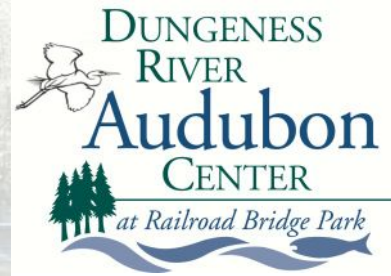


Newsletter for the Dungeness River Audubon Center—interpreting the natural history of the Olympic Peninsula in partnership with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and National Audubon Society.

RIVER CURRENT



Points of Interest

- We are open!
- We are accountable!
- Nature Mart sets records!
- Bridge photo *Best In Show!*
- Play to honor Hazel Wolf
- New classes begin soon!

Inside this issue

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1ST QUARTER 2014

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S NOTES—*Powell Jones*

First and foremost I would like to welcome Annette Hanson as our *River Current* editor. I encourage any aspiring writers and photographers who would like to contribute to contact her.

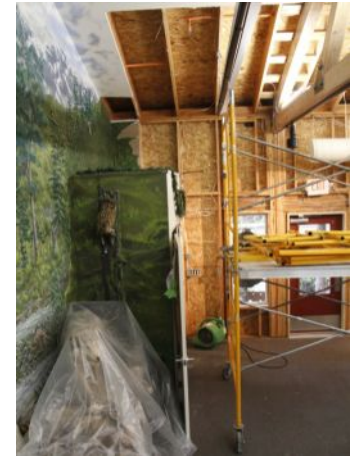
The Dungeness River Audubon Center experienced a flood at the end of 2013. Thanks to the amazing and quick help from volunteers, fire fighters, and contractors, the water damage was limited—considering over 2000 gallons entered the building. The cause of the flood, a frozen sprinkler system pipe, has now been fixed and other repairs are continuing.

Thank you to all those who have helped, supported, and adjusted plans and schedules due to

the flood. The most important message is that **We Are Open Again!** Please come down and enjoy the Center with friends and family.

Be sure to keep up with all the River Center activities and events being offered in 2014. You can get information about upcoming events through the newsletter, Enews, Facebook, and website. Some of the highlighted activities and events in the coming months are new birding classes and trips, art classes, Driftwood Show, BirdFest, Hazel Wolf play, Dungeness River ecology class, and Spring Fling.

Enter our contest to come up with a new and better name for Spring Fling (Details on page 6) and join us by participating in this



Now comes the sheet-rock work.

—Sue Chickman photo

‘feel good’ fundraiser, which starts May 1.

We will soon be able to accept online donations, and the Center will participate in GiveBIG for the first time (See page 5). Your support makes all the difference. See you out there!

“ACCOUNTABILITY” FROM THE PRESIDENT—*Lyn Muench*

We like to think that in our long history the River Center and Park have always been well run. Two years ago we realized, thanks to some refreshing new board members, that we should codify our practices—make sure that we have written policies

and procedures that anyone can read and that we will all follow. We spent more than a year working through a fairly daunting list of actions that needed to be thought through, written down, reviewed, and adopted by our Board. While they make fairly boring reading

(check out “Record Retention”), they demonstrate that we have covered the bases: accounting, budgeting, conflict of interest, etc.

That refers to written down policies. What about practices? Our Board of 18 meets monthly, virtually all

(Continued on page 7)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers to May 2014

Lyn Muench, President
John Bridge, Vice Pres.
Ann Sargent, Secretary,
Jamestown S'Klallam
Tribe
Greg Voyles, Treas.

Members

Shirley Anderson,
Olympic Peninsula
Audubon Society
Sue Chickman
Dennis Dickson
Jim Gift, Olympic Peninsula
Audubon Society
Hansi Hals, Jamestown
S'Klallam Tribe
Clare Hatler
Julie Jackson
Les Jones
Annette Nesse,
Jamestown S'Klallam
Tribe
Tuttie Peetz
Ken Wiersema, Olympic
Peninsula Audubon
Society

Affiliates

Annette Hanson Poor,
Emeritus
Powell Jones, Exec. Director
Kathy Steichen, Olympic
National Park

CENTER HOURS

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. TU-FRI
12 p.m. - 4 p.m. SAT
Closed SUN & MON

*The Dungeness River
Audubon Center is a
charitable organization.
Membership fees and
donations are tax
deductible to the extent
of the law.*

*For tax purposes, our
501©3 Federal EIN is
91-1632949.*

River Current Editor

Annette Hanson
360-670-6774
annette_hanson@msn.com

DUNGENESS RIVER AUDUBON CENTER

OUR MISSION

To inspire understanding, enjoyment,
and stewardship of the Olympic
Peninsula's unique natural and cultural
resources, with emphasis on birds,
rivers, fish, and people.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.DUNGENESSRIVERCENTER.ORG



rivercenter@olympus.net

2151 West Hendrickson Road
P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382
360-681-4076, 360-681-8060 Fax

Staff

Powell Jones, Executive Director
Vanessa Fuller, Administrative Services
& Volunteer Coordinator
Becca Nissley, Educational
Coordinator

Park Host

Linda Dolan

REQUEST FOR BIRDFEST AUCTION ITEMS—Enid Phreaner

The Olympic Peninsula
Audubon Society is
requesting donations for
the 2014 BirdFest Auction.
Last year's Silent Auction
featured over 75 items and
raised \$3,790 to support
the Dungeness River
Audubon Center's
educational mission.

The success of the
auction depends on the
creative and interesting
items we receive as

donations for bid. This
year, the focus of the
auction will be on
experiential items (for
example, gift certificates for
dinners, gardening, hiking,
pet sitting, birding...). We
recognize we have many
talented artists among our
members and community
and have benefitted from
their generosity in the past.

We welcome donations,
but also must acknowledge

that we have very limited
display space. Please,
consider donating to the
BirdFest Auction.

We ask that donations be
delivered to the Dungeness
River Audubon Center no
later than March 28. If you
have any questions, please
contact Enid Phreaner, 504-
2110 or eeplsp@aol.com.

DRIFTWOOD SHOW MARCH 22-23—Tuttie Peetz

The Olympic Driftwood
Sculptors will hold their
6th Annual Winter Show
at the Dungeness River
Audubon Center on March
22-23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
both days. Numerous
sculptures will be on
display, including a special
theme exhibit entitled
"Fantasia."

Handmade driftwood
items will also be for sale,

as well as raffle tickets for a
driftwood sculpture crafted
by several club members—
proceeds of which support
the annual scholarship fund.

There will also be
demonstrations of the art
form, and information
about driftwood classes
and the organization.

Admission is free.

"Melange" by Tuttie Peetz contains old growth cedar pieces
entwined with dried kelp, placed inside the ring from an old
whiskey barrel.

—Tuttie Peetz photo



LEGACY CIRCLE INSPIRES—*Sue Chickman*

In 2013, we established a *Legacy Circle* for those donors who have included or intend to include the Center in their financial or estate plans. Such gifts sustain ongoing operations of the Center and Park to ensure that generations of children and adults will have an opportunity to learn the importance of protecting and enjoying the Olympic Peninsula's unique natural and cultural resources.

Last November, River Center board members held the first Legacy Circle gathering, which included those who have already committed, or were interested in learning more about the value of the Legacy Circle.

Periodic gatherings will be held to honor the Center's visionary donors for their long-term commitment to the success of the Center and Park.

This first gathering included a diverse group of people, including some who helped form the Center to those who have recently moved to the area and were instantly enthralled by the Center's mission. Exec. Director Powell Jones shared his vision for the future and asked those attending what was most meaningful to them about the Center, and what their vision might be for the next fifty years. The discussion was rich in history and inspiration for the future.

Some of the recommendations included adding more educational programs, facilities expansion (although others recommended to not expand), making the Center and Park financially sustainable (e.g., achieving the \$5 Million Endowment Fund goal), plus several other notable ideas.

The next Legacy Circle gathering is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 16, 2014. If you would like more information or would like to attend, please contact Julie Jackson at 360/683-1355 or juliejackson@wavecable.com.



Look how we've grown since 2002.

—Annette Hanson photo

“I enjoy the opportunity that volunteering as a docent provides to inform and educate the public regarding this spectacular and precious ecosystem...”

—Dennis Dickson

VOLUNTEER PROFILE—*DENNIS DICKSON*

We warmly welcome Dennis to our family of friends and Board of Directors at the Center and Park! When asked to describe himself, here's what he said.

“Born in Toledo, Ohio. Earned a B.A. in history and political science from Bowling Green State Univ. and a J.D. from the Univ. of Toledo College of Law. After completing a judicial clerkship and passing the bar, I practiced law for 15 years in the area of civil litigation in northwestern Ohio.

I moved to the Port Angeles area in 1986. After

taking some time off to become more acquainted with the beautiful Olympic Peninsula, I took a ‘temporary’ job with the City of Port Angeles legal department that was to last for 23 plus years. I am now retired from the City, however do occasionally take assignments as a contract prosecutor for the City and sit as a Pro Tem judge in District Court II.

I have had a lifelong love of the outdoors, animal life, fishing, camping, and natural history. These are among the factors that drew me to come to the

Olympic Peninsula.

I have been a longtime supporter of various conservation organizations including Audubon, Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, as well as D.R.A.C. and O.P.A.S.

I enjoy the opportunity that volunteering as a docent provides to inform and educate the public regarding this spectacular and precious ecosystem that we are fortunate to call home. I strongly support the education programs that we provide to the area's children, the future stewards of this wonderful place we live.”



Dennis Dickson

—Sue Chickman photo



**Railroad Bridge
after first snow.**

—Annette Hanson
photo

The Railroad Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and one of the few remaining Howe-through truss bridges in the state. In 2015, we will be inviting the community to help celebrate its **100th Birthday.**



**Andy Stepniewski,
OPAS speaker on
Feb. 19.**

—Submitted photo

CALENDAR OF EVENTS...www.dungenessrivercenter.org

WEEKLY

Wednesday Morning Bird Walks

*Every Wednesday at 8:30
a.m.*

Meet at the River Center and join us for a 2-hour bird walk to see and hear birds of Railroad Bridge Park. Data from our bird walks help us understand bird populations in Railroad Bridge Park over time. All are welcome to attend this free event.

Dungeness Adventure Club

*Every Thursday, 10 a.m.-
Noon*

The Dungeness Adventure Club is for children under 6 and their caretakers. Stop by Railroad Bridge Park and find new ways to get your child involved in nature with games, songs, and fun stories. Attendance is free but donations are welcome. Don't forget an extra set of clothing and a snack.

MEETINGS

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

Meeting:

Feb. 19—Eastern Washington's Shrubsteppe – Its Birds and Plants

*Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.,
presented by Andy
Stepniewski, free*

Andy is a magnificent birder, naturalist, and author. He hails from the shrubsteppes of Wapato, Washington, where he has lived since 1978.

CLASSES/EVENTS

Feb 22—Nestbox Building Bonanza!

Saturday, 10 a.m.

*Cost: \$15 for one box, \$25
for two*

Powell Jones and Ken Wiersema will show you how to build a perfect nestbox. You will leave this class with a nestbox ready for installation in your backyard. This class is perfect for all ages and families! Contact the River Center to register, 360-681-4076 or e-mail rceducation@olympus.net.

Unable to attend on the 22nd? Pre-cut nestbox kits ready for assembly are available for pick-up after Feb. 22 for \$10 each. Contact the River Center for more details or to order your nestbox kits.

March 1—Being a Backyard Birder: "Spring Gardening for Birds"

Saturday, 10 a.m.

*Cost: \$5, free for youth under
18*

Garry Bullock, and Enid and Bob Phreaner will share information about gardening to attract birds and wildlife to your backyard. Attend 5 sessions of "Being a Backyard Birder" and receive a free annual membership to the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society.

March 13, 27, April 10, 24, May 8, 22, June 5, 19

—Birding by Ear Seminar

*Every other Thursday, 8:30-
11:30 a.m.*

*Cost: \$60 members, \$80 for
non-members*

This Dave Jackson seminar is designed for intermediate birders to master the skills of birding by ear. The March and April sessions will focus on familiarizing ourselves with winter birds, while the May and June sessions will be learning spring migrants.

The seminars will include birding in Railroad Bridge Park and other locations to be determined. Contact the River Center to register, limit 16 students. If you have further questions, e-mail Dave Jackson at djackson@wavecable.com or call (360) 683-1355.

March 15—Tips & Tidbits for Volunteers 2.0

Saturday, 10 a.m.-Noon

*New and returning
volunteers welcome!*

Join us for our first volunteer session of 2014. We will cover renovations to the Center after the pipe burst in December, gearing up for spring and summer visitors, and learning new tidbits and tricks to share with visitors. There will be light refreshments provided and raffle prizes to win! RSVP to Becca Nissley by e-mailing rceducation@olympus.net or calling (360)-681-4076.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 22-23—Olympic Driftwood Sculptor's Show

Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (See page 2)

April 4-6—Olympic BirdFest 2014

Come bird with us in one of the most beautiful locations in the country! We have something for everyone--birding trips, boat cruises, workshops, a delicious banquet, and much more! Visit www.olympicbirdfest.org for birding trip details, dates and times, and registration instructions.

April 12—Being a Backyard Birder: "Bird Migration"

Saturday, 10 a.m.-Noon
Cost: \$5, free for youth under 18

Join Bill Parker and Terry Martin as they share a peek into the world of bird migration. Learn how and why different birds migrate, as well as amazing facts and figures about migration around the world. Attend 5 sessions of "Being a Backyard Birder" and receive a free one year

membership to the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society.

April 1 - May 6—Introduction to Birds & Birding

Tuesday evenings, 7-9 p.m.
\$50 for River Center members; \$70 for non-members

This six-week class, taught by Dave Jackson, is designed for beginning birders, new residents who wish to learn and recognize our local birds, and anyone wanting to better understand birds. Classes include bird identification, feeders, houses, field guides, and optics. Includes two Saturday field trips.

April 22—Earth Day

April 24—Financial Planning Seminar

(See page 6)

April 26—Hazel Speaks! ...Benefit performance

2 p.m. (See page 6)

May 1-31—Dungeness Spring Fling

(See page 6)

May 3—Being a Backyard Birder: "Spring Sounds"

Saturday, 10 a.m.-Noon
Cost: \$5, free for youth under 18

Ken Wiersema and Dow Lambert will share stunning images and sounds of the spring migrants arriving around us. Join us as we learn to appreciate spring sounds and get familiar with spring voices.

SEATTLE FOUNDATION TO MATCH DONORS IN 'GIVEBIG' CAMPAIGN

We're making it easier for you to support the River Center and Park—soon you will see a 'Donate Now' link on our website.

You can even use it as we participate in the upcoming **Seattle Foundation's** region-wide **GiveBIG** campaign in May, where River Center donors' dollars will be matched, percentage-wise, by participating corporate philanthropists.



BirdFest 2014

See the enclosed **Olympic BirdFest Flyer** for detailed information or visit www.olympicbirdfest.org



Instructor Dave Jackson teaches **Intro. to Birds & Birding, and Birding by Ear.**

IMAGE OF BRIDGE WINS BEST IN SHOW—Becca Nissley

Hometown pride is alive and well with Sequim's youth. **Castell Insurance** and the **Sequim Gazette** recently sponsored the first annual Hometown Pride Youth Photo Contest for students in grades 6-12. The *Best in Show* champion and Sequim High School senior **Briauna Luchte**

was presented with the grand prize, a Nikon SLR Camera kit on Dec. 18.

Luchte's winning photo, originally submitted during a photography assignment on fall colors, is a unique, deck-level image of our **Railroad Bridge** adorned in fall foliage. When asked if she believes the Park's

Railroad Bridge is a good representation of her hometown pride she replied, "Yes, it's pretty popular here."

Railroad Bridge Park was the focal point of several other photos submitted by students.



A slideshow of all submitted photos may be viewed online at www.sequimgazette.com. Congratulations!

SAVE THE DATES! **HAZEL SPEAKS TO BENEFIT CENTER AND PARK**



The *Hazel Speaks* cast includes Helen Carrick, Charlotte McElroy, Marianne Trowbridge, and Elizabeth Kelly.

—Rebecca Redshaw photo

On **April 26**, at 2 p.m., four seasoned actors voice the humor and passion of the amazing **Hazel Wolf**, Audubon champion, activist, and community leader with strong ties to

the Northwest. The play is based on the book by Susan Starbuck—*Hazel Wolf: Fighting the Establishment*. Rebecca Redshaw's staged reading—in honor of this extraordinary woman—is in Hazel's own words, wit and wisdom.

The performance will take place in the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center's Red Cedar Hall to benefit the River Center and Park.

Playwright and author **Rebecca Redshaw** worked in the film industry in Los Angeles for 20 years before moving to the northwest

to write full time. She has published articles and short stories in national publications and magazines.

Watch for more information about the playwright, actors, and the play to be forthcoming. Other information: www.rebeccaredshaw.com.

Financial Planning Seminar No. 8 "IS MY ESTATE PLAN IN A TANGLE?"

Presented by Jan Tierney, Attorney

Thursday, April 24 at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Hosted by the River Center

Contact Sue Chickman, organicallysue@olypen.com or 477-4123, to make your reservation.

"What shall we call this 'feel good' fundraiser?"

—Julie Jackson



Bicyclers Lee Bowen and Sue Gilleland take a break during their Spring Fling.

—Submitted photo

KICKING THE 'SPRING FLING' CLICHÉ —Julie Jackson

Although 'Spring Fling' reflects the spirit of the River Center's annual activity-based fundraiser, this overused phrase has become a cliché. Dungeness Spring Fling needs a new name and the River Center is holding a contest to find it.

Contestants may submit as many alternative names as they wish before the deadline, **Feb. 28, 2014**. Team leaders from Spring Fling 2013 will review the entries, and the River Center Board will select the winning entry by March 10, 2014. The winner will receive free admission to Spring Fling special events in 2014, plus the satisfaction of supporting the River Center.

The essence of Spring Fling is to have fun while outdoors or indoors, raising funds. That's exactly what members of the Broom Busters, Dirty Face Racing, Green Gardeners, Sand Dollars, Spring Strollers, and Swift Swallows did last year. From May 1-31, they walked, biked, birded, gardened, sanded driftwood, hiked, ran, and pulled Scotch Broom with a special purpose. Together, Spring Fling participants and their sponsors raised \$28,000—nearly \$1,000 a day.

Since 2009, Dungeness Spring Fling has raised over \$108,000 to support education programs of the Dungeness River Audubon Center and

maintain Railroad Bridge Park.

What shall we call this "feel good" fundraiser? Send your suggested names to juliejackson@wavecable.com with the subject line 'Spring Fling Contest' or mail them to Spring Fling Contest, Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382.



—Photo courtesy of Gretha Davis

ACCOUNTABILITY...continued from page 1

attending, with an agenda, minutes taken, and votes recorded. Anyone wishing to see these records or specific policies is welcome to contact Executive Director Powell Jones or Secretary Ann Sargent.

As to the makeup of the Board, we have a pretty good bunch! Talents include an engineer, lawyer, planner, geologist, corporate manager, teacher, biologist, artist, and more. All of them are

hard working and dedicated to the current operations and future sustainability of the Center and Park. These talents come from both of our partners, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and from our own Board members. If you would like to know more about our operations or becoming more involved, contact Powell or me – we

would welcome your interest and ideas.

Our three way partnership is one of our major strengths. Another strength is the many individuals who participate, contribute, and enjoy what the Center and Park are all about.

Thank you and please stop by.

“Our three way partnership is one of our major strengths.

Another...is the many individuals who participate, contribute, and enjoy...”

—Lyn Muench

NATURE MART SETS RECORDS—Julie Jackson

The River Center's 7th annual holiday Nature Mart set records for attendance (over 600) and proceeds. By 4 pm on Saturday, Nov. 16—when the two-day event ended—nearly all of the lovingly made hand-crafted gifts and homemade baked goods were gone, and more than \$7,000 had been raised for River Center education programs.

Donna Heien won the bountiful bird lover's basket valued at over \$300, and Sue Clements won the large decorative wreath

valued at \$150. Acclaimed artist Tuttie Peetz created the wreath from natural grasses and materials and donated it for the raffle. Several businesses, including Wild Birds Unlimited, The Co-Op Farm and Garden, the Oak Table, Nash's, Jamestown Northwest Expressions, and many individuals contributed to the overflowing bird-lover's basket.

Many thanks to the crafters, bakers, donors of greens and materials, volunteers, and shoppers



Donna Heien, winner of the bird lover's basket.

—Gretha Davis photo

who helped make Nature Mart such a resounding success!

\$7,000 raised for River Center education programs



Tuttie Peetz and Lael Hals make wreaths.

—Sue Chickman photo

MEMORIALS SUPPORT CENTER & PARK—Julie Jackson

Members Welden Clark (6/12/1928- 11/04/2013) and his wife Virginia, and Rosemary Bridge (7/18/1919-11/05/2013) have been an integral part of the River Center family for more than 20 years. Each used their unique talents and skills to help

establish the Center and Railroad Bridge Park and further our mission.

Rosemary's friends and family gathered in the Center on Nov. 16 and Welden's on Nov. 19 to share happy memories of these extraordinary individuals. Although

Rosemary and Welden will be sorely missed, their legacy lives on.

Donations in memory of Rosemary Bridge and/or Welden Clark may be made to the Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim WA 98382.



Hutton's Vireo

—Sue Chickman photo



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
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 Services

MEMBERSHIP FORM: DUNGENESS RIVER AUDUBON CENTER AND RAILROAD BRIDGE PARK

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Email address _____ Signature _____

Please circle your membership dues category below. Is this a new membership ____ or a renewal ____?

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

Here's my additional gift to support the Center and Park \$ _____ and/or the Endowment \$ _____

My check for \$ _____ made out to **Dungeness River Audubon Center** (or **DRAC**) is enclosed.

I prefer to charge my membership/donation to: ___ MasterCard ___ VISA Amount \$ _____
 Acct# _____ Exp. Date _____ 3 Digit Security Code _____

Our quarterly newsletter, the *River Current*, is delivered via email (as a pdf) whenever possible. To receive a hard copy by mail, please check this box.

I would like information about volunteer opportunities for the Center and Railroad Bridge Park.

**Please send your completed form with payment to:
 Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382**

THANK YOU!! Your contributions to the Dungeness River Audubon Center are fully tax-deductible.