Water Serpent found on rocks in Utah

Asian Art: Super Simple Sumi Water Serpent.

You can easily paint a water serpent like the ones found on Native American pictographs. Just paint a snake-like line, put a head on one end, and then be sure to paint horns!



Super Simple Sumi Water Serpent - your very own pictograph.



HeartRock Press | PO BOX 135 | Langley, WA 98260