Director’s Message—Powell Jones

The River Center’s mission and programs thrive because of the volunteers that contribute to them. Whether it is volunteering for a regular shift, being a board member, delivering educational programs, or helping to maintain and improve Railroad Bridge Park, every job is essential to making it all work. With us growing in the near future we will continue to need the vast talent and dedication of a growing volunteer corps.

I am happy to announce that our latest volunteer addition, Ann Perkins, has decided to give her time to producing and editing the River Current newsletter! With the newsletter being reinvigorated, Ann will be taking the opportunity to try a few new things with the layout, style, and content. We are interested in knowing what our members would like to see in the River Current newsletter. Are you interested in it being more focused on upcoming events, or on recapping the success of programs that have already happened? Do you have an interest in specific stories of how we are inspiring lives through our programming? Would you like to have more articles about flora and fauna and natural history interest? Are you an author who would like to write for the newsletter? If you have answers or opinions on anything newsletter related then please don’t hesitate to get involved and tell us what you think! Email Comments to: Ann (ann.perkins@csun.edu) or myself at RiverCenter@olympus.net

We are always looking to add to our volunteer family! If you are interested but do not know quite what you would like to help out with please do not hesitate to contact Jenna Zlogas (RcEducation@Olympus.net) to discuss what might be a good fit for your time, interests, and talents!
SOME RIVER CENTER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

The 2018 Annual Holiday Nature Mart at the River Center, November 16th and 17th, was very successful, and everyone had a wonderful time! The Nature Mart Committee and other River Center members and supporters created an assortment of beautiful and unusual craft items perfect for holiday giving, or just to keep. Thanks to everyone for their work! Other activities included a bake sale, photo opportunities with some of the River Center animals, items for friends and feather, fresh wreaths and arrangements, and the opportunity to make your own wreath, which was very popular this year. We had several of our high school members helping, which brought even more energy and fun to the event. This year’s event raised just short of $11,000, which is a record breaking amount! All of these funds will go into our education programs at the Center.

In addition to the Holiday Nature Mart the weekend before Thanksgiving, volunteers have participated in both spring and fall Flea Markets hosted at Sequim Prairie Grange and the Lavender Festival at Purple Haze at the peak of summer. This allows us to sell items of a seasonal nature throughout the year; for example, having spring and summer gifts and making lavender wreaths with visitors at Purple Haze Gardens. Besides earning about $2500 for the Educational Programs, it is an opportunity to meet more people and organizations in the greater community, including international visitors to this unique part of the world. Thanks to all who make this happen! Tuttie Peetz and Shirley Anderson

HOT CIDER NIGHTS!

During the River Center’s extended open hours in November and December, since there were more visitors to the bridge and the park than usual due to the holiday lights, the Capital Campaign Committee sponsored Hot Cider Nights at the River Center. Sign boards near the bridge attracted people to go up to the Center and visit. Holiday music was played just outside the Center to draw people in, and cookies and cider were available. Campaign committee members and volunteers were inside the Center and/or out on the bridge talking to people. This activity was well attended, and visitors were able to learn about the Center and the Capital Campaign at the same time, enjoy the holiday atmosphere, and purchase left over items from Nature Mart as well as from the Center’s gift shop. Darcy McNamara.
DUNGENESS RIVER FESTIVAL

This annual festival was held on September 27th and 28th, 2018 (Thursday and Friday). Thursday was “Community Night,” and all of the booths were open, Pacific Pantry was selling food, there was live music, and the Dungeness River Management Teams celebrated their 30th anniversary. We announced the winners of the DRMT photo contest, and at the end of the night we showed “The Memory of Fish,” a documentary of one man, the wild salmon he loves, and his fight to free a river. Dick Goin, a pulp mill worker and master fisherman turned salmon advocate, uses his memories and persistence to battle for the biggest dam removal project in U.S. history. His goal: bring the salmon home. It was a lovely night and well attended, probably at least 500 people on Thursday. On Friday, we hosted all of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders from both Sequim Elementary Schools, and there were closer to 1000 people on that that day.

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 people the chance to hear from the people that are both exploring and creating the story of the Dungeness. The US Forest Service, NOAA, National Park Service, Pacific Trails Coalition, Back Country Horsemen, Clallam County, and NOLT are just a few of the many agencies that were on hand to share, demonstrate and answer questions about our watershed and the Olympic Peninsula’s natural resources.

Jenna Zioga

DINE ON THE DUNGENESS IS A SOLDOUT SUCCESS!

The Dungeness River Audubon Center hosted its 4th annual dinner on the historic bridge in Railroad Bridge Park, on August 3rd, 2018 from 6 to 8 pm. This intimate gathering, where fine dining meets the Dungeness River, has become a tradition among participants because of the unforgettable view, the lasting impressions and the delectable experience of dining on one of the last remaining ‘timber Howe through truss’ railroad bridges in Washington. The event was catered by Chef Michael McQuay of the Kokopelli Grill. It was a beautiful afternoon, sunny but not too hot, with an attendance of 110 people, and the food was amazing. The cost was $95 per person, and $570 for a table of 6. New this year was a limited number of “Couples Tables” for $300 per table which included table-side dinner service, one bottle of wine or a growler of beer, dessert, flowers and live music on a private area of the bridge. After expenses the event brought in $6,050, which will help to support the River Center’s programs and operations. Vanessa Fuller

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Olympic Driftwood Sculptors will hold their Annual Spring Show at the River Center on March 30th -31st from 10:00 - 4:00 both days. There will be multiple driftwood sculptures on display, plus ongoing demonstrations by members showing works in progress. There will also be a Driftwood Boutique, selling handmade items to support our annual scholarship, and a raffle sculpture created by our membership. This is our only event where we sell unfinished wood for future sculptures, yard art, etc. Admission is free (although donations are welcome), and cameras are welcome. The sculpture at right is entitled “Continual Motion” by Tuttie Peetz.
Olympic BirdFest April 12 – 14, 2019

By Marion Rutledge.

Come Bird With Us! Grab your binoculars and join the 16th annual Olympic BirdFest celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five mile long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys.

The players are ready...Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Barred and Pygmy Owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, a live auction, raffle, and a gala banquet.

Our featured speaker this year, John Marzluff, is a professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington and a noted author. Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ...you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Program Information and Registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 9-11, 2019. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort.

Extend your Birdfest weekend with the Neah Bay post-trip, April 14-16, 2019. Spend two and one-half days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders. Contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076, E-mail us at: info@olympicbirdfest.org, or write to us at: Dungeness River Audubon Center P.O. Box 2450 Sequim, WA 98382

CLASSES AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Focus On Raccoons
Join us for the last of this Focus On Series as we take a deep look at the behaviors, adaptations, habitats, conservation status, and much more of some of the interesting creatures we share our home with.

When: Feb. 16th (postponed from Dec. 15th), 10 a.m. – Noon
Where: Dungeness River Audubon Center
Cost: $10 ($5 for members)
For more information contact Jenna Ziogas, 360-681-4076.

Wednesday Bird Walks
Meet at the River Center at 10:00 a.m. to see and hear the birds of the Dungeness riparian forest. Information from walks helps us understand the annual cycle of birds in Railroad Bridge Park. All ages and experience levels are welcome to attend. Leader: Bob Boekelheide. Good Birding and Good Company!
**Beginning Birds & Birding Course**
This is a class designed for beginning birders and new residents who wish to learn and recognize our local birds, and anyone who wants to better understand birds. Seminars cover basic bird identification, types of birds, bird behaviors and adaptations, bird sounds, field guides, nest boxes, and birding optics. Instructors: **Powell Jones** and **Jenna Ziogas**.

**Where:** Dungeness River Audubon Center  
**When:** Every Tuesday of February  
(Feb 5th, Feb 12th, Feb 19th, Feb 26th)  
**Time:** 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Cost:** $50 for members/ $70 for nonmembers

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**Jamestown S'Klallam Speaker Series**
Dungeness River Audubon Center is a proud partner of Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Known as 'the Strong People' the S'Klallams created a rich culture of art, spirituality, traditional knowledge and self-reliance that continues today. In honor of Jamestown S'Klallam recognition day on February 11th, we are dedicating the month of February to learning more about the people who have lived and prospered on the Olympic Peninsula for more than 10,000 years. S'Klallams rich culture is greatly based on the abundant natural resources of the Northwest Coast, one of those important resources being the Western Red Cedar tree. This series will take a deeper look at the tribe's deep connection with “The Tree of Life.”

**Where:** Dungeness River Audubon Center  
**Programs and Dates:**
- **Friday, February 8th:** "Western Red Cedar, Importance to Salmon" Robert Knapp - Environmental Planning Program Manager  
- **Friday, February 15th:** "Historical Relationships Between S'Klallam People and Cedar." David Brownell - Cultural Resources Specialist  
- **Friday, February 22nd:** "Xpáy – Western Red Cedar, the Tree of Life" - Lisa Barrell & Mackenzie Grinnell - Traditional Foods Program  
**Time:** 5:30pm  
**Cost:** Free  
For more information, contact **Jenna Ziogas** at 360-681-4076 or rceducation@olympus.net

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**Seasons of Wonder: Spring Emergence Class**
Rebirth. Revival. Renewal: Spring is a time full of transformations and new beginnings. For this class series, we will explore the natural phenomenon of spring that make it a unique, season of wonder. Plants blooming, snow melting, migration, changes in day length, and increased animal activity are a few of the concepts we will investigate during this time of awakening. Presented by **Powell Jones** and **Jenna Ziogas**.

**Where:** Dungeness River Audubon Center in Railroad Bridge Park  
**Dates:** March 12th, 19th, 26th  
**Time:** 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
**Cost:** $40 for members/ $50 non-members  
Must pre-register. Contact **Jenna Ziogas** to register or for more information. 360-681-4076 or rceducation@olympus.net

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**Also Available—Classes from Peninsula College Community Education:**

**February 3rd & February 10th: 9:30am - 1:30pm Winter Gardening**  
**February 17th & March 17th: 11:00am - 1:30pm Medical Plants**  
SUMMER CAMPS
The Dungeness River Audubon Center day camps for boys and girls, ages 8-12, are an exciting opportunity for kids to experience and explore the outdoors. Our goal is to help children understand and enjoy the natural world through a variety of hands-on activities. Last year **100 young people** enjoyed these camping experiences! For more information contact **Jenna Ziogas**: rceducation@olympus.net.

Following is the schedule for this Year’s Summer Camps:

- **Summer Nature Camp** - June 24th - 28th - $200
- **Bike Camp** - July 22nd - 25th (half days) $120
- **Girls In Science** - August 5th - 9th - $200
- **Summer Nature Camp 2** August 26th - 30th - $200

**Inspire Wonder Capital Campaign Update**

As you make your way to the Center and Bridge this winter, keep in mind that it won’t be long before you’ll arrive on a brand-new road off Hendrickson that will take you to a new parking lot adjacent to the Center. The new road and lot are the first two parts of the **Inspire Wonder Capital Campaign**.

Ground-breaking for the road and lot is expected in Spring 2019. The next phase is to construct a new addition to the current building. The current building will stay open during the construction to avoid any disruption in activities. The beautiful new entrance to the addition is designed to echo the Railroad Bridge truss and will be built with natural materials. You may have noticed as you read this newsletter the many educational, social, and fundraising activities that take place at the River Center, but you may not know that the Center currently offers meeting space for many community groups such as the Dungeness River Management Team, the Clean Water Work Group, Clallam County Septics 101 and 102 classes, the Olympic Park Associates, the Peninsula Trails Coalition, and Olympic Peninsula Audubon monthly meetings. We've outgrown the current Center, and this expansion will offer outdoor and indoor classrooms, new interpretive exhibits, community meeting spaces, a commercial kitchen and concession stand, and new parking and access to the Trail.

After the addition is complete, the current building will be remodeled. This expansion and
renovation will add 5,000 square feet of education, office and meeting space. Thanks is due to the S’Klallam Tribe and their contributions and pledges of more than $714,000, including the purchase of 4.5 acres east of the Center.

Letters were sent to members of the DRAC and Olympic Audubon Society in October 2018 and received a gratifying response from individuals, organizations, and local businesses. Testifying to the worthiness of this project, three grant applications have been awarded so far with more in the works. **The amounts and sources of our building project pledges and donations so far include:** $714,000 - Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe for purchase of the new east side property and a new entry road and lighted parking lot; $239,881 - Individual Donors; $171,688 - Board and Capital Campaign Committee Members; $87,500 - Organizational Grants; and $62,470 - Local Businesses, for a total so far of $1,275,539! Capital Campaign Committee members are pursuing a variety of other methods to raise the additional funds.

As you consider your giving plans, please keep in mind the Inspire Wonder Capital Campaign to improve your Dungeness River Audubon Center. You can contribute through the Website: [http://dungenessrivercenter.org/our_story/support-us](http://dungenessrivercenter.org/our_story/support-us), or if you would like to become involved with the fund raising efforts, contact River Center Director Powell Jones at 360-681-4076 or Capital Campaign Chair Annette Hanson at 360-670-6774. Sue Dryden, Annette Hanson, and Ann Perkins.

**BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

**The next Great Backyard Bird Count is February 15-18, 2019!** Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are. Go to [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org) to get more information and register for this event.

If you are a golfer, save the date of June 15th for a special **Golf Tournament** at the Cedars at Dungeness. This will be a fundraiser for the DRAC Capital Campaign for the building expansion and remodel. More information to follow in the next issue of the newsletter.

Save the Date: Spring is on the horizon, so think about ways you can revitalize life! The 2019 **River Center Rally** will start in March and continue through May. Last year the teams of volunteers (weeding, pruning, removing Scotch Broom, walking, swimming, etc.) raised a whopping $34,000 through their healthy efforts! We will have more information coming about this year’s teams and activities. Consider a new team, or join and/or support a team that is already formed. All proceeds benefit the DRAC Education Programs. Contact Shirley Anderson (sanderson22@olypen.com) for more information.
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 here ___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

Dungeness River Audubon Center Staff and Board Members Gather To Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of DRAC! We received our 501(c)3 certification as a non-profit on January 24, 1994. See more history details in a future newsletter.

Photo: Marjorie Palmer

L to R Standing: Jenna Ziogas, Education Coordinator; Neil Harrington, Vita Olsen, Sara Cendeja-Zarelli; Alissa Lofstrom, Shirley Anderson; Greg Voyles, President; Dennis Dickson. Vice-President; Powell Jones, Director; Carl Siver; Darcy McNama; Wanda Schneider, Treasurer; Vanessa Fuller, Administrative Manager; Annette Nesse; Bob Phreaner. Seated: Lyn Muench; Annette Hanson; Ann Sargent, Secretary; Ken Weirsma