



The HMSC Newsletter



**OREGON STATE
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Pamela Rogers, Editor



Russians row Americans back to camp after a long day in the field

Dave Pitkin of USFWS (Newport) Visits Russian Far East Wildlife Reserves

Five US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) employees from across the nation and one employee from the National Park Service were selected by the Department of Interior's Office of International Conservation to serve as delegates to visit four Nature Reserves in the Russian Far East. The USFWS employees included two Regional Refuge Supervisors from the Denver Regional office, two Refuge Project Leaders (one from Nisqually NWR in Olympia and one from Agassiz NWF in Minnesota), and one Coastal Refuge Biologist, Dave Pitkin. Their job was to exchange scientific and cultural information with their Russian counterparts, to evaluate habitat and species management techniques on the Russian Reserves, and to conceive of ways to help provide financial assistance to the reserves.

Some of the management issues at the four refuges include combating illegal economic activities within the reserves (poaching, fishing, grazing, berry / mushroom gathering), impacts of wildlife predator-prey relationships on neighboring villages, waterfowl management, and combating illegal trade in ginseng and other medicinal plants. The Reserves they visited were the Khinganskiy Nature Reserve in Amurski Oblast and Bolshekhkhtsirskiy Nature Reserve, Komsomolskiy Nature Reserve and Bolonskiy Nature Reserve in Khabarovsk Krai. All these reserves lie along the Amur River, the longest undammed river in the world. The Amur River forms approximately 1700 miles of the border between Russia and China.

Bolonskiy Nature Reserve is approximately 259,000 acres (405 square miles) in size and is a RAMSAR site, recognized as an International Wetland of Importance. This reserve is very important for migrating and breeding waterfowl and for the red-crowned crane.

Bolshekhkhtsirskiy Nature Reserve is situated at the confluence of the Amur and Ussuri rivers in one of the most species-diverse areas of the northern hemisphere. The reserve is approximately 112,500 acres

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(176 square miles) in size. Species on this reserve include 1017 species of higher plants, 218 moss species, 148 lichen species, 825 fungi species, 6 amphibian species, 8 reptile species, 222 bird species (131 nesting), 50 mammal species, and 40 fish species.

Khinganskiy Nature Reserve protects approximately 232,265 acres (363 square miles) in the extreme southeast section of Amur Oblast. Although this reserve protects over 1000 species of vascular plants and more than 300 bird species, the main focus is to provide breeding habitat for the endangered red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*), white-naped crane (*Grus vipio*), and oriental white stork (*Ciconia boyciana*). The marshes in Khinganskiy Nature Reserve are some of the few remaining breeding



Pitkin self-portrait at Khinganskiy Reserve areas for red-crowned cranes. Once distributed widely in a continuous corridor along the Middle and Lower Amur River basin, red-crowned crane populations are decreasing worldwide despite international conservation measures. The current population of this species is estimated at 1,000 to 1,500 individuals.

Komsomolskiy Nature Reserve covers 158,000 acres (247 square miles) of forests and floodplains along the Amur River and the lower Gorin River. Nearly 50 fish species (23 endemic to the Amur basin) are protected by the reserve. The team members were treated to a rare look at two massive Steller's Sea Eagles on the Gorin River during their visit to this reserve.

Several of the reserves provide habitat for the extremely endangered Amur (aka Siberian) tiger. Fewer than 450 are estimated to remain in the entire Russian far east. Dave met a worker on Bolshekhekhtsirskiy reserve who told him (through

an interpreter) about his experiences with tigers. As a child this man had always wanted to see a tiger. As an adult, he got a job controlling "problem" tigers. On his first assignment he was instructed to track down a "man-eating" tiger that was very active in the area. His first glimpse of the tiger was when it was leaping off a rock ledge onto him. The man said that he was able to turn and fire one shot and the tiger landed less than a meter from him, dead. After that encounter, he said he had no desire to see another tiger, although since that time he has devoted his life to their protection. One animal that was not rare was the mosquito, that seemed to home in on the American visitors.



Juvenile White-Naped Crane preens at crane reintroduction facility

Something that struck all the team members was how thin and fit most of the Russians were. It was hard to figure out how they stayed in shape as they fed their American guests four meals a day, including many toasts with vodka in the evenings. The hospitality of their Russian hosts was incredible. Dave was also impressed with the apparent simplicity of life there – he felt as though he'd stepped into a time machine, both technologically and socially. Few people in remote areas of the Russian Far east have computers or television. At Khinganskiy Reserve the team interacted with a group of remarkable high school students who sang, danced and played games with the American team. It amazed the team how natural, polite and humble the kids were. In fact, there seemed to be an across-the-board sense of humility among the Russians in the far east region.

In September of 2003, a group of Russian delegates from these four Nature Reserves will come to the United States to tour a number of National Wildlife Refuges and/or National Parks to complete the cultural exchange. The United States can't hope to welcome their Russian visitors in quite the same way as did their hosts. The team arrived in Moscow on the 855th anniversary of the city of Moscow!

HMSC Awarded IMS Grant

The Visitor Center at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center has been awarded a two-year grant of \$100,656 from the Institute of Museum and Library Service. The center will use the grant to establish an aquarium program-coordinator position.

According to Jon Luke, manager of the Visitor Center, the grant "will ensure the consistency and continuity for the highest standards of husbandry and care, provide expertise and training, and coordination of activities to build the capacity of the program." The Aquarium program coordinator will also work closely and with the Oregon Coast Community College's new aquarium science program, OSU Veterinary College, and other organizations to maximize the opportunities and collaborations that are being formed.

Luke applied for the grant in January. The application was one of 179 funded out of 839 submitted. Noting the high quality of all the applications for the grants, IMSL director Robert S. Martin commented of the winners, "Today's recipients are, indeed, among the very best museums in the nation." Since the funds are only for two years, Luke said, it is important to establish this position and build support to sustain it. He said a process would begin immediately to establish this position.

HMSC Blood Drive
Thursday, November 14
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Volunteers and donors needed
Contact Pam at 7-0212



Sampson and Jiraporn Trisak wait for the tide in Trang.

David Sampson Visits Former Grad Student in Thailand to Review Research

In late September David Sampson had a 10-day whirlwind tour of Thailand at the invitation of his former graduate student, Jiraporn Trisak, a lecturer in Fisheries Management at Kasetsart University in Bangkok. Although the visit included a day and evening of site seeing in Bangkok, including several hours touring the spectacular Buddhist temples at the Grand Palace, much of the trip was spent traveling by car to two remote locations where Jiraporn will be conducting fisheries research projects. In Nan Province, near the northern border with Laos, an eight-hour drive from Bangkok, they visited a mountain stream where Jiraporn will soon begin a tagging project to study a small sucker fish. This particular species is apparently limited to just a few small streams in the country. The local rice farmers seasonally harvest the fish when the fish move into the flooded rice fields to spawn. On the way to Nan, David and Jiraporn visited the ancient temples at Sukhothai, which was the capital city of the first independent Thai kingdom during the 13th-15th centuries. During the drive they passed mile after mile of flooded rice fields, stretching in all directions.



Fish pens for growing out grouper

After returning from Nan to Bangkok for a full day in the city, David and Jiraporn drove south to Trang province, not far from the border with Malaysia. On the 11-hour journey they passed miles and miles of rubber, coconut, and palm oil trees, rather than rice fields, and were joined by two of Jiraporn's college friends. Tong, a marine biologist with the Thai Department of Forestry, has been working for the past 10 years in setting up a reserve for dugongs (sea cows) in the Andaman Sea to the west of Trang. The party visited the reserve and had a very exciting boat ride back in the pouring rain from the island at the center of the reserve. Although they did not see any dugong, there were plenty of other things to marvel at. During their second day in Trang they visited a fishing village that specializes in catching and farming grouper fish. The fishermen use small wicker or wire traps to catch very small grouper (1-3 inches) out in the open estuary. Then they feed and raise the fish to market size in fish pens upstream (see photo). The process only takes about 9-10 months. The fish are shipped live to Hong Kong where they are sold in restaurants. Jiraporn made a number of good contacts with the local fishermen and is planning to study the grouper and grouper fishery in that area.



HMSC Graduate Students Are Still At It!

The graduate student body is still moving forward with plans to be recognized as an official Oregon State University student organization. In mid-October, Todd Miller and Ted Hart attended a meeting of the Student Activities Committee (SAC) to formally apply for recognition and submit the HMSC Graduate Student Association constitution. Yes, we have a constitution! On Friday, November 1, Todd Miller and Marlene Bellman will again go before the SAC to answer questions about the HMSC association's purpose, functions, etc. We have begun discussing ideas to raise money for our new organization, which include T-shirt

and coffee mug designs. Several ideas for group activities have surfaced such as attending professional meetings, a road trip to other marine research stations, and a brown bag monthly meeting.

Additional newsworthy events include the compilation of HMSC graduate student information for posting to the HMSC web page. This idea was first suggested by Dr. Boehlert and is now being coordinated by Todd Miller. If you have not already done so, please send him (Todd.Miller@noaa.gov) an email with your name, affiliation/department, graduate degree ongoing, advisor, phone, fax, email address, link to your personal web page (if you have one), and any links to projects you are working on.

Graduate students, if you have not already done so, please remember to sign up for the HMSC graduate student email list-serve at <http://hmsc.orst.edu/comp/mail.html>. This is the primary artery to student news and communication, other than our word-of-mouth network. Students who are conducting research or taking classes only part-time at the HMSC are more than welcome to join this list and we look forward to your participation.

The breakdown of graduate student association roles and committee representatives is listed below. Feel free to come forward to introduce yourselves to these folks at upcoming meetings. If there are any other graduate students who would like to come forward to offer their time, you are most welcome. We can create a position for you!

HMSC Graduate Student Association Officers

President: Todd Miller
Vice President: Ted Hart
Treasurer: Rob Suryan
Student Involvement/
Outreach: Sarah Banta, Marlene Bellman
Technology Needs: Rob Suryan, Kurt Karageorge



NRC Post-Doc Joins NMFS Northwest

Cynthia Suchman is the newest post-doc at NMFS NWFSC, Newport, and she brings a wealth of experience to the post. She is working on the abundance, distribution, and trophic ecology of gelatinous zooplankton in the California Current upwelling system. Cynthia earned her B.A. in biology and English at Amherst College and her Ph.D. in biological oceanography from the University of Rhode Island. Her dissertation title was "Factors affecting the vulnerability of *Acartia* spp. Copepods to predation by scyphomedusae."

Between earning her doctorate and coming to Newport, Cynthia has had a number of interesting positions. She was a Knauss Sea Grant Fellow, working for the Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, for the House of Representatives. She worked as legislative staff on issues affecting national marine policy and has an insider's view of the political process. After that she was the Assistant Program Manager for the National Science Foundation, Division of Ocean Sciences, Biological Oceanography Program. In this position she facilitated peer-review of proposals and subsequent administration of awarded grants; represented the interests of the oceanographic community in intra-agency initiatives; and represented NSF in interagency activities.

Wanting to get back into science and teaching rather than policy and politics, in 2001 she became a visiting instructor at the Williams-Mystic Studies Program, in Mystic, Connecticut and in 2002 a visiting scientist at the University of Rhode Island. When at a conference, she met

Ric Brodeur and the two decided to work together to get work on the zooplankton GLOBEC dataset. The NRC approved her proposal and she joined NMFS in July.

For fun Cynthia loves to hike and play Ultimate Frisbee in the good weather, and she is a potter in the bad weather.



Paul Izeri Joins NMFS Fish Behavior Group

In July Paul Izeri joined the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center staff as a technician, joining Scott Haines and Michelle Ottmar in this role. He enjoys the variety of his work, which ranges from fish husbandry to experiment preparation to plumbing to studying fish behavior data tapes. Paul volunteered at the Oregon Coast Aquarium for two years before he graduated from OSU in biology and became a permanent aquarist there. While at OrCA he was able to do SCUBA diving, husbandry and interpretation. When the technician position opened up at the Center, he successfully applied.

A native of Nehalem, Paul grew up around boats, as his father is a boat mechanic and gave Paul a variety of mechanical experiences as he grew up. He anticipates going to graduate school some time in the future. In the meantime he feels he is learning a lot, likes working with his hands and is picking up new skills. For fun Paul plays in-line (skate) hockey in Corvallis every weekend, loves surfing, body boarding and most kinds of water sports. He also enjoys basketball and golf. In fact, he enjoys most sports. SCUBA diving is his first love, however, and he wants to travel to good diving locations.



Ron West Brings Construction Experience to HMSC

Our newest physical plant worker is Ron West, who started out as a temporary in April of last year and was hired as a permanent employee in August of this year. A native of the Northwest, Ron’s father built plywood mills in Toledo and elsewhere, giving Ron a taste for building. He started to go to St. Martin’s College in Washington in civil engineering, but was earning so much more money in the construction field that he went right to work. He helped build the Salishan Resort before moving to British Columbia to build forest bridges. This was challenging work because the bridges had to be built in the winter so the muskeg swamps would be solid enough to work on. After twenty years of this freezing work, he got tired of the cold and moved back to this area.

Ron is using his extensive construction experience at the Center. His major project at the moment is getting the new seawater chiller up and running, installing lines and also putting in new filters in the reservoir. He and his wife, MaryEllen, have five children and are currently caring for two of their grandsons. Ron is teaching the boys to hunt and fish, some of his favorite activities.

Deadline Approaches for Charitable Fund Drive Donations

The OSU Charitable Fund Drive began on October 16 and runs through November 16.

Whether it’s through the Charitable Fund Drive or through our own personal giving, Hatfield

Marine Science Center employees have always lent support and a helping hand to others. Unfortunately, this year, Lincoln County United Way did not publish in the CFD Contributor’s Brochure. If you would like to make a donation to the Lincoln County United Way, you must do that separately from the Charitable Fund Drive. You will need to contact the Lincoln County United Way directly on how to donate.

If you need forms, a brochure, or have any questions, you may contact Melody Pfister 867-0203.



HMSC Bookstore News
By Lynne Wright
Bookstore Manager

Although we’re heading into our quiet season at the bookstore, we’re not slowing down, and we thought you might like to know about coming events and new inventory arrivals. Please stop in and say hello to our staff members Kim and Maxine, our volunteers Marlene and Mary Emma, and me. If you have suggestions about books or other merchandise that would fit our marine science education theme, please e-mail me or drop them off at the store. I always appreciate hearing about books or items I might have overlooked. Some of our best-selling titles are those HMSC staff have mentioned to me.

Scheduled Events

- **Octopus’s Garden**
Saturday, November 16 from 9-10 a.m. in the Visitors Center

A reading and adventure event for children (ages 4-10) and their parents – the first in a series planned for this winter at the store. Join us for a swash-buckling good hour of songs, stories, pirate lore, crafts, plus a special “creature feature” about one of our fascinating marine animals presented by our own visiting pirate, and learn about the Pirate Treasure Hunt at the end of the reading series.

• **Author Presentation/Book Signing**
Monday, November 18 from 2-4 p.m. in the
Visitor Center Auditorium

Robert Pyle - author of the recently released Audubon's "Butterflies of the Cascadia" - will give a slide presentation followed by a question-and-answer session and book signing. Folks who have seen this presentation rave about it, so this should be a great event. The book is available now in the bookstore.

• **Holiday Sale**
Monday, December 2, Thursday and Friday,
December 5-6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day

This is the annual holiday sale for the staff at the HMSC/OSU campus, and for Visitor Center volunteers. This year's sale features new hours and a bigger discount. Instead of the four-hour sale we had last year, we are opening it up to a three-day sale during regular operating hours to give you more time to shop. The discount is 25% (except for items already on sale). You must work at OSU or at the HMSC campus, and since we don't know all of you, we need you to bring some form of work identification to help expedite things. You must be present to receive the discount - no spouses or others may shop in your place. Also, since we are limited in quantities and space, we can't hold merchandise before or during the sale. Please come in, start your holiday shopping a little early, and save money in the process.

New and Noteworthy at the Bookstore

Maps: We have added a map section to the store, featuring folded city maps for many neighboring areas such as Newport/Lincoln City, Corvallis, Salem, and Eugene/Springfield; various Oregon state maps, coast maps and recreation maps; a road atlas for 2003; and the Oregon Gazeteer.

Calendars: The 2003 calendars have arrived. Wall calendars include Trout of North America, Oregon Coast, Songbirds, Pacific Gardener, and others. Audubon's engagement calendar is also in stock, and Tide calendars should arrive any day now.



Database of the Month: LexisNexis Congressional

What is LexisNexis Congressional?

LexisNexis Congressional offers access to a variety of information by and about the United States Congress. With LexisNexis Congressional, you can:

- Search an index of congressional publications from 1970 to the present
- Search Congressional Indexes, 1789-1969 and Indexes to Unpublished Hearings through 1976
- Retrieve CIS Legislative Histories for public laws going back to 1970
- Find testimony from congressional hearings
- Track bills as they move through the House and Senate
- Search the Congressional Record, Federal Register and US Code
- Locate information about members, committees and votes taken on bills

What kind of questions can be answered through LexisNexis Congressional?

- I believe Dr. Abbott (Dean of the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at OSU) provided testimony to a House committee this year. Where can I find a transcript of this? (Search under witness name under the Testimony section)
- What are the voting records of the Oregon senators and representatives for this past term? (Select Key Votes under Members)
- Where can I find out what information on the Oregon Territory is contained in the Serial Set? (Search the Congressional Indexes, 1789-1969)

How do I get to LexisNexis Congressional?

If you are using a computer on campus, go the Library's Research Gateway web page (<<http://osulibrary.orst.edu/research/>>), click on the A-Z Database List button, and click on the LexisNexis Congressional link

under L. To access this database from off-campus, see the instructions at <<http://osulibrary.orst.edu/offcampus/remote.htm>> for using the library's proxy server. You can also access the database directly at <<http://www.lexisnexis.com/congcomp>>.

Related resources:

See the Subject Research Guide on Congressional Publications at OSU at <<http://osulibrary.orst.edu/research/srg/cong.htm>>



What's New @ Your Library

Banned Books Exhibit in Library

Each year, America's libraries celebrate your freedom from censorship during Banned Books Week. This year's Guin Library exhibit features the artwork of Newport High School Junior Ashley Lowe. Ashley created two posters, "Censored Knowledge," and "Restricted Area" for our display. Much of the exhibit focuses on the struggle to maintain access to public information and patron confidentiality in the post-9/11 environment. When is information restricted to protect national security, and when is it removed just to protect an agency from embarrassment? This discussion is relevant to scientists. See the Federation of American Scientists' Project on Government Secrecy website for more information: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/index.html> .

New Grant/Funding Database from the OSU Libraries

IRIS Replaces SPIN Database

OSU Libraries, with the OSU Research Office, have selected IRIS (the Illinois Researcher Information Service) to replace the SPIN Data-

base. The IRIS Database currently contains over 8,000 active federal and private funding opportunities in the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. Users can search IRIS by sponsor, deadline date, keyword, and other criteria. Most IRIS records contain live links to sponsor Web sites, electronic forms, or Electronic Research Administration (ERA) portals. The database also provides a search interface for the Federal Register and Commerce Business Daily. The IRIS Database is produced by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is updated daily.

You can connect to the IRIS database by going to <<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/iris/>> and clicking on the IRIS Database link. Access to this database is IP-based; if you are using this database from off-campus, you will need to go through OSU Libraries proxy server. See <<http://osulibrary.orst.edu/offcampus/proxy.htm>> for instructions on setting your web browser to use the proxy server. Help pages for IRIS are at <http://carousel.lis.uiuc.edu/~iris/www_help.html>.

IRIS also offers an Alert service, where new funding opportunities that match a profile you create are e-mailed to you daily, weekly or monthly. Go to <<http://carousel.lis.uiuc.edu/~iris/alert/>> and follow the directions to create a profile and set up this alerting service.

Personnel Notes

Congratulations to **Keith Matteson** (ODFW) and **Carol DeLancey** (Marine Mammal Program) on their recent wedding! They were wed on September 28, at a beautiful outdoor ceremony at Cape Perpetua.

A number of HMSC researchers attended the PICES meeting in Qingdao, China, October 18 – 26: **George Boehlert, Keith Bosley, Ric Brodeur, Julie Keister, Bill Peterson, Todd Sandell and Michael Schirripa** .

Peter Lawson of REUT attended the Alaska Chapter Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Anchorage, AK, October 22 - 24, 2002.