Visitor Center

The submarine out front received some much needed attention recently. Thank you to Sandie Jasperson for taking time out of his schedule to repaint the sub. It looks great! The pictures below show what a significant difference Sandie’s new paint job made.

We have successfully been open welcoming the public in the Visitor Center for two months now. Things have gone relatively smoothly in the new way of operating. We plan to continue the reservation system for the time being, and we appreciate all of your volunteer support to make this happen!

Volunteer Resources

We have a new resource tool available! The aquarists and SPODs have been working diligently to pull together a variety of facts sheets to provide useful resources available in order to interpret our exhibits. The I.D. sheets pictured to the right are available for your use while you are volunteering in the VC. They are laminated on half sheets of paper and are easy to carry around and refer to. The electronic file is quite large and cannot be sent by an email attachment. If you would like your own copy, please bring in a flash drive and we will share the file with you.

Also, the Guin Library is now open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. This is another great resource for you all to utilize.
Volunteer Tour

Last month we had the opportunity to tour the Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building. The Marine Studies Building expands Hatfield’s footprint by 72,000 square feet, providing much needed space for research, meetings, classes and conferences. The addition of the building allows Hatfield to build capacity with more office spaces, a diversity of labs, collaborative classrooms and an auditorium.

Pictured above: Cinnamon leading our tour. Photos by Christina Chapin

The design of the building is an engineering model for coastal communities, providing a vertical evacuation route in the event of a tsunami. The roof top evacuation space can accommodate over 900 people with emergency supplies for a few days.

The public spaces in the building are open Monday through Friday. This includes a sunlit atrium and seating area in the front entrance. Also, the newly opened café offers coffee and a small variety of snacks.

If you would like more information about the Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building, here is the link for a past HMSC Science on Tap (Nov. 19, 2020).

Ramp up the Safety: Learn about the life safety features of the new vertical evacuation building. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCzZrhcTDJg

SOLVE Yaquina Bay Riverside Clean Up

HMSC’s Green Team sponsored a SOLVE Yaquina Bay Riverside clean up on September 25th. Over three hours, 27 volunteers from OSU, ODFW, USFWS, NOAA, and the local community focused on cleaning up debris along the Bay Road riverbank. They collected 40 bags of debris, removed tires, big plastic pieces, giant chunks of styrofoam, and much more. Many thanks to all the volunteers that participated!
Pink Tipped Aggregating Anemones (*Anthopleura elegantissima*) are some of the most commonly found intertidal anemones on the Oregon Coast. Since they can be found in the mid-intertidal, you may stumble upon them even if you aren’t looking! To identify this anemone in the water, look for thin, pink-tipped tentacles around a green oral disk. Out of the water, these anemones close up, hiding their tentacles and showing their rock-covered body columns. This species can cover entire rock structures, outcompeting other organisms for space. However, their abundance raises an intriguing question: how do they do it?

Their secret: splitting. This form of reproduction is asexual, meaning that it creates clones of the original individual and does not result in genetic mixing. These anemones can reproduce via both sexual and asexual processes, though asexual splitting is a much faster process.

Recently several Pink-Tipped Aggregating Anemones were placed in the Northern Kelp Crab tank in the Crustacean Station exhibit. In less than three days, one of the anemones stretched out and split into two! Check it out in the photos below!

*Tuesday 9/14 morning: beginning to stretch and move tentacles toward the center in preparation of splitting.*

*Thursday 9/16 morning: two separate “daughter” anemones, still showing fading scars of the splitting process.*