

## Volunteer Newsletter

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### Upcoming Events

**March 5-6** Beachcombers' Fun Fair, Ocean Shores  
[beachcombersfunfair.com](http://beachcombersfunfair.com)

**March 23 12-1pm** Brown bag lunch presentation by Ken and Mary Campbell on marine wildlife encounters around the world, OCNMS 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classroom

**March 25 10am-3:30pm** Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting in Port Angeles, Elwha Klallam Heritage. Open to the public!  
[olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac\\_meetings2016.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2016.html)

**March 25 6:30pm** Southern Resident Killer Whale presentation in Port Angeles by Lynne Barre of NOAA-NMFS.

**April 1 10am** Quileute Tribe 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Welcoming the Whales" Ceremony, La Push.  
[www.quileutenation.org/qtc/WhalesFlyer2-11-16.pdf](http://www.quileutenation.org/qtc/WhalesFlyer2-11-16.pdf)

**April 9 6:30-9pm** Washington CoastSavers first fundraiser! The Mountaineers Club House, Seattle.  
[www.facebook.com/events/226917640980722](http://www.facebook.com/events/226917640980722)

**April 16 – 24** Free entrance to Olympic National Park for National Park Week  
[www.nps.gov/findapark/national-park-week.htm](http://www.nps.gov/findapark/national-park-week.htm)

**April 23** Annual Washington Coast Cleanup!  
Register at [coastsavers.org/](http://coastsavers.org/)

**April 27 12-1pm** Brown bag lunch presentation by Meggan Uecker on county's recycling and waste reduction efforts, OCNMS 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room

**May 28** Olympic Coast Discovery Center opens for 2016 season (open daily 10am-5pm)



### Announcing 2016 Volunteer Spring Training!

Dates for our annual spring training for Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC) are scheduled. Help us spread the word to your friends to bring new marine interpreters and stewards on board!

The 2016 OCDC training schedule is as follows:

- Tues. April 19 8:30am-1:00pm classroom, followed by Pizza Social for all volunteers and sanctuary staff!
- Tues. April 26 8:30am-1:00pm classroom
- Tues. May 3 8:30am-1:00pm classroom
- Sat. May 7 tidepooling field trip (half day) at Salt Creek Reserve, followed by potluck picnic (all welcome!)
- Tues. May 17 8:30am-1:00pm classroom
- Tues. May 24 all day field trip to Neah Bay (Makah Museum & Cape Flattery)

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### Annual OCDC Awards Ceremony



On November 20, we honored our Olympic Coast Discovery Center docents with the annual Awards Ceremony in the sanctuary classroom. Hoh Tribal member and storyteller Viola Riebe and her family graced us with their presence. They performed tribal songs and shared stories, emphasizing the importance of volunteers, and left us with a gift of the educational tsunami awareness DVD, "To Higher Ground". Education staff Jacqueline Laverdure and Nicole Harris followed with a slideshow presentation about the 2015 Hoh Watershed summer camp. Karlyn announced the top volunteer for Olympic Coast Discovery Center. Jim Jewell, in his eleventh season, was awarded Top Volunteer for 2015 with 206 volunteer hours; Carol Turner and Leslee Crate tied for Runner-Up Volunteers, clocking 151 and 150 hours, respectively. Sue Griffith received Honorable Mention for her 129 hours of volunteer service. All volunteers were celebrated with a potluck dinner with several OCNMS staff.



### Watch our "Happy Holidays" staff song on video!



We had a fun time singing together to spread holiday cheer to the song, "Sleigh Ride", with a twist! Lyrics were altered to highlight the marine life and habitats of

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Better yet, the ocean-themed lyrics are captioned so you can follow along! *"Just hear those sea birds calling and sea otters playing, woo hoo. Come on, it's lovely weather for a beach stroll together with you..."*. Don't worry, we'll be keeping our day jobs! Listen at [www.facebook.com/usolympiccoastgov/videos/1238536456162483/?theater](http://www.facebook.com/usolympiccoastgov/videos/1238536456162483/?theater)

### Holiday Party/ Movie Night

On December 15, we held our annual volunteer holiday party with a movie night, featuring the film, "Discovery Olympic Coast" about the treasured resources found in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS).





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This Sealife Productions film was produced by BBC and National Geographic videographer, Florian Graner, in partnership with North Coast Marine Resources Committee. The film is cleverly narrated by a sanctuary resident, a harbor seal, who guides us through the diverse habitats and aquatic wildlife of OCNMS. Popcorn and festive holiday treats were shared and Karlyn presented the OCDC 2015 holiday gift: a photo album documenting our volunteer exchange with Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in California. Thank you volunteers for sharing holiday cheer with popcorn and festive food and beverages!

### Beachcombing Museum Field Trip

Last summer enthusiastic beachcomber John Anderson opened up the Beachcombing Museum in Forks, showcasing his impressive collection of almost 40 years of his forages. On November 12,



Olympic Coast Discovery Center docents and staff ventured on a field trip to view John's private collection of well-organized goods, from treasures to beach standards. As a recently retired

Forks resident, John shares his passion and stories about the items which document marine debris and

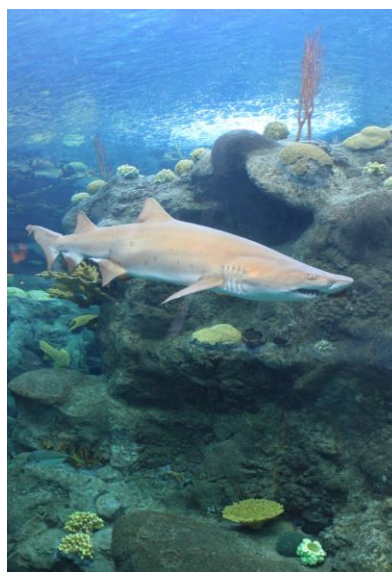


our material consumption over the decades. This educational exhibit displays one person's enthusiasm and curiosity, and results in a spectacular array of findings on our outer coast beaches, as well as other beaches in the world.

Volunteer Carol Turner wrote an article about our experience in the *Port O Call* newspaper, which can be accessed online at:

<http://portocallpublishing.com/2015/11/johns-beachcombing-museum-more-than-just-marine-debris-by-carol-turner/>.

### National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation



Sanctuary educators Karlyn Langjahr and Nicole Harris are very excited to have been accepted into the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI), a recognized training series on effectively communicating ocean and climate change. NNOCCI

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designs semester-long online and in-person trainings with peer groups of 22 informal science educators on strategic framing. Participants represent various



zoos, aquariums, science centers or other types of visitors centers from around the U.S. and join as a team in a Study Circle. Their first meeting dealt with “The Science of Communication” and consisted of five lessons to help us understand our audience in order to better effectively communicate ocean and climate change issues. NNOCCI is funded by National Science Foundation, New England Aquarium, and partners with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Penn State University and NewKnowledge.org. In February, Karlyn and Nicole attended their first in-person meeting together with ten other teams in Tampa at the Florida Aquarium. Their next training will focus on the current science of climate change, and effective metaphors for communicating climate change issues. To learn more, visit <http://climateinterpreter.org/>

### Philippe Cousteau’s EarthEcho Expedition

During the week of November 16, EarthEcho Expeditions program spoke with young people in and around Washington, particularly tribal youth, about their perspectives on climate change and ocean acidification. EarthEcho Expeditions is an international environmental education organization



founded by Philippe and Alexandra Cousteau in honor of their father Philippe Cousteau Sr., son of the famous French explorer Jacques Yves Cousteau. EarthEcho met with Neah Bay High School students as they conducted ocean investigations and studied the impacts of a changing ocean on tribal culture, food sources and their economy. Makah Tribe students conducted water quality tests (plankton tow, plankton observation and water chemistry) aboard *Wind Song* and discussed harmful algal blooms with staff from Makah Tribe Fisheries and OCNMS. Liam Antrim, OCNMS acting Research Coordinator, was interviewed by the EarthEcho team. Jacqueline Laverdure and Nicole Harris were also on board assisting with the education and monitoring. To learn more about EarthEcho, visit <http://earthecho.org>





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### Neah Bay Students Adopt a Beach for NOAA Marine Debris



#### Monitoring and Cleanup

Sanctuary staff Heidi Pedersen and Becca Lewis trained Linda Johnson's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom in Neah Bay to conduct NOAA marine debris surveys at a local site on Front Street Beach. During the training, students participated in discussions about where the debris came from, ocean currents, how shoreline debris becomes marine debris and vice-versa, harmful effects of marine debris, and what we can do about it. The 19 students have been successfully removing large marine debris items off of the beach, and assist in categorizing the debris. The study site is a 5 minute walk from the school, and studies will be conducted monthly throughout the school year.

#### Coastal Beach Warrior

Meet Russ Lewis, a dedicated volunteer near the south end of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, who makes a difference nearly every single day on his local beaches. Russ surveys a distance of 7.5 miles from Leadbetter Point to Oysterville Approach for marine debris, and collects it for removal. He sends the sanctuary regular detail-oriented emails with descriptions of his findings, along with photos.

Russ was even invited to Hawai'i in December to participate in the Marine Debris & Tsunami Driftage Symposium in Hilo, hosted by Hawaii Wildlife Fund and World Ocean Collective. The ~50 attendees

represented eleven local Hawaiian groups, five out-of-state groups and two international groups. The goals of the symposium were as follows:

1. Share effective recovery and removal techniques;
2. Spread the word about tsunami and disaster preparedness;
3. Share updates and new information about ongoing marine debris prevention work; and
4. Make connections and work together to reduce the amount of marine debris in our world's oceans and waterways

He noted that there were many interesting presentations, including Jon Schmidt of Washington CoastSavers, who presented on the program regarding ongoing efforts by different groups along our Washington shorelines. The presentation included photos of the various efforts of their active volunteer group, which was well-received by the public and symposium attendees.



During the symposium, 47 participants also joined in on a beach clean-up, collecting 300 pounds of derelict fishing nets and 41 bags of mostly small plastics for a total of 1,015 pounds of marine debris removed from the rocky shoreline at Kamilo Point, Ka'u, SE Hawaai Island, near South Point.

Russ reflected on his experience stating that it was "a great opportunity to meet people who are working on this subject from around the Pacific Rim to discuss and compare what we have been observing on our home beaches since 2011." Of this opportunity, he added: "My takeaway is that networking is an effective tool, even from across the Pacific."

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### *Creature Feature*

#### **What is “Marine Snow”?**

**Marine snow is a shower of organic material falling from upper waters to the deep ocean.**

(from NOAA’s National Ocean Service:

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/marinesnow.html>)

*Biological debris that falls from higher in the water column is also known as marine snow. Some flakes fall for weeks before finally reaching the ocean floor. As plants and animals near the surface of the ocean die and decay, they fall toward the sea floor, just like leaves and decaying material fall onto a forest floor. In addition to dead animals and plants, marine snow also includes fecal matter, sand, soot, and other inorganic dust.*

The decaying material is referred to as “marine snow” because it looks a little bit like white fluffy

bits. The “snowflakes” grow as they fall, some reaching several centimeters in diameter. Some flakes fall for weeks before finally reaching the ocean floor.

This continuous rain of marine snow provides food for many deep-sea creatures. Many animals in the dark parts of the ocean filter marine snow from the water or scavenge it from the seabed. NOAA scientists and others have measured the amount of useable material in marine snow and found that there is plenty of carbon and nitrogen to feed many of the scavengers in the deep sea.

The small percentage of material not consumed in shallower waters becomes incorporated into the muddy “ooze” blanketing the ocean floor, where it is further decomposed through biological activity.

About three-quarters of the deep ocean floor is covered in this thick, smooth ooze. The ooze collects as much as six meters every million years.

