



# SEAscope

Friends of the Southern Oregon Coastal  
National Wildlife Refuges

Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.  
P.O. Box 957  
Bandon, OR 97411

Summer 2016

## Elusive Puffins Didn't Dampen Spirits

Tufted Puffins didn't show for the "gala" thrown in their honor, but SEA Volunteers partied on in fine style! Several visitors and local Bandon citizens came by Face Rock to join us as we observed a variety of birdlife and beautiful weather on April 30. SEA's annual Puffin Party is held in an effort to educate and encourage the community and coastal visitors alike to take an interest in and learn about Oregon's shoreline wildlife and habitat. The Party is specifically scheduled around a time when breeding pairs of Puffins are sighted along Bandon's rocky shores.



and other species when opportunities to use the scopes are available. Giving people, especially young people, the chance to actually see an elusive species—one they've only read about or seen photos—is exciting and increases the odds that they'll pass on to others what they've experienced. Volunteers answered visitors' questions and incorporated comments and facts regarding how each species integrates and contributes to the overall ecosystem. New Volunteer Applications, informational brochures, and refreshments (what's a party without goodies!) were also available.



Many bird species flock to Face Rock for breeding and habitat.  
*Photos by Anna Diehl*



Spotting scopes provide a very different "up close and personal" perspective to viewing wildlife. People seem to become more intrigued and eager to learn about birds

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From Our Partners



Channel System Improvements Paying Off

By Eric Mruz

Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge Manager

The mosquito season is once again upon us. There have been several reports of mosquitoes at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort and Bullards Beach State Park. Upon investigation it was determined these were not *Aedes Dorsalis*, the saltmarsh mosquito that invaded the Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (BMNWR) in 2013. Due to wet winter and spring conditions, freshwater mosquitos are showing up in areas which is typical for this time of year. There should be a reduction in their numbers with the warmer weather.

The Ni-les`tun Unit of the BMNWR is again being monitored by a contractor who is reporting few signs of the species *Aedes Dorsalis*. So much so the Refuge has not had to spread any BTI (a naturally derived larvicide pellet that targets mosquito larvae) to prevent flyoffs. This is great news that demonstrates the work to improve water flow and drainage by improving the channel system to eliminate ponded mosquito habitat is working! If you have questions, contact the Bandon Refuge Manager, Eric Mruz, at (541) 347-1470.



Website Redesign

SEA launched a newly redesigned website in April that we hope gives visitors and volunteers more information about SEA, related events and opportunities, and coastal marine life! The new site offers easier navigation across its layout. The most notable change is that our volunteers can now sign up for their shifts at all of our volunteer locations with just the click of a button!

Simply click on the “Volunteers” tab and select either the Bandon sites or the Simpson Reef schedules. A big shout out to Bill Steinberg for his diligence and hard work on the new website!

Coastal Creatures “Wow” Visitors

By Bill Binnewies

At Simpson Reef SEA Volunteers and lucky visitors are seeing a number of Elephant Seals, including older males along with the Stellers, California Sea Lions and Harbor Seals. Bald Eagles are showing up on a regular basis, too. The variety of nesting birds at Face Rock and Coquille Point continue to impress visitors using SEA’s spotting scopes from specific vantage points high on the bluffs.

**A Call for Help:** Volunteers are needed at Simpson Reef as we are covering this site with local volunteers only. SEA volunteers can sign up on line at [www.sea-edu.org](http://www.sea-edu.org), [wbinnewies@mycomspan.com](mailto:wbinnewies@mycomspan.com) or by calling (541)260-7770. Anyone interested in becoming a SEA volunteer can also sign up online or by calling the number provided.



Photos by Bill Binnewies





## Oregon Shorebird Festival



The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Oregon Shorebird Festival is scheduled for September 16 through September 18, 2016 in Charleston, Oregon. The festival features a full array of activities for birders of all ages and knowledge levels.

Go to [www.fws.gov/refuge/Bandon\\_Marsh](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bandon_Marsh) to learn more and to register. A schedule of events and field trips, registration form, lodging information and much more is listed on the Bandon Marsh website. Please register in advance!

## SEA Interns Hit Ground Running

SEA hired two interns this year, Jennifer Nelson and Beatrice Serrano-Martinez. They are working out of the Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Jennifer Nelson (right) is the Bio Science Intern conducting bird and mosquito larvae surveys, mapping invasive species, and completing other biological duties assigned.



Jennifer graduated in December 2015 from the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Biology and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics. In Missoula, she completed a senior thesis on reproduction in Mountain Bluebirds. She has also completed a number of internships related to birds during her college career

and in her spare time, Jennifer enjoys birding, knitting, and travelling to National Parks. Beatrice Serrano-Martinez (left) is the Visitor Services Specialist. She coordinates interpretation schedules for USFWS volunteers at Coquille Point and Simpson Reef, gives campground presentations at Bullards Beach State Park



Campground, and designs brochures for the public about events and information such as the Oregon Shorebird Festival and Gorse Action Group. You can find Beatrice interpreting at Coquille Point and Simpson Reef on weekdays. Beatrice graduated in June 2015 from Oregon

State University in Corvallis, Oregon with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources. Last year she worked for the Bureau of Land Management at Yaquina Head doing tide pool interpretation. In her spare time Beatrice enjoys watching YouTube videos, taking long walks, watching movies, and going to town events and festivals. Jennifer and Beatrice started in April and will be with us until October. Both interns are a welcome addition to the SEA family!

## Adventure Convinces RV Volunteer Couple to Give Up the Office

Meet John and Cindy Dillard, SEA's RV wildlife interpreters at Coquille Point/Face Rock for 2016. Since retiring in 2014, they have been traveling full-time throughout the US and Canada. They love to observe and photograph wildlife which is why the SEA volunteer position appealed to them.

Cindy and John's RV life began when a trip to Yellowstone made them realize there was more to life than going to the office everyday just so they could have a big house, drive nice cars and enjoy the other trappings of consumerism. They sold their house, most of their stuff and began their adventures. They never saw themselves as typical RVers as they are avid outdoors people and critter watchers. While traveling both John and Cindy prefer to seek out state and national parks as well as BLM and National Forest lands rather than commercial RV parks. Still, traveling through the summer is hard. Kids are out of school and campgrounds are full of family vacationers, especially in popular state and national parks. To make matters worse, the weather can be hot.

Last August, John and Cindy got lucky and snagged a three-night stay at South Beach State Park near Newport. They loved it and it was then they decided to return to the Oregon Coast this summer. With commercial RV spots being very costly and state parks limiting camping to 14 consecutive days, they saw their best alternative as seeking out a volunteer position.

Cindy and John travel with their two dogs, Trixie and Eddie. SEA is thrilled to have them all on board!



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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](#)
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