

News From FMLC

Volume 1, Issue 9

December Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Octavia
- Tidal Turbines
- Help form Volunteers

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On Her Way...

Some of you may remember when FMLC acquired Octavia on May 16, 2010. She weighed only 1.3 ounces and was smaller than a thumb. Throughout the course of a year and a half staff, volunteers, and visitors watched her grow rapidly into a large, graceful creature.

Octavia mesmerized everyone that came into the center with her elegant movements as she glided across the tank either just to move and stretch or to catch a crab that was trying to escape. Kids and adults alike were fascinated and many faces bore crestfallen looks when they heard FMLC was obtaining a permit to release her.

Giant Pacific Octopuses' average lifespan is 4–5 years which is



Octavia. October 31, 2011

unusual for an animal that size. At about 3 1/2 years (that's how old Octavia is) they become sexually mature and get restless, especially in a tank. A female can lay up to 20,000–100,000 eggs, and when they hatch the octopuses are about the size of a grain of rice. The female octopus is a very diligent mother, always

watching out for her eggs, constantly cleaning and aerating them until they hatch 7 months later. She will cease hunting and starve herself during this period just to protect them. Despite this, very few make it to adulthood, most are eaten by predators during their larval stage.

On November 21, 2011 Octavia was released back into the wild at Freshwater Bay. She weighed approximately 40 pounds and her arms could stretch out to about 8 feet. She's on her way to dance through the open water, find a mate, and reproduce.

FMLC Holiday Party

FMLC and OCDC are teaming up again this year to bring volunteers and staff a Holiday party on Thursday, December 15th in the Landing Mall atrium (lower level). Festivities will begin at 5:30 PM.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a salad or dessert for our dinner — soup and bread will be

served. Please bring your own drinks however.

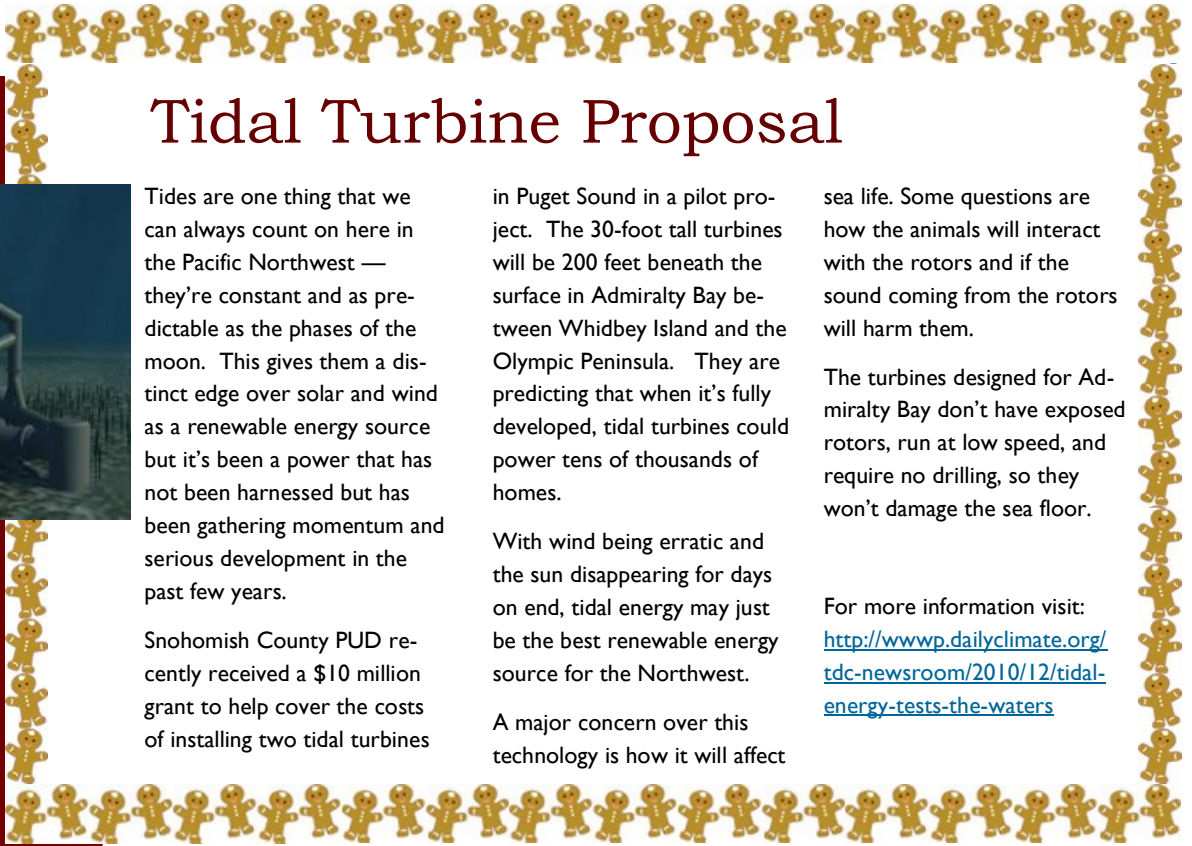
We will be having an optional gift exchange with the theme of "Something Fishy." I'm sure we can make it rather exciting, just use your imagination....

Food, fun, and wonderful company is a great way to spend a

Thursday evening, so join us!

If you are coming, please RSVP and tell us what yummy food you'll be bringing (if you're bringing something). Spouses/partners are welcome too!





Tidal Turbine Proposal



Proposed tidal turbine in Admiralty Bay

Tides are one thing that we can always count on here in the Pacific Northwest — they're constant and as predictable as the phases of the moon. This gives them a distinct edge over solar and wind as a renewable energy source but it's been a power that has not been harnessed but has been gathering momentum and serious development in the past few years.

Snohomish County PUD recently received a \$10 million grant to help cover the costs of installing two tidal turbines

in Puget Sound in a pilot project. The 30-foot tall turbines will be 200 feet beneath the surface in Admiralty Bay between Whidbey Island and the Olympic Peninsula. They are predicting that when it's fully developed, tidal turbines could power tens of thousands of homes.

With wind being erratic and the sun disappearing for days on end, tidal energy may just be the best renewable energy source for the Northwest.

A major concern over this technology is how it will affect

sea life. Some questions are how the animals will interact with the rotors and if the sound coming from the rotors will harm them.

The turbines designed for Admiralty Bay don't have exposed rotors, run at low speed, and require no drilling, so they won't damage the sea floor.

For more information visit: <http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2010/12/tidal-energy-tests-the-waters>

News from Feiro Marine Life Center

Feiro Holiday Hours

Feiro will be closed Christmas weekend but we'll be open the following weekend for New Year's from 12:00—4:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. Come on down!

If you have family or friends in town who would like to see the place sometime during the week, just call ahead and check to see if anyone is around to unlock the doors for you.

Welcome!

Tom Sanford has been hired on as our Development Specialist to help us move forward with gaining a new facility. Welcome to the Feiro, Tom!



NPS

Hurricane Ridge

For the 2nd year in a row the road to Hurricane Ridge is open 7 days a week, weather permitting. All vehicles, including 4-wheel drive vehicles, are required to carry tire chains when going above the entrance station. The weather can change

in an instant so safety is paramount. Be sure to check the weather report before heading up.

There will be a twice-daily shuttle service Wednesday through Sunday provided by All Points Charters and

Tours.

Hurricane Ridge is full of snowshoe/cross country ski trails so you can explore the beauty of the area in the snow. There is also a downhill ski/snowboard area.

For more information visit the Park's website at www.nps.gov/olym or visit the Park Visitor Center near the entrance to Hurricane Ridge Road.



Help Needed from Volunteers



Leather Star
Photo from: Friday Harbor Marine Health Observatory

News Articles

If you have any contributions to add to this newsletter feel free to send them in and I'll put them in the next edition (or stockpile them if I get overwhelmed by responses).

Info About You

Volunteers are the backbone of the FMLC but are often taken for granted. We're looking to change that. Each month this newsletter will feature a volunteer. So if you're interested in being mentioned please send me a little bit

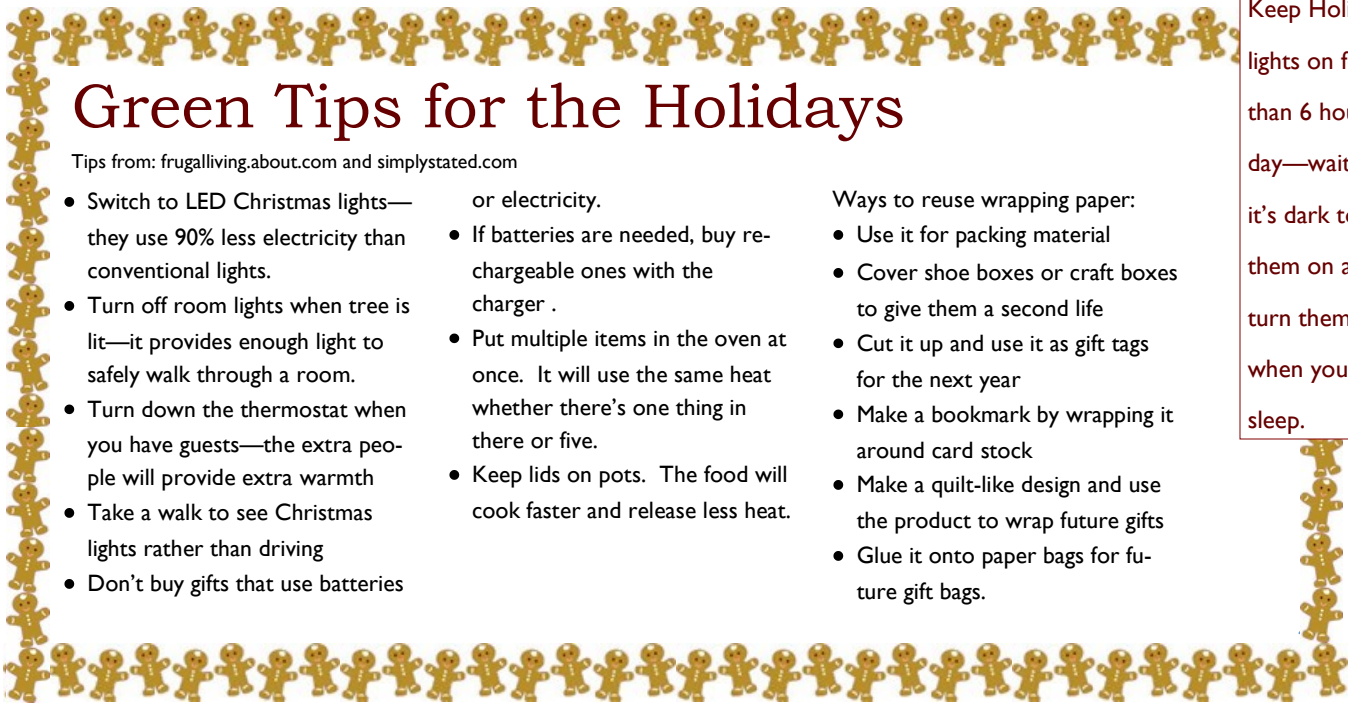
about yourself.

Photos

Do you have any pictures of the critters within Feiro or around the area that you'd like to share? I'm always on the lookout for great pictures to put in here to liven up a regular black and white page or to post them on our website.

If you'd like to contribute please send the information to:

christinar@feiomarinelifecenter.org



Green Tips for the Holidays

Tips from: frugalliving.about.com and simplystated.com

- Switch to LED Christmas lights— they use 90% less electricity than conventional lights.
- Turn off room lights when tree is lit—it provides enough light to safely walk through a room.
- Turn down the thermostat when you have guests—the extra people will provide extra warmth
- Take a walk to see Christmas lights rather than driving
- Don't buy gifts that use batteries or electricity.
- If batteries are needed, buy rechargeable ones with the charger .
- Put multiple items in the oven at once. It will use the same heat whether there's one thing in there or five.
- Keep lids on pots. The food will cook faster and release less heat.

Ways to reuse wrapping paper:

- Use it for packing material
- Cover shoe boxes or craft boxes to give them a second life
- Cut it up and use it as gift tags for the next year
- Make a bookmark by wrapping it around card stock
- Make a quilt-like design and use the product to wrap future gifts
- Glue it onto paper bags for future gift bags.

Keep Holiday lights on for less than 6 hours a day—wait until it's dark to turn them on and turn them off when you go to sleep.

Christmas Anemone

The Christmas Anemone, also known as the Painted Anemone, is normally olive green in color with red stripes on its tentacles and spots on the column. It can live up to 80 years and grow to 15 cm in diameter.

This anemone is an opportunistic predator and will eat anything that it can get such as crabs, urchins,

mussels, chitons, and fish. They use stinging cells (nematocysts) to stun and immobilize the prey.

Anemones are mostly sessile but if they aren't getting enough food or are running from a predator they are able to move to a different area. They do this by either using their foot and plodding along, or

they inflate themselves, detach from the substrate, and roll along with the current.

Growth of the anemone is based on food intake rather than age. They can stay alive without food for months but will not grow.



Photo of Christmas Anemone
By Mary Jo Adams



Feiro
MARINE LIFE CENTER

Feiro Marine Life Center
315 N. Lincoln Street
Port Angeles WA, 98362

Phone: (360) 417-6254

E-mail:

bobc@feiomarinelifecenter.org
deborahm@feiomarinelifecenter.org

Staff:

Bob Campbell - Facilities Coordinator
Deborah Moriarty - Administrative and
Education Coordinator
Tom Sanford - Development Specialist
Christina Rookaird - AmeriCorps

Feiro Marine Life Center is a educational and scientific nonprofit organization whose goal is to educate the public about marine life in the Pacific Northwest. Students from the area travel to FMLC to receive hands on education introducing them to the life beneath the water. They explore different aspects of marine life, abiotic factors influencing the ocean, and learn about the importance of conserving the ocean and other natural resources. In addition to programs aimed at student groups, the public values FMLC as a unique educational experience on the city pier.



feiomarinelifecenter.org

Upcoming Events at FMLC

Mark your calendar with these exciting events coming soon to Feiro Marine Life Center!

December 15th: 5:30 pm. Volunteers and staff are invited to join the festivities of a joint Christmas party between FMLC and OCDC. In the Landing Mall Atrium (lower level).

December 24th and 25th: Feiro will be closed. Merry Christmas!

January 24th: 3:00—6:00 pm. Senior Culminating Projects presentations. Come listen to the high school SCP students as they share the research they've been doing for the past semester at Feiro.

February 3rd: Join us for the annual Fish on the Fence fundraiser, a partnership between FMLC and Lincoln High School that combines art and science. The event will feature artwork created by students at Lincoln High School of organisms found at the Feiro. It will be held at the Red Lion Hotel on the waterfront.

