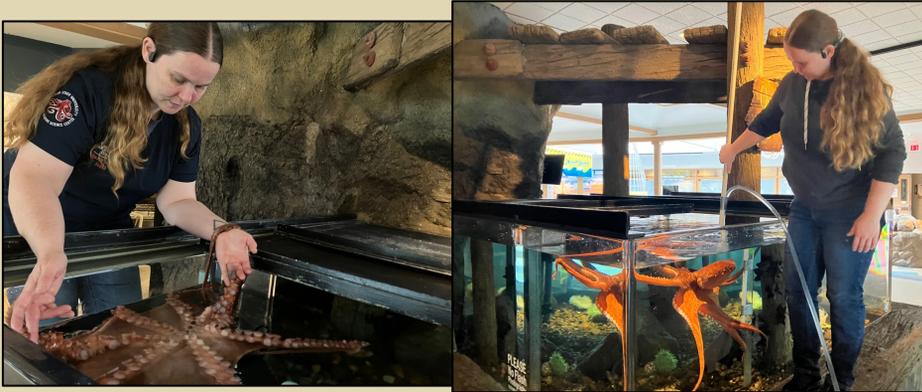


## Visitor Center Updates

Things have been busy in the Visitor Center. Where to start? Octopus enrichment is a constant, from tank cleaning, routine interactions and feedings, to a Halloween pumpkin treat. GPO 22-01 has been quite curious and interactive. He now weighs 9lbs and is looking healthy in his exhibit environment.

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We are always learning more about these amazing cephalopods! Check out this recent article about octopus eyesight. Thanks to Bailie for sharing this!  
<https://www.sciencealert.com/a-map-of-the-octopus-visual-system-reveals-their-own-solution-to-sight>

We had a lot of fun with the Visitor Center fall festivities. The 3-D printed urchin hats were definitely a favorite. There were pumpkins around exhibits and in tanks as well. Thank you to all of you that provided pumpkins for our visitors and animals to enjoy!



We have been catching up on additional projects in the VC during our Tuesday and Wednesday closed days. Recently, this has included an upgrade on the PA system, a new projector for the augmented reality sand table, and continued troubleshooting on the wave tank exhibit. Thank you to volunteers Scott Smith and Bob Davidson for their instrumental efforts on all exhibit related efforts!

## Projects

The bone heads! Roseann Hirshman, Nancy Stevens, Rose James and Era Horton recently completed the gray whale calf articulation. This has been an ongoing project for years that was started by a past volunteer Kevin Braunger. We are so happy that Roseann and Nancy picked this project back up and recruited a few new volunteers to the group! We wish that Kevin was here to see it complete.



What a project! What a team! We plan to hang the skeleton in the VC soon!

### Larval Rearing in the West Wing

For the past month the Aquatic Animal Husbandry has been building and fine tuning a new larval rearing system in the West Wing to house out newly born pipefish. We currently have two male pipefish who have been consistently brooding new young, which typically takes 5 to 8 weeks. When ready the young pipefish are released from the male's "pouch". This new larval system enables us to keep the babies in a safe system while we grow them out. They will require multiple feedings throughout the day of rotifers, which are very small zooplankton, until they are old enough to move onto brine shrimp and hopefully one day frozen foods.



Our most recent set-up of microalgae is playing an important role in keeping these rotifers fed, enabling them to reproduce and multiply, providing a sustainable stock of food for our young pipefish.

With each batch of pipefish born, we are learning more and adjusting our protocols to make sure we are giving them everything they need to thrive and survive. Hopefully one day these babies will be on exhibit in the Estuary tanks!



As many of you already know, the Pipefish are a subfamily of small fishes, which together with the seahorses and seadragons, form the family Syngnathidae. Like seahorses, the males will carry the eggs until the newly hatched pipefish are ready to be expelled from the male's pouch, at which point they will be free swimming and self-reliant on finding their own food source. The males and females do not play a role in rearing their young after they are hatched. While there is a pheromone released into the water that prevents the male from eating it's young, the males will be removed to prevent any potential, accidental ingestion. Please feel free to ask the husbandry staff any additional questions you might have!



We met together as a group for an in depth HMSC seawater tour led by Facilities Manager Jim Lewis. Here is a link for more information about the seawater system for those of you that were unable to attend.

<https://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/research/seawater-system-hmsc>

## New Art Exhibit!



When asked if we would be interested in displaying Ray Troll's Oregon Fossil Map painting in the Visitor Center, we were happy to accept. This amazing piece is featured on our main art wall and ties in with our existing fossil displays. For more artist information: <https://www.trollart.com>  
Challenge: can you find the cheeseburger?