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*Thank you Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) for sponsoring Sitka WhaleFest FilmFest.  
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Donations are registered from December 2013 to October 27 2014 . We have made every attempt to include all of our supporters. If you find that you have been omitted or have a correction, please notify our office at 907.747.8878 ext 2 or sitkawhalefest@gmail.com



SITKA WHALEFEST  
18<sup>th</sup> GIZMOS &  
GADGETS

NOVEMBER 6-9 2014

# WHALEFEST 2014

## THURSDAY, NOV 6

6:30-7 Student Marine Art Reception

7:30-8:30 WhaleFest FilmFest

## FRIDAY, NOV 7

11-5 The Market & Café, Silent Auction, Student Art

1-3:45 Symposium: Gadgets for Whale Sized Problems

1-1:45 Lauren Wild & Jan Straley

*Thinking Like a Sperm Whale*

2-2:45 Michael Moore

*Big Needles for Big Whales*

3-3:45 Russ Andrews

*Spying on the Underwater Lives of Whales*

5:30-7 Sitka Sound Science Center Reception

7:30 Maritime Grind

## SATURDAY, NOV 8

9 a Registration for 5K Run/Walk

10 a Start of 5K Run/Walk

9-11:30 a Marine Wildlife Cruise

9-12 Kid's Art Workshop

11-5 The Market & Café, Silent Auction, Student Art

12-12:45 Book Signing with Ross Coen

1-3:45 Symposium: What Makes Pinnipeds Tick

1-1:45 Michael Castellini

*Early Pinniped Research & Ancient Gizmos*

2-2:45 Aleria Jensen

*Disentangling Sea Lions*

3-3:45 Jo-Ann Mellish

*Til Death Do Us Part: Discovering Sea Lion Secrets*

6-6:45 Marine Mingle

7 Feeding Grounds Banquet

## SUNDAY, NOV 9

9-11:30 a Marine Wildlife Cruise

11-4 The Market & Café, Silent Auction, Student Art

1-3:45 Symposium: Technology Through Time

1-1:45 Ross Coen

*Japan's Balloon Bombs: How a Gadget Led*

*Americans to Study Pacific Winds*

2-2:45 Ro Bailey

*The View From Above: Research Using Unmanned Aircraft*

3-3:45 Reid Brewer

*The Technology That Rocks Our World*

4:30-5:30 Don Sineti Family Concert

## SITKA WHALEFEST BRINGS THE SCIENCE TO YOU, INFORMING ON IMPORTANT TOPICS CONCERNING OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

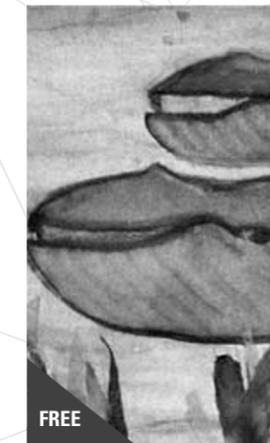
The 18th Annual Sitka WhaleFest is a program of the Sitka Sound Science Center. The event hosts a unique science symposium blending local knowledge and scientific inquiry concerning the rich marine environment of the North Pacific. The festival is a true celebration of our marine wildlife with a vast array of community and cultural activities. Join the symposium scientists for our famous November marine wildlife cruises on Saturday and Sunday mornings where you'll have the chance to see humpback whales, Steller sea lions, harbor seals and sea otters. Each day, inside Harrigan Centennial Hall, you will find a festive atmosphere with music, local foods and student artwork. Browse the marine-themed market for gifts created by Alaska's talented artistic community. Students and local scientists will showcase research studies in the Rousseau Room.



Our second annual filmfest!  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Thursday Nov 6 | 7:30-8:30pm



Marine-themed market with local artists and food  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Friday Nov 7 & Sunday Nov 8  
11:00-5:00pm  
Saturday Nov 9 | 11:00-4:00pm



Student art show  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Friday Nov 7 & Sunday Nov 8  
11:00-5:00pm  
Saturday Nov 9 | 11:00-4:00pm



Scientists share their marine technology knowledge  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Friday Nov 7-Sunday Nov 9  
1:00-3:45pm



Science Center Reception  
Sitka Sound Science Center  
Friday Nov 7 | 5:30-7:00pm



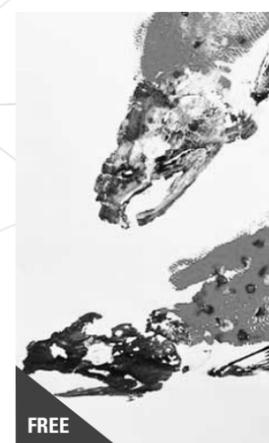
Marine-themed talent show  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Friday Nov 7 | 7:30pm



5k & 10k Run/Walk  
Crescent Harbor  
Saturday Nov 8  
9:00 am registration  
10:00 am race



Join scientists for an educational marine cruise  
Crescent Harbor  
Saturday Nov 8 & Sunday Nov 9  
8:45 am-11:30am



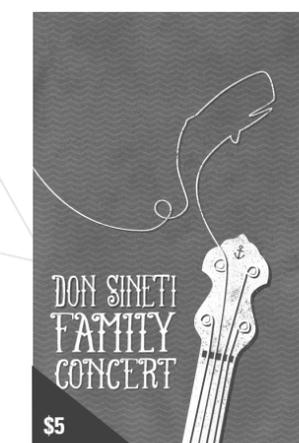
Kid's art workshop  
Sitka Sound Science Center  
Saturday Nov 8 | 9:00-12:00pm



Enjoy drinks and appetizers while chatting with WhaleFest Scientists and friends  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Saturday Nov 8  
6:00-6:45 pm



Drinks, food, music and Marine Technology Talk.  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Saturday Nov 8 | 7:00pm



Don Sineti family concert  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Sunday Nov 9 | 4:30-5:30pm



# SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

## GIZMOS & GADGETS: THE TECHNOLOGY THAT ROCKS OUR WORLD

Closely linked in our society, technology and science are the gears that move mankind through time. The advancement of technology has revolutionized the way we live and learn by helping to uncover complexities in nature. Technology has improved our understanding of the marine world. From satellite tagging seals to installing tiny deep water cameras to observe sperm whale behavior, marine research tools have advanced dramatically. Come to Sitka WhaleFest 2014 and learn about the techniques used in the past, the gadgets currently advancing marine research and the potential of future technology.

# DAILY TALKS

## DAY 1 GADGETS FOR WHALE SIZED PROBLEMS

### Thinking Like a Sperm Whale

Jan Straley & Lauren Wild

In the Gulf of Alaska sperm whales remove sablefish and halibut off fishing gear. This behavior represents a growing concern to fishermen and managers. The Southeast Alaska Sperm Whale Avoidance Project or SEASWAP is building on lessons learned through 12 years of research. Studying this very clever predator's acoustic behavior, movement and mechanics of depredation, SEASWAP biologists, Jan Straley and Lauren Wild have collected underwater footage obtained from cameras deployed on long lines. In this talk they will present some of these images along with new ideas to record and spy on these resourceful whales.

### Big Needles for Big Whales: Using Innovative Methods to Work with Large Whales in their World

Michael Moore

Entanglement of large whales in fishing gear is a major conservation and animal welfare problem. The only lasting solution is development of fishing practices that avoid entanglement, but until that can occur, enhancing disentanglement methods is important. Traditionally this is done by small boat approach with custom tools. Whales in chronic pain can be averse to close approaches. To reduce this, we developed a ballistic sedation system to make animals more approachable.

### Spying on the Underwater Lives of Whales

Russ Andrews

Russ' talk will focus on his work to develop methods for tracking the movement, behavior and physiology of whales, and how he and his collaborators have applied those tools to learn more about how these whales make their living underwater. A bit science, and a bit travelogue, Russ will take the audience with him as he describes studies from the Arctic to the Antarctic (with some time in Hawaii and northern Australia to warm up in between).

## DAY 2 WHAT MAKES PINNIPEDS TICK

### Early Pinniped Research & Ancient Gizmos

Michael Castellini

Dr. Castellini started putting dive recorders on seals and sea lions almost 40 yr ago... how did those devices work? How did they make them? How did they attach them and how did they do this before personal computers even existed? Join him on personal trip down Time-Depth-Recorder memory lane from Alaska to Antarctica with seals, sea lions and penguins.

### Lose the Loop: Tackling Pinniped Packing Band Entanglement in Alaska

Aleria Jensen

This talk will address the issue of packing band neck entanglements in Alaskan pinnipeds. We'll examine the history and extent of the problem, the interagency working group that has formed to address pinniped entanglement, research on how packing bands are used and how they enter the marine environment, outreach efforts, potential solutions, and incident response. Currently, a biodegradable packing band is under development for use in the marine environment which may be able to offset the use of plastic bands. In addition, new advancements in sedation technology and delivery have resulted in a cocktail which can now be safely administered to address certain types of pinniped entanglements under the right conditions.

### Til Death Do Us Part: Discovering Sea Lion Secrets

Jo-Ann Mellish

Sea lions are pros at being covert about their lives, or at least it seems that way to those of us stuck above the water's surface. Until they finally catch on to the global Facebook movement of over-posting pictures of their kids or they learn how to tweet about their latest vacation, we have to be equally sly in figuring out their comings and goings. For biologists, how long sea lions live, where they go, and how many offspring they leave behind are bucket list data. Come learn how sea lions are now sharing this data with us, entirely without the need for opposable thumbs.

## DAY 3 TECHNOLOGY THROUGH TIME

### Japan's Balloon Bombs: How a Gadget Led Americans to Study Pacific Winds

Ross Coen

In the late stages of WWII, Japan launched thousands of balloon bombs: large hydrogen-filled balloons armed with incendiary devices designed to ride the strong westerly winds of the upper atmosphere to the United States. Historian Ross Coen will describe how this ingenious gadget ushered in a new era of atmospheric research for both Japanese and American scientists, one that led to the naming of the "jet stream" and helped us to understand a little more about the wide and complex Pacific Ocean that connects our continents.

### The View From Above: Research Using Unmanned Aircraft

Ro Bailey

Operations will be described that supported research for marine mammal monitoring, ocean debris location and monitoring, marginal ice zones 300 miles north of Alaska's coast, and other projects. Planned projects include whale monitoring, walrus counts, shore erosion, shorefast and marginal ice formation and melting, ocean temperatures, and interaction with autonomous underwater vehicles. Ice navigation for research vessels will also be covered.

### The Technology That Rocks Our World

Reid Brewer

The last presentation of the symposium will bring each day's theme into focus within the context of the weekend's overall theme. The eight lectures this year will be presented by a diverse group of scientists ranging from veterinarians to historians. Each talk, to be presented, will highlight the use of technology in furthering our understanding of the ocean environment. In this very last presentation, Reid Brewer will summarize and link all of the presentations to help focus on the main ideas that were presented at WhaleFest 2014.

# SPEAKERS



## JAN STRALEY

Jan Straley is an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Alaska Southeast and associated faculty at University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. Jan has conducted research on humpback whales, with a focus on population dynamics in Alaskan waters since 1979. She began a study of killer whale predation upon Steller sea lions in 2000 and in 2003 expanded her research focus to study sperm, and recently killer, whale interactions with the longline fisheries. Jan's educational programs provide mentoring opportunities for underrepresented Alaskan students in the sciences. These programs extend to building collaborations and relationships with our Hawaiian neighbors across the North Pacific. She is responsible for proposal writing and administration of several federal and state research grants. This includes the Scientists in Residency Fellowship or SIRF, a spinoff of the Scientist in the Schools program. SIRF is funded by the National Science Foundation and supports four scientists to live in Sitka for a month each year on mini sabbaticals. Jan is a founding board member of Sitka WhaleFest and is now the science director. Jan and Dr. Michael Castellini develop the program theme for the annual Sitka WhaleFest science symposium each year and are responsible for inviting the speakers for both the Scientist in the Schools program and the weekend symposium. In 2012 Jan received the Ocean Leadership Award in Marine Science from the Alaska SeaLife Center.



## LAUREN WILD

Lauren was born and raised in Sitka, where she spent much of her childhood in the wilderness and on the water. She obtained a B.A. in International and Global Studies from Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts in 2009. After graduating from college, she was hired as a research assistant on the Southeast Alaska Sperm Whale Avoidance Project (SEASWAP), which is based in Sitka. SEASWAP is a collaborative effort between scientists, fishermen, and managers to understand sperm whale depredation of commercial longline fishing gear in the Gulf of Alaska. In 2012, Lauren headed back to school at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, where she received a MS in Marine Mammal Science in August of 2013. She has now returned to Sitka to work full time as a bio-acoustician managing the Cetacean Acoustics Lab at the Sitka Sound Science Center. Lauren grew up having scientists visit her classes in Sitka and going to Whalefest. She appreciates the rich marine environment of Sitka, and Southeast Alaska, and wants to keep students interested and excited about science. Her work with Scientists in the Schools will focus on sound, and how acoustics are used in research on marine mammal interactions with fisheries in Alaska, and beyond.



## MICHAEL MOORE

Michael Moore has a veterinary degree from the University of Cambridge in the UK, and a PhD from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been based at WHOI since 1986 where he is now the Director of the WHOI Marine Mammal Center. His research encompasses the forensic analysis of marine mammal mortalities, especially in regard to the accurate diagnosis of perceived human impacts and the prevalence of zoonotic agents, the interaction of natural and man-made impacts on fish and marine mammal stocks, development of systems to enhance medical intervention with large whales, and the pathophysiology of marine mammal diving.



## RUSS ANDREWS

Dr. Russ Andrews is a marine biologist based in Seward, Alaska. He obtained his Ph.D. in physiological zoology from the University of British Columbia, where he built data loggers to record the heart rate, body temperature, and diving behavior of elephant seals to learn how they could hold their breath for up to 2 hours. In 2002 he moved to Alaska to take up his current position with the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences and the Alaska SeaLife Center. Russ is especially interested in studying how marine mammals, seabirds and sea turtles adapt to changes in their environment. To do this, he spends a lot of effort to develop high-tech gizmos (biotelemetry instruments) in order to study these animals that spend most of their time far from view. He has been lucky enough to study animals around the world, and is a "bi-polar" biologist (although he is rather quirky, this term implies nothing about his mental state, but means that he has worked in both polar environments, the Arctic and the Antarctic). Despite including the word "spying" in his talk title, he'd like to point out to the KGB that this doesn't mean that he's a "real" spy.



## MICHAEL CASTELLINI

Dr. Michael Castellini earned his PhD from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1981 and has been a faculty member at the University of Alaska Fairbanks since 1989. He was the founding Science Director for the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, the Director of the University of Alaska Institute of Marine Science, Associate Dean and then Dean for the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (SFOS) since 2010. Starting in 2015, Dr. Castellini will leave as SFOS Dean and work in scientific outreach for the University and be the Associate Dean for the UAF Graduate Program. Dr. Castellini's research focuses on how marine mammals have adapted to life in the sea. Ever since his graduate work in San Diego, he has studied marine mammals around the world examining their biochemical, physiological and behavioral adaptations for deep and long duration diving, extended fasting, exercise physiology, hydrodynamics and even sleeping patterns. In Alaska, his work has extended into issues of population health, contaminant chemistry and digestive physiology. He has written over 100 scientific works and is involved in local, state and National panels and committees dealing with policy issues related to marine mammals, ecosystem management and agency oversights. Castellini works with Jan Straley, WhaleFest Science Director, to develop the program for the science symposium each year, select the theme for WhaleFest and invite the speakers.



## ALERIA JENSEN

Aleria is a fourth generation Alaskan raised on Douglas Island, where she spent much of her time exploring the area's rainforest, beaches, and mountaintops. After earning a BS in Biology and Russian from Macalester College, she spent a number of years working for whalewatch and wilderness tour companies in Hawaii and Southeast Alaska. She returned to school to earn an MS in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development at the University of Maryland in 2001. Aleria started at NOAA Fisheries as a Knauss Marine Policy Fellow in 2002 working on North Atlantic right whale ship strike issues for Protected Resources. She moved back to Juneau in 2004 and continues to work as a marine mammal specialist for NOAA Fisheries, where her program areas include marine mammal health and strandings, humpback whale and harbor seal management issues, wildlife viewing, and entanglement and ship strike avoidance. Aleria loves anything related to travel, wilderness adventures with her son and daughter, hiking, kayaking and writing. Her family makes a home on Douglas Island with five chickens, two guinea pigs and a struggling garden.

# SPEAKERS



## JO-ANN MELLISH

Jo-Ann is originally from Nova Scotia, Canada, but has been an Alaskan resident since 2001. Currently she lives in Anchorage and is an Associate Research Professor with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and a scientist at the Alaska Sealife Center. Once Jo-Ann completed a PhD in animal physiology from Dalhousie University (Canada), she continued working with a variety of marine mammals including grey, hooded, harbor, Weddell seals, Steller seal lion and Northern fur seals. Her focus currently is on two primary projects. The first project is the Life History Transmitter (LHX2) study with Steller sea lions. This decade long project has been dedicated to monitoring health status and survival rates of sea lions in Prince William Sound. The second project is centered around understanding thermoregulation in Antarctic Weddell seals. These projects are at opposite ends of the planet, but she uses a lot of the same tools to examine energy budgets and the impacts of a changing climate. Jo-Ann loves to travel, with a list of destinations that seems to grow rather than shrink. Sunday afternoons are happily dedicated to visiting the library with my daughter. Neither particularly graceful nor skilled, she is currently enjoying skate skiing in the winter and paddle-boarding in the summer.



## ROSS COEN

Ross Coen is a PhD student in History at the University of Washington where he researches and writes about the political, environmental, and technological history of North Pacific salmon fisheries. He is the author of three books about Alaska, the Arctic, and the American West, and his work has appeared in Alaska Magazine, The Northern Review, and Pacific Northwest Quarterly.

Near the end of World War II, in an attempt to attack the United States mainland, Japan launched its fu-go campaign, deploying thousands of high-altitude hydrogen balloons armed with incendiary and high-explosive bombs designed to follow the westerly winds of the upper atmosphere and drift to the west coast of North America. After reaching the mainland, these fu-go, the Japanese hoped, would terrorize American citizens and ignite devastating forest fires across the western states, ultimately causing the United States to divert wartime resources to deal with the domestic crisis. While the fu-go offensive proved to be a complete tactical failure, six Americans lost their lives when a discovered balloon exploded.

Ross Coen provides a fascinating look into the obscure history of the fu-go campaign, from the Japanese schoolgirls who manufactured the balloons by hand to the generals in the U.S. War Department who developed defense procedures. The book delves into panic, propaganda, and media censorship in wartime. Fu-go is a compelling story of a little-known episode in our national history that unfolded virtually unseen.



## RO BAILEY

Ro Bailey's education and experience background includes; BS Industrial Management Purdue MS Systems Management Air Force Institute of Technology Industrial College of the Armed Forces (no degree) Over 29 years US Air Force, roughly half in research and development, and acquisition, four commands, retired as a brigadier general, from command of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, NORAD, Colorado Springs, CO. She worked eight years at University of Alaska Fairbanks, two as vice chancellor for administration, six supporting rocket launch operations at the Poker Flat Research Range and developing the Unmanned Aircraft program. She works as deputy director of the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration (ACUASI), a department of the Geophysical Institute, at UAF. Currently Bailey is working on developing the test site, which was just selected in Dec 2013. It reached initial operation capability on 5 May 2014, and they are now focused on bringing their ranges in Oregon, Iceland and Hawaii to operational status. The role of the test site is to assist the FAA to develop solutions to issues regarding unmanned aircraft operating in the National Airspace System. In her free time Ro enjoys gardening, volunteer work at her church and in the community, working on her house, hunting, fishing, berry picking, cooking, reading, skiing, reading and exercise. She is from Oak Park, IL, then many places as the military moved her all over, and now living in her dream log house in Fox, Alaska.



## REID BREWER

Reid graduated from high school in Charlotte, N.C. and went to college at the United States Military Academy at West Point. At West Point Reid earned a B.S. in Environmental Science and Systems Engineering. Upon graduating, Reid was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and attended helicopter flight school in Fort Rucker, AL. In 1997, Reid worked as a platoon leader and pilot as part of the SETAF Aviation Brigade in Vicenza, Italy. In 2000, Reid left the Army and attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks for a M.S. degree in Marine Biology. In 2004, Reid became the first ever Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Agent in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, AK. With Alaska Sea Grant, Reid worked to provide marine education and outreach opportunities for the community of Unalaska covering topics spanning marine mammal strandings to tidepool camps for kids. In 2007, Reid received his instructor rating as a PADI SCUBA instructor and has been teaching diving ever since. In 2009, Reid began working on his Ph.D. in Marine Biology part-time with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. After almost 10 years in Unalaska with Alaska Sea Grant, Reid took a job with the University of Alaska Southeast. In 2013, Reid began his current position as the Program Manager for the Fisheries Technology program based out of Sitka. Reid came to Sitka with his wife Sarah and his two-year old son Finnegan. Reid enjoys diving, kiteboarding, hiking and open-water swimming. Reid has presented some of his work on North Pacific giant octopus at WhaleFest and has worked with the Scientists in the Schools program.

# SCIENTISTS IN SCHOOLS

Scientist in the Schools Program raises scientific literacy with the ultimate goal of creating a student population with an appreciation for marine ecology by introducing basic scientific concepts and exciting students about marine science through an experiential activity. SIS brings five renowned marine scientists to help secondary school students with creative thinking and problem solving techniques important to scientific understanding. In 2012, Scientists in the Schools provided education programming

to 1601 students (kindergarten to graduate) during 1644 total hours of instruction. The SIS program is an innovative and popular model that is being replicated throughout the region due in part to USDA Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program (SPECAs) and through SSSC's National Science Foundation funded Scientists in Residency Fellowship program.



## MARNIE CHAPMAN

Marnie Chapman is dedicated to increasing understanding of marine invasive species. She has collaborated on invasive tunicate studies with NOAA, UCSF and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Whiting Harbor, near Sitka, hosts the only known Alaska population of *Didemnum vexillum* (D. vex), an invader that now carpets extensive areas of the North Atlantic sea floor. Studies on invasive tunicates in Alaska may help us control or eradicate it. Marnie believes Sitka has a unique stewardship role and that all can help by knowing how to recognize and report *D. vex*, should it ever turn up outside Whiting Harbor. Her Scientists in the Schools presentation fostered this goal by giving Sitka 6th graders practice in identifying native and invasive marine species. Students used microscopes to analyze organisms growing on settlement plates, a monitoring technique used for long term studies of marine invasive species.



## ELLEN CHENOWETH

Ellen Chenoweth is a Science Center associate and current Ph.D. candidate at the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. Her dissertation research focuses on humpback whale foraging activity throughout Southeast Alaska, including salmon hatchery release sites. She shared her research interest in the movement of energy through the marine ecosystem with students at Mt. Edgecumbe High school as part of the Scientists in the Schools program. Students burned different whale and human foods to measure their energetic content, a process known as calorimetry. The students then compared diving data from tagged whales to compare energy budgets of whales feeding on different types of prey. In addition to the SIS program, Ellen helped to coordinate the WhaleFest FilmFest. When not lighting whale food on fire, Ellen enjoys long kayak trips, and is always down for a flash mob.

# SCIENTISTS IN SCHOOLS



## RUSS ANDREWS

Russ Andrews explored the world of scientific gizmos with Sitka High physics students and Mt. Edgecumbe High robotics and engineering students, during Scientists in the Schools. For Russ's full bio, check out the symposium speakers' bio page.



## MICHAEL MOORE

Michael Moore took the lead on this year's necropsies at Mt. Edgecumbe High, where the students compared internal and external anatomy of a sea otter, harbor seal, and elephant seal. For Michael's full bio, check out the symposium speakers' bio page. Necropsy assistants included, Todd O'Hara, Kaili Jackson, and Dylan Peterson.



## LAUREN WILD

Lauren Wild brought her bioacoustics skills back to 9th graders at Sitka High School, where she once attended, for this year's Scientists in the Schools lessons. Students learned to decipher sperm whale creeks from the sound of Arctic ice crashing together and so much more. For Lauren's full bio, check out the symposium speakers' bio page.



## KAILI JACKSON

Kaili Jackson was born and raised in Sitka. She spent six years working for NOAA and the Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network. She has been a greatly appreciated Scientists in the Schools necropsy participant for many years. In her free time she likes to run, play roller derby, and take her dog, Bieli, hiking.



## TODD O'HARA

Todd O'Hara, in addition to assisting on this year's SIS necropsy event, held a career talk at UAS for high school and college students to gain a better understanding of science and especially veterinary career pathways. Dr. O'Hara is a Professor of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and was a Research Biologist for the Department

of Wildlife Management, North Slope Borough in Barrow, Alaska. Dr. O'Hara came to Alaska for the "opportunity of a lifetime" to work and live "in the field" with amazing people and wildlife. Dr. O'Hara's academic training includes a D.V.M. [University of Wisconsin - Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine (1988 - 1992)], a Ph.D. in Pharmacology/ Toxicology [Medical College of Virginia (1985-1988)], and a B.S. and M.S. in Biology [Villanova University (1979-1985)]. His major interests are environmental/wildlife toxicology, assessments of subsistence foods, and wildlife conservation and medicine in a One Health Context. Current research activities include assessments of fish, pinnipeds, cetaceans, and other mammals for nutritional value and exposure to contaminants for human consumers and health assessments of free ranging wildlife. He is currently playing an administrative role in the development of a DVM training program in collaboration with Colorado State University (Coordinator of Student Services).



# DISCOVERY days

Sitkans, quench your curiosity with SSSC Discovery Days. Every other Saturday from 10-Noon we'll explore a new science theme. Check out the Hot News section on our homepage or look us up on Facebook to find out what the next theme will be. Discovery Days are SSSC Annual Pass Holder events. If you don't have a pass, consider purchasing one when you stop by for the next Discovery Days, \$50/family or \$30/individual. - See more at [www.sitkascience.org/education/school-programs](http://www.sitkascience.org/education/school-programs)



SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER

# FIELD STATION



## OCEAN TO ALPINE RESEARCH

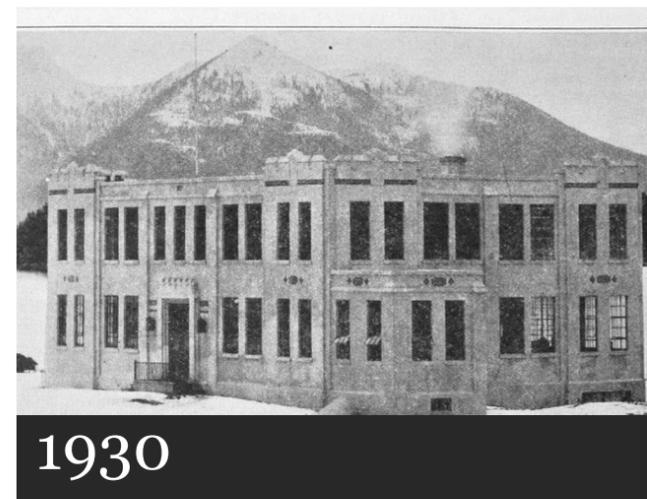
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# SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER

# Reception



# SAGE BUILDING HISTORICAL RENOVATION



1930



2014

Friday Nov 7  
5:30-7:00 PM

Join us at the Sitka Sound Science Center for drinks & hors d'oeuvres.

## SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER

# MEMBERSHIPS

Become a member today! Science Center members enjoy a variety of benefits including aquarium admission for members and guests, access to special events, valuable discounts, insider information, Science Center bling, and a great feeling. Science Center Memberships are a great gift to give to family and friends. Visit our website for more information about our membership levels at [www.sitkascience.org](http://www.sitkascience.org).



SITKA SOUND  
SCIENCE CENTER

The exterior renovations of the Sage building are complete, marking the end of the first phase of renovation to our facility. All windows are replaced, concrete exterior is repaired and a new roof is on. With an upgraded exterior we are hopeful that our operational costs can be lowered leaving more revenue for direct support of scientific research and educational programs. We are grateful for the expertise of Wiss Janney Elstner Association, Inc., Northwind Architects, and F.D. Thomas, Inc., the historic concrete building contractors who did the work. Local CBC Construction are the roof contractors. We are also appreciative of the many people who lent a hand cleaning, painting, and encouraging us along the way. The project would not have been possible without these important donors who believe that quality research and science education deserves a renovated building: The Rasmuson Foundation, Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC), The M.J. Murdock Trust, Ahlgren Family, McIntosh Foundation, the Alaska State Legislature (thank you Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins) and the Alaska State Revolving Loan Fund for Fisheries Enhancement. Several individuals also generously supported Phase One renovations.

The Sage Building was constructed in 1929 for \$50,000. It was built with money supplied by Margaret Sage for a repair carpenter, print and shoe shops. In 1974, Sheldon Jackson School began training people to work in the aquaculture industry. Permitted in 1974, the SJ Hatchery was one of the first hatcheries in the State of Alaska and many fisheries biologists, natural resource managers, and state leaders were educated there. In 2007, when Sheldon Jackson College shut down, the Sitka Sound Science Center was formed as a nonprofit by people from around Alaska eager to see the science research and education legacy survive the closure of the college. SSSC purchased the building in 2010 and renovations began soon after.

# MARKET

Our annual market showcases the most talented artists from around Alaska as well as local non-profits that support the marine environment around Sitka. Our silent auction table is located in the Rousseau Room at the market. We received donations from many generous local artists, vendors, and Sitka businesses. All proceeds from the auction go towards Sitka WhaleFest.

## COMPANY

Sitka Maritime Heritage Society .....  
 Alaska Longline Fishermen's Assoc. ....  
 2 Local Sisters .....  
 Old Harbor Books .....  
 The OuterCoast .....  
 Sea Dreams .....  
 Made in Sitka .....  
 NOAA Office of Law Enforcement .....  
 Flying Ravens .....  
 Jessie's Cotton Candy .....  
 Sitka Conservation Society .....

## PRODUCTS

Information about Japonski Island Boathouse renovation  
 T-shirts & hats, information about current longline issues, seafood raffle tickets  
 Glass Balls  
 Books, bookmarks, calendars, kids' items  
 Art Cards, Calendars and more  
 Art cards and more  
 Buttons and moccasins  
 The Alaska region of NOAA fisheries  
 Originals, prints and cards of paintings and photos and small jewelry  
 Cotton Candy, sno-kones, popcorn  
 Sitka Conservation Society information and apparel featuring designs by local artists

...and more

# SCIENCE EXHIBIT

EXPLORE THE TECH OF WHALEFEST

EACH DAY IN THE ROUSSEAU ROOM

# WHALEFEST TEAM



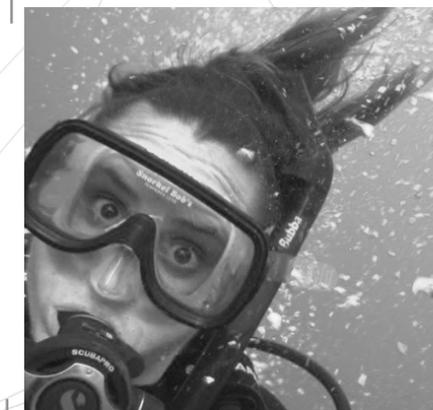
**JAN STRALEY**

*FOUNDER  
 SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM DIRECTOR*



**MICHAEL CASTELLINI**

*SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM DIRECTOR*



**MADISON KOSMA**

*WHALEFEST DIRECTOR*

# SCIENTISTS IN SCHOOLS TEAM



**MARILYN GUHL  
 KAREN JONES**

*K-5 EDUCATION COORDINATORS*



**ASHLEY BOLWERK**

*EDUCATION MANAGER*



**STEVE LEWIS**

*6-12 EDUCATION COORDINATOR*

*Thank You!*

Volunteers, you are the driving force behind Sitka WhaleFest. Thank you Sitka Sound Science Center staff and board for your hard work and dedication to making WhaleFest happen.