FALL 2017

Points of Interest:

- River Festival Friday, Sept. 29!
- RiverStage now has a roof and better access
- 11th ‘Nature Mart’ coming up
- ‘Dine’ nets $8,100 for operations

Inside this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River Festival—Director’s Msg.</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exciting Times—President’s Msg.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center Board, Hours of Operation, Info</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships &amp; Annual Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Mart Dine on the Dungeness</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes and Events</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Camps New Park Hosts</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bldg. Expansion Update Roof on RiverStage President’s Message…</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Festival poster</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Mart… Park Hosts…</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dungeness River Festival on Friday—Sept. 29, 9 am to 4 pm

Director’s Message—Powell Jones

Inspiring understanding, enjoyment, and stewardship of the Olympic Peninsula’s unique natural and cultural resources is a pillar of the work we do at, and for, the River Center. Along with accessibility, it is also behind what makes the River Festival, ONE DAY ONLY on Sept. 29, such a special event for our community. The River Festival highlights those “resources” by providing a free platform for organizations and agencies to share their work and inspire all generations with what an amazing story the Dungeness River can tell!

Like many watersheds, the Dungeness has a complex ecological story that has to be told and experienced by many different people to understand. The River Festival gives you the chance to hear from people that are both exploring and creating the story of the Dungeness. US Forest Service, NOAA, National Park Service, Peninsula Trails Coalition, Back Country Horsemen, Clallam County, BEACH, and North Olympic Land Trust are just a few of the many agencies that will be on hand to share, demonstrate, and answer questions about our watershed and the Olympic Peninsula’s natural resources.

Please mark your calendar and make a plan to come down and learn even more about the area you love. If you have questions about the festival, are interested in helping out, or you know of a group that would be a good fit at the Festival, please contact the River Center at 360-681-4076 or email RiverCenter@olympus.net.

—Powell Jones, Director

“Exciting Time for the River Center”

President’s Message—Greg Voyles

Dear River Center Members, Partners, and Supporters,

I am honored to be Board President for this term (July 2017-June 2018). This is an exciting time for the River Center! A lot has changed during the past few years, and we continue to grow and mature as an organization… we are fully staffed, our educational offerings are as robust as they’ve ever been, and at some point in the near future we’ll be publicly launching a capital campaign to fund our expanded facility.

I’d like to take this opportunity to better introduce myself, and to share why I love the River Center. Obviously, my

(Continued on page 7)
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.

Visit our website!
www.dungenessrivercenter.org

Success with the Center’s New Membership Structure and Other News—Sue Chickman and Membership Committee

The change to membership that was adopted in September 2016 has produced great results. The new membership approach has increased our 2017 membership by nearly 74% over 2016! Additionally, as of June 2017, the memberships exceeded our 2011 all-time high by 15%. Thank you so much for supporting the Center’s mission.

Thanks, also, to those who attended the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting on June 20…the potluck finger food was outstanding! The business meeting included presenting the 2016 Annual Report, discussing the organization’s financial condition (solid), and electing new Board members. The membership elected and welcomed the return of Lyn Muench, whose terms of service limited out in 2016. She became eligible to return to the Board in 2017, after one year of absence. Also elected was Shirley Anderson, who will now serve as a direct River Center Board member rather than a representative from the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society.

Next time you’re at the River Center, take a moment to look over the 2016 Annual Report. And, if you want to know what the duties and responsibilities of your elected Board members are, ask a staff member to show you the newly updated, condensed Handbook for Prospective Board Members…it provides an excellent overview of our Board’s activities.
Dine on the Dungeness Huge Success—Vanessa Fuller

The 3rd annual ‘Dine on the Dungeness’ was a huge success and brought in $8,100 to support our mission. Kokopelli’s knocked it out of the park with their tasty salmon, and not one dessert was left over from Sweet Beginnings. New this year we lit up the bridge with globe lights and enjoyed music provided by Bill Volmut, creating a magical effect. From the beautiful flowers donated from Tuttie Peetz to the owls greeting us from the Raptor Center, we couldn’t be more grateful to everyone that helped put this event together. A wonderful evening was had by all. We sold out quickly, so if you want to go next year you had better act fast once tickets go on sale next Spring.

(Continued on page 9)
Join the OPAS Western Bluebird Watch Program and National Audubon Climate Watch as a volunteer in the upcoming Climate Watch Survey. Volunteers are needed to conduct 5-minute surveys in 4-5 select tracts of Clallam County where the National Audubon Climate Change Model predicts an increase in Western Bluebird nesting by year 2020. For more information about the program or to participate in the survey contact Joyce Volmut 785-554-6379 or email joyce.volmut@gmail.com.

Western Bluebird Watch Training
Oct. 22, Sunday
Time 2-4 p.m.
Where: Dungeness River Audubon Center

The volunteer training class will be held at the Dungeness River Audubon Center on Sunday, Oct. 22nd from 2-4 p.m. The class will include how the program originated, the goals of the program, and how the project fits in with the National Audubon Climate Watch program.

There will be some historical background on Audubon Climate Watch. Climate Watch aims to document species' responses to climate change by having volunteers in the field look for birds where Audubon’s climate models project they should be in the 2020s.

Other training will include the protocol for volunteers and Ebird data collection and reporting. To volunteer, call Joyce Volmut at 785-554-6379.

Create a Field Guide for Railroad Bridge Park
“Fungus” - Oct. 9
“Insects” - Nov. 9

Time: 1 - 4 p.m.
Where: Dungeness River Audubon Center

Learn to identify different species through lectures and field experience. Make observations, take notes, and learn to draw our local flora and fauna with the end goal of creating a unique and informative field guide to Railroad Bridge Park.

There are two more classes, each covering a different topic. This class will be co-taught by Jenna Ziogas and Robert Amaral. They have already covered deciduous/broadleaf plants, evergreens, and fish.

Please pre-register for this class. To register or for more information, contact 360-681-4076 / rceducation@olympus.net.
"Why You Want to go Birdwatching in Texas During Winter"
O.P.A.S. Program
Oct. 18, Wednesday
7:00 p.m. at the Center
The October program will be presented by Carolyn Wilcox from Experience Olympic Nature Tours. One of the best times to go birding in Texas is during winter. Numerous species from around North America mix with local residents and subtropical specialties, providing some of the best birding in the United States. Carolyn Wilcox tells her stories and shows photos of the spectacular birds she viewed while traveling through the Lone Star State.

Carolyn has been the owner and operator of Experience Olympic Nature Tours since 2013, based in Port Angeles, WA. She has an M.S. in Environmental Science from University of Nevada, Reno and has been an educator since 2003. Her infectious enthusiasm and curiosity about the natural world will keep you hoping for more.

Backyard Birder series!
Time: All classes meet from 10 a.m.-noon at the Center
The Backyard Birder series of classes, hosted by members of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, is intended for residents of this area who are interested in knowing more about birds seen locally each season of the year and learning how to develop good habitats for wild birds.

“Backyard Birder” can be taken either as individual classes or in a series. The cost of each session is $5 and is free for anyone under 18. After the completion of five sessions, participants will be offered free membership in OPAS for one year.

For more information contact rceducation@olympus.net / 360-681-4076.

Series Class Descriptions:
#1 Landscaping for Birds
Oct. 21, Saturday
Time: 10 a.m. until noon
Where: Dungeness River Audubon Center
First in the series of eight ‘Backyard Birder’ classes, Joe Holtrop, Executive Director of the Clallam Conservation District, will present important aspects of a bird friendly yard, including food, water, and shelter, with emphasis on the use of plants native to this area. There will be an optional field trip (a two-mile hike at the Dungeness Recreation Area) to see native plants and where they are growing, following the class.

#2 Being a Birder
Nov. 4, Saturday
Time: 10 a.m. until noon
Where: Dungeness River Audubon Center
Second in the series of classes. The instructor has not yet been determined.
You’re a birder! That’s wonderful, but how about becoming a ‘birder’ instead. Birdwatchers watch birds, but a Birder knows birds! This class will introduce you to the overall basics of birding. We’ll start with who birds are: e.g., what makes an American robin.
You’ll learn how to look at a bird, how to see a bird, how to describe a bird, and how to take notes on a bird—and then use these tools. We’ll take a look at optics from the cheap to the mega-expensive and what you need to know to make these instruments work for you.

We’ll explore how to take field notes and draw stick-birds for ID purposes.
You’ll be exposed to ‘basic’ trials and tribulations you’ll encounter as you begin your pathway to becoming a Birder, and how to both overcome and use them to your advantage. The instructor will provide information about getting started on a ‘Birding Year.’ A variety choices of both binoculars and field guides will be available, and use of websites describing species in the area and ways to keep records are included.

"Patagonia & South Georgia Island Birdwatching"
O.P.A.S. Program
Nov. 15, Wednesday
7:00 p.m. at the Center
The November program will be presented by Bob and Enid Phreaner, OPAS President and Secretary. They will share pictures from a recent trip to the Islands.

Holiday Nature Mart
Nov. 17-18, Friday & Saturday
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Center

#3 Winter Care & Feeding in the Garden
Dec. 2, Saturday
Time: 10 a.m. until noon
Where: Dungeness River Audubon Center
Third in the series of classes, Christie Lassen of Wild Birds Unlimited is the featured speaker. Her presentation will cover general bird feeding, including types of feeders and different feeds for attracting specific birds with an emphasis on our over-wintering species and clean bird feeding. She will include specific ideas for providing continuing winter water supplies, ways to feed the birds - not the rodents, and meeting the needs of the Anna’s Hummingbird which has started staying here throughout the year. She will address specific questions from participants.
Volunteering – Summer Camps – Park Hosts at the River Center—Jenna Ziogas, Education Coordinator

Summer Camps an Essential Bridge

Although fun is the central goal of our summer camps, they are much more in that they provide an essential educational bridge for kids during the summer months. Based on the exploration of the outdoors, self-awareness, and science; our camps engage kids in skills that they might not use during the summer vacation. They are fun and encourage interaction with other campers in an outdoor environment.

Our camps continue to grow, and this year we added two new sessions to expand our offerings. Attendees come from a growing fan base. Our camps this year included Nature Camp, Nature Ninjas, Bike Camp, Girls in Science, Builders Camp, and brand new Treasure Hunters and Creatures of the Olympic Peninsula. Overall, the camps went well with many happy campers and parents speaking of value of having their kids come home everyday dirty, wet, smiling, tired, and asking for more. We are already looking forward to next year!

Girls in Science campers sample Dungeness River invertebrates.

Two New Park Host Couples Share Duties

Our names are David and Jerani Horne, and our 7 year old Papillion/King Charles Caviler’s name is Max. We have truly come full circle. Our first job together close to forty years ago was as a Caretaking Couple taking care of the San Juan County Park on San Juan Island. Since then we have worked together for years as an Estate Caretaking Couple taking care of large private estates from Seattle to Los Altos Hills, California. During the past ten years, Jerani has worked as a Personal Assistant in private homes and David has worked as a Meat and Seafood Manager in a large grocery store, and later as the Marketing Coordinator for the same chain in the Portland area. We love animals, antiques, gardening, reading, travel and spending

(Continued on page 9)
Building Expansion Update

Architect Progress
The Board has approved to contract architect Tormod Hellwig to prepare the next step—a Schematic Design—with drawings that show the general scope, scale, and relationship of project components for approval. Work will include preliminary specifications, materials selection, and cost estimating.

Campaign Progress
The Capital Campaign Committee for the River Center building expansion project has been making great progress during this ‘quiet phase’ of the campaign. Several grantors and very generous donors have stepped up to lead the effort and inspire us forward. Anyone interested in learning more about this project, please contact Committee Chair Annette Hanson at 360-670-6774 or Director Powell Jones at 360-681-4076.

We would love to hear what’s important to you in this exciting expansion project.

Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe employee Dave Hartman and his crew recently built a cover for the RiverStage amphitheater, just in time for a summer wedding and the River Festival. It is ADA compliant and by now has a matching green metal roof and a stain job. Thank you Tribe!

—Sue Chickman photo

President’s Message...continued from front page

name is Greg. My mom and I moved to Sequim in 1988 from Tempe, AZ, where I was by all means a “city kid.” As an 11 year old boy, I had a BB gun and pellet rifle and I really liked to shoot at anything that moved. One day, our next door neighbor came over to have a talk with my mom. He was very concerned that I was going to decimate the neighborhood bird population. His name was Claude Ritz. For those of you who aren’t familiar with Claude and his wife Edna, they are the amazing couple who donated a majority of the bird displays we have in the Center. After that, my mom bought me some paper targets, I quit shooting at birds I didn’t plan to eat, and I began to develop a real appreciation for nature (and sense of “place,” knowing that OlyPen would always be “home” to me). After graduating from Sequim High, I earned a BA in Environmental Education from Western Washington University. Following college, I went to work for the National Park Service (Yosemite, Olympic, and Haleakala) and then US Fish and Wildlife Service (Portland, OR). In 2009, my wife and I bought my family’s business in Port Angeles and purchased my mom’s old house. We now have two daughters, Gwyneth (6) and Gretchen (4), and we continue to live next door to Edna Ritz.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year, and am currently devising plans to make the Fish Printing station at River Festival (which I’ve been in charge of for the past few years) the best and maybe wildest it’s ever been. Last year, I decided to make it a “dad’s” station… completely staffed with dads. So, if you are a dad (of any age), and you have nothing to do on Friday, Sept. 29 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., get in touch with me and let’s make this year’s River Festival the most fun it’s ever been!!!

—Greg Voyles, President

“This is an exciting time for the River Center! A lot has changed during the past few years, and we continue to grow and mature as an organization… .”

—Greg Voyles, President
Dungeness River Festival
1 Day Only - Friday September 29th

Where: Railroad Bridge Park
When: Sep. 29th 9am -4pm

A celebration of the Dungeness River and the wealth of resources including clean water, salmon, history, recreation and the beauty it brings to our community. The festival provides a great FREE opportunity for residents of all ages to learn and explore what makes this area so special from the people and agencies working in the watershed.

www.DungenessRiverCenter.com - 360-681-4076 - RiverCenter@olympus.net

Events and Activities
Education for all ages!
• Interactive Exhibits and Displays
• Jamestown Fry Bread
• 5 Acre Sound Waves Marimba
• Bird Tour of Center
• Fish Printing
• 3pm Salmon Walk

....And More

Please Follow us on FaceBook or check our website for more details as the event approaches.
Even if you can't come to Nature Mart, you can contribute to its success by:

1. Providing wreath-making materials of evergreen cuttings, two-feet or smaller in length (fir, cedar, salal, all colors of Oregon grape, etc., but no hemlock because it doesn’t keep). Put greens or other interesting materials on the drop cloths on the River Center porch beginning Monday, Nov. 6.

2. Making delectables—pies, cakes, cookies, breads, or candy for the bake sale, but please nothing that requires refrigeration. Please note ingredients, such as nuts, that may cause allergies. Please deliver baked goods, labeled and wrapped in clear wrap or in clear bags, on Thursday from noon to 4 p.m. to Marie Grad at the River Center.

Deliver your hand crafted items donated for sale on Thursday, Nov. 16 between 10 a.m. and Noon to Shirley Anderson and Dorothy Shreffler.

Taking a Nature Mart shift—two- and three-hour shifts are available in the Center as well as outdoors, where the wreath-making, photo booth, and bake sale take place.

If you would like to help at Nature Mart, bake for the 'Sweet and Savory' sale, or donate greenery or materials for wreath-making, please contact Shirley Anderson at sanderson22@olypen.com or (360) 681-3950, or Tuttie Peetz at trpeetz@gmail.com or (360) 683-6860.

New Park Host Couples Share Duties cont. from page 6

time in the outdoors. We couldn’t be happier living in such a beautiful setting and we love being able to keep things neat and tidy for the patrons of the park.

It’s really great being a part of something that is so enjoyed by the community and we truly appreciate the opportunity to be a part of it!

Via Annette Hanson—Park hosts Myrna and Jerry Cain, who normally reside in Chester, Idaho, now call their 21ft. trailer home. They’ve been married 21 years. They’ve had their two Shih Tzu dogs, Chester and Barkley, since puppyhood. Both Myrna, a retired nurse, and Jerry, a retired pilot and airplane mechanic, love music. They have a band in Idaho that plays country gospel music.

When asked how they ended up in Sequim, they said, “My son sent us a copy of the park host ad from the paper. We applied and here we are. We love being here and learning about the animals, and enjoy talking to people.” When Jerry first arrived and saw the trees, Myrna said Jerry said, ‘I’ve died and gone to heaven.’

Park hosts Myrna and Jerry Cain and their dogs Chester and Barkley.

—Annette Hanson photo
MEMBERSHIP FORM: DUNGENESS RIVER AUDUBON CENTER AND RAILROAD BRIDGE PARK

Name____________________________________________________________________Date_____________________

Mailing Address______________________________________________  City ___________________________________

State______ Zip___________ Phone_____________________________  Cell ___________________________________

Email address ________________________________________   Signature _______________________________

Please circle your membership donation category below. Is this is a new membership ____or a renewal____?

☐ $35 Annual Membership   ☐ $500 Life-time Membership

☐ Here’s my additional gift to support the Center and Park $________, Legacy Fund $_______ and/or Building Fund $______.

☐ The River Current quarterly newsletter is delivered via E-mail (as a pdf). To receive a paper copy by U.S. Mail, please check this box and add $10 to cover printing and postage.

☐ 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. Number ___________________________ Expiration Date _________ 3 Digit Security Code ____________

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

Please send completed form and 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. 10-01-2016