

PTMSC Volunteer Update for October 26, 2009

To sign up for any volunteer activity please contact Jean Walat, Volunteer and Citizen Science Coordinator, at 360-385-5582, x112 or jwalat@ptmsc.org.



Pictured at left is Jessica Swihart , the last of our four new Americorps staffers profiled here.

Jessica Swihart: Natural History Exhibit Education Coordinator

Jessica graduated from Earlham College in May with a BA in biology. She has taught environmental education in Philadelphia and at Florida State University and worked as a teaching assistant in Ecological Biology and Biological Diversity courses. She has also worked as museum staff at Earlham College and studied abroad and conducted research in Tanzania. Her special area of responsibility this year will be the Natural History Exhibit, but will help in most other areas as well. She will also be helping with the Volunteer Program as she has time in her schedule, so don't be surprised if you get a phone call from her. Please say hi to Jessica next time you are here!

Farewell to excellent Fall interns Angela Fletcher and Jonathan Robinson. Both of them have been a delight to work with and we'll miss them!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thank you reception. Oct. 28, 7pm at the PT Community Center. We'll honor and celebrate volunteers and donors and also enjoy desserts and hot beverages. Special presenter will be nature photographer Keith Lazelle, who will share his images of the Hoh River. Please RSVP to Alice. info@ptmsc.org. We need a couple volunteers to call tomorrow with reminders about this event.

Fall Bird Migration cruises around Protection Island and Rat Island on the *Glacier Spirit* are scheduled for Saturday, November 28th and Thursday, December 31st, from 1 – 4 p.m. departing from Point Hudson Marina in downtown PT. Tickets are \$55 per person (\$50 for members of the PTMSC, Burke Museum, Audubon or WA Ornithological Society). Naturalist and on-board refreshments are available. For reservations, please call 360.385.5582 ext. 104 or e-mail at cruises@ptmsc.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

OPEN EXHIBIT SHIFTS FOR DOCENTS and GREETERS

Marine Exhibit

Friday, Oct. 30, 12 to 2pm and 2 to 4pm, docent needed

Saturday, Oct. 31, 12 to 2pm and 2 to 4pm, docent needed (wear a costume or wig if you want to)

Natural History Exhibit

Friday, Oct. 30, 2 to 4pm, docent needed

Saturday, Oct. 31, 12 to 2pm and 2 to 4pm, docent and/or greeter needed

Sunday, Nov. 1, 12 to 2pm and 2 to 4pm, greeter needed

ORCA Teeth Molders Needed week of November 2: Mold making is easy - we can all learn it together. We'll work in groups of 2 or 3 per tooth. The mold has to cure for 24-36 hours so we can take a half - day off on Tuesday and then continue with the casting and painting. We might get all the teeth done in one week or it might spill over into the next week. There is no rush since we won't assemble the skeleton until March.

Morning sessions are filled but we have some openings in the afternoon session, 1 to 3pm. Please contact Heather Jones, Americorps Orca Project Coordinator at hjones@ptmsc.org or 385-5582 X113 and let her know which days and times you can be sure to come.

Bolus dissection work sessions this week: Wednesday at 1pm, NHE, Friday at 9:30am New people always welcome. Experienced volunteers may also do dissections at their convenience, when staff is available in the NHE. Call first to confirm.

PTMSC Volunteer Update for 10/28/2009 (page 2)

Don't forget to report marine mammal sightings

Orca Network is asking for sighting reports from anyone who sees marine mammals in Admiralty Inlet or anywhere along the shores of Whidbey or Camano Islands or anywhere in Puget Sound. The species, approx. number of animals seen, the location as exact as possible, the direction of travel, the date and time, and any photographs will be much appreciated. The local number to call with sightings is 360-678- 3451, or call from anywhere toll-free to 1-866- ORCANET. (866-672-2638), or email to info@orcaneetwork.org.

HIKES, STUDY GROUPS and other events

Botany group/WA Native Plant Society--Next meeting is November 3; Natural History Exhibit building, 7pm. Peter Bahls, recent winner of the Eleanor Stopps Environmental Leadership award, and Director of Northwest Watershed Institute, will provide an overview of the natural history of Tarboo Creek and Tarboo-Dabob Bay, and he and his wife's nationally recognized work to protect and restore this gem of Hood Canal. One focus of the talk will be the newly expanded Dabob Bay Natural Area. Sharon Schlentner 379-9810

The Marine Biology Study Group is re-forming. We will send out announcement of the first meeting soon.

Geology Group Tuesday, October 27, 5:15, NHE John Cornish, a widely known collector of minerals and crystals, will share stories and show us treasures he has found. Be prepared for some world-class crystal specimens (some of his treasures are in collections on display at the Smithsonian, the Carnegie, the American Museum of Natural History, etc.). He will also describe the local minerals scene. John has been sharing his mineral collecting enthusiasm with children, families, and adults for well over a decade. Nearly 15,000 people have heard his talks. This talk is a 'don't miss' event for anyone interested in crystals and minerals. Everyone is welcome, including children.

People, Nature and Place This will be workshop for those of you who have been dying to get out and explore your place and haven't found the motivation to do it. Although not a PTMSC sponsored event, this workshop is being led by PTMSC volunteer Brian Larsen Stafki. Meet with the group on Nov 2nd for orientation, to get to know each other, introduce the topics and decide field trips. The field trip could be up 4 hours long and up to 4 miles (depending on the trips chosen).

Field sessions will take place on Saturdays; Nov 7th, 14th and 21st. The sessions will include some hiking, developing observation skills, learning how to fox-walk, field sketching, nature journaling, practicing the "naturalist tradition", tree ID, binocular use, wildlife tracking and observation skills, or other skills identified by the group.

If you would like attend the workshop, please pre-register with Brian at 360-441-2973. The course fee is \$20/adult.

Watershed Day at WSU--INVISIBLE INVADERS - CREEPY CHEMICALS! Halloween Morning -- Saturday, October 31, 2009, 9am - 1pm, Jefferson County Extension Office, Spruce Room, 201 W. Patison, Port Hadlock. **Event is FREE but space is limited - Please RSVP:** darcym@wsu.edu or call 360/379-5610 x230 **Keynote speaker: Dr. John Stark,** Director of WSU's Puyallup Research Center and WSU's Salmon toxicology research laboratory. He will discuss pesticides in our water and the potential impacts they are having on aquatic life. Special Guest : **Brittany Kimball,** coordinator of Sound Citizen.org will discuss the results of water quality research being done by citizen scientists in Puget Sound. Also, Former WSU Extension Agent **Mary Robson** will provide a look at alternatives to using pesticides and herbicides in your home garden.

Meeting on Reintroduction of wolves.

Wolves were once common in Washington, but by the 1930s, humans had eliminated them from the landscape. State officials are developing a plan that outlines how they will bring wolves back to Washington and how they'll manage wolves once they return -- and they're hosting meetings around the state to explain the plan and hear what the public has to say about it. Closest meeting is Nov. 5 in Sequim. Call Gillian Brightwater.(360) 379-9556 for information and possible carpooling. You can also google Defenders of Wildlife for more information.

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