News From FMLC

Volume 1, Issue 9 December Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- A New Year
- Volunteer Profiles
- Upcoming Events

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A New Year Has Begun

Happy New Year!

Another exciting year has come and gone at the Feiro with the arrival of the Basket Star and the release of the much loved Giant Pacific Octopus, Octavia. We had some wonderful school groups come through and introduced a new energy lesson to take to the classroom.

Helping with 4th grade program

This coming year is gearing up to be even more exciting as we look seriously as our facility needs and consider a new or updated marine life center. Ariel, our Giant Pacific Octopus, will be growing ever larger in her new, bigger tank, and maybe spend some time hiding in her new den. A fresh group of 4th and 5th grade students will pass through our education programs and learn the wonders of the ocean and the marine life surrounding them.

Who knows what the new year will bring, but we do know that we have loyal volunteers who we could not live without.. Inside this issue is a small glimpse of some of our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to all who help out and help to make the Feiro the wonderful place it is today.

Enjoying the touch tanks with kids

Collecting specimens

Some of the ways our volunteers help are: cleaning tank exhibits, helping with school programs, educating the public when they visit the Feiro, feeding the animals, doing maintenance and exhibit design, and much more.

If interested in volunteering come down to the Feiro and fill out an application, or find the application on line at www.feiromarinelifecenter.org. Also, be on the lookout for spring volunteer training, coming soon!

Cleaning the exhibit tanks

Becky Jewell

Becky Jewell

Started volunteering: I'm not sure but I think it was about four or five years ago.

What do you do as a volunteer? I work educating our visitors about the marine life in our area. They want to know what the animals eat, what eats them. I enjoy telling them about our octopus and how amazing she is. I also enjoy feeding the critters. My favorite to feed are the kelp crabs. Working with school groups is also very rewarding. The young kids are always so excited to learn about the different animals in our facility.

Favorite part of volunteering? Working with a great group of people.

Why did you become a volunteer. Jim and I had stopped in at the center while on vacation. The docent on duty was so helpful. We video taped a tour of the center and I used it in my classroom as an incentive to get my kids to finish their work. If they did a good job, they got ten minutes of video. They would watch it over and over. So, when we moved here, I wanted to give back and hopefully encourage others to get interested in learning about the sea life here on the peninsula. I expect that once they become knowledgeable about the sea life that is out there, they will want to protect it.

News from Feiro Marine Life Center

Alex Hirsekorn

Started volunteering: 2001

What do you do as a volunteer? Docent/Naturalist (I can't recall the current title but I work with the public when they visit). I also try to help with food preparation and husbandry issues.

Favorite part of volunteering? I find these creatures to be fascinating and there's nothing better than chatting about them with an interested visitor.

Why did you become a volunteer. I've been interested in the marine life of our area for my entire life and The Feiro Center gave and continues to give the opportunity to learn more about them. Also, I like playing in the water!

Merrill Jefferson

Started Volunteering: 2004

What do you do as a volunteer? Volunteer tasks are cleaning and special maintenance projects.

Favorite part of volunteering? My favorite tasks are caring and cleaning for the baby octopus that center cycles through the years. I also enjoy the collection of specimens.

Why did you become a volunteer? I volunteered because I enjoy being around the water and have always been curious about near shore life.

Russell Schmidt

Russell Schmidt

Started volunteering: I began this year after taking Bob's class in the spring.

What do you do as a volunteer? I'm a volunteer naturalist - I help with the visitors and tell them about the animals we have on display. I also wrote a volunteer manual and a manual for the board of directors.

Favorite Part of volunteering: I like talking with the visitors, we get people from all over and its interesting to find out how they found out about the center.

Why did you become a volunteer? I like being busy and enjoy learning about new things.

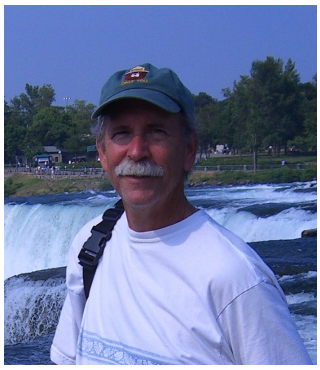
Helle Anderson

Started volunteering: I think in May 2011

What do you do as a volunteer? clean tanks and help with senior culmination project (in the summer I helped "on the floor" with the public)

Favorite part of volunteering? I guess both - cleaning the tanks (looking at the animals and talking with the other workers) and working with seniors on their project.

Why did you become a volunteer? I'm a marine biologist new to town so it was an obvious fit - meeting new people while doing something that I like/know.



Thad Schroeder

Thad Schroeder

Started volunteering: I think it's been about three years.

What do you do as a volunteer? For the first couple of years I helped with cleaning the tanks, but during this last year I've also had a chance to help with the make-over of Feiro by designing and building bases and other items for displays and tanks.

Favorite part of volunteering? Knowing I'm helping a worthwhile organization.

Why did you become a volunteer? I'm retired and have free time on my hands. By volunteering I can put that free time to good use, help out others, learn some new things, and meet like-minded people along the way.

Bob Grower

I was a guide, shift captain, mentor at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, including completing a special project documenting the life support systems, for ten years before moving to Port Angeles. I enjoyed my exposure to the Marine world so in 2000 I volunteered at the Feiro. I joined the Board of the Friends of and served a term as president. I spent my time at the Feiro on the floor as a volunteer narrator, took some time out, and then returned currently arranging speakers for the lecture program. I very much enjoyed the interaction interpreting the marine life and environment for the public and now meeting the talented professionals that are our speakers.

Jim Fedderly

Started Volunteering: I began volunteering during the Fall on 2009.

What do you do as a volunteer? I've been helping with the Peabody Creek Watershed walks, beach seining and plankton tows ever since then. Last summer I also put in a few hours working with visitors in the marine lab, and plan on doing more in the future.

Favorite Part of volunteering? My favorite part of volunteering is working with school-age children and seeing the wonder on their faces when they see something new, either through the microscope or in the seine.

Why did you become a volunteer?I became a volunteer because I think it's important for children (and adults) to see what wonders our area has to offer. I'm a former teacher, so working with children is right down my alley.

Jim and Trish Fedderly on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Feiro Marine Life Center
PO Box 625, 315 N. Lincoln Street
Port Angeles WA, 98362

Phone: (360) 417-6254
E-mail:
bobc@feiromarinelifecenter.org
deborahm@feiromarinelifecenter.org

Staff:
Bob Campbell - Facilities Coordinator
Deborah Moriarty - Director
Tom Sanford - Development Specialist
Christina Rookaird - AmeriCorps

The Feiro Marine Life Center holds a vibrant and vital place in Port Angeles—centrally located on the Port Angeles City Pier—providing a main attraction on the waterfront. Almost 16,000 visitors enter our small aquarium annually to learn about marine life in our local waters. The Feiro also works with over 1,600 school students and teachers year round and Peninsula wide, offering hands-on, inquiry based learning opportunities. Additionally, the Feiro partners with scientific organizations, providing support for research and monitoring programs on ocean and watershed related issues.

The Feiro Marine Life Center is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Upcoming Events

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

January 19th: 6:30—8:30 pm. Storm water Forum. Bruce Wulkan will talk about "All Things Low Impact Development (LID)." LID is a natural way to control and reuse storm water on site that can provide large benefits and cost savings to property owners and the community at large. He will discuss basic principles, most commonly used practices, available resources to the community, and the current regional policy. P.A. library, Carver Meeting Room.

2nd Beach, La Push
Photo By: Michael Medina

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 which includes rain gardens, plankton, and the nearshore to name a couple.

January 26th: 6:30pm. Captain Charles Moore, Scientist and Activist discusses "The Great Infection of the Sea:" detailed in his acclaimed new book *Plastic Ocean.* Location: 2nd Floor Landing Mall—$5.00 donation

February 3rd: 5:30 pm. 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. Contact a board member or call 417-6254 for a ticket.

February 10th: Vasiliy Baranyuk, a Russian scientist, has studied the wildlife of Wrangel Island, Russia for the past 29 years. This area has the only breeding population of snow geese in Russia, and it is these rare birds that Baranyuk has specialized in studying. His lecture will include pictures and videos of the place as he shares his love of the land and the wildlife, with an emphasis on the snow geese whose pre-flight goslings will walk 120 miles from their nest to the sea. Time and place TBD.

March 9th: 6:30-8:30 Nick Bond, a climate scientist and research meteorologist will present a lecture on climate change and some of its expected impacts on the marine ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest.. Place TBD