

Visitor Center Updates

Although the majority of staff are continuing to work remotely, there has been quite bit of work in the Visitor Center. This seems like a fitting time to focus on exhibit updates while we are closed. We worked with graphic designers this week to install the final graphics for the NOAA History exhibit and the Regional Class Research Vessel exhibit featuring the OSU R/V Taani and ship simulator.



Pictured: NOAA history to the left and RCRV exhibit above

We are also in the process of building a new crustacean exhibit. The tank supports are currently being constructed. This exhibit will take the place of the invasive species display next to the auditorium with the spinning wheels.

The aquarists have been keeping busy with routine animal care and tank cleanings. The octopus feedings are continuing on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. We have many OctoCam viewers tuning in routinely for these feedings. This has been a great way to keep the public connected with the Visitor Center while being closed!



Pictured: Matt working on the crustacean exhibit



The octopus painting project is going very well! This has been an engaging project with 19-02. On Mondays during the feeding, the aquarists place tasty food into the Mr. Potato Head toy which is attached to a series of pulleys and paintbrushes. Here are a few of GPO 19-02's completed works of art. She is creating quite the collection!

VC Staff Update with Dorothy Horn

Hi everyone! Here's an update on what I've been up to. Well, for school and research I passed the 4th of 5 steps to finishing my PhD this last month! I defended my research proposal and have passed my comprehensive doctoral exams so I have made it to PhD candidacy. This means that the university has agreed that my research is cool and my work has been checked by older and wiser scientists across the multiple fields of work that my research dips into. All that is left is to write up all of my research.

In the lab, I am looking for possible plastics in my dungeness crab samples and will be using the fancy machine called the [FTiR](#) to identify the particles I find. In other crabs we have found different types of plastics as well as cotton, cellulose and other synthetic polymers used in clothing. I will be working with my colleagues in California to finish this part of my research.

For fun stuff, I gave a talk via Zoom for the Oregon chapter of the ACS this last Saturday. Earlier this month I gave a career talk for Oregon Sea Grant's STEM Hub education program, letting the next generation of scientists in on the different paths out there. I also chatted with the director of the Oregon Teen Science Cafe program, run through OSU, about my work and path to get to being a scientist. Finally, I am working with a conservation photographer Jaymie Heimbuch, here in Oregon, on [Sentinel Species](#) projects for science communication.

I am really looking forward to seeing all of you when the Visitor Center is open again!



Let's Get Together! A Virtual Volunteer Meeting

It has definitely been a long time since we have all seen each other, so I thought that it would be fun to 'see' everyone in a virtual meeting. This would be a Zoom meeting where we could connect and catch up on things. If you would like to join in on this meeting, please fill out the doodle poll (via the link below) for dates that work for you! I will provide more information on the meeting details once we have a confirmed date. Take care everybody!

<https://doodle.com/poll/2mb7xh56k52y85nh>

