

December 1996

Annual HMSC Christmas Feast

Mark your calendars for noon, Thursday, December 12, for the annual HMSC Christmas feast and get-together. It will be held in the public meeting room and while you are waiting in line, you can swing by the new bookstore and get some Christmas shopping done. You and your spouse are cordially invited to attend. The sign-up sheets will be in the mailroom, EPA, ODFW, Ship Support, NOAA, NMFS/NW/AK, and USFWS. Please let us know what dish you will be bringing and the number of guests.

We will feature Dr. Weber's BBQ tuna and roast ham, and beverages will be provided. Bring your decadent, delicious contributions, enjoy meeting some new HMSC people, and get a close-up look at the new public wing!

Patterns Appear in Public Wing

It has been one year since the public wing remodeling contract was let, and a recent walk through the nearly finished structure reveals some very interesting architectural details. The very structure of the new wing reinforces the theme of *Searching for Patterns in a Complex World*. The new entrance is a prime example, as the two-tone concrete swirls around like a bisected chambered nautilus shell to the front door. The three multi-layered planters each contain a different pattern of plantings and repeat a curved rectilinear shape in the center of the nautilus shell. In contrast with the curves of the walkway are the angles of the front roof and skylights. It evokes the rounded waves crashing against jagged rocks. The two tones of sand and terra cotta are echoed on all the flat surfaces not covered with the pebbled panels.

Tight end of concrete coil joins raised planter

Inside the lobby, the visitor's eyes will be drawn to the "pattern garden" with its rock tide pool and the rock backdrop that curves from the tide pool around to the far end by the chaos waterwheel. Meeting the rocks is a pattern of tiles that represent the waves crashing against the rocks. The rich blue tiles trail off randomly in the sand-colored tiles covering the main floor. There is no use trying to detect a pattern in those scattered tiles, as a randomizer actually selected the location of each one to ensure the craftsman didn't inadvertently place them in a pattern. For safety and to carry through the rock theme, there are several inserts of textured dark sand-colored tiles around the waterwheel and around the tide pool.

Rock work will cover the back half-wall

All these patterns exist in the new wing, even before a single exhibit has been placed! The exhibits themselves are under construction in a different location and should be coming in early winter for installation. The bookstore and auditorium will be open for Whale Watch training (December 7-8), for the Christmas party (December 12) and for Whale Watch Week (December 26-January 2).

Bookstore nears completion

Susan Gilmont Receives Excellence Award

Susan Gilmont, our Library Technician at Guin Library, recently received the OSU Libraries Employee Excellence Award for 1996. Members of the task force felt that Susan's role as a classified staff member presenting a paper at a national conference best exemplified the service "that exceeds normal work expectations" and was an "outstanding accomplishment in terms of benefit to the public" and in terms of benefit to other staff members.

In March 1996, Susan presented a paper at the national conference of COLT (Council on Library and Media Technicians) held in Portland. Susan's presentation, entitled "*Do Crabs Have Favorite Colors?*" was very well received and sparked some interesting discussion on the role of classified staff providing assistance at the reference desk. Susan's presentation was repeated at a library all-staff meeting earlier this year, and was received with laughter and tears.

Susan has worked for OSU Libraries for 17 years, nine at Kerr in Serials and then the rest of the time here at the Guin Library. At the same time she applied for the library position, she also applied for a lab tech position in Entomology. That job involved feeding a roomful of flies, and she's always been grateful, even during the most trying times here, that she didn't get that job!

The title of her paper refers to one of her most memorable reference questions. The most common ready-reference questions here concern the tides and the weather. The most often asked reference questions are about whales and dolphins. Her favorite reference questions are those that involve identifying strange creatures that fishermen bring up in their nets. At these times, Susan is reminded of how strange and wonderful life is, and of what a mysterious and beautiful world we live in.

Authentic Mountain Man Comes to HMSC

Our newest part-time marine educator has a unique background in environmental and historical education and interpretation. A graduate of Colorado State University, Ron Crouse earned his B.S. degree in environmental education with a minor in photo-journalism. Upon graduation, he completed his internship with the National Park Service at Fort Union Trading Post in Montana, designing and presenting a variety of natural history and living history programs focusing on the region and the fur-trade era.

After five years of owning and operating a museum and leather store in Crested Butte, Colorado, where he designed and created historically accurate garments, weapons and accouterments, Ron was offered a position with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. During the next five years as Ranger/Interpreter, he had the opportunity to develop numerous environmental and historical education programs for adults and children.

Feeling the lure of the coast and a desire to concentrate his career efforts in the fields of education and interpretation, Ron moved to Rose Lodge three years ago and went to work for Susan Jurasz of Sea Reach, Ltd., a firm which specializes in interpretive exhibits for environmental and historical sites. Ron is responsible for research and design, text writing and assimilating graphic references. Past projects include the interpretive panels at the Yaquina Bay Whale Watch platform (he has been a Whale Watch volunteer for the past three years), marine and estuary exhibits for Olympia, Washington, and an old-growth nature trail at Kachess Lake, Washington, to name a few. He is now designing an interpretive plan for the City of Gresham's new greenbelt trail system in association with David Evans & Associates of Portland.

Ron hasn't neglected his ties to history. He regularly attends historical reenactments and mountain man rendezvous where he is a sought-after lecturer on pioneer and Native American skills and lifestyles. He also designs and creates historical exhibits, recently developing a period trapper's camp for the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Ron feels that environmental education, especially for young people, is the best gift he can give back to the earth. "Environmental awareness, either through static interpretive exhibits or hands-on educational programs, is an excellent way to instill proper land use ethics so desperately needed in today's world."

Ron also plays 12-string guitar and ties his own flies for fly fishing.

December Bookstore Specials

20% off 1997 Calendars

30% off jewelry

30% off selected tees and sweatshirts

***New shirts designs for the Holidays (regular 10% discount)**

IAMSLIC Conference Report: Planning Our Future

As 1996 Conference Chair and incoming IAMSLIC (International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers) President, Janet Webster filed a concise report on the substantive issues covered. Seventy members from twelve countries met in Monterey, California, to reflect upon how to use traditional and innovative means to address the changing landscape of marine and aquatic information. The twenty presented papers, two panel discussions

and five guest speakers examined how to provide excellent service and build unique, relevant collections.

Topics covered were core indexes, user needs and approaches to addressing them, library management, resource sharing, World Wide Web resources and searching tools, opportunities for cooperative ventures, and metadata standards, document delivery and electronic publishing. Additional papers profiled individual institutions, and guest speakers reminded IAMSLIC of the diversity of their users and their research and educational needs.

Web searching tools have similar weaknesses and strengths found in all searching tools. Successfully maneuvering through the Web requires knowledge of traditional approaches to searching and perseverance within the very dense Web environment. While exciting developments promise to make it easier to create and mount local databases, adding to the massive amount of Web-based information demands judgment and experience. The Web is the most innovative development in the information field in years, and the traditional skills of the librarian prove useful.

For a fuller, two-page report, check the IOC Newservice at <
<http://www.unesco.org/ioc/news/items/news061.htm>>.

Charitable Fund Contributions Up

Charitable Fund Drive Coordinator Maureen Collson is pleased to report that this year's drive raised over three times the amount from last year. Our total contribution in 1995 was \$660 from eleven individuals. The 1996 contribution was \$2,076 from 25 donors. This includes both the Astoria Seafood Lab and the HMSC, with donations going to Clatsop or Lincoln Counties, respectively.

Our deepest appreciation goes to our donors from the many citizens, old and young in both counties, who will benefit from your generosity.

Two Types of Volunteer Training Scheduled

Whale Watch Training: Individuals interested in volunteering with the twice-yearly Whale Watch Program should contact Mike Rivers at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department at 563-2002. Training is scheduled for the weekend of December 7 and 8 at the HMSC. Training will be conducted by Bruce Mate and will run from 9 to 4:30 on Saturday and 8:30-noon on Sunday (optional charter boat trip follows till 2:30). A later training will be held in Astoria on December 14 and 15.

Regular HMSC Volunteer Training: For those wanting to volunteer at the newly remodeled HMSC public wing, Part I of the training will be held at the HMSC on Saturday, January 18 and 25 from 9-3. All volunteers are required to attend these training sessions. Part II of the classes will follow once the exhibits are in place and available for hands-on training.

Classes range from how to interpret to the public to basic knowledge of the exhibits. After formal training, new volunteers will be mentored by an experienced volunteer. Further training in general and special subjects is ongoing through classes and monthly meetings. Volunteers also have access to and are encouraged to use our two libraries, the Guin Library and the Don Giles Volunteer Library.

The majority of volunteers at the HMSC public wing work as interpreters, teaching the public about marine life and scientific research being done at OSU's HMSC. Other positions are available, such as assisting the aquarists, working in the bookshop, working with the Education staff, clerical support, and working in the volunteer library.

If you are interested, please contact Craig Toll, Volunteer Coordinator, at (541)867-0226 and request a registration form.

Volunteer Potluck

December 8

5:00 p.m.

Public Meeting Room

RSVP to Craig at 867-0226

Robinson Updates Industry on Oyster Restoration Work

Anja Robinson just returned from an international conference on "Improving the Health of Coastal Ecosystems Through Shellfish Restoration" at Hilton Head, South Carolina. She presented the work being done by OSU and ODFW on restoring the native oyster *Ostrea conchapila* in Yaquina Bay. Representatives from Australia, New Zealand, France and Belgium were especially interested in her talk, as these nations share much the same oyster industry history.

The native oysters were harvested by coastal Indians at low tide, but when the new settlers came in the 1850s, they brought in new technology (the oyster tong used on the East Coast) to supply the huge demand from the California gold fields. Using the tongs, the oystermen would harvest huge amounts of the native oysters and load them aboard clipper ships that took them to San Francisco to giant shucking houses. Not only did this reduce the oyster population outright, but by taking the shells upon which the oyster larvae set, it prevented the next generation from recuperating. Added stress from silt loads after logging and pollution from mill operations caused near extinction of native oysters.

By 1898 the oystermen were reduced to trying to bring out the Eastern oyster to replace the depleted native oysters. These Eastern oysters found the West Coast waters to be too salty and too cold. At the same time, Washington oyster growers began importing *Crassostrea gigas* from Japan

and this turned out to be a successful idea. However, the water was still too cold for the *gigas* to spawn naturally. They would grow, but not reproduce. The oyster growers had to import each generation from Japan. Bill McNeil, Willie Breese and Anja Robinson set out to develop a way to spawn the *gigas* in hatcheries in the U.S.

In the early days of the Marine Science Center, the small oyster industry provided funding for this group to come up with this needed hatchery technology. The first problem was determining how to condition the oysters, to bring the gonads to maturation and cause them to spawn. The second problem was to find the right food to feed the larvae so that they would grow and set (attach themselves to a substrate). They knew that oyster larvae feed on microalgae, but which combination of the hundreds of species was the right one? By the mid 1970s the team solved both problems and produced the hatchery manual that enabled the American oyster industry to produce their own *gigas* spat. The result was a tremendous growth in the West Coast oyster industry and now there are three large oyster hatcheries on the West Coast.

Tanks used to grow microalgae to feed oysters

Rather than waiting for native oysters to inch their way back, action has been taken to reproduce them in a hatchery and plant them in Oregon bays and estuaries. The initial plantings were performed in 1994 and yearly since then. Experimental plantings of native oysters are thriving and more extensive plantings are underway. Part of the process is remaking the reefs on which the native oysters set, by dumping cultch (old shells) in suitable locations.

The Australians, New Zealanders and Europeans have suffered the same decline of their native oysters, compounded by two major shellfish diseases, Dermo and MX. These are the same diseases that have wreaked havoc with the Eastern oysters, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay. The conference participants welcomed Anja's mix of practical experience and historical perspective.

Personnel Notes

Belated congratulations to **Greg Krutzikowsky** (Marine Mammal Group) and **Vicki Hoover** (ODFW) on their October wedding! They picked the one beautiful day in a rainy week to be married outside at Cape Perpetua.
