

ONRC CONFERENCE CENTER 2006 SNAPSHOT

Theresa Santman, Conference Center Coordinator



ONRC UPDATE

The ONRC Conference Center enjoyed a dynamic 2006, providing conference and support services to groups from a variety of disciplines. We are pleased to fulfill the center's goal of providing research and field support to University of Washington undertakings. Over the course of the year, our ability to provide lodging, workspace, network access and university support services facilitated both long term lodgers and brief stays by University students and staff involved in research, environmental education, and community outreach.

ONRC sponsored research and outreach events in calendar year 2006 included:

- Annual Nature Days environmental education field day for area youngsters
- Math Institute Administrator Workshop
- 2006 UW Mathematical Institute for K-12 educators throughout Western Washington
- Lodging for UW College of Forest Resources students involved in research taking place on the Olympic Peninsula

In addition, Conference Center staff

worked hard to support education and outreach efforts involving the larger UW community, including field trips by students studying forestry, ecosystem sciences, marine biology and aquatic and fisheries sciences.

The ONRC Conference Center also provided facilities and support to educational and outreach programs including:

- Washington Forest Stewardship program administered by Washington Dept of Natural Resources in cooperation with Washington State University

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Identifying Animal Tracks at Nature Days



Aerial View of ONRC

ONRC UPDATE is published bimonthly by the

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ONRC CONFERENCE CENTER 2006 SNAPSHOT (continued)

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- Olympic Community Museum project let by UW Libraries and Olympic Peninsula communities
- Western Research Forest Managers' Symposium co-hosted by ONRC and the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest
- UW College of Forest Resources new faculty tour

In 2006, our client base continued to extend beyond the University as we hosted forestry and marine science field trips from Evergreen College, Western Washington University, Everett Community College, and others involved in environmental education.

Late summer and early autumn brought an international flair to ONRC as we hosted groups from three foreign countries, providing us with a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Olympic Peninsula, ONRC, the College of Forest Resources, and the University of Washington to a worldwide audience.

In August, we provided a 10-day program for 13 students

from the College of Natural Resources at the National Chung Hsing University in Taichong, Taiwan. The students explored conservation and sustainable forestry issues through lectures, field tours, and lab exercises. This is the second summer program that ONRC has arranged for NCHU

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students; it is an endeavor we look forward to again in the future.

In September, a class of Danish students filled our facility as they toured western Washington, exploring natural resource management in Washington State. We wrapped up our international visits in October when German professors and students studying urban ecology visited ONRC led by College of Forest Resources

Professor John Marzluff.

Conference center business generated from non-academic users continues to be robust. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service and the Olympic Educational Service District represent a sample of the many groups we are delighted to provide services to as they carry out research, hold workshops and trainings and work within the local community.

The ONRC Conference Center staff looks forward to a busy 2007. If you are planning a training, field trip, workshop or retreat, let us show you what we can do to help make your event a success. You can find out more information about our center by visiting our website at www.onrc.washington.edu. Click on "Conference Center" to see images of our lovely facilities and location. Contact me, your Conference Center Coordinator Theresa Santman, at (360) 374-4550 or email tsantman@u.washington.edu for more information and reservations. We look forward to having you visit ONRC soon!



Exterior view of ONRC, outside apartment wing. Constructed in 1995, the buildings were designed to provide maximum use of available light but manage the abundant rainfall with extended eaves and covered walkways.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE: THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

Deric Kettel, *Maintenance Mechanic*

I was asked to write an article defining the keys to success to keeping the ONRC facility looking and operating like new. I thought about it for a few days, and one thing kept running through my mind. I realized that one of the biggest factors could be summed up in just one word – INFORMATION.

Having information in dealing with maintenance issues that come up wasn't always the case, at least not in the beginning. Let me back up for a minute. In July 1995, I was hired as the Maintenance Mechanic for the ONRC. At that time the building was new, and I thought to myself, "Things should go smoothly for the first few years." Well, that was not exactly the way it turned out, at least not right away.

When the building was accepted by the University of Washington from the general contractor, there were the usual punch list items that had to be finished. Most of the items were taken care of in a few weeks. However one of the things that hampered my taking over this great looking facility was the fact that the Operation and Maintenance manuals (O&M for short) didn't show up for quite some time. While I won't go into detail why, the manuals took nearly two years to get to me. Information like what paint was used to the manuals on all the equipment and even the correct blueprints were somewhere, but definitely not in my hands. How was I going to learn about all of this new equipment without any reference manuals, venter phone numbers, and part numbers or even how often to schedule routine maintenance?

New Tools Emerge

Before taking the job here at the ONRC, I was working in maintenance at the local hospital. I was given a computer and told that this machine was going to change

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how things were done in maintenance and in the world in general. In 1992, the Internet was a pretty new idea, at least to me. I was still using the Microsoft Windows Version 3.1 operating system which was the latest and greatest tool. Email, what was that? After coming to the University, I soon realized the full potential of the Internet, email and word processing that would soon shape everything I would do here. Other programs would soon follow. As mentioned at the outset of this article, defining success in my job and its relationship to keeping this facility looking and running smooth is indeed information.

Information can come from lots of sources, and, while I waited for the books on all of the equipment to show up here on site, I started to realize that the Internet would be as important, if not more important, in realizing that success. Soon I was making a database for contacts relating to products, tools and information that would prove to be very useful, even to this day. Using search engines to find part numbers, equipment dealers, and information in general were really starting to become an everyday

occurrence. Favorite bookmarks allowed me to order parts and supplies from a variety of vendors with the click of a button. In fact, with the help of the Internet, I was able to start printing out original equipment manuals that I am still using today.

Information is a great thing and, to be able to have it at your fingertips, is key. Two years ago I was privileged to receive yet another tool that would prove its worth in short order, the Blackberry. For those of you that don't know, a Blackberry is a phone that can do so many things. I can receive emails, product updates, answers to maintenance questions, and calendar reminders for things like scheduled maintenance to appointments to having over 400 names, phone numbers, and email addresses all in the palm of my hand. The Blackberry is a lot of things to different people depending on what they need it for. This little device has proven to be one of the best new tools for assisting me in doing my job. Information is defined as the communication or reception of knowledge or intelligence, knowledge obtained from investigation, study, or instruction. So what does information have to do with the way the ONRC looks and operates? In all I do, information is truly the key to success.

Now, all of that being said, there are other factors that have made my job and the success of the facility quite apparent. Work crews from the Olympic Correction Center have been instrumental in the great appearance of the buildings. Over the years, they have completely re-painted from top to bottom the entire exterior all of the buildings. In fact the entire outside of the facility looks better than when it was brand new. I also am privileged to have a great team that takes care

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Director's Message

John Calhoun

Director, Olympic Natural Resources Center



As the new year gets underway, we find ourselves often overwhelmed with the tasks necessary to provide strategic direction and ensure funding for our programs. At the start of each year and especially now at the start of the legislative biennium, we become engrossed with nailing down funding, matching resources to program tasks, and setting up relationships that provide the foundation for our work. We are working to finalize agreements with funders, especially the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. Final negotiations on Inter-Agency Agreements are underway. And trips to Washington DC and Olympia to visit with legislators and staff are in the works.

While your Director is thinking long term and attempting to "soar with the eagles," other staff at ONRC are keeping the place running, day in and day out. This edition of *ONRC Update* features the work and accomplishments of those that make it possible for us to conduct daily business at ONRC.

Any who have visited us at

ONRC near Forks can appreciate the outstanding physical facilities we have to work with. The administrative offices, labs, classrooms, dorms and apartments, and dining and social hall – the so called "bricks and mortar" – provide a tremendous platform on which to build the programs and services in support of our mission. Our capabil-

But outstanding physical facilities are not enough. To make them work you need people; in our case, really good people. Theresa Santman and Deric Kettel are the twin dynamos that energize and drive the facility use and maintenance at ONRC.

ity to provide conference support, host professional and technical workshops, and create an open, stimulating environment for learning defines, for many, what ONRC is all about.

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use and maintenance at ONRC.

Theresa, our Conference Coordinator and Fiscal Specialist, takes care of everything from scheduling facility use, to supervising cooks and planning meals, to managing the finances of our facilities use cost center. An important element in her success is the good working relationship she has with Deric, our Maintenance Mechanic. Deric is responsible for all of the maintenance and upkeep of the campus, including everything from supervising custodial work to scheduling long term maintenance. Deric shops for the best buys on all the equipment and maintenance supplies, sets up meeting rooms for events, and customizes facility services for our clients. Working together, Theresa and Deric keep the place functioning smoothly, looking terrific, and busy.

It is not too much to say that the rest of us stand in awe, watching two key staff members manage these complex operations with ease. From my perspective, having confidence that the daily operations of the ONRC campus are in good hands, enables me to focus my thinking elsewhere - like up there where the eagles soar.

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BUILDING MAINTENANCE

of the grounds as well as a cleaning crew that makes sure the facility looks its best for all those who visit and stay here as our guests.

I guess the fact that I have been with the building from the

beginning has caused me to take more of an ownership than most people would have done. Is that a bad thing? Not at all. I take my job very seriously while at the same time enjoying every day here working for the ONRC. Of course I can't understate what it is like

working with the staff here at the Center. It seems that no matter what comes up, we all seem to pull together and get the job done. As far as the future of the facility goes, I can't say what's in store for sure. But I can say that information will continue to be a key ingredient.