Executive Director’s Notes—Powell Jones

The first Indian Plums have already bloomed, owls are fledging chicks, BirdFest has come and gone, and the frogs of the area are at a deafening roar; it is safe to say that Spring is here.

Spring is the time when I try to reenergize myself by getting outside as much as possible. The River Center Rally is a great way to do just that while supporting the Center’s programs and Railroad Bridge Park.

As part of the River Center Rally this year, we are hosting a series of "Fanatics" talks starting April 23 at 7 p.m. These talks will delve into the passion that individuals have for an activity that connects them with the outdoors and maybe themselves as well. I will kick the series off with an introspective look into my mountain bike obsession.

The series will run four Wednesdays starting with my talk—followed by Denny Van Horn speaking on birding, John Bridge talking about hiking, and finishing with Tuttie Peetz discussing the art of driftwood sculpting. I hope that many of you can come join us and see the drive behind someone who is fanatical about an activity.

A lot more is happening at the River Center this spring including Hazel Speaks!, Migratory Bird Count, “Being a Backyard Birder,” and our Annual Meeting. Please check our online calendar for more information.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Friday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. Please join us for an informal meeting that will include food, friendship, updates, and Board elections. It is a chance for you to provide your input on what we should be doing in the years ahead. If you haven’t received your annual meeting invitation letter and membership renewal notice by May 1, please contact the River Center at rcoffice@olympus.net or 681-4076. (Remember that your Dungeness River Audubon Center membership is for one year only, and it expires in May.)

Thank you for your continued support. Members old and new are the basis of our progress, so bring your friends and neighbors, and “finger-food” to share to the annual meeting. All are welcome!

In our last issue, I explained how our Board has put policies and
‘Spring Fling’ Becomes ‘River Center Rally’ — Julie Jackson

Although the name for our annual activity-based fundraiser has changed from ‘Dungeness Spring Fling’ to ‘River Center Rally’ — the goal is the same: to help support our educational programs and maintain Railroad Bridge Park. Our goal this year is to raise $30,000 and have a lot of fun doing it.

The Outdoor Fanatics Series will start the fun at 7 p.m., April 23 at the River Center, when Powell Jones demonstrates the heights and depths of his passion for biking. “I bike for my heart, soul, and sanity,” says the River Center Executive Director.

Columbia Bank of Sequim is generously sponsoring the four-part series by obsessed hobbyists, who cheerfully characterize themselves as ‘outdoor fanatics.’ The series will also include Birding (Denny Van Horn, April 30), Hiking (John Bridge, May 7), and Driftwood Sculpting (Tuttie Peetz, May 14). Each of the Wednesday evening presentations will start at 7 p.m. at the River Center. Admission will be by donation to support the Center and Park through the River Center Rally. We hope you’ll join us!

River Center Rally teams are so flexible that participants set their own schedules and objectives, or you can participate without joining a team. To join in the fun, simply complete a River Center Rally registration form (copies are available on the River Center web site and at the Center) and agree to raise or donate at least $50 by June 4, 2014. You can also sponsor your favorite participants and/or teams. Sponsorships of any amount are welcome, and you can STRETCH your dollars by making your donation on Tuesday, May 6, through the Seattle Foundation’s one-day GiveBIG fundraiser (See GiveBIG on page 5). Every dollar counts! Some teams include:

**Broom Busters—** Leaders: Gretha & Doug Davis, gretha.d@wavecable.com. This year’s goal is to begin where we left off last year, at Whitefeather Way, yanking out the invasive Scotch Broom along the Olympic Discovery Trail, heading westward in hopes of making Morse Creek by the end of May. BROOM BUSTING every Wednesday in May from 9 a.m. to noon. We need donations of dollars and time, loan of weed wrenches, and your blessings.

**Dirty Face Racing—** Leader: Powell Jones, rivercenter@olympus.net. Our mountain bike team races through the summer.
Hazel Wolf (1898-2000) was an Audubon champion, as well as an activist and community leader with strong ties to the Olympic Peninsula and Northwest. She also founded the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society and many other Washington State chapters. In recognition of the contributions of both Hazel Wolf and of her granddaughter Ann Sargent, who serves as secretary on the River Center Board, the River Center partners proudly present a benefit performance of the play Hazel Speaks! This staged reading of the play by Rebecca Redshaw will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 26, in the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Center’s Red Cedar Hall in Blyn.

Speaking Hazel’s own words, wit, and wisdom, four seasoned actors—Helen Carrick, Charlotte McElroy, Marianne Trowbridge, and Elizabeth Kelly—voice Hazel’s humor and passion. Redshaw’s play is based on the book Hazel Wolf: Fighting the Establishment, by Susan Starbuck.

A reception with light refreshments and a tour of the Tribal campus will follow the performance on April 26, which fittingly is also the birthday of John James Audubon (1785-1851).

Admission will be by donation, and proceeds will support education programs of the Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park. Please visit the River Center web site, www.dungenessrivercenter.org, to RSVP for this event.

“...taught me to not only appreciate nature, but also the importance of public service.”

—Ann Sargent

Hello; I’m Ann Sargent, born and raised in Port Angeles. In 1973 I moved to Sequim after earning an AA from Peninsula College. I now live in the Carlsborg area with my husband, Roy, where we raise a small herd of cattle on our acreage.

I worked for the Sequim law firm of Alan Millet for approximately 12 years. I have been working for the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe since 1993, and I am currently the Executive Assistant to Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO. I am also the Webmaster for the Tribe’s webpage.

I have a great love of outdoor activities: biking, hiking, and camping. Growing up on the Olympic Peninsula, every summer I looked forward to hiking the trails in the Olympic National Park with my grandmother Hazel Wolf. She taught me to not only appreciate nature, but also the importance of public service. For several years I have been a volunteer for the Peninsula Trails Coalition Adopt-a-Trail Program and manage a section of the Olympic Discovery Trail in Blyn.

I have been Secretary of the Dungeness River Audubon Center Board since the early 2000’s. I appreciate the opportunity to work with and be on the Board. It allows me to be part of environmental outreach in the Sequim-Dungeness Valley.

I am especially proud of the educational opportunities the River Center provides for elementary and middle school children with the emphasis on natural resources and the wildlife of the Dungeness watershed. As my grandmother taught me, we need to pass the knowledge to the next generation if we’re going to make an impact on our world.

The River Center staff and volunteers are doing just that, and I’m happy to be part of it.
**Weekly**

**Wednesday Morning Bird Walks**
Every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., free to all
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 caretakers. 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.

**Classes/Events**

**April 19**—River Center Booth at Wild Bird’s Unlimited 10th Earth Day Celebration, along with many other participants. Saturday, 10-4 p.m. in Gardiner at 275953 Highway 101.

**April 24**—Financial Planning Seminar
(See page 6)

**Outdoor Fanatics Series**
4 Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Let a few of our outdoor fanatics entertain you and give you a glimpse into their world! We will highlight several River Center Rally participants during four Wednesday sessions at the River Center on:

- **April 23**—“Biking” with Powell Jones
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Join us at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. Admission is by donation. The Outdoor Fanatics series is sponsored by Columbia Bank of Sequim.

**April 26**—Performance: “Hazel Speaks!”
2 p.m. at the Red Cedar Hall, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Campus, Blyn
Admission by donation.
All donations will support the Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park. Please R.S.V.P. at www.dungenessrivercenter.org

**May 1-31**—River Center Rally (formerly Spring Fling) (See page 2)

**May 3**—Irrigation Festival Family Fun Day
Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
The River Center will have a booth at Family Fun Day, taking place on Washington Street in downtown Sequim. Bring the family for a fun filled day of activities! Contact Becca Nissley if interested in volunteering for this event.

**Meetings**

**Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society Meeting:**
May 21—“Climate Change is (not) for the Birds”
Speaker: Richard Jahnke, PhD
Wednesday, 7 p.m., free
This presentation provides up-to-date, direct measurements of factors driving climate change and their impacts.

He is the current President of Admiralty in Port Townsend. Rick earned his B.S. in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1974 and his M.S. (1977) and Ph.D. (1981) in chemical oceanography from the University of Washington. He studied the global carbon cycle and related aspects of ocean chemistry for more than 35 years, authored more than 100 scientific articles and book chapters and was a scientific reviewer of the second IPCC report.

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May 10—O.P.A.S. Bird-A-Thon & Irrigation Festival Parade
Leader: Bob Boekelheide, 681-4867 or 808-0196 for the Bird-A-Thon and Vanessa Fuller, 681-4076 for the parade. Please call to volunteer.

May 16—River Center Annual Meeting/Potluck
Friday, 5:30-7 p.m.

June 7—Being a Backyard Birder: “Out of the Nest”
Saturday, 10 a.m.-Noon
Cost: $5, free to youth under 18
What is life like for young birds just out of the nest? Come to this session where Ken Wiersema will share stories and anecdotes of how birds fledge and leave the nest for the first time on their own. Also learn how to make your backyard friendly for these young birds!

June 10—“Coastal Bluff Erosion and Sediment Dynamics in the Elwha and Dungeness Drift Cells, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Washington”
Speaker: David Parks of WA Department of Natural Resources
Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m.
Dave has been studying coastal bluff erosion in the area for several years. He will present his findings and recommendations for future projects.

June 14—River Center Romp (See page 7)
June 16—Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Monday, 11 a.m.
Save the date!

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.

“Connections With Nature” winners—Gretha Davis
The River Center’s—Sequim Arts Student Show awards depicting the theme “Connections with Nature” include:
First Place receiving $50 is Robert Simpson, 12th grader from North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center;
Second Place receiving $30 is Danyelle Wilson, 12th grader from Sequim High School;
Third Place receiving $20 is Emily Webb, 10th grader from Sequim High School; and
Honorable Mention is Charlotte Hertel, 6th grader from Five Acres School.
Their art work is currently on display at Sunshine Café, 145 West Washington Street in Sequim, along with the O.P.A.S. Sequim Arts Student Show award winners with their “BIRD ART” theme. Be sure to go and enjoy these artists’ wonderful pieces.
“Jan Tierney will offer practical tips and insights to untangle questions you may have…”
—Sue Chickman

**2014 Summer Camps—Becca Nissley**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Ages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bike Camp</td>
<td>June 30-July 3</td>
<td>9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>$100; 9+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls in Science</td>
<td>July 7-9</td>
<td>9 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
<td>$120; 8-12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW! Nature Ninjas!</td>
<td>July 14-15</td>
<td>9 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
<td>$80; 7-12</td>
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**Is My Estate Plan In A Tangle?—Sue Chickman**

The River Center is presenting the eighth in a series of free, semi-annual financial and estate planning seminars on Thursday **April 24**, at 4 p.m. and at 6 p.m. Attorney **Jan Tierney** will offer practical tips and insights for helping to untangle questions you may have such as: What happens if I don’t have a will?; What are the benefits of a trust?; How do I plan for blended families?; How do taxes impact my estate? and more.

To register for the 6 p.m. session, please contact Sue Chickman 360-477-4123, organicallysue@olypen.com. The 4 p.m. session is full.

**NEW! Creepy Crawlies**

Date: July 21-23
Time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cost: $120; Ages: 7-12

**Summer Science Camp**

4 Day Camps
Date: (2 sessions available)
August 4-7 and August 18-21
Time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cost: $150; Ages: 7-12

You can register for our summer camp programs online at www.dungenessrivercenter.org or in person at the Center.

**Center Honors Writing Contest Winners—Becca Nissley**

“The students who entered our first Nature Writing Contest submitted such outstanding pieces that choosing winners was really tough,” said Powell Jones, Executive Director of the Dungeness River Audubon Center. He presented awards to the four finalists on Feb. 19, during the monthly meeting of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS), which meets at the Center.

The winners:

**Grand Prize—Zoe Wright**

A junior at Chimacum High School, received first place for her essay entitled “Her Balance.” As winner of the grand prize, she and her mother enjoyed a three-day nature cruise in the San Juan Islands, led by Bob Boekelheide April 6-8, following the O.P.A.S. sponsored BirdFest.

**Second—Jonathan Parent**

A senior at Chimacum High School, was awarded second place and two tickets to the Protection Island Wildlife Cruise during Olympic BirdFest for his essay “Mats Mats” about Mats Mats Bay.

**Third—Waverly Shreffler**

A sophomore at Sequim High School, received third place and a River Center gift certificate of $40 for her poem entitled “A Seed” set in the Arctic.

**Honorable Mention—Danielle Dye**

A freshman at Port Angeles High School, was awarded honorable mention for her essay “The Creek.” She also received a $20 River Center gift certificate.

For the contest, students in grades 9-12 from the north Olympic Peninsula were invited to write a poem, an essay, or to recount a personal experience that connected them to the natural world. The grand prize cruise, valued at over $1,200, was generously donated by a River Center and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society member, who

(L-R) Exec. Dir. Powell Jones congratulates Grand Prize winner Zoe Wright and 3rd place contestant Waverly Shreffler.

—Chris Perry photo

was there for the presentation.

A team of judges including poet, essayist, and nature writer Tim McNulty, and teachers John and Nancy Woolley selected the finalists.
procedures in place to insure that the Center and Park are well run and actions are accountable. It takes good people, good work, and alas, money to make the practices match the policies. We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of members and donors who contribute to current operations of the Center and Park, and to their future through the endowment. Would that the funds flowed with nary a word from staff or Board! Instead, several times a year we remind these loyal supporters that an opportunity arises.

One such opportunity is our annual “do something for fun and get some sponsors fundraiser.” Formerly called Dungeness Spring Fling, its new name, River Center Rally, better reflects its purpose.

Don’t miss the launch on April 23 when our own Powell Jones will entertain you at the River Center. Powell’s tales of his biking adventures will be the first episode in the River Center Rally’s four-part Outdoor Fanatics Series generously sponsored by Columbia Bank of Sequim.

As you’ll see from the article “Spring Fling Becomes River Center Rally” on page 2, not only can you participate and/or sponsor your favorite participants and teams—you can leverage your contribution by donating on GiveBIG Day, Tuesday, May 6, through the Seattle Foundation’s one-day fundraising event.

Win Jones readies for his ride.
—Submitted photo

Our team name is a tribute to the Dirty Face Loop, one of our favorite mountain bike trails in Olympic National Forest.

Green Gardeners,
Leader: Sue Chickman, organicallysue@olypen.com.
For every hour that Sue and her husband, Bob, spend gardening during May (typically four hours per day), she’ll donate $1.50 to the Dungeness River Audubon Center. You can join her team by pledging an amount of your choice for their gardening hours; by keeping track of your own gardening hours and pledging for yourself; or by donating a lump sum to sponsor the Green Gardeners team.

Salmon Runners,
Leader: Becca Nissley, rceducation@olympus.net.
Throughout the month of May, we will be running and training for the June, North Olympic Discovery Marathon/Half-marathon/10k. While we’re running to get in shape, we’ll also be supporting the River Center and Park. Hope you’ll join and/or sponsor us!

Sand Dollars,
Leader: Tuttie Peetz, trpeetz@cfon.com. I plan to sand three hours daily on a driftwood sculpture for the entire month of May—that’s a LOT of sanding! Whether you start your own project or sponsor me, we’ll be working for a good cause.

Splashettes & Splashers,
Leader: Kendra Donelson, kendrad@q.com.
Just count your laps or the hours you swim at S.R.C. or anywhere you choose and get friends, family, and neighbors to sponsor you for say 50 cents a lap, $5 an hour, an amount per day, or a set amount. The River Center appreciates all contributions, and you’ll feel good by doing good while you swim!

Spring Strollers,
Leader: Lyn Muench, lynmuench@olypen.com.
Lyn says, “This team is for those who do not have the time, stamina, or knees for serious hiking.” Just commit to walk 30 miles in 30 days—and get your family and friends to support you. Treadmill-walking counts. Substitute 3 miles of biking or 20 minutes of yoga or any similar equivalent for each “mile.” Your participation and pledges are welcome.

Swift Swallows,
Leaders: Dave & Julie Jackson, juliejackson@wavecable.com. We raise funds for the River Center while having fun birding, and so can you. Species you find anywhere in North America count—including those found on the River Center’s Wednesday morning bird walks.

River Center Rally and Romp...continued from page 2

River Center Rally
On Saturday, June 14, come help us celebrate the accomplishments of the River Center Ralliers, by taking part in the River Center Romp! Participate in the 10.1 mile walk, bike, or run on the Olympic Discovery Trail from Blyn to Railroad Bridge Park—starting 10:30 a.m. at the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Center’s Heron Hall, and ending at the River Center by 3 p.m. Do a segment of the route, go the entire length, or none at all…. But do join us for awards and root beer floats served from 3-5 p.m. at the River Center.

Check the River Center web site, www.dungenessrivercenter.org, for River Center Rally details, special events, and updates.
MEMBERSHIP FORM: Dungeness River Audubon Center and Railroad Bridge Park

River Center memberships expire May 1—Renew now!

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