

Sea Grant Funds Education Program on Marine Birds

By Judy D'Amore, NHE Curator/Educator

Scientists have been surveying marine bird populations in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca since the late 1970s when the MESA Project, a major ecological study of Puget Sound, was carried out by a team of academic institutions and state agencies. By comparing data from recent surveys with the MESA Project reports, it is apparent that many species of marine birds have declined substantially over the 20 years. For example, since the MESA study, scoters have declined 57%, western grebes have declined as much as 95%, and many other marine birds are experiencing reduced numbers.



PHOTO: PYGMY BOATS, INC.

Scientists believe a combination of factors are responsible for causing these declines. Reduced or fluctuating food resources may be affecting some species. Many marine birds are highly dependent on forage fish, such as Pacific sand lance, surf smelt and Pacific herring, for success in breeding and storing energy for migration. This is especially true for

puffins, auklets and other alcids, but other species rely upon these schooling fish as well. According to Eric Anderson, who presented his research on scoters in a talk at PTMSC this July, reduced spawning of Pacific herring in the northern Sound may be contributing to declines in surf scoter populations that feed heavily on herring eggs prior to migration.

El Niño events and rising temperatures through human induced climate change are believed to affect marine birds too; climate change may be triggering these changes in food resources, and they may be creating other stresses on birds as well. Oil spills and the entanglement of diving birds in gillnets have been important sources of mortality for marine birds in recent decades. The rising human population living and working around the Puget Sound/Straits shoreline may be encroaching on the habitats needed by birds for nesting and foraging. Finally, a boom in recreational activi-

ties on the water, including nature viewing by the very people who appreciate marine birds the most, may also be a source of disturbance.

As the population of the Puget Sound/Straits region increases, and as people move into remote areas to live and recreate, it is important to find a balance between enjoying nature and protecting marine birds and other vulnerable species from excessive disturbance. An essential ingredient in finding that balance is public awareness of the needs of marine birds and how human activities affect them.

To help raise awareness of these trends and the issues behind them, and to invite discussion of possible causes and solutions, the Port Townsend Marine Science Center will host a new educational program beginning in January 2006, entitled **Marine Birds: Trends and Stewardship**. This program, sponsored by Washington Sea Grant, will consist of a series of day-long workshops for environmental educators, eco-tour operators, naturalists and docents. Each workshop will focus on a specific marine bird group experiencing decline or fac-

... continued on page 6

Fall Hours


Fall hours begin after Labor Day.

Starting September 7, the Natural History Exhibit will be open Friday through Monday, noon to 4pm, the Marine Exhibit will be open Saturday and Sunday noon to 4pm.

Winter Hours

From November through March, the Marine Exhibit is open by appointment only to groups of 12 or more. The Natural History Exhibit is open Friday through Monday, noon to 4pm.

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Symbiotic Algae Within Our Local Giant Green Anemone: An Ancient Lesson in Partnership

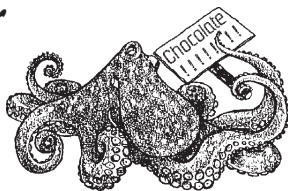
Many members of the phylum Cnidaria depend upon microscopic unicellular algae that live inside of their cells. The most famous example of this type of symbiosis is seen in tropical coral reefs. These stony corals depend entirely on the photosynthetic processes of their internal “partner” algae. Yet it may come as a surprise to those of us who live in the Northwest that local anemones and sea pens, cousins of reef-forming corals, also harbor symbiotic algae.

The symbiotic algal systems that exist in temperate climates have not been as well studied as tropical coral reefs. In the waters of the North Pacific some anemones, such as our local aggregating anemone and the large green anemone of rocky shores, as well as sponges and other invertebrates seem to host symbiotic algae throughout the year. This is interesting because sunlight, day length, and nutrient levels—environmental factors important to algae—are not as constant as they are in the environments of their tropical cousins.



The Chocolate Octopus Underwater Treasure Hunt

Don't miss this new event for the PTMSC—a



Chocolate Octopus Underwater Treasure Hunt! Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 8** at the Kitchen Shelter in Fort Worden State Park. The Treasure Hunt starting horn is **8:45am**. Both exhibits open at 9:00am.

Prizes will include five chocolate octopuses, each redeemable for \$200 in cash, along with many more prizes from SCUBA industry vendors and local merchants.

The entry fee is \$30 per diver, with pre-registration through the PTMSC office or online at www.ptmsc.org. Tickets are \$35 at the door, with the registration table opening at 8am. Lunch will be provided for each registered participant.

Geared especially for SCUBA divers and snorklers, there will also be a variety of family-oriented activities from noon–3pm in both exhibits. Look for more details at www.ptmsc.org.

PTMSC is proud to welcome back our former staff member, Pema Kitaeff, to speak about her research on these symbiotic relationships as part of her graduate studies at Western Washington University. For her thesis, Pema chose to investigate the distribution of algae species living within the giant green anemone, *Anthopleura xanthogrammica*, across a range of northern latitudes from southern Oregon to Southeast Alaska. She will be talking about the differences she found in algal types and densities at these widely varying sites. Her work provides new insights into the productivity of intertidal habitats and potential effects of climate change on these environments. To learn more about this fascinating subject you won't want to miss this program. **Sunday, December 4 at 2:30pm** in the NHE. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for youth, with a PTMSC member rate of \$3.00 (adults) and \$2.00 (youth).

Welcome to New Staff

Our new bookkeeper is Marilyn Hoeft. Marilyn was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. She moved up north from Poulsbo and Hansville to Port Townsend a few years ago. She is thrilled to join the Marine Science Center team applying her skills to the bookkeeping department.

Our new volunteer coordinator is Jean Walat. Jean has lived here since 2000 and most recently worked with the City as a planner before joining our PTMSC staff. For more information on Jean see the *MSC Pen Insert*.

Mark Your Calendars!

Get your holiday shopping out of the way early this year. Don't miss the **Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Gift Shop Sale, November 25th & 26th** at the Natural History Exhibit. There will be Fish Printing noon–4pm each day!

PTMSC Joins Hood Canal Monitoring Program

The PTMSC has received funding from EPA to participate in the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Program. PTMSC will set up a station north of Hood Canal to provide data on the geographical marine boundaries of the dissolved oxygen problem that Hood Canal has experienced for the last several years. Staff and volunteers will monitor, analyze and collect data on water quality conditions including dissolved oxygen, salinity, temperature, chlorophyll, phytoplankton and possibly nutrients. This program will start in early fall of 2005. If you'd like to participate or learn more about this project, please contact volunteer coordinator, Jean Walat, at (360) 385-5582 ext. 112 or jwalat@ptmsc.org.

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Octopress is a quarterly publication of the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, A 501(C) (3) nonprofit educational organization. Your comments, contributions, and support are greatly welcomed and appreciated. PTMSC is located at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend, Washington on the Olympic Peninsula.

PTMSC

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The Main Office is located on the 2nd floor of the Fort Worden State Park Office. The Marine Exhibit & Natural History Exhibit are located on the Pier and on the Beach at Fort Worden State Park.

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PORT TOWNSEND MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

See MSC Pen for Volunteer Events

SEPT.	7	W	Fall Hours Begin (at both exhibits) Natural History Exhibit: Friday through Monday 12–4pm Marine Exhibit: Saturday and Sunday 12–4pm
OCT.	8	SA	Chocolate Octopus Underwater Treasure Hunt 8am Protection Island Fall Migration Cruise 1–4pm
	11	TU	Geology Study Group 5:15pm NHE Cooking Class at the Green Eyeshade 7–9pm
	15	SA	Protection Island Fall Migration Cruise 1–4pm
	16	SU	Beer Tasting Benefit Cruise on the <i>Glacier Spirit</i> 3–5pm
	22	SA	Protection Island Fall Migration Cruise 1–4pm
	25	TU	Geology Study Group 5:15pm NHE Cooking Class at the Green Eyeshade 7–9pm
	26	W	Elwha River Restoration 7pm NHE
	29	SA	Protection Island Fall Migration Cruise 1–4pm
NOV.	1	TU	Cooking Class at the Green Eyeshade 7–9pm
	2	W	Winter Hours Begin (at both exhibits) Natural History Exhibit: Friday through Monday 12–4pm Marine Exhibit: Open by appointment only, for 12 or more guests
	4	F	Mushrooms for Beginners NHE 7–8:30pm
	5	SA	Mushroom Foray 9:30am–4pm Protection Island Fall Migration Cruise 1–4pm
	8	TU	Geology Study Group 5:15pm NHE
	15	TU	Cooking Class at the Green Eyeshade 7–9pm
	22	TU	Geology Study Group 5:15pm NHE
	25 & 26	F-SA	Annual Gift Shop Holiday Sale & Fish Printing 12–4pm Both Exhibits Open 12–4pm
	26	SA	Protection Island Fall Migration Cruise 1–4pm
DEC.	4	SU	Symbiotic Algae Within Our Local Giant Green Anemone: An Ancient Lesson in Partnership 2:30pm NHE
	13	TU	Geology Study Group 5:15pm NHE
	27	TU	Geology Study Group 5:15pm NHE
	31	SA	New Year's Eve Protection Island Cruise 1–4pm

FOR INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS CALL THE PTMSC
at 360-385-5582 or e-mail—info@ptmsc.org

PORT TOWNSEND MARINE SCIENCE CENTER PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED IN COOPERATION
WITH THE WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Elwha River Restoration

For nearly 100 years two hydroelectric dams have blocked salmon from the pristine spawning areas found in over 70 miles of river stem and tributaries of the Elwha River on the Olympic Peninsula. This will soon change with dam removal and river restoration scheduled to begin in 2008. Olympic National Park is managing this process. Betsy Carlson, Outreach and Education Specialist with Olympic National Park, will provide a brief background and update on the current status of the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Project on **Wednesday, October 26th at 7pm** in the NHE. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for youth, with a PTMSC member rate of \$3 (adults) and \$2 (youth).

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Fall PROGRAMS

Seth Bender Memorial Scholarship Fund

2005 marked PTMSC's 17th season of week-long summer overnight and day camps. These hands-on Marine Science and Natural History Camps provide educational opportunities for boys and girls ages 8-18. This scholarship fund, established in memory of Seth Bender, provides much-needed tuition assistance for children whose families need financial help to send their offspring to camp.

We sincerely thank the following who have contributed since our last issue:

Soroptomist International
 of Port Townsend
 Alan Rammer

Contributions to the scholarship fund are always accepted and can be sent to:

Seth Bender Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Port Townsend Marine Science Center
 532 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368

David T Chuljian, DDS, PS

(360) 385-3100

1303 Washington Street
 Port Townsend, WA 98368 www.chuljiandds.com

OCTOBER

1	SA	Puget Sound Food Webs	ME	2:30
2	SU	Marvelous Molluscs*	NHE	2:30
8	SA	Life in the Food Chain	ME	2:30
9	SU	When the Rivers Ran Backwards	NHE	2:30
15	SA	Amazing Octopus	ME	2:30
16	SU	Seals & Sea Lions	NHE	2:30
22	SA	Puget Sound Food Webs	ME	2:30
23	SU	Fossil Cephalopods	NHE	2:30
29	SA	Squid Wind Sock*	ME	2:30
30	SU	Bird Beak Buffet	NHE	2:30

NOVEMBER

5	SA	Build 'em Up and Shake 'em Down	NHE	2:30
6	SU	All About Otters	NHE	2:30
12	SA	Animals of the Bluff	NHE	2:30
13	SU	Gray Whale	NHE	2:30
19	SA	Diving Birds	NHE	2:30
20	SU	What Teeth Tell	NHE	2:30
26	SA	Who Eats Whom?	NHE	2:30
27	SU	Crazy Critters of Geologic Time	NHE	2:30

DECEMBER

3	SA	Bioluminescence	NHE	2:30
4	SU	Animal Tracks	NHE	2:30
10	SA	Baleen to Blowholes	NHE	2:30
11	SU	Rockin' Rocks & Marvelous Minerals	NHE	2:30
17	SA	All About Octopus	NHE	2:30
18	SU	A Tour of Geologic Time	NHE	2:30
24	SA	Closed	NHE	2:30
25	SU	Closed	NHE	2:30
31	SA	Orca ID	NHE	2:30
1	SU	Closed	NHE	2:30

* especially for kids

Celebrate the Season with Cooking Classes at the Green Eyeshade to Benefit the PTMSC



As part of a fall membership drive and fundraiser, the Port Townsend Marine Science Center will be hosting a series of four cooking classes at the Green Eyeshade. "Celebrate the Season" is the theme for the classes with the first one beginning **Tuesday, October 11, from 7-9pm**. Additional classes will also be on **Tuesdays: October 25, November 1 and November 15, also from 7-9pm**. Save the dates!

Learn culinary tips from Port Townsend's hottest chefs while benefiting the PTMSC. More details about the chefs, restaurants they're from, and recipes they'll be offering, will be posted on our Web site and on flyers distributed at our exhibits and around town.

If you attended any of the previous PTMSC cooking classes, you'll know you don't want to miss a single class. Sign up early, as space is limited to only 20 per class. Cost is \$25 per person, \$20 for PTMSC members or \$75 for all four classes for PTMSC members. All proceeds go toward funding PTMSC programs. Please call 385-5582 or e-mail info@ptmsc.org for reservations.

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Thanks! To our New & Continuing Members! The following folks have either joined or renewed their PTMSC membership since the Summer '05 *Octopress* was sent!

STUDENT

Marie Wright

INDIVIDUAL

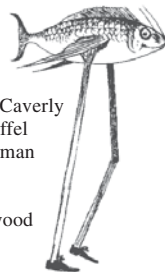
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Gladys Barry
Amy Brandon
Loren Clark
Barbara Cook
Randy Cooper
Judy D'Amore
Carolyn Dankers
Chloe Gale
Pam Gray
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John Hickey & Linda Radka
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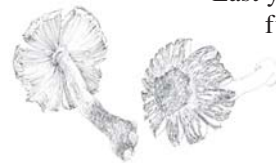
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Discover Fall Mushrooms

Last year we had so much fun with fall mushrooms that we're bringing back Lee Whitford to lead another wonderful mushroom weekend.



Friday, November 4th, Mushroom Basics

If mushrooming is a new interest for you, join our Friday evening session on fungi basics. Using slides and mushroom samples she brings with her, Lee will introduce the ecology of mushrooms and teach identification skills. **Time: 7:00–8:30pm.** Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/youth with a PTMSC membership rate of \$3/adults and \$2/youth. Registration is not necessary.

Saturday, November 5th, Mushroom Foray

In this full day session we'll take a morning foray in the woods exploring several different habitats to observe and collect fungi. After lunch, participants will learn more about the samples they have collected. Lee will discuss features used for identification, collection and eating of mushrooms and share resources available for further study. Lee will also guide participants through using a simple dichotomous key to identify mushrooms. Each participant will receive handouts on identification, consumption, and ecology of mushrooms. Class size will be limited to 10 participants. **Time: 9:30am–4:00pm.** Fee is \$25 and \$20 for members. Pre-registration is required. For info contact (360) 385-5582 ext. 104 or info@ptmsc.org.

Lee Whitford, who stresses that she is just an amateur mycologist, is co-founder of Northwest Mushroomers Assoc. in Bellingham, a member of Pacific Northwest Key Council and has been teaching beginning mushroom identification classes for 10 years.



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New Summer Teen Program a Success

Summers at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center are full of fun and exciting activities for kids of all ages. The biggest highlights of the busy season are the summer camps which cater to kids between the ages of eight and fourteen. Until now there has never been a summer camp for high school age kids. This past July, the Marine Science Center brought to life a concept that had been in the works for several years: a new residential camp for teens called Adventures in Marine Research. This camp is designed for young scientists who are interested in becoming marine scientists.

Cinamon Moffett, educator in the Marine Exhibit, and Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, former Americorps, created the camp to fulfill the needs of older campers and turn loose enthusiastic high school students in the new Foss Maritime Discovery Lab, which opened in April of this year. The camp curriculum was designed to be just as much fun as the residential Marine Science Camp, but more academic and geared towards research. The goal of the camp was to encour-

age original ideas for scientific experiments, expose students to real scientists conducting research, let the teens use sophisticated equipment to learn what doing research is really like, and most importantly, to have fun.



In this summer's pilot session, Lindsey and Laura Friedenber, recent Americorps, led a session for 12 teens. A few of the campers were new to PTMSC camps, while most of the kids had been coming to the Marine Science Camp

for years. Campers conducted their own experiments, took water quality data in various locations, went to Friday Harbor Laboratories to use an ROV on a research boat, visited Taylor Shellfish Farms and the Jimmy-Come-Lately-Creek restoration site, met with Larry Crockett, Director of the Port of Port Townsend, to learn about the marina, took an introduction to scuba diving, and of course, there was never a shortage of games and social time. The campers had a lot of fun with their experiments; they could choose to investigate any question they wanted, and were only limited by equipment. They enjoyed the creek restoration presentation because they were able to see how science can be applied in order to improve the environment not only for humans, but also for animals, an important one being salmon in this case.

The pilot program was a success and will become a part of the normal summer routine; however the curriculum and activities will be changed in order to accommodate those returning for their second year.

Sea Grant Funds ... continued from page 1

ing threats in our area. Scientists from around the Puget Sound/Straits region with research interests in marine birds, have agreed to lead these sessions and share their current understandings of each bird's life history and population status. Featured presenters will include such well-known names as Julia Parrish of the University of Washington, David Nysewander of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Terry Wahl of the original MESA study, John Bower of Western Washington University, and Bob Boekelheide of the Dungeness River Audubon Center among others.


Through partnerships with the Whale Museum and the Dungeness River Audubon Center, these workshops will take place in Friday Harbor, Sequim and at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center. A portion of each day will be

spent in the field. We are hopeful this program will generate discussion of steps citizens of the Puget Sound/Straits region can take to help protect these species and provide professional naturalists with information and ideas they can share with the public.

Look for more information about these workshops later this fall on the PTMSC Web site, www.ptmsc.org, or contact the PTMSC office at 385-5582.

Many Thanks are in order to ...

- ☞ Sue Skubinna for donating a new refrigerator to the Natural History Exhibit.
- ☞ David Conklin for prepping our bookkeeper's new computer.



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Beer Tasting Cruise Will Benefit the Port Townsend Marine Science Center

Last year's Wine Tasting Cruise was such a success we decided to do it again and turn it into a Beer Tasting Cruise.

Step aboard the *Glacier Spirit* for a cruise around Port Townsend Bay while tasting a variety of distinctive, handcrafted beers from New Belgium Brewing. You'll probably know them best for their Fat Tire Ale.

The Beer Tasting Cruise departs at **3pm** from the ME pier on **Sunday, October 16th** and returns at **5pm**. Appetizers will be provided by Otter Crossing to complement the variety of beer served.

Puget Sound Express, owned by Pete and Sherri Hanke, runs the *Glacier Spirit* and has been operating passenger boats since 1981. P.S. Express provides travelers with wildlife and whale watching, on-the-water transportation to the San Juan Islands from Port Townsend and group tour packages. For over ten years, the PTMSC has worked in close partnership with P.S. Express in offering bird migration cruises seasonally to Protection Island.

Make reservations early as space is limited. Tickets are \$50 for PTMSC and Burke Museum members and \$55 for nonmembers. All proceeds will benefit the many programs offered by PTMSC. Call (360) 385-5582, e-mail info@ptmsc.org or go to www.ptmsc.org for reservations.

Burke Museum Fall Activities

SPECIAL EXHIBITS GALLERY

Fusing Traditions: Transformations in Glass by Native American Artists
October 1–December 31, 2005

Organized by the Museum of Craft and Folk Art in San Francisco, *Fusing Traditions* is the first touring exhibition of contemporary Native American glass art. It features the work of 18 artists who fuse cultural heritage and individual creativity in dazzling new forms that expand the language of American art.

NEW LOBBY DISPLAY

A giant Australian duck is coming to the Burke Lobby!

Thanks to the generosity of long-time ornithology supporter Hugh Ferguson, the Burke is acquiring a cast of a *Dromornis stirtoni*—the first to be displayed in the United States! It will be installed in the Burke lobby by October 10.

LECTURE

Demon Ducks of Doom? The Giant Ducks of Central Australia
by Dr. Patricia Vickers-Rich

Thursday, October 13, 7pm; Burke Room

Dr. Vickers-Rich, Director, Monash Science Center, Melbourne, Australia, returns to the Burke this fall (having previously been introduced to Burke members as a Burke lecturer and curator of *Dinosaurs of Darkness* last year). She will present a talk about *Dromornis stirtoni*—the giant prehistoric ducks of Central Australia—and introduce visitors to the study of these fascinating flightless birds. (See related story above "New Lobby Display.")

ONSHORE-OFFSHORE: Marine Ecology for Teachers Another Successful Session

After eight years of offering this teacher training program, the verdict is—participants treasure the experience while learning a lot of new information and teaching techniques to take back to the classroom. "I loved the fact that our classrooms ranged from the Science Center to the beach to the boat. The learning felt very authentic," comments one participant. Another participant thanks her instructors, Cinamon and Judy, "You two amaze me, so informative and well organized. By far the best [instructors] I have experienced."



The PTMSC wishes to thank everyone who made this workshop a success:

INSTRUCTORS

Cinamon Moffett and Judy D'Amore

GUEST INSTRUCTORS

WWU graduate student Pema Kitaeff and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife shellfish biologist Dave Sterritt

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON'S RESEARCH VESSEL CENTENNIAL CREW

Skipper-scientists David Duggins and Craig Staude

SOUND EXPERIENCE ADVENTURESS CREW

Under the guidance of skipper Wayne Chimenti

City University—Jerry Thornton, sponsor of undergraduate and graduate credit
Primary Funder—EPA

PARTICIPATING TEACHERS

Bryce Adams, Cydne Bennington, Kris Bridgeford, Val Curtis, Tammi Ellis, Stella Feeley, Peggy Forman, Sasha Frisbie, Nicole Gilsdorf, Annie Hankins, Marie Alice Hurst, Sandra Lanphear, Linda Lobue, Jodell Mitchell, Nina Molumby, Geri Moore, Tom Nowak, Rob Orr, Jenny Roberts, Kathy Sheehan



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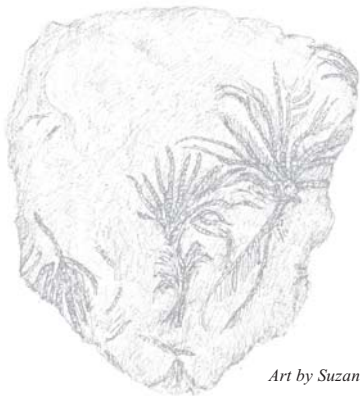
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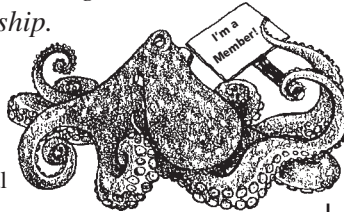
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Art by Suzanne Stryke

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 understanding of the marine sciences—by becoming a member
 or by renewing your membership.*



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Student & Individual

- ◆ Unlimited free admission to the Marine Science Exhibit and Natural History Exhibit
- ◆ Quarterly mailings of the PTMSC newsletter, *Octopress*
- ◆ 10% discount on all regular priced merchandise at our Gift Shop
- ◆ Discount admission to all PTMSC events: Protection Island Cruises, Speaker Series, etc.
- ◆ Reciprocal member privileges at the Burke Museum
- ◆ PTMSC bookmark
- ◆ Monthly e-mail notification of upcoming events
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- ◆ Advance notice of programs & events

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- ◆ All of the above plus unlimited free admission to the Marine Science Exhibit and Natural History Exhibit for your family
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- ◆ All of the above plus 6 free admission tickets for your friends and/or associates

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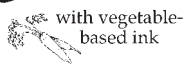
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