



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 2011

Message From The Director



Photo: Don Wallace: Bob Having Fun watching the birds!

You may have heard that I plan to move to other adventures in January 2012. As I said in my resignation letter to the board of directors, my ten years with the Dungeness River Audubon Center has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. What joys we have had! Our efforts to create a community nature center, education programs, and a beautiful park for the north Olympic Peninsula has been a superb accomplishment for all the volunteers, board members, staff, and every supporter of RR Bridge Park. My greatest thanks for everyone's support!

Now more than ever, the River Center and RR Bridge Park need your help. The Center's 10-year anniversary on October

21st and the Park's 20-year anniversary in 2012 are major milestones worthy of grand celebrations. The Dungeness River Festival on September 23-24 needs many volunteers. But more important, please remember to make regular donations for the park's future. In these difficult economic times, the Center may continue with only two staff members into 2012, so the Center and Park will really need our help, both financially and through our volunteer hours. Otherwise the Center's hours and park services may need to be reduced.

Ten Years of Wednesday Morning Bird Walks

The first Wednesday morning bird walk in RR Bridge Park occurred on September 19, 2001, with only one person in attendance (who was that mystery person?). Since then the bird walk has never missed a Wednesday, holding over 500 walks with over 7500 "participants." The ten-year anniversary party for the bird walks comes up on Wed, September 21, so please help us celebrate the birds.

Help Needed!

With all the wonderful growth we have had here at the River Center we need your help! The River Center is in need of more weekend greeters, festival volunteers, and special project people. You don't need to be a bird expert to be a volunteer at the River Center; all you need is a cheerful attitude and a willingness to help find answers to questions. You can bring a friend and make it even more fun! For more info please contact us at 360-681-4076 or rctech@olympus.net

Dungeness River Audubon Center

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www.DungenessRiverCenter.org

*Interpreting the natural history
of the Olympic Peninsula.*

Happy Anniversary River Center

The Grand Opening of the Dungeness River Audubon Center occurred on October 21, 2001, with over 130 people in attendance. On Friday, October 21, 2011, we will celebrate throughout the day, with an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and a reception from 4 to 7 p.m. Again, please join the celebration!



Fall is a Beautiful Season in RR Bridge Park

Fall is a beautiful season in RR Bridge Park. Come look for spawning salmon under the changing maple leaves. Watch for migrant warblers moving through the tall cottonwoods. Volunteer for the Dungeness River Festival! We have lots of opportunities and several volunteer slots available. Call the River Center today to sign up.

Animal Olympics

The Center recently received funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service to produce an "Animal Olympics" course, including a permanent course along the Olympic Discovery Trail in RR Bridge Park and mobile courses that can move to other communities on the Olympic Peninsula. The Animal Olympics course consists of ten stations with instructions to exercise like a specific animal, such as "Jump like a Frog," or "Flap like a Hummingbird." It is a part of the Olympic Peninsula Health Champions program, in which physicians prescribe outdoor activities for children with health problems like obesity or diabetes. We hope children of all ages, including regular users of RR Bridge Park, will use the course and enjoy exercising in the great outdoors.

Driftwood Sculpture Wins People's Choice Award

Visitors to Art in the Park voted 'Enchanted Heron' by award-winning driftwood sculptor Tuttie Peetz as their favorite. "Driftwood is another term for 'found' wood," says Peetz, who collects pieces of dead wood with interesting shapes from beaches and forests. She spent untold hours fashioning her 'heron' from a piece of old-growth cedar. She used dried kelp on the cedar base to give the 24-inch sculpture a 'reedy' look.

'Enchanted Heron' was part of the Art in the Park exhibit July 29-August 2 in the River Center. The multi-media exhibit featured 27 local artists, whose works ranged from paintings to fused glass and photographs to driftwood sculpture. Nearly 250 visitors voted for their favorite piece in the show. 'Dungeness River' a photograph by Ross Hamilton and 'American Kestrel' a painting in pastels by Shirley Foss tied for second. 'Great Blue Herons Courting' a photograph by Ron Carlson took third place.

Nearly 800 people – many of them first-time visitors – attended this annual celebration of art and nature in Railroad Bridge Park. In addition to the exhibit, events in the Park included a reception, art demonstrations and activities for all ages, nature photography walks and an evening program on bats.



Photo Don Wallace: First Place: 'Enchanted Heron,' driftwood sculpture from old-growth cedar, by Tuttie Peetz

Almost New Website!

Have you checked out our website recently? Okay it isn't brand new but there are a lot of changes. Thanks to **Don Wallace** the site has a new look, wider borders, and is constantly being improved. There are some great additions including a new section titled; Birds of Railroad Bridge Park and the Dungeness. There is a lot of new photography and material to help learn more about our area. Of course all the great features like our schedule and Wednesday morning bird walk data is still available and up to date. Come visit us at: www.DungenessRiverCenter.org

Volunteers

We love you, and need you, and couldn't do without you!

Come to River Center, Sunday October 23rd from 11-1
Bring a friend
Bring a brown bag lunch

Let's share stories about being River Center's Volunteer Naturalists (aka Docents), so that we can learn from each other.

Powell will introduce us to "Animal Olympics"

Find us on Facebook!

The History of the River Festival

The Dungeness River Festival began as River Day in 1995, long before we had a building or even an amphitheater. We had the picnic shelter, the bridge, and 10 acres of undeveloped land. It was held on Saturday, May 6, as part of the 100th Irrigation Festival. Annette Hanson was the key organizer to bring children from the Sequim School District to walk, bike or bus to the park. Other board members pitched in, helping with children's games, greeting festival participants, setting up, and taking down displays. Exhibitors from Clallam County, the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe and other local organizations had booths, and we had several walks and talks. One hundred people signed the guest book.

In 1996, we hired Joe Holtrop to organize the Festival; he had recently returned from years overseas and in graduate school, and was known to many of our exhibitors. (He is now District manager of the Clallam Conservation District and still participates in the River Festival.). He submitted a final report with many good suggestions.



In 1997, we held River Day on May 31, and it poured rain. We canvassed our exhibitors and got universal votes to switch the Festival to September. Useful comments sent by Hansi Hals, then of the Clallam Conservation District, encouraged us to define our audience. For example, we could focus on school kids, kids in the summer, landowners of the watershed, or have a family day.



In 1998, the U.S. Forest Service invited us to apply for a grant to mix artistic use of forest materials and nature in the Festival. Because they also supported the salmon festival of Wild Olympic Salmon in Port Townsend, which was held every other year, they asked us to hold ours in alternate years. We agreed, and with their financial support, expanded to a two day River Festival to be held every other year in September. Friday was referred to as Education Day, with students coming from both local and private elementary schools. We held a student art contest for a poster, invited artists and natural-resource organizations to exhibit, and made and sold T-shirts. Artists had booths and demonstrated their talents, along with the natural-resource groups. That was the first year of fish printing on T-shirts. Another major feature in 1998 was a "Salmon Trail Run" organized by Dave Shreffler and Ann Soule. People walked and ran from the Dungeness School House to Railroad Bridge Park, "migrating up the river." Interpretive signs lined the trail. It was a great success, with many out of town participants, and a great deal of work.

By 2008, the Festival attracted nearly 3,000 people including more than 800 on 'Education Day.' Wild Olympic Salmon no longer had its celebration every other year, and we felt that an annual festival was sustainable.

In 2009 and 2010 we held expanded to a three-day festival, in the hopes of attracting more out of town attendees. Financial support from local hotel/motel tax paid for out-of-town promotion. In 2009 Olympic Driftwood Sculptors held its first anniversary show in the River Center on Saturday and Sunday and we also partnered with Northwest Raptor Center for an evening program.



Although reaction to the expanded festival has been positive, attendance surveys show that the Festival is really a community celebration that does not attract many visitors from beyond the Olympic Peninsula. Thus, the 12th Dungeness River Festival will be a two-day event, held on September 23-24, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Kids' Hundreds of students will fill the Park on Kids' Day, Friday, Sept. 23. On Saturday morning, the Jamestown S'Klallam drummers and singers will welcome visitors and festivities will continue all day. Also, on Saturday, the third Olympic Driftwood Sculptors anniversary show will open in the River Center; it will run through Sunday. Visit the River Center web site, www.dungenessrivercenter.org, for a detailed festival schedule.

Join the Fun at the 12th Dungeness River Festival, September 23-24

Come enjoy the 12th Dungeness River Festival! Spread your wings with the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, print a fish on your t-shirt (bring a white one), jump like a frog doing the Animal Olympics and more! Friday's activities will be geared to the hundreds of students attending on that day. Although admission to the Festival is free, donations to support River Center programs and maintenance of Railroad Bridge Park are always greatly appreciated.

Friday, September 23, 10:00 to 4:00

25 interactive activities including fish printing (bring your own white t-shirt to print)

Food: Salmon burgers, Fry Bread, Hot Dogs, Kabobs, Sweet Corn and more

10-12 Face Painting: Laff Pack clowns

10-12 Bird Identification Contest at the River Center

10:30 Juana Marimba – music that makes you wanna MOVE!) River Stage

11:00 River Walk with Bob Boekelheide. Meet at Information Table

12:00 Nature Photography Walk with Don Wallace. Meet at River Center bird feeders

12:45 Cougars and Bears: Be Aware! Powell Jones. River Stage

2:00-3:00 Legends of the Jamestown S'Klallam People with story teller Elaine Grinnell

3:00 Trees & Shrubs of RR Bridge Park with Joe Holtrop.

Saturday, September 24, 10:00 to 4:00

25 interactive activities including fish printing (bring your own white t-shirt to print)

Food: Salmon burgers, Fry Bread, Hot Dogs, Kabobs, Sweet Corn and more

Olympic Driftwood Sculptors 3rd Anniversary Art Show in the River Center

Bird Identification Contest in the River Center

10:00 Jamestown S'Klallam drummers & singers welcome ceremony.

10:45-11:45 Music in the Park, River Stage by Mike Kamphaus,

11:00 Nature Photography Walk with Don Wallace.

11:45-12:15 Cougars and Bears: Be Aware! Powell Jones. River Stage

12:30-1:30 Music in the Park, River Stage, by Mike Kamphaus,

1:00-2:00 Trees & Shrubs of RR Bridge Park Joe Holtrop.

1:30-3:30 Music in the Park by Cort & Kia Armstrong . Mountain

blues, country, and soul stompin' sound

1:45- 2:15 Cougars and Bears: Be Aware! Powell Jones. River Stage.

2:00 How They Built the Bridge – Meet engineer Ken Wiersema on the railroad bridge at the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society table

2:00 Tall tales and fiddle tunes with Mitch Luckett. River Stage

3:00 River Walk with Bob Boekelheide. Meet at information table



Sunday, September 25, 10:00 to 4:00

Olympic Driftwood Sculptors 3rd Anniversary Art Show in the Dungeness River Audubon Center

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

www.DungenessRiverCenter.org



Photo by Doug Schwarz

San Juan Islands October 3-5, 2011, Sequim, WA

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Cruise to Roche Harbor Resort and San Juan Island, whale-watching along the way. Picnic on Sucia Island State Park, and cruise home via dramatic Deception Pass.

Contact 360-681-4076, or email rcoffice@olympus.net.

Details at:

www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org



Curious about 'Cloud' Computing?

The Dungeness River Audubon Center and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society are implementing a powerful new web-based membership management system and we would welcome your help. If this opportunity to learn and use an exciting 21st-century technology interests you, contact Membership Committee Chair, Julie Jackson at 683-1355 or juliejackson@wavecable.com.

Lyn Muench's recipe for "Oregon Grape Jelly"

- Pick Oregon Grapes when they are dark blue but still plump. Remove as many stems and sticks as possible.
- Rinse 1 cup berries. Place in a microwave safe bowl. Add and mix 1 cup white sugar. Cover and vent.
- Microwave on high 1 1/2 minutes. Remove cover and stir to fully mix sugar and berries. Recover.
- Continue to microwave another 1 minute. Strain through cheese cloth (lining a strainer with cloth over a bowl works. An old thin kerchief also works.) Press the berries repeatedly so that the juice goes into a bowl. While still warm pour juice a clean jam jar. Refrigerate. It should jell when cold. If not you have made pancake syrup!

Dull Oregon-grape: *mabania nervosa* & Tall Oregon-grape *mabonia aqifolium*

GENERAL: Erect, rhizomatous, evergreen, stiff-branched shrub, to 60cm tall: leaves like holly; bark and wood yellowish.

LEAVES: Clustered, long, alternate, turning reddish or purplish in winter, with 9-19 leathery leaflets, somewhat shiny on both surfaces; leaflets oblong to egg-shaped, with several prominent spiny teeth (resembling English holly).

FLOWERS: Bright yellow, flower parts in 6s, many flowered erect clusters to 20cm long.

FRUITS: Blue berries about 1 cm across with few large seed and a whitish bloom, in elongated clusters, edible.

ECOLOGY: Dry to fairly moist, open to closed forests at low to middle elevations.

The tart, purple berries of both Oregon grapes were eaten, but generally not in quantity. Often they were mixed with salal or some other sweeter fruit. Today they are used for jelly, and some people make wine from them. The bark is bright yellow inside, due to an alkaloid, berberine. The shredded bark of the stems and roots was used to make a bright-yellow dye for basket materials.

Background information, above taken from page 95; "Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast" by Pojar & MacKinnon. This very informative book is available for purchase in the River Center Gift Shop! \$24.95

Schedule of Events

Upcoming Special Events

Dungeness River Festival, Fri.-Sun., Sep. 23 to 24. 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.

San Juan Island Three-day Cruise

Date: Sun. to Tue., Oct 3 - 5

Join us, for a three-day, two-night birding cruise through the San Juan Archipelago. Relax at historic Roche Harbor Resort. Enjoy whale watching, northwest seabirds, and the spectacular scenery of the San Juan Islands. Details and registration forms for the San Juan cruise can be found at www.olybird.org. Proceeds benefit the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

Holiday Nature Mart – Holiday Shopping at the Center

Date: Sat., Nov. 19. 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.

OPAS Field Trips: www.OlympicPeninsulaAudubon.org for more details.

OPAS Monthly Meeting

Date: Wed. Sep. 20; 6 p.m. potluck dinner, 7 p.m. meeting

Join Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society for their monthly meeting. This month's speaker is Idie Ulsh, founding president of the Washington Butterfly Association, will present a fast moving, fun program on butterflies. She will cover the natural history of butterflies, butterfly gardening, and will identify many butterflies that occur in the Sequim and Olympic Mountains areas.

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

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.

NEW! Being a Backyard Birder (BBB)

Starting Saturday, October 1, 2011, 10 a.m. to noon,

Session 1: What Bird is That?

The series of nine monthly classes is intended for anyone interested in knowing more about the birds seen locally each season of the year, as well as learning how to make their homes good habitats for wild birds. "BBB" can be taken as individual sessions or as a series. Each class will cost \$5 for adults, but is free for ages 10 to 18. After the completion of any 5 sessions, participants will be offered membership in the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS).

More information is available by calling 681-4076

Birding for Beginners & Newcomers

Date: Sat., Oct 15, 2011, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Cost: Free. Meeting place: Carrie Blake Park

This presentation is for beginning birders or residents new to the area. It will help with familiarization with birds and birding techniques. Pre-registration and further information: Dave Jackson 360-683-1355 (H); 360-477-1358 (C); email: djackson@wavecable.com. Limit 16 people.

OPAS Monthly Meeting

Date: Wed. Oct 19; Time: 7 p.m.

Biologist and Swan specialist Martha Jordan presents "Swans of Winter" an interactive look into the swans of Washington State. You will learn about their life history, biology, and a few swan identification tips. She will shed light on the problems and controversies these birds face on their wintering grounds.

Fall Birds of the North Olympic Peninsula

Dates: Four Thursdays, Oct. 27 to Nov. 17th; 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.

NEW! Fungus Foray – Mushroom Walk

Date: Sat. Nov 5 Time: 10 a.m. Cost \$10

Come explore the fascinating world of fungi with local Fungi guru Lee Whitford. Lee will discuss features used for identification, collection and eating of mushrooms and share resources available for further study. Lee will also guide participants through using a simple dichotomous key to identify mushrooms. Pre-registration required. Limit 15 people

Being a Backyard Birder (BBB)

Nov 5, 2011, 10 a.m. to noon,

Session 2: Winter Bird Feeding

See Program Description Above

Christmas Bird Count Warm up / Being a Backyard Birder (BBB) Session 3 (See Program Description Above)

Date: Sat., Dec. 10, 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.

Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count

Date: Mon., Dec. 19. Time: All day until Dusk. Compilation 5 p.m.

Fee: CBC \$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 beginning at 5 p.m.

Port Angeles Christmas Bird Count

Date: Sun. Dec 31. All day Fee: CBC \$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.

DUNGENESS RIVER CURRENT

Dungeness River Audubon Center
PO Box 2450
Sequim WA 98382



Dungeness River Audubon Center Membership

Please complete the entire form. Is this a **New Membership**___ or **Renewal**___?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: ___ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

___ Check if you'd prefer a PDF of the *River Current* newsletter instead of a printed copy. Be sure to provide your email address.

___ Check if you are interested in receiving info about volunteer opportunities for the River Center and Railroad Bridge Park.

Please circle your membership dues category:

\$25 Individual \$35 Household \$50 Friend \$100 Sustaining
\$250 Supporting \$500 Patron \$1000 Benefactor other \$ _____

I also want to make a donation to help support River Center operations: \$ _____ and the Endowment \$ _____

Payment Method:

My check for \$ _____, made out to **Dungeness River Audubon Center** is enclosed.

I prefer to charge my membership/donation to: ___ MasterCard ___ VISA Amount \$ _____

Acct# _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Please send this form with payment to: **Dungeness River Audubon Center, PO Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382** Thank you!! Your contributions to the Dungeness River Audubon Center, a 501(c) (3) non-profit (EIN 91-1632949), are fully tax-deductible