



# North Olympic Group Newsletter

P.O. Box 714 Carlsborg, WA 98324

[exploreolympics@gmail.com](mailto:exploreolympics@gmail.com) <http://sierraclub.org/washington/north-olympic>



Sept - Oct, 2015

## In This Issue

NOG Elections, Crab Fest _____	1
Local Political Endorsements _____	2
Endorsements (continued) _____	3
Aquaculture Update _____	4
Help Prevent Navy Warfare Range _	5
NOG News Items _____	6
Reclaimed Sewage, Voter Forums ___	7
Marbled Murrelets, Coal & Oil ____	8
East Coast Vacation _____	9
Vacation (continued), Pleasant Harbor _	10

## Meetings & Events

- Sept. 19** – NOG at the Port Townsend Farmers Market
- Sept. 23** – Clallam County LWV debates in Sequim (Page 7)
- Sept. 30** – Clallam County LWV debates in Port Angeles (Page 7)
- Oct. 1** – Clallam County LWV debates in Forks (Page 7)
- Oct. 4** – Clallam County LWV debates in Port Angeles (Page 7)
- Oct. 6** – Clallam County LWV debates in Sequim (Page 7)
- Oct. 8** – Excom meeting in Sequim 10 am to 12 pm. Contact Peter Guerrero [exploreolympics@gmail.com](mailto:exploreolympics@gmail.com) for more information.
- Oct. 9, 10, 11** – NOG booth at Crab Fest volunteers needed →
- Oct. 17** – NOG at the Port Townsend Farmers Market

**NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> – VOTE**



## WE COULD REALLY USE SOME HELP

There are four positions on the Executive Committee coming up for election. These involve a two-year

term of office, not a life sentence, so they are “doable” for many of you. Excom members meet once a month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend. They are responsible for administrative decisions, planning NOG activities and deciding on conservation actions.

Most of our Excom members have been serving on the board for years. We could use new ideas and energy. If you can devote some time to helping keep the group viable and active please contact Bob Sextro by **October 21<sup>st</sup>** at <mailto:robertsextro@noblis.com> or at 360-683-7643. **Help keep us alive and functioning.**



## **PUT YOURSELF IN THIS BOOTH**

It soon will be Crab Fest time again in Port Angeles and we are asking for volunteers to help man our booth on October 9, 10 or 11. You can name the amount of hours you want to work, so if you can contribute a few hours please contact Bob Sextro at [Robert.sextro@noblis.com](mailto:Robert.sextro@noblis.com) or 360-683-7643.

## Group Executive Committee

We are governed by seven volunteers, with help from our conservation committees and interested members.

Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend.

**All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.**

### Officers:

Chair: Robert Sextro

Vice Chair: Peter Guerrero

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Monica Fletcher

### Executive Committee:

Norm Baker

[ntbakerphd@gmail.com](mailto:ntbakerphd@gmail.com)

Monica Fletcher

[monicaflet@gmail.com](mailto:monicaflet@gmail.com)

Peter Guerrero

[exploreolympics@gmail.com](mailto:exploreolympics@gmail.com)

Darlene Schanfald

[darlenes@olympus.net](mailto:darlenes@olympus.net)

Robert Sextro

[robert.sextro@noblis.com](mailto:robert.sextro@noblis.com)

Bill Volmut

[bill.volmut@gmail.com](mailto:bill.volmut@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor – Janet Marx

[Janetmarx\\_76@msn.com](mailto:Janetmarx_76@msn.com)

*Complaints, suggestions, opinions are always welcome*

## NOG POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

### Clallam County



### Mark Ozias for County Commissioner, District 1

We have chosen Mark as our best choice for this position. Mark has served as Sequim Planning Commissioner where he advocated for urban, rather than rural, population density and he carefully reviewed the environmental impact of

Proposed developments. As former owner of Red Rooster Grocery he has helped build our local small farm community. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Sequim Food Bank. Mark has been a Sierra Club member for many years and considers himself an environmental advocate.

Mark believes that citizen engagement is the key to government transparency and efficiency. Global climate change is a key concern for Mark and he would work closely with irrigators, Department of Ecology and the Tribes on water issues. He would lead the effort to update the County's Climate Action Plan and he would broaden input to include advocacy groups as well as industry groups. Mark believes the County should take a stand against increased Navy activity in, near or around the airspace surrounding Olympic National Park and would advocate for a formal letter to the Navy opposing any expansion of activity.

Mark's stand on environmental issues would bring a new dimension to County government. For more information visit [www.markozias.org](http://www.markozias.org). Mark will be at Port Angeles Democratic Headquarters (124 W 1st St) on September 16, from 6-8pm.

**Please help Mark win this election** by donating to his campaign, displaying signs and/or bumper stickers, holding household meet and greets, and doorbelling.

The NOG will be making phone calls for Mark. We need your participation to make this a success. If you would be willing to call a short list of people, contact Darlene Schanfald at 360-681-7565.

*(Political Endorsements continued on Page 3)*

## **NOG** POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS *(continued)*

### **Jefferson County**



#### **Diana Talley for Port of Port Townsend Commissioner**

In this race, challenger Diana Talley is running against incumbent Steve Tucker. The Port is one of the largest remaining “do-it-yourself” boatyards in the NW and its marine trades constitute one of the largest employment sectors in the County. Unfortunately, years of less-than-adequate environmental controls have resulted in soil contaminated by copper, zinc, lead, oil and grease, and other substances that are toxic in a marine environment. The boatyard is also unpaved, resulting in airborne contaminants in an area subject to high winds. In addition, the *Port*

*Townsend Leader* recently listed the Port as one of the top water users in the area, a concern because of the drought.

On the plus side, the Port has been recognized as a leader in taking remedial action to address its storm water runoff problems. It has created an eco industrial park by the airport, is participating in developing a system of electric vehicle charging stations, and has installed a solar array at the airport that provides 100% of the airports electricity.

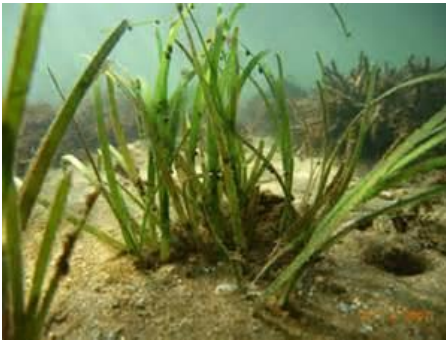
However, the Port also faces millions of dollars in construction costs due to years of deferred maintenance. This deferral affects both safety and recreational access to the Port’s facilities. An engineering study is currently underway to identify priorities for addressing these deferred infrastructure needs.

Both candidates in this race recognize the importance of taking steps to improve the Port’s environmental record and to address the backlog of needed infrastructure improvements. The challenger, Diana Talley, whose marine trades business is located at the Port, is keenly aware of the adverse consequences on the marine trades were the Port to lose its water discharge permit. Steve Tucker, on the other hand, can point to both steps the Port has taken to address its environmental problems and its leadership in sustainable energy.

This has made it particularly hard for us to decide who to endorse in this race. But after interviewing both candidates and reading their responses to our questionnaire we are supporting challenger Diana Talley because we feel the Port can be doing more to protect the environment. We support her proactive environmental agenda that includes paving the yard to reduce toxic dust and better manage runoff, recycling water to address the Port’s high consumption, and providing enhanced monitoring of the yard to ensure compliance with environmental “best management practices.” For these reasons we feel she is the best person for addressing the Port’s serious environmental problems.

Visit Diana’s website <https://dianatalley.wordpress.com> to learn more and to find out how you can help.

**See Page 7 for a list of Clallam County League of Women Voters Forums**



## AQUACULTURE UPDATE

*Darlene Schanfald*

On August 3, twelve WA State environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club WA State Chapter, wrote the WA State Congressional delegation -- Representatives and Senators -- asking them to retract a request they made to remove a condition protecting eel grass beds.

The Puget Sound Shellfish Growers Association (PSSGA) requested our WA State Congressional delegation remove Condition 7 from the Programmatic Biologic Assessment (BPA) for aquaculture permitting currently being developed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Condition 7 supports science-based eelgrass recovery and any new loss as follows:

*For continuing activities in 'fallow' areas, those activities shall not occur within 16 horizontal feet of native eelgrass (Zostera marina). If eelgrass is present in the vicinity of a fallow acreage proposed for shellfish activities, the eelgrass shall be delineated and a map or sketch prepared and submitted to the Corps. Surveys to determine presence and location of eelgrass shall be done during times of peak above-ground biomass: June – August. The following information must be included to scale: parcel boundaries, eelgrass locations and on-site dimensions, shellfish activity locations and dimensions.*

Sierra Club, et al pointed out, *this "fallow" area is a significant amount of acreage subject to potential impact. .... there are approximately 14,796 acres the shellfish growers are self-reporting as "fallow," with eelgrass and kelp likely to be present in a significant percent of that acreage. Eliminating Condition 7 would mean the entirety of eelgrass beds in these areas, potentially thousands of acres, could be ignored and in turn decimated by impacting aquaculture operations.*

*This "free pass" for eelgrass damage is unsupported by the best available science and is inconsistent with the millions of federal dollars that have been devoted to restoring Puget Sound and lifting salmon from their status as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.*

The environmental coalition awaits a response from the Congressional delegation.

As to penned salmon, on August 25, the Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC) wrote the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Environmental Protection Agency notice of intent to sue.

WFC says the agencies failed to fully assess the danger of floating pens of non-native Atlantic salmon to protected wild salmon runs and thus violates the Endangered Species Act. Read WFC's full statement at: <http://wildfishconservancy.org/about/press-room/press-releases/environmental-protection-agency-national-marine-fisheries-service-violating-endangered-species-act>

**"The sea was the cradle of primordial life, from which the roots of our own existence sprouted. Billions of years of evolutionary development brought forth an enchanting variety of forms, colors, lifestyles, and patterns of behavior. "**

**— Werner Gruter, Writer**





## HELP PREVENT THE NAVY'S WARFARE RANGE

The Executive Director of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics told citizens that **letters to Robert Bonnie**, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, may be the best shot we have to defeat the Navy's plan to turn the Olympic Peninsula into an Electronic Warfare Range.

Mr. Bonnie's office assistant recently conveyed the following:

- Mr. Bonnie's office has been so inundated with letters of protest, they have been unable to respond, and are forwarding letters to the Forest Service to review.
- Mr. Bonnie is personally keeping a daily count of the letters received. To date, the tally is well over 200, and continues to climb. This is unprecedented for their office.
- While the public outcry has definitely garnered Mr. Bonnie's attention, it will take more than one individual to turn this around. Her advice: **Contact Thomas Tidwell, Chief, US Forest Service.**

**If you have NOT yet written a letter to Bonnie, please do....he is counting them!**

A decision by the US Forest Service is expected in early October. **YOUR** voice is needed! The letters don't have to be long...but we need **a lot** of them!

A big thank you to all who have written letters to Mr. Bonnie. Please send another one to Chief Tidwell. You might highlight the unacceptable fire-risk this range would introduce. Fire is currently the top concern of the Forest Service. Pilots training will be first-level, flying in trios, more than 3,000 flights a year. An accidental jet crash is too risky and would be catastrophic for our parched drought-stricken landscape.

Under Secretary Robert Bonnie  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Jamie L Whitten Bldg. Ste 240 E  
Washington DC 20250  
[robert.bonnie@osec.usda.gov](mailto:robert.bonnie@osec.usda.gov)

Thomas Tidwell, Chief of US Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1111  
[ttidwell@fs.fed.us](mailto:ttidwell@fs.fed.us)

Copies of your letters to Undersecretary Bonnie and Chief Tidwell should also be sent to our elected officials:

Derek Kilmer's executive secretary: [judith.morris@mail.house.gov](mailto:judith.morris@mail.house.gov)

Senator Maria Cantwell: <http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-maria>

Senator Patty Murray: <http://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme>

**"Remember, these lands belong to you and to all Americans. As Americans we have an obligation to preserve our wilderness heritage for generations to come."**

Chief Thomas Tidwell on the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

## **Hike the Wild Olympics**

The North Olympic Group sponsors monthly outings in the Olympics, many of which are designed to showcase the proposed wilderness additions now pending in Congress. <http://www.wildolympics.org>

We're planning on hiking to Mt. Townsend in October, and having the National Park Service lead us on an outing to see the Elwha restoration in November. Dates and specifics to be announced on our MeetUp site where we take RSVPs and provide event details. Sign up for free and you'll receive timely announcements of each event. <http://www.meetup.com/North-Olympic-Group>

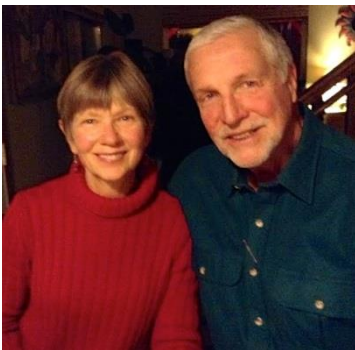


The North Olympic Group was at the recent Uptown Street Fair in Port Townsend. Come visit us at the Port Townsend Saturday farmers' market; we'll be there the third Saturday of each month until Thanksgiving. We'd love to meet you and get your suggestions and ideas.



**Bad politicians are sent to Washington  
by good people who don't vote.**

*William E. Simon*



Jolie and George Will, Sierra Club members, were acknowledged by the North Olympic Salmon Coalition as stewards of the land and waters for their efforts to restore their property along the Dungeness River. For the last eight years they have worked on removing Scotch Broom where it is found near the river bank, and they have invited the Washington Conservation Corps crew onto their property in an attempt to remove the invasive Butterfly Bush from the river's floodplain. According to the Wills they want to live in harmony with their environment, doing their part to help keep a natural balance.



## SAY NO TO LAND SPREADING TOXIC SEWAGE EFFLUENT

*Darlene Schanfald*

As if selling toxic sewage sludge to the public in the form of “compost” and “fertilizer” isn’t sinister enough, the WA State Department of Ecology is in the rule making process of “reclaiming” sewage effluent for uses on food crops, recreational sites, roadway vegetation, and in wetlands.

<<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/ruledev/wac173219/OTS-7078%203Final.pdf>>

While this might sound like a wise plan and benign, it is important to remember that while sewage effluent is cleaner than the solids (toxins and pathogens not left in the treated effluent are taken up by the sewage solids), the effluent still remains highly toxic, and will remain so even after the proposed added chlorine and ultraviolet light treatment.

There is no plan in WA State, as yet, to promote the effluent as potable water, but the State of Oregon is considering this and allows its effluent to be trialed as a specialty beer by the company that operates some of Portland’s wastewater treatment plants.

<<http://www.opb.org/news/article/oregon-water-treatment-company-wants-to-turn-sewage-into-beer/>>

In reality, given the many thousands of sewage contaminants and numerous pathogens, including transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, the spreading of compost and the effluent poses serious environmental damage and wildlife and human health consequences.

Less effluent being released to surface waters is a good thing, as studies have shown widespread impacts to marine life and habitat. What Ecology can do instead is research and fund new technologies that take sewage wastes and turn these into energy sources.

**Please write Dennis McDonald**, Reclaimed Water Rule Coordinator, Department of Ecology Water Quality Program and oppose the recycling of sewage effluent. Urge Ecology to instead research and fund new technologies that take sewage wastes and turn these into energy sources.

**Email:** [Reclaimedwater@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Reclaimedwater@ecy.wa.gov)

### **Clallam County League of Women Voters Upcoming Voter Forums**

Sept 23 – Sequim City Council Chambers, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, candidates for Port commissioner and Sequim School Board, discussion of Sequim School district bond issue (tentative).

Sept 30 – Port Angeles, Elwha Klallam Heritage Center, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, candidates for County Commissioner and Port Angeles City Council.

Oct 1 – Forks, Rainforest Arts Center, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, candidates for Port Commissioner, Forks City Council and speakers for and opposed to Fire District 1 levy.

Oct 4 – Port Angeles City Council Chambers, 1:30 – 4 pm, candidates for Port Commissioner and Port Angeles School Board.

Oct 6 – Sequim Transit Center, Candidates for County Commissioner, Sequim City Council, SARC Board and Fire District 3 Commissioner





Murrelet Survival Project  
PO Box 1642  
Shelton, WA 98584  
(360) 742-4808  
Kevin@murreletsurvival.org

## How You Can Help The Marbled Murrelet

Do you want to help save the marbled murrelet and its imperiled forest habitat but don't know how to get started? Just pick a task off the list below and make a contribution to the survival of this enigmatic forest-nesting seabirds!

- 1) Follow *Murrelet Survival Project* on Facebook ([facebook.com/MurreletSurvival](https://facebook.com/MurreletSurvival)) and share interesting or important content with your friends.
- 2) Attend a Board of Natural Resources meeting and make your voice heard. Bring a friend!
  - First Tuesday of every month, 9 am @ 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia
- 3) Send a written or video comment to the Board of natural Resources urging that a science-based conservation strategy be implemented for the Marbled Murrelet.
  - Email [bnr@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bnr@dnr.wa.gov) or
  - Write to PO Box 47000, Olympia, WA 98504-7000
- 4) Write a letter or make a phone call to your county commissioners and/or state legislators asking for their support of this campaign.
- 5) Write a letter to the editor of your school or local newspaper about the Marbled Murrelet's predicament and why you care.
- 6) Become a *Murrelet Survival Project* volunteer!

There are many ways to make a difference for the Marbled Murrelet. As we wait for the Board and Department of Natural Resources to take action, the Murrelet population continues to decline. We need your help if you want Washington's future to include the Marbled Murrelet!

## COAL AND OIL INVADE THE PACIFIC NW



The coal terminals and oil pipelines proposed for the NW have enormous consequences for climate change as energy companies have targeted our area as the primary export route to the growing Asian/Chinese energy markets. The article below (see link) provides a status report on the dozens of such proposals; most are in various stages of planning or review or are on hold due to lawsuits, political opposition, tribal opposition, environmental reviews, etc. An excellent overview, big picture of where things stand in a very complicated issue:

[http://daily.sightline.org/2015/08/13/the-thin-green-line-is-stopping-coal-and-oil-in-their-tracks/?utm\\_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm\\_medium=web-email&utm\\_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections](http://daily.sightline.org/2015/08/13/the-thin-green-line-is-stopping-coal-and-oil-in-their-tracks/?utm_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm_medium=web-email&utm_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections)





## My Vacation to the East Coast

Norm Baker

Recently in environmental newsletters available online, there have been several articles about Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) declining in abundance across the United States. Monarch butterflies, with their gorgeous orange and

black coloration, are the most commonly known butterfly in the world. Monarchs are unique since they are one worldwide species occurring on every major continent where each continental population has evolved into somewhat different subspecies. Here in United States, Monarchs have two, three and four generations in a single year and it is the fourth generation that performs the spectacular fall migrations to Mexico. All of the larval stages live exclusively on milkweed plants (*Asclepias spp* of several different species) where the larvae consume the leaves. The larvae acquire a *cardiac glycoside* from the milkweed plants and concentrate it in their bodies. This *cardiac glycoside* is a serious deterrent to any predator who eats either the larvae or the adult. Predators soon learn the orange and black coloration of the adult butterfly and the green and black striping of the larvae is a serious emetic and possible toxin.

Population estimates of monarchs are done by people counting migrating butterflies. One billion butterflies in a migration have been estimated historically in North America. Based on a **2014 twenty-**year comparison, the population west of the [Rocky Mountains](#) has dropped more than 50 percent since 1997 and the numbers east of the Rockies have declined by more than 90 percent since 1995. Populations in overwintering sites in Mexico are down 80%. Scientists now fear the annual migration to Mexico may fail in the next few years.

There are four causes cited for the decline of the monarch butterfly. First, Chip Taylor, director of Monarch Watch at the University of Kansas, says the Midwest milkweed habitat "is virtually gone" with 120–150 million acres lost to agriculture and development. There is also the loss of overwintering habitat in Mexico due to logging. Second, Roundup or glyphosate herbicide kills the host plants for the Monarch larvae. In addition, in *Roundup Ready* corn and soybeans, which are GMO (genetically modified organisms) crops designed to tolerate Roundup spraying, have resulted in the enormous increases in the use of Roundup in agricultural fields. GMO's, especially corn, that include *Bt* or *Bacillus thuringiensis* genes produces corn pollen that is lethal to insects that feed on it. *Bacillus thuringiensis* is a bacteria that kills insects. Third, invasive milkweed species ([Cynanchum spp.](#)) from Europe, are now becoming quite common in Eastern North America and the leaves are toxic to monarch larvae. Fourth, neo-nicotinoid insecticides, which are the most used insecticide in the world, are now linked directly to pollinator decline worldwide. Most attention on the neo-nicotinoid insecticides is focused on declining honeybee and bumblebee populations but its use and consequences are far more pervasive than most people recognize. This insecticide is soluble in living tissues and is readily transported through the plant into the nectar and pollen. For monarchs, the dose to kill a butterfly is as low as 15 parts per billion. Because so much neo-nicotinoid insecticides are used agriculturally, non-target milkweeds are now showing as much as 1 part per billion without even being sprayed. This is also a common homeowner insecticide where it is often applied at concentrations far exceeding recommended rates.



My wife and I recently went on a trip visiting family and being tourists to Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC. Amongst other things, we visited the National Botanic Garden in Washington DC, hiked part of the Appalachian Trail, and did a second hike off the Skyline Drive through the Smokey Mountains. In addition, we visited several nurseries and other gardens and parks. With this kind of information in mind, how many monarch butterflies did we see at a time of the year when populations should be approaching maximum in preparation for the annual migration? **Exactly one Monarch Butterfly!** For one of the most unique, iconic and beautiful insects, Monarch butterflies have now suffered four different assaults on their very existence. This is incredibly sad. Of course, people concerned about the loss of such a magnificent species advocate serious pesticide restrictions, butterfly gardens, and Monarch way-stations to aid their migration. Let's hope mankind realizes what is happening and can prevent the loss of this beautiful creature. Otherwise these kind of actions amount to using just one bucket to bail water when the Titanic is slowly going down.



*Our photo of the one butterfly we saw*

## PLEASANT HARBOR UPDATE

*Barbara Moore-Lewis*

The projected date for release of the Pleasant Harbor FSEIS to the Planning Commission and for public comment is October, 7, 2015. The developer's contractors are addressing concerns and proposed mitigation from the November/December 2014 FEIS comment period.

There is to be a more comprehensive financial analysis, addressing concerns that the development will result in higher taxes and reduced county services for all county residents. (For example, the MOU with the county sheriff adds no staff, cars, or equipment and law enforcement services for the additional thousands of residents and the cost for these will fall on all county residents.)

It appears that there will be a new option for development as well, scaling back the size of the golf course and other features. If you have any questions, you can send them to [brinnongroup@gmail.com](mailto:brinnongroup@gmail.com). Our website is down for reconstruction at this time.