



Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.
P.O. Box 957
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SEAscope

Friends of the Southern Oregon Coastal
National Wildlife Refuges

Fall 2016

Al Solomon Keynote Presenter for November Seminar

SEA is pleased to announce that Dr. Al Solomon, retired National Program Leader for Global Change Research in the U.S. Forest Service, will launch our new season of



seminars in November. Dr. Solomon retired after 40 years of teaching and research primarily in global change and carbon cycle biology. He held staff positions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna, Austria. He also served as Assistant Professor of Geosciences at the University of Arizona and Professor of Forest Ecology at Michigan Technological University. In addition to 90+ research publications, Dr. Solomon was a Contributor to the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Panel on Climate Change. Dr. Solomon will present on Saturday, November 19, 2016, at 9 am in Coos Bay at the History Museum, located at 1210 North Front Street, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Annual SEA Membership Meeting!

Pela Puffin says, "Don't Miss It"!

Hey, Members! Fall is upon us and so is SEA's **Annual Membership Meeting**, scheduled for **October 22, 2016**, at the Bandon Community Center, or The Barn. The meeting will begin 1 pm and is expected to conclude around 3 pm. The President's Year in Review, officer elections, and anticipated 2017 projects, seminars, and volunteer opportunities are some of the topics to be discussed. The annual meeting will feature a presentation by the Charleston Marine Life Center Director, Trish Mace. Afterwards, spend a little time getting to know your Board of Directors and fellow members over delicious refreshments. Your participation is wanted and needed! See you there!

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From Our Partners



Alder Island Restored to Tidal Wetland

By Elena Smith, Intern

Siletz Bay is a National Wildlife Refuge in Lincoln City, right off Highway 101. It was formerly diked pastureland, and is now a 568-acre tidal wetland. It provides habitat for salmon, trout, raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds. The land is currently off-limits to the general public, but restoration and public use efforts are underway. Currently, a small patch known as Alder Island is being restored to a tidal wetland habitat. Trenches are being dug through the island so that the tide waters can inundate the land twice daily. There is also a loop trail being created so that future visitors can walk through the island. A free, non-motorized boat launch will be completed in October 2016 on one of the sloughs, which will be open year-round for visitors to the refuge.



Goodbye Gorse!

By Bea Serrano-Martinez, Intern

In the early 90's, Coquille Point was the first mainland added to the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. To most people, Coquille Point is the ideal place to take their dog for a walk, stretch their legs on a road trip, or simply head down to the beach and snap a beautiful photograph of the islands and sea stacks. It is also an

important interpretive site for Oregon Islands NWR. This highly visible public area lends itself nicely to view nesting seabird colonies and intertidal creatures within the tidepools. Environmentally, Coquille Point is a buffer zone between development and adjacent islands. In August, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Coos Watershed Association's Gorse Action Group collaborated to control invasive species along the coastal bluff, including one of the trails and surrounding private properties; free of charge to the owners who agreed. The project's main target was the reduction of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). This highly-flammable, invasive plant has the ability to grow in a variety of soils, under a diversity of conditions which allows it to outcompete many native plant communities. In Bandon, Gorse has a reputation on how much of a dangerous fire hazard it can be. The town has burnt down twice because of the plant which has volatile oils in its leaves. Control of Gorse as well as its invasive neighbors, is key to reducing the threat of another fire. The project will also remove Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus bifrons*) on the headland.

The project is composed of two phases. The first is a showcase phase that has already been completed focusing on private and city property. This one-acre showcase area is intended to pilot how the Gorse Action Team will control invasive species on the entire bluff. The second phase is geared to help private property owners see how active management works on invasive species and increase invasive species awareness for the public. This showcase project will also exist as a trial to provide insight on how to best manage Gorse infested areas. Depending on the success of this pilot, the management application will be applied to the rest of 11-acre project on the headland. Operations began with mechanical removal by an inmate crew early September. The bluff was successfully mowed as well as the vertical slopes and bordering properties near the jetty. The inmate crew followed up by clearing the hard-to-reach areas the mower missed as well as trimming hedges into topiaries around private gardens. "We had lots of good feedback and public interest in the project and all were amazed by the crew's hard-work ethic and agility on the slope," stated Liza Ehle, a representative of "By-the-Sea Gardens" overlooking the operation.

While the heavy lifting is almost complete, refuge staff are making preparations to monitor for sprouting of new invasive plants and treat them with herbicides. Trimming new growth is labor intensive, expensive, and is a short-term solution. The USFWS will use herbicide to aid in the reduction of Gorse and provide a more long-term suppression early next spring. Next fall, the USFWS and



its project partners plan to replant Coquille Point with native grasses and shrubs. The hope is future control will be feasible for refuge staff and volunteers with the Gorse population greatly reduced. This experimental plot will increase knowledge on the complexity of invasive species, ecology, and how to manage accordingly. Every year volunteers look to support the refuge by helping with invasive species removal and the refuge is always willing to comply and provide equipment these efforts. The refuge support group Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA) will be working alongside the Coos Watershed Association's Gorse Action Group to promote the importance of removing invasive species at Coquille Point headland and the planting of native species.



SEA Interns Bid Us Farewell

“We Leave Our Hearts in Bandon”

From Beatrice:

This summer has been one of the most memorable by far. During my time with U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) I have not only talked to hundreds of visitors, but also had the chance to meet the fabulous individuals who work hard for Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA). Working along SEA I



reconnected with a few friends (Carol, Paul, and Laura) and made new friends as well (all of the board plus others). It was nice to talk about Oystercatchers, getting glimpses of Puffins, enjoying the negative tides (lots of sea stars), and spending time at Simpson Reef. This group of individuals shared their knowledge and helped polish my interpretive skills and for that I thank each and every one of them. In addition to thanking SEA, I give thanks to the USFWS for the amazing internship they

offer. The Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex staff welcomed, supported, and appreciated me every step of the way as I transitioned and had questions (which was a lot). Dawn Harris is amazing and she really looked out for us interns as we joined the team. Of course I can't thank the rest of the staff down here in Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge enough for making Bandon home. Eric, Bill, Madeline, and Clint ensured we (Jennifer and I) laughed and enjoyed living next to the marsh. I have found Bandon to be a jewel in the Oregon Coast and I will definitely miss it. Thank you SEA and USFWS for taking care of it!

From Jennifer:

When I first read the job description for this position I imagined doing bird surveys on the beach and looking for mosquito larvae in tidepools. I envisioned waking up to ocean waves and riding my bike to work in the sand. Six months later I am sitting at my desk



after completing a bird survey in a marsh, a marsh I have fallen in countless times. During my first month, I was constantly cleaning mud off my face. I wake up to Canada Geese honking and Virginia Rails calling which are then followed by gunshots. Sometimes I greet visitors who ask me why the USFWS is doing too much or too little. To top it all off, I hardly see the ocean while at work.

Yet somehow I am very sad to leave. I saw a life bird at least once a month, smiled at species I hadn't seen in a while, and, with and mostly without witnesses, did a dance whenever I spotted a Belted Kingfisher. I also cannot begin to explain the amount of experience I gained in Wildlife Management. None of it was possible without SEA. Susan Ryan deserves a special recognition for her swiftness and commitment to taking care of our needs. I will also applaud every volunteer within SEA for your dedication and passion for educating the public. Beatrice and I are leaving Bandon on October 6th and I cannot express how much I will miss the South Coast beauty and some of its residents.

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Ode to Summer

By Bill Binnewies, Volunteer Coordinator

Fourteen active SEA volunteers provided 626 hours of volunteer time and contacted 8,170 visitors. Visitors to the Face Rock and Coquille overlooks were treated to sightings of tufted puffins which had established their dens on Face Rock. Volunteers also pointed out the location of a variety of seabirds such as black oystercatchers and common murre. At Simpson Reef a number of elephant seals, including a couple of mature males, were seen on a daily basis along with Steller and California sea lions and harbor seals. The "wow factor" was in effect as visitors looked through the SEA spotting scopes. SEA volunteers worked closely with USFWS volunteers by sharing information and, on occasion, supporting each other at the overlooks. Our reward was the enthusiasm shown by adults and children alike as they discovered the rich coastal wildlife along our section of the Oregon Coast.



Thank You!!!

Faraway Visitors Flock to Shorebird Festival

By Dawn Harris, USFW

Over 100 birdwatchers from as far away as Florida flocked to attend the 30th Annual Oregon Shorebird Festival the weekend of Sept. 16-18. Based out of Charleston the festival celebrates the migration of shorebirds along the beautiful sandy and rocky coastline of Oregon. Field trips around Coos Bay and Bandon allowed birders to see Western and Least Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstone, and Black Oystercatcher. Festival goers were also delighted to get views of a species of goose rarely seen in Coos County or anywhere else along the Oregon coast. The Emperor Goose was seen on Friday and Saturday and for many it was a "lifer" or a bird seen for the first time in their life. Evening presentations on Friday and Saturday were well attended and enjoyed by all, especially the presentation on Black Oystercatchers. We all learned that overall the population in Oregon is doing better than expected based on recent surveys by the Audubon Society of Portland and its partners. In total over 120 different bird species were seen during the festival weekend from shorebirds to albatross to falcons.

Aspiring Words

This poem was submitted by Board Member, Roy Green, and written by Peter Lovering, a personal friend of Roy's. Peter recently became a Master Naturalist. His words have deep meaning and are applicable toward the natural world we all love and share, and work to protect. Thanks, Roy and Peter!

Chance Happens

Blue
 deep mountain
 sky,
 the Promise.
 Green
 the pine needle
 dance,
 the Breath.
 A gray stone's
 memory,
 the Mystery.
 And me
 with just
 this chance, the Moment.
 ~~ Peter Lovering

Membership: The Vital Link

SEA's membership drives our ability to impact conservation and preservation of our coastal wild areas and wildlife. Your energy, contributions, hands-on involvement, and your word-of-mouth to others about SEA's mission spearheads SEA's successes. Without you, SEA could not function or provide education and awareness to the public about the significance of meeting our mission. What we do is simple yet complex because of the unique ecosystems on which we focus our attentions. We possess, more than many, a knowledge and understanding of why the coastal refuges are critical links in the health and well-being of the environment and, ultimately, humanity. This is why we need our current members to help in recruiting new members and also ensuring your membership dues are paid on time. The more human and fiscal support generated the more SEA can do to meet and expand its mission of conserving and preserving shorebirds, coastal wildlife and coastal shorelines, forests, marshes and estuaries.

Here are a few things you can do to help strengthen SEA:

- ✓ Encourage family & friends to join
- ✓ Volunteer to help with special projects
- ✓ Pay dues on time
- ✓ Be a SEA Ambassador & tell our story to your community & others



Life
 is not measured
 by the breaths we take
 but by the
moments
 that take our
breath away



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CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF SHORELINE EDUCATION FOR AWARENESS

Your tax-deductible contribution to [Shoreline Education for Awareness](#) directly supports [SEA's](#) coastal wildlife interpretation program as it continues its crucial role in the education of local residents and the growing number of visitors to our coast from around the world. You can also contribute by becoming a volunteer. Please use the form below to become a member, make an additional contribution to the program, or to indicate your interest in volunteering.

-
- Enclosed is my contribution to help support [SEA](#)
- I would like to volunteer for the wildlife interpretation program

Please call me at: _____
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