

What's New at Hatfield?

While the Visitor Center is closed, the estuary trail is still open for exploration. The estuary guide is now available on our website. Here's the link. Please feel free to share!
<https://seagrants.oregonstate.edu/visitor-center/exhibits>

Stay tuned, Oregon Sea Grant's communication department is currently working on including additional resource publications to our website in the near future. This will provide an opportunity for us to refer visitors to our website to access information about veleva veleva, beachballs, fossils, sea foam, bull kelp, sea lions, and more. You might recall that we had these handouts available in the past at the front desk. This online resource will be a useful tool to assist with efforts to keep things social distanced by no contact when we open up with new protocols in place. Thanks to OSG's Content Strategist Adriene Koett-Cronn for working on this.



Photo credit: Mark Farley

We also added a volunteer section to the website. This page provides information about volunteering at Hatfield and also features a keep learning page for more marine research information and past volunteer newsletters.

<https://seagrants.oregonstate.edu/visitor-center/volunteer>

Please know that we appreciate you all so very much! We hope that you are healthy and doing well! We miss all of you! During these times, it is important to stay connected. Please reach out if you need anything or just want someone to talk to. We are a team, and we will get through this!

Staff Highlight With Jaimie Hart

As many of you might remember, I started working as a Student Aquarist at Hatfield back in July of 2019. I am now the Visitor Center and Education Lab Aquarist after graduating the Aquarium Science Program at Oregon Coast Community College. I moved to the Oregon Coast after joining the Coast Guard and just knew I wanted to further my education in animal science and husbandry. The Hatfield Marine Science Center has been the perfect place to practice and put my skills to use, under the wing of my amazing colleagues and friends.



Things have been a little different this year with Covid-19 and having the Visitor Center closed as I miss seeing the SPODs and volunteers throughout the day. On a positive note, it has given the aquarists much more time to maintain the exhibits and animals and they are all getting a little extra attention and special treatment during this time. I'd have to say my favorite fish to look after at the moment are the two clingfish we have in one of our estuary exhibits. Every morning they come to the top and wait for their spoonful of mysis shrimp or ocean plankton. They are simply adorable! I cannot wait until we are open again so the public can appreciate all the fish and invertebrates as much as we all do.



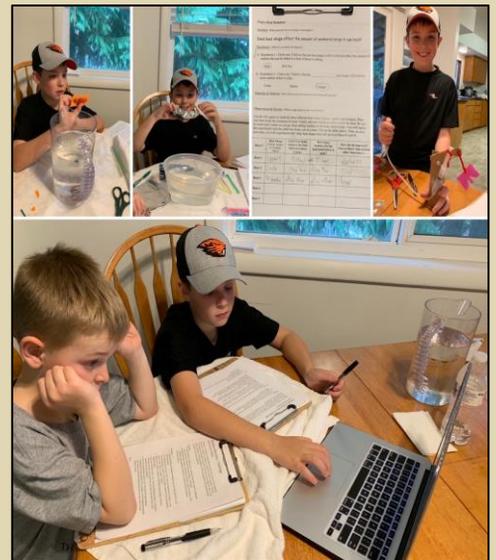
Marine Education Programming With Lindsay Carroll

Over the last 2 months, the Oregon Sea Grant Marine Education team was busy adapting their events traditionally held in-person at HMSC to an online format. In addition to the school groups Marine Education and HMSC normally host this time of year, the Marine Ed team also holds Fall Family Homeschool Day and Fall Careers in Science Investigations events that attract up to 150 people of all ages fascinated by marine science. To ensure continued learning and promotion of ocean literacy during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Marine Ed team converted their Fall Family Homeschool Day to a virtual format and continued the Careers in Science webinar series that was adapted to an online format in Spring 2020.

Marine Education Programming Continued

The Fall Family Homeschool Day typically brings up to 100 adults and children to HMSC and provides homeschool families the opportunity to engage in hands-on marine science classes together as a family unit. In lieu of an in-person program, we offered five separate 2-hour virtual programs for homeschool families where participants interacted online with educators and engaged in marine science-themed activities. To promote hands-on learning, each family was sent a “homeschool day in a box” containing all materials and instructions for activities conducted both during the virtual program and on their own time. During the virtual time, families experienced the engineering process and practiced scientific methods by racing shore crabs using pre-recorded videos, building and testing foil boats, hydraulic arms, and plankton models, learned about a variety of marine technologies employed by researchers to collect data, as they recorded their own data from real footage of deep-sea coral habitats collected from a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and more! To bring the beach and its treasures to their homes, each family was sent a “beach in a box” full of sand and unique coastal biofacts. The Marine Ed team was thrilled by the positive reception and was grateful to still connect with 37 families (56 children and 37 adults), which nicely aligns with the reach of an in-person event – yahoo!

Due to the success of the Spring Careers in Science Webinar series, we brought back the series for Fall 2020. The webinar series was designed to connect students (grades 6-12) interested in careers in science with professionals working in a variety of STEM fields. Students learn about job opportunities, hear about the paths our presenters have taken to get to where they are today, and are able to ask the professionals all of their burning questions. Eight webinars featuring 16 STEM professionals were scheduled from mid-October through mid-December. Through the six careers in science webinars held so far, we have reached over 200 students from Oregon and across the US.



You too can learn from our Careers in Science presenters! Recordings from all nine webinars from the Spring 2020 series and nearly all of our webinars previously held this Fall all are available on our [career day website](#). Scroll down to the “watch past webinars” section and select the date you would like to watch. Enjoy!

The Marine Ed team wishes all of you a safe and happy holiday season! We sure do miss working with you. All the best to you and your families!

