

# 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   -   I U N E   2 0 1 3

### Enrichment Event

**Sat., June 22nd 8:30am- 12:30pm** – Elwha River Tour with Experience Olympic guide Carolyn Wilcox. *Please sign up with Karlyn by June 14th [karlyn.langjahr@noaa.gov](mailto:karlyn.langjahr@noaa.gov) or 457-6622 x 31.*

### Happy 2013 Season!

As you all know, the Discovery Center opened for the season on May 25th for Memorial Day weekend in conjunction with the San Juan de Fuca Arts Festival. Four volunteers and Rob welcomed 188 visitors over the weekend, which undoubtedly enhanced their overall impressions of Port Angeles. We are now open daily 10:00am -5:00pm through September 2nd after the Labor Day weekend and look forward to a busy summer!

We were also open each Tuesday for the month before our season opening to welcome cruise ship passengers. Thank you to Jim J, Anita, Bruce, Gerri, and Sue for starting our season off on such a great note! All of the volunteers I've had the pleasure of meeting thus far have been so friendly and welcoming to me as I stepped into a new role and a new home. It really means a lot to me. I'd also like to give a special thanks to Rob for his patience and steadfast commitment to OCDC,

which ensures some continuity and longevity of its former systems in place.

I really look forward to working with you all and learning more about each of you and hope to support you as best I can! With that, here's to a great 2013 season!



### OCDC's 2013 Face Lift

Have you noticed the new exterior window decals on OCDC? In mid-May OCNMS contracted BIOS, the original designers of our window decals, to refresh the faded design. They also replaced several of the most worn and stained carpet tiles on the floor. If you haven't yet seen the new graphics, come check them out in person!

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## Salt Creek Tidepooling & BBQ

On May 29th we celebrated the new season by tidepooling at Salt Creek's Tongue Point with our new OCDC volunteers. We were fortunate to have Jim J, in his 10th summer with OCDC, lead our tidepooling excursion to share his seasoned experience and knowledge of intertidal creatures. One of the highlights was Jim spotting a baby octopus in one of the pools and pointing it out to our group, a truly rare and unique opportunity! Our seasoned volunteer couple Bruce & Gerri joined us for the social potluck BBQ with great scenery. Rob was our champ at the grill, flipping burgers and veggie burgers. All in all it was a fantastic day with cooperative weather and we'll have to plan another social gathering for the summer!



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### **New OCDC Volunteers Trained!**

Six new volunteers have successfully completed the 2013 OCDC Docent Training which was held each Wednesday from April 24th to May 29th. The training covered our exhibit topics ranging from research and mooring efforts, ocean literacy, shipwrecks and current sanctuary issues. We also enjoyed having Elizabeth sit in on several of the in-classroom presentations for a refresher, as she was able to contribute valuable questions and context from her OCDC experience.

One of the volunteer training highlights was our all-day field trip to Neah Bay with personally guided tours at both the Makah Museum and Cape Flattery by Polly Demari. We were moved by Polly's personal stories of Makah traditions and fascinated by her botanical insights at the Cape. We even spotted several eagles, oyster catchers, Steller sea lions, a sea otter, and a tufted puffin during our short time there! Polly works for OCNMS during the summers as an interpreter at Cape Flattery, so definitely look for her if you make personal trips or take your summer

visitors there- you will be impressed and gain many new insights!



Our new volunteers include: Sarah, who also volunteers with The Feiro Marine Life Center and is a fantastic baker; Jason, a college student who grew up in Sequim and is gifted at playing several musical instruments; Karsten, a student from the Lower Elwha in Dan Lieberman's Natural Resource Program at the North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center; Kevin, a technical diver who has seen much of our marine life from below the sea surface; Sharad, a materials scientist and birding hobbyist who is originally from India; and Tatiana, who has a green thumb in her large garden and is originally from Russia.

Please give our new volunteers a warm welcome as they join the OCDC community! They will pair up with our experienced volunteers to gain additional direct guiding insight as well as confidence.



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### The Whale Trail

The first Whale Trail sign along OCNMS was dedicated at Kalaloch Lodge in Olympic National Park (ONP) on Thursday, April 11, both partnering The Whale Trail (<http://thewhaletrail.org>). The ceremony, attended by approximately 30 people, featured a keynote address by Jefferson County Commissioner Phil Johnson, representatives Olympic National Park, The Whale Trail, Queets Tribe and the sanctuary's own Carol Bernthal and Jacqueline Laverdure.



The Whale Trail is a series of sites around the Northwest where the public may view marine mammals from shore. The overall mission of The Whale Trail is to inspire appreciation and stewardship of whales and our marine environment by establishing a network of viewing sites along the whales' migration routes through the coastal waters of the Pacific Northwest. Through its current signs alone, including two on every Washington State

ferry, The Whale Trail reaches more than 22 million people each year. You have already seen The Whale Trail sign overlooking the harbor outside of the Discovery Center.

### OCNMS Volunteers of the Year Recognized

Roy Morris and Nancy Messmer were nominated as Volunteers of the Year for their involvement together and separately in several activities supporting Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Roy has served on OCNMS Advisory Council since 2007 in the Citizen-at-Large as well as the National Marine Fisheries Service's Lake Ozette Sockeye Recovery Team. Additionally, he serves on the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee and has assisted us with educational programming. Roy and Nancy were founding members of CoastSavers, the grassroots group that organizes the largest beach cleanup effort in Washington State. Nancy is a major contributor to citizen science for OCNMS, conducting monthly COASST and debris monitoring at two local beaches. Nancy and Roy are community leaders who bring a voice of authenticity and legitimacy to conservation issues that are often controversial. Through their "boots on the ground" efforts, they help OCNMS work within communities that are often very distrustful of a federal agency. They occasionally assist as volunteers in the OCDC.

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### CoastSavers Beach Cleanup a Huge Success!

The annual Earth Day shoreline cleanup on April 20 coordinated by CoastSavers was a resounding success this year, with over 1,000 volunteers involved removing an estimated 15 tons of debris from Washington's coastal beaches. OCNMS is a founding member of CoastSavers and hosts the registration station at Hobuck Beach on the Makah Reservation, led by Jacqueline.

### Removal of Japanese Dock Completed

The 185-ton dock that washed out to sea during the March 2011 tsunami in Japan was removed in March 2013 from Washington's Olympic Coast by the Port Townsend crews from The Undersea Company. The challenging



operation involved opening up a 185-ton concrete package filled with Styrofoam while standing near a helicopter on an extremely remote coastline. The removal effort included an inspection for non-native species and was supported by many state and federal agencies, a successful example of inter-agency collaboration!

### Kite Board Washes up From Canada!

On April 30th, while walking along the beach just south of Yellow Banks (on the north coast of Washington), COASST volunteer Dave Easton



found a kite board washed up on shore. The board had the owner's E-mail on it, so Dave contacted him. It turns out the owner had lost it on April 6th in Canada after a bad wipe out about 400 meters off shore. Dave stated that it is "amazing how the currents and wind work; choreographed chaos." Next time you're out scouring the beach for marine debris, keep in mind the potential origin of the debris and the long journey it took to get there. The two are now working to reunite the owner with his lost board.

### World Oceans Day

World Oceans Day is celebrated each year across the globe on June 8th! Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and our friends at Feiro Marine Life Center celebrated by showcasing student posters portraying the theme "Help Our Watersheds and Ocean Be Healthy." Participants represented Dry Creek and Helen Haller Elementary schools.

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### An Introduction

Hello long-time and new OCDC volunteers! I have been with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary now for almost 2 months and am extremely happy to fill this capacity. My other role with the sanctuary is coordinating its advisory council, a body of volunteer partners and stakeholders of the sanctuary which meets bi-monthly to provide recommendations on the management and protection of the sanctuary. The Discovery Center and Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) are two very different and interesting faces to the sanctuary's public, and both incredibly important. I hope that some of the policy information from the SAC can feed into our public outreach via our Discovery Center and that we all continue to learn and become better stewards of our magical nature and culture of the Olympic Peninsula.

I grew up in land-locked and freshwater-rich Wisconsin, though the ocean has been pulling me since I was a child. After college at UW-Madison, I spent over two years on the Pacific coast of Panama as a Peace Corps volunteer in the environmental education sector, which solidified my dream and goal of pursuing marine conservation as a career. I received my Master's degree at the University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs with a focus on tropical marine resource management, conducting my thesis field research on community-based marine sanctuaries in the Philippines. My first

professional exposure to NOAA was through its Coral Reef Conservation Program in the U.S. Virgin Islands after grad school. I worked as a Coral Reef Management Fellow for 3 years placed at the St. Croix East End Marine Park, mainly in the role of capacity building, conservation project management, and education/outreach. That opportunity led me to become manager of Chumbe Island Coral Park, a small not-for-profit island conservation and eco-tourism project off Tanzania's coast in the Indian Ocean. While living in the Zanzibar archipelago for ~2 years I learned directly about the important role of tourism in marine conservation efforts and even assisted managing a small, upscale beach lodge on remote Pemba Island, the northern sister island to Zanzibar. Over the past year I worked for environmental and marine field study abroad programs for American college students in Costa Rica, Panama and Nicaragua.



I met my now-husband in Seattle while finishing grad school and we took our first trip to the outer coast in 2006 for a weekend of beach camping at Shi Shi. I always thought that if I would return to live and work in the US, it would definitely be in the Pacific Northwest! Cam and I both immediately felt at home here in Port Angeles and we look forward to building a community here in the years to come!