

ONRC Update

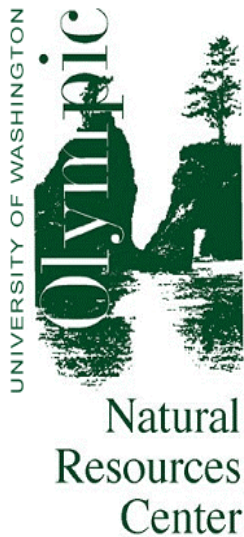
September 16, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 1

A Monthly Newsletter from Olympic Natural Resources Center

Of Interest:

- September 19 – 20, 2002
1st Annual Forestry
Education Tour
(see below)
- Job Recruitments
(see pg 2)
- Geocaching (see pg 2)



On September 19th and 20th, the ONRC will host the first annual Forestry Education Tour; the theme of the tour is *Sustainable Working Forests*. Attendees include legislative aides and federal, state and local elected officials. The tour is brought about through the efforts of Rod Fleck and John Calhoun. The goal is to provide a forum for thoughtful discussion between resource professionals -including UW faculty- and persons charged with fashioning public policy.

Director's Message

John Calhoun

We are pleased to distribute this inaugural issue of the UW ONRC newsletter. It is something we have intended to do for some time now but never could settle on just the right format or just the right distribution list. At the insistence of Policy Advisory Board member Brando Blore, we have stopped fretting about it and are just doing it. (Thank you Brando. What are Policy Advisory Board members for, after all.)

To begin with, this newsletter will be distributed to those that already know something about UW ONRC and will highlight current activities and upcoming events. Most of our staff will make contributions, relating projects they are

working on or reporting accomplishments. I will try to relate particularly critical issues important to the long-term health of UW ONRC and make reports on our progress toward fulfilling the mission of UW ONRC.

Language from the enabling legislation that created UW ONRC is clear as to our mission and purpose. "It is the intent of the legislature to foster and support the research and education necessary to provide sound scientific information on which to base sustainable forest and marine industries, and at the same time sustain the ecological values demanded by much of the public."

Future issues of this



newsletter will highlight ways in which we are striving to carry out the assignment given to us by the legislature and supported by the people of Washington State.

We have included a "Fact Sheet" which describes UW ONRC for a more general audience. You may find it useful when speaking to others about UW ONRC.

Marine Program Happenings

Miranda Wecker, Marine Program Manager

ONRC's efforts in assisting the *Spartina* control program focus on two activities: 1) biological control implementation and assessment of additional bio-agents; and 2) development and utilization of a GIS-based decision support tool. In this month's newsletter, I'll provide an update on bio-control. Next month's article will focus on GIS support tools.

Bio-Control

Dr. Fritzi Grevstad, ONRC Bio-control Specialist, and her assistant Robin Switzer are completing the third season of releases of

Prokelisia marginata. The insect has had a difficult time surviving winter conditions in Willapa. This summer's batch of insects was distributed to new more sheltered sites around the Bay. Post-release monitoring continues at the sites of previous releases. Dr. Grevstad returned from a trip to the East Coast to scout out new candidates for use in bio-control of *Spartina* and to evaluate the feasibility of importing *Prokelisia* from East Coast sites with harsher winters. ONRC commissioned genetic diversity studies by Western

Washington University scientist Merrill Peterson. His analysis revealed that Willapa *Prokelisia* are as genetically diverse as their parent stock from San Francisco Bay but far less diverse than populations on the East Coast. Dr. Grevstad is considering the importation of Proks from the East Coast to increase genetic diversity and the likelihood that more insects will survive Willapa winters. Dr. Grevstad also spent several days in San Francisco Bay looking for additional candidates for use on *Spartina*.

ORHAB - Olympic Region Harmful Algal Bloom

Miranda Wecker, Marine Program Manager

An in-depth presentation was made on ORHAB at the most recent Board meeting (see the minutes for a summary). ORHAB partners Joe Schumacker, Brett Dumbauld, and Frank Cox attended the meeting to share information on the value of ORHAB to constituents in the Olympic Region. The next ORHAB meeting will be on Oct. 7 in Seattle. More information on ORHAB can be found at: http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/hab/Newsletter/ORHAB_Project.htm

The ORHAB PROJECT GOAL

To implement a 5-year monitoring partnership utilizing the regional capacity and commitment that will sustain an expanded long-term program of HAB monitoring and mitigation into the future by transferring technologies to local stakeholders.

Taken from the website:

Olympic Region Harmful Algal Blooms (ORHAB): Washington State Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Project

Forks Geocache Brings Global Treasure Hunters to the Olympic Peninsula

by TZA, ONRC GIS+IIS



The SR-71 Blackbird Travel Bug passed through ONRC's Geocache on its eastward journey.

Prompted by an idea from Rod Fleck, Attorney and Planner for the City of Forks, the University of Washington Olympic Natural Resources Center has teamed up with the City, Quillayute Valley School District and Quileute Tribal Schools, Forks ThriftyMart, and Sully's Restaurant to create a local Forks "Geocache," a GPS-located treasure that recreational GPS users can hunt for on the Olympic Peninsula.

The Forks Geocache is one in a global network of geocaches, and is the first in the Forks area. The Forks Geocache was located on June 8, 2002, at **47° 55.930 N Latitude, 124° 23.550 W Longitude** by ONRC GIS Specialist Teresa Zena Alcock, ONRC Facility Manager Deric Kettel, Elizabeth Moundalexis, City of Forks Event Coordinator

Pat Soderlind, and Forks Alternative High School Intern Jeff Gingell. The Forks Geocache has already been found by several new and frequent visitors (and locals!) to the Olympic Peninsula.

Response to the Forks Geocache has been very exciting and fun-filled. "Nrobin" found it to be a "good family cache." "Msnewleaf," first-time geocacher, "read about it in our local newspaper and decided to give it a try.... loved it! ...completely hooked now." "Cloudwalkers" took a City of Forks souvenir pin and left Mardi Gras beads that they had picked up from a geocache in Louisiana. "A nice walk in the woods - very different from the woods of Minnesota." "Binskeep," a veteran geocacher with 191 finds,

said, "This was one of the most ingenious hides we have seen so far!"

The Forks Geocache has recently been visited by a "Travel Bug" (non-invasive!). A Geocache Travel Bug is a toy or more valuable trinket that has a destination somewhere in the world, and must cover a significant distance from its source in order to reach it's destination. The SR-71 Blackbird Travel Bug [http://www.geocaching.com/track/track_detail.asp?ID=7573] started at the Forks Geocache July 23, 2002, and is traveling east (via willing hosts) to return home to the Radio Control Airplane cache in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. To find out more about the Forks geocache, visit the ONRC website and click on "Let's Go Geocaching!"

ONRC Conference Center Events

September

17th -21st

UW Worldwide Field Trip

19th -20th

Forks Forestry Education
Tour for Legislative Aides

October

3rd

Audubon Tour

5th

Operation Uplift Cancer
Survivor Workshop

5th -6th

UW Marine Fisheries Field
Trip

23rd -25th

Nat'l Park Service EMT
Training

Operations

Kathleen Heuring, Business Manager

ONRC is currently recruiting for the following two positions:
Director of Education and Outreach, responsible for the development and implementation of a program of educational services and community outreach.
Geographic Information System Technician, a

temporary twelve-month position providing GIS and internet support for both forest and marine programs and managing a regional GIS Conference to be held at ONRC in early 2003. Detailed position descriptions, and application instructions are available on the ONRC Website

(www.onrc.washington.edu) We expect to have all applications/resumes for both positions by September 20, 2002, and to interview and hire by the end of September. We're excited about seeing some new faces at ONRC, and will profile the new staff members in future newsletters.