

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THE JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

OLYMPIC PENINSULA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**River Center 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.

## River Center Board Members

### Board of Directors:

Dennis Dickson, President; Tuttie Peetz, Vice President; Ann Sargent, Secretary; Wanda Schneider, Treasurer

Shirley Anderson, Sara Cendeja-Zarelli, Laura Dubois, Annette Hanson, Neil Harrington, Bob Iddins, Les Jones (Emeritus), Alissa Lofstrom, Darcy McNamara, Mark Megahan, Lyn Muench, Annette Nesse, Vita Olson, Ally Simons, Carl Siver, Judi White, Ken Wiersema

2151 West Henrickson Road/PO Box 2450  
Sequim, WA 98362 360-681-4076



# WELCOME!

## A Note from the River Center's Board President Dennis Dickson

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve on the River Center Board for the past six years, and most recently, as its president.

The dedication and passion of our members, our partners (the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society and National Audubon Society), River Center Staff and Board have driven the continued growth of the Center.

During this past year we have faced and continue to face some incredible challenges. An infestation of "Drugstore Beetles" could have resulted in the severe damage to our mounted bird specimens and library. We've had ongoing repairs to the existing building, and now, in 2020, are grappling with the impact of the Covid-19 virus.

The River Center has been closed since March, with all our fundraising events and all activities canceled.

Nonetheless, 2019 was a very strong year for attendance of our programs, such as "Learn by the Light of the Moon," "Focus On" series, and multiple field trips. Your generous gifts, given in 2019, we hope, will help carry us through this rough patch of 2020.

In 2019, we achieved some great accomplishments.

Foremost among these was concerted fundraising to construct

a much needed expansion to the River Center building and grounds.

The success of the "Inspire Wonder Capital Campaign" that raised \$2.8-million in just a few years, is enviable. Also in 2019, the River Center's building committee, with considerable input from the Jamestown Tribe, worked out myriad details of the building's design.

The new building will open more opportunities for sharing with the community and in educating visitors about the wonders of the Olympic Peninsula. Both the Sequim Prairie and Dungeness River are essential parts of this unique ecological niche. In a few short miles you can walk into rain forest

and back to the prairie where tiny prickly pear cactus grow in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains.

The River Center's mission is to inspire wonder in the natural world.

We introduced the river and its wildlife to hundreds of grade-school-aged children in 2019, who arrived dressed in outdoor gear for riverside instruction. Our instructors also traveled to classrooms for presentations through the school year.) We also provided a venue for those of all ages to come and learn about nature or just to enjoy the natural beauty of the 75-80 acre Railroad Bridge Park (this acreage changes when the river meanders!).

I am not sure what the "new" normal will be in light of the pandemic, but I am sure that the River Center will help us all be restored by nature.

I thank you for your contributions to our "Inspire Wonder" Capital Campaign, for your donations to River Center operations, for your volunteerism, and for your membership and participation in the River Center.

Your gifts of time and money are the heart of the River Center and together we can leave a tremendous legacy to the people of the Olympic Peninsula.



**Volunteers are the Heart of the River Center.  
Thank You All for Your Time and Talent!**

**ON THE COVER:** Wildflowers, hikers and fir cone photos by Jenna Ziogas. Dine on the Dungeness woman waving photo by Margie Palmer.

# 2019 Begins with a Deep Freeze – Inside and Out

**January:** The River Center's 25th Anniversary was celebrated January 24. Just before a big snowstorm, we kicked the year off by wrapping and freezing the entire collection of 1,000 specimens, including a black bear, wolf and trumpeter swan.

**January-December:** "Focus On" series on local wildlife, "Cultural Series" on iconic Red Cedar, "Learn by the Light of the Moon" (oh, so popular), field trips up the Dungeness River, Olympics, and other locations, Beginning Birder Classes, Photography, Journaling, Drawing Classes and More. Open to the public 7 days a week, Homeschoolers welcomed with learning units set up for them!

**January through June:** Student Watershed Studies for hundreds of children from Jefferson and Clallam county grade schools.

**April:** Olympic BirdFest: Three days of field trips with an opening night dinner and classes for 341 bird enthusiasts.

**March through June:** River Center Rally fundraiser by individuals such as pulling scotch broom, running and biking miles, and general jumping up and down for donations to the River Center.

**May:** GiveBig Fundraiser. Wildflower hikes in the Olympics.

**July:** The first annual River Center Charity Golf Tournament. Hosted by The Cedars at Dungeness, an 18-hole golf course owned by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Sequim. Tournament play, with awards and lunch. All proceeds to the "Inspire Wonder" Capital Campaign.

**July-August:** Kid's Day Camps of all sorts.

**August:** Dine on the Dungeness. We reserve the bridge for a delightful evening of dinner and wine over the river.

**September:** River Festival with over 1,000 children meet those who work on- stream and saltwater restoration, salmon, habitat and land stewardship, in the Dungeness watershed.

**November:** River Center capacity increased. We added Jan Halliday, Donor and Sponsor Engagement, to our staff of Powell Jones, Jenna Ziogas, Vanessa Fuller, Nancy Bargar and Roger Magee.

**Nature Mart,** featuring items handcrafted by River Center volunteers using natural materials. Homemade pastries, breads and candy, a wreath-making station; photos with a bear, and unlimited hot beverages at the S'Klallam Tribe's Red Cedar Hall Community Center.



Surprise!

## A Scramble Overnight to Wrap and Freeze a Thousand Specimens, All Books & Papers, and Everything in the Gift Shop

By Powell Jones, River Center Director  
with Jan Halliday

Just before the big snowstorm last January, volunteers sketching a barn owl from the River Center's collection of mounts, spotted two tiny insects crawling out of the feathers.

Alarmed, River Center staff identified them as highly destructive "drugstore beetles" (*Stegobium paniceum*) and, with a team of hastily assembled volunteers, sprang into action.

Drugstore beetles are tiny, but just one adult can lay 75 eggs or more. When eggs hatch into larvae, they could, for the next two months, voraciously chew their way through an entire taxidermy collection. They will also gnaw through any plant-based materials such as library books and pamphlets stored in the room. And they leave behind a trail of debris.

Armed with yards of packing materials, River Center staff and volunteers wrapped over 1,000 specimens and hundreds of books and paper goods for a 48-hour deep freeze at 10 degrees F. The wrap protected mounts from both impact and moisture damage.

With logistical help from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's staff, we secured a food-grade freezer truck, parked it next to the River Center and completed two cycles of freezing.

With time running out on the truck rental for the first cycle, director Powell Jones went back

▼Continued on page 10



Sara Cendeja-Zarelli, Wildlife Biologist and River Center Board member, visits "Girls In Science Camp" summer camp sharing her work with the Lower-Elwha Klallam Tribe radio-tracking cougars on the Olympic Peninsula. Donors provide several scholarships for The Girls in Science camps.

# OUTDOORS IN RAINGEAR & RUBBER BOOTS

Thanks to your gifts & a NOAA grant children wade, gain deeper knowledge of local streams

By Jenna Ziogas,  
Education Coordinator



Photo by Powell Jones

## A Teacher Praises River Center Student Field Trips

"I have gone on this field trip for three years and have loved it each year. The coordinators are wonderful with the kids, and incredibly knowledgeable. This is one of two field trips for our classes, and it is a great opportunity for them to get outside and interact with nature and the environment. The activities are engaging and the kids get excited to learn more about the river. It's easily my favorite day of the year."

**5th Grade teacher,**  
*North Olympic Watershed Program*  
Anon Survey



Twins! Photos by J. Ziogas

The River Center, in partnership with the Feiro Marine Life Center in Port Angeles, received a grant in 2018 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The grant was written to provide "meaningful watershed experiences" for our local youth. During the 2018-19 school year, we put our proposal into action.

Feiro and the River Center share a similar mission of connecting people to place. By working together, we have been able to create more robust programs, and a scaffolded (building on previous learning) experience.

Our two programs aim to get kids outside, help them gain a better understanding of North Olympic Peninsula watersheds, the role and importance of salmon in our ecosystems, and demonstrate how their own actions can make a difference. The grant covers the costs of field-trips for all fourth and fifth graders of Port Angeles, Sequim, Joyce and Port Townsend.

Fourth graders visit Peabody Creek with Feiro to measure chemical parameters of a stream such as dissolved oxygen and pH levels. They follow the creek through town, taking water quality measurements and looking at the bridges, culverts and housing developments around the creek. Their examination and data

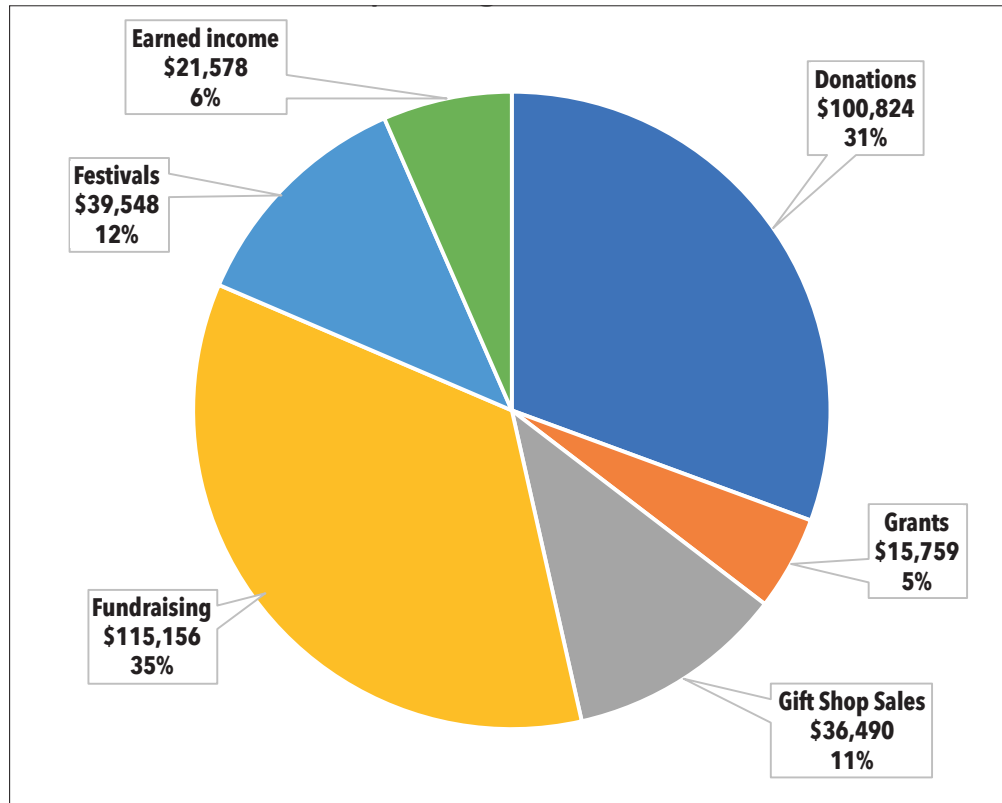
collection help students understand the many different impacts that humans have on our waterways and the organisms that live there.

When fifth-grade students visit Railroad Bridge Park, we build off knowledge gained from their fourth-grade trip to Peabody Creek. Fifth-graders look at the physical parameters of the Dungeness River such as log jams, vegetation, pools, rapids, rocks and channels. They also collect and sort through a sample of macro-invertebrates which are used as indicator species (species whose presence helps us understand their environment better). We look for the presence of pollution-intolerant invertebrates such as mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies to determine if the quality of the water is healthy for Pacific salmon.

The partnership has helped the River Center take a deeper look at our goals, and really appreciate the value of community organizations working together to broaden participants' understanding of their watersheds and the role they play in it.

The collaboration and cohesive message throughout the children's experiences, strengthens the impact of both. Even when the grant expires this year, we hope to continue this relationship with our partner in Port Angeles.

# 2019 Operating Income \$329,354



**\*Operating Income and Expenses do not include the Capital Campaign donations, grants or expenses.**

The Center's Legacy Fund is used to supplement cash needs of operations. A \$78,000 withdrawal was made in 2019 for an anticipated operation's shortfall during the future construction transition.

The Fund balance as of December 31, 2019, was \$1,877,834 compared to \$1,626,432 at the end of 2018.

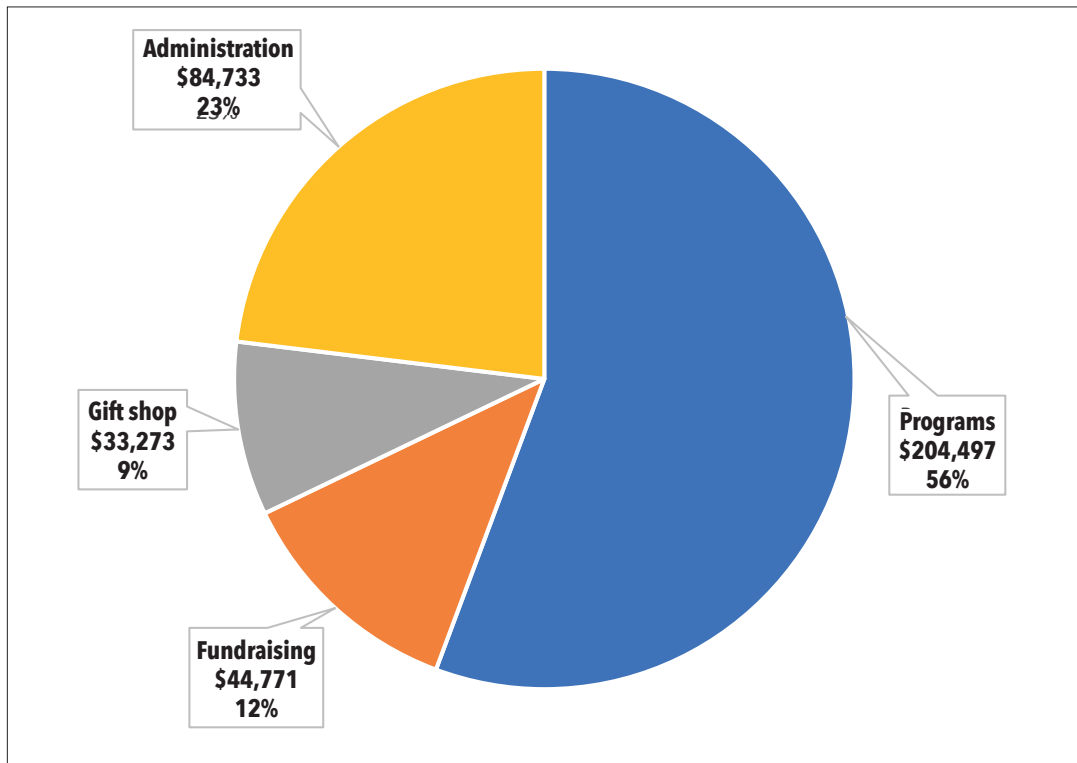
<b>2019-2018 Operating Income Comparison</b>		
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Donations*	\$100,824	\$150,726
Grants	\$15,759	\$26,385
Gift Shop	\$36,490	\$29,805
Fundraising	\$115,156	\$120,819
Festivals	\$39,548	\$34,570
Earned Income**	\$21,578	\$18,698
	<b>\$329,354</b>	<b>\$381,004</b>

\*Does not include \$401,903 and \$226,986 in Capital Campaign donations for 2019 and 2018, respectively

\*\* Includes income from camps, classes, presentations and rentals

All income and expense amounts are from internally prepared, unaudited year-end financial reports.

# 2019 Operating Expenses \$367,274

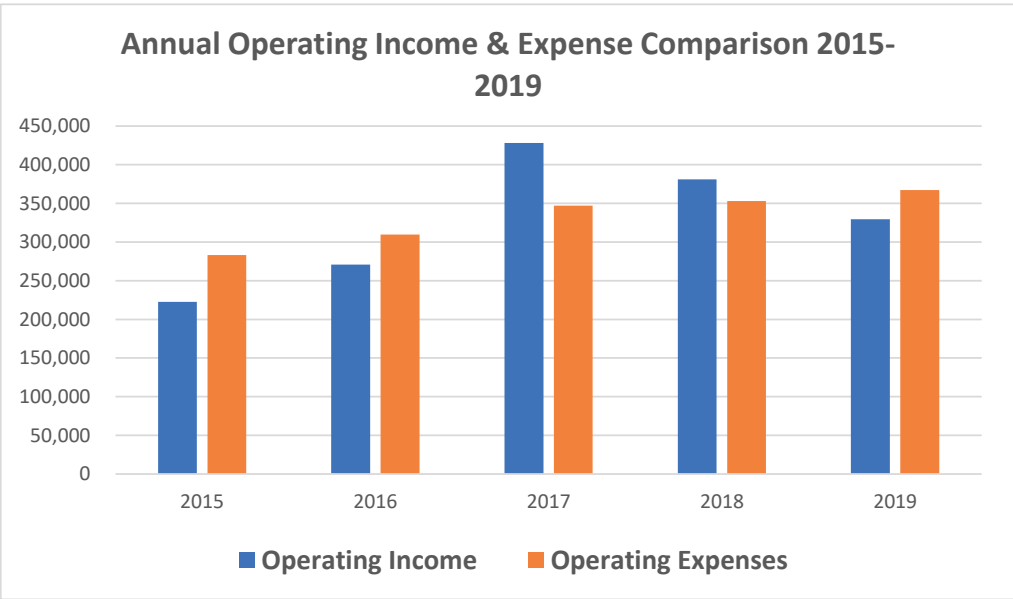


About 71% of salary and benefits have been allocated to program costs, 14% to administration, 11% to fundraising and 4% to the gift shop based on a consistent method of time tracking.

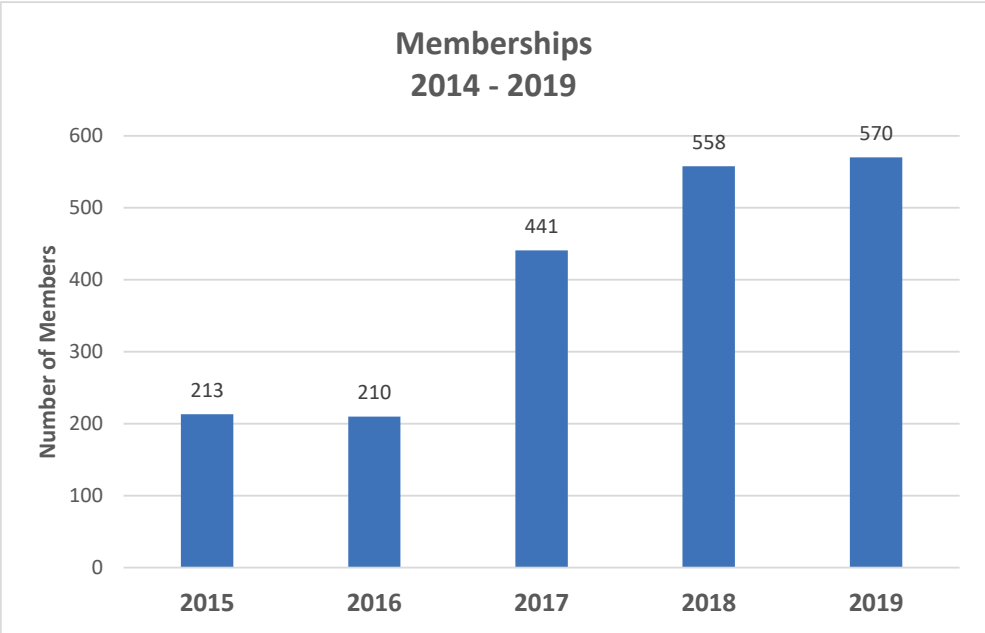
2019-2018 Expense Comparison		
	2019	2018
Programs	\$204,497	\$196,639
Fundraising	\$44,771	\$50,231
Gift Shop*	\$33,273	\$32,831
Administration	\$84,733	\$78,051
	<b>\$367,274</b>	<b>\$357,752</b>

All income and expense amounts are from internally prepared, unaudited year-end financial reports.

Financial information prepared by Wanda Schneider, River Center Treasurer



The blue bars that denote annual income do not include capital campaign donations or draws that may 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.

“The friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our progress,” truly describes this year’s reason for our success and hope for the future.

– Annette Hanson



Dungeness River Audubon Center  
East View Concept

TORMOP HELLWIG, llc

With a burgeoning public interest in Nature, reflected by a growing membership and thousands of people crossing the railroad bridge, it's clearly time to build a new facility—a longheld dream, and a legacy for the community, the region and visitors from all over the world. The time is now.

## Building a Dream Facility Leaps Forward in 2019

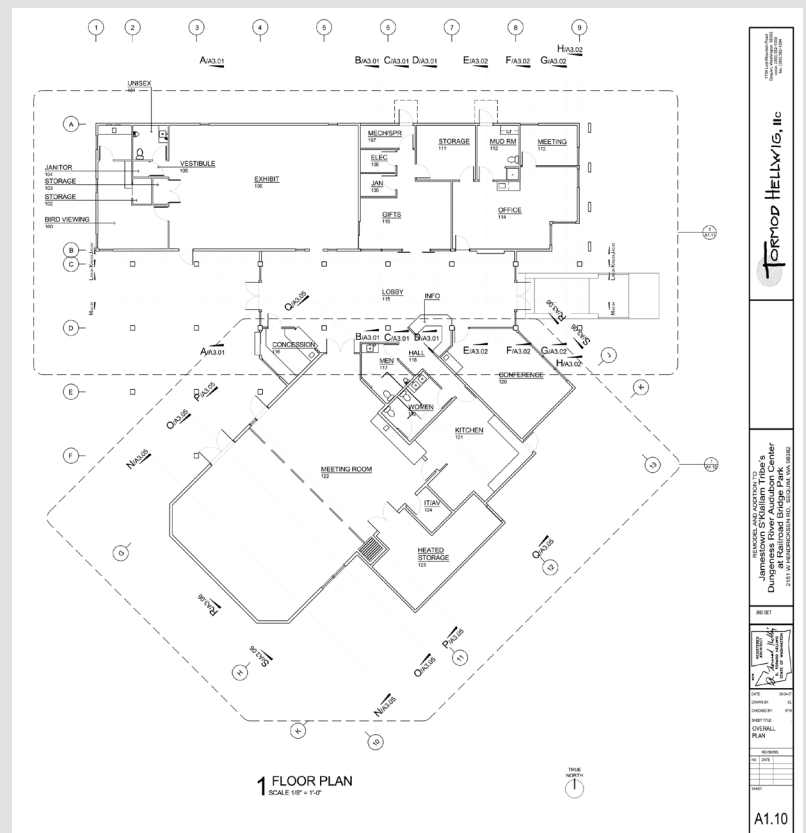
The existing two-room River Center was built over 20 years ago. It sits on a knoll just above the flood plain of the Dungeness River at Railroad Bridge Park.

The Center's overhanging porch roof is supported by posts. Woodpeckers tap at them throughout the day. Four employees crowd a narrow office that doubles as storage space. The main room seats 60 on folding chairs.

This one room is also the center's library, gift shop and houses a collection of about 1,000 specimens. A brown bear, coyote and bobcat perch on top of closets and display cases. A trumpeter swan, bald eagle, owls and hawks hang from the ceiling on fishing wire.

Sometimes an aquarium bubbles in a corner to hatch salmon eggs that grow into fry. Caught in cups the fry are released by school children into the river, a tangible way to learn about the life cycle of salmon who need clean water, eddies and sandbars to thrive.

With a burgeoning public interest in Nature, reflected by a growing membership and thousands of people crossing the railroad bridge, it's clearly time to build a new facility—a longheld dream, and a legacy for the community, the region and visitors from all over the world. The time is now.



The new building includes a meeting room seating 150, a commercial kitchen, boardroom, exhibits room, office, gift shop and indoor/outdoor coffee shop.



# Work Ramps Up for New River Center Building

## Building Advisory Committee 2019 Summary

By Annette Nesse, Chair

The River Center Board established the Building Advisory Committee in 2016 to begin designing the expansion of the River Center building.

Committee members included Shirley Anderson, Dennis Dickson, Annette Hanson, Powell Jones, Kirk Nelson, Annette Nesse, Margie Palmer, Tuttie Peetz, Carl Siver, Bud Turner, Ken Wiersema and our architect Roy Hellwig of Hellwig Architects, LLC.

By late 2018 the Schematic Design of the building was complete and the Design Development phase began. The schematic design phase included drawings to show the project's general scale and scope and development of a preliminary cost estimate.

The design development phase involved further developing the design with construction details, materials selection and equipment layout.

The work in 2019 ramped up. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe initiated a public meeting and invited neighbors living within a half mile radius of the River Center.

Attendance was limited due to the epic snowfall in February, but those who did brave the weather provided great feedback and were extremely positive in their comments about the project.

The building expansion is located entirely on Tribal reservation land and so is subject to review, permitting and inspection per Tribal Code, specifically Title

27-Tribal Environmental Policy Act (TEPA) and Title 29-Building and Development Code. The building underwent TEPA review including an archaeological assessment. Tribal staff will consider and grant the Tribal building permit as well as provide project management and inspection services.

The parking lot, access road and park host sites are located on fee land, subject to review, permitting, and inspection per County codes.

The County required a two-step process starting with applying for a Conditional Use Permit as the parking lot isn't an allowed use under current zoning. The County granted conditional use and approved the building permit. The County also vacated a small

piece of property, just southeast of the new building footprint to allow room for the building without altering the design.

The engineering firm, Parametrix, was hired to prepare the civil engineering plans for the parking lot, access road and park host sites, and to ensure the interface between the building and the parking lot was properly designed, and began their work.

Over the course of the summer, the committee met monthly, and at times, bi-monthly, to discuss the finer points of the design and ensure that all elements (interior components, exterior details, parking lot, landscape plan, Hendrickson Road entrance detail and signage) were integrated and met the anticipated needs of the new Center.

Especially important were:

1. Use of bird-friendly glass to reduce bird strikes to the Center's many large glass components
2. Kitchen layout/equipment appropriate to current and anticipated use
3. Design of reception area
4. Energy efficiency options
5. Location and look of the donor wall
6. Use of volunteer labor to save costs when appropriate.

In November the plans were deemed ready to present to the River Center Board at the December meeting. The design was finalized, in 2020, bid documents prepared and the project advertised for public bid with a spring construction start date.



Railroad Bridge Park, owned by the Jamestown Tribe and overseen by the River Center staff, is home to many birds and small mammals such as this Douglas squirrel who collects seeds dropped to the ground from the Center's feeders. The Center's porch posts are also frequented by woodpeckers, allowing visitors a close look.

*Photo by K.A. Wiersema*



## Donors and Grantors “Inspire Wonder” in the Capital Campaign

By Annette Hanson, Chair, Capital Campaign Committee

What an amazing year for the River Center and Capital Campaign! The Campaign Committee began the year with just 44 percent of its financial goal to expand and remodel the River Center, with \$87,500 in grant money and \$421,569 in private donations.

By year’s end we had reached more than 95 percent of the preliminary goal with \$2,130,692 in grants and \$634,669 from individuals—a banner year!

The tremendous boost in grant support came mostly from four sources: the taxpayers of Washington State \$1.47 million; M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, \$300,000; T. William and Beatrice C. Booth Foundation, \$250,000; and First Federal Community Foundation, \$25,000.

This incredible grant and donor support will help the

Center advance its mission to serve our Olympic Peninsula communities. The expansion will increase the River Center’s capacity to offer additional exciting programs and “Inspire Wonder” for our natural environment.

The work and dedication of the Capital Campaign Committee members over the past three-and-a-half years have been the mainstay of this campaign. Members are Shirley Anderson, Kendra Donelson, Sue Dryden, Laura Dubois, Clare Manis Hatler, Darcy McNamara, Lyn Muench, Margie Palmer, Tuttie Peetz, Ann Perkins, Marion Rutledge, Wanda Schneider, Kathy Steichen, and Efton Strong. Thank you all.

My favorite anonymous quote, “The friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our progress” truly describes this year’s reason for our success and hope for the future.



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to the Center at 7:30 p.m. to assess the project and unloaded the entire truck himself into the storage room that night. Checking his Fitbit, he said he took over 12,000 steps just between the truck and storage room (5.5 miles).

While objects were freezing, all surfaces were scrubbed, disinfected and treated.

Fortunately, when it was time to reassemble the collection, all the contents of the cabinets had been recorded with cell phone cameras for reference.

New policies and procedures are now in place to protect the collection. Among them are restrictions on live animals and food in the building. For that reason, Natuire Mart, a River Center fundraiser held each year in November, moved to the Tribes Red Cedar Hall in Blyn.

All new specimens are now frozen first before being accepted, thanks to the Olympic Game Farm which allows the River Center use their walk-in freezer.

The River Center will refreeze the entire collection (and the library and gift shop items) a second time before moving them into the new building in 2021, and routinely forever after, every few years.

# Thank You Donors

## *You're Awesome!*

### **\$5,000 and Above**

Shirley Anderson  
Beatrice & William Booth  
Virginia & Weldon Clark Estate  
Linda & John David Crow  
Laura Dubois  
First Federal Community Foundation  
Rose Forbes  
Dave & Julie Jackson  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Deanna & Ren Jurgensen  
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society  
Tuttie & Richard Peetz  
Marion Rutledge  
Laura Davis & Alan Smith  
Ken Wiersema  
John R. Zey

### **\$4,999 to \$1,000**

Ron & Merine Allen  
Angeles Millwork & Lumber Co.  
Steve & Sandy Bengtson  
Bob & Barb Boekelheide  
Bob & Elaine Caldwell  
Doris Causey  
Sue Chickman & Bob Lynette  
Dennis Dickson & Barbara Fitzgerald  
Kris Ecklund  
Enterprise Fleet Management  
First Federal  
Food Services of America  
Syrene Forsman  
Stacey Fradkin  
Gail Gatton & Mark Wittow  
Eleanor & Donald Naddy Trust  
Pat & Dick Gritman  
Charlene Gustafson  
Mike Harris  
Hartnagel Building Supply Inc.  
Clare & Don Hatler  
Tormod Hellwig  
Colin Hiday Concrete inc  
Elden Housinger  
Tina Jackson  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Economic Development Authority  
Johnston Land Surveying Inc PS  
Jonathan Jack Insurance Agency

Powell Jones & Laura Gould  
Jim & Lucy Kittrick  
Ingrid Lehrer  
Renee & Elliot Leiter  
Diane Lombardo  
Swinerton Builders  
Bob Marine & Carol Colbeck  
Brian Marts  
Kerry & Mike McCool  
Darcy & Joel McNamara  
Miller Nash Graham & Dunn  
Martha & George Moyer  
Bill & LaVonne Mueller  
Lyn Muench  
Sasha Muench  
Sergio & Leiann Niccoli  
Norberg Family Foundation  
Norman Archibald-Charitable Foundation  
Parametrix, Inc  
Mary Porter-Solberg & Steve Solberg  
Charles & Marcia Radey  
Randy & Sallie Radock  
Red Plains Professional Inc  
Beth & Cappy Rothman  
Joyce Ryba  
Arnold & Debbie Schouten  
SCJ Alliance  
Sense, Inc.  
Soroptimist International of Sequim  
John Staples  
Kathy & Gailen Steichen  
Eftin & Ingrid Strong  
Kathy Strozky  
Dunbar & Alice Susong  
Stephen Tharinger  
Wildler Auto Center  
Don & Judy Willott  
Windermere Real Estate,  
Sequim East  
Yvonne Yokota

### **\$999 to \$500**

Admiralty Audubon Society  
Air Flo Heating  
Trina & Dave Bayard  
Blue Sky Real Estate Sequim  
Sandra Boren  
Dave & Monique Brasher  
Mike & Judy Bromell  
Brown & Brown of Washington  
Columbia Bank

Gretha & Doug Davis  
Jill Dornan  
David Fradkin  
Marie & Brian Grad  
Don & Judy Johnston  
Kitsap Bank  
Gordon Leiter  
Diane Luoma  
Hank & Hena Marrero  
Pamela Martin  
Chris & Keith McCann  
Olympic Ambulance  
Conn & Virginia O'Neil  
Margie Palmer  
Bob & Enid Phreaner  
Port Angeles Marathon Assoc.  
Wanda & Mike Schneider  
Pat Schoen & Connie Engvall  
Sound Community Bank  
Jennifer Steagall  
Rebecca & Zandy Stewart  
Terri Tyler & Michael Chase

### **\$499 to \$200**

John Acklen & Juanice Reyes  
Lauretta Anderson  
Kathy Bachman  
Jill Blake  
John & Rose Bridge  
Ken & Mary Campbell  
Kathy Canavan & Arlene Havlark  
Castell Insurance  
Scott Chitwood  
Phil Churchley  
Scott & Nell Clausen  
Herb & Kathie Cook  
Lisa & Andy Coons  
Richard & Sandra Counts  
Cassandra Davis-Ramon  
Dungeness Ranch  
John & Judy Farnsworth  
Jack & Pat Fletcher  
Nancy Foro  
Jonathan & Dyana Fradkin  
Audrey & Jim Gift  
Marguerite A. Glover  
Ed & Nancy Grier  
Annette Hanson & Gary Poor  
Peter C. & Ann F. Hanson  
Ken Henshaw & Jane Hutchings-Henshaw  
Mary Hickey & John Gussman  
Bob & Wendy Hirotaka  
Ed & Linda Holden  
Gary Huff  
Bob & Carolyn Iddins  
Sheila Kee & Stu Hemstreet  
Kittitas Audubon Society  
Joan Krogh & Dave Small  
Jon & Sandy Kurtz  
Dow & Marlene Lambert  
Ken & Janie Leuthold  
Lodge Chiropractic

Lodge at Sherwood Village  
Neila Loebis  
Winifred Mayes  
Jeanie McNamara  
Mark & Alexis Megahan  
Russ & Linda Mellon  
Jim & Wendy Meusey  
Bob & Janet Mullen  
Elaine Nye  
Olympic Game Farm  
Olympic Title Co.  
Hank Oosterveld & Beverly Hetrick  
Ann & Dave Perkins  
Sara Ellen Peterson  
Donna Poole  
Sequim Wheelers  
Ann & Robert Sextro  
Adam Shantz & Heidi Hermes  
Robert & Kimberly Shiffer  
Libby Ann Smith  
Sherry & Randy Smith  
Soroptimist International PA Jet Set  
Ann Soule & Dave Shreffler  
Elaine Starz-Brown  
Sunny Farms  
Jean Tyson  
Roger & April Uhden  
Greg & Ginger Voyles  
Charlotte Watts & Charlotte McElroy  
John & Mary Wegmann  
Ron & Jan Wehner  
Tim Wheeler  
Elke Wiersema  
Pat Willits  
Garry Wohlgemuth

### **\$199 to \$100**

Paulette Ache & Bill Holst  
Charles Adams  
John & Diana Anderson  
Liam Antrim & Pam Maurides  
Mark E. Ashley  
Richard Atteberry  
Back Country Horsemen Peninsula Chapter  
Sultan Baloo  
Gail Banwart  
Jack & Carol Barnes  
Kathi Beery  
Jim & Nan Benson  
Sarah & John Bird  
Barb Blackie & Bruce Hattendorf  
Bob Blush & Susan Savage  
Lee Bowen & Sue Gilleland  
Glenn Browning & Carol Young  
Marilyn Bruning  
Penny Burdick  
Melanie & John Carlson  
Nina Carter & Tom Rainey  
Dennis & Lisa Cartwright  
Sara Cendejas-Zarelli

Don Chesebro & Carlene Moberg  
Dave Chuljian  
Connie Church  
Rosemary Cockrill  
Dave & Ellen Cooper  
Coop Cooper & Suzie Schneider  
Copper Creek Fabrication, LLC  
Beth Corliss  
Melissa & Dave Coughlin  
Diane Cox  
Eric & Jean Crecelius  
Eileen Cummings  
Michael Curran & Katy Bowman  
Laurie & Ross D'Alesandro  
Bobbie E. Daniels  
Curtiss Davis  
Collin Dawes  
Lisa & Keith Dekker  
Annette de Knijf  
Kendra Donelson  
Bob & Sue Erzen  
Linda Falconer  
Reed & Janette Finrock  
Barcy Fisher  
Bob & Cece Fitton  
Dorothy Frascati  
Rosemary Freed  
Cynthia Frizzle  
Pat & Roland Gallup  
Linda & Larry Gonzales  
Nancy & Lee Gould  
Theodore Groth  
Sheryl Gurrentz  
Chris Gutmacher  
Martin & Linda Gutowski  
Jim & Joanne Hallett  
Sean Hanson  
Margaret Hartman  
Rich Havel  
Elisabeth Hegyi  
Christina Heliker  
Marcia & Oscar Heydorn  
Karen & Joe Holtrop  
Diane & Clint Hurd  
Robert Hutchison  
Merrill & Kathy Jefferson  
Jim's Pharmacy  
Stan Johann  
Norrie & Barb Johnson  
Carrie Kalina  
Jim & Helen Karr  
Connie Landrum & Louise Hope  
Larson Young and Associates  
James & Lynda Livesey  
Cindy Lowe  
Leslie Mark & Ken Gross  
Dave & Patsy Mattingley  
Mary McConney & Marlin Eller  
Bernadette McGovern  
Nancy McLaughlin  
John & Barbara Meier  
Kitty & Eric Merrifield  
Ruth Messing

& Mary Jo Cain  
Mike Michalek  
Mike & Ellen Milward  
Gary & Carol Mitzner  
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Betty & Marci Newlon  
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Peak Performance Therapy  
Barbara Perry  
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Allie Plute  
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Dick & Alice Rapasky  
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Jen Richards  
Jeanie & Glen Robards  
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Lorri Savage  
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# S'KLALLAM CULTURE WEAVES CENTURIES OF UNDERSTANDING THE NATURAL WORLD TO SHARE WITH YOU

The River Center is the only Audubon Center in the United States that partners with a Tribal sovereign nation, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

The River Center sits in the 80-acre Railroad Bridge Park owned by the Tribe. Both Park and River Center are open to the public free of charge. The Tribe also maintains the historic railroad bridge that crosses the Dungeness River. And the buildings that the River Center uses are owned and maintained by the Tribe. We are tenants with a very long lease.

The Tribe charges the River Center just \$1 a year for the rental of our building. Because of this, for the past 20 years, we can host meetings for the public free of charge or for low cost. The Tribe also lends us their Tribal Campus meeting spaces for public events, such as last year's Nature Mart held in Red Cedar Hall. And their IT department has been invaluable in helping us set up and maintain our computer systems.

In 2019, the Jamestown Tribe began a series at the River Center about the customs, traditions, and values of the S'Klallam people. Known as 'the Strong People' the S'Klallams created a rich culture that continues today.

In honor of Jamestown S'Klallam's Recognition Day, Feb. 11, 2019, the River Center hosted speakers, and initiated a series of talks dedicated to



Western Red Cedar, female cones. Photo by J. Ziogas

teaching the public more about the people who have lived and prospered on the Olympic Peninsula for more than 10,000 years.

S'Klallam culture is based on the abundant natural resources of the Northwest Coast.

S'Klallam art, spirituality, traditional knowledge and self-reliance are closely woven with this place. One of the most important resources is the Western Red Cedar tree, indigenous to the Olympic Peninsula and considered sacred for all it provides—from bark that can be woven into clothing and basketry to canoes and shelter. This series took a deeper look at certain ways the Tribe is connected to "The Tree of Life."

First, **Lisa Barrell**, JS'KT Traditional Food Project Manager, and **Mackenzie Grinnell**, Youth Program Coordinator and

Traditional Food Project Assistant, shared their knowledge about the medicinal uses of cedar, and the use of cedar in food preparation and preservation.

**Robert Knapp**, JS'KT Environmental Program Planning Manager, discussed the importance of Western Red Cedar to salmon and habitat. **David Brownell**, JS'KT Cultural Resources Specialist, discussed the historical relationships between the S'Klallam people and Cedar and the many ways this special tree can be used in everyday life.

The heritage of the S'Klallam people helps inform the present. The River Center will continue the series to shine a light on what the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe can share in experience, problem solving, and ways of thinking about living on the Olympic Peninsula.

