

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER - MAY / JUNE 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed., July 16th

OCNMS's 20th Anniversary Celebration at Concert on the Pier 6:00-8:00pm!

Join Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary on the Port Angeles City Pier on July 16th when we are stage sponsors for the free, weekly "Concerts on the Pier" series. This date marks the 20th anniversary of the sanctuary's dedication and will feature an educational booth with hands-on activities staffed by Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and OCDC volunteers. We'll be grooving to the tunes of bluegrass band *Luck of the Draw*. Other features at this special event:

- Sanctuary Sam the Sea Lion
- ROV demonstration in water by Jr. Oceanographer summer camp youth
- Life-sized, inflatable Orca whale "Mike J26"
- Award presentation of OCNMS Volunteer of the Year 2013
- Wolf eel marine debris art sculpture by local artist

A family-friendly event that is not to be missed!



July 4-7th Chief Taholah Days, Taholah (Quinalt Indian Nation). Commemorate the 1855 Treaty with a parade, baseball, canoe races, salmon bake, fireworks and more. www.quinaltindiannation.com

July 18-20th Quileute Days, La Push. Quileute Tribe celebrations with traditional dancing, softball, stick games, canoe races, games, music, 5K family fun run and much more. www.quileutenation.org/qtc/qdays_schedule_5-28-14.pdf

July 13-19th Tribal Canoe Journeys to Bella Bella, BC www.tribaljourneys.ca

Fri. July 25th Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting 10am-3:30pm, Clallam Co. Courthouse, Port Angeles. All members of the public welcome and encouraged to attend.

Aug 22nd-24th Makah Days, Neah Bay. Makah Tribe festivities with traditional dancing, war canoe races, salmon bakes, street fairs, a parade, fireworks, coronation of Makah Royal Court, 3 mile Bahokus Peak run. makah.com/activities/makah-days

Contact Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov or (360) 457-6622 ext. 31 for more information.



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V O L U N T E E R N E W S L E T T E R - M A Y / J U N E 2 0 1 4

Welcome Our New OCDC Docents!

The annual spring OCDC training brought in a group of fantastic new docents, who completed their six sessions on May 28th. As usual, our field trips to Salt Creek and Neah Bay were training highlights. In Neah Bay we were entertained by multiple eagles fighting over a fish catch, a river otter running out to bathe and several sea lions barking as they gracefully swam in the Makah Marina. This year also afforded us a quick beach trip to Sooes Beach so that new docents could lay eyes on sanctuary waters at one of our northernmost beaches.



Our new docents include: Carol, a writer who recently moved from Colorado; Leslee, a cook and caretaker from Seattle; Brian, a retired pilot with NOAA trainings and experience who is now an aerospace education consultant; EB, who recently moved to the area from Colorado; Karrie, an avid ocean and boating recreator; and Megan, who will be an Interpretive Coastal Ranger for Olympic National Park based at Mora/Rialto all season. Please give our new volunteers a warm welcome as they join our sanctuary community!



Volunteer Exchange with Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

To help celebrate the sanctuary's 20th anniversary and Olympic Coast Discovery Center's 10th anniversary, OCNMS will be hosting 8 volunteers from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) with their Education and Outreach Specialist, Carolyn Skinder. From July 13-19 MBNMS volunteers will experience the Olympic Peninsula, learning about us through unique site visits and joining sanctuary activities and events, including the sanctuary-sponsored Concert on the Pier. We have an exciting itinerary lined up for them and are looking forward to showing them our special and beautiful place! You do not have to be a host of a MBNMS volunteer in order to join the week's activities!

All OCDC docents are welcome to join us at the following:

Sun., July 13 Welcome MBNMS volunteers with BBQ potluck 5-7pm at Feiro Marine Life Center

Mon, July 14 Tidepooling at Salt Creek 9-11:30am (provide your own transportation) followed by 12pm visit to mouth of Elwha River at Place Rd. with Anne Shaffer of Coastal Watershed Institute to learn about nearshore impacts from dam removal

Mon, July 14 Visit to Hurricane Ridge from 7-8:30pm where the group will eat packed dinner and possibly embark on short hikes from the Visitor Center (provide your own transportation)

Wed., July 16 Coffee/tea + pastries discussion 9-10am at sanctuary classroom & 5-8:30pm Concert on the Pier for OCNMS 20th anniversary!

Fri., July 18 Farewell dinner 6pm by RSVP only (restaurant TBD)

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Special thanks to Jim J., Sue, Bruce & Gerri, Sarah, Elizabeth, Pat, Carol, and Deb & Steve for opening your houses to our Californian guests! Also, OCDC docents will in turn have the opportunity to join a volunteer exchange to Monterey Bay in the winter of 2014.

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Cruise on *RV Tatoosh*

During the week of July 14-18th Captains Rick and Justin will be offering trips aboard our research and monitoring vessel, *RV Tatoosh*. All active OCDC docents and sanctuary volunteers will be invited to sign up for a pleasure cruise on the date that suits your schedule best. Transportation to and from Port Angeles in sanctuary vehicles will be provided. Stay tuned for more details soon!



Salt Creek Tidepooling Field Trip & BBQ Picnic

All OCDC docents were invited to the annual Salt Creek tidepooling trip on Saturday, May 17th. New docents explored Tongue Point with guidance and interpretation from Jim Jewell, our tidepooling pro. OCNMS educator Nicole Harris also shared her knowledge for those of us who could not manage to keep up with Jim. ☺



It turned out to be a beautiful day for tidepool exploration finished with a friendly BBQ potluck social with new and seasoned volunteers. Thanks to all of you who came out and especially to Jim and Nicole for sharing your local invertebrate expertise!

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Karsten Named OCNMS Volunteer of the Year Award for 2013

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary named Karsten Turrey as our Volunteer of the Year (VOY) for 2013. Karsten's overall contributions for the sanctuary in 2013 totaled 128 hours. He volunteered as a docent for Olympic Coast Discovery Center, helped collect and enter data from monthly Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) field sites and NOAA's Shoreline Debris monitoring program at the Elwha. Additionally, he joined a small team to help complete annual intertidal monitoring surveys at Grenville Beach on the Quinault Indian Nation's shore. Karsten's efforts have helped advance OCNMS's mission to protect resources through responsible stewardship, promote awareness and make informed ecosystem-based management decisions.

All 14 national marine sanctuaries nominated a VOY at each site to be considered for the national award, which went to Robyn Walters of Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. OCNMS is proud of all of Karsten's efforts last year and for representing us as our site nominee. All VOY nominees were honored in Washington, D.C. in early June during Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) with a special presentation to Robyn Walters. Karsten was recognized by OCNMS staff in the office on June 10th with strawberry shortcake. This summer he is tracking deer for his Lower Elwha tribe and will be attending Peninsula College in the fall. Congratulations, Karsten, and best wishes to you in your future!



Family Fun Tidepool Walk

This year OCNMS celebrated National *Get Outdoors Day!* on Saturday, June 14th with a Family Fun Tidepool Walk at Kalaloch Beach 4. Education Specialist Nicole Harris led families through the tidepools, learning about the intertidal organisms and ecology along the way. What a fun way to enjoy a lovely day with low tides!



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Our Oceans in a Changing Climate

Olympic Climate Action sponsored a two-day *Our Oceans in a Changing Climate* event June 6-7 in Port Angeles. The event featured educational speakers and activities on the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on our marine waters. Activities kicked off Friday evening when popular singer/song-writer Dana Lyons performed works from his new album entitled “The Great Salish Sea” at the Elwha Heritage Center. A line up of local presenters addressed the challenges facing our marine environment from different angles. OCNMS Resource Protection Specialist Liam Antrim spoke about the impacts of ocean acidification and ramifications for marine life in the Pacific Northwest. Karlyn Langjahr followed with a hands-on ocean acidification presentation using demonstrations and interactive games. Other speakers included Matt Krogh, who spoke about the threats of fossil fuel exports, and Bill Baccus on climate change across the Olympic National Park landscape. The event pulled in over 50 members of the public, including high school students and youth.

Marine Debris Educational Art!

Local artist Sarah Tucker was commissioned by OCNMS to create three sculptures using marine debris as an educational tool to engage people in the discussion of marine debris. As most of you have already seen, the fried egg jellyfish is already on permanent display in Olympic Coast Discovery Center. Believe it or not, it was designed after a real species of jellyfish (*Phacellophora camtschatica*) that is found in our sanctuary waters!



Sarah’s second sculpture depicts a wolf eel (*Anarrhichthys ocellatus*) peeking through a hoop-like cave entrance with its long fin curled around a post. The wolf eel will be displayed as a sanctuary education piece, traveling with the OCNMS education booth to various environmental events and fairs we participate in throughout the year. At times I will also display it in front of OCDC so it is exposed to a greater number of people and to draw them into our visitor center!

Currently Sarah is wrapping up the completion of her final sculpture, a seal that will accompany Washington CoastSavers’ traveling exhibit. All three sculptures were made from debris collected at this year’s annual Washington Coastal Cleanup on April 19th on the outer coast. What an inspiring and creative way to recycle “garbage” from our beaches into pieces that promote awareness and behavior change!



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Coming Soon to OCDC: Ocean Acidification Cart!

Starting July we will begin using interactive demonstrations of ocean acidification in the OCDC to draw visitors in and to engage people in current issues surrounding our marine waters. Performing these activities will be optional depending on your level of comfort, and Karlyn will train you and practice with you before one of your shifts. New docents who attended spring 2014 Volunteer Training have already been exposed to some of these activities. Members of the public who are better informed can introduce small but simple actions in their daily life to help reduce the effects of ocean acidification, and they will better understand and retain the information through fun and interactive activities. I hope you'll find these to be valuable new additions to our visitor center!

(O A S S T News from the Field

Sophomore and junior high school students from Forks High School science class participated in a marine debris survey with Olympic National Park's Marine Ambassador's Program, a Natural Resource Options class through North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center.

Recent Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) surveys at Hobuck Beach are recording low numbers of beached birds, which is normal for this time of



year. Healthy birds are busy on their nests and raising their offspring. After birds come off the nest there is a trend in finding increased

numbers, along with post-breeding mortality. COASST volunteers continue surveying their beaches during these months in order to establish long term patterns and trends. Therefore even data indicating 0 beached birds is extremely valuable information! See more COASST updates at blogs.uw.edu/coasst

Marine Debris Monitoring

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary joined a national effort to monitor marine debris in 2012. The same monitoring protocols are being used at sites in



California, Oregon, British Columbia, Alaska, and Hawaii so that data can be easily compared. Volunteer citizen scientists are collecting monthly data which is entered into a national database for timely results. Recent reports and observations have indicated a surge and lull of long-range debris, typical of the current and weather pattern of the season. Volunteers from sites on the Washington Coast reported an increase in marine debris towards the end of April and into May. Of particular increase were the numbers of floats of various types and sizes and slabs of Styrofoam. It is difficult to know where much of the long-range debris originated. However, certain characteristics, such as Japanese construction style using mortise and tenon beams (similar to tongue and groove) and identifying markers have led some debris to be related to the 2011 Japanese Tsunami. Volunteers have also reported seasonal increase and decrease of various types of local fishing industry debris. More information about the National Marine Debris Program is available from their website: marinedebris.noaa.gov



Creature Feature

Red Sponge Nudibranch (*Rostanga pulchra*)

The red sponge nudibranch is also sometimes called the red sea slug, one of the over 3,000 species of nudibranchs in the world that we can find in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Nudibranch means “naked gills” and refers to the feathery gills and horns that many species have on their backs used for breathing. Red sponge nudibranchs are dorid nudibranchs (belonging to Suborder *Doridacea*), which refers to the posterior position of their gills.

This brightly colored organism has a wide distribution throughout the Pacific coast, ranging from Chile to Alaska with high densities on Vancouver Island and Baja California. Red sponge nudibranchs are almost always found under rocky edges in association with red encrusting sponges, upon which they feed, including *Ophlitaspongia sp.*, *Acarnus sp.*, *Esperiopsis sp.*, and *Plocamia sp.* It locates its food from distance using scent organs called rhinopores, which are unique in this species in that they have vertical perfoliations.

Red sponge nudibranchs are oval in shape and small in size, usually measuring 10-30mm long. Their bright red to orange color, sometimes even scarlet, matches the hue of the sponge they feed on. Their dorsum is also covered with caryophylletic tubercules, giving them a velvety texture similar to their prey.

Rostanga pulchra are oviparous animals with duration of egg development influenced by temperature. Red coils of eggs from 2,000 to 13,000 egg capsules are laid on the sponge they feed on. Eggs will develop into a larvae and then drift like plankton for 30-45 days until they settle in a suitable environment where metamorphosis will take place. Like all nudibranchs, the red sea slug is a hermaphrodite, but self-fertilization is very rare. The predaceous nudibranch, *Navanax intermis* (California aglaja) can be repelled by the non-acid secretions of *Rostanga*.



(photos by Jim Jewell and Walla Walla University)