



WHALES  
*through*  
TIME

SITKA WHALEFEST

20<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY

# WhaleFest 2016

## THURSDAY, NOV 3

- 5:30-6:30 Marine Art Reception
- 6:30-8:30 Film Screening "Sonic Sea" with Flip Nicklin

## FRIDAY, NOV 4

- 10-4:30 The Market & Café, Registration, Silent Auction, Marine Art
- 12:45-3:45 Symposium: Whale Chronicles
- 12:45-1 Opening Remarks
- 1-1:45 Jim Darling - Songs Across the Pacific
- 2-2:45 John Ford - West Coast Killer Whales
- 3-3:45 Craig George & Billy Adams - Two Tales of the Bowhead - Science & Inupiat
- 5-8 Pre-Registration for WhaleRun/Walk
- 7:30-9:30 Maritime Grind hosted by Ray Troll & John Straley

## SATURDAY, NOV 5

- 9 a Registration for WhaleRun/Walk (Whale Park)
- 10 a Start of 2-mi, 5K, 10K WhaleRun/Walk (Whale Park)
- 8:45-11:30 a Marine Wildlife Cruise (Crescent Harbor)
- 10-4:30 The Market & Café, Registration, Silent Auction, Marine Art
- 1-3:45 Symposium: Prevailing Perspectives
- 1-1:45 Trish Lavery - A Whale Poop Tale
- 2-2:45 Travis Horton - Humpback Migrations Tell Time
- 3-3:45 Alex Werth - Meal Time: Lessons from Whales
- 6-6:45 Marine Mingle
- 7 Feeding Grounds Banquet

## SUNDAY, NOV 6

- 8:45-11:30 a Marine Wildlife Cruise (Crescent Harbor)
- 10-4:30 The Market & Café, Silent Auction, Marine Art
- 1-3:30 Symposium: Deciding Our Legacy
- 1-1:45 Ellen Chenoweth-Getting Along in a World with More Whales
- 2-3:30 Jan Straley & Michael Castellini - WhaleFest 2036
- 5-6 Don Sineti Family Concert

*Sitka WhaleFest brings science education and research together, in a unique celebration of learning about our diverse marine environment.*

As part of our special twentieth anniversary, we're focusing on whales as a time telling device – what we've learned in the last twenty years, what cetacean science is revealing about our changing planet today, and how the study of whales connects the world into the future. For 20 years, Sitka WhaleFest has brought marine scientists from around the globe to share current scientific research with an eager and interested audience. Science has demonstrated over and over how oceans influence every inch of the planet. Whether we are on the coast of Alaska, or in the middle of the Great Plains, we all live with the sea. In this 20th year, we reflect on what we have learned from our study of whales, the exciting innovations in cetacean research, and how whales connect us all.



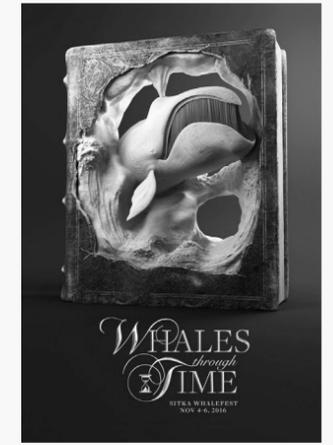
Student Art Show  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Art Reception - Thursday Nov 3  
5:30-6:30pm  
Nov 4, 5, 6 | 10:00am-4:30pm



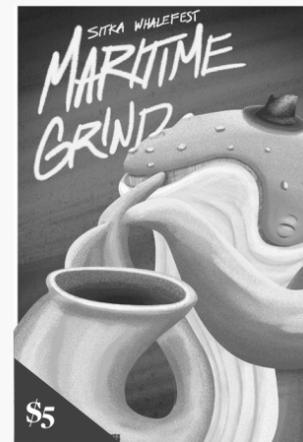
Film screening of "Sonic Sea" with Host Flip Nicklin  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Thursday Nov 3 | 6:30-8:30pm



Marine-themed Market with local artists and food  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Friday-Sunday Nov 4,5,6  
10:00-4:30pm



Symposium - Scientists share their marine knowledge  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Friday Nov 4 & Saturday Nov 5 | 1:00-3:45pm  
Sunday Nov 6 | 1:00-3:30pm



Maritime Grind - marine-themed talent show  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Friday Nov 4 | 7:30 - 9:30pm



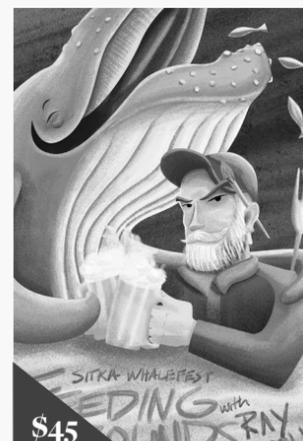
5K & 10K Run/ 2-mile FunWalk - Whale Park  
Friday Nov 4 pre-registration 5:00 - 7:30 pm  
Saturday Nov 5 | 9:00 am registration | 10:00 am race



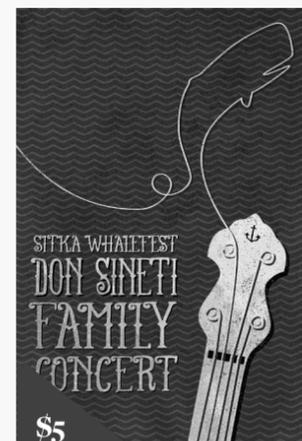
Wildlife Cruise - Join scientists for an educational marine cruise  
Crescent Harbor  
Saturday Nov 5 & Sunday Nov 6  
8:45 - 11:30am



Marine Mingle - Enjoy drinks and appetizers while chatting with WhaleFest Scientists and friends  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Saturday Nov 5 6:00 - 6:45 pm



Feeding Grounds Banquet - Drinks, food and Ray Troll sharing his perspective on art and science  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Saturday Nov 5 | 7:00pm



Don Sineti Family Concert  
Harrigan Centennial Hall  
Sunday Nov 6 | 5:00-6:00pm

Visit our Silent Auction tables in the Market to bid on items donated by local companies, organizations, and individuals to support Sitka WhaleFest. Auction items are viewable during Market Hours (10am - 4:30 pm) from November 4 -6. Winners will be announced at the end of the Family Concert and contacted by the Sitka WhaleFest Director to claim their items.

# History of WhaleFest

by Jan Straley, Science Co-Director of WhaleFest



Sometime prior to 1997, Dick Griffin, Director of the Alaska Raptor Center, had visited the Haines Eaglefest, an annual fall celebration of eagles feeding in droves on salmon runs. He was impressed with the number of visitors from out-of-town, who traveled great distances in November to see the eagles. A light bulb went off for him and he thought "Bingo! Whales could do the same for Sitka!" He knew that a similar event would increase visitors to Sitka during the shoulder season. And thus, Sitka WhaleFest was born!

Initially, the timing of the event was intended to coincide with Eaglefest, as a way to maximize the visitor's Alaskan experience. However, that effort proved

difficult to coordinate and the organizers settled on the first weekend in November as an ideal time for WhaleFest. The timing overlaps with the presence of many humpback whales in Sitka Sound, who are fattening up, prior to their southbound migration to Hawaii for mating and calving.

Dick Griffin gathered several interested Sitkans to discuss this idea of a whale festival. The group included Jan Straley (local whale biologist), Susan Stanford (B&B owner), Walt Cunningham (studied sea lions), Barb Bingham (ran wildlife tours) and Cyndy Gibson (who worked with Dick Griffin at the Alaska Raptor Center).

That first year, we neglected to market the event, held it over two weeks, had more speakers than participants, and essentially failed at every step! Despite all that, we felt compelled to have a year two; so we gave it another chance under the umbrella of the Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau and its Director, Michelle Blackwell. We learned from our mistakes, got some things right, and saw that it was a HUGE success - which surprised us all.

Over the years, we've accepted the criticism that allowed us to learn from our failures and make course corrections to improve the various aspects of Sitka WhaleFest. This "self-reflection" of our process and our efforts, taking serious stock of what worked and what didn't, has built the success of Sitka WhaleFest over these past two decades. This is not just any science conference, but rather, a community celebration that is owned and embraced by much of Sitka.

Brian Beall came to us that second year, taking on the fun run; since then, he and Julie have hosted that event, continuing to broaden the scope of this festival and raising funds to put back into Sitka WhaleFest. Allen Marine has been a constant partner, generously providing their vessels for our wildlife cruises, and the City of Sitka has given WhaleFest a home at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

The Monthly Grind joined forces with Sitka WhaleFest during those first five years and now the WhaleFest Maritime Grind is a signature event, delighting a sold-out crowd. From the market, to the art show, to the filmfest, Sitkans have continued to drive WhaleFest towards success and it's their ownership over this wonderful event that makes it so special!

Our concept of the science symposium has also evolved over the past twenty years. It has become an educational celebration of our marine environment that appeals to all ages. The initial concept was to broadcast knowledge of our marine environment, far and wide to a general audience. Then we focused on adding a larger outreach component by bringing scientists into the classrooms and integrating the WhaleFest curriculum into courses for university credit. Although,

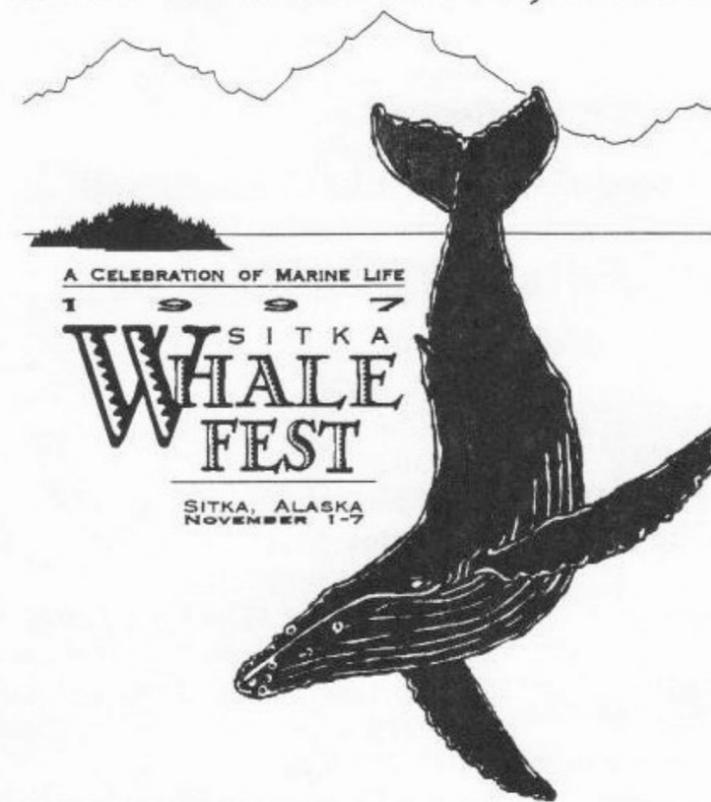
whales are not the specific focus each year, (the event name really comes from the reliability of the humpback whales that come to feed each fall) presenting the latest research on our backyard is key, no matter what the species.

It took a while for us to find the best format, but we learned that focusing on a big idea and relevant daily themes, appeals to our participants and gives us a chance to explore different perspectives. We can laugh now when a mouse chewed through the cord at the Green Lake power plant and our speakers needed to give their presentations without slides - we learned that scientists are resourceful and our event lives on. Today, teachers can take the "WhaleFest" course for continuing education credit for maintaining teaching certification. Middle, high school, and undergraduate students, as well as lifelong learners can take the science symposium for course credit through the University of Alaska Southeast.

Michael Castellini has shared the Science Director role with Jan Straley since that second year when Walt Cunningham died unexpectedly in a diving accident. Mike's experience from UAF and the world of pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) complemented Jan's own experience and expertise, to broaden the scope of WhaleFest each year. Our WhaleFest Directors were loyal, underpaid, but simply the best! Phyllis Hackett, Lily Herwald, Ann Chadwick, Ashia Lane, and Holly Keen, all carried us through some hard but good times and deserve a huge recognition for all their contributions. Today, Sitka WhaleFest has become a program of the Sitka Sound Science Center, where past Director, Madison Kosma, and current Director, Mia Kuartei, have expanded the festival and engaged the next generation in the future of this event. In 2016, we are proud that Sitka WhaleFest has gained international recognition and attracted visitors from across the country and around the globe. This year, our symposium speakers come from both hemispheres and bring a global perspective to help us celebrate our history and chart the future of Sitka WhaleFest. This 20th Anniversary is a milestone we can all celebrate with pride because we have exemplified science outreach and communication to a broader audience than we could have ever imagined!

## A Celebration of Marine Life

November 1 - 7, 1997



*Thank you for celebrating with us this year,*

*Jan*



# VI WHALE CHRONICLES

## JIM DARLING

### *Songs Across the Pacific*

Dr. Jim Darling has led research programs on whales for over 35 years and is one of three co-founders at Whale Trust Maui. His primary studies include long term investigations of behavior and ecology of gray whales in British Columbia and humpback whales throughout the North Pacific. Jim has been executive director of West Coast Whale Research Foundation, a Canadian research and education society, and research director of the Clayoquot Biosphere Project,

a Vancouver Island community-based organization that promoted field research in the temperate rainforest ecosystem. Jim has written numerous scientific and popular articles and several books on his work. Since 1997, Maui has been the base of his study on the function of the humpback whale song.



## JOHN FORD

### *40 Years of Killer Whales and our Impact*

Born and raised on Vancouver Island, Dr. John Ford has been involved in field studies of marine mammals off Canada's west coast since the mid 1970s. He studied marine mammals for his BSc Honours (1976) and PhD degrees (1985) in Zoology at the University of British Columbia. He is currently the head of the Marine Mammal Section at the Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nanaimo, BC. Prior to his move to DFO in 2001, John was senior marine mammal scientist and Director of Research and Conservation at the Vancouver Aquarium. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Zoology and the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia. His main areas of research include the life history, ecology, behaviour and acoustic communication of cetaceans,

especially killer whales. He has studied this species both in BC and other global regions, including Patagonia, Antarctica, Alaska and Norway. He has written or co-written numerous scientific articles and books on whales and other marine mammals and his research has been featured in television documentaries and popular magazines. In recent years, his research has focused on the conservation status of cetaceans listed under Canada's Species-at-Risk Act and involves assessments of population abundance and distribution, critical habitats, and foraging ecology of west coast whales. He is a member of COSEWIC's Marine Mammal Species Specialist Committee and the IUCN's Cetacean Specialist Group.



## CRAIG GEORGE

### *Two Perspectives of the Bowhead – Science and Inupiat*

Craig George has worked as a Wildlife Biologist with the North Slope Department of Wildlife Management in Barrow, Alaska for 25 years. Craig earned a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the Utah State University in 1976 and recently completed his Ph.D. in bowhead whale energetics, age estimation and morphology (comprehensive exams 2001). Beginning in 1982, Craig worked on and later coordinated the bowhead whale ice-based population assessment project on the sea ice near Point Barrow

for nearly two decades. He also has conducted many postmortem exams on bowheads harvested by Alaskan Eskimos (since 1980) and published a number of papers on this work ranging from evidence of killer whale predation to structural anatomy to population biology. Craig has attended IWC meetings since 1987 focusing mainly on aboriginal whaling management procedures and assessments and population estimation. He has also participated in Eskimo traditional knowledge studies on the North Slope.



## BILLY ADAMS

### *Two Perspectives of the Bowhead – Science and Inupiat*

Billy Adams was born in Barrow, Alaska, and is the youngest of twelve children of Rebecca and Baxter Adams. Billy learned to hunt from his father, uncles, brothers, and community elders. Being from a successful whaling family, Billy went out whaling at a young age. He was twelve years old when he first

paddled a whaling boat. Billy is a passionate whaler and hunter with much experience and knowledge of the sea ice. Billy has worked for the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department helping scientists with bowhead whale research projects, as a polar bear guard, and currently works as a Subsistence Research Coordinator.





# VIII PREVAILING PERSPECTIVES

## TRISH LAVERY

### *A Whale Poop Tale*

Dr. Trish Lavery works for the Department of the Environment (Australia) in managing data and information accessibility resulting from the National Environmental Research Programme. She has published articles in marine mammalogy, nutrient dynamics, ecotoxicology, hydrology, genomics and biogeosciences. Dr. Lavery was the F.G. Wood

Memorial Scholarship Award Recipient for 2015, for her paper titled, "Whales sustain fisheries: Blue whales stimulate primary production in the Southern Ocean."



## TRAVIS HORTON

### *Humpback Whale Migrations through Space and Time*

Travis Horton is an Earth System Scientist at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. Travis's interest in whales developed from his Ph.D. research at Stanford University under the supervision of Professor Page Chamberlain, a pioneer in use of biochemical fingerprints as tracers of animal movements. Since moving to New Zealand in 2007, Travis has collaborated with Nan Hauser, Director of the Center for Cetacean Research and Conservation, and researchers at N.O.A.A.'s Marine Mammal Laboratory, on projects aimed at answering the question: How do whales navigate? These collaborations have led to unique insights into how individual whales use environmental cues to swim across vast expanses of open-ocean without getting

lost. Travis has championed establishment of the new Chord and Clock paradigm for animal navigation, an empirical data based framework that includes both spatial and temporal cues for orientation. This entirely natural system of navigation allows whales and other animals to find and follow identical migration routes at distinctly different Julian calendar dates and times during the most awe-inspiring of animal movements. Travis looks forward to applying this mechanistic understanding of animal navigation to the development of predictive models of animal movement for conservation purposes and satellite-free global positioning systems in the second-half of his career.



## ALEX WERTH

### *Meal Time: Lessons from Whales about the Evolutionary Past and Technological Future*

Alex is a biology professor at a small liberal arts college in Virginia, Hampden-Sydney College, where he teaches anatomy, physiology, and evolution. His research focuses on the morphology, biomechanics, and ecology of feeding in toothed and baleen whales, and especially on the physical processes of filtration in baleen. He earned his BS from Duke University and PhD from Harvard University and has studied whales

in every ocean of the world and all over Alaska, including work on bowhead whales in Barrow, but Sitka is one of his favorite places. He spoke at WhaleFest in 2005 and was a Scientist-In-Residency Fellow (SIRF) at the Sitka Sound Science Center in 2014. He frequently writes on issues in science education and loves to discuss science and nature with all people of all ages.





# 2016 DECIDING OUR LEGACY

## ELLEN CHENOWETH

*Getting Along in a World with More Whales*

Ellen Chenoweth is a PhD candidate at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She got her start working with humpback whales in Glacier Bay National Park summers during college. Ellen has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Kalamazoo College in her home state of Michigan. After graduation, Ellen moved to Sitka in 2009 to work in Jan Straley's

lab. She is currently studying humpback whales feeding on juvenile salmon at Alaska's hatchery release sites. Ellen started the first WhaleFest FilmFest in 2013. You can follow Ellen on twitter @HungryHumpbacks.



## JAN STRALEY

*WhaleFest 2036*

Moving to Alaska nearly 40 years ago was a gamble for Jan and John Straley. They arrived with undergraduate degrees in fisheries and creative writing, respectively. Being young and naïve, having moved to a place with boundless chances to follow paths of opportunity was sheer luck. Jan literally fell into marine mammal research and with huge support from John has developed a program researching the behaviour and population dynamics of large whales, which now includes interactions with fisheries. Jan is a Professor of Marine Biology at the Sitka campus of the University of Alaska Southeast and has received broad recognition for her research and efforts in science education with a focus on mentoring young women in science. John has written and published books of poetry, mystery and essays. Together they

recently published a book of essays about Ed Ricketts and how place shapes life. Living in a place where you can study whales at your doorstep and where the landscape is a character in every novel has helped immensely in their success. Balancing life and work has not been easy but following a passion is a family trait, captured by their son now a standup comic. For Jan a diagnosis of Parkinson's eight years ago, has added additional challenges but with the support of family, friends and community she has worked (slowly) towards new adventures and accomplishments in her career.



## MICHAEL CASTELLINI

*WhaleFest 2036*

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.



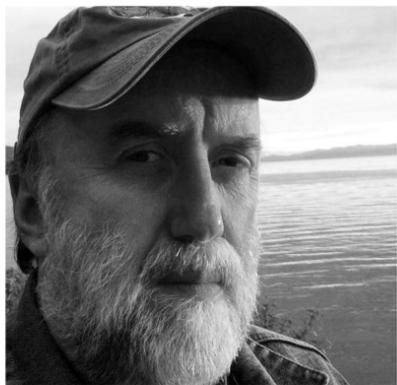
## Symposium Note: We Need Your Questions

Jan Straley and Mike Castellini are requesting your assistance for their presentation at 2pm on Sunday November 6, 2016. We will be thinking about the future of our oceans and marine mammals. What are your concerns for what lies ahead? What do you think our focus or priorities should be? What will be our legacy and impact on our marine environment? We will have a panel of experts to help answer your questions. Please submit your questions with your name and/or email address by Saturday Nov 5 at 5pm. You can:

**EMAIL** to [whalefest@sitkascience.org](mailto:whalefest@sitkascience.org) **TWEET** to #SitkaWhaleFest **POST** on the Sitka WhaleFest Facebook Event Page



# Keynote Speaker



## RAY TROLL

WALKING WHALES, SEA BEARS AND WAYWARD SEA HORSES: Marine Mammal Science & How It's Influenced my Artwork

From his tree lined studio, high on a hill above the Tongass Narrows in rain-swept Ketchikan Alaska, Ray Troll draws & paints fishy images that migrate into museums, books and magazines and onto shirts sold around the planet. Basing his quirky images on the latest scientific discoveries, Ray brings a street-smart sensibility to the worlds of ichthyology & paleontology.

Ray moved to Alaska in 1983 to spend a summer helping his sister Kate start a seafood retail store. The fish store is long gone but Ray is not.

Ray earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas in 1977 and an MFA in studio arts from Washington State University in 1981. In 2008 he was awarded an honorary doctorate in fine arts from the University of Alaska Southeast. In 2007 he was given a gold medal for 'distinction in the natural history arts' by the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and in 2006 was given the Alaska Governor's award for the arts. In 2011 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship along with Dr. Kirk Johnson for their new book project 'Cruisin the Eternal Coastline: West Coast Fossils from Baja to Barrow'. A

month after that Ray was also given the Rasmuson Distinguished Artist Award. In 2014 the Alaska SeaLife Center presented him its Ocean Ambassador award.

Troll's unique blend of art and science culminated in his traveling exhibit, "Dancing to the Fossil Record," a major show that opened at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco in 1995. The huge exhibit included Ray's original drawings, gigantic fossils, fish tanks, murals, an original soundtrack, a dance floor an interactive computer installation and the infamous "Evolvo" art car. In 1997 the exhibit traveled to the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport and in 1998 it hit the streets of Philadelphia at the Academy of Natural Sciences. The tour ended in 1999 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. By that time it had grown to 14,000 square feet.

Ray followed that tour a few years later



with "Sharkabet, a Sea of Sharks from A to Z". Venues included the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, the Alaska State Museum and the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana.

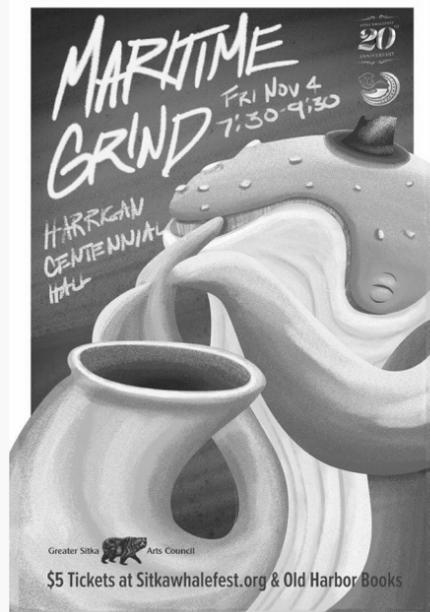
Ray went on to act as the art director for the Miami Museum of Science's Amazon Voyage traveling exhibit and now has another touring show based on his book Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway with Dr. Kirk Johnson. He has illustrated and co-authored eleven books over the course of his career.

He and his wife Michelle run the Soho Coho gallery in Ketchikan situated in an historic house of ill-repute located on a salmon spawning stream.

He has appeared on the Discovery Channel, lectured at Cornell, Harvard and Yale, shown work at the Smithsonian and has even had two fish named after him: a New Zealand species of ratfish called *Hydrolagus trolli* and a prehistoric genus of Italian herring called *Trollichthys*.

View Ray's work at <http://www.trollart.com/>

Ray will be co-hosting the Martime Grind on Friday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at registration desk or at the door.



# Market & Cafe

Our annual market open November 4 - 6 10 am - 4:30 pm, 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 market room 3. We received donations from many generous local artists, vendors, and Sitka businesses. All proceeds from the auction go towards Sitka WhaleFest.

## COMPANY

- FishPrint .....
- ManHomer Whales.....
- Laura Kaltenstein .....
- Old Harbor Books .....
- SeaDreams .....
- Sitka WhaleFest & Sitka Sound Science Center Gift Shop .....
- WinterSong Soap Company .....
- Sitka Children's Museum.....
- Alaska Longline Fishermen's Assoc. ....
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement .....
- Alaska Marine Conservation Council .....
- Sitka Conservation Society .....
- Sitka Tribe of Alaska.....

## PRODUCTS

- Fish prints and cards | [www.facebook.com/fishprintman](http://www.facebook.com/fishprintman), [www.fishprintman.com](http://www.fishprintman.com)
- Unique soft-form toys | [homerwhales.com](http://homerwhales.com), [www.facebook.com/homerwhales](http://www.facebook.com/homerwhales)
- Beadwork, prints, Christmas ornaments, paintings [lauraalaskaart.blogspot.com](http://lauraalaskaart.blogspot.com)
- Books, bookmarks, calendars, kids' items | [www.oldharborbooks.net](http://www.oldharborbooks.net), [www.facebook.com/oldharborbooks](http://www.facebook.com/oldharborbooks)
- Shirts, prints, cards | [www.seadreamsdesigns.com](http://www.seadreamsdesigns.com)
- SSSC and Sitka WhaleFest shirts, hoodies, postcards, and more Follow @SitkaScience
- Local made alaskan herbal soap | [www.wintersongsoap.com](http://www.wintersongsoap.com), [www.facebook.com/WinterSongSoapCompany](http://www.facebook.com/WinterSongSoapCompany)
- Children's hands-on activities, based on imaginary play, where kids can explore, get inspired and spend time with their favorite grown-ups
- Informational/educational materials, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats; posters of work, table tri-fold, computer video display, raffle ticket sales
- NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement protects marine wildlife and habitat.
- Interactive ocean acidification kiosk | [www.akmarine.org](http://www.akmarine.org)
- [www.sitkawild.org](http://www.sitkawild.org)
- Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research Programs | [www.seator.org](http://www.seator.org)

## CAFE

- Allison Lawrie of Allison's Wonderland - coffee and pastries
- Sitka High School Band Program - soups and bread
- \* The students and their parents are raising money for the band to participate in the 2017 NAFME All-Northwest Honor Groups Conference in Bellevue, WA

*Thanks* to the students, teachers, and staff who coordinated and contributed art for the Student Marine Art Display at Centennial Hall

- Jennifer Carter and Jessica Menary / Sitka Fine Arts Art Club
- David Lass / Sitka High School
- Patty Dick & Charlie Skultka / Blatchley Middle School
- Cindy Duncan / Keet Goshi Heen Elementary School

- Liz Zacher / University of Alaska Southeast - Sitka
- Katie Mulligan / Mt Edgumbe High School
- Soshana Bieler / Winter Fellow at Sitka School District
- Anna Wietelmann / SSSC Science Outreach Intern

# Educational Programs at WhaleFest

## Sitka WhaleFest: Legacy of Learning

Nearly two decades ago, Sitka Whalefest organizers launched the program “Scientists in the Schools” to connect visiting WhaleFest speakers with local students. The scientists provided a much-needed opportunity to extend science outreach throughout the various grade levels in the Sitka schools. Today, Sitka WhaleFest is more than a community festival; it is an educational extravaganza, bursting at the seams with engaging learning opportunities that revolve around the weekend’s science symposium!

The current collaborations between scientists and schools span a wide range of activities and events. K-12 students as well as undergraduate and graduate level learners participate in various programs focused on our local marine environment:

### Scientists in the Schools (SIS)

SIS is funded by a USDA grant through the University of Alaska Southeast. Scientists collaborate with local teachers to bring unique and engaging learning opportunities that reflect current research. This program has grown beyond its roots in Sitka WhaleFest and scientists now visit each class at every grade level in Sitka’s schools. For more information, contact SSSC’s Education Manager, Janet Clarke at [jclarke@sitkascience.org](mailto:jclarke@sitkascience.org) or (907) 747-8878, ext 3.

### BLaST

The Biomedical and Student Training is a University of Alaska Fairbanks program funded by NIH. The goals of the program include enhancing undergraduate training and mentoring in the very broad scope of biomedical research. BLAST students enroll in a course that culminates at the Sitka WhaleFest symposium as well as includes a variety of activities throughout the week.

### S<sup>3</sup> - Science Symposium to engage STEM students

S<sup>3</sup> is funded by the National Science Foundation and supports opportunities for students to mentor other students in a unique model of collaborative learning. Undergraduate students from the University of Alaska Southeast, Kenai

Peninsula College of the University of Alaska Anchorage, and Peninsula Community College in Washington State enroll in a WhaleFest course to examine the topics and issues that will be explored during the WhaleFest Symposium. Students will participate in post-lecture seminars with the Symposium Speakers throughout the weekend.

### Ocean Bowl

The 3rd annual Southeast Alaska Regional competition of local National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB) teams will take place at the University of Alaska Southeast Sitka Campus from 8am-12pm on Friday Nov. 4th. NOSB is an academic competition for high school students that focuses on ocean-related topics. This WhaleFest-associated event will bring high school teams from Prince of Whales, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Juneau and Sitka together to compete in this no-stakes quiz bowl; students will also participate in the weekend’s symposium lectures and events. Ocean Bowl is also funded through a USDA grant through the University of Alaska Southeast.



### Don Sineti

Maritime historian  
Musician and performer of sea shanties



### Natalie Rouse

Laboratory Coordinator  
Alaska SeaLife Center



### Maggie Castellini

Marine Mammal Research Staff  
College of Fisheries and Ocean Science  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
Stanford University



### Ben Burford

Squid Research  
Gilly Lab  
Hopkins Marine Station  
Stanford University



### Veronica Padula

Marine Bird Research  
Causey Lab  
University of Alaska, Anchorage

## MONDAY, OCT 31

- 8:00 a Squid Dissections with Don Sineti, 5th grade @ KGH (SIS)
- 9:40 a Squid Ecology with Ben Burford, 9th grade Life Sciences @ SHS (SIS)
- 11:05a Seabirds and Plastics in the Ocean with Veronica Padula, Field Research and Marine Biology @MEHS (SIS)

## TUESDAY, NOV 1

- 8:00 a Whales with Don Sineti, 1st grade @ BES (SIS)
- 10:20 a Squid Population Characteristics and Behavior with Ben Burford, 9th grade Life Sciences @ SHS (SIS)
- 10:30 a Whales with Don Sineti, 3-5 Pre-School (SIS)
- 11:05 a Marine Mammal Necropsy with Maggie Castellini, Anatomy/Physiology @ MEHS (BLaST)
- 12:55 Marine Mammal Necropsy with Maggie Castellini, Chemistry @ MEHS (BLaST)
- 1:00 Molecular Studies with Kitty LaBounty, Prince of Wales Ocean Bowl Team and MEHS Field Research Class (Ocean Bowl, BLaST)
- 2:00 Whales with Don Sineti, 3-5 Pre-School (SIS)
- 3:00 Seabirds and Plastics in the Ocean with Veronica Padula, Sitka Tribe of Alaska Culture Class (SIS)

## WEDNESDAY, NOV 2

- 8:00 a Whales with Don Sineti, 1st grade @ BES (SIS)
- 8:50 a Squid Population Characteristics and Behavior with Ben Burford, 9th grade Life Sciences @ SHS (SIS)
- 10:35 a Marine Mammal Necropsy with Maggie Castellini, Marine Biology @ MEHS (BLaST)
- 12:25 Marine Mammal Necropsy with Maggie Castellini, 9th grade Field Science @ SHS (BLaST)
- 1:00 Molecular Studies with Kitty LaBounty, Prince of Wales Ocean Bowl Team and MEHS Field Research Class (Ocean Bowl, BLaST)

## THURSDAY, NOV 3

- 10:00 a Whales with Don Sineti, Mt. Edgecumbe PreSchool (SIS)
- 1:00 Molecular Studies, Kitty LaBounty, Prince of Wales Ocean Bowl Team and MEHS Field Research Class (Ocean Bowl, BLaST)
- 1:00 Marine Wildlife Tour with Teaching Stations with Ben Burford and Veronica Padula (S3)
- 1:30 Whales with Don Sineti, Mt. Edgecumbe PreSchool (SIS)

## FRIDAY, NOV 4

- 8:00 a Ocean Bowl Competition @ UAS
- 8:00 a Fish Necropsy Workshop (BLaST)
- 11:30 a Mentor & Mentee Lunch @ PHS (S3)
- 11:30 a First Lecture Preview: Local 5th - 9th grade students (SIS)
- 11:45 a Lectures, Students from UAS BIO 175 with Jan Straley (S3)
- 4:15 Post-Lecture Seminars, UAS BIO 175 with Symposium Speakers (S3)

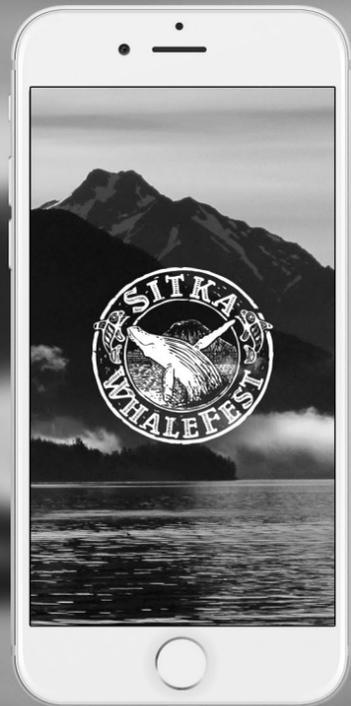
## SATURDAY, NOV 5

- 8:00 a Fish Necropsy Workshop (BLaST)
- 11:45 a Lectures, Students from UAS BIO 175 with Jan Straley (S3)
- 4:15 Post-Lecture Seminars, UAS BIO 175 with Symposium Speakers (S3)

## SUNDAY, NOV 6

- 8:00 a Fish Necropsy Workshop (BLaST)
- 11:45 a Lectures, Students from UAS BIO 175 with Jan Straley (S3)
- 3:45 Post-Lecture Seminars, UAS BIO 175 with Symposium Speakers (S3)

Visit the Sitka WhaleFest web app.



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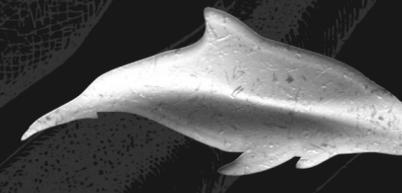
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*Donations are registered from December 2015 to October 26, 2016. We have made every attempt to include all of our supporters. If you find that we have omitted your contribution or need to submit a correction, please notify the Sitka WhaleFest Director at 907.747.8878 ext 2 or [whalefest@sitkascience.org](mailto:whalefest@sitkascience.org).*



# SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER

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Sitka WhaleFest Events will take place at the Harrigan Centennial Hall (330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, Alaska). Registration and information desk will be in the lobby and open during the WhaleFest Market & Cafe Hours (10am - 4:30 pm) on November 4th, 5th, and 6th.

Sitka WhaleFest is a program of the Sitka Sound Science Center; more information can be found at [SitkaWhaleFest.org](http://SitkaWhaleFest.org). To sign up for the WhaleFest mailing list, please use the website contact form or submit your contact information at the WhaleFest registration desk.

The Sitka Sound Science Center is dedicated to increasing understanding and awareness of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of Alaska through education and research. Our vision is to build on Sitka's legacy and potential as an educational and scientific community.



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# WhaleFest 2016 Map

