

# Tunnel Echoes



## Arch Cape/Falcon Cove Beach Community

A Newsletter Nov 2013

Welcome to Fall in Arch Cape

### Happy Indian Summer!

Crazy weather, huh?

First, it seemed to take forever for summer to arrive. Then, the winter storms started in August...by mid-September I was convinced that we would see rain till next May. The, out of nowhere came this incredible indian summer.

No "people" section this month...I have been busy building our elementary school. But we have a great issue regardless. And speaking of our school...

The Cannon Beach Academy is progressing nicely. After 5 months of hard work, we have a completed charter application. You can see it on

our website located at <http://thecannonbeachacademy.com/>

This reflects hundreds of man hours by dozens of volunteers who believe, as I do, that it is important to keep an elementary



school in our community. We have over 90 kids signed up. We are in negotiations with the landlord of a commercial property

in Cannon Beach to host our school for the next several years. We are making real progress.

Still need to raise some money... lots of it. But I have faith that will come as well. Stay tuned as we progress.

Questions, comments, critiques? Have something you want to say, or something that needs to be said? A topic that needs covered, A restaurant or surf break that needs reviewed? A member of our community you would like to see profiled? Can you write an article? Perhaps you just want to list your couch for sale (we can do that) Let us (let me) know.

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Phil



## SHORT SANDS HEALTH ADVISORIES

By: Mike Manzulli  
Ecola Creek Watershed Council

Between Portland's exponential growth and the ever-increasing popularity of surfing, Short Sands Beach in Oswald West State Park has become the go to summer beach for thousands of tourists and locals alike. Crowded surf and litter are obvious summer problems. However, the easy to miss, yet consistently polluted water in Short Sands Creek is a much greater problem that poses a true health risk beyond the stress of not finding parking and having to share waves with legions of tourists.

During the summer months, the Oregon Health Authority tests water quality up and down the Oregon Coast. Over the years, Short Sands has had high bacteria readings. Rumors have been circulating among Short Sands regulars that the Highway 101 bathrooms were leaking into the wetland on the west side of the highway. Jokes like, "that's not the skunk cabbage" were made but nothing was ever done about it. For better or worse, this summers

extraordinarily high bacteria readings mandated action.

In July, Oregon Health Advisory found enterococcus bacteria levels in Short Sands Creek to be 17,329 cfu per 100ml of water, which is almost 110 times the health advisory limit of 158 cfu per 100ml. Contact with water that has over 158 cfu/100 ml of fecal bacteria, can result in diarrhea, stomach cramps, skin rashes, upper respiratory infections and other illnesses.

The Ecola Creek Watershed Council was a first responder to these conditions. The Council warned beach goers to avoid the creek, contacted Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department ("OPRD"), made sure the warning signs at the trail and beach entrances were flipped, and eventually worked with Surfrider Foundation and Mike Stein, the regional Director of OPRD, to help source the contamination.

As you all know, the rainforest is a dynamic place with a very high water table. After digging some test holes, OPRD determined that even in the dry season, this high water table infiltrates the already undersized septic drain-field for

the 101 parking lot bathrooms. In short, it is very likely that this small drain-field cannot handle the amount of waste and water moving through the area. As a result, OPRD permanently closed the drain-field just west of Highway 101 and is pumping the septic tank regularly. OPRD is currently looking for alternative drain-field locations and options. The park does not have electricity, so some of the more progressive systems may be unavailable. Ecola Creek Watershed Council hopes to review the options available and provide input whenever possible.

Oregon Health Authority has stopped water quality sampling for the season. However, the Surfrider Foundation has set up a water quality testing lab in Manzanita and is looking for volunteers to help sample. Drop me an e-mail at [manzulli@gmail.com](mailto:manzulli@gmail.com) if you are interested in testing, and please thank local OPRD Commissioner Robin Risley for her support and Mike Stein for his prompt work addressing this issue.



## County Hosts 2ND Urban Renewal District Meeting

By Nadia Gardner

On September 7, Clatsop County held its second meeting on the possibility of establishing an urban renewal district in Arch Cape. A few weeks prior, they sent a postcard to all landowners, sharing the meeting information. About 20 community members attended and 6 county staff, including Scott Sommers (County Manager), Ed Wegner (Roads Dept), and Hiller West (Planning Dept). County Commissioner Debra Birkby was also in attendance.

As a review, an urban renewal district would not involve any new taxes. As assessed values rise, the additional tax income on those assessed values that would otherwise go to the county, port, schools, sheriff and other districts would go instead to the Arch Cape Urban Renewal District for 20 years. The other districts would continue to get the income they receive now. Assessed values in Oregon go up between 2 to 3 percent per year, even in a recession (see OR Measure 5 in 1990).

If established, the Arch Urban Renewal District would have a plan, developed by the community and county, on how to spend the funds over the 20 years. Proposed projects include developing a comprehensive stormwater infrastructure and road improvements.

At the meeting, County staff presented estimates of income. If



all of Arch Cape was in the district, income is estimated over 20 years to be up to \$9.2 million. If the Cannon View area (Carnahan) was excluded, it would be \$7.5 million. Staff received a letter from Cannon View Inc, the homeowner's association opposing their inclusion in the district. They do not believe they would benefit. If Cannon View was excluded, the district would match the Arch Cape Water District lines.

County staff also prepared an estimate on costs of potential improvement projects. Example projects are: traffic safety analysis, road analysis, road standard development, improving or paving of County roads (not private roads), storm drainage master plan, and drainage improvements. The estimated cost of these activities is \$4.78 to \$6.185 million. If more funds were available, it could be used for maintenance over those 20 years.

Meeting attendees expressed appreciation for all the work county staff had put into the proposal. They also expressed several concerns. The group discussed the roads. There are three road types: Private, Public and County. The County would not work on Private roads unless those landowners chose to convert the roads to County or Public roads. They would work on the other two types of roads. Public roads are not maintained by the county, but County roads are. So, if Public roads were brought up to County standard as part of the new District, they would maintain them in the long term. Some attendees were worried that paving roads would encourage speeding. One solution might be to install low speed bumps. They also questioned the County-required road width, which is now 20 to 24 feet depending on the number of homes on a street. Ed Wegner responded that the county is open to developing a new, smaller road standard for Arch Cape as long as it met the fire district's requirements.

## County Hosts 2ND Urban Renewal District Meeting (cont)

The group also discussed the stormwater plan and improvements. The proposal focused on stormwater draining from paved roads. However, a major problem in Arch Cape is not having a central stormwater conveyance system for houses to hook into (roof drainage). They often just drain directly into creeks or wetlands, onto neighboring properties, or the roads. The group asked the county to add this project.



Finally, members of the group requested that the project go through the SW Community

Advisory Committee (AC Design Review Board). Next steps are continuing to gauge community support, meeting with the tax districts, and then presenting the project to the Board of Commissioners. They would need to approve the project.

For more info, contact City Manager Scott

Sommers at  
ssomers@co.clatsop.or.us or  
(503)325-1000.

## CERT Update

By: Lianne Thompson

The South Clatsop County CERT team operates under the auspices of the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District. In order to protect neighbors more effectively, its local members have joined with other CERT-trained volunteers to form a Safety Committee under the auspices of the Community Club.

Members will plan more safety activities to support preparedness and response to natural or other disaster situations.

In the meantime, plans for the Arch Cape cache container are moving ahead. The Fire District's board has deliberated and worked with local residents to solicit opinions

about the best way to proceed, including the best location.

Right now, it appears that the cache will be located at the Arch Cape Fire Station for a number of reasons, including saving over a thousand dollars in start-up costs if it were to be located at St. Peter's.

At the next Community Club potluck on November 16th, Gigi Selberg will bring some 5-gallon plastic buckets for members to take home with them. These buckets will hold food or clothing supplies, serve as temporary sanitary receptacles, or both, in an emergency. Just not at the same time. Once the cache is opened, the buckets can be stored in the cache.

If members want to purchase a barrel from Cannon Beach, that is also an option. The buckets will supplement barrels, or replace barrels for those who wish to have smaller caches.

Either way, it's generous of Gigi to offer the buckets, free of charge, to interested community members. She's also offered to pick up any left-over buckets at the Fire Hall after the potluck.

As a community, we're beginning to move forward in a more integrated and comprehensive way to prepare for situations that put all of us at risk. That's good news, and we're happy to have more participation. Contact Lianne Thompson at 503-436-9013 or liannegaea@gmail for more information.





## New Years Tradition

By: Linda Lapp-Murray

Arch Cape has a proud New Year tradition. Each new years day at morning low tide, a hardy horde of dippers gather on the beach to take their annual dive in the cold Pacific water. It's hard to tell exactly when the tradition started, but we know that a teenage Barbara Shaw dove into the icy winter water in the 1940s. In the mid-1950s, Betty Snow was the lone dipper, but when she moved to south Arch Cape, she was joined by Floyd "Scotty" Scott, Marney Beemer's father. By 1971, the two originals were joined by Jack Birkby, Rip Morrison and Melissa Morrison. Since moving to Arch Cape in 1996, I have photographed the momentous, sometimes tremendously frightening, occasion every year. The gathering has grown huge. Each year there are between 50 and 70 dippers. No wet suits are allowed. The dunkers join hands, take a deep breath and with a loud shout, the long line of hardy souls dash toward certain death in the waves. There have

been many a year when the winds were blowing ice cold and the rain was pelting sideways. Sometimes there has been no sand and the bolt to the water is navigated over rough rocks with



huge waves pelting the swimmers, but amazingly, there have been no serious injuries. In our family and in many other Arch Cape families, small children are introduced to the tradition by the time they can stand up & toddle. Daddys hold on tight and a lesson in perseverance & toughness is learned. The group always includes our two "Grand Dames of the Dive" Barbara Shaw and Noanie Morrison, who are in their 80s. For several years, I have been copying & restoring photographs

of the swim from community members' albums with the idea of creating a book on the history of The Arch Cape Swim. With the help of Barb Beemer the book is laid out & current up to 2013. I'm sorry to say this new year will be the first time I won't be here to photograph. Please let me know if you have photographs of the swim. I would love to include them in the book. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the book when it is ready, please let me know by email : [murraylapp@charter.net](mailto:murraylapp@charter.net). If you want to join in the plunge or huddle on the beach in your parka to watch, show up about 9:30 AM on New Years Day on the beach between Leech Lane and Maxwell Lane.





## Dog Waste Stations Go Up in Arch Cape

By Nadia Gardner

It is now a lot easier to pick up after your dog in Arch Cape. In August, the Community Club put up two dog waste bag dispensers at the beach accesses at the west end of both Leech Lane and Ocean Lane. Depending on usage, more may be planned for the future.

According to the U.S. Humane Society, 40% of United States households have at least one dog. That's a lot of dogs! During the summer, Arch Cape's population swells and along with people come their pets. So, it is especially important to pick up dog waste during that period.

Some might think that dog waste is no different than wildlife waste, but that is not the case. In a natural forest, wildlife density is

fairly low and waste is slowly broken down by microorganisms and is filtered through the soil by rain. In the more suburban environment, like the North Coast, there are many more dogs and lots of pavement and rooftops. The natural system has been altered by increased runoff due to impervious surfaces (surfaces that do not allow water to infiltrate the soil including rooftops and asphalt or concrete roads, parking lots and sidewalks). Pet waste that isn't properly disposed of will often be flushed into streams and the ocean before being completely broken down.

If not properly disposed of in our area, dog waste can reduce our water quality, negatively affecting human and wildlife health. When it rains, it runs untreated into streams and the ocean. Kids and pets play in our streams and we all play in the ocean.

Pet waste may contain pathogens such as bacteria, viruses and parasitic worms that can be transmitted to humans who are recreating in infected waters. Specifically, they may carry: *Campylobacteriosis* - a bacteria carried by some cats and dogs causing gastrointestinal illness (diarrhea) in humans. *Cryptosporidium* - a protozoan parasite that causes gastrointestinal illness in humans. Common symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea and dehydration. *Toxocariasis* - roundworms that may be transmitted from dogs to humans and may cause vision loss, a rash, fever, or cough.

All of these are particularly problematic to people with depressed immune systems, including many seniors.



What can dog owner do? Carry disposable bags while walking your dog to pick up and dispose of waste in your trash. Pick up pet waste from your yard and put in trash or bury in your yard at least 12 inches deep and keep it away from vegetable gardens. Don't put it in your compost bin.

The Community Club is happy to be able to help keep Arch Cape clean and healthy into the future. Check out the two dog waste bag dispensers at the beach accesses at the west end of both Leech Lane and Ocean Lane. Let us know if you think a busy beach access near you needs one or the bags are out at [acfcbcc@gmail.com](mailto:acfcbcc@gmail.com)



## Holiday Shopping

By: Linda Lap-Murray

No need to troll the mall for your Hanukkah or other holiday giving needs; no spending hours on line, no agonizing over what to give the person who's got everything. I'll bet they don't have an Arch Cape / Falcon Cove Beach sweatshirt, tee shirt or coffee mug. These are the perfect holiday gifts for all the Arch Cape lovers you know!

The Community Club has a new batch of beautiful dove gray hoodies, full zip sweat shirts that are just the thing to keep you toasty warm as the winter winds blow. In sizes from small to extra large, with our new logo on both front and back, you'll find one for everybody in the family. They sell for \$40.



We also have a selection of navy blue tee shirts with bold white logo on the chest in sizes from small to extra large. They sell for \$16.

And for morning coffee, you could give our new royal blue or forest green coffee mugs with that wonderful logo to remind you of good times at our favorite paradise, Arch Cape. The mugs sell for \$9. Each.

Just contact Linda Lapp Murray either by email at [murraylapp@charter.net](mailto:murraylapp@charter.net) or call 503-436-0893 and she will get your holiday gifts to you either by mail or delivery. Better do it right away, though, because this is the last Community Club order of the year... when they're gone, they're gone.



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# Seabirds and Arts & Crafts Bazaar at the November 16th Potluck Meeting

By: John Piatt

Shawn Stephensen is a Refuge Wildlife Biologist with the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. He will be speaking about this refuge system, it's importance, and the types of seabirds living in the refuge, especially on the offshore rocks that we see routinely in our area.

In addition, several artists and crafters from our club will be sharing/selling their work at the potluck from 5:30 to 6:00 pm and then again after Shawn's talk.

This stretch of the North Coast has always attracted artists and crafters. If you are one of them,



and would like to share your work with your neighbors, contact John Piatt at 741-9114 or piatt.john.a@gmail.com. There is no cost, but you are asked to donate an item as a door prize for the evening. Because we are short on tables for dinner, your

display will be limited to a single card table, which we ask you to bring. Set up of the displays will occur just inside the fire truck bay between 5:00 and 5:30 pm. You are responsible to be at your table to make sales and answer questions.

## The World of Haystack Rock

By: Nadia Gardner

Haystack Rock Awareness Project kicks off their 2013-14 lecture series in November. Held the second Wednesday of each month, November to April, the series focuses on our area's natural heritage. All events are from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cannon Beach Library (131 N. Hemlock St, Cannon Beach).

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013  
Fawn Custer, Coast Watch  
Volunteer Coordinator and Marine

Educator / Oregon Shores  
Conservation Coalition  
"Connecting with your  
Community through Coast  
Watch"

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013  
Ram Papish, Wildlife Artist,  
Biologist & Author  
"Seals, Seabirds and our  
Changing Oceans"

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014  
Jen Zamon, NOAA Fisheries - Pt.  
Adams Research Station PhD,  
University of California, Irvine  
"Birds, Salmon and Forage Fishes  
in the Columbia River Estuary" -  
Scientific approaches to

addressing conflict among  
protected species





## E-PREP 6 MONTH CHECK LIST

November 3, 2013

*Twice a year we change our clocks. Standard time takes over on November 3rd. This is the perfect opportunity to verify your life-saving gear. Do a quick check of the following:*

- ✓ Go-kits. You have one, right? Check them out. Put in fresh batteries. Check pull-dates for meds and food.
- ✓ Emergency pet supplies. Check pull-dates for meds and/or food. Anything moldy? Replace it.
- ✓ Water. Do you have a 72 hours supply of emergency water for each person in the house? Don't forget pets.
- ✓ Smoke alarms. Do you have 10-year batteries? When did you put them in? If you have 1-year batteries, replace them.
- ✓ Fire extinguishers. Check the gauges. Flip each upside down and back up. Sound OK?
- ✓ House-hold and vehicle flashlights. Put in fresh batteries.
- ✓ CO monitors, if you have propane. When did you install them?



### Arch Cape - Falcon Cove Beach Community Club

The Community Club meets four times yearly on the third Saturday of May, September, November and February. Membership in the club is \$16 for a household and includes membership in the Club as well as a subscription to this newsletter.

Not a member? Please Join or renew today. You can mail to ACFCB Community Club, Attn: Treasurer 79729 Hwy 101, Arch Cape, OR 97102

### Board Members

**Nadia Gardner — President**  
**John Piatt — Vice President**  
**Charles Dice — Treasurer**  
**Marney Beemer — Secretary**  
**Danña Kittell — Member**  
**Linda Lapp-Murray — Member**  
**Steve Hill — Member**

### Questions/Concerns/Comments

Contact me:

Phil Simmons

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