

DUNGENESS RIVER CURRENT

Newsletter for the Dungeness River Audubon Center interpreting the natural history of the Olympic Peninsula in partnership with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and Audubon Washington

Fall 2010

11th Dungeness River Festival, September 24-26

The Dungeness River Festival began in the 1990s as a one-day event to celebrate our lovely watershed. The festival has now become a three-day event held every year during the last weekend in September. The festival occurs this year from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday through Sunday, September 24 to 26, in Railroad Bridge Park. As an extra added treat, on Friday evening the NW Raptor Center will present *Birds of Prey* in the Sequim High School cafeteria. Come one, come all!

Last year's attendance at the Festival reached nearly 3,000, including over 800 students. We need many volunteers during the festival, so Gretha Davis (681-8013) and Julie Jackson (683-1355) would like to recruit your help. If you're available to help with set-up on Thursday afternoon (Sept. 23) or with other projects during the Festival itself (Sept. 24-26), please contact them ASAP.

Exhibits on Friday and Saturday include nearly all the local, state, federal, tribal and non-profit agencies and non-profits active in the Dungeness watershed. The Festival is open to the public every day, with a special education day on Friday geared to the hundreds of students attending that day. Each exhibitor has been asked to provide an educational activity related to nature and the environment. Students will even provide the music: The Five Acres School marimba band, *Sound Waves*, will be performing.

In addition to nature exhibits and activities for all ages, the Festival features music, dancing, walks, story telling, arts, crafts, food, and more. Highlights this year will include a Community Drumming Circle (Sat., 1 p.m.) and the Olympic Driftwood Sculptors second anniversary show. Popular local musicians include Kentucky Bullfrog (Sat, 11:00), Cort Armstrong (Sun. 11:00), and Mike Kamphaus, one-man band & musical show, *Me, Myself, and I* (Sun., 1:00). The complete Festival schedule is available on the River Center web site, www.DungenessRiverCenter.org.



River Festival Event Highlights:

- 25 Nature activities & interactive exhibits
- *Sound Waves*, Five Acre School Marimba Band (4 sets between 10 & 2) River Stage
- Olympic Driftwood Sculptors art show opens in the River Center
- Swift water rescue demonstration, Clallam Co. Rescue Team, at the River north of the bridge
- Native Plants walk
- Salmon burgers, Fry Bread, Sweet Corn, Hot Dogs, Sausages, Blackberries and more
- **'Birds of Prey'** - in cooperation with Northwest Raptor Center

Find out More at:

www.DungenessRiverCenter.org

Dungeness River Audubon Center

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Web Page

www.DungenessRiverCenter.org

*Interpreting the natural history
of the Olympic Peninsula.*

Director's Notes

Congratulations to Penny Burdick for winning the "Your Dungeness River" contest run by the River Center in the Sequim Gazette on August 11 and 18. Support for the contest and the entire program came from a TogetherGreen Innovation Grant from Toyota and National Audubon. Penny answered two questions correctly: 1) Name the species and stocks of salmonid fish in the Dungeness River and describe their status on the endangered species list, and 2) Name three ways that local residents can help protect the Dungeness River, its riparian forests, and its fish and wildlife. As Penny said, "The answers were all on the signs on the bridge." Thanks to everyone for reading the interpretive signs and particularly to the people who entered our contest.

The River Center received a wonderful donation in August: a perfect scale model of Railroad Bridge, constructed by Bill Rice and donated on behalf of the North Olympic Railroaders. Bill is 87 years old, a wonderful gentleman with lots of good stories. Bill constructed the bridge over 1800 hours, including many hours of research and photos to make sure the model was authentic. The model is 1/4-inch scale, which means that one-quarter inch on the model equals one foot on the real bridge. Particularly interesting is that Bill's model shows the bridge as it was built in 1915, not as it is today, so the end supports are made out of wood rather than concrete and metal. We will prepare a special shelf and display for Bill's model, where it will help inform the public about the past railroad history of the north Olympic Peninsula.

It has been another busy summer at the River Center, with summer camps, Art in the Park, community festivals, bird and river classes, and the ever-increasing tourist traffic through the Center and Park. Many, many thanks to our community outreach committee, particularly Julie Jackson, Gretha Davis, Lyn Muench, and Shirley Anderson, who work many hours behind the scenes helping to plan and carry out our events. Keep checking our website, www.DungenessRiverCenter.org, to stay abreast of our upcoming events and the latest news of the river and park.

Water volumes in the Dungeness River have been very high this summer, largely because the cool spring weather earlier this year slowed down snowmelt in the Olympics. The river flows this summer have been higher than any year since 1999, which set a record for river volume in July and August. Everyone hopes the high water promises good salmon spawning this fall. The first Chinook salmon redds of the summer have been located in the river, so keep checking in RR Bridge Park for spawning salmon now through the end of the year.

I was recently reminded that Bob Boekelheide has the gift of gab. He can walk past a fragment of lichen, stoop, pick it up and pique anyone's curiosity with an immediate question that is likely to start: "Did you know...?" I cannot begin to gab as freely but I have begun to notice things the way Bob does. Really. It is autumn now and of course we think of the deciduous leaves turning color and falling and the students with their bulging backpacks standing at the corner. It seems apt to share one of my favorite self-assignments: Go outside (of course) and pay attention to small details that would otherwise go unnoticed. Describe what you see (a journal or sketch pad brings an immediate 4.0) and then ask some slightly inane questions. Maybe you want to know if all the Big Leaf Maple leaves are changing color simultaneously. Maybe you wonder if the river water is carrying silt. Maybe you need to find out if all the Thimbleberries have the same sweet-tart flavor. My favorite is when I notice something that I cannot explain. That's when we get to call Bob or Powell!

Seeking gifts, crafts, baked goods, supplies,
and helpers for the
4th annual

Holiday Nature Mart

Sat., Nov. 20
10 am - 4 pm

Dungeness River Audubon Center
at Railroad Bridge Park
2151 West Hendrickson Road
If you can help, please contact
Gretha Davis (683-8013) or
Julie Jackson (683-1355)

Nature Mart proceeds help support
River Center education programs

Want to see what you are missing? Check out the last River Current Online:
www.DungenessRiverCenter.org

We think of the River Center as an environmental leader. By putting our newsletter online and e-mailing it to as many members as possible we can save paper, trees, and postage too...we can spend the savings on programs instead of printing and mailing. Please help us go green by sending Powell Jones your e-mail address at rctech@olympus.net

Planned Giving Options ~ by Sue Chickman

You recently received the Dungeness River Audubon Center's (RC) new endowment brochure. The brochure highlights our vision to provide high-quality environmental education and stewardship programs for future generations. Our goal is to raise an endowment fund of \$5 million that will sustain the RC and Railroad Bridge Park for many years to come. Please help us reach that goal.

The endowment brochure lists some planned giving options available to you, should you decide to include the River Center in your estate planning. The Endowment Committee has met with local legal and financial professionals who have helped us with gifting options. Sequim attorney Erwin P. Jones, Jr., P.S., has helped with the following three types:

Wills: This type of gift generally requires tax considerations and legal language, so obtain professional assistance when writing your will. You can name a specific dollar amount, item (real property, stock certificate, car, etc.), or designate a percentage of the residuary estate value.

Codicils: If your existing will is complex, voluminous, and was expensive to create, adding a codicil is a good idea. If your existing will is simple, it may actually be less expensive to create a new one, particularly if you are still in contact with the attorney who wrote the existing will. In Washington, the codicil must be executed with the same formality as the original will. There are requirements, which, if not observed, will invalidate a codicil or a will.

Living Trusts: An individual (Trustor) may create a "Trust" (a fund controlled by a third person) **by will** (Testamentary Trust), or **during his or her life** (Living Trust). The choice is dependent on conditions and circumstances unrelated to the decision to make a gift to the River Center. There are advantages and disadvantages to both. If you already have a Trust, then an amendment can be added (similar to adding a codicil to a will). Although a knowledgeable Trustor can do this, most people will want to seek counsel. The Living Trust needs to be distinguished from several other tax advantaged charitable trusts, which definitely require legal and tax planning assistance.

You can also donate your automobile to the River Center! Do you have a good running extra car you don't need anymore, or do you want to lessen your environmental footprint? As a community service, Wilder Toyota will purchase RC-approved autos, with the proceeds going to the River Center Endowment and the donation tax benefit going to the donor of the auto. For details, contact Endowment Committee member Eftin Strong at 360-417-3994.

If you have questions or would like to discuss these or other gifting options, please contact Bob Boekelheide, the Center's director, at 360-681-4076.

Visit us at www.DungenessRiverCenter.org

Tax Planning Can Be Fun

“It is always fun to pay less in taxes,” says Certified Financial Planner James D. Hallett. “Tax Planning Can Be Fun” is the second in a free series of financial planning programs sponsored by the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Join us for one of the informative, interactive sessions on Thursday, October 14, 2010, at the Dungeness River Audubon Center to:

- Take a look at the proposed 2011 tax rate increases.
- Discuss specific steps you can take so that you spend less on taxes and keep more of what you earn.
- Show you how to use Social Capital to increase your income, cut your taxes and benefit your favorite non-profit.
- Help you understand the two reasons for all of the tax rules and how you can use this knowledge for your benefit.

The 1.5 hour program will be offered at two times on Thursday, October 14: 3:30-5:00 pm and 6:00-7:30 pm. Pre-registration is advised. To register for either the afternoon or the evening session, contact Julie Jackson, 683-1355, or juliejackson@wavecable.com. Note that you may want to bring your 2009 return so you can refer to it as you prepare for your 2010 return and plan strategies for 2011.



The Dungeness River Ecology class was another smashing success this year. Special presentations from biologists and soil scientists of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Dungeness Fish Hatchery, and the U.S. Forest Service added immensely to the class. This summer class, which investigates the Dungeness River from its mouth to the mountains, next occurs in July 2011. Put it on next year’s calendar.

Winter Wanderings by Pablo McCloud was just one of the many special pieces of art at this year’s “Art in the Park” event. If you would like to see more of the art pieces that were displayed in the show please visit: www.DungenessRiverCenter.org and click on Art in the Park.



Upcoming Special Events

Dungeness River Festival, Fri.-Sun., Sep. 24 to 26. Our Amazing Watershed!! Help us celebrate the watershed that keeps the Sequim-Dungeness Valley alive. There will be activities for kids and adults, music, art, food, and much more. We need volunteers for the festival, so please contact the River Center if you're available to help.

Holiday Nature Mart – Holiday Shopping at the Center

Date: Sat., Nov. 20. Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Start your holiday shopping at the River Center! We invite adults and children to purchase and/or make gifts that appeal to nature lovers and wildlife alike.

Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count

Date: Mon., Dec. 20. Time: All day. Chili Feed at 5 p.m. Fee: \$5 per person

It is time to count the birds! You can help by covering a special route, joining another group, or by just counting your neighborhood or backyard. Contact Bob Boekelheide at the River Center (681-4076) to sign up for the count. Official tally and chili feed for counters at the River Center begins at 5 p.m.

Port Angeles Christmas Bird Count

Date: Sun. Jan 2. All day Fee: \$5 per person
Another great Christmas Bird Count! Contact Barb Blackie at 360-477-8028 to sign up for this count. The count tally will occur at a restaurant in Port Angeles, beginning at 5 p.m.



Birds of Prey

**Friday, September 24, 2010
7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Sequim High School Cafeteria

See live Hawks and Owls and learn how the Northwest Raptor Center brings injured animals back to health.

Presented as part of the

Dungeness River Festival

by the Dungeness River Audubon Center (681-4076)

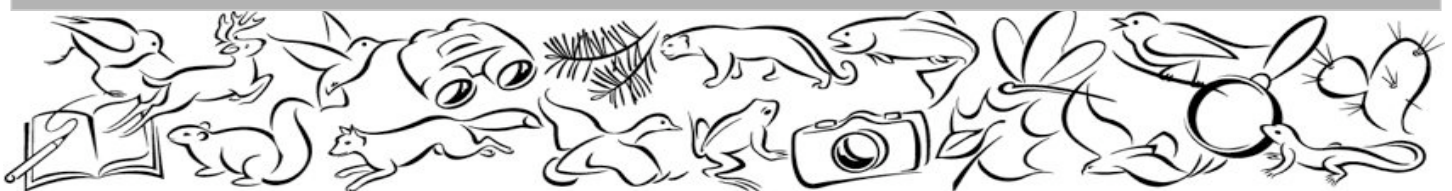
in cooperation with the

Northwest Raptor Center

**Donations to support the Northwest Raptor Center
will be welcomed**

Join The River Center Kids Mailing List

Get E-mail alerts when the Dungeness River Audubon Center is doing activities for kids. The date, time, and cost of activities like birdhouse building and painting, night hikes, bicycle trips, art projects, river explorations and much more will be delivered to your e-mail box. If this sounds interesting then please contact Powell Jones at rctech@olympus.net and tell him that you want to be part of the River Center Kids mailing list!



Schedule of Events

Bird Walks

Date: Every Wed. morning; Time: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Meet at the River Center for a lovely walk to see and hear the birds of the Dungeness riparian forest. Information from walks helps us understand the annual cycle of birds in RR Bridge Park.

Thursday Work Parties

Dates: Last Thurs. each month: Sep. 30, Oct 28, Nov 18; 1 to 4 p.m. Cost: 3 short hours helping RR Bridge Park
Please help keep RR Bridge Park looking bright and beautiful! Bring your work gloves to assist with gardening, cleaning, trail maintenance and other chores that make our park shine. Snacks and drinks provided!!

Natural Science Study Group

Dates: 2nd Mon. each month: Sep. 14, Oct 12, and Nov 9; 10 a.m. to noon.
This adult discussion group focuses on the most interesting aspects of the natural world that affect the north Olympic Peninsula, including climate, weather, rivers, geology, botany, and wildlife. Discussion topics vary with group interests. Come add your two cents and gain some knowledge at the same time.

Dungeness River Management Team

The experts and informed public groups that oversee the management of the Dungeness River meet monthly at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, second Wed. of the month, from 2 to 5 p.m.

OPAS Monthly Meeting

Date: Wed. Sep. 15; 6 p.m. potluck dinner, 7 p.m. meeting
Join Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society for their monthly meeting. This month's speaker is Hilary Hilscher, Communications Development, Audubon Washington, will discuss her work on the Washington State Birding Trail in the Past, Present, and Future.

Introduction to Birds and Birding

Date: Six Sessions: Sep. 21 to Oct 26; Time: 7 to 9 p.m.
Cost: \$40 for Center partners, \$60 for non-partners; Textbook \$18.95+tax
Ever wonder what that bird is in your backyard? These classes for beginners include basic bird identification, types of birds, bird behaviors, bird sounds, field guides, and birding optics. Limit: 16. Please pre-register.

Vulture Migration at Salt Creek County Park

Date Sat, Oct 2; Meet at Tongue Point overlook, west end of the campground loop at Salt Creek Co. Park, at 10 a.m.
Each year, Turkey Vultures gather at the south shore of Victoria Island and, when the air warms, cross the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the Olympic Peninsula. Join Diann MacRae, who has studied the vultures for years. Bring snacks, water, and scopes if available. For further information contact Larry Rymon 360-681-6399.

Dungeness Spit to McDonnell Creek

Date: Tuesday, October 5, Time: 7:45-11:30 a.m.
Cost: Free (There is a \$3 entry fee to access the National Wildlife Refuge if you don't have one of the several passes accepted.)
Meeting place: The parking lot adjacent to the entry kiosk to Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge. Participants will walk along the beach to observe wintering seabirds, gulls and raptors. *Info:* Contact Joe Zook, 360-681-3526, gadzooks@wavecable.com.

Carrie Blake Park/John Wayne Marina

Date: Sat., Oct. 16, Time: 9:30 a.m. to noon
Meeting place: Carrie Blake Park
This trip is for beginning birders or residents new to the area. Meet some of our local birds while familiarizing yourself with birding techniques. *Pre-registration and info:* Dave Jackson 360-683-1355 (H); email: djackson@wavecable.com. Limit 16 people.

Ridgefield NWR/Sauvie Island

Date: Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 16-17,
Cost: Free (Participants make their own motel reservations in the Vancouver, WA area and are responsible for their own meals.)
Meeting place: The entrance station to Ridgefield NWR at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. Expect to see a multitude of ducks, geese and raptors. There is also a possibility of Western Scrub-Jays, Great Egret, American Bittern, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Owls. *info:* Contact Joe Zook, 360-681-3526, gadzooks@wavecable.com.

OPAS Monthly Meeting

Date: Wed. Oct 20; Time: 7 p.m.
Idie Ulsh presents "Feathered Architects: The Fascinating World of Birds' Nests." From eagles to hummingbirds, Idie Ulsh will explore with us how and where birds make nests, and relate interesting facts about their construction. In addition to her own photos, she will include photos from excellent local photographers.

Fall Birds of the North Olympic Peninsula

Dates: Five Thursdays, Oct. 28, Nov 4, 18th, Dec 2 and 9; First class meets at 9 a.m., other class times depend on weather and tides.
Cost: \$40 for partners; \$60 for non-members
This intermediate birding class teaches identification and natural history of the birds of the north Olympic Peninsula during fall. Class will be outdoors nearly every session plus field trips to local habitats; weather permitting. Limit: 16 people.

From the Air: Olympic Peninsula

Date: Fri., Oct. 29; 7 p.m.
Dave Woodcock, dentist, pilot, and photographer talks about his book, *From the Air: Olympic Peninsula*. This is an amazing book that shows the Olympic Peninsula in ways we never see. Dave will cover how the book was created, how he took the photos, and other highlights, plus sign copies of the book.

7th Annual Docent Appreciation Night

Date: Wed., Dec. 1; Time: 6:00 p.m. RSVP by Nov. 30
NEW LOCATION! Red Cedar Hall at the JST Campus
Hip-hip-hooray for our wonderful volunteers! This is our annual gala to thank our great volunteers who support the Center's education programs. Volunteers, board members, and spouses are invited for an evening of treats and fun. Bring a gift that is handmade or under \$10 for the Gift Exchange.

Christmas Bird Count Warm up

Date: Sat., Dec. 11, Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Meet at RR Bridge Park to cover birds of forests, and then travel to Dungeness Landing Park at noon to view saltwater birds.

DUNGENESS RIVER CURRENT

Dungeness River Audubon Center
PO Box 2450
Sequim WA 98382

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sequim, WA
Permit No. 10

Wanted: Dungeness River Audubon Center Memberships Renewals/ Endowment Donations

Choose your category (ies): Renewal New Member Endowment

Any amount above your dues is a contribution to our operating cost.

Please contact our office regarding contributions to the River Center and Railroad Bridge Park Endowment Fund

- Individual (\$25)
- Family/Dual (\$35)
- Friend (\$50)
- Sustaining (\$100)
- Supporting/Business (\$200)
- Patron/Corporate (\$500)
- Benefactor (\$1000)
- Additional Donation\$ _____

Contact Information:

Dungeness River Audubon Center
P.O. Box 2450 Sequim WA 98382
Phone (360) 681-4076 Fax (360) 681-8060
Web Site: www.DungenessRiverCenter.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- Check if you would like to receive the *River Current* newsletter online instead of in print.
- Check if you are interested in receiving information about Volunteer Opportunities for the Dungeness River Audubon Center

The friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our progress