

Annual Report

2013



HARBOR WILDWATCH



Mission

To inspire stewardship of the Puget Sound by providing learning opportunities about the environment to the people of our local communities.

Vision

To be a catalyst for environmental education contributing significantly to our community's understanding of the environment in which we live and our impact on the Puget Sound.

Motto

Learn. Have Fun.

Harbor WildWatch reached 33,001 people through 669 environmental workshops and events in 2013.



The **Get Your Feet Wet** experience is Harbor WildWatch's flagship program. Available to all ages, these fun, free, and interactive beach events introduce visitors to the animals that live in the intertidal zone during summer low tide events. Visitors have the chance to see, touch and ask questions about the

unique animals that call Puget Sound home. With the help of our youth and adult volunteers, our experienced Naturalists lead educational beach walks that teach beachgoers how to locate marine invertebrates while demonstrating proper beach etiquette techniques. New in 2013, we debuted our Beach Monitoring Program at six Pierce County beaches. This program teaches ordinary citizens to monitor the presence and absence of invertebrates at select beaches biannually.

In total, Harbor WildWatch conducted **89 Get Your Feet Wet programs reaching 13,050 visitors** in 2013.



Pier Into the Night is Harbor WildWatch's most unique educational experience. Lights are lowered into the water below Jerisich Dock to attract animals that rarely make an appearance during daylight hours. Guests may encounter ambushing squid, bioluminescent cteno-

phores or darting shrimp as they are attracted to the underwater lights. Adults and children alike investigate the underside of the dock, viewing massive plumed worm colonies, sea stars on the hunt, and nudibranchs prowling the barnacle beds. We coordinate many of these activities during popular community-sponsored events, including the Haunted Halloween on the Pier and Holiday Tree Lighting celebration.

In 2013, Harbor WildWatch hosted **17 Pier Into the Night programs with 4,321 visitors** in attendance.



The **Harbor Outreach Program**, or HOP, assists Harbor WildWatch in supplementing the science education at our local elementary and middle schools. Experienced naturalists deliver twenty different classroom workshops that explore various science topics, including

working wetlands, salmon migration, and ocean acidification. Each 40 minute to 1-hour workshops is designed to complement the existing science curriculum through hands-on learning techniques. The ultimate goal of the HOP is to increase scientific literacy among our young students and generate excitement around science disciplines among the future stewards of Puget Sound.

The Harbor Outreach Program expanded into **15 new schools** in 2013, **delivering 516 workshops to 13,014 students**.



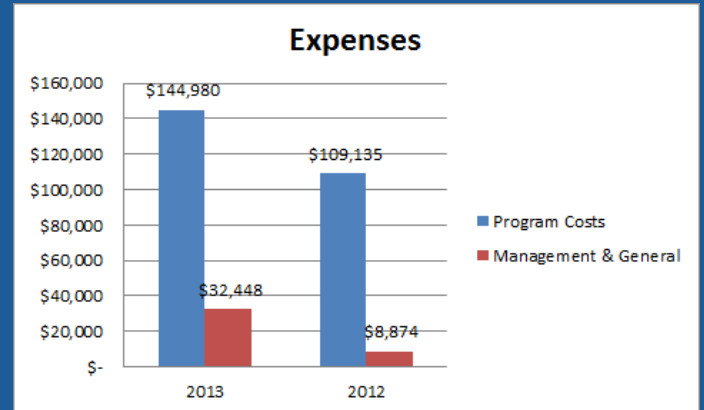
The **seaStars & Beyond** program is Harbor WildWatch's most intensive program for young nature enthusiasts. This 10-month program is designed for students ages 8-12 who are interested in becoming stewards for the Puget Sound. Recommended by their classroom teachers, students participate in

workshops led by trained naturalists and local specialists. After completing their training, each participant is required to complete a self-designed community service project and fulfill a minimum number of volunteer service hours as youth interpreters at our beach and dock programs. In 2013, the curriculum was expanded to include new topics such as composting, green living techniques, and carbon footprint analysis.

27 seaStar & Beyond students and their parents took part in **15 training workshops** during 2013.

Financials

The Board of Directors is dedicated to carrying out the mission and vision of Harbor WildWatch through careful management of the resources of the organization. In 2013, Harbor WildWatch received \$92,248 in total revenue and expended \$177,428. In addition, a total of 898 volunteer hours were contributed in 2013, amounting to \$13,470 donated through in-kind services. This is compared to 706 hours volunteered in 2012, amounting to \$10,590 donated. See the chart below for a breakdown of the organization's revenue and expenses.



Generous Funders

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 KGI Watershed Council
 The Baker Foundation
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 Peninsula School Education Foundation
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 Downtown Waterfront Alliance
 Foss Waterway Seaport
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 Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce
 Gig Harbor Farmer's Market Association
 Gig Harbor Life
 Gig Harbor Living Magazine

Greater Gig Harbor Foundation
 Harbor History Museum
 Island County BeachWatchers
 Java & Clay Café
 Key Pen Parks
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 KGI Watershed Council
 Ocean Inquiry Project
 PenMet Parks
 Peninsula Gateway
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Staff Members



Lindsey Johnson
Executive Director



Rachel Easton
Program Coordinator



Steph McCaffery
Naturalist



Stena Troyer
Naturalist

Visit Us

Harbor WildWatch has opened the new *Gig Harbor Visitor Information Center at Skansie House*—a dynamic destination for residents, visitors and boaters to learn about everything Gig Harbor has to offer. The Center is free and open to the public Thursday through Saturday (October-March) and Wednesday through Sunday (April-September) from 10:00–4:00 PM .



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Connect with us online today.
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