H.M.S. SeaFest Celebrates Oregon’s Coastal Resources

The HMSC is throwing open its doors and inviting the public to come see what we do here at the Center.

On Saturday, June 22, H.M.S. SeaFest will bring hundreds of visitors to HMSC for dozens of activities, including tours of scientists’ labs, lectures, research vessel tours (as available), demonstrations, guided walks, hands-on activities, children’s activities, food and fun.

“The ‘back-wing tours’ that we lead for certain groups shows the interest the public has in what goes on behind the scenes,” says SeaFest coordinator Terri Nogler. “Even though the exhibits in the Visitor Center showcase the research, tour groups are usually shocked that so much is going on here. Since this May is the 5th anniversary of the Visitor Center remodel, the timing seemed perfect to showcase HMSC efforts in marine research and education.”

Response from the agencies and departments on the HMSC campus has been positive. All agencies will participate, including NOAA Vents program, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES), Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies (CIMRS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

continued
The Newport community is also enthusiastically participating in the event. “We decided to include the marine community so the event represents how a coastal community uses its marine resources. The fishing community will be represented, and so far we have the participation of the Port of Newport, Oregon State Parks Beach Safety Program, U.S. Coast Guard, Oregon Historical Society, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, and Yaquina Birders and Naturalists.

The Newport Rotary is sponsoring a science fair at the Newport Middle School with winners announced at SeaFest. The Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce will help with marketing and promotion.

If you would like to help coordinate the festival, volunteer at the event, know of a group that would like to sell food as a fundraiser, have suggestions for activities, a good marketing connection or potential sponsors, please contact Terri at 7-0271 or terri.nogler@hmsc.orst.edu

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**HMSC Blood Drive**

**March 14, 10 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.**

Whether the Weather is Good, or Whether the Weather is Not, Whatever the Weather, Whether We Like It or Not - HMSC Weatherman “Retires”

After 31 years at the HMSC, Clay Creech is officially retiring in February, but he will continue to work part-time. He first came to the Center in 1965 (one week before the official dedication) when he was a work study student, checking ocean currents. At that time there were two off-shore oil drilling rigs in 1965. He would go to the one 15 miles off Depoe Bay in a helicopter and land on the deck of the ship. The “platform” was a large ship with a hole in the center for the drill and a derrick that rose from the deck. It was secured with eight huge anchors and cables and could rock up and down while the center stayed steady (Clay still got seasick). He would manually measure the currents from the current meter hanging from the stern of the ship before computers or hand-held calculators were available.

Weather, tides and ocean currents have been his enduring interest. Basically he has worked on a year-to-year basis and has done a great variety of jobs at the Center. Apart from a three-year stint in the Army in Germany, Clay has been here since 1965,

He was a tide-station observer on the Wecoma dock for 10 years. He also helped maintain the Weather Station on the south jetty, beginning when it was a small trailer (it is now a concrete block building). He would occasionally go out and measure upper winds by tracking a pilot balloon (PIBAL) from the ground. It was “fun” trying to follow the small flashlight bulb hanging from the balloon at night.

In conjunction with David Zopf and Dr. Bill Quinn of the College of Oceanography, he helped develop the seismic wavemeter in 1973. It is still in use at HMSC. He drove up and down the Washington, Oregon and northern California coast maintaining a system of wavemeters at various Coast Guard stations. He was up in the Olympic Peninsula when one winter storm blew away part of the Hood Canal bridge with 140-mile-an-hour winds. He helped for 10 years on a Sea Grant-sponsored wave forecasting project. As a research assistant in Oceanography, he assisted the National Weather Service Forecasters in Portland learn how to forecast waves using a model developed at OSU.

One of the many Sea Grant projects was to develop a “Fogmeter” using an infrared camera mounted in a Coast Guard tower. This instrument was featured on the front page of the Sunday Oregonian. Clay was later interviewed by a TV cameraman on the front lawn of his house. Clay was frequently called upon by the local News-Times newspaper and the radio station KNPT for reports of the highest winds during recent storms.

He is also the one who maintains the HMSC weather station and weather web page <http://weather.hmsc.orst.edu>. He is also a cooperative observer for the National Weather Service weighing-rain-gauge network. He is looking for someone to train as his replacement.

His facility with computers and technical instrumentation was used by George Mpitsos for twelve years as he worked on programming neural organization models of sea slugs. How do you graphically represent chaos? After that he worked three years for Vicki Osis, assisting her with Web page design and implementation, ordering scientific instruments and training teachers how to use them for the Coastnet project.

Through most of his time at the Center he also worked part-time for ODFW in programming and managing fisheries databases. He also served as the unofficial computer user support technician for the Center and assisted a number of people in becoming computer literate. He has crawled through many of the attics here pulling cable to connect the earliest network. He has seen the technical evolution from paper and pen recordings, paper tape for teletype machines, to magnetic tape and punch card machines, Apple IIe, PCs without hard disks, to the first Macintosh, and on to today’s amazing variety of electronic instruments and devices.

A native of Tillamook, Clay has thoroughly enjoyed his time at the Center. He doesn’t have too many plans for his “part-time” retirement, except to visit his three children and one darling granddaughter.
Anja Robinson Tangos in Cuba

As a member of an official U.S. Treasury licensed cultural exchange of tango and salsa dance team, Anja Robinson, “retired” oyster expert for COMES, recently visited Cuba. The troupe consisted of 37 social and professional dancers and teachers. Ten of them were from the Portland area and the others from the rest of the U.S. and Canada.

Anja reports, "We had three hours of dance lessons every morning, partnered with Cuban dancers, some of whom were dancers of Cuban National Ballet Company. After lunch we had practice time and then to the most famous dance venues in Havana for dancing and performing. Cubans love to dance. Whole families were at the dance places and everyone danced from grandparents to small children. It was fun to be a part of it all. In Cuba salsa is fast and your whole body dances, not just the feet. Cuban dancing has been influenced by African dancing. We learned some of the history of it and Cuban-Africans performed for us.

"During our ten day visit we had one day off and most of the dancers went to the white sandy beaches to relax and I took a long bus trip to the very westernmost part of the island to learn more about the country. During the trip I learned that Cubans were culturing mangrove oysters commercially, but I did not get to visit the farms since they were not on the tour route. In the evening of the day we visited one of Havana’s late night shows in the Hotel Nacional of Cuba, which is a beautiful hotel in Havana. The show was a classic Cuban extravaganza of feathers and sparkling costumes: dancers, singers and other artists all very talented and beautiful. Cuban dance teachers were super and the dancers who partner us knew salsa really well and were willing to make our learning experience fun."

Those wishing to have Anja teach both the tango and salsa, please contact her and urge her to set up a class time at the Center. We could use some indoor movement to keep us warm in February!

Database of the Month:
Science’s Next Wave

OSU Libraries subscribe to an incredible number of electronic resources, including bibliographic indexes and abstracts, electronic journals and books, and other full text resources. The Library will be highlighting one of these resources each month.

Laurel Kristick, Electronic Resources Librarian

What is Science’s Next Wave?
Next Wave is a career development magazine, updated weekly on the Web, that has been published since 1995 by the research journal Science. The aim is to provide the early-career scientist with the tools, insight, and advice needed to discover the vast range of careers available, decide which path to pursue, and to follow it. It looks at research and nonresearch careers, on and
off the bench, in academia, industry, and elsewhere. It covers issues of scientific training and career development. Columnists offer advice on finding a job and finishing your Ph.D.

There are two sister sites, Grantsnet, a one-stop resource to find funds for training in the biomedical sciences and undergraduate science education and Jobsnet, a network of science job listings, including the last four weeks of Science’s classified and recruitment ads.

Who uses Science’s Next Wave?
Science’s Next Wave is primarily for postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and people in their first permanent academic posts (junior faculty). It is also useful for students considering a career in the sciences.

How do I get to Science’s Next Wave?
If you are using a computer on campus, go to the Library’s Research Gateway web page (http://osulibrary.orst.edu/research/), click on the A-Z Database List button, and click on the Science’s Next Wave link under S. To access this database from off-campus, you will first need to set up your Internet browser to use the library’s proxy server. See http://osulibrary.orst.edu/offcampus/remote.htm for instructions on how to do this. Science’s Next Wave can also be accessed directly at http://www.nextwave.org.

You can get weekly e-mail alerts to new content on Science’s Next Wave by signing up at http://science.aaas.org/mailman/listinfo/snwreader.

Check out the resources at OSU’s Career Services at http://oregonstate.edu/career

For more information please contact Janet Webster, x 70108.

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Americorps Well Represented at US Fish and Wildlife Service

Anne Walsleben, Khemarith So, and Anson Koehler are the three Americorps personnel assigned to the USFWS Coastal Refuges office here at the Center. They are serving in three very different capacities and will be here from September 2000 to July or August 2002.

Anne Walsleben is working as an environmental educator, teaching in classrooms up and down the Oregon coast about the role of wildlife refuges. This is part of the Earth Stewards program, a cooperative effort by schools, communities and the government. She also helps students to do restoration work at refuges and get some hands-on experience with field work. A native of Oregon, Anne earned her B.S. in Biology from Portland State University and has done a number of marbled murrelet and songbird surveys prior to her work with the Refuge. She enjoys hiking and biking.

Khemarith So is the natural resource planning technician and works on GIS and the USFWS web page (when the government lets the Department of Interior back online). This is his second stint with Americorps. For the first he was part of a self-led conservation project team in Trout Lake, Washington, that did environmental education and field surveys. He is a graduate of
Northwestern University in Illinois, though he comes from Michigan. He enjoys back-packing, camping and most things outdoors. The only problem with being away from home is that his Cambodian is getting pretty rusty.

Anson Koehler is the wildlife technician, which means that he gets up every morning at 5:30 a.m. and drives up to Haystack Rock to count Aleutian Canada geese, reading collars and leg bands with a powerful scope. After that he goes over to Nestucca Bay and monitors Canada geese and other waterfowl or to Tillamook to monitor Brandt geese. He works with Dave Pitkin and does the weekly beach mortality survey. This entails walking the beach, counting the live birds, picking up the dead ones and trying to determine the cause of death. He is originally from New Jersey and graduated from Union College in Schenectady, New York in Biology. Prior to coming here, he worked for the USGS Wildlife Health Service, identifying parasites and determining cause of death.

What's New @ the Library

New Copiers and Scanner
Guin Library installed two new photocopiers this fall; now there are three copiers available for your use. One of the new copiers has been placed in the library’s middle office (fax room); it’s the one which offers a fax machine as well as a document feeder and built-in stapler. This copier accepts only account codes, not coins or bills. If you wish to pay with cash, just let us know and we will accommodate you. Please feel free to step into the office to use it.

The other two copiers are located in Guin’s “copier alley” near the front of the library. They both offer a beveled edge so that bound journals can be copied easily. These two copiers accept copy cards, account codes, coins and bills ($1’s and $5’s only—no new-style bills). If you need to set up an account code, or need change or a copy card, ask one of the library staff. The new copiers offer a high-quality copy; we’ve been pleased with them. And the price is right—just five cents per copy. What else can you get for a nickel?

Many HMSC people will be interested to know about the scanner in the library. It is located on the east side at the back of the library. It still isn’t printing, but you can save scanned files with a zip disk and print them elsewhere.
TEST YOUR LIBRARY I.Q.

True or False?

1. If I check out a book from the Valley Library on the OSU campus, I have to return the book there.

False. Just turn the book in at the circulation counter and we will check it in and return it for you.

2. I have to fill out a paper request form to get an article I want from the Valley Library.

False—most of the time. Most of the time, you can request the article you want right from the Oasis catalog (you can request books the same way). When you are in the record for the title you want, just click on the Request button at the top of the screen and fill out the form. Be sure to choose Guin Library/HMSC as your pickup location. This works as long as our library doesn’t own any part of the journal. If we have part of it here, the electronic form is blocked, and you do have to do the paperwork.

3. The library doesn’t have English translations of articles written in other languages.

False. The library has several sources of translations, including older ones by NOAA and the series Canadian Translations of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. We have many issues in this series, mostly on microfiche at SH223 A9. When submitting a request to us for a translation, please remember that the more information you can give us, the better we will be able to help you. A searchable index of Canadian publications, including translations, is at: http://inter01.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/wavesdocs/en/. Just put in the name of the author or subject you are looking up.

Hunger in Oregon - You Can Do Something about It

Facts to ponder about hunger in Oregon:
In 1998 Oregon was ranked as the worst state in the nation for hunger and sixth worst for food insecurity. Subsequent studies by USDA and the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force have found similar conclusions.

Oregon has reported the highest seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in the nation at 7.4 percent (national average: 5.7%). Moreover, many of the jobs lost in Linn and Benton counties have been in the manufacturing sector, totaling over 1,100 for the year.

About 93% of emergency food recipients also receiving food stamps report that food stamp allotments run out at least one week before the end of the month.

Donations are being accepted in the Director’s Office and you can enjoy a hot bowl of soup and goodies every Tuesday in the mail room at high noon. Fight hunger two ways!

Soup Kitchen Every Tuesday in February
12:00 Noon
HMSC Mailroom
Congratulations to David Giles, one of our Guin Library student workers for winning the VFW audio/essay scholarship contest! David, a senior at Newport High School, was chosen as first place winner and was presented with a $100 savings bond, certificate of merit and Voice of Democracy pin. His essay was on the theme “Reaching Out to America’s Future.” He is the grandson of Don Giles, the famous HMSC marine educator and creator of Seatauqua and Whale Watch, and son of Greg and Linda Giles of Newport.

Welcome to Hal Gray, the new Port Engineer, who is replacing Ed Beavers who retired January 31! Hal is a native of Alaska where he fished for everything from salmon to king crab. He has been in Seattle for the last fifteen years, working for Alaska Trawl Seafood and Northern Pacific Fisheries, managing fleets of fishing vessels. He likens the work to being a property manager, but of boats instead of apartments. Although he has only been in Newport for two weeks, he has found the lack of traffic (wait until summer!), the beautiful scenery and the chances for outdoor recreation to be wonderful. Oregon also suffers from far fewer regulations than does the Seattle area, making his work easier. His wife Michelle is a marine biologist who has been raising their four-year-old son Patrick. For fun (now that he has time to have some) he enjoys off-road vehicles and fishing.

Farewell and good luck to Eric Nelson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service! Eric has received a promotion to Refuge Manager at the Humboldt Bay Wildlife Refuge in Humboldt, California. His last day was February 1.