

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010



Barbara Blackie at Feiro Marine Life Center at 6:30 pm Saturday

Barbara Blackie, Peninsula College Instructor and former OCNMS researcher presents "Location, Location, Location" - Seabirds and prime ocean real estate, our Washington Coast.

Barbara's talk will cover the marine birds choosing our wild Olympic Coast because of the fantastic breeding and feeding opportunities found here. From charismatic auklets and puffins to graceful gliding albatrosses and shearwaters, seabirds have unique ways of thriving in extreme environs. Barbara's presentation on the natural history of coastal marine birds will highlight the life strategies of regional birds. She will also discuss some of the findings from at-sea surveys conducted through the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and review what is known about the 2009 seabird mortality event.

FMLC is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting marine conservation and education. A \$5 donation is suggested but not required. Please call (360) 417-6254 to reserve a seat if you plan to attend.

OCDC volunteer recognition Saturday, October 2

I asked a number of volunteers what kind of recognition event they would enjoy most. The response was generally informal, outside, on the beach. We talked about Salt Creek County Park, but after a week of cool wet weather I think everyone might be more comfortable up at our house. We'll try for an outdoor BBQ followed by a campfire at dusk, but we can move everything inside if necessary. OCNMS will provide the main dish and beverages. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Social hour begins at 5:00 with dinner about 6:00. Please call or send an email if you are able to join us. It would be helpful to know what you are bringing, too, so that we can fill in any gaps.



Ocean Acidification seminar in Port Townsend

Please join a group of regional experts the evening of **October 7th** at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend, to learn about ocean acidification and potential impacts to marine resources in Washington state. This event is co-sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Port Townsend Marine Science Center, and Washington State University Beach Watchers.

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The purpose of the seminar is to share the current state of knowledge regarding ocean acidification, and provide an overview of scientific research being conducted in this region. This event is free and open to the public. It will provide valuable background information for discussing this ongoing concern with visitors to the Olympic Coast Discovery Center.

Please contact Caroline Gibson at Gibson@nwstraits.org to RSVP, so they can arrange meeting space accordingly. Please also let me know you plan to attend, especially if you are interested in carpooling to this event, which runs from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

opportunity to interact with a lot of people and help them understand how the actions we take every day can either make the problem worse or be part of the solution. Please give me a call or send an email to let us know if you are able to help and the day and time you prefer.



COASST training October 9

The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) trains volunteers to monitor beaches for dead seabirds and oil spills. The 600 volunteers who participate in this program monitor more than 300 beaches from northern California all the way north to southern Alaska. Julia Parrish, the founder and director of COASST will be in Port Angeles October 9 to train new volunteers. You do not need to be a bird expert to participate. If you enjoy beach walks and are willing to commit to monitoring a beach once a month, and if you enjoy hands-on science, then you are qualified to participate. Training takes place from 9:30 to 3:30 in our classroom. It's important that you let us know if you are coming so we can have sufficient materials ready.

Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival October 9 and 10

The Olympic Coast Discovery Center will have a booth at the Crab Festival with a display about marine debris and its impact on marine life. We are looking for volunteers to staff the booth on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 to 5:00. This is a great