

Dungeness River Audubon Center—2016 Annual Report



From the President



The simple phrase “*Inspiring connections to nature*” captures the essence of the River Center’s

purpose. Thanks to its dedicated staff and volunteers, many of whom appear in the photo above, the River Center continues to thrive. As Executive Director Powell Jones says, “Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization.” They greet visitors, lead bird walks, teach classes, and help organize most of the events and activities that routinely take place in the Park and Center.

2016 was a very good year. In July 2016 alone, 1,200 visitors signed the Center’s guest register, and uncounted numbers simply enjoyed Railroad Bridge Park. This small center serves visitors and the community in so many ways, it’s not surprising that that it is outgrowing the facilities.

The River Center and its partners, the

Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, are stewards of the Dungeness River watershed. On December 30, 2015, the partners and community celebrated the re-opening of the historic railroad bridge and the new steel-truss extension that replaced the storm-damaged wooden trestle. The new bridge span, which allows the Dungeness River channel to move freely, provides prime viewing of nature in action. Replacing pavers near the bridge and picnic shelter in 2016, also improved both the Center’s outdoor classroom and the Olympic Discovery Trail, which runs through the Park.

This annual report gives you a snapshot of the Center’s accomplishments in 2016. You can look forward to more improvements in River Center programs and facilities in the coming months and years. I encourage you to renew your connections with nature by visiting the Center and Park as often as you can!

Julie Jackson, President

Milestones

- Increased staff-led adult classes and field trips
- Re-decked Railroad Bridge with concrete and Tribal artwork
- Replaced trail Pavers with an ADA – compliant concrete path and Tribal artwork
- Photo Class for beginners expanded River Center’s arts programs
- Adult Explorers Club started
- Railroad Bridge Trestle received the American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington’s 2017 Engineering Excellence Award
- Significantly expanded our gift shop
- Established Capital Campaign Committee to plan fundraising for the building project



Dungeness River Audubon Center in partnership with the
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and National Audubon Society

Dungeness River Audubon Center



The Journey to a New Home

In 2016 we began a journey to increase our highly successful environmental education programs and community-engaging activities by creating a concept for an expanded and remodeled building space. Your River Center Board established a Building Advisory Committee to identify the spaces that our organization might need.

The Building Committee contracted with Tormod Hellwig Architectural Services to develop the conceptual design. The concept includes a new and larger presentation space, small conference room, full kitchen, larger office and gift-shop area, remodeled exhibit space with an indoor bird-viewing area and a weather-protected outdoor space. The design utilizes our existing structure and complements Railroad Bridge Park by incorporating lines that mimic those of the bridge.

The River Center Board also established a Capital Campaign Committee to begin the task of raising the funds for this journey. Together, our River Center partners; our members, volunteers, and staff; and our greater community resources will help make this journey successful for a more vibrant and healthy environment for all.

Summer Camps

Although fun is the central theme of the River Center's many well-attended summer camps, they are much more than that; they provide an essential educational bridge for students during the summer months. Based on the exploration of the outdoors, self-awareness, and science, our camps engage kids in skills they might not use during the summer vacation. Yet, it is fun and encourages interaction with other campers in an outdoor environment.

Our camps continue to grow – all six camps were nearly full in 2016 – along with the demand to expand our offerings that come from a growing fan base. Our camps included Nature Camp, Nature Ninjas, Bike Camp, Girls in Science, Survival Camp, and Builders Camp.



Fulfilling the Center's Mission

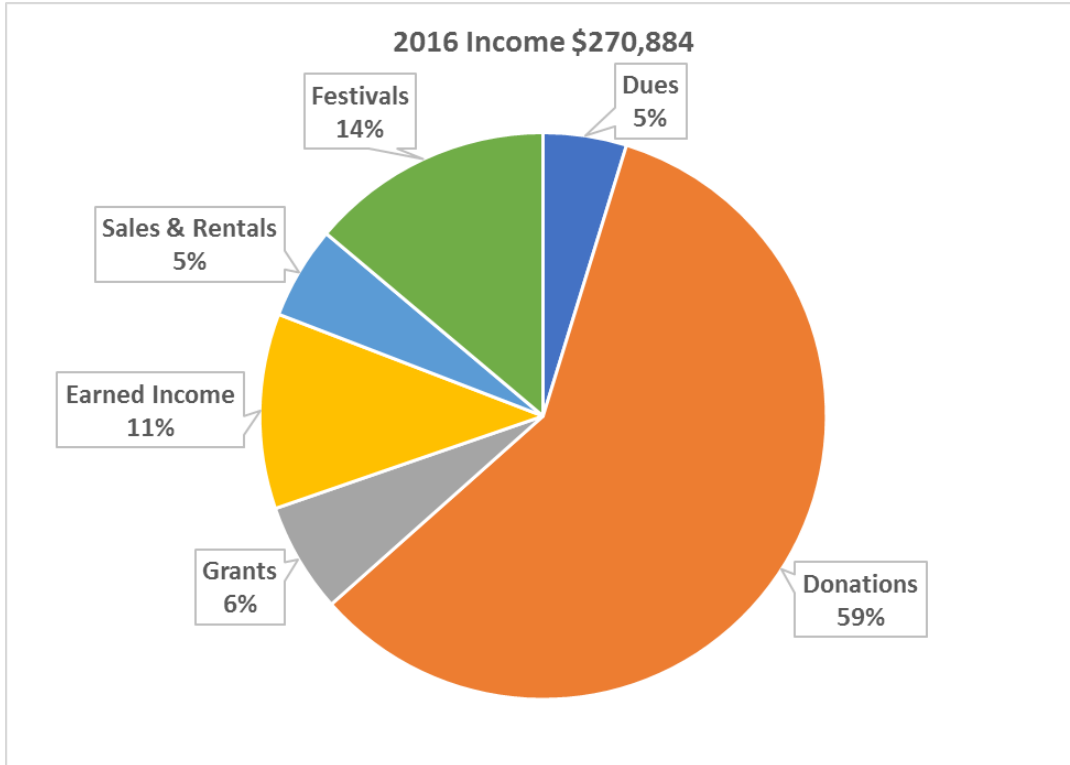
We continued offering programs to support our mission, including presentations and classes with fees, room rentals, a growing gift shop, and mission-oriented fundraisers. Two of the mission-oriented fundraisers that continue to have growing success were the Olympic BirdFest and NatureMart.

Olympic BirdFest, presented by our partner, the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, drew over 200 participants -- from throughout the US and beyond -- for birding trips, art classes, boat trips, and a banquet. It generated over \$29,000 of program support beyond its expenses. Our winter Holiday NatureMart craft fair raised over \$10,000 through the sales of nature-oriented, hand-crafted gifts produced by a dedicated and talented group of River Center volunteers.

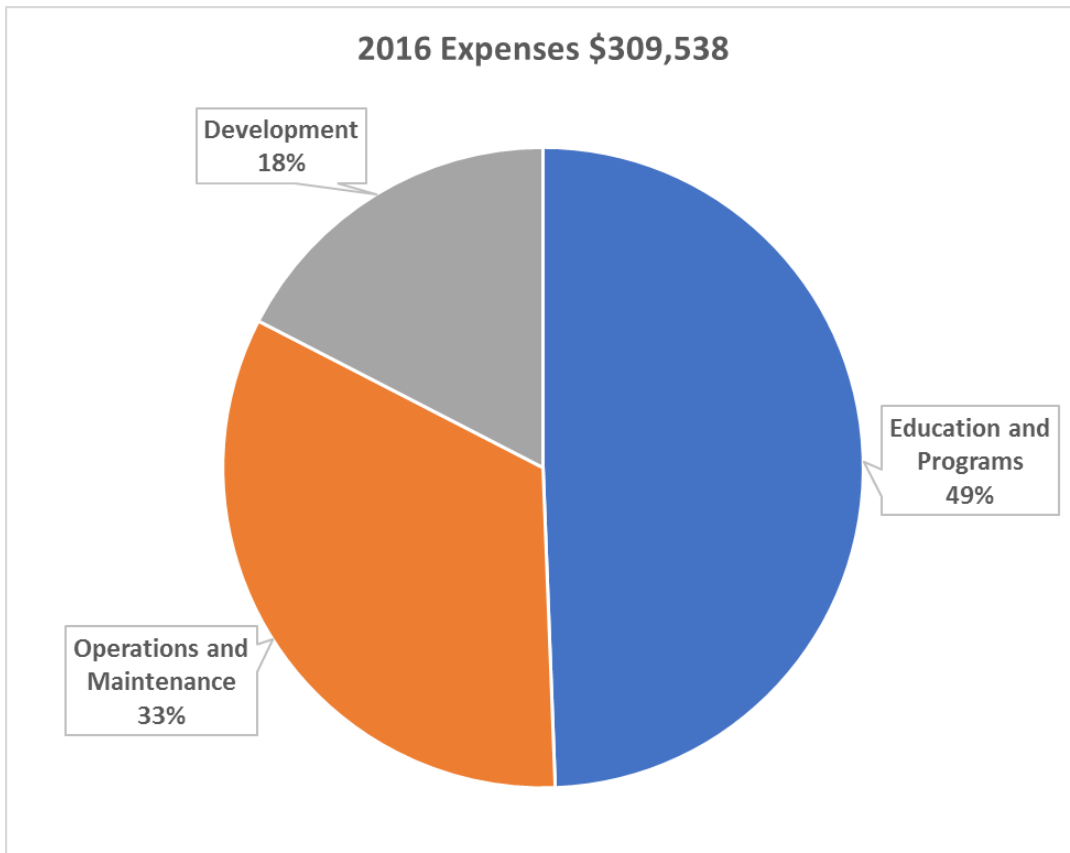
The Center offers other major fundraising events such as the springtime, outdoor-oriented River Center Rally; Dine on the Dungeness; and the annual Fall Fundraising mailer appeal. It does require a village to keep the Center operating, but with a mission such as ours, it is a happy, vibrant place.



2016 Financial Summary



In 2016, the Legacy Fund provided \$50,000 to help cover operating expenses.



2016 Financial Summary

2015 – 2016 Operating Income Comparison		
Income	2015	2016
Dues	\$10,445	\$12,895
Donations	\$105,694*	\$158,950*
Grants	\$22,275**	\$16,986
Sales – Gift Shop – Rentals – Nature Mart	\$26,881	\$30,156
Earned Income – Classes - Camps	\$21,082	\$14,321
Festivals – Bird Fest – River Festival	\$36,376	\$37,576
Total Income	\$222,753	\$270,884

*Does not include capital campaign donations of \$5,000 in 2015 and \$73,250 in 2016.

**Does not include a capital improvement grant of \$100,000 from First Federal Savings & Loan.

The Center’s “Legacy” fund (formerly referred to as the endowment) is used to supplement cash needs of the operations. Withdrawals from the Legacy fund are not reflected in the income pie charts or comparison table above. In 2015, the Legacy fund contributed \$55,000 toward operating expenses and in 2016, \$50,000. The fund balance as of December 31, 2016, was \$1,505,157.

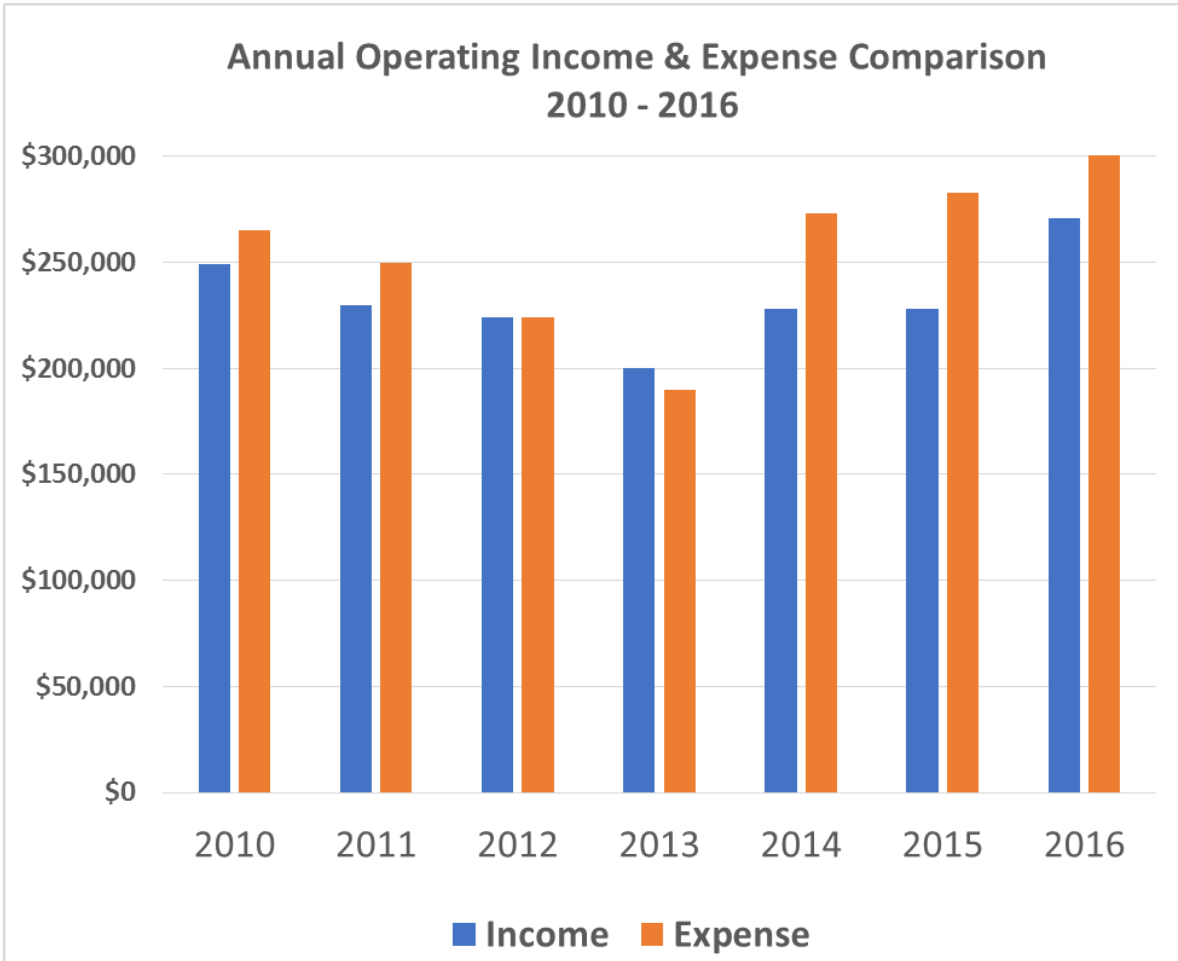
In the expense pie chart and the table, about 60% of salary and benefits have been allocated to program costs, 20% to operations, and 20% to development, as is consistent with common non-profit practice.

2015 -2016 Expense Comparison		
Expense	2015	2016
Education & Programs	\$156,398	\$152,902
Operations & Maintenance	\$68,955	\$102,688
Development	\$57,992	\$53,948
Total Expenses	\$283,344	\$309,538

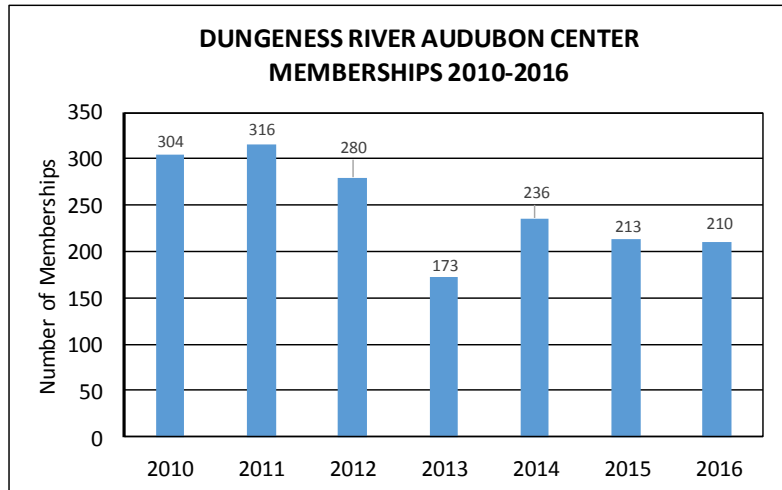
All Income and Expense data are from unaudited preliminary year-end financials.

Data provided by Carl Siver, River Center Treasurer

2010—2016 Comparisons



The blue bars that denote annual income do not include draws that have been made from the Legacy fund.



Membership in the River Center is an easy and effective way to show that you support and appreciate the Center and Park. Because membership entitles you to vote, you can have an important role in shaping its course. Members elect our Board members and vote on major policy changes. Your vote counts and your contributions are vital to the continued success of the River Center.

Thank You to our 2016 Donors

The Dungeness River Audubon Center 'family' remains solid 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 for their commitment to supporting our mission. Your gifts enable us to operate the Center, maintain the Park, and provide many free and low-cost programs.

Legacy Circle

Membership in the Legacy Circle, which the River Center established in 2013, is open to those who have included or intend to include the Center in their financial or estate

plans. Gifts from Legacy Circle members will help ensure that generations of children and adults will have a chance to learn the importance of enjoying and protecting our natural places.

Capital Campaign

A Capital Campaign Committee was established and early gifts anchored the beginning of a visionary plan to expand and enhance the current River Center building. Members, River Center

partners, donors, businesses, foundations, and the greater community will all have an important role to play in creating a welcoming destination for learning, enjoyment, and stewardship of our natural places.



Preliminary Expansion Concept Design by Tormod Hellwig LLC

The list of 2016 donors includes memorial and honorary gifts as well as donations of \$100 or more. In 2016, the River Center received donations in memory of Bob Reavis, Berendina Favre, Jim Bates, Nell Backus & Tom Pratt.

(\$5,000 & Above)

Shirley Anderson
Sue Chickman & Bob Lynette
Laura Dubois & Bob Sheridan
Dave & Julie Jackson
Lyn Muench
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
Tuttie & Richard Peetz

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

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Olympic Game Farm
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Barbara Wieseman

River Center Supporters 2016

(\$100-\$199)

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Scott Van Dyken
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Hank & Raedell Warren
Don and Jo Weldon
George & Jolie Will
Fran Wilshusan

(Under \$100)

243 valued supporters

River Center Staff and Board



**Powell Jones,
Executive Director**

I believe the experiences at the River Center provide students of all ages lifelong lessons that

encourage thoughtful action, stewardship, personal exploration, and a greater love for the outdoors.

Saturdays at the River Center, is getting to know the "student" and building on their knowledge, understanding, and experience. When we can add to their curiosity and intrigue of the ecosystems' elements, we are increasing the likelihood that they will be conservationists for life.

something about it? That is what the River Center and Railroad Bridge Park offer this community and why I love to work here.



**Roger Magee,
Visitor Services Specialist**

One of the rewards of teaching, whether it was my 35 years in the classroom or my



**Vanessa Fuller,
Administrative Services and Development Coordinator**

How are you going to know how to nurture and take care of this beautiful place in which we live unless you know



**Jenna Ziogas,
Education & Volunteer Coordinator**

Walking into the River Center provides students and visitors with a magical glimpse into the natural world. I believe if we can help people see the beauty that surrounds them and understand the multitude of diversity this planet supports, they will want to protect it and everything that inhabits it.

River Center Board: Julie Jackson, President; Clare Hatler, Vice President; Carl Siver, Treasurer; Ann Sargent, JST, Secretary; Annette Nesse, JST, Chair, Exec. Com; Hansi Hals JST Rep.; Neil Harrington, JST Rep.; Shirley Anderson, OPAS; Nancy Bargar, OPAS; Ken Wiersema, OPAS; Sue Chickman; Les Jones; Annette Hanson; Dennis Dickson; Tuttie Peetz; Wanda Schneider; and Greg Voyles; **Affiliate:** Powell Jones, Executive Director.

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Annual Report Production: Ann Sargent and Sue Chickman.