

# Feiro

## Marine Life Center



ANNUAL REPORT 2016





Peabody Creek photo by: Eric Neurath



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I started 2016 the same way I ended it - with a gathering of families ringing out the old year and in the new one at Feiro's Noon Year's Eve event. One of my greatest joys here is the energy that this little place possesses when it is full of learners. I will be the first to admit that the building itself is, literally, cold. Between a concrete floor and air chilled by sea water that averages 48 degrees Fahrenheit, it can be hard to generate a feeling of warmth. But once the exhibits and classroom are filled with curious people - of all ages, the space transforms into a buzzing hive of activity. It may seem accidental, but this place and the programs we build are thoughtfully crafted canvases on which learners paint our mission: Feiro Marine Life Center contributes to a strong community by providing local marine and watershed learning experiences, inspiring us all to act on behalf of our environment.

In 2016, we received our first ever TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, mainly due to the hard work of our volunteer naturalists who generously share their passion for the marine environment with our guests. We saw the retirement of a longtime staff favorite, Bob Campbell, and the hiring of a friendly and knowledgeable new staffer in Tamara Galvan. Education coordinator Rachele Brown received a promotion to Education Manager, and volunteers Helle and Wayne led citizen science and underwater robotics programs to excellence. Many of YOU contributed time, energy, money and more to support some truly unique learning experiences.

I had a lot of fun creating this lookback on 2016, and I hope it brings back fond memories for you, as well. May we realize even greater impact in the future!

*Melissa Williams*  
Melissa Williams  
Executive Director

## NEW & NOTEABLE 2016

### Jan-Mar

Plastic Free Diet

### Apr-Jun

Free Admission  
for Food Bank  
Clients

### Jul-Sept

SmilePower  
Tooth Fairy visit

Eventide Open  
Late Events

### Oct-Dec

Mended Giving  
Gallery Art  
Fundraiser



Bob Campbell and Wayne Roberts at the 35th anniversary celebration

## **"I'll miss the people, of course. They are some great folks."**

Bob Campbell's tenure as the Facilities Coordinator at Feiro spanned 13 years, and one of his jobs included planning how to shut the place down. Thankfully, he never had to implement that plan, and his "second career" (after a first career of metallurgical engineering and managing foundries) helped him discover his passion for marine life. Bob grew up on a dairy farm in upstate New York, and made his career change in the early 2000's to focus on a job outdoors. He completed a fisheries biology degree at Peninsula College. Bob was known to many local students, with whom he shared the joys of microscopic plankton, young fish, and invertebrates collected in a beach seine net, and of course, Feiro's giant Pacific octopus. Bob's retirement plans include volunteering on the Thursday cleaning crew at Feiro and spending time with his family.



# 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Children came dressed as squid and sea jellies, twin Dorothys (of Wizard of Oz fame), crabs and underwater robotics pilots for the costume contest. Visitors peered into tidepools, got hugs from sea urchins and chatted about marine mammals. All eagerly consumed celebratory cake to mark the 35th anniversary of the marine life center. In honor of the occasion, staff, volunteers, and Board members sported 'throw back' t-shirts at the July event.



# SHIRLEY ANDERSON

## 35 Years of Commitment

This article was authored by volunteer and Feiro Board member Janet Lamont.

December, 1981

Returning from University School in Cleveland, where she taught biology, Shirley Anderson looked forward to seeing her parents. Elenor and Don Anderson were excited about the new Marine Lab on City Pier and took Shirley to see it. She recalls that it looked much the same then as it does today. She liked it because it was small and intimate, and especially because the water in the tanks was pumped directly from the harbor – she was seeing what was really out there.

Will and Lillie Wirt were staffing the center that day. When they heard that Elenor was a biology teacher, and that she had also spent more than two years studying nudibranchs in Friday Harbor, they invited her to join them as a Feiro volunteer. From that time on, Shirley came to the Marine Life Center with her mom whenever she was in town, and when Elenor was no longer an active volunteer, Shirley carried on the family tradition.

June 2016

Shirley remembers that two big ochre sea stars were residents of Feiro when she began volunteering in 1981, and guesses that they could easily be fifty years old. Some of her other favorite creatures are hermit crabs, baby six-ray stars and sea cucumbers, and “whatever I’m looking at.”



*Shirley holds a photo of her mother, Elenor, the 'nudibranch lady.'*

In addition to a Sunday afternoon naturalist shift, Shirley is a member of the cleaning crew, carefully cleaning “her” exhibit every Thursday evening. She is a kayaker and often collects marine invertebrates for the exhibits. One of her favorite experiences at Feiro is helping kids learn, then listening as they share the information with others. Shirley finds there is always something new to learn every time she volunteers, often feeling in awe of the amazing life of marine animals. She hopes that some day we can have a permanent display of sea jellies added to our exhibits. Feiro staff and fellow volunteers count ourselves lucky to know and work with Shirley, and are so grateful for her dedication to helping educate our community and guests about our local marine life!

Helle Andersen and Tara Morrow launched the Tumwater Creek salmon smolt trap monitoring project in 2015 with a grant from the Mountaineers Foundation. They continued the project into 2016, despite the loss of grant funding. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude for offering their time!

As part of a partnership with the Lower Elwha Kallam Tribe's Natural Resources Department, the trap is installed each spring for several months. High school students were recruited to assist in the trap's construction and fish monitoring, as well as removing invasive plants, conducting water quality assessments, and performing habitat and spawning surveys.

### *Tara*

"Over the course of the school year it became apparent the Tumwater Project impacted students in regard to their area of study. Several students expressed that after collecting water quality data and extending that information into classroom activities they no longer look at science the same way and would not hesitate to enroll in science classes during post-secondary learning. Increasing science literacy to this degree certainly makes the entire experience worthwhile... Many of (our region's) worthwhile educational projects continue by the dedication of volunteers who feel students need more than content learning. Young people need the opportunity to understand how science is integrated into every aspect of life. Helping to provide these opportunities inspires me to not only continue with the project, but to develop ways to expand it as well."

### *Helle*

"The trap is right next to the Truck Route and you go from this dusty noisy environment into the forest and into the creek and right away it becomes pretty and provides a sense of "remoteness" – the traffic fades away and you are in a nice stream. You never know what is caught in the trap – it goes from nothing to beautiful cutthroat and steelhead smolt, large (12-16 inch) equally pretty cutthroats, sculpins trying to hide anywhere in the trapbox and weird looking lamprey hanging on to the side of the box with their mouth. Another task has been more challenging - bushwhacking up the creek in the winter through snow and ice looking for redds (salmon spawning spots) but it provides you an insight into the seasons on the creek, the constant changes of the creek with moving logjams, and you see dippers flying ahead of you and otter and deer tracks in the mud. (My favorite part is) watching high school students trying to catch the fish in the trapbox. The box is quite big (about 5 x 3 ft) and the fish are fast. They get so into it, whooping and clapping their hands when they catch even a small sculpin (the main focus is really on the smolt – at other trap sites the sculpins are not even counted). The students also have to figure out team work if they want to catch the fish because the fish are very fast, so it is fun to watch how they work this out."

# AUTHENTIC LEARNING

Helle Andersen & Tara Morrow



# Kids pitch in for Feiro

Young recent transplants raise \$1,222 for center

BY LEAH LEACH  
PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

PORT ANGELES — The Feiro Marine Life Center was their favorite place in Port Angeles even before they moved to town, so Amelia and Jonathan Bridges auctioned off some of their toys to help support it.

Amelia, who turns 11 today, and Jonathan, 9, raised \$1,222.65 for the center at 315



"You get to experience these beautiful, amazing creatures that are right in your backyard but you don't often see!" *Amelia*

## YOUTH ARE THE *FUTURE*

Amelia and Jonathan Bridges first visited Feiro during a trip to the Peninsula for their mother's job interview. Their father says "they enjoyed it so much, we visited three of the four days we were in town." When they were packing up to make their move from Louisiana, Jonathan and Amelia sold many of their personal belongings, and decided to donate that money to us. We are enormously grateful for their support, and hope they enjoy Feiro for a long time to come!

*Amelia*

"I think what Feiro does to help the community is to raise awareness for endangered and non-endangered species of aquatic wildlife and to help us learn about and preserve all of these animals that are exhibited in Feiro. If I were to design a new Feiro center, I would probably add clearer tanks for some of the animals and expand on the touch tank idea by putting even more exotic and or active creatures in that program. Also to expand on visitor numbers, I would put some polls in your center and website with questions...such as what is your favorite sea creature here or elsewhere..."

*Jonathan*

The best thing about Feiro is: "To be able to see things that you are not normally able to see in a normal life. Provides a nice feeling of different wonders – some you are able to touch and some you are not."

Feiro helps the community by: "Feiro provides a great source of knowledge regarding marine life and things to watch out for."

If you could design a brand new Feiro center, what would be in it?: "I would expand the variety of different things, two or three places to wash your hands. Expand the size of the touch tanks so that everyone is able to find a spot. You could add nurse shark tanks and stingrays – just warn people not to touch their eyes."

*YOU SUPPORT LEARNING!*

# 2016 DONORS

\$1,000 +

Shirley Anderson  
Craig & Sheila Baker  
Amelia & Jonathan Bridges  
Ken & Mary Campbell  
Yvonne DeForest  
Paul & Donna Downes  
Mark & Katherine Feiro  
MarySue French  
Andy & Eleanor Geiger  
Mike & Connie Genuardi  
Gail Tate & Jim Heflin  
Melissa Williams



\$999 - \$500

Anonymous (2)  
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Judy Lidstrom & Roy Carlson  
Bill & Meredith Lowry  
Jim & JoAnn Roberts  
Debbie & Arnold Schouten  
Ted & Bobbie Simpson  
Eugene and Norma Turner  
Betsy Wharton and Rob Epstein  
Lee Whitford



\$499 - \$250

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Gery Gudgell  
Connie Landrum & Louise Hope  
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Roger & Maura Oakes  
Thad & Merri Jo Schroeder  
Jean & Everett Tozier  
Dana Williams  
Daniel & Barbara Williams  
Regina Wood



\$249 - \$100

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Kate Allen  
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Hugh Binley  
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Nancy Brant  
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Jennifer Richards & Chris Frank  
Wayne & Susan Roberts  
Joyce & Juan Ruiz  
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Carol & Tom Sinton  
Bob & Nadine Skotheim  
Marianne Sprague  
Mildred Vogan  
Bob Vreeland  
Eugene Woodruff  
Steve Zenovic & Nina Pitts

*YOU SUPPORT LEARNING!*

# 2016 DONORS

## Under \$100

Anonymous (2)  
Cynthia Beltrami  
Nancy Bluestein-Johnson  
Laura Bullen & Joe Pullara  
Diana Brubaker  
Alex & Coco Carlson  
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Bob & Raeanne Morrison  
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Michelle Parker  
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Wende Porterfield



## Under \$100 (continued)

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Greg & Katrin Junghanns Royack  
Rachel & Zac Rutledge  
Tom & Carrie Sanford  
Richard Schneider  
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Donald Taylor  
Joanne Tisch  
Janet Thomas  
Eric & Sarah Waterkotte  
Kimiko White  
Traci Winters  
Yvonne Ziomkowski

## Foundation, Corporate, and Public Support

Bada NW  
Bubba's Family Charitable Trust  
City of Port Angeles  
Country Aire Natural Foods  
Dungeness Crab & Seafood Festival  
First Federal Community Foundation  
Albert Haller Foundation  
Island Adventures Whale Watch  
Mended Gallery  
NOAA Bay-Watershed Education Training Program  
North Olympic Group of the Sierra Club  
North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee  
Port Angeles Rotary Club Foundation  
Port Angeles School District  
Port of Port Angeles Community Partner Fund  
Robinson Family Foundation  
Rotary International Foundation  
Satterberg Foundation  
Seattle Foundation  
Soroptimist International of Sequim  
Soroptimist Port Angeles Jet Set  
Sweet & Salty FroYo  
Ben & Myrtle Walking Memorial Trust  
Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife  
Wilder Auto



# YEAR IN PHOTOS

## Vision:

We envision residents of the North Olympic Peninsula leading the way in living sustainably to ensure thriving marine ecosystems.

## Mission

Feiro Marine Life Center contributes to a strong community by providing local marine and watershed learning experiences, inspiring us all to act on behalf of our environment.



2016 was a year of exploration and investigation for the marine discovery center project. With a grant, we were able to study the feasibility of constructing the marine discovery center in our current location at City Pier. We investigated whether we could obtain the needed local, state and federal environmental permits (we could), whether our assessment of our market study was on target (it was), and whether the public would accept the marine discovery center in City Pier park (sort of).

During the master planning process that we worked on with our facility partner NOAA Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the City of Port Angeles to collect public input on City Pier, a concern was raised about parking spaces. Thanks to our expert Board member Jack Galloway, who stepped in after our contract with Studio Cascade had run out, we assisted the city to redraw the plan so it would include the full number of parking spaces, still leaving room for the marine discovery center. We ended the year in a stalemate as the city continued to hear from a small number of constituents opposed to the marine discovery center at the City Pier location.

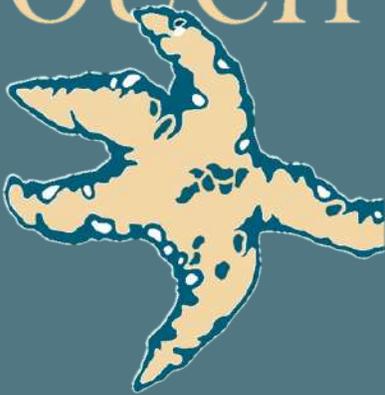
# THE FUTURE OF *FEIRO*



Design Credit: Chris Warnock

**In early 2017, we were approached by the Port Angeles Waterfront Center. They had obtained private property near the waterfront at Front and Oak Streets, and we were able to agree to lease up to 20,000 sq ft of their land. In 2017 the project is moving ahead with a confirmed location!**

# TOUCH



# IMPACTS & AWARDS

in 2016 our programs, exhibits and partnerships reached approximately 25,000 learners! We could not do this without your support.

## TWO FIRSTS IN UNDERWATER ROBOTICS

Porter and Flora were the first Underwater Robotics club team to travel to the SeaPerch Nationals competition, held in Baton Rouge.

Nathan and Jakobee took first place in the regional competition in Bremerton, garnering them a trip to nationals in 2017.

## EIGHTY SUMMER CAMPERS

Summer programs with Feiro and NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary saw excellent attendance in 2016 for 6 weeks of ocean education programming.

## 251 T-SHIRTS

Retail sales not only help raise money to support learning experiences, they put our distinctive octopus and crab illustrations out into the world to promote the center.

## 430 WHALE PASS ADMISSIONS

For the second year, Island Adventures Whale Watch offered paid admission passes for anyone wanting to visit Feiro after their whale watching trip! Thanks to them for caring about the entire Salish Sea!

## 123 FISH ON THE FENCE FUNDRAISER ITEMS

We appreciate all of our attendees and donors to the annual fundraising gala. In 2016, local businesses and individuals contributed gift certificates, trips, home stays, tours, lessons, food, wine and more to raise more than \$40,000!

## FIRST CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

We received this award from TripAdvisor for the first time in 2016 for receiving positive reviews from guests!



## FIRST FEIRO FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

The inaugural Feiro Family Scholarship award was presented to Port Angeles High School senior Elliott Soelter for his study at Washington State University.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, the scholarship award will grow from \$500 in 2016 to \$1,000 in 2018.