

# 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   -   W I N T E R   2 0 1 3 / 1 4

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sat. Feb. 22nd** Feiro Lecture Series featuring Paul Tate, captain of Alaskan commercial research vessel, at 6:30pm  
RSVP to [racheleb@feiromarinelifecenter.org](mailto:racheleb@feiromarinelifecenter.org)

**Tues. Feb. 25th 12-1pm** Brown bag lunch with Superintendent Carol Bernthal  
Don't miss this chance to hear from our very own sanctuary Superintendent! Carol will be speaking about OCNMS's work with Coastal Treaty Tribes.

**March 1st-2nd** Beachcombers Fun Fair in Ocean Shores  
[www.beachcombersfunfair.com](http://www.beachcombersfunfair.com)

**Wed. March 12th 12-1pm** Brown bag lunch with Heidi Pedersen  
Our sanctuary Citizen Science Coordinator will be sharing information and the latest updates on COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team) and marine debris monitoring programs. Please join us in the sanctuary office classroom!

### STAY TUNED!

**Sat. March 29th** Port Townsend Marine Science Center field trip!

**Sat. April 19th** CoastSavers Washington Coastal Cleanup [www.coastsavers.org](http://www.coastsavers.org)

**April 26-27th** Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com)

### OCDC Spring Training!

*We are seeking new, energetic volunteers for the 2014 season to help inform our visitors about sanctuary and ocean resources! Please spread the word to your friends or community groups to recruit new ocean heroes!*

*The training schedule is as follows:*

*Wed. April 30th 9am-1pm followed by  
**Pizza Social for everyone & OCNMS staff!***

*Wed. May 7th 9am-1pm*

*Wed. May 14th 9am-1pm*

*Sat. May 17th **field trip to Salt Creek***

***tidepools + potluck picnic (all welcome!)***

*Wed. May 21st all day field trip to Neah Bay:*

*Makah Museum & Cape Flattery*

*Wed. May 28th 9am-1pm*

***Current volunteers are welcome to join us as a refresher! Contact Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov or (360) 457-6622 ext. 31 for registration or more information.***



Seahawk credit: RodneyCammauf, NPS

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### VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2013 / 14

## Annual Awards Ceremony

On Nov. 8th we hosted the annual Awards Ceremony in The Landing to celebrate our OCDC volunteers as well as our volunteer friends/partners at Feiro Marine Life Center. OCNMS Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby delivered an engaging visual presentation on Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) monitoring of seabird and marine debris to a full house of 35 attendees. Former OCDC Manager Janet Lamont delivered a lovely commemorative speech about Becky Jewell, a star OCDC and Feiro volunteer who passed away last April and is dearly missed.



Congratulations to top Olympic Discovery Center Volunteers (OCDC) for 2013, Sue Griffith and Jim Jewell! Sue clocked a whopping 120 volunteer hours this season and hit a landmark of 3 years serving as a docent and educator for the OCDC. Jim Jewell celebrated his 10 year anniversary volunteering for the OCDC having been in the very first training session back in 2004. This year he racked up over 60 hours.



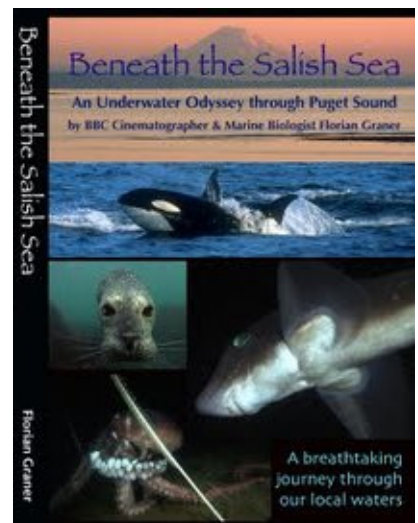
Top New Volunteers were Karsten Turrey and Sarah de Leiris, contributing 79 and 64 hours each, respectively. Anita celebrated 10 years as a docent and both Trish and Elizabeth reached their 3 year anniversary.

During the 2013 season, a total of 20 OCDC docents volunteered more than 760 hours welcoming 5,407 visitors from near and far.

**Thank you all for a fantastic 2013!**

## Holiday Party Movie Night

On December 20th a core group of volunteers (Jim J., Gerri & Bruce, and Elizabeth) celebrated the 2013 season together at the sanctuary office with Karlyn and Cam. Volunteers were gifted a new cultural resource book for our library, Indians of the Pacific Northwest by Vine Deloria Jr. Volunteers chose to watch the DVD *Beneath the Salish Sea: An Underwater Odyssey through Puget Sound*, by local marine biologist and BBC cinematographer Florian Graner. Florian was recently aboard the sanctuary's vessel, *RV Tatoosh*, diving to capture underwater videos/photos. We enjoyed an array of holiday treats, beverages and popcorn of course! Winter is the best time to curl up with a book, so come check out the new book and/or other resources (including this DVD) from our library!





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### 2014 Calendars Gift

As a simple “Thank you” for your volunteerism, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary has a gift for you! I have a 2014 Marine Debris calendar for each of you which features selected drawings by K-8 students across the US from an art contest called, “Keep the Sea Free of Debris”. Come pick up your calendar in the office next time you stop in downtown Port Angeles- it’s very uplifting!

### COASST / News from the Field

#### Volunteer Russ Lewis Wins Environmental Excellence Award

OCNMS marine debris volunteer Russ Lewis was honored with the Environmental Excellence Award in November at the Pacific County Board of County Commissioners meeting in South Bend. Russ was acknowledged for his efforts to keep Washington beaches clean on the Long Beach Peninsula and his support of the state’s Marine Debris Task Force. We salute Russ for receiving the Department of Ecology’s highest award for environmental excellence in the state!

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2013/280.html>

#### Heidi Participates in COASST Advisory Board Meeting

OCNMS Citizen Science Coordinator, Heidi Pedersen, attended a two day Coastal Observation And Seabird Survey Team (COASST) Advisory Board meeting in Seattle in late January to discuss strategic planning for the program and marine debris module guidance. COASST received the largest National Science Foundation grant given in 2013 to be implemented over the next three years to design and incorporate marine debris monitoring into the citizen science program and update the COASST website and data management capabilities. COASST Founder and Director, Julia Parrish of University of Washington, discussed the idea of UW hosting a Citizen Science “Collaboratory” with COASST as one of the programs under the umbrella of a larger citizen science program. There will be another two day Advisory Board meeting at the end of February which will focus on education, which sanctuary Superintendent Carol Bernthal will also attend. For more information contact [Heidi.Pedersen@noaa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Pedersen@noaa.gov) or visit [depts.washington.edu/coasst](http://depts.washington.edu/coasst).



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### ONMS International Marine Protected Area Capacity Building Program

In December I had the opportunity to volunteer to help facilitate a *Sustainable Tourism in MPAs* workshop in Indonesia with ONMS's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Capacity Building program, led by Dr. Gabrielle Johnson. The seven-day training took place on the coastal port town of Belawan, Western Sumatra, with 25 MPA managers and administrators from the region along with six Indonesia mentors and two trainers/interpreters.



Heidi Hirsh from NOAA Fisheries in Honolulu was the third NOAA staff involved in presenting course materials and case studies. Presentation topics ranged from stakeholder engagement to community and visitor education/ outreach and were reinforced through various exercises where participants developed strategies for an existing Indonesian MPA in 5 groups. Mid-way through the week we all visited Siba Island, a mangrove island housing a resort that claimed to incorporate sustainable tourism practices. The field trip gave participants a chance to think critically about the goals impacts of the development with their new understanding of sustainable tourism.

Gabrielle has been working with this USAID-funded bilateral program in Indonesia for 3 years, so many of the participants had already attended previous trainings

on *MPAs 101* and/or *MPAs for Sustainable Fisheries*. Participants worked through long and rigorous days, but were dedicated and energetic. It was extremely rewarding and inspiring to witness a group of committed



individuals working towards long-term management of their natural resources in a country faced with diverse challenges. The opportunity to volunteer for this program was close to my heart, as my previous work is predominantly from tropical, developing island and coastal communities. I particularly enjoyed sharing a successful case study of Zanzibar's Chumbe Island Coral Park, which I managed in 2009-10, and how private MPA management and conservation can be funded through sustainable tourism revenue. On a personal note, I enjoyed trying many new fruits that were in season, particularly the durian (a stinky and spiky, but tasty, fruit with a custardy texture).

I have invited Mary Sue Brancato of the International MPACB team to present to us in late spring or early summer on the program, with examples of her meaningful work in the field. **Stay tuned!**





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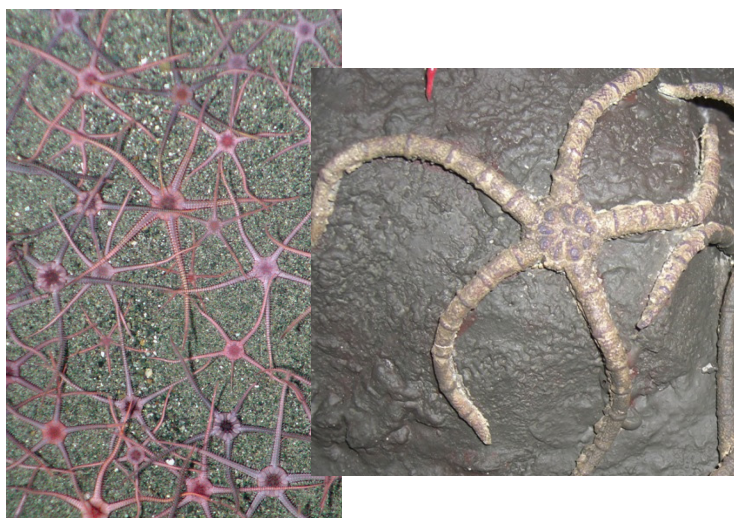
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VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2013 / 14

### **Creature Feature**

Most of our visitors are quite familiar with sea stars but become surprised and intrigued by the more unusual forms of basket and brittle stars. Basket and brittle stars are closely related echinoderms, but have distinct features and characteristics. Which do you prefer?



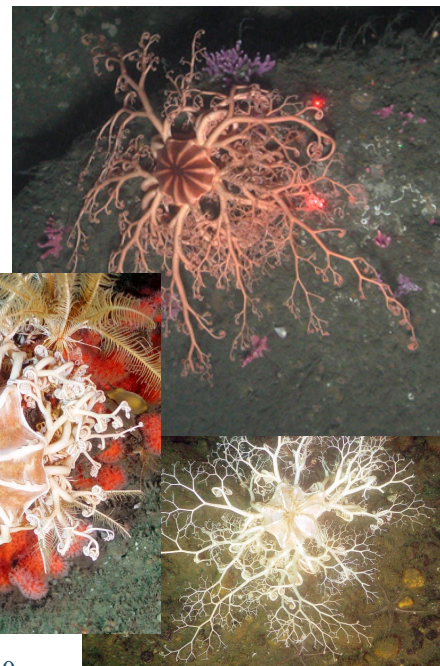
### **Brittle Stars (*Ophiuroidea*)**

Brittle stars (also known as “serpent stars”) are spiny, hard-skinned, long-armed echinoderms that dwell on the sea floor. Typically brittle stars have five long, thin, spiny arms that radiate from a flattened, central disk. They are found both in shallow waters and at great depths in all of the oceans, though most live in water deeper than 500m. Brittle stars move slowly along the sea floor with snakelike undulations of their rays as they eat decaying mater and plankton. There are over 1,500 different species of brittle stars found in all different colors, though most are smaller than 1 inch in diameter. Unlike other sea stars, brittle stars do not have pedicellariae (pinching structures), and the tube feet do not have suckers. It is common to see a single species of brittle stars cluster together in large numbers.

### **Basket Stars (*Gorgonocephalus* sp)**

Basket stars are closely related to brittle stars with 100 species found worldwide. These marine invertebrates are characterized by a series of branching, forked arms which

they close when frightened, giving them the appearance of being sealed in a basket. Typically their branching arms reach lengths of 8-14 inches. Basket stars inhabit the intertidal zone and can live to



depths of over 6,500 feet below sea level, but are usually found between 50 and 500 feet deep. Their range spans the Pacific coast from southern California to the Bering Sea and they can be found in abundance on mud or sand surrounding large boulders and around rocky areas with strong currents that carry zooplankton upon which they feed.

### **Both**

Like sea stars, brittle stars and basket stars can readily regenerate lost or severed arms as long as a portion of the star's central disc remains. This ability helps them to escape predators. Depending on the species, basket stars and brittle stars may be predators, actively feeding on small organisms, or filter-feeders of microorganisms passing through the water via currents. The mouth of brittle stars and basket stars is located on their underside, which also serves as the orifice from which waste is expelled. Both can reproduce sexually by releasing eggs and sperm into the water, or asexually, through division and regeneration.