

Countdown to Opening the Visitor Center

Things are moving quickly in preparation to open the Visitor Center by August 1st. The Aquatic Animal Husbandry Team has been instrumental in helping with staff and volunteer trainings. They have also been very busy getting the aquaria tanks back online with a diverse variety of animals on exhibit in the VC tank systems.



Aquarist Trevor training staff on touchpool ID

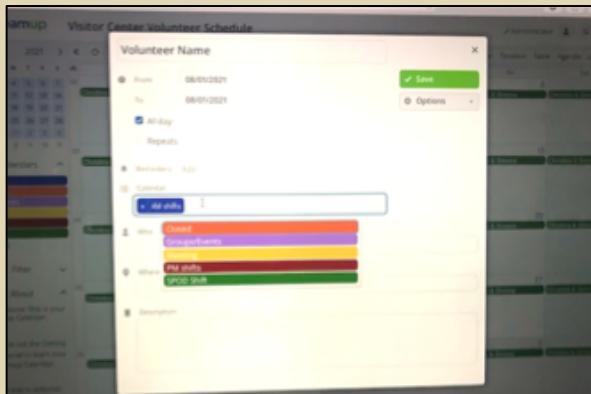
This is most definitely a team effort to get ready for opening our doors to the public again. We are very appreciative to work with such a great group of staff and volunteers! We are looking forward to seeing those of you that signed up for the volunteer trainings these next few weeks! If you are not available to join us, we will catch you up to speed when you are back in the VC.

The past month included new staff onboarding and trainings, continued exhibit troubleshooting and updates, organizing office and cleaning supplies, signage for visitor guidance on safety protocols, animal collection, along with multiple staff meetings to work on fine tuning all of the details.



Jaimie and Renee collecting with a seine net in the bay

There are spots available for volunteer shifts in August if you are interested! To sign up double click in the white box of the date you would like to volunteer. The box pictured will pop up. In the very top section labeled 'enter event title' type your name. Then select the colored option of a.m. (blue) or p.m. (red). The a.m. shifts are 10-1, and the pm shifts are 1-4. Next hit save, and you are signed up! We hope to have two volunteers signed up per shift. Thank you!



<https://teamup.com/ks77b82146b6c1868b>

New Aquarist Staff Highlight

Trevor Erdmann

Originally from Salt Lake City, UT, Trevor started his first aquarist internship in 2003 at the Living Planet Aquarium while in high school. He helped open up their first public facility in 2004, an approx. 12,000 ft² “taster exhibit.” In 2005, he started college at the University of Alaska, Southeast in Juneau. He spent the summer after his first year of college helping the Living Planet open up a second facility, this time 3.5 times larger at 42,000 ft². Back at college, he started working and volunteering at the Macaulay Salmon Hatchery in Juneau, caring for their displays and learning about the salmon life cycle. He graduated from UAS in 2010 with a BS in Marine Biology. In 2012, he was hired back on full time to the animal husbandry team at Living Planet Aquarium, and immediately started working on the company’s third and final permanent, 135,000 ft² world-class facility, helping build all of the life support components for 75 exhibit displays. After opening, he was given primary care for all of the temperate and PNW exhibits.

In February 2015, he joined the Fish and Invertebrate team at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, managing the Coastal Waters Gallery for 4 years, caring for the Oregon Kelp Forest, California Kelp Forest, Spider Crab, and small offshore close-up exhibits. In January 2019, he changed galleries to the changing exhibit gallery, where he constructed, installed, cycled and cared for the Seapunk travelling exhibit, which made its debut at Oregon Coast Aquarium.

In 2017, he started teaching the AQS 240 class, Life Support System Design and Installation for Oregon Coast Community College’s Aquarium Science Program and is the Senior Life Support Technician for the programs teaching lab. In September 2020, desiring to try something new, he left Oregon Coast Aquarium to teach and mentor students full time as part of the AQS program, and spent the 2020-2021 schoolyear teaching 2-3 classes per semester and mentoring the program students on a variety of husbandry, construction and preventative maintenance skills and techniques.

Trevor is excited to be joining the Aquatic Animal Health Program as the West Wing and Education Lab aquarist. He is appreciative for this opportunity as it is going to give him the ability to combine his love for aquatic animal husbandry with his love for teaching and mentoring the next generation of aquatic animal keepers and veterinarians.



What’s Next?

The Visitor Center will open up August 1st by reservation only. The reservation link and updates can be accessed via our website. <https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/visitor-center>

Our upcoming volunteer meeting will be on July 13th at 10:00 a.m.

This is a virtual meeting. Here is the link:

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/95887466041?pwd=bGZhV0VkOHlKM1E3eFltelJsTTthydz09>

Thanks again to all of you for your continued support! We are looking forward to opening and working with you again!

