

# IN THE MIST

A journey to Long Island

BY DAVID CAMPICHE

Willapa Bay's Long Island stretches for 6 miles and is nearly half as wide. With a rich and diverse western shoreline, its landscape varies from sandy shores, Agate Beach being a favorite, to tall, imposing cliffs, shaped by storm tides and tsunamis. A long scamper across the shore reveals miles of enchantment and photo opportunities.

Toward the island's southern end is the Don Bonker Cedar Grove Trail, containing nearly 300 acres and housing a forest of ancient cedar trees. As the giants go, these Western cedar trees are estimated to be 1,100 years of age, maybe older. A marvel at least, spiritual at best, this Northwest landscape overwhelms with awe.

**An ancient cedar stump, surrounded by foliage.**

David Campiche

The Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge barged about 100 people to the island on one Saturday afternoon. Smiling faces and glorious exaltations danced out of the lips of all those lucky enough to enroll in the adventure. Dozens of happy words chirped through the wet, verdian forest, mingling with forest songs while staring up at a 160 foot evergreen.

These great trees, this environment, supports a cornucopia of all things wet and green, creatures big and small. All said, the grove is a wonder.

*See Page 13*

