

# Dungeness River Audubon Center—2020 Annual Report



Olympic Onion, Marjorie Palmer photo



Construction of the new River Center in January 2021

## From the Board President



This past year has been extremely exciting and filled with challenges and opportunities for everyone, including the

Dungeness River Audubon Center. Between the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the construction of our new Center, I have seen our talented staff, the board, volunteers and partners turn challenges into great opportunities.

The Center's Board, committees, staff and generosity of our members have raised most of the funds for building construction. When the expanded Center reopens later this year, it will have a new look and exciting options for reaching out to schools, the community and visitors to our area.

Our staff and volunteers have put in thousands of hours to prepare for the future. I have been in awe of their dedication and talent, and am proud to be part of the mission at the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the adventure this last year. I look forward to greater accomplishments to come.

Laura Dubois, Board President  
This year, 2020, was once again a

## Director's Message



reminder of how special the Dungeness River Audubon Center and the people who support it are.

With pandemic lockdowns in place and construction beginning on the new facilities, the River Center managed to adapt and still complete work on our mission by delivering excellent nature-based programming, albeit virtual, to a wider audience than we have ever reached before.

With people staying at home our weekly "nature notes" became a key piece in continuing to connect people with the North Olympic Peninsula's natural beauty and wonder. Whether it was a recipe for stinging nettle pesto or a teaser for a presentation on hummingbirds or ducks, many readers responded with gratitude and support. Those weekly "notes" now reach over 3,000 readers!

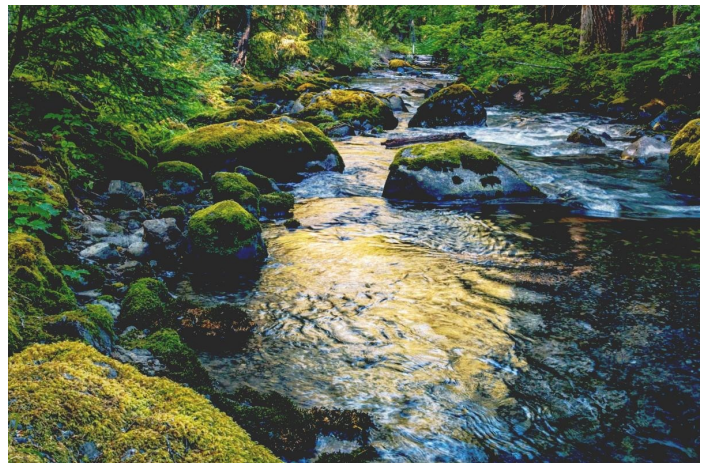
The virtual learning series was also a highlight, with many lessons on delivering education that will be carried into the

future. Our Zoom presentations covered a wide range of natural and cultural topics that inspired some of our largest audiences ever. Whether it was to learn about prairies, coyotes, swallows, or woodpeckers people came to see familiar and new faces, say hello, listen, and learn.

All of this is not possible without the support of many special people and our community as a whole. A huge thank you goes out to our partners, members, volunteers, donors, and of course the incredible staff I work with.

Thank you, and I look forward to sharing an exciting 2021 with all of you!

Powell Jones, Director and Park Manager



Upper Dungeness River

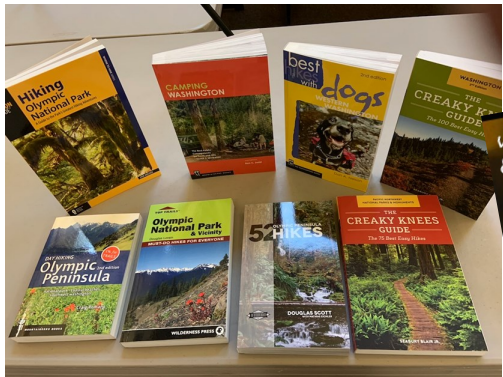
Jim Hagen photo

**Dungeness River Audubon Center is a partner with the  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and National Audubon Society**

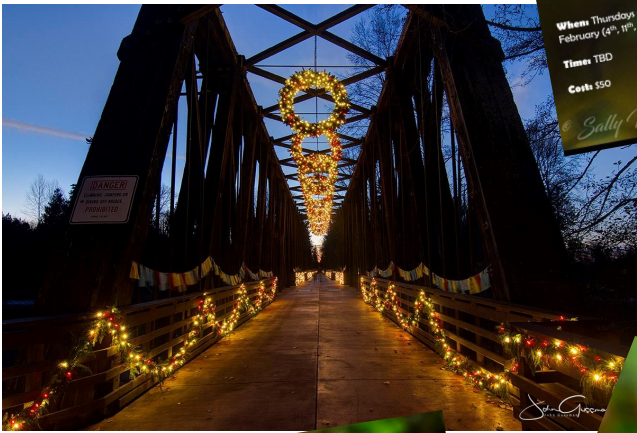


# Dungeness River Audubon Center:

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



Sally Harris photo



John Gussman photo

Chocolate Lilies,  
Daniel Houk photo



Hooker's Fairy Bells,  
Marjorie Palmer photo



## Virtual Groundbreaking for expanding our Dungeness River Audubon Center Monday, July 13, 2020

- Welcome and introductory message, Powell Jones, Executive Director, Dungeness River Center
- Introduction of Speakers:
- W. Ron Allen, Tribal Council Chair, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
  - Annette Hanson, Chair, Dungeness River Audubon Center Inspire Wonder Capital Campaign
  - Ken Wiersema, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society Education Chair
  - Rep Steve Tharinger, Chair, House Capital Budget Committee
- Tribal Blessing video  
Excavator video  
Closing Words



Seed Bombs



Our Green Valentine fundraiser illustration



Long-tailed Weasel, Dow Lambert photo



# 2020: An Unprecedented Year of Change and Growth

## **Plans change, willows planted on river's bank, and teams "Rally" to fund River Center education**

Planning for the River Center's 2020 year of speakers, programming, field trips, and events was well underway when the pandemic hit in January last year.

At first it seemed that ordinary precautions could be taken with bleach, wipes to sanitize surfaces, and boxes of gloves and masks. But in March, the state forced closure of most public facilities. The staff took their laptops home to work. And parallel plans had to be made for both short- and long-term closures. Who knew?

In the meantime, 500 willow twigs, which had been purchased for grade-school children to plant during their spring field trips, were instead put in the ground by director Powell Jones, educational coordinator, Jenna Ziogas, and volunteers, after field trips were canceled. Salmon, raised from eggs hatched in the River Center's aquarium for kids to release into the river, were released right on time by staff.

Because so many of its walk-a-thon-styled teams are engaged in solitary pursuits, the River Center Rally did get underway in March with 9 teams finding sponsors. They continued to bike, ride, hike, pull scotch broom, and make pledges to accomplish other tasks, to raise money through June.

## **BirdFest grounded, programs soar on Zoom, children stay home**

In April, as the state see-sawed between possible openings and continued closures, BirdFest, an annual three-day event with dozens of field trips on the North Olympic Peninsula, was finally canceled, and fees were refunded. BirdFest sponsored by Olympic Peninsula Audubon is one of the primary funding sources for the River Center's educational programming.

By May it was clear that closures would be extensive. Not willing to be defeated, the River Center moved all of its programming to Zoom, and began sending weekly emails about

the wonders of nature on the Olympic Peninsula to over 3,000 people on the mailing list. The silver lining in this cloud was both an impressive jump in attendance and in people reading, and responding to emails. Surprised by the success on Zoom, all programming was offered on Zoom for the rest of the year, free of charge.

Summer camps for kids, however, had to be canceled, a disappointment for participants, staff and volunteers.

## **Building expansion begins with a S'Klallam blessing; adjacent field graded, a new entry and road carved out**

By July, all permits had been approved and the expansion of the River Center began with a ground-breaking ceremony via Zoom. Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council Vice-Chair Loni Greninger sang a blessing in the S'Klallam language; Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council Chair/CEO W. Ron Allen spoke, as did River Center founder Annette Hanson, about creating this building for the community, and for future generations. (The ground-breaking is recorded and available if you would like to see it.)

In October, construction began on the expansion, closing down the Center for the rest of 2020, and into 2021. To accommodate the new building, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe had purchased the field east of the River Center, as well as property to access it from Hendrickson Road. With the Tribe acting as General Contractor of the job, excavation began with a new access road and leveling the field for both a new parking lot, and the building site. (You can follow the progress of this project on the River Center's website where it has been posted every week since construction began in October!

The photo on the right is from December 2020.

## **All events canceled--except for determined golfers--concrete poured and the Tribe brings light**

Closure for construction continued to coincide with closures for the pandemic through the end of the year.

Consequently, Dine on the Dungeness, a dinner party on the deck of the historic railroad bridge crossing the Dungeness River, was canceled... as was RiverFest, an event in Railroad Bridge Park established in the 1990's to teach young students about the Dungeness Watershed and its flora and fauna, and their importance to celebrate and protect it. Further, to introduce children to those working for National Parks, State Parks, the Forest Service, in fish restoration projects, and other nature-related jobs.

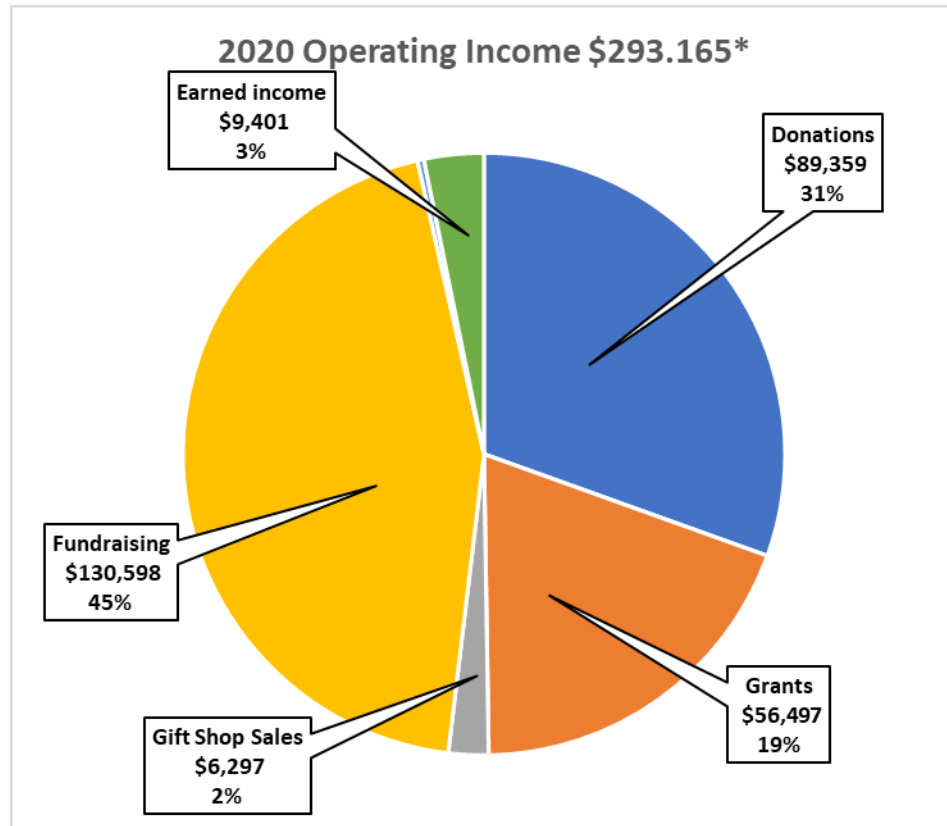
Outdoor restrictions began to relax mid-summer but required both social distancing and masking. At the end of July, The River Center Charity Golf Tournament was held at the Cedars at Dungeness. The "virtual tournament" extended over three days, and was socially distanced for safety, with meal vouchers given to each golfer in lieu of a luncheon.

**The remainder of 2020 was relatively quiet, except for the sound of heavy equipment, and the daily salute of nail guns that rang out the old year.**

**But the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, undeterred, brought light to the bridge to brighten up one of the darkest winters we've ever collectively experienced. Over 20,000 people came to see the hundreds of shimmering colored lights intertwined with swags of holly, and cedar that ran the length of the bridge. We needed that!**



# 2020 Financial Summary



**\*Operating Income does not include the restricted Capital Campaign donations or grants.**

The Center's Legacy Fund is used to supplement cash needs of operations. An \$80,000 withdrawal was made in 2020 and a \$78,000 withdrawal was made in 2019 for anticipated operation's shortfalls during the construction transition.

The Legacy Fund balance as of December 31, 2020, was \$2,002,729 compared to \$1,877,834 at the end of 2019.

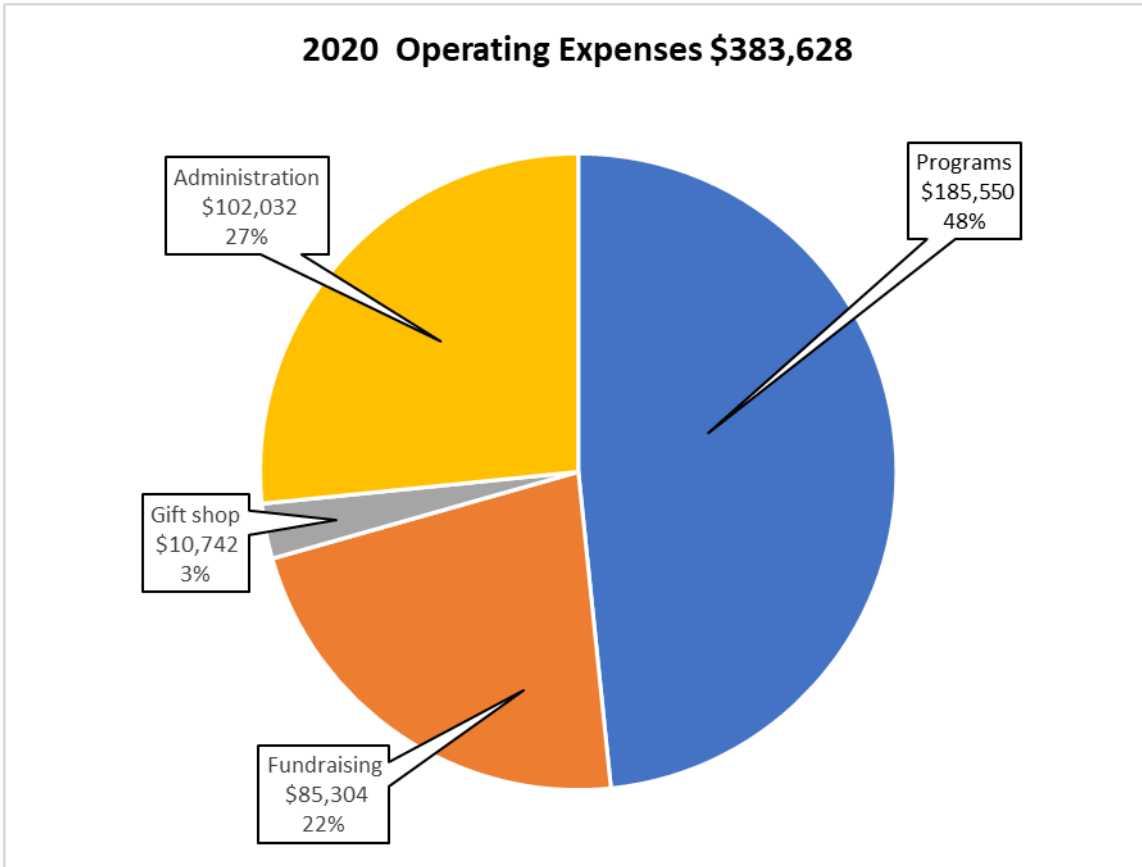
2020 - 2019 Operating Income Comparison		
	2020	2019
Donations*	\$ 89,358.87	\$ 100,824.04
Grants	\$ 56,497.00	\$ 15,758.82
Gift Shop	\$ 6,297.40	\$ 36,490.06
Fundraising	\$ 130,598.00	\$ 115,156.00
Festivals	\$ 1,012.36	\$ 39,547.54
Earned income**	\$ 9,401.00	\$ 21,577.81
	\$ 293,164.63	\$ 329,354.27

\* Does not include \$136,767 and \$401,903 in capital campaign donations for 2020 and 2019, respectively.

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

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

# 2020 Financial Summary



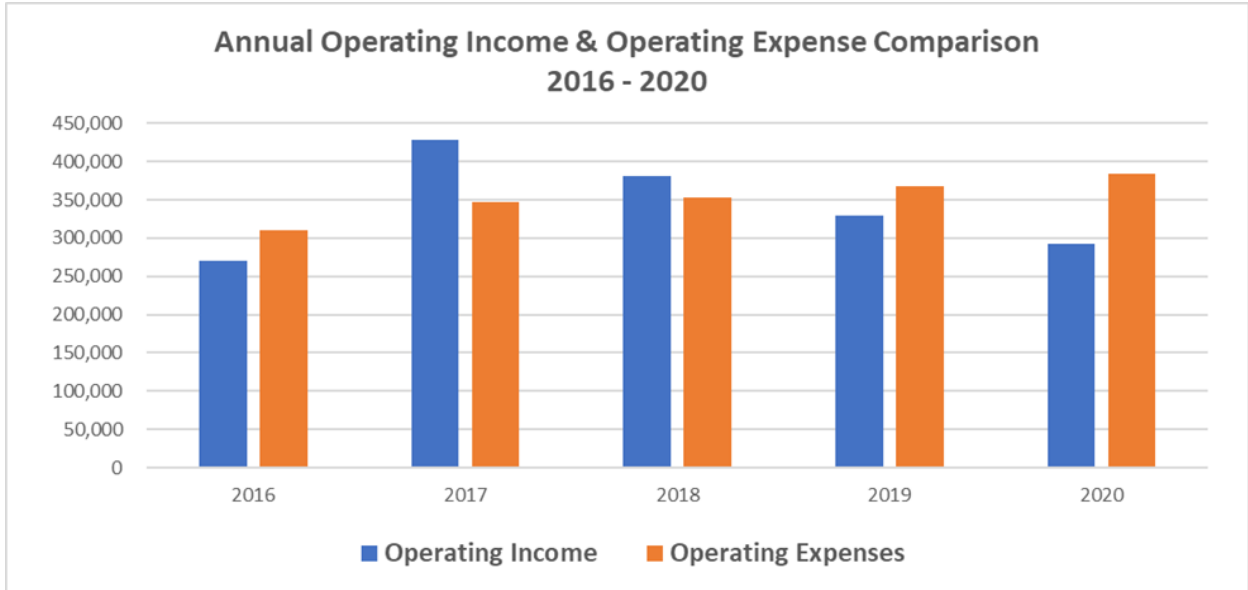
In addition to direct function expenses, 2020 salary and benefits are allocated based on an analysis of staff time showing 56% to programs, 24% to Fundraising, 18% to Administration, and 2% to Gift Shop.

<b>2020 - 2019 Expense Comparison**</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Programs	\$185,550	\$204,497
Fundraising	\$85,304	\$44,771
Gift shop*	\$10,742	\$33,273
Administration	\$102,032	\$84,733
	<b>\$383,628</b>	<b>\$367,274</b>

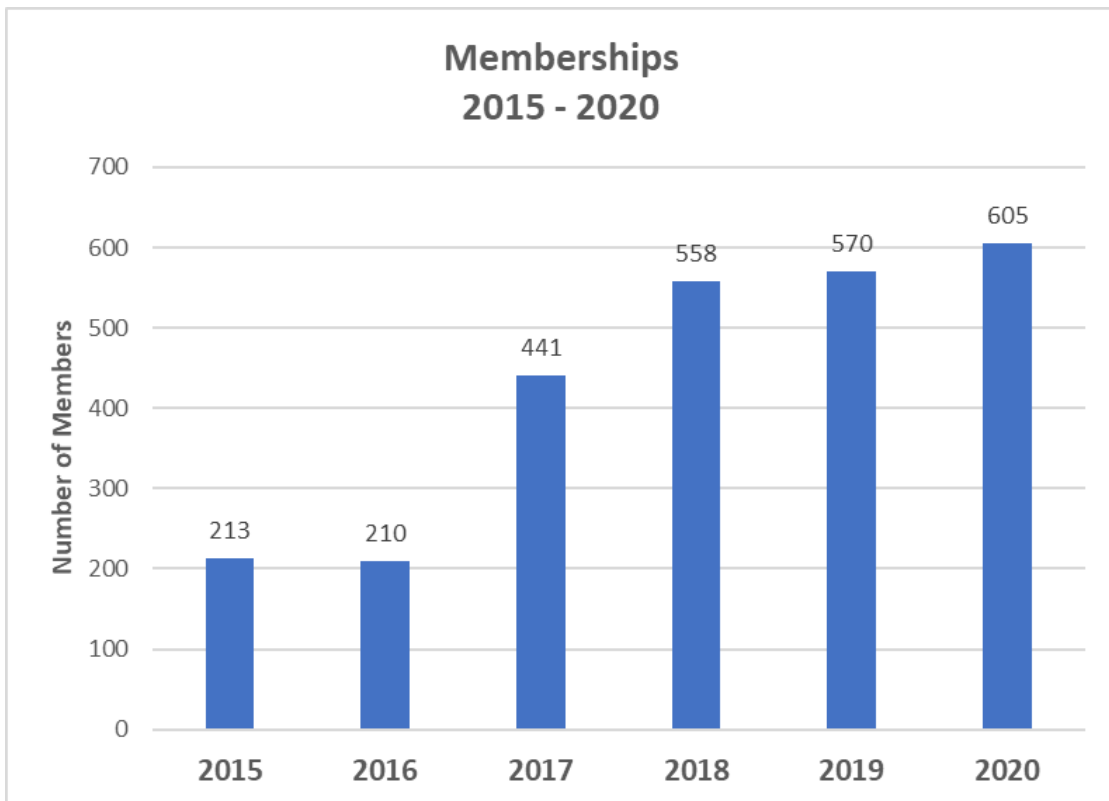
*All income and expense amounts are from internally prepared, unaudited year-end financial reports.*

Financial information prepared by Wanda Schneider, River Center Treasurer

## 2015—2020 Comparisons



The blue bars that denote annual income do not include 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.

# Thank You to our 2020 Donors

**Donors include memorial and honorary gifts as well as donations of \$100 or more. In 2020 we received donations in honor and memory of:** Joanna Jackson, Elenor & Don Anderson, Nugget & Saffy Anzalotti, Poppy Babb, Beverly, Edna & Clark Elder, Dorothy Furbush, Susi Harris, Pat Holden, William R. Holst, Charlotte McElroy, Frances Megahan, Elizabeth Newlon, Gabe Ornelas, Zoey Peetz, Tom Pratt, Judith Sandra Pysher, Bob Reavis, Neil Robin, Dorothy Shreffler, Nancy Stark Smith, Beverly J. Swearingen

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Powell Jones,  
Director and  
Park Manager



Vanessa Fuller,  
Administrative  
Services and  
Development  
Coordinator



Jenna Ziogas,  
Education and  
Volunteer  
Coordinator



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