HMSC Marine Educator Teaches About El Niño On Internet

Ron Crouse, Marine Educator, has been invited by Lynn Whitley of the USC Sea Grant Program at the Hancock Institute for Marine Studies, University of Southern California, to present his new "Plotting El Niño" program for their upcoming El Niño teachers workshop. They are taking a novel approach as this is a virtual workshop, offered on-line through the Internet. It will be reaching teachers world-wide and be presenting lectures and seminars from visiting scientists as well as classroom resources from environmental educators such as Ron. The workshop will last the entire month of March and graduate credit is available. Anyone interested can obtain information at http://www.tmn.com/exploration/elnino/.

The class which Ron is presenting utilizes information gathered from NOAA's TAO Buoy Array in the tropical Pacific ocean. Through graphics and hands-on activities, students learn to understand and read sea surface temperature charts, compare real-time and climatological data, and actually plot the development of the 1997-98 El Niño event by creating their own monthly sea surface temperature anomaly charts. These are then compared to NOAA's computer-generated anomaly charts. Students can judge their charts for accuracy and understand how El Niño is measured by scientists and visualize the development and movement of El Niño waters across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The beauty of this program is that it can be updated monthly as the new computer models from NOAA come available on the Internet. Two years from now, however, we may have to change the name to "Plotting La Niña."

This program is just one of many resources available to educators from Oregon's Extension Sea Grant. Look for the new four-color Sea Grant information guide,"El Niño."

12th Annual Biology Graduate Student Symposium
March 7-8 at HMSC

The Biology Graduate Student Symposium (BGSS) is a symposium organized by graduate students to provide a campus-wide forum for the exchange of ideas in the field of biology. The symposium provides an opportunity for graduate students from all disciplines of biology to interact in a semi-formal setting. With the exception of the keynote speaker, the symposium is attended exclusively by graduate students. The BGSS is a chance to present research ideas, research in progress, or finished research to fellow graduate students who share a common interest in biology, and to meet
and get feedback from students in one's own and other departments. All current graduate students at OSU with an interest in biology are invited to attend, whether or not they will give a talk.

The format is that of an informal scientific meeting. Talks are 15 minutes followed by 5 minutes for questions. Participants pay a $5 registration fee and the BGSS covers all meals and refreshments from Saturday morning through lunch on Sunday, including a social/BBQ on Saturday night. A beach-front house has been rented (same house as last year) where all attendees can sleep on Saturday night.

If you plan to attend, contact Mara Spencer (7-0330) for registration forms or with questions.

---

**HMSC Food Drive Brings in Over 3,000 Pounds of Food**

In an outstanding display of generosity, the folks at the HMSC have once again broken their previous giving record for the February Food Drive to benefit Lincoln County Food Share. Food Share can buy about six pounds per dollar so our record can be described as follows:

- 1996 Food Drive netted $328 or 1,968 pounds of food
- 1997 Food Drive netted $458 or 2,748 pounds of food.
- 1998 Food Drive netted $510 or 3,060 pounds of food.

In addition, the first $372 was raised during the $1 million match so it was doubled. Special thanks go to Veryl Barry for the delicious homemade cookies and brownies served at the weekly "Soup Kitchen."

It is this kind of warm generosity that makes the HMSC a welcome and appreciated member of the Lincoln County community. Thanks to you all!

---

**Blood Drive Seeks Donors for March 13**

The annual spring HMSC blood drive is coming up Friday, March 13, from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room. The Center has quite a reputation for outstanding blood drives, almost always reaching or exceeding its goal. There is no price on the pint of blood you give. How much is a life worth? It may cost you an hour of time and a few moments of inconvenience, but you can give the gift of life no matter what your income.

If you haven't already signed up, please see your building recruiter or sign up on the main schedule sheet in the Director's office.

NMFS - Tonya Builder
EPA - Faith Cole
ODFW - Jodene Summers
Volunteer Spotlight on Millie Ehrman

by Terri Nogler

Not everyone thinks of retirement as an opportunity to sit in their living room and watch the seagulls fly by. Public Wing volunteer Millie Ehrman is just as busy keeping active in the community as when she had a paid job! Millie and her husband Carl, also an HMSC volunteer, moved to Lincoln City from Salt Lake City after Millie retired two years ago. Millie most recently worked in the Salt Lake City office of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) and Carl retired about ten years ago as an electrical engineer.

To get involved in their new community, they began volunteering at the Lincoln City Library, and at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. They discovered the HMSC and, in their continual quest to learn about their new environment, began volunteering in the Public Wing. Barbara Mate, then librarian of the HMSC Volunteer Library, recruited Millie to work in the library. She organized the library, tracking down missing books and refining the check-out system. Her latest project is to organize Sea Grant publications and other brochures available for purchase through the Bookstore. She's developed a handy display book, and an organized system for stocking the brochures.

Millie serves as the volunteer coordinator for RSVP, Retired Senior and Volunteer Program. She and Carl also watch over Mile 246 of the coast through the Coast Watch program. During the Whale Watch Weeks, they volunteer at Cape Lookout (where they hike out 2.5 miles to their site) and at Rocky Creek. Millie figures she volunteers about 18 hours of her time each week.

She and Carl are avid cyclists, having commuted to work 30 miles a day on their bicycles. Carl has accumulated about 65,000 miles on his bike and Millie, about half that. They also enjoy spending time with their four children and two grandchildren and, as their limited time permits, they enjoy theatre productions at the Newport Performing Arts Center. We welcome Millie and Carl to the Oregon coast and appreciate their commitment to making the public wing a success.

Paul Reno Works on Fish Disease Database

Dr. Paul Reno is traveling around the West this month as part of a grant from the Western Regional Aquaculture Consortium to construct a disease risk assessment model for wild fish.

Paul and his colleague, Chris Moffit from the University of Idaho, are collecting data on the occurrence of a number of fish diseases from the archives of federal and state agencies. Paul is
Currently covering New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Dr. Moffit is covering Montana, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado.

Their primary interests are IHN, IPN, KD, ERM, furunculosis, proliferative kidney disease, *Ceratomyxa shasta*, and Ich in wild fish, but data on hatchery-reared fish are being examined also.

---

**Cutter's Corner**

Well, it's now another month gone by, and until this last week... RAIN. I have never seen so much rain in Oregon, and I've been here 25 years. So this month's column will discuss what to do when the power goes out. First, don't panic! Yes, you have probably just lost that almost-finished grant proposal that you did not save. Lesson learned. Now, if you have a salary after this unfortunate incident, you may want to take some precautions.

1) Don't work off of a disk. This has, of course, NOTHING to do with the power failing, I just get tired of telling people.

2) Always save your work. Be SURE to save when you are trying to think of something, like a clever synonym for fish guts.

3) Shut down your computer during a fierce storm. Yes, I know this is not the most PRODUCTIVE thing to do, especially since it seems to storm EVERY DAY. But hey, that's what all those neat labs are for. I asked for one, but since I have no research to do and was really just thinking how big a TV and couch I could fit in one, they told me "No." :-(

4) Unplug your computer. If your computer is off, you are pretty much safe, but the philosphy is: If you are disconnected, you can't be hurt. Of course, I've lived in Florida, where the philosphy is: Run--lightning is gonna hit you one day unless you just keep moving.

5) The BEST solution is: Buy a UPS (uninterruptible power source). They are less than $200 for a good one, they last 5-6 years and you don't have to unplug your computer. When the power goes out, your computer stays ON; giving you time to finish that last important thought and then save and shut down your computer. The servers have them... I have one... your friends have one... JUST DO IT. That is what that extra money in grants is for (the money they expect you to buy a Porsche with).

That's it! There is a lot of other stuff you need to worry about as well, like random EMP pulses, solar flares, and whatnot, but I'll save those for when I need a raise. You'll probably see Steve and me messing around with your machines here in a bit, if you are OSU types at least. Don't be afraid. Everything will be all right. I promise. . .
Library Guinea Pigs Wanted

Guin Library is investigating alternative ways of sending you requested articles. We are experimenting with software that allows us to deliver full-text articles directly to your personal e-mail address. This would significantly improve the speed of delivery.

We need to see how well the software we are testing works with a variety of e-mail systems. That's why we need your help. During the month of March, we want to run a test with people who use cc:mail, Pine, Eudora, or other mailers. Participants will be asked to download a graphic reader program from the web and to use it to read documents sent to their e-mail addresses.

That's all there is to it. Please contact any of us at the library if you are interested in being a guinea pig for this test. Thanks.

The Great Farallon Egg Wars

Dave Pitkin of the USFWS shared an interesting bit of history about how differently Americans have handled the seabird resource on the Pacific Coast. (Please ask Dave for the name of the book from which this information is being excerpted.)

The Farallon Islands are off the coast of San Francisco and during the 1800s served as a major source of eggs for California's booming population. "In the early times in California, when provisions were high priced, the egg-gatherers sometimes got great gains. Once, in 1853, a boat absent but three days brought in one thousand dozen, and sold the whole cargo for a $1 a dozen; and in one season 30,000 dozen were gathered, and brought an average of but little less than this price. The egg company that worked the Farallons for 18 years gathered 17,952 dozen gull and murre eggs in 1872 and 15,203 dozen in 1873 and sold for 26¢ a dozen.

"Of course there was an egg war. The prize was too great not to be struggled for; and the rage of the conflicting claimants grew to such a pitch that guns were used and lives were threatened, and at last the Government had to interfere to keep the peace."

Working conditions were the pits. From 15 to 20 men were employed during the month and a half egging season, living on the island in rude shanties. Forced to climb to the least accessible places, the eggers had to fend off attacks by the gull on her nest. The murre remained until the egger was close, and then rose up with a scream which "startles a thousand or two of birds, who whirl up in the air in a dense mass, scattering filth and guano over the eggers. Nor is this all. The gulls, whose season of breeding is soon past, are extravagantly fond of murre eggs; and these rapacious birds follow the eggers, hover over their heads, and no sooner is a murre's nest uncovered than the bird swoops down, and the egger must be extremely quick, or the gull will snatch the prize from under his nose. So greedy and eager are the gulls that they sometimes even wound the eggers, striking
them with their beaks. But if the gull gets an egg, he flies up with it, and, tossing it up, swallows
what he can catch, letting the shell and half its contents fall in a shower upon the luckless and
disappointed egger below.

"The gathering proceeds daily, when it has once begun, and the whole ground is carefully cleared
off, so that no stale eggs shall remain. Thus if a portion of the ground has been neglected for a day
or two, ALL the eggs must be flung out into the sea, so as to begin afresh. As the season advances,
the operations are somewhat contracted, leaving a part of the island undisturbed for breeding; and
the gathering of eggs is stopped entirely about a month before the birds usually leave the island, so
as to give them all an opportunity to hatch out a brood."

How to Reduce Junk Mail

There are two ways to reduce the amount of unwanted junk mail you receive. Both methods are
effective. The first deals with general junk mail, except credit card offers, which are covered by the
second method.

Junk Mail: The Mail Preference Services (MPS) maintains a list of people who do not want to
receive junk mail. This "delete list" is distributed to members of the Direct Marketing Association
who should then remove your name and address from their lists. Send all variations of your name
and address to:

Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
PO Box 9008
Farmingdale NY 11735-9008

The delete file is sent to business subscribers four times a year--January, April, July and October.
Names are maintained on file for five years, after which time consumers should register their names
again. MPS registrants will probably continue to receive mail from companies with which they do
business on a regular basis or from charitable or commercial organizations which are not
subscribers to MPS. In addition, registrants may continue to receive mail from many local
merchants, professional and alumni associations, and political candidates and office holders.

Credit Card Offers: Write to TRW at the address below and ask that your name be removed from
prescreen and marketing lists. This has a dramatic effect on the number of credit card offers mailed
to your home. Include your full name and current address:

Consumer Opt-Out Service
TRW Inc.
Personnel Notes

EPA has selected a new contractor with the expiration of LB&B's contract and that is Transcontinental. They have reduced the number of positions to four and have outsourced janitorial and grounds work. This means that Bud Balloch, Barbara Love, Jack Rylant and Jon Heckler are no longer at the Center.

Former grad students Michelle Moore and Mike Burger have completed their doctoral programs at Louisiana State University and have moved on to post-doctoral positions. Michelle's dissertation is entitled "Identification of antigens of Edwardsiella ictaluri, the causative agent of enteric septicemia of catfish." Mike's was "Temporal variation in larval fish condition indices." Dr. Moore is doing her post-doc with Mark Strom at the NWFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. Dr. Burger will be doing his in Beaufort, North Carolina, on the topic of the effect of condition on the foraging behavior of Atlantic mehaden and spot larvae. Congratulations!

Former grad student and aquarist Bruce Koike has accepted a position at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. He and his wife Mary Gosla are delighted to bring their two children, Emiko and Seiji, back to the Northwest.

Another former grad student has reported in from south of the border. Maria Elena Diaz has been awarded a fellowship at the Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria in Spain to work for her Ph.D. Charlene has her address at the switchboard for those who would like to write to her.