Executive Director's Notes—Powell Jones

“Life-Changing Experiences”

Of all the different facets of my job, including managing a beautiful park, talking about the amazing displays within the River Center, and working with people, there is one that excites me the most—the opportunity to provide outdoor experiences to kids and adults alike. It is easy to fall into the idea that it also feeds my desire to be outside, but what really excites me is the potential and possibilities of the participants in the experience.

Outdoor experiences have the power to change perspective, to bring a new light to what is important. This is especially evident when you consider that 90% of adults who actively participate in the outdoors were introduced to outdoor activities between ages 5 and 18. Also, studies have shown that 30% of adults who enter a scientific profession were inspired to do so by experiences they had as children. In a world where “nature deficit disorder” and the ability to stay plugged in for too long have become prevalent, organized, engaging outdoor experiences have become increasingly important.

(Continued on page 5)

From the President—“It’s a Wonderful Place”

As I write this, Powell has just submitted a grant proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, asking for funding to develop a year-long high school class in coordination with the Sequim School District that will emphasize field science skills and Pacific Northwest ecology. Isn’t that a terrific idea?

Improving students’ environmental literacy is a legacy I think we each strive to achieve. I applaud Powell and his collaborators for their creative and ambitious thinking. My fingers are crossed while we await NOAA’s funding decision.

In the meantime, on the home front, I have noticed that my husband Tom Butler is especially upbeat. He has joined the River Center staff as the Education and Volunteer Coordinator and is enjoying himself.

The River Center really is a wonderful place, with a rich variety of programs and participants. Please come in and visit. Tell us your own terrific idea; maybe we can write a grant proposal and make it happen.

Fondly,

Hansi Hals, President
Dungeness River Audubon Center

Our 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.

WE’RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.DUNGENESSRIVERCENTER.ORG

8th River Center Nature Mart Sets Record —

Julie Jackson

By 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15, when the Dungeness River Audubon Center’s annual holiday Nature Mart ended, more than $7,500 had been raised for River Center education programs.

Linda Ogden of Sequim was thrilled to learn that she held the winning raffle ticket for the handsome Cowichan wool sweater valued at over $300.

She and her husband Joel moved to Sequim two years ago, and after seeing photos of the sweater in the newspapers, they came to Nature Mart specifically to buy raffle tickets.

Marion Rutledge, a member of both the River Center and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, knitted and donated the sweater. Rutledge is an active member of the River Center Crafters, the group that produces many of the one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted items for which Nature Mart is known.

The remaining items, including assorted gifts for people, pets, and birds, may be purchased at the Center through Dec. 13. All event proceeds go to support education programs.

(L-R) Charlotte Hertel and Lael Butler (Tom and Hansi’s daughter) made holiday wreaths at Nature Mart.

—Sue Chickman photos

Linda Ogden, winner of the 2014 raffle, poses in her new sweater with her husband Joel.

—Sue Chickman photo

Board of Directors

Officers to May 2015
Hansi Hals, President
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
Dennis Dickson, Vice Pres.
Ann Sargent, Secretary,
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Carl Siver, Treasurer

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Powell Jones, Exec. Director
Kathy Steichen, Olympic National Park

Center Hours
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. TU-FRI
12 p.m. - 4 p.m. SAT
Closed Sundays-Mondays

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The Dungeness River Audubon Center is a charitable organization. Membership fees and donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

For tax purposes, our 501©3 Federal EIN is 91-1632949.

River Current Editor
Annette Hanson
360-670-6774
annette_hanson@msn.com
Welcome Tom Butler!

Meet Tom Butler, the new Education and Volunteer Coordinator. Tom formerly taught high school science. He more recently comes from NatureBridge in Olympic National Park where he was the Science and Education Manager. His longtime interests include birds, hiking, woodworking, biking, baking, exercise, and nature in general.

Ron Allen shares History and Vision!

The River Center’s Legacy Circle members and their guests gathered for a special breakfast at the River Center on Nov. 22nd. The event was to recognize and thank them 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. To learn more about the Legacy Circle, please contact Executive Director Powell Jones or any River Center board member.

New Park Host settles in—

Charlie Yozgott became the Railroad Bridge Park Host on Aug. 20. Charlie describes his background as:

“I was born in Southern California and grew up in small communities within that area. After graduating high school, I proudly served this country in the U. S. Navy. Upon returning home I was fortunate to take advantage of the GI bill and worked and attended college in Santa Barbara, where I obtained an Associate of Arts Degree. After college I worked full time for the majority of my career in the aerospace industry. While working, I was a single parent and raised my son in the small community of Camarillo, California. During my son’s youth, I was actively involved in his sports and academic endeavors.

After my son left home for college, I spent a few years in real estate and property management, also in Southern California. While doing property management, I was able to pursue my enjoyment of landscaping and gardening among my other duties.

In 2003, I moved to Sequim where I was able to continue to pursue my love of gardening and working with people, specifically the elderly.

He describes being the Host as “my dream job.”

I thoroughly enjoy nature, hiking, walking, and exploring this beautiful area with my terrier Sadie.”

—Charlie Yozgott, Park Host

Sorry for the Confusion!

Due to a computer glitch, you may have recently received a letter from the River Center that was wrongly addressed. Thank you to those who alerted us to our error. We sincerely apologize for the confusion! Corrected letters will soon be in the mail. Thank you for your patience and understanding and for your ongoing support of the River Center. Please contact Executive Director Powell Jones if you have any questions or concerns about the Center or Park.
Weekly

Wednesday Morning Bird Walks
Every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., free
Meet at the River Center and join us for a 2-hour bird walk to see and hear birds of Railroad Bridge Park. Data from our bird walks help us understand bird populations in Railroad Bridge Park over time.

Dungeness Adventure Club
Every Thursday, 10 a.m.-Noon
The Dungeness Adventure Club is for children under 6 and their caregivers. Stop by Railroad Bridge Park and find new ways to get your child involved in nature with games, songs, and fun stories. Attendance is free but donations are welcome. Don’t forget an extra set of clothing and a snack.

Meetings
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society: Meetings resume in January.

Work Parties
Dates and Time: 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 9-12 p.m.
Please help keep RR Bridge Park looking bright and beautiful! Bring your work gloves to assist with chores that make our park shine.

Classes/Events
Dec. 15 & Jan. 3
Sequim-Dungeness and Port Angeles Christmas Bird Counts

Meet the Artist!
—Jean Wyatt
Friday,
Dec. 12,
1:30-4:00 p.m.

On Friday afternoon, Dec. 12, from 1:30-4:00, Artist Jean Wyatt, well-known for “Art that makes you smile,” will be in the River Center demonstrating the techniques she uses to create her whimsical drawings. This year, she produced the Center’s charming 2015 desk calendar commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Railroad Bridge. The few remaining calendars and cards from several of the drawings will be available; $4.00 of each calendar purchased goes to support the Center’s education programs. The calendars are $10.

Gifts Galore
At the River Center—
You’ll find a wide array of appealing gifts at the River Center from items hand-crafted for the Center to a collectible patch of our historic railroad bridge, which turns 100 next year. Your purchases will help support our programs.

Volunteer Tuttie Peetz made lavender tree ornaments and many other items for Nature Mart. —Sue Chickman photo
Carl Siver joins the River Center Board—Annette Hanson

Carl Siver is the newest member of the Center’s Board of Directors. He holds an MBA from the University of Washington and recently retired as Chief Financial Officer of a major senior housing non-profit in Seattle. He has experience in risk management, construction financing, and portfolio and operations management.

Carl’s broad background in finance and management will be a tremendous asset to the Center and Park.

Congratulations to Ken Wiersema—Audubon WA

Congratulations to Ken Wiersema, Dungeness River Audubon Center Board Member and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society Co-Vice President, as the recipient of the second annual Helen Engle Volunteer of the Year Award! The Award recognizes a volunteer statewide who has contributed outstanding service to the Audubon cause at the chapter, state, regional, or flyway level and is presented at the annual fall meeting of the Audubon Councils of Washington. Here is a short list of Ken’s contributions:

♦ As President and active member for more than two decades, led Olympic Peninsula Audubon’s efforts in its partnership to help create and build the Dungeness River Audubon Center,
♦ Worked with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe to restore the Jimmycomelately estuary, safeguarding the Dungeness watershed,
♦ Shared his birding expertise through education programs and BirdFest,
♦ Critical to the effort to protect key Olympic Peninsula watersheds through the Wild Olympics Campaign,
♦ Tireless fighter for the passage of the Growth Management Act, wetlands, and Critical Area Ordinances in Clallam County, Sequim, and Port Angeles,
♦ Eloquent voice representing chapter interests with a spirit of collaboration on the Audubon Washington Board of Stewards,
♦ Chapter volunteer for the Olympic Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail, and
♦ Many, many more valuable contributions. Kudos to you, Ken!

NOTES... from page 1

The participants of our programs, whether led by staff or volunteers, have felt the power of our experiences. Students have gone on to become teachers and scientist leaders, while adults have been converted to be fantastic stewards of not only our park, but also the community and beyond.

It seems almost too simple—share what we have passion and love for—and have the potential to provide a life-changing experience. In reality, these experiences don’t happen without the amazing support we get from our members, so THANK YOU for your confidence, support, and help at providing inspiring outdoor experiences to all ages.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and see you in the New Year!

—Powell Jones
Upcoming Class—Birds: the Inside Story

On Jan. 15 from 10 a.m. to Noon at the River Center, OPAS members will give an illustrated presentation of the unique anatomy, physiology, and behaviors of birds. This class is part of the “Backyard Birding” series. The cost of each session is $5 and free for anyone under 18.

In honoring Pat Holden’s memory, we asked Pat’s daughter, Diana Manville, to write about her Mom’s life and her love of birds. Pat was a long-time member of the River Center and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society.

Diana wrote: “Mom’s love of nature was paramount in her life. From a young child in Coos Bay, Oregon and La Center, Washington, to the last 25 years living in Sequim, all aspects of her life revolved around nature, with birding and gardening being at the top of the list.

Pat single handedly ran her mother’s and stepfather’s 100+ acre dairy farm in La Center at the age of 17 while attending high school. In 1942, an article in Life magazine was written about her life on the farm milking 32 cows twice daily, plowing fields, cleaning stalls of manure, tending the family’s garden and livestock plus more, which was unheard of for girls at this time in history.

From this point forward, she would consistently challenge the conventional notion of what a woman should be or could do. Mom was known for her no-nonsense and tenacious personality—traits I was always proud of.

Mom obtained her undergraduate degree in agriculture in 1947, a teaching certificate in 1962, then her Master’s degree in biology in 1968. She taught biology, horticulture, floriculture, and coached girls cross country in Spokane for 30+ years, becoming the first female secondary school vocational agriculture teacher in the State of Washington.

After retiring she joined the Peace Corps and spent two years with the Lesotho Agriculture Production and Institutional Support program in Lesotho, South Africa. I recently ran across cards she purchased in Leribe, Lesotho showing pictures of birds from that area.

Her interest in birds became apparent to me at an early age when living on a lovely farm in Spokane. Birdhouses, feeders, photos, and books were ever present. The name of the farm ‘Blue Bird Acres’ was changed to ‘Quail Run Farm’ when the feeders attracted more quail than bluebirds. This is where she passed her love of birds and gardening onto my sister and me, her grandchildren, students, and friends. Always the teacher, how lucky we were.

A large pond was the main attraction when making a decision where to build her home, a design that included large windows for bird watching. Pat wrote volumes about the many varieties of birds that called her pond home. Wood Ducks, Golden and Bald Eagles, widgeons, mergansers, Steller’s Jay, Spotted Towhees, crossbills, nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees and Anna’s Hummingbirds, to mention a few, were the main characters in her writings. We would clean the Wood Duck boxes in early spring to prepare for the nesting season.

Many tours and classes came to Mom’s to observe the Wood Ducks, which are relatively uncommon in the area. Tours of her garden, with over 130 rhododendrons, were also popular, especially in the spring and summer. Mom participated in many exciting Bird Counts thru the years, again educating her family and friends of this wonderful interest.

In 1991, she took a survey of plants and trees in Railroad Bridge Park. Pat also designed and helped plant the Native Plant Garden at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, taking into account the native plants that attracted birds.

Mom was highly respected in the Sequim/Port Angeles area for her knowledge, desire to educate and contribute, and for her love of birding. She was happiest when watching her birds and while in her beautiful garden.”

Memorials in Pat Holden’s name may be sent to Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society at P.O. Box 502, Sequim, WA 98382.
In 2015
we celebrate the 100th
Anniversary of the
Railroad Bridge!
Look for more information in the
next issue of the River Current.

2014 Dungeness River Festival photo Album
—Sue Chickman and Gretha Davis photos

On Sept. 26-27, the Dungeness River Festival educated and entertained 2,500+ students, residents, and tourists at Railroad Bridge Park. Enjoy these pictures that express the potential for “life-changing experiences.”
Look who's hiding behind the bow on the Center's tree!  
—Sue Chickman photo

Steve and Ann Johnson of the Lazy J Tree Farm donated the Center’s tree.  
—Sue Chickman photo

MEMBERSHIP FORM: Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park

River Center memberships expire each year on May 1.

Name_________________________________________ Date____________________

Mailing Address_________________________________________ City ______________________

State______ Zip___________ Phone_____________________________ Cell ______________________

Email address _________________________________________ Signature ______________________

Please circle your membership dues category below. Is this a new membership ____ or a renewal____?

- $25 Individual
- $35 Household
- $50 Friend
- $100 Sustaining
- $250 Supporting
- $500 Patron
- $1000 Benefactor
- Other $______________

☐ Here’s my additional gift to support the Center and Park $ _________ and/or the Endowment $ _________

☐ My check for $____________ made out to Dungeness River Audubon Center (or DRAC) is enclosed.

☐ I prefer to charge my membership/donation to:  ___ MasterCard  ___ VISA  Amount $________

Acct# ___________________________ Exp. Date _________ 3 Digit Security Code __________

☐ Our quarterly newsletter, the River Current, is delivered via email (as a pdf) whenever possible. To receive a hard copy by mail, please check this box.

☐ I would like information about volunteer opportunities for the Center and Railroad Bridge Park.

Please send your completed form with payment to:
Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382

THANK YOU!! Your contributions to the Dungeness River Audubon Center are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

Rev. 04-14-2014