

Dungeness River Audubon Center—2015 Annual Report



From the President



In February 2015, the Olympic Discovery Trail crossing through Railroad Bridge Park was closed due to flood

damage of the trestle. The River Center and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe were eager to return the Park to our accustomed hub of activity and set out to design a replacement structure that would improve salmon habitat conditions and restore the trail, secure funding, obtain permits and construct the new bridge. I am enormously pleased, relieved and proud that the trail has reopened. The new bridge span allows the Dungeness River channel to move freely and reconnects many acres of flood plain. As our climate changes, and the Olympic Mountains retain less snow pack, having a functional flood plain will be especially important.

At the bridge opening ceremony on December 30, Tribal Elder Elaine Grinnell invited us all to bless the new section with cedar boughs. This simple gesture continues to remind me of the impact of positive thoughts. Thank you to our intrepid volunteer planting crew who blessed the Park with their hard

work. They planted approximately 500 trees and shrubs to restore ground disturbed by the construction project. Additionally, thanks to generous donations of funding and labor, the River Center was able to resurface the historic Howe-Truss bridge, built in 1915. Now the wood truss bridge, together with the new steel truss extension, should herald outdoor activity and observations for the next 100 years!

In 2015 we also updated the interpretive exhibits in the Center and began making preliminary plans for expanding the building. You may have noticed that our exhibit, meeting, and office spaces are overcrowded. An ambitious effort for the coming years will be to expand space to accommodate our growing program needs.

We aim to develop and encourage outdoor-oriented, inspired and interested community members. The River Center continues to offer rewarding and popular programs to introduce birds, natural history, and watershed science thanks to its dedicated staff, volunteer instructors, and River Center docents.

Please come visit and enjoy our programs, the Park, and the River Center as often as you can.

Hansi Hals, President

Milestones

- 100th anniversary of Railroad Bridge
- ‘Dine on the Dungeness’ provides unique experience
- Center programs engage, enhance, and enlighten students
- First Federal grant covers redecking of historic bridge
- Community celebration marks bridge reopening



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

Dungeness River Audubon Center



Teens Mentoring Tweens

Through the financial support provided by River Center members and donors, the 6th grade program continued to flourish. All 6th graders in the Sequim School District were invited to spend a day in beautiful Railroad Bridge Park to learn and experience stewardship projects, river dynamics, the amazing adaptations of local animals, and discover survival challenges of Pacific salmon.



The highlight of these trips is the role of Sequim High School biology students who lead and teach the programs. The high-school students' recently-acquired knowledge of biology, along with their energy, passion, and the way they relate to the 6th graders, are a winning combination. The mentoring nature of the program benefits all who are involved. The 6th graders come away with a new appreciation of the River and Park and the high-school students gain experience leading and teaching groups.



Celebrating the 100th Anniversary

2015 marked the 100th anniversary of the historic railroad bridge in the Park. During the Dungeness River Festival, an annual community event that attracts some 2,000 students and adults, River Center Board member Clare Hatler unveiled a plaque signifying the bridge's place in the National Register of Historic Places. The ceremony on September 26 included presentations from River Center, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Center, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Peninsula Trails Coalition dignitaries.

Representatives from the River Center partners, the Milwaukee Road Historical Association, the Clallam County Historical Society, Joyce Depot Museum, the North Olympic Peninsula Railroaders and the Peninsula Trails Coalition made up the 100th

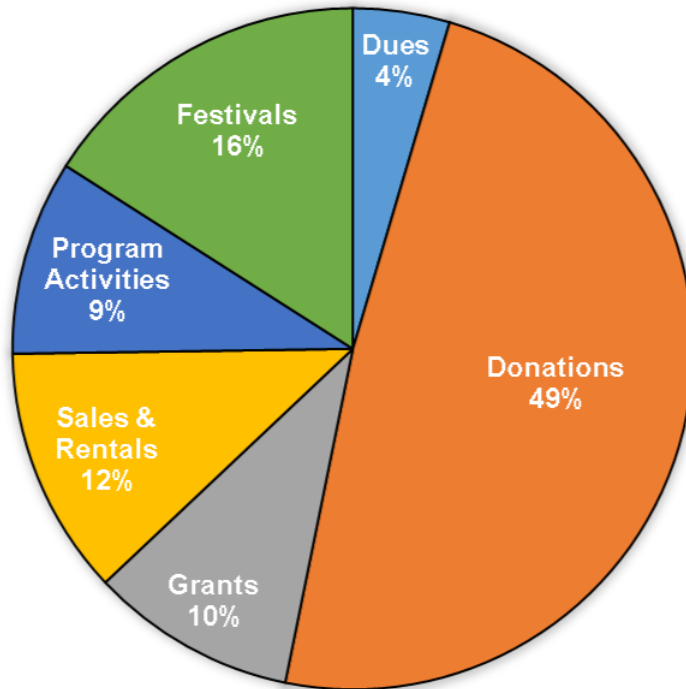
Anniversary Committee. They presented events throughout the year and developed commemorative items including pins, patches, branded coffee, and Railroad Bridge Red wine produced by Wind Rose Cellars.

As a legacy project, the Committee produced a brochure, "Bridges, Trestles, and Trails", with support from the North Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau. The brochure outlines a self-guided tour of historic railroad-related places on the North Olympic Peninsula. It is available at the River Center and visitor centers throughout the Peninsula.

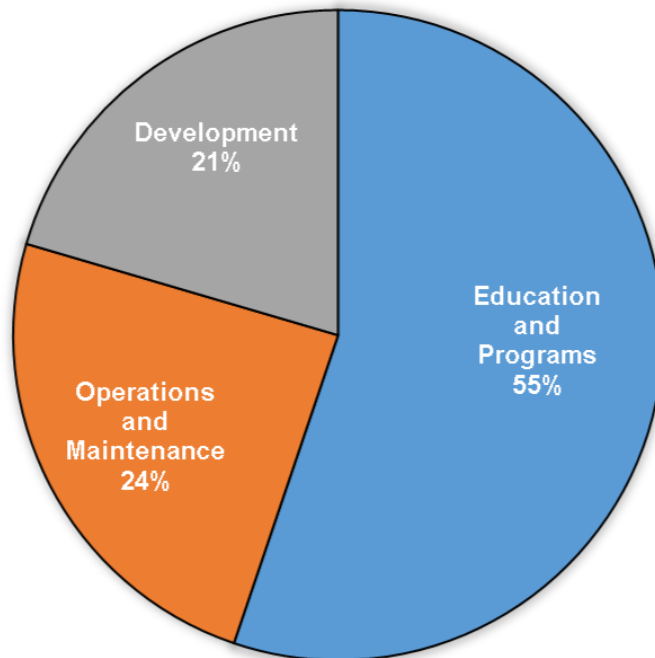


2015 Financial Summary

2015 INCOME: \$227,753



2015 EXPENSE: \$283,344



2015 Financial Summary

2014-2015 INCOME COMPARISON		
INCOME	2014	2015*
Dues	\$11,060	\$10,445
Donations	\$101,619	\$110,694
Grants	\$22,020	\$22,275
Gift shop, Nature Mart, Rentals/Fees	\$26,539	\$26,881
Classes, Camps, and Presentations	\$26,258	\$21,082
BirdFest, River Festival	\$40,444	\$36,376
TOTAL INCOME	\$227,940	\$227,753

The River Center could not function without the support of its partners, its loyal members, and its donors. Donor contributions totaled nearly half of the income in 2015.

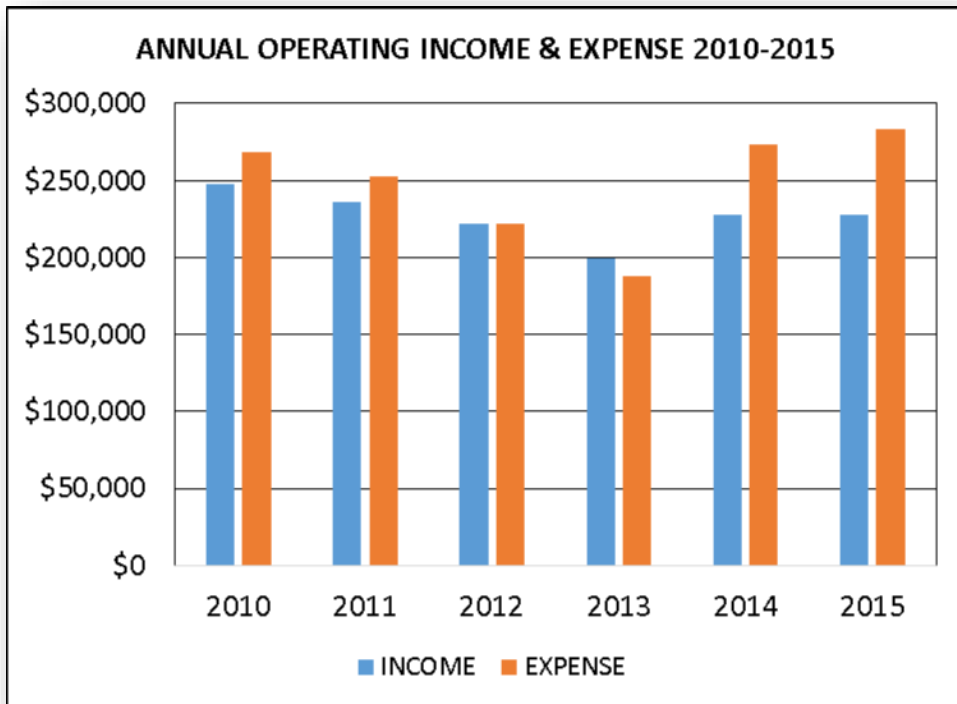
The Center established a “Legacy” fund in 2006 to help defray operating costs and with a generous contribution from an anonymous donor. Withdrawals from the Legacy fund are not reflected in the income pie charts or comparison table above. In 2014 the Legacy fund contributed \$65,000 toward operating expenses and \$55,000 for 2015. The fund balance as of December 31, 2015, was \$1,475,735.

2014-2015 EXPENSE COMPARISON		
EXPENSE	2014	2015*
Education & Programs	\$130,563	\$156,398
Operations & Maintenance	\$94,646	\$68,955
Development	\$48,278	\$57,992
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$273,487	\$283,334

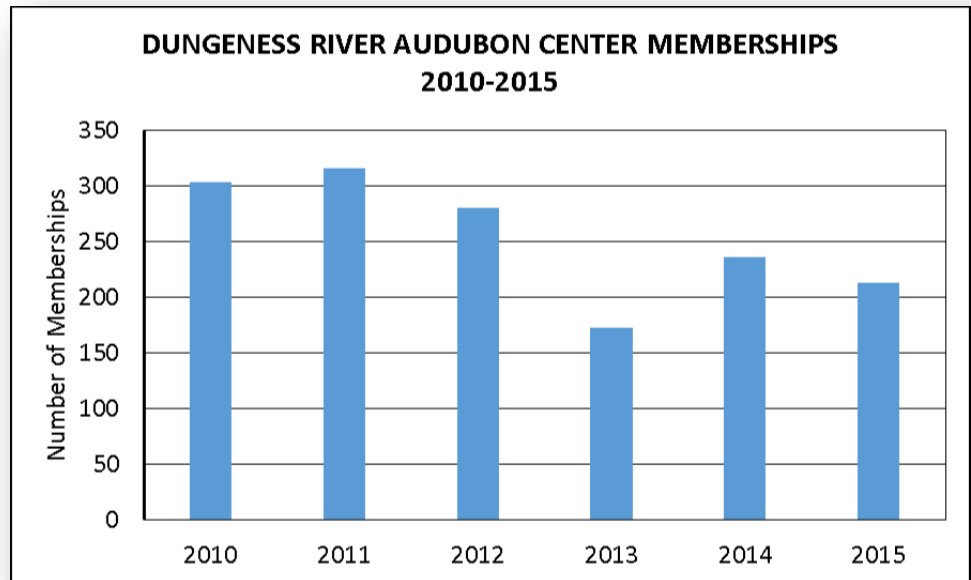
In the expense pie chart and the table about, 60% of salary and benefits have been allocated to program costs, 20% to operations, and 20% to development, as is consistent with common non-profit practice.

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

2010—2015 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 contribution to the continued success of the River Center is invaluable.

Thank You to our 2015 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 for their commitment to supporting our mission. Their gifts enable us to operate the Center, maintain the Park and provide 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.

Legacy Circle members

Anonymous
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

The list of 2015 donors includes memorial and honorary gifts as well as donations of \$100 or more. In 2015, the River Center received donations in memory of Pat Holden, Pat Hovis, Bill Parker, and Wally Peterson.

\$5,000 & above

Shirley Anderson
Rex Bates
First Federal Community Foundation
Dave & Julie Jackson
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
Tuttie & Richard Peetz

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Beatrice & William Booth
Dennis Dickson
Laura Dubois & Bob Sheridan
Les Jones
Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau
Randy & Sallie Radock
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Beth & Cappy Rothman
Gretchen Shanks
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Ken & Nancy Wiersema
Wind Rose Cellars

\$500-\$999

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Tina Jackson
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Kathy Strozyk
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\$100-\$199

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Shawn Aebi
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Iva Augustine
Patt Ayers
Nell Backus
Steve & Sandy Bengtson

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River Center Supporters 2015

\$100-\$199

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Don & JoAnne Weldon
Dick & Phyllis Wenger
Marty Zupan

Under \$100

253 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.

Charlie Yozgott Park Host

Charlie 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 and nature in general have been major assets. We wish him all the best in his new ventures.

River Center 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; John Bridge; Sue Chickman; Clare Hatler; Julie Jackson; Les Jones; Lyn Muench; Tuttie Peetz; Ken Wiersema, OPAS;

Affiliates: Annette Hanson, Emeritus; and Powell Jones, Executive Director.

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Annual Report Production: Ann Sargent and Julie Jackson.

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