

AUTUMN, 2009



SEA scope



Friends of the Southern Oregon Coastal National Wildlife Refuges

Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.
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Letter from the President

Shoreline Education for Awareness continues to grow in terms of supporting state park and U.S. Fish and Wildlife programs such as Seabird Sisters, Habitrec and the upcoming 23rd Annual Shorebird Festival, August 28-30. Also, we are looking ahead to next year as new opportunities for expanding our education program are on the horizon.

To keep us from riding off in all directions at the same time, Director Dave Bone is coordinating our effort to develop a *Strategic Plan* for SEA. A series of meetings will be held for the purpose of reviewing our mission statement, docent program, national volunteer program, training, administrative requirements, recruitment, and incorporation of new programs to name just a few of the topics. Your input into this process will be important.

As we develop our *Strategic Plan* we will be making an assessment of our capability to maintain our current shoreline education awareness programs, as well as our capability to add new programs. Our success will depend entirely on having enough people who are committed to our shoreline education programs, and are willing to put their time and effort into our educational efforts.

I and other SEA members have received feedback from the general public, USF&WS officials, Oregon State Parks officials, and others who are "blown away" by our SEA program. Also, I have personally been "blown away" by the willingness of the board of directors, docents, and national volunteers' willingness to take on extra tasks. Thank you all.

Bill Binnewies

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

October 18 is the date for SEA's Annual Membership Meeting.

This marks the 20th year of SEA's beginning. You won't want to miss it! Good food (catered!), beverages, fun and comradery!



THE 2009 NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

The membership might be interested in knowing something about our national volunteers who give 24 hours a month, mainly interpreting for SEA during the spring and summer months, but also sometimes performing jobs for USF&WS or State Parks. As you will see, they come from all parts of the country and bring much experience with them.

MIKE FOUSIE came to us from volunteering in Escalon, California on the Stanislaus River with the Corps of Engineers, but he calls Portland home and calls Zion National Park his favorite park.

When asked about his childhood, Mike refers to himself as a “military brat”, having lived with his parents and brother in Hawaii, Guam, California, Florida and Portugal. In his teens he won a research grant to work at the University of Florida where he performed disc electrophoresis on king cobra venom and used radioactive isotopes to study the movement of nitrogen through carnivorous plants. His scholastic interests were in biology, English and communications, all of which he studied at the University of Illinois, St. John’s College, Miami Dade College, and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Mike worked in Hollywood as a motion picture and television stills photographer and cinematographer/videographer as well as camera operator. He was Chief Photographer for KATU television news in Portland. His profession sent him to several far off places: Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Cyprus, Italy, Japan, Korea, Hawaii, the Azores and all across the United States.

His interests are web design, video editing and spherical panoramic photography. Some of his really fine photography can be seen on his website: www.lightcurve.com But his special interest is his dog, Blue, who travels with him wherever he chooses to roam. He says that his

main hobby is “first person PC gaming.”

When asked about what he has enjoyed most about volunteering with SEA, he says, “I’ve most enjoyed the environment of the Oregon Coast. Seeing a tufted puffin and observing the black oystercatchers nesting and having chicks has been fascinating. Two of the highlights of being here have been a canoe trip into the South Slough Estuary and watching the birth of a harbor seal at Simpson’s Reef Overlook.”

Cheryll Compton and Kevin Jones are avid full time RV retirees and volunteers. They came to us from Sonny Bono Salton Sea Wildlife Refuge in California. They began volunteering in February of 2006 and have spent 3, 5, or 7 months at some lovely and interesting places: The Nature Conservancy’s Muleshoe Ranch in Arizona (twice), The Nature Conservancy’s Tiger Creek Preserve in Florida, The Cradle of Forestry, Lake Powhatan, N.C. and the Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park in Florida.

Kevin has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration which he put to good use working for the Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (N.Y.) where he was employed for almost 33 years, advancing to a managerial position supervising workers in the implementation of energy conservation programs. He has extensive computer and marketing experience and is knowledgeable with Microsoft Office software and also designs web sites.

Cheryll is a Licensed Practical Nurse working usually in a surgical capacity. Prior to retiring, she worked seven years for the Orange Regional Medical Center. She is also knowledgeable in various software programs, including guest services, word processing and the internet.

They both spent most of their childhoods in

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New York state. Kevin has one sister and 3 brothers; Cheryll has one sister and a deceased brother. They have two daughters and two sons (one of whom lives with his family in Sweden, giving the parents a good excuse to travel there!) along with three grandchildren (one who is a Marine on his second tour in Iraq). They have traveled extensively in the U.S. and in Canada. Another member of the family is Jackson, their friendly and well-behaved beagle.

Both enjoy hiking, biking, 18th century Revolutionary War Re-enactments and both are avid readers. Cheryll enjoys sewing, quilting and counted cross stitch.

Kevin and Cheryll have done most of their interpreting for SEA at Simpson's Reef with a few times at Coquille Point and Face Rock in Bandon. They have enjoyed observing the birds and marine mammals and talking to visitors at the several interpretive sites. One sight that they will have a hard time forgetting is when a bald eagle caught a cormorant in flight and was pursued in vain by gulls, other cormorants and crows as the eagle took the cormorant to a nearby tree where "we observed the life and death struggle that is part of daily life in nature." They enjoyed watching the birth of harbor seals and the "tender moments between the mother and her pup nursing for the first time and swimming together."

LES and PAM TROUT traveled to Bandon from Phoenix, Arizona where they were visiting with their son. From November, 2008 to March, 2009 they had been volunteering at Estrella Mountain Regional Park, just a few miles southwest of Phoenix.

Les and Pam are not keen on talking about themselves, but they exude a real "joy of life" and each have traveled the world.

Les is a native of Hartford, Connecticut, growing up with two brothers and two sisters. He served

his time in the military, seventeen months of which he was assigned to Ethiopia which he really loved and after his tour of duty there was over, he visited Israel before returning to the States. He received an Associate Degree in Computers from the military and put it to good use for the next 20 years troubleshooting for AT&T, after which he spent ten years working for the University of Connecticut, primarily troubleshooting in Building Automation.

Pam was raised with a brother and sister in the little town of Rockville, CT, now re-named Vernon, only a few miles northeast of Hartford. She received an Associate's Degree as a Medical Lab Technician from Manchester Community College. She worked in doctors' offices, OB/GYN (obstetrics/gynecology), as an allergy nurse technician and she also set up the surgery room prior to surgery.

They have had several exchange students each from Germany or Switzerland whom they have visited several times in their home countries. Pam went on a pilgrimage to Israel with a friend and both Pam and Les have been to the Caribbean Islands where they enjoyed one of their favorite hobbies: scuba diving. They are also kayakers, birders, rock hounders, hikers and they enjoy fishing.

They have both been enjoying the discovery of "roving interpretation" and being docents and they especially enjoy observing and "guarding" snowy plovers and their chicks. They also enjoy exploring historical sites and the impact on our culture and they are in love with RVing across the country.

When asked what they enjoyed most about this region and their volunteer activities, they both replied, "the nesting habits of oystercatchers, the variety of sea mammals and pelagic birds seen on this magnificent Oregon Coast."

SEA cannot thank all 5 of you enough!

Update on Solo the Swan

In Washington, just a little south of Spokane and Cheney is the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge which has been the springtime home of Solo, the cygnet trumpeter swan who was first banded there 25 years ago and who biologists think is one of the original swans reintroduced to Turnbull in the 1960s. By 1976 a reintroduction program successfully created a resident flock of swans, but severe drought and actions taken by people resulted in a huge drop in population by 1980 and there was only one active breeding pair left one of whom was Solo. However, his mate was dinner for a coyote in 1988 but he kept returning to the refuge each spring. Even though Solo and a new female built a nest platform, they did not lay any eggs. She disappeared in 1994 and Solo has really been solo since then.

Even though swans live only 20 to 30 years, biologists have determined that he could be 43 to 46 years old. "He is a real senior citizen and likely breaking some longevity records" according to biologist Mike Rule. He is now a year-round resident at Turnbull as long as there is open water, but where he goes when it freezes, no one knows for sure, but there is speculation that it is close by since he returns within a day when the water thaws.

If you are ever in that area, you might want to look him up. He's quite a celebrity and a handsome fellow!



Docent and Volunteer Sightings

SEA docents and national volunteers fill out a "Daily Report" form indicating sightings while on duty. Below are a few :

- Early in the season, a common loon was spotted (the main kind that come to this area, the others staying farther north).
- A flock of crossbills were sited, probably red crossbills since the white-winged rarely, if ever, are seen in this area.
- In April and May brands were seen on 29 California sea lions and in June on 12.
- Two California sea lions were spotted with a lure or tag hanging from their mouths (ocean debris).
- There were three branded Steller sea lions (at different times).
- Two northern elephant seal pups were seen on Shell Island.
- Whales were sighted blowing and breaching at least four times.
- Two docents reported people too near the harbor seals, thereby disturbing them.
- Toward the end of June, the gull chicks on Elephant Rock had hatched, were alternately begging from their parents and trying out their stubs of wings.
- Shell Island was almost devoid of Cal. Sea lions and was much quieter after mid-June, the sea lions being on their way to Baja to mat, returning in late July/early August..
- At Coquille Point there were a number of sightings of whimbrels, seal pups, puffins and pelicans.

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