

Dungeness River Audubon Center 2014 Annual Report



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

From the President

It's early April 2015. Our apple tree is making big promises with abundant buds and blooms and the robins are insistent first thing every morning. It is one of the best times of year to be outside – and I hope you are finding many opportunities to get out.



The River Center has been busy. A summary of the past year's work is presented in this report. Reading through it is fun and exciting, but of course it's better to have been a part of it.

Thank you to Powell, Vanessa, Becca, Tom, Charlie and the many volunteers who orchestrated all that was done last year. Thank you to everyone who attended our events, to the teachers who organized a field trip to the River Center or Sequim Bay with us, and to the members and donors who supported the Center and Park. If you missed out, visit our website or come by and ask about upcoming programs and how to get involved.

During high water in February 2015, the Dungeness River changed course dramatically under the western trestle and scoured out support piles closing the Olympic Discovery Trail near our Railroad Bridge. The temporary trail closure is a big loss. We all miss the idyllic walk through the tree canopy; and we miss the many visitors who cycle, jog and amble by. River Center and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal staff are working hard to fix the trestle and reopen the trail.

It is a common misconception that the bridge and trestle are part of a public park and should have funding immediately available, but they are not. The bridge and trestle are privately owned by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe who invites the public to the land and manages it as a park. We have been busy identifying possible funding and the best strategies for a temporary repair and long-term solution. It is our goal to open the trestle this summer!

Hansi Hals,
President

Milestones

- River Center reopens after 2013 flood caused by pipe bursting in ceiling
- First 'GiveBIG' participation raises over \$7,000
- U.S. Forest Service sponsors River Festival in September
- November Nature Mart breaks records
- Weekly Adventure Club brings toddlers to the Park
- Volunteers put finishing touches on new storage building



River Center Highlights 2014

Hands on Science

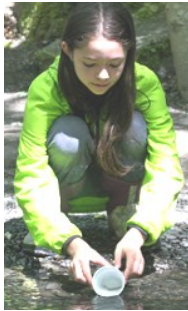
River Center programs provided 'hands on' science for more than 1,000 students from Clallam and



Jefferson counties in 2014. Students in grades 2, 3, and 4, explored the wonders of animals through art, science, and reading in the volunteer led Bird of the Month, Mammal of the Month, & Ecology programs.

5th Grade

students used the scientific method, data collection, and widely used field techniques to answer the question, "Is the Dungeness River in Railroad Bridge Park healthy for salmon?"



6th Grade students participated in 3 different activities exploring park stewardship, discovering river systems, and flora and fauna. Sequim High School AP Biology students assisted with teaching and mentoring these students.

7th Grade students visited the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe campus where River Center and tribal staff guided students through the historical use of natural resources. The students discovered human uses of the Olympic



Peninsula's natural resources through an archaeological dig and deciding how to use resources during a game of survival.

8th Grade students investigated watersheds and discovered the importance of preserving bird stopover habitat, became experts on shellfish health, gathered data on riparian forest health, and learned about the influence of septic systems. Then the students created a river and discussed the influence of development on their watershed.

15th River Festival



The Dungeness River Festival celebrates the richness and resources of the Dungeness watershed with engaging exhibits and activities, walks, talks, music, and more. The 2014 Festival, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and First Federal, included a student art show, "What Is Wilderness," to commemorate the 50th anniversary of passage of the Wilderness Act. Festival participants included nearly all the local, state, federal, tribal and non-profit entities

active on the north Olympic Peninsula. The Festival attracted nearly 3,000 visitors including hundreds of students who filled the Park on Friday. The Olympic Driftwood Sculptors show, held in the Center on Saturday and Sunday, was also a major attraction.

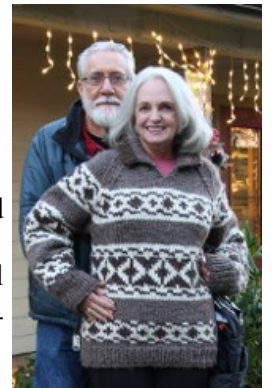
Adventure Club



The Dungeness Adventure Club for children under six provides new ways to involve children in nature with games, songs and fun stories.

Nature Mart

Raising \$8,500 for the Center's education programs set a new record for Nature Mart, and winning the raffle was a thrill for Linda Ogden. She and her husband came to Nature Mart specifically to buy tickets, after seeing photos of the handsome sweater in the newspapers. River Center member and crafter Marion Rutledge knitted and donated the Cowichan wool sweater. She and the other River Center Crafters create many of the one-of-a-kind items for which Nature Mart is known.



Thank You to our 2014 Donors

The Dungeness River Audubon Center 'family' continues



to grow thanks to the strength of its programs, generous supporters and vibrant partnerships. We are grateful to the growing community of River Center members and donors and for their commitment to supporting our mission. Your gifts enable us to operate the Center, maintain the Park and provide free and low-cost programs.

The insert to this report shows the breakdown of the Center's revenues and expenses. The Endowment Fund, established in 2006, provides a perpetual source of income to help meet annual operating needs of the Center and Park. In 2014, the

Endowment contributed \$65,000 to operating needs and, as of December 31, the fund totaled \$1,543,106.

Legacy Circle

In November, Legacy Circle members were recognized for their commitment to the long-term success and sustainability of the Center and Park. Special guest Ron Allen, Chairman of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, spoke of the Tribe's partnership and vision for the future of the Park and Center.



Membership in the Circle is open to donors who have included or intend

to include the Center in their financial or estate plans.

Legacy Circle Members

Shirley Anderson
Sue Chickman & Bob Lynette
Gretha & Doug Davis
Jim & Joanne Hallett
Annette Hanson & Gary Poor
Clare & Don Hatler
Julie & Dave Jackson
Lyn Muench
Tuttie & Richard Peetz
Enid & Bob Phreaner

Donations

The list of 2014 donors includes memorial and honorary gifts as well as donations of \$100 or more for dues, operations, and the Endowment. Memorial donations were made for Pat Holden, Richard Newlon, and Bill Parker.

\$5,000 & above

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Charles & Suzette Willams
Marty Zupan

Under \$100

283 Valued Supporters

River Center Staff and Board



Powell Jones
Executive Director

My vision for the River Center is sustainability. I would like to see the

Center able to offer our natural-science programs for generations to come.



Park Host Charlie Yozgott loves the Center and Park and working with people.



Vanessa Fuller
Administrative Services & Development Coordinator

Vanessa's strong background in Olympic Peninsula tourism shows as she welcomes visitors to the Center and Park, works with volunteers, manages the gift shop, organizes events and keeps everything 'shipshape.'



Tom Butler
Education & Volunteer Coordinator

Tom's experiences as Science & Education Manager at NatureBridge in Olympic National Park and teaching high-school science plus his longtime interests in birds, hiking, biking, nature in general, & woodworking are terrific assets.

Board: Hansi Hals, President; Dennis Dickson, Vice President; Ann Sargent, JST, Secretary; Carl Siver, Treasurer; Annette Nesse, JST, Chair, Exec. Com; Shirley Anderson, OPAS; Nancy Bargar, OPAS; Jim Gift, OPAS President; Sue Chickman; Clare Hatler; Julie Jackson; Les Jones; Lyn Muench; Tuttie Peetz; Ken Wiersema, OPAS; Affiliates: Kathy Steichen, Liaison, Olympic National Park; Annette Hanson, Emeritus; and Powell Jones, Executive Director.

Annual Report: production, Ann Sargent, and photos, Sue Chickman, except for the photos of the President and Staff.

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