

Visitor Center Featured Artist

Artist Bruce Koike is self taught in the art of Gyotaku, having first observed individuals printing fish in the 1980's. He has printed over 400 different species of fish, invertebrates, birds and mammals. The art featured in the Visitor Center is executed with real fish, acrylic paints, and a variety of rice paper with the exception of the Coho salmon printed on bass wood with oil paints.

Bruce earned his Master's Degree in Fisheries from Oregon State University. He worked as an aquatic animal husbandry specialist. He also spent twelve years working at the Oregon Coast Community College where he led a team in developing the nation's first Aquarium Science Program.

Bruce will be leading a Gyotaku demonstration for our next volunteer meeting on December 14th.

Here is a link for more information about the Japanese art of fish printing.

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/gyotaku>



Additional Updates

After getting a new paint job, the submarine received the last phase of its update with the application of the signage. It is all ready to welcome our visitors as they come in to see us.



Another completed project is the species list for all of the aquarium tank systems. The touchpool species list has been completed, and is available for volunteers and staff to refer to. Thanks to our VC aquarist Jaimie for providing such useful resources for us!



Gunnels: A Case of Mistaken Identity By Emily Bjornsgard



If you have visited the Oyster Exhibit in the Estuary #2 tank in the last few weeks, you may have noticed some new inhabitants. The animal husbandry team have been adding new animals to this exhibit, and a personal favorite of many was recently introduced. There are currently four gunnels living among the oyster shells. These small, charismatic fish coil their elongated bodies around the oyster shells and other structures and swim through the water in a snake-like pattern. One of the most common comments that we hear regarding these and other long, skinny fish in our exhibits are, “look at all of the eels!” An easy mistake, as these fish do have the general shape of an eel. However, there are some key differences.

All eels are long, skinny fish, but not all long, skinny fish are eels. True eels do not have pectoral fins (the fins directly behind the gills), gunnels do. Additionally, there are no known native eels to Oregon waters. There are lampreys found in freshwater and marine environments, but they are another group of fish altogether. Marine fish such as Gunnels, Pricklebacks, and even Wolf Eels are all true fish.

Occasionally, we do find true eels on Oregon beaches, like the Pacific Snake Eel, but those are typically washed ashore after being carried north by abnormally warm currents from Mexico and California. Most recently reported was a Pacific Snake Eel found in Astoria in March 2020. It was only the third sighting reported of that species along the Oregon Coast. (<https://kpic.com/news/local/whats-that-pacific-snake-eel-found-in-sand-on-oregon-coast-only-3rd-sighting-ever-here>)

Enjoy these photos of one of the newly introduced gunnels currently inhabiting Estuary #2.



Volunteer Highlights

Rose & Bob

My name is Rose James, and I have waited literally decades to volunteer my time at Hatfield. My BA is interactive museum education and biology. I worked at a small natural science museum for 12 years, developing the teen volunteer program, organizing the children's summer science program, assisting with new exhibits, and much more. Eventually, I got my teaching credential and a Master's degree in teaching and taught biology and marine biology at the high school level, until I retired in 2020. Since my museum days, I've been telling people that I was going to volunteer at Hatfield when I retired. I feel so fortunate to be here, and that my husband, Bob, is finding interesting ways to help out as well. It's the start of a long-anticipated new chapter for us both.



Welcome Rose and Bob! They started volunteering with us at the end of October. We are happy to have them onboard!

My name is Bob Davidson. I retired from the consumer electronics repair industry where I repaired all sorts of electronics ranging from AM radios to flat screen televisions. I enjoy exploring electronic circuits, bicycling, kayaking, and taking our trailer to new, unexplored territory. I'm volunteering at the Visitor Center to help keep all the exhibits operating smoothly. I am looking forward to meeting everyone.

What's Next?

Our next volunteer meeting will be on December 14th at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will include a fish printing demonstration led by Bruce Koike. The session will be held onsite in a lab space in the Marine Studies Building. If you plan to attend, please RSVP Renee. Interested in specific topics for future meetings? We would love to know what you would like to learn more about!

Let's talk scheduling. We will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The holidays tend to be quite busy in the Visitor Center. We will still be managing the occupancy per half hour by reservation. There are a lot of volunteer shifts that we hope to fill to this month. Here's the sign up link if you are interested in signing up for shifts.

<https://teamup.com/ks77b82146b6c1868b>

Thanks so much! You are all the best, and we are grateful for all that you do!

