

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER



V O L U N T E E R N E W S L E T T E R - A P R I L 2 0 1 2

Coming Events

April 21 – Earth Day beach cleanups (details below)

April 25 – Volunteer training begins at 9:00 in our classroom

April 27 – “Integrating the Seismic and Occupational Chronologies at Tse-whit-zen” with Sarah L. Sterling; Landing Mall Conference Room at 6:00pm.
RSVP to 417-6254

May 2 – Volunteer training: Current Issues (Carol Bernthal); Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris (Liam Antrim); Research in OCNMS

May 5 – Tongue Point Tidepool Exploration at 8:00 followed by picnic lunch about 11:00

May 9 – Volunteer training: Maritime Heritage; Feiro Marine Life Center visit

May 16 – Volunteer training, last classroom session

May 23 – Field trip to Makah Cultural Center and Cape Flattery

May 26 – Olympic Coast Discovery Center open for Memorial Day weekend



Earth Day Activities

Across the United States a wide array of special activities are planned to celebrate Earth Day on April 21. On the peninsula you can participate in beach cleanups on the outer coast or along the Strait. To volunteer for Washington CoastSavers and help clean an ocean beach, go to their website at www.coastsavers.org and sign up for the beach of your choice. Many areas are hosting a BBQ or other special event after the cleanup as a thank you to volunteers.

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If you want to stay closer to home, please consider joining the OCDC Volunteer team to help clean up West Elwha beach. We'll leave the OCDC about 8:00, clean up the beach, and return to the Landing to enjoy the day's activities.



The OCDC will be open with a display of tsunami debris out front. Food vendors, live music, an art show, a swap meet, and even a “trashion” show will all be part of the Earth Day celebration. For more about this event go to www.klallamearthday.com. You do not need to sign up online; just let me know that you want to join us so I can add your name to our team. If you can't help with the beach cleanup, but could staff the OCDC for an hour or two, please let me know.



Exploring Tse-whit-zen's Past

In 2003 work began to excavate a dry dock in Port Angeles harbor. The construction footprint exposed portions of the ancient Klallam village of Tse-whit-zen; one of the largest known precontact villages in Washington State. The site was occupied beginning about 2700 years ago, and more intensively from 1800. Tse-whit-zen village is situated in the midst of the Cascadia subduction zone, and gaps in the radiocarbon record of village occupation are broadly synchronous with great earthquakes in the region.

In this presentation Dr. Sterling will discuss the current knowledge about the occupational and seismic chronology at Tse-whit-zen, and how recent field work in the vicinity of the site will help further resolve understanding of the past and future of this geologically dynamic shoreline.

Research Update

Veteran volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend training to meet our new volunteers, share your experiences, and learn more about the topics presented. I'd especially encourage you to attend the research presentation which will most likely be Wednesday, May 2. Each member of the research team is planning to present an overview of the work they do – seafloor mapping, GIS, oceanographic moorings, deep sea coral research, intertidal monitoring, and marine mammal strandings are a few of the topics you will learn about and be prepared to discuss with guests this summer.

