

Annual Report

2016



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.



About Us



Harbor WildWatch's public, youth, member and private programs are fun, interactive, and designed to educate and engage participants in the **preservation of our natural marine resources**.

Our individualized outreach gives citizens, students and visitors the opportunity to examine how their own behaviors impact the environment, gain a sense of place and **discover ways to become better stewards**.

KGI Watershed

Our programs are primarily delivered in the Key Peninsula - Gig Harbor - Islands (KGI) Watershed - a unique area that covers over **100,000 acres** including **179 miles of saltwater shoreline** and is home to 70,000 residents. Our goal is to encourage residents and visitors of all ages to get outside and experience the marine environment through our fun and unique experiences.

We are pleased to continue our partnership with the City of Gig Harbor in bringing life back to the Historic Skansie House in Downtown Gig Harbor. Over the past three years, over 15,000 individuals have visited us at the **Skansie Visitor & Interpretive** Center to observe plankton under the microscope, play in the 3-D sandbox or watch the live underwater camera of Gig Harbor Bay. Join us during our open hours, Wed-Sun (April-September) and Thurs-Sat (October-March) from 10-4pm.



Youth Programs

Our youth programs strive to connect **STEM-based learning** and ecological stewardship to everyday life. Our goal is to increase academic performance, interest in science, technology, engineering and math and access to community experiences for local students. We do this by offering a variety of unique educational programs that **foster a passion for learning and encourage curiosity and critical thinking** for kids ages 5-17.

In 2016, we delivered over
400 STEM-based programs
to nearly **10,000**
students in the community.

The **Explorer Series** immerses students in the outdoor classroom to get a firsthand perspective of one of three unique habitats – beaches, estuaries and wetlands. In a field trip setting, students are challenged to put their classroom knowledge to work as they observe zonation, predation and adaptation demonstrated right before their eyes!



The **Harbor Outreach Program** offers STEM-based workshops to our local K-12 classrooms. Consisting of 20 interactive workshops, this program allows students to explore complex topics such as erosion, tectonics, transference and chemistry through the environmental lens.



Youth Programs



seaStars & Beyond is our most intensive program for young nature enthusiasts. Over 11 months, students ages 8-12 explore a variety of environmental topics through monthly workshops—from marine mammal anatomy to ocean acidification. Students also learn to interpret scientific information to the public by volunteering and completing a self-guided service project to benefit the local environment.

Through the **Teen Mentor Program**, students ages 13-17 have then chance to increase their eco-literacy and gain valuable life skills. They assist with a variety of activities including interpreting to the public and serving as mentors for our younger students. In 2016, our Teen Advisory Board began assisting in the planning process for **seaStars & Beyond** — providing them with even more opportunities to hone their leadership skills.



The **Internship Experience** allows current high school, college and recent graduates to gain valuable, real-world experience in the environmental education industry. Interns learn to deliver classroom workshops and field courses as well as assist with marketing, fundraising and administrative activities. Upon completion, our interns have excelled—moving on to full-time positions in the industry or even openings at Harbor WildWatch!

Public Programs

Get You Feet Wet introduces beachgoers to the animals that live in the intertidal zone at our local city, county and state parks each summer. Visitors interact directly with marine invertebrates through guided beach walks or popular touch-tank events led by staff biologists and experienced volunteers. We hope to inspire beach visitors to exercise care while enjoying the wonders of Puget Sound!



In 2016, we delivered nearly **200** quality, interactive programs to over **20,000** adults, kids and families in the community.

Pier Into the Night allows visitors to catch a glimpse into Puget Sound nightlife. Our volunteer SCUBA divers are equipped with an HD video camera and a live feed to the surface—allowing visitors to have a virtual underwater experience! Unique fish, squid and even an octopus are known to make appearances at this winter program.

The **Citizen Science Experience** allows us to contribute meaningful baseline biodiversity data from our local beaches, estuaries and creeks. With the help of our local and regional partners, regular citizens are trained to monitor water quality, shellfish and other plants and animals. A new protocol to monitor threaten rockfish species was introduced in 2016 with the help of our divers and friends from NOAA.



Our Volunteers



As with many non-profit organizations, Harbor WildWatch relies on our volunteers to help deliver quality environmental education programs to our community. We are **lucky to have an incredible group of adults, teens and students** who have assisted us in spreading our mission of stewardship for the past 13 years! Without our dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to deliver over 600 programs annually in the South Puget Sound.

Our volunteers are passionate about the Puget Sound. They come from many different backgrounds—some with degrees in marine biology, some with a pure love for the great outdoors, other with a passion for civic engagement.

Whether they grew up on the shores of Puget Sound or relocated from a land-locked state, all of our volunteers share a common idea that ***education is the key to inspiring personal stewardship for the local environment.***

Over **60** volunteers contributed their time and talents in 2016. In total, our volunteers dedicated over **2,000** hours of service!



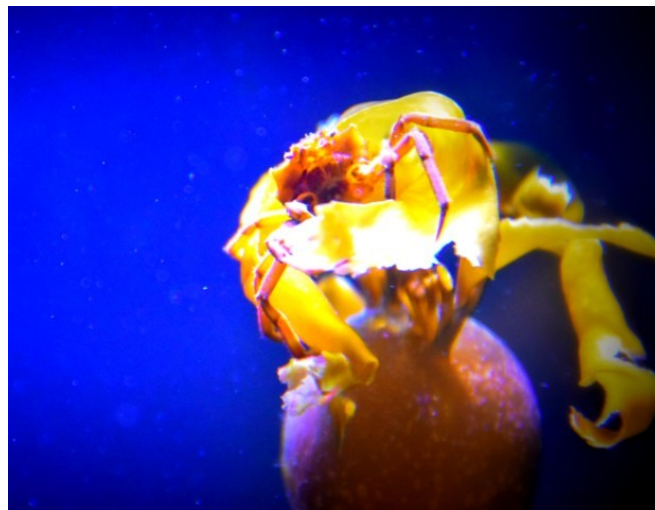
They have fun engaging with their fellow community members at our local parks, piers and beaches and find it rewarding to share their knowledge on how to protect these creatures and their habitat.

We are so very **thankful to the commitment, passion and love for the Puget Sound** that exists within our volunteer force!

The Steward Club

Residents and visitors have enjoyed our fun, family-friendly programs since 2004, but have long hoped for a way to connect with like-minded individuals on a larger scale. That is now possible with the launch of the **Steward Club** in June of 2015!

Becoming a member of the Steward Club provides individuals, families and businesses with the opportunity to connect with Harbor WildWatch through an annual financial contribution and a variety of benefits. We are grateful to all those who joined in our inaugural year!



Individual & Family Members

Tracy Anderson
Chris Arbak
Amanda Babich
Greg Baer
Susan Bennett
Rachel Berry
Maureen Borditsky
Susan Buell & Dustin Renfro
Carolyn Buttofoco
Dr. Michael & Dr. Michelle Behrens
Marcia Black
Barbara & Paul Bourscheidt
Daniel & Thelma Brown
Janice Brown
Eileen Cahill
David Cieszynsky
Jim & Ginny Christensen
Kristi Collins
Larissa Crawford
Abigail Crum
Kathy Currie
Les & Jan Davis
Lee Deide
Lynette Elliott
Josh & Christine Fisher

Jeanne & Rick Grayson
Virdie Gollither
Cheri Evanson
Jeff & Julie Finch
Richard Dessert
Cyndy Dillon
Julie Dire
Greg Forge
Julie Gaffney
Julie & Frank Gonsalves
Jeffery Grinstead
Kallie Grochowski
Everett Gross Jr.
Sharon Haddox
Leslie & Carter Harbaugh
John & Carole Holmass
Kandi Horton
Karen Hoven
Bruce & Dee Dee Holser
Steve & Laurie Holser
George & Gail Jones
Alyse Johnson
Kevin & Denise Johnson
William Kapes
Ernie & Marilyn Karlstrom
Brian & Samantha Kelly

Frank & Janet Knight
Karen Kretschmer
Jennifer Kuluz
Paula Larson & Julie Westcott
Paula Lillard
Silvana Loehndorf
Paul Miller
David Lovrovich
Keith Lucey
Andrew Medina
Mitch Landry
Liz Lathrop
Nancy Leahy
Terry Lee
Jack Leiman
Sara McDaniel
Michael & Sheila Mordue
JoAnn Moore
Nancy Muggoch
Gary Newman
Geneva Norton
Leann O'Neill
Dan Patch
Robin Peterson
Joe & Bernie Piscatella
Meredith Phillips

Roberta Polk
Susan Powers
Kathleen Robinson
Dana Rishwain
Maggie & Josh Rogers
James Rogers
Robert & Julia Sawyer
Jan Seigel
Lin & Connie Sewel
Brian Shelper
Sara Slater
Ted & M.K. Smith
Jason & Leah Smith
Robert & Voski Sprague
Kimberly Stanfield
Verner & Marianne Stillner
Danielle & Benjamin Taylor
Leslie Taylor
Geraldine Thyholt
Anne Vaughn
Julianna Verboort
Al Weymiller
Susan & Gary Whitney
Ryan Will
Mark Willson
Karen Widing
Gail Leese & Tom Wokasch
Warren Zimmerman

Super Steward Club Members

Contributor — \$250 to \$499

Anonymous Donors
Mary Buell
Lonna & Evans Calas
Don & Nancy Davenport
John & Jane Frazier
John & Pat Lantz
Susan Mabee
June Mercer
Ryan Meissner
Anthony & Heather Pennington
Stearns Family Foundation
Curt & Patricia Scott
Spencer & Barbara Tripp
Rick & Linda Troyer

Sponsors — \$500 to \$999

Anonymous Donors
Dave Desertspring & Sherrie Spangler
Harbor General Store
Dr. Julie Gustanski
John & Terry Harrington
Steve & Linda Henry
Mark & Marilyn Hoppen
Tom & Karen Larson
Gunda Meissner
Minterbrook Oyster Company
Taylor Shellfish Farms
Tides Tavern
Diani Taylor
Aamir Qaiyumi

Patron — \$1,000 to \$9,999

American Family Insurance (Tim Lopez)
Dr. John & Susan Conway
Brett Marlo Designs
Robyn Denson
Tony & Erin Ewald
Gig Harbor Marina & BoatYard
Meacham Family Foundation
Glein Family Foundation
Wade & Beth Perrow
Howard & Elizabeth Svigals
US Bank (Stinson Branch)
Gary & Sue Villella

Benefactor — \$10,000 & Up

Anonymous Donors
Babare Family Foundation
Grindstone Foundation
Miles & Cynthia Stover

Generous Grant Funders

Ben B. Cheney Foundation
Charlotte Martin Foundation
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
KGI Watershed Council
New Belgium Foundation
McEachern Charitable Foundation
Pierce Conservation District
The Rose Foundation
The Russell Family Foundation



Partners & Supporters

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
City of Gig Harbor
Downtown Waterfront Alliance
Foss Waterway Seaport
Gig Harbor Boat Shop
Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce
Gig Harbor Life
Gig Harbor Living Magazine

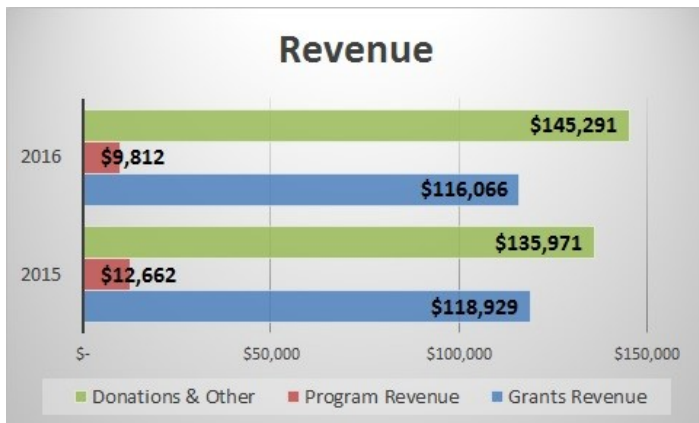
Gig Harbor Marina & BoatYard
Greater Gig Harbor Foundation
Harbor History Museum
Heritage Distilling Company
Key Pen Parks
Kitsap County BeachWatchers
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
PenMet Parks

Peninsula Gateway
Peninsula School District
Puget Sound Partnership
Pierce County Public Works & Utilities
Pierce County Surface Water Management
Tacoma School District
Washington Sea Grant
Washington State Parks

By the Numbers

Harbor WildWatch had an amazing 2016! We debuted the new After School S.T.E.M. Club for middle school students, hosted our first public and student wetland tours and launched our first SCUBA-centered citizen science program to monitor vulnerable rockfish species.

In total, we delivered over **600** quality educational programs to over **30,000** adults, students, families and visitors to the greater Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula communities!



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 2016, Harbor WildWatch generated **\$271,169** in **total revenue** and **expended \$230,510**. These numbers align with our 5-Year Strategic Plan (2015-2019).

In addition to expanding programs, we are also working to **diversify our funding sources** in 2017 and beyond. This is being accomplished using several methods including the continued development of a **membership program**, **annual fundraising events**, **multi-year grant opportunities**, and **planned giving**. In 2016, our Board approved a formal *Gift Giving Policy* that is available on our website.



2017 & Beyond

On the heels of a successful 2016, we have already had a great start to 2017! The Board of Directors and staff will continue to use our 5-year Strategic Plan as a guide to carefully balance the needs of the community with the organizations resources. Upcoming goals include the addition of a new level of the *seaStars & Beyond* program for our youngest students and the analysis of citizen science data we have been collecting since 2013.

We are also working to secure our space at the Historic Skansie House for another seven years—allowing us to provide the community with fun, free and educational programs in Downtown Gig Harbor through 2025. We are excited for the upcoming year and hope you will join us at one of our many events!



Schedule of Events



PROGRAM

Pier Into the Night
Get Your Feet Wet
Farmer's Markets
Walking Tours
Salmon Tours
Wetland Tours
Citizen Science
Private Events

TIME OF YEAR

First Saturdays, October through March
Low-tide events, June through August
Every Thursday, June through August
June through September
Saturdays, November & December
Select Saturdays, Spring & Fall
Available year round
Available year round

LOCATION

Jerisich Public Dock
State, County & City Beaches
Skansie Brother's Park
Downtown Gig Harbor
Austin Estuary/Donkey Creek Parks
Sehmel Homestead Park
State, County and City Parks
Various Locations

Visit Us



Gig Harbor's Downtown Waterfront

Visit us at the *Skansie Visitor Information Center* in downtown Gig Harbor — a dynamic destination for residents, visitors and boaters to learn about everything Gig Harbor has to offer.

Visit our interactive exhibits and laboratory Wednesday through Sunday (April-September) and Thursday through Saturday (October-March) from 10:00—4:00 PM.

Staff Members



Lindsey Johnson
Executive Director



Rachel Easton
Education Director



Jennifer Beard
Development Associate



Stena Troyer
Science Specialist

Board of Directors

Join us in thanking our dedicated Board members for their commitment to environmental education.

Erin Ewald, *President*

Brett Marlo DeSantis, *Vice President*

Howard Svigals, *Treasurer*

Mary Buell, *Secretary*

Tom Larson, *Past President*

Brian Shelver, *Director*

Sara McDaniel, *Director*

Please join us in
welcoming the newest
member of our team—
Franco Ramos!



Program & Volunteer
Coordinator



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Phone: (253) 514-0187



Connect with us online today.
www.harborwildwatch.org