

Visitor Center Events



Fossil Fest was a success! We welcomed back fossil experts from the North American Research Group, Willamette River Pleistocene Organization, Professor Emeritus and co-curator of the Thomas Condon Collection Dr. William Orr, and local collector Kent Gibson. Their incredible collections filled the tables in the Visitor Center and impressed our guests. Fossil enthusiasts attended informative presentations throughout the day, and even had the chance to get their precious fossil finds identified. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped on this busy day!

Bone Group Project Completed!

The gray whale calf skeleton is now on display! The gray whale calf originally washed ashore at Seal Rock in January 2004. The whale's bones were cleaned and stored while they waited to be reassembled. A team of our volunteers formed the "Bone Group" and began this articulation project in 2018. After countless hours of work and a pandemic-related pause, the skeleton was completed in Fall 2022.



The move from the bone room out to the VC

Roseann, Rose, Era, and Nancy

The skeleton crew in action

Big thank you to the members of the Bone Group: Kevin Braunger, Jon Sumpter, Cheri Bush, Nancy Stevens, Roseann Hirshman, Rose James, and Era Horton for all of their efforts in completing this long-term project. Thanks to HMSC facilities and I-Lab Manager Drummond for their help on the hanging process.

Our Bone Group project lead Kevin Braunger passed away just weeks before we hung the skeleton. He was instrumental in getting this project going along with other skeleton articulations featured in the Visitor Center. Kevin volunteered from 2010-2020, contributing 1,383 hours at Hatfield. He was on our minds and in our hearts as this project came to an end. He will be dearly missed.



Volunteer Highlight

Welcome to our new volunteers Ramone Topete Jr. and Laurie Deus.

Ramone



To start off, I've been a local on the coast for over 10 years now, moving here to Waldport back in 2008. Ever since then, I've grown to love the unique and beautiful Pacific Northwest, from its coastal views along Highway 101 to the vast forests right alongside it. Not to mention the diverse wildlife that lives here too, and there's still so much to learn from them!

A few things I like to do whenever I can are hiking, listening to music, working out at the gym, or just going for a walk through town. I also like to surf every so often. However, with being a beginner and how cold it's been, I don't mind waiting until it gets warmer to go surfing with some friends.

Laurie

I am very excited to volunteer at the Hatfield Marine Science Center! I love connecting with people from all over and sharing my excitement with the ocean and all of its wonders. Back in the 90s (how can that be 30 years ago!?) I was a volunteer guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. A thrilling experience! Shortly after that, we moved inland to a landlocked state. Since I moved to Lincoln City with my husband and two dogs five years ago, I have sought out various Ocean related volunteer opportunities. I was fortunate right out of the gate to volunteer with Whale Watching Spoken Here through the Oregon Parks Department, then Covid hit, and 2019 was the last year that we were able to volunteer. Until this winter! So I'm very excited to have that gig back.

I was also introduced to the American Cetacean Society, Oregon chapter. That's where I first learned about OSU and the Marine Science studies here. I was thrilled to have the opportunity again to dive deep and learn more and more about marine science from graduate students and other speakers from all over.



I am fortunate to work only part time, so I have several days a week off and enjoy being a part of the ocean community here on the coast. My dogs enjoy walking on the beach and my husband is a rockhound, gathering so many agates! I prefer to gaze out, observing the waves, breathing in the incredible air, discovering amazing sea life in tide pools and looking for whales. I love it here! No more landlocked states for me!!

New Staff Position

Congratulations to Nicky Greiner. Nicky was recently hired as our full-time cashier/greeter. She will be taking care of the Visitor Center entry fee process while welcoming and engaging with guests and working closely with all of our volunteers. We are very pleased to have her on board in this new role!



Thank you to Nancy E.



For over 20 years, super volunteer Nancy Edwards has been instrumental in supporting the Hatfield Visitor Center. Nancy welcomed and helped educate thousands of visitors, provided guided estuary and bird walks, assisted with administrative projects for both the Hatfield Visitor Center and the Guin Library, and trained new volunteers. Nancy has shared a lot of her time with us. In fact, she's spent 4,671 hours supporting Hatfield. That's equivalent to working full-time for over two years! We sincerely appreciate all the time that Nancy has spent with us. We will miss her greatly and wish her all the best in her new adventures.

School Groups

We are approaching the busy spring school group season. Our Marine Educators will be teaching a variety of classes in our labs while additional students will be exploring the Visitor Center. This is a great opportunity to connect with our young learners; however, it does take some extra staffing support. This would include extra volunteer coverage at the touch pools, wave tanks and sand table. I have reflected the school groups on our TeamUp volunteer schedule. If you enjoy engaging and empowering our energetic students, please sign up when it works for you! Thanks so much!

Volunteer Opportunities! Please see the dates below.

March 14 @ 9:00-11:00 - In place of a meeting, we will have two tour options

9:00 a.m. VC Aquaria Exhibit and Q/A Tour

10:00 a.m. Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building Tour

You are welcome to attend one or both. Please RSVP Renee if you plan to attend

March – See TeamUp volunteer schedule for open dates and school groups

*FYI, we will be open the Tues/Wed of spring break (3/28 & 3/29)

April 8 – Marine Science Day