



Klallam Earth Day

Thanks to all the volunteers who turned out to help clean up local beaches and watersheds for the first annual Klallam Earth Day: Tara Morrow and Daniel at Valley Creek; Jim Fedderly with the Feiro team at Peabody Creek; Bruce and Gerri Ferguson with friends Ian and Sabina on Ediz Hook; and Jim Lamont, Andrew Staritzky, Genie DeVine, and Carol Huard with Ingrid and Rachel at Salt Creek. The combined effort on the Washington coast and Strait removed over 24 tons of trash from our beaches!

Coming Events

April 29 thru May 1 - Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

May 19 - Tidepool exploration and picnic at Salt Creek County Park

May 24 – Brown bag lunch; looking for a guest speaker

May 28 – Olympic Coast Discovery Center open daily through Labor Day

June 3 – Marine Mammal Stranding Training in Forks



Coast Guard visits Olympic Coast Discovery Center volunteers

Chris Hollingshead, Commander of the US Coast Guard cutter Active spoke to Olympic Coast Discovery Center volunteers and staff at our

brown bag lunch on April 26. He presented an extremely interesting talk about the domestic and international roles of the service, and shared his personal history of 24 years of active duty in many parts of the world. We learned that the five main missions of the United States Coast Guard are maritime security, mobility, safety, and defense, and protection of natural resources. The 36,000 men and women in this branch of the service maintain aids to navigation including buoys and lighthouses in all United States waterways. They stop illegal migration, counter drug operations, escort subs and large naval vessels, provide maritime search and rescue, inspect vessels, respond to oil spills and groundings, help with fisheries enforcement, and train navy and coast guard personnel in developing nations, and spend most of their time training for these various missions.



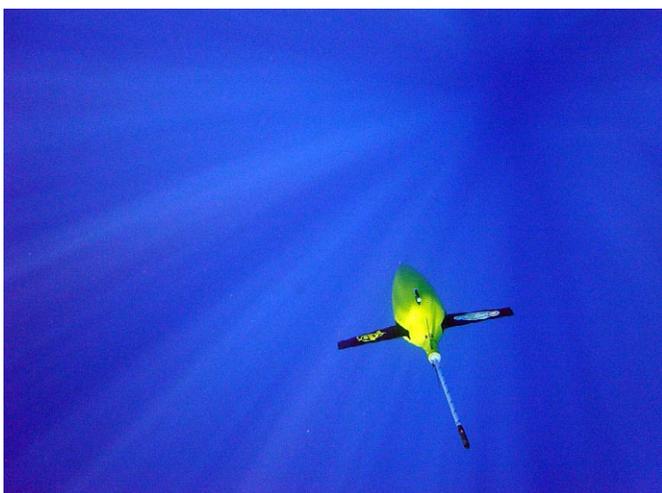
Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

Each spring hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in Grays Harbor estuary on their migration northward. Coming from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. Some birds travel over 15,000 miles round trip! Tens of thousands of shorebirds feed on the open mudflats in the estuary. This concentration of birds offers people a great chance to view a number of shorebird species, and with luck, to see the birds fly together in beautiful formations while trying to escape the fastest creature on earth, the Peregrine Falcon.

Shorebirds are best viewed from about 2 hours before to 2 hours after high tide because during high tide, birds are closer to shore and more concentrated. During the Festival weekend, which is at the peak of the migration, best viewing times are mid-day. More information about the festival, as well as a complete list of birds seen in 2010, is available at www.shorebirdfestival.com.

Seaglider deployed in OCNMS

Patrick A'Hearn, OCNMS oceanographer, brought a Seaglider into the classroom for a few days last week. After being deployed from the RV Tatoosh, this amazing autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) will collect temperature, salinity, chlorophyll, and oxygen data for the rest of the summer. Each time it surfaces it will transmit data to shore in near-real time via satellite data telemetry.



Seagliders fly through the water with extremely modest energy requirements using changes in buoyancy for thrust coupled with a stable, low-drag, hydrodynamic shape. Designed to operate at depths up to 1000 meters, the hull compresses as it sinks, matching the compressibility of seawater. Seagliders make oceanographic measurements traditionally collected by research vessels or moored instruments, but at a fraction of the cost. They can survey along a transect, profile at a fixed location, and can be commanded to alter their sampling strategies throughout a mission.

Seaglider is the result of a collaborative effort between the Applied Physics Lab at the University of Washington and the UW School of Oceanography. More information about this AUV, as well as data from last year's deployment, is available online at <http://www.apl.washington.edu/projects/seaglider/summary.html>

Congratulations, Douglas Parks

Olympic Coast Discovery Center volunteer Douglas Parks has been selected as one of the 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholars for the Class of 2011 for his strong leadership, community service and academic achievements. Douglas, one of more than 23,000 students who applied for this prestigious scholarship, has volunteered in the Discovery Center since his freshman year in high school. He is planning to pursue a career in marine science at the University of Washington or the University of North Carolina. Way to go, Douglas!





Volunteer of the Year

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is proud to announce Jaci Pumphrey as Sanctuary Volunteer of the Year. Jaci has served side-by-side with sanctuary staff for many years of service contributing her skill and energy to clerical office support, outreach at community festivals and special events, and participation in COASST. She is the “go-to” volunteer for “seal sitting,” when molting elephant seals occupy public beaches in Port Angeles. She is a nominee for recognition as Volunteer of the Year at the national level. Thank you, Jaci, for all your time and effort, and for always cheering us up with your positive attitude and witty remarks!

Summer in the Olympic Coast Discovery Center

Sign-up sheets are now available for Discovery Center shifts from Memorial Day through Labor

Day. This year, in addition to working with Heidi, Rob, or Janet, volunteers have an opportunity to work with Acting Superintendent George Galasso, Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby, Geographer Nancy Wright and other staff of OCNMS. Stop by the center to pick your shifts, or call and let us know when you are available. This summer we’ll also send out weekly notice of available shifts.

Marine Mammal Stranding Training

US Fish and Wildlife service is offering marine mammal stranding training in Forks on Friday, June 3, covering basic species identification and what to do in the case of a stranding. The class is an excellent refresher for anyone trained in the past, and if you are new to this effort it is a great chance to become familiar with the marine mammals species you are most likely to see strand on the outer Washington coast or along the Strait. 3-hour sessions are offered at 10:00 or 1:30. Because of space limitations, please RSVP to Deanna Lynch at Deanna_Lynch@fws.gov or call 360-753-9545 if you would like to participate.

Beach Walk and Picnic Lunch on May 19

We encourage all new and veteran volunteers to join us for a day of fun at Salt Creek County Park on Thursday, May 19. With a -1.7 tide at 10:45 we will have several hours of incredible tidepool exploration if we meet at the classroom at 8:30 or on the beach at 9:00. Afterward we’ll head up to the picnic area for a delicious potluck lunch and mini-awards ceremony. Please call Carol Huard

at 452-6454 or chuard@olypen.com by May 13 if you plan to attend, or contact the office if you have questions about where or when to meet.



Elizabeth Mae Winslow May 2, 1936 – March 29, 2011

Beth Winslow, long-time Olympic Coast Discovery Center volunteer, passed away on March 29 in Port Townsend. Beth was in the first training classes for OCDC volunteers in the summer of 2004, and she was a participant in CoastFest, our grand opening celebration in July of 2004. In addition to volunteering more than 500 hours in the Discovery Center, Beth enjoyed scuba diving, swimming, bicycling, and working in her garden. A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, May 7 at 2 p.m. at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Townsend.