

Volunteers Making A Difference

SEA members and volunteers can be found working alongside volunteers from other programs. SEA volunteer Bruce Williams has been coordinating quarterly beach debris cleanups as part of the greater SOLVE program. On December 15, five teams totaling 28 volunteers cleaned 7 ½ miles of beach. Plastic debris is donated to Washed Ashore. When you add up SOLVE teams up and down the coast, they are making a difference by removing significant amounts of debris from the coastal environment. For those interested in helping you can contact Bruce at bewilliams16@gmail.com.



California and Steller Sea Lions and Elephant Seal at Simpson Reef
-SEA Spotting Scope-

We are delighted to report that Kay Gillman will be returning for her third year as a National (RV) Volunteer at Simpson Reef. Also, Bullard's Beach State Park is providing SEA with an RV site so John and Cindy Dillard will be returning as SEA's Face Rock/Coquille Point National (RV) Volunteers for our 2019 summer season. Having them in our onsite coastline wildlife interpretation loop gives us continuity as we provide interpretive services to the public. Kay, John and Cindy will also assist the state parks with their programs.



Welcome Kate



Hello SEA! This is my first column in the SEA newsletter and I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Kate Iaquinto and I'm the new South District refuge manager for the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex. What does that mean you ask? Well, I'm situated at Bandon Marsh NWR and my primary responsibilities are there; however, part of my job is to oversee the southern portion of the Oregon Islands NWR from Bandon south including Coquille Point, Crook Point and the islands themselves. This is my first job as a refuge manager. My previous position was at Monomoy NWR on Cape Cod, Massachusetts where I was the station wildlife biologist. Monomoy NWR is a barrier beach island that is home to the largest common and roseate tern colony on the east coast. It is also home to many pairs of nesting piping plovers and American oyster catchers. Gray seals pup on the island and it is a major horseshoe crab spawning area. The Chatham Massachusetts area where the refuge's islands are situated is also a major stopover site for southward migrating shorebirds. In collaboration with partners, we studied the movements of the federally threatened juvenile and adult red knot. The refuge is federally designated wilderness. Seasonal staff camp on the island during the nesting season to monitor the seabirds and shorebirds and conduct predator management. The refuge has a large and long

established biological program that I feel very lucky to have led. Like Bandon Marsh NWR, Monomoy NWR is also a satellite refuge of a larger complex, the Eastern Massachusetts NWR complex, which is comprised of eight refuges in the region. Though Monomoy will always have a special place in my heart, I decided recently that it was time to move on. I applied to the Bandon Marsh position because I wanted a change. I wanted to remain coastal and to work with the coastal birds and habitats that I love but I wanted to move my career forward. By taking this refuge manager job I feel that I'm doing that. My family and I moved to the west coast in November and we are loving it so far. Prior to coming here we had traveled to the west coast but never to the Oregon coast. I continue to be shocked and amazed by its beauty. I am married. My husband Tim works from home which has allowed us to move here and keep his job which is wonderful. Last year we welcomed our first child, Gemma Pearl, who is now almost ten months old, crawling like a champ and enjoying discovering her new home in North Bend. We've been out quite a bit hiking and driving around, trying to get to know the place! I have a bachelor's of science in Wildlife Conservation Biology from the University of Rhode Island and I am currently working on completing my Master's in Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Since I've been at Bandon I've learned a lot. Being a manager is a big change but I'm getting the hang of it. I've been spending most of my time trying to meet our partners and taking stock of what we have going on here at the refuge. Our recent South Coast refuge tour with the staff of the Oregon Coast NWR Complex has helped to build a large to do list that I'll be working from. In my first year I hope to learn a lot and get started on some new projects as well as to continue the projects started by Eric Mruz, the previous manager that I'm sure you all know. I want to thank the SEA board and members that I have met thus far for being very welcoming to me and my family. We are looking forward to working with you and getting to know you better. SEA has a long history of great work on the Oregon coast.

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Your Contribution support's SEA's coastal wildlife interpretation program as it continues its critical role in the education of local residents and the growing number of visitors to the coast from around the world.

Membership

- _____ **\$20 Individual Membership**
- _____ **\$35 Family Membership (2 or more in the same household)**
- _____ **\$259 Lifetime Membership**
- Donation Other \$ _____



Yes _____ I would like to become a SEA Volunteer

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