

# North Olympic Salmon Coalition

"Take care of the land and the land will take care of you."  
- H. Bennett



## upcoming events

### Morse Creek Monitoring

Morse Creek, Port Angeles

Various shifts available

August-September 2015

Volunteers needed for summer days on beautiful, restored Morse Creek!

Contact [raubin@nosc.org](mailto:raubin@nosc.org) for more info. (360) 379-8051

### Training: Summer Chum Stream Surveys

WDFW offices; Pt. Hudson, Pt. Townsend

Thursday, August 20th

9am-12pm

Volunteers are needed to count spawning salmon on Chimacum creek thru Oct.

## Studying a Natural Resource

Students earn credit working with the Salmon Coalition



Natural Resource students help Cheri Scalf, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, count and measure smolt at the Snow Creek fish trap.

North Olympic Salmon Coalition wrapped up our third year of Natural Resources classes at Sequim High School, a partnership with the Port Angeles-based North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center. The class focuses on salmon as a natural resource, specifically looking at the expertise and community engagement involved in protecting salmon habitat. Students earn English, science, or CTE (Career & Technical Ed) credit through practical, hands-on learning.

This year's "Salmon Crew" met with our education staff once a week for three hours during the school year. The class visited nine different sites, including seven NOSC restoration projects. The Salmon Crew learned about habitat restoration, met various Salmon Coalition partners, counted fish at WA Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish traps, and even took part in the restoration processes through planting native species and removing invasive plants. Throughout the semester students work on their final project ranging from data collection, poetry, [blog updates](#), and more.

The Natural Resources program provides an alternative learning option for students, many of whom have all but

RSVP to Kendra at [outreach@nosc.org](mailto:outreach@nosc.org); (360) 379-8051

## FIN receives Best Local Community award in Rhododendron Parade



Without the competition of aquatic celebrators from the Port Townsend Marine Science Center this year, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition was able to take home the coveted Best Local Community float award in the annual Port Townsend Rhododendron Parade.

Led by our WCC Crew, the NOSC entry was indeed a sight to behold.

We are honored and proud of our community and the commitment of our volunteers, who frankly made us look amazing in the parade. We hope to have a fair win again next year against the PT Marine Science Center.

Thanks to the Quilcene Village Store for lending us their salmon puppets!

**Late Summer Fun at Morse Creek!**

given up on traditional classroom learning. The program has wide support among community members, local organizations, Tribes, and, of course, students. We are happy that the school districts value the program and are excited to be able to host another group of students next year. If you or someone you know is a Sequim High School student and interested in joining the class, please contact Reed Aubin at [raubin@nosc.org](mailto:raubin@nosc.org); (360) 379-8051 to reserve a spot.

## 'Salmon Rain' falls in Port Townsend

We have a quilt raffle winner! And she's local!



Reed Aubin, Education & Volunteer Manager, and Fin, Migrating Salmon, present raffle winner Dianne Diamond with her prize at HJ Carroll Park.

Rhody Festival. Downtown Port Townsend. May 16, 2015, 3:55pm. Loudspeakers thumped out rhythms and hundreds of party people shook their rhododendrons. Salmon Coalition staff and volunteers were moving just as fast, selling the final raffle tickets before a 4pm drawing of the coveted 'Salmon Rain' quilt. As the final tickets made their way into the basket, Cake Picnic organizer and emcee Danny Milholland addressed the crowd: "This quilt represents the legacy of love and dedication that this community has for the beautiful natural place where we live!"

With a flourish, a young volunteer chose the ticket. The winner: Dianne Diamond of Port Townsend.

When Dianne made the trip out to Port Hadlock to pick up the quilt, she had already decided that she was accepting the quilt on behalf of the community. After discussing with friends and neighbors, she resolved to find a public place to display the quilt within the watershed.

Dianne's neighbor, former NOSC board member and local textile retention advocate Katherine Baril, was overjoyed. "Just as the numbers on a graph tells the story of the salmon's return so does this quilt tell the cultural community story of the aspirations and wishes, projects, conversation,



You are invited to join us for what is perhaps the most outright enjoyable of our volunteer activities: monitoring at our Morse Creek Restoration Project near Port Angeles. Picture warm summer days, sun gently filtering down through alders, a refreshing breeze drifting up the valley. This is what citizen science dreams are made of. All training is provided.

Contact Reed Aubin for more information or to reserve your spot on the volunteer roster!

[raubin@nosc.org](mailto:raubin@nosc.org)

(360)379-8051

Check out the [Morse Creek Video](#) on our website!

## NEW CALENDAR

for eco events  
on the North Peninsula



**Project Manager  
Kevin Long  
assesses his fish**

"They are full grown."

and all the community based- non-scientific- reasons that we worked to restore this watershed." she said.

North Olympic Salmon Coalition would like to thank each and every one of you who purchased a ticket (or 20!). We would like to offer extra special thanks to Emmy Lou Stein, who volunteered to organize the raffle, and did so with grace, enthusiasm, and meticulous bookkeeping. Many other Salmon Coalition members helped sell tickets, including Teri Nomura, Nita Wester, Oma Landstra, Dale Koenig, Elisabet Skyhawk, Robin and Gabe Ornelas, and Ja Wallin. Extra thanks go to Phil Andrus who created a beautiful hardwood quilt-hanging frame, and to Danny Milholland for coordinating an excellent moment at the ever-enjoyable cake picnic.

The quilt raised over \$2,000 for salmon celebration and education, and most importantly, helped to invigorate the spirit of community stewardship that is at the core of all of our work.

Dianne plans to display the quilt at the [Farmhouse CoLab](#) at the old Brown Dairy in Chimacum. "I am so happy to be a part of bringing the quilt back to the public," she said.

Congratulations, Dianne, and thank you for making a gesture that tells the story of watershed restoration in a beautiful way!

## NOSC Welcomes New Project Manager

Meet Kim Clark, the new face behind salmon restoration on the Olympic Peninsula



**Kim Clark**, our new Project Manager, comes to us as a local of the Olympic Peninsula. Kim has degrees in biology and watershed management and recently worked in habitat restoration and fisheries monitoring. In her first month at NOSC she has already attended the Salmon Recovery Conference, helped our Sequim High School students navigate



After 4 months of tracking Kevin's new fish, they have finally reached their full sizes. To see baby pictures of these fish, check out the [February Newsletter](#).

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the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife fish traps on Snow Creek, supported our restoration efforts, and began managing our native plant nursery.

Kim will be working out of our Port Angeles office on Clallam County's restoration projects, education programs, and outreach initiatives, specifically focusing on our Hoko project, the WSDOT culvert injunction, and the Dungeness Bridge and Trestle replacement. "I am excited to promote NOSC and work on fisheries and aquatic habitat restoration in west Clallam County," said Kim.

The Salmon Coalition will be keeping her busy, but as she settles into her new job she is looking forward to spending her free time with her 18 month-old daughter, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and starting up her home garden. What's she best at catching when she finds time to fish?

"What I am best at catching with my fishing rod in my hand and feet in a river is my breath, but I love when I hook a steelhead."

She'll fit in just fine here at NOSC and we are delighted to have her on our team!

Find out more about Kim and other members of our team [here](#).

## Education & Volunteer Program Highlights

Joyce Middle School, OPEPO Elementary, Sequim High...



Joyce Middle School students checked the fish trap at Tumwater Creek in Port Angeles with the able assistance of PAHS Skills Center Natural Resources Students Tyler Hansen and Austin Jay.



Students from Port Townsend's OPEPO program sing about Geoducks during a Salmon Coalition education day at Irondale Beach in May.



Volunteer & Education Manager Reed Aubin gives Sequim High School student Soraya Frutos some pointers on weed-throwing technique near the Dungeness River.

**Volunteer Spotlight**  
Michael Aubin



Michael Aubin assisting NOSC during our 2014 tree planting with Habitat for Humanity along Chimacum Creek.

As the AmeriCorps Education & Outreach Assistant at the North Olympic Salmon Coalition, I, Kendra Krantz, have the pleasure of interviewing our Volunteer Spotlights each month. This June, I had the opportunity to interview a particularly important volunteer, Michael Aubin.

Michael is one of our longest standing volunteers and members and also happens to be the father of our Volunteer & Education Manager, Reed Aubin. Michael not only is a dedicated volunteer, but over the past few months he has come through in times of need for the North Olympic Salmon Coalition.

Between being a last minute volunteer leader for a spring planting and volunteering with us when we had every Port Townsend 7th grader planting trees at Finnriver Farm, Michael deserves a round of applause. His profound knowledge of the Salmon Coalition's history and his ever-charming attitude about salmon and nature are qualities we are grateful to see in our community.

Michael began working with NOSC over twenty years ago eager to see the "salmon related environment be put back together again after it was almost destroyed." I had the opportunity to sit down with Michael and to pick his brain.

- **KK: What is the biggest change you've seen NOSC go through?**

MA: "[NOSC has] a much broader reach across the whole North Olympic Peninsula... I think that's the biggest change I can remember. It seems as though it was fairly Chimacum Creek watershed based at first."

- **KK: How does it feel to go from volunteering alongside your son, Reed, and now seeing him as the Education & Volunteer Manager?**

MA: "It's very heartening I am incredibly proud of the

work that he and the whole staff are doing. I think about it pretty regularly when I drive across Chimacum Creek at the old Gould farm and see how large the trees have gotten that we put in together with a volunteer group many, many years ago."

- **KK: Several staff members have mentioned that you are a noted epicure. What's your favorite way to prepare and eat salmon?**

MA: "Currently my favorite is gravlax and then smoking it - it results in something similar to the consistency of ham."

*Check out Michael's recipe for Nectarine Salmon Fillet [here](#).*

- **KK: You once wrote that you "captured your dream of the sea." How would you say that your dream of the sea is specifically connected to wild salmon?**

MA: "At least in the part of the world, the salmon are very representative of my idea of the sea. They are such a big part of the food chain in the ocean. Salmon and other anadromous fish are the connector between the marine and terrestrial environments."

- **KK: What's your favorite watershed on the Peninsula?**

MA: "Maybe the Big Quilcene because it feels like home and it's the source of our water. But then the magnificence of the Elwha is wonderful too. It's pretty inspirational and I've spent a lot of time there."

- **KK: Any additional reflections on your time and experience at NOSC?**

MA: "One thing that's really been coming up frequently in my mind is that great day we had with the whole 7th grade class, it was so good to see all those kids out working cooperatively and getting excited about putting the environment back together. I'm really glad that I was able to volunteer that day on short notice. That was the most inspirational. I mean the other plantings I've been to were great, but just having all those kids out there all at once was wonderful."

Thank you, Michael for continually supporting our efforts and inspiring our staff.