

# *Nature Trails*

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Blue whale flukes, in New Zealand waters.  
Photo by L. Torres

## **Modern Whales Living in Urban Places**

**Leigh Torres**

Oregon State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife,  
and Oregon Sea Grant

**Friday, 16 March 2018, 7:30pm,  
Room 100 Willamette Hall, UO Campus**

Can you imagine being a high-school kid in rural, coastal Oregon, and getting to sign on as an intern with a world-class research team studying gray whales? “Today you have to take your sea kayak out where the whales are diving, collect samples so we can see what the zooplankton levels are out there, run the submersible Go-Pro, and take photographs of the whales when they surface close to you.” I would’ve signed on in a heartbeat and no doubt my life would have turned out totally different. Check out this video and tell me these are not the two luckiest kids on the Oregon coast. Their lives have been irreversibly affected, almost certainly for the better.

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gemmlab/2017/09/12/interns-eyes-video-log-2017-gray-whale-foraging-ecology-project/>

Our speaker in March, Dr. Leigh Torres, is an Assistant Professor at Oregon State University, where she works in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Marine Mammal Institute, and as an extension agent for Oregon Sea Grant. Faculty in Land-Grant Universities such as Oregon State University have as a part of their appointments a responsibility to interact with the public, either presenting their research in ways that interested laypersons can understand, or involving members of the public in their work. This part of their overall appointment is called ‘extension’, or ‘outreach’. While Torres will focus on her innovative and exciting research program when she talks to us, I just could not help but alert you to this example of her work as an extension agent. Talk about outreach. What better example can anyone come up with? And why should it be so hard to find financial support for such endeavors?

Torres had extensive oceanic experience when she arrived in Oregon. Growing up in southeast Florida she fell in love with the ocean and the coastal regions at an early age, spending time swimming and snorkeling off the Miami beaches. Her experience was deepened when during her junior year at American University, in Washington, D.C., she was awarded a six-week internship in Australia, through the University of Queensland, during which she studied dolphin behavior. This six-week period was part of her six-month stay in Australia, in a program run by the School for International Training. So besides the dolphin research she also toured the country, seeing the tablelands and the outback as well as the Great Barrier Reef. She returned to AU convinced that she should spend her professional life studying marine mammals. After finishing her B.A., awarded cum laude by American University, Torres went to Duke University for both her M.S., in coastal

environmental management, and her Ph.D., in marine ecology and management.

Torres next sought a post-doctoral experience. She saw a posting in New Zealand. They wanted a person with spatial ecological training—which she had from her Ph.D. work—to study sea-bird movements. She held this position for two years, looking at the overlap between fishing vessel and albatross movements as determined by GPS tracking. She noted during this time that the institute where she was working had no program dealing with marine mammals. She got funding for such a program, and her two-year post-doc became a permanent position.

At some point during the next five years she made a seminal discovery. Blue whales were not known to frequent waters around New Zealand, and were considered only to be temporary visitors. Torres became convinced these magnificent animals did more than occasionally show up, that they were in fact regulars of the area. In 2013 she hypothesized that the waters separating the North and South Islands, known as the South Taranaki Bight, are an important foraging ground for blue whales. These waters are New Zealand’s most industrially active marine region. There are oil and gas wells here, and ongoing seismic surveys are looking for more reserves. Many vessels frequent the STB with multiple major ports in the region and the neighboring major shipping channel of the Cook Strait. Besides all this, Trans-Tasman Resources Ltd. was recently granted permission to extract 50 million tons of iron sands from the seafloor in the STB each year over a 35-year period.

Torres heads up the Geospatial Ecology of Marine Megafauna Laboratory (GEMM Lab) at OSU. The GEMM Lab has been studying blue whales in New Zealand since Torres first arrived at OSU in 2014. After her initial hypothesis of the existence of an undocumented foraging ground for blue whales, Torres, in her position with OSU, has directed three years of comprehensive vessel-based fieldwork in the STB region during January and February of 2014, 2016, and 2017. This work has been intensely collaborative, involving scientists in New Zealand and in Oregon. Their findings have already provided environmental decision makers in New Zealand and the region with critical information on blue whale ecology and biology, which, it is hoped, will allow effective management of potential anthropogenic threats.

Torres will talk about her work on the blue whales in the STB in her presentation to us. She’ll describe some of the methods the GEMM Lab has been using, including videos obtained from drones (these are visually beautiful as well as informative). The second

major topic of her talk will be foraging behavior of gray whales off the Oregon coast. From one of her websites: “This project aims to link gray whale foraging behavior with fine-scale prey distributions, using inexpensive field methods (e.g., theodolite, Go-Pro cameras and shallow net tows deployed off a research kayak) that have broad applications.” It was this project that the high-school students were enlisted (or volunteered) to work on, in the bay at Port Orford. Other research areas are off Newport and Depot Bay, allowing comparative analysis.

We will learn about the ecology, biology and physiology of baleen whales living in a changing ocean. Unfortunately, it has to be said that we humans are the change agents. The whales are being subjected to more and more noise and boat traffic.

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### **Water Wizards** by Reida Kimmel

Beavers once ranged from the verges of the southwestern deserts to the willow scrub of the Arctic. Wherever there was water flowing with a moderate or gentle gradient, and vegetation, preferably willow, aspen, cottonwood and water plants, there were beaver dams, perhaps twenty-five million of them, inhabited by sixty, some say four hundred, million *Castor canadensis*. Not only did their dams hold water and create habitat for hundreds of other creatures, but the seepage and outflow from the ponds raised the water table. North America was much wetter and more verdant. Then in a couple of centuries this huge population was nearly exterminated, all to manufacture felt hats with beavers’ fluffy undercoats. What a waste of life! Beavers are still harvested for this purpose today.

There are only two extant *Castor* species. The second, *C. fiber*, a bank dweller, not a lodge builder, survives in Europe and North Asia, and is being helped to repopulate its range after having been nearly exterminated before America’s discovery. There are beaver-like antecedents in the fossil record as far back as the Eocene, and true beaver species appear in the Pliocene. On Ellesmere Island fossil wood shows gnaw marks and possible evidence of dam building. An ancestral beaver, *Dipoides*, lived that far north and used four continuously growing incisors to cut trees, pretty much as beavers do today. Modern beavers’ front paws are dexterous, almost dainty, while the back feet are webbed for powerful swimming. Split nails on the second toes of the hind feet probably serve as combs for grooming. Beavers must spread oils throughout their fur to maintain water resistance. The broad muscular tail (declared a fish by the Catholic Church, and hence okay to eat during Lent) helps a beaver to balance on its hind legs and is an aid in swimming, thermoregulation,

The potential installation of wave-energy capturing devices would only magnify the adverse effects on these animals of human attempts to capture economic value from the oceans. Torres will use case studies to show how her research is helping to reduce impacts on whales through improved knowledge and informed management decisions. She will present wonderful photos and videos of these majestic creatures, and I doubt attendees will ever forget her descriptions of the increasing difficulties the whales face in response to humanity’s ever-increasing use of the world’s oceans. You should come to hear “Modern Whales Living in Urban Places,” by Dr. Leigh Torres, on Friday, 16 March at 7:30pm in room 100 Willamette Hall, on the UO campus. This will be good. And there will be cookies. John Carter

and fat storage. Beavers are monogamous, mating at about age three, and raise one to four kits a year. The kits usually stay home helping until they are two years old. Then they disperse, looking for mates and places to build new dams. It’s these youngsters, wandering into places with restricted habitat, that most often come into conflict with humans. Dams are the essential fact in beavers’ lives. They are made from logs, sticks, clay, stones, whatever is available, including truck tires, and they can be built in a few days. A dam can be a mile long, crossing an entire valley, or it can block a small stream. It provides for many necessities of beaver life—impounding water for safe travel to feeding sites, for escape from predators, for food storage, for tender aquatic plants and for toilet purposes.

But why did the two surviving species of this ancient successful lineage become extinct in much of their range? Remarkably suited to their niche as pond builders and with an extraordinary tool kit of skills and adaptations, beavers were still no match for human predators. In North America, greed and the insatiable demand for fancy hats caused Europeans, and Native Americans too, to trap out entire colonies without saving a portion of individuals to repopulate the area. How do you bait a trap with common old willow? You don’t. You use castoreum, the beavers’ own natural scent that they use to mark territory. Fatally attracted to the scented trap, they try to mark the alien scent with their own, and are killed. Add to the trappers’ greed the greed of the farmers who followed and took over the beaver meadows—former beaver ponds with rich, silty soil—appropriating the stream water for irrigation. Soon entrepreneurs built along streamsides, polluting the waters. Beavers had nowhere to go, and by the early twentieth century they were absent from most of their range. Some wildlife officials began reintroduction

attempts. Protected and in suitable habitat, especially in the Canadian provinces, beaver populations rebounded. Although slow to mature and begin breeding, the care and protection parents and the dams offer means that populations can rebound, even soar. In some places, beavers are dubbed “problem beavers” and are killed or relocated. All sorts of clever tactics have been devised to allow humans and *Castor* to live comfortably side-by-side. It is possible to wire culverts. Water can flow through the wiring but beavers cannot get to the culverts to block them, preventing problems with flooded roads and fields. Wiring works well for head gates on irrigation projects too. Pipes inserted into a dam permit it to hold enough water, but if the pond gets too full, the pipes start to drain the water back to a safe level. Beaver food trees planted near trees that people want to protect are acceptable diversions. Enclosing fruit trees with heavy wire cylinders provides protection.

Beaver dams can create ponds for fish and other wildlife, but you can’t just plunk pairs of beavers down in the wilderness and say, “multiply and prosper!” These mammals must have shrubs and trees for food and dam construction. The stream must not be eroded down to bedrock or its gradient too steep. Biologists question whether some stream segments can ever be restored to a point such that they will be attractive to beavers. In the right places, however, and with the help of BDAs (beaver dam analogues) to get things started, beavers will colonize and take over the job of making and maintaining a pond that, incidentally, provides rearing habitat for steelhead,

Chinook and Coho. Years of drought had made streams unsuitable for native salmonids in Northern California’s Scott River watershed. The Scott River Watershed Council encouraged landowners to build BDAs, and beavers moved in. Their ponds are deep, clean and cool, ideal for young fish and other creatures. A NOAA fisheries study found that the dams elevated the water table three feet, even 1,500 feet away from a dam.

Restore the beaver to its role as the keystone species in semi-arid, mountainous and boreal areas and it will replenish water and habitat for multitudes of living beings. Research continues on *Castor canadensis*, and how to create suitable conditions for dams even in impossible seeming places. But there are also remarkable new things to say about this wonderful animal. Beavers have been found to inhabit the brackish waters at the mouth of the Skagit Valley and along the shores of Puget Sound. Little dams in the sweet gale-willow-twinberry zone a short distance back from the shore create pools that are submerged by the high tide. When the tide is out, however, the beaver pools provide habitat for juvenile Chinook. Up to twelve times as many Chinook are found in these pools as are in the adjacent shallows. The pools protect the young fish from being flushed into the more saline open waters and hide them from predators like herons. And no one knew Chinook were there until recently.

Beavers perform beneficial and astounding hydrological marvels. So spread the word. Beavers are good guys, really good guys!

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## Uncommon Bonds by John Carter

Carolyn Longstreth’s article in the April 2017 issue of *Natural History* about the recovery of the river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) in North America gives us a glimpse of the real animal. Besides the playful antics it’s an efficient carnivore, and as it regains its former territories and increases in numbers it will change its ecosystem. Her piece brought back memories of when I have seen river otters in the wild. I, like most of us who have been blessed by such an encounter, delighted in their agility and playfulness and their apparent joy. But there was more to it—I wanted to interact, not just observe. I wanted to bond with them, if only for an instant. And I was wistful because I thought it could never happen.

We humans can form intense bonds with other animals. We have had pets for so many thousands of years that we are probably genetically predisposed to want that bond. I would call the bond between a human and her pet a common bond. Kris and I are especially aware of the intensity of this bond now,

having lost both our wonderful cats in the recent past. The moment a pet dies is seared into our memories. We knew on that first day, the day we agreed it’s *that* animal we would take home, that we would probably outlive it. We subconsciously weigh the many coming joys against that dark instant when the body goes limp and decide joy outweighs pain. And it does.

But there are other, more ephemeral bonds: uncommon bonds. Once in a great while a wild animal will choose to form a bond with one of us. It’s always a one-way transaction. This rare event cannot happen because *you* want it to. Almost always when we come across a wild thing it either ignores us or flees. We can never will it to interact with us. It will only happen at the creature’s bidding. I’m guessing not many have had such an experience. For one thing you have to spend time where wild animals are—a lot of time. And then you have to be lucky, or graced, or blessed.

Brian Doyle used such a bond as a central theme in *Martin Marten*. A young male marten—Doyle named

him Martin—takes an interest in a young boy who runs on trails in the woods on the slopes of Mt. Hood. At first the marten just races through the tress above the boy and allows the boy to get an occasional glimpse of him. Eventually a bond grows between the two. As the novel progresses Doyle persuades the reader to accept this bond between wild animal and human as not only possible but enchanting and to fear for the marten's life. Trust me, it's a very good book. In one passage the two sit for a long time in silent but close proximity on a remote outcrop, and as I read it I was taken back to an experience of my own. I know that these uncommon bonds can form, because it once happened to me, with a beaver.

Beavers seem to have changed their habits since we've usurped so much of their natural territory. We all know of their astounding work ethic, but nowadays they mostly clock in about sundown so we don't see them doing their thing, we only see the things they have done. If you spend time by water, though, you occasionally get a glimpse. I used to visit a wonderful trout stream in western Wisconsin on a regular basis. On one stretch a couple of miles from the nearest road the fishing was especially good. That section even survived what is usually the kiss of death for a trout stream—making the cover of *Fly Fisherman Magazine*. One summer I encountered one particular beaver several times. It lived in the bank right where the river turned sharply from south to east, and it would usually slip into the water when I got close, swim out into the good fishing, and slap its tail—putting all the fish down for longer than I could afford to wait. But one evening I was standing in a riffle maybe 50 yards upstream from its den when it came out and instead of doing its usual maddening thing it turned and slowly swam toward me. I stopped casting and just watched. It clearly knew I was there—it was looking right at me—but it showed no fear and got closer and closer, until it was even with me. I know I could easily have touched this marvelous being with the tip of my rod, but I didn't want to do anything to break this mysterious spell.

The beaver held there for several minutes, swimming just hard enough to keep up with the current so it could maintain its station at my side. Somehow I had been promoted from dangerous predator to fellow river creature. It was better than a papal blessing. I lost track of time so I really cannot judge how long it graced me with its presence but I know it was minutes before the beaver finally stopped swimming and just let the current carry it back to its lodge. That evening it never slapped its tail.

Those magical few moments have caused me to reflect on another aspect of our sense of place. We think of how a place becomes familiar to *us*, how we gradually become comfortable there, how *we* wear *it* like a soft old shirt. Over the years that I went to that place I came to feel comfortable there. Comfortable in the river, of course, but also in the woods and the country I traversed to get to the good fishing. One section of the trail had tall nettles so close I had to hold my arms straight up to keep from being stung. Another part went through woods under which the major understory shrub was wild currant (which would always bring to mind the quixotic efforts of the Forest Service to eradicate cultivated and wild currants because they and other *Ribes* species are alternate hosts for white pine blister rust. The countless wild currants in those woods showed how pointless that effort had been.). Walking back to my vehicle in the dusk after a warm summer day I was often treated to the sight of lightning bugs blinking above a field not far from where I usually parked.

I think of that beaver as the spokesman for its place. Our encounter made me think that maybe, given time and good behavior (I released the fish, didn't cut down any trees), a place can recognize *us*, can become comfortable with *us*, can accept us as part of its whole. I know that beaver changed me. I became more aware of how, as the ecologists tell us, everything is connected to everything else because on a summer evening years ago a beaver chose to swim upstream, chose to spend those few minutes with me and accepted me into its world for a brief time.

## Events of Interest in the Community

### Oregon Humanities Center

**Tuesday, 13 March, 7:30pm. "We the People": Expanding the Circle of Citizenship, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.** Of European and Anishinaabe ancestry, and an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Robin Wall Kimmerer will explore facets of how respectful engagement with indigenous knowledge might re-draw the boundaries of "We, the People" as we consider our relationship to ancestral 'public' lands. 182 Lillis Hall, UO Campus.

### Lane County Audubon Society

**Tuesday, 27 March, 7:30pm. Queensland, Australia—Fall, 2017.** In the late fall of 2017, Dennis Arendt, Kit Larsen, Roger Robb and Jim Regali traveled to Queensland, Australia, and want to share their adventure with you. Australia's geographic isolation has resulted in the evolution of a large array of endemic birds. Of the 760 species recorded, at least 300 are found nowhere else in the world. We started in Lamington National Park at the well-known O'Reilly's Guest House, one of Australia's premier birding hot spots, set in a wonderful cool upland forest. We then continued on to Cairns and the warm tropics of North

Queensland. We covered a variety of habitats from the coastal Coral Sea to the rain forest of the Atherton Tablelands. We recorded over 240 bird species, most of which were new for us, as well as a nice variety of marsupials, snakes and lizards. Eugene Garden Club 1645 High St., Eugene.

**Saturday, 17 March. Third Saturday Bird Walk.** Go to <http://www.laneaudubon.org/> for location and times.

### **Mt. Pisgah Arboretum**

**Saturday, 10 March, 10am-12pm. Nature's Slimy Creatures Walk.** Slugs, snails, worms and more! On this walk for families, learn about the lives of our slimy friends here at the Arboretum with Education Manager Jenny Laxton. These greatly under-appreciated creatures are more fascinating than you've ever imagined. Finish the walk by creating some slime of your own to take home. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Members \$5 per family, Non-members \$8 per family.

**Sunday, 18 March, 8-11am. Bird Walk.** Join Julia Siporin and Joni Dawning for another monthly bird walk intended for people with all levels of birding experience. We'll use vocalizations, habitat, and behavior clues for identification of our early **spring and year-round** residents. Come discover the Arboretum's avian diversity. Please bring binoculars. Option to continue the walk until noon for those who are interested. Rain or shine. Meet at the Arboretum Visitor Center. \$5, Members free.

**Saturday, 24 March, 1-4pm. Back to Basics Drawing Workshop.** Drawing is a way to relax and enhance our experiences in nature. But many are frustrated with their results or just afraid to try to draw. It really does not need to be a stressful activity. With practice and new ways of observing, everyone can improve. Join Kris Kirkeby to explore using a toolbox of basic drawing methods that can guide you to making more satisfactory images. We'll also work on using a little color to give objects form. Supplies: 2H and HB graphic pencils, kneaded eraser, white vinyl eraser, pencil sharpener, sketchbook (no smaller than 5 x 7 with a hard backing, or bring a drawing board) and a 12-color set of colored pencils—waxy preferred (Crayola sets are fine). Meet at the Visitor Center. Members \$25, non-members \$30. Pre-registration required. To register call 541-747-3817 or go to: <http://www.mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration>

**Saturday, 7 April, 1-5pm. Nature Printing With Gelli Plates.** With Glenda Goodrich. Gelli plate printing can be as simple or elaborate as you choose. You'll use acrylic paint, stencils and mark making to create print after print of layered and varied images—the only limit is your own imagination. The gratification is immediate; each reveal brings a beautiful print that can be used for art journals, collage, card making, or even as a stand-alone art piece. \$30 non-members (\$25 members). All supplies provided, including Gelli plates. Materials fee \$12, paid to instructor at the class. Meet at the Visitor Center. Pre-registration required. To register call 541-747-3817 or go to: <http://www.mountpisgaharboretum.com/workshop-registration>

**Saturday AND Sunday, 14, 15 April, 10am-3pm. Botany Workshop.** In this two-day workshop, botanist Tobias Policha will help participants improve their identification skills and knowledge of our local flora. Topics include plant anatomy, family characteristics, and using a botanical key to aid in identification, with the focus on flowering plants. This is a hands-on class, so be prepared to go outside. Recommended text for class: Gilkey and Dennis' *Handbook of Northwestern Plants* (2001 edition). Members \$50, non-members \$60. \$7 materials fee (paid to instructor). All materials included. Please bring a hand lens if you have one.

### **Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah**

**Monday Morning Regulars. 9am-noon.** Contact [volunteer@bufordpark.org](mailto:volunteer@bufordpark.org) for more information.

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-noon. Nursery Work.** Meet and work at the Native Plant Nursery at Buford Park. Enter Buford Park from Seavey Loop Road. Turn LEFT after crossing the bridge and drive 1/4 mile to the nursery.

### **WREN (Willamette Resources and Educational Network)**

Go to <http://www.wewild.blogspot.com/> for information on WREN upcoming events.

### **The University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History**

**New Exhibit. NAVIGATING KNOWLEDGE.** From monkeys and maps to fossils and folklore, MNCH collections help University of Oregon scholars solve mysteries about our planet and our collective human experience. Glimpse into the vaults with UO faculty and student researchers and join their ongoing investigations: You'll traverse land and sea to uncover life's origins, voyage across the Pacific in search of the First Americans, discover how fossils can predict earthquakes, explore arts in Africa and the Americas, and more.

### **Native Plant Society of Oregon, Emerald Chapter**

For the next NPS activity, see <http://www.npsoregon.org/calendar.html> - EM

### **Nearby Nature**

**Our summer daycamps are OPEN for registration!** Go to <http://www.nearbynature.org/programs/daycamps> for all the details! Registration is online, so once you create an account, all of your child's information will be saved for future programs.

**Monday, 26 March, 8:30am-3pm. Spring Break No School Day - Color Craze!** Spots and stripes and masks, oh my! How do colors and markings help animals survive in the wild? Answer these questions and more as we play camouflage games, explore nature nearby, and create our own colorful critters to take home. \$45 members/\$50 non-members. Scholarships available. Ages 6-9, max 12 kids. Outdoors in Alton Baker Park and at our Yurt. To register, call 541-687-9699, ext. 2 or go to <http://www.nearbynature.org/events/march-26-no-school-day-adventure-color-craze> and click on the dragonfly.

**Thursday, 29 March, 10-11:30am. Green Start Play Day: Busy Birdies.** Welcome birds back to the Learnscape! Build a bird nest, listen to tweeted tunes, and tell bird stories. Enjoy outside nature play in our Learnscape plus pre-school crafts and stories. Rain or shine! Indoor area available for wet weather. Kids 5 and under only, with an adult. Members free, nonmembers

\$5/per family. Pre-register: 541-687-9699 ext 2, or go to <http://www.nearbynature.org/events/march-29-green-start-play-day-busy-birdies> and click on the dragonfly.

**Monday, 2 April, 8am-3pm. No School Day Adventure: Growing Up Green.** Discover what's green and growing in the forest, from the tiniest seed to the tallest tree. Go on a wildflower hunt and search for Hendricks Park's coolest trees - the tall, the twisted, the wide, and the weird! \$45 members/\$50 non-members. Scholarships available. Ages 6-9, max 12 kids. Outdoors in Alton Baker Park and at our Yurt. To register, call 541-687-9699 ext. 2, or go to <http://www.nearbynature.org/events/april-2-no-school-day-adventure-growing-up-green> and click on the dragonfly.

**North American Butterfly Association, Oregon (Eugene/Springfield) Chapter**

Go to <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabaes/> for information about NABA's next event.

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**ENHS welcomes new members! To join, fill out the form below. Membership payments allow us to give modest honoraria to our speakers, as well as to pay for the publication and mailing of *Nature Trails*. Our web address: <http://biology.uoregon.edu/enhs>**

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail (if you want to receive announcements) \_\_\_\_\_  
I (we) prefer electronic copies of NT rather than paper copies. \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If yes, email address (if different from the one above): \_\_\_\_\_  
ANNUAL DUES: Family \$25.00  
                  Individual 15.00  
                  Life Membership 300.00  
                  Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual dues for renewing members are payable in September. Memberships run from September to September. Generosity is encouraged and appreciated.**

Make checks payable to:  
Eugene Natural History Society  
P.O. Box 5494, Eugene OR 97405

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### ENHS Field Trip to Lake Abert, 31 May-3 June

This year's field trip will explore the south central region of Oregon's high desert around Lake Abert.

**Activities:** Ron Larson, our May speaker, will lead us on a tour of the shores of alkaline Lake Abert to search for brine shrimp, a recently discovered annelid worm and a variety of shore birds and raptors. We will also visit Abert Rim, a fault scarp, to gain an outlook of the landscape below, and to look for Bighorn Sheep and Ferruginous Hawks. On the second day we plan to visit Paisley Caves, site of the oldest definitively dated human presence in western North America, and home to a variety of interesting desert reptiles.

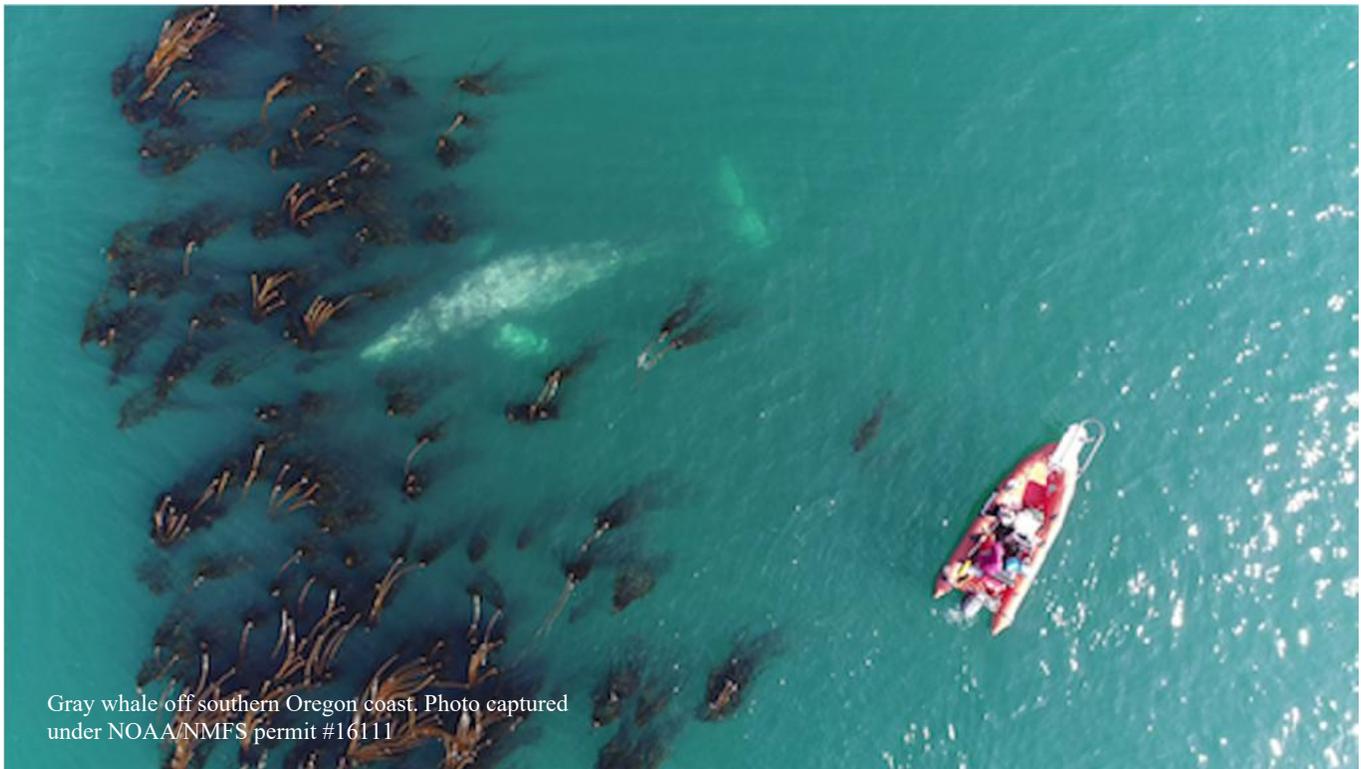
**Accommodations:** We will stay at Hunter's Hot Springs Resort, 2.5 miles north of Lakeview. Each room contains a mini-frig, microwave, and 2 queen beds or 1 king bed. The cost for 3 nights is \$210 per room. We will likely prepare breakfasts and lunches at the resort and eat dinners in Lakeview.

**To participate:** Participation is limited to 20 people. Your name(s) will be added to our list when we receive payment. Make checks out to Eugene Natural History Society and give them to Judi Horstmann at the monthly ENHS meeting or mail to Judi Horstmann, 1835 E 28<sup>th</sup> Ave, Eugene, OR 97403. Include participant name(s), phone numbers, email addresses and PO mail addresses. **All payments must be received by Friday 27 April.** Refunds will be made only in the case of emergencies. For more information, contact Judi at [horstmann529@comcast.net](mailto:horstmann529@comcast.net) or 541-345-1264, or Kim Wollter at [kwollter@comcast.net](mailto:kwollter@comcast.net) or 541-484-4477.

Join us. We always have great fun!

### YOU CAN HELP US.

ENHS has to find dry storage for our booth and its contents, which are in well-organized containers and occupy a space the size of the bed of a small pickup (87"x60"x20"). The booth is used two days a year, once in May and once in October. If you have a dry space and are willing, please contact Dean Walton.



A good place to park for our meetings is the Physical Plant lot: turn north from Franklin onto Onyx, go about a block and you will be in the lot. After 6pm it's open to the public.

### **ENHS Officers and Board Members 2017-2018**

President: Dean Walton <mailto:dpwalton@uoregon.edu> 541-346-2871

Vice President: Rebecca Hazen <mailto:rebeccahazen2011@comcast.net>

Immediate Past President: Tom Titus <mailto:tomatitus57@gmail.com>

Secretary: Reida Kimmel [rkimmel@uoneuro.uoregon.edu](mailto:rkimmel@uoneuro.uoregon.edu)

Treasurer: Judi Horstmann, [horstmann529@comcast.net](mailto:horstmann529@comcast.net)

Board: Ruth BreMiller, John Carter, Tim Godsil, Rebecca Hazen, August Jackson, Phil Johnson, Kris Kirkeby, Dave Wagner, and Kim Wollter. Herb Wisner, emeritus

Website Webmaster: Tim Godsil, [tgodsil@uoregon.edu](mailto:tgodsil@uoregon.edu)

Nature Trails: Editor: John Carter, [jvernoncarter@comcast.net](mailto:jvernoncarter@comcast.net); Support Staff: Ruth BreMiller and Reida Kimmel.

### **Schedule of Speakers and Topics for 2017-2018**

16 March	Leigh Torres	Modern Whales Living in Urban Places
20 April	Fred Swanson	Humanities, Arts, Science Collide at Andrews Forest, Mount St. Helens, and Beyond
18 May	Ron Larson	The Natural History of Lake Abert, Oregon's Salt Lake