



Faces of the
Sea Odyssey by
David Dennis



20 Years of
OSO Milestones



Thank You,
System Studies

odyssey NEWS

Faces of the Sea Odyssey

The faces of children learning the fundamentals of science and environmental stewardship while sailing Monterey Bay are the subject of renowned, local photographer David Dennis's work, "Faces of the Sea Odyssey," consisting of several photos for sale, many of which were on display in March at the Java Junction Coffee Shop located downstairs from O'Neill Sea Odyssey at the Santa Cruz Harbor.

A First Friday reception on February 5 at the Food Lounge Santa Cruz, 1001 Center Street, drew a capacity crowd of several hundred people. O'Neill Sea Odyssey will receive 100% of the proceeds of the sale of the photos of students who sailed on June 23, 2015 from the Nueva Vista Community Resources, formerly Beach Flats and Familia Center, in Santa Cruz and a class of students with special needs from Yerba Buena School in San Jose.

"David Dennis has created an approach he calls philanthropic photography," said Dan Haifley, Executive Director of the O'Neill Sea Odyssey, "This was his seventh fundraising show in the last two years, and we were excited to be working with him on this event. David also works for Microsoft, and they supported this fundraiser, as well."

"The work of the O'Neill Sea Odyssey to start kids off early with an appreciation for our marine environment and for conserving it is exemplary," said David Dennis. "I'm humbled to be involved with such a great organization."

To learn more about the photos, please contact Dan Haifley at dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org ♦



*Students from Nueva Vista Center
get nautical. Photos by David Dennis*



*Yerba Buena School students by
David Dennis*



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Please Join Us for Our 20th Anniversary!

O'Neill Sea Odyssey's 20th Anniversary celebration themed "The Ocean is Alive" will take place at 6 PM on Saturday, September 17, at the Seymour Discovery Center for an elegant evening of art, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music, and auction. Reservations can be made at oso20th.org.

Here's a list of just the major milestones before and during the 20 years that started with those first two classes that teacher Peggy Marketello brought to the Santa Cruz Harbor from Mountain School in rural Santa Cruz County, based on a program designed by, among others, Theresa Coyle, Jim Holm, Carl Keehn, Jack McLaughlin, Tim O'Neill and Jack O'Neill.

20 Years: O'Neill Sea Odyssey Milestones

1983 Jack and Tim O'Neill purchase Team O'Neill catamaran in Sand City and bring it back to the Santa Cruz Harbor where it's used for many purposes.

1992 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary designated.

1996 First two OSO classes occur in December, 1996.

1999 Field trip expanded from 2 to 3 hours, using education center in O'Neill Building with watershed model and microscope with viewing screen.

Tom and Judy Webster establish Adam Webster Memorial Fund for special needs youth.

2000 Jack O'Neill and Harry Hind donate O'Neill Building to OSO.

2003 Classroom curriculum handbook published and distributed, including its alignment to California State and Federal content standards.

2004 Receives Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award. 25,000th student served.

2005 Donor funds re-build upstairs of building with OSO education center,

elevator, disabled access, and Surfrider Foundation water quality lab. Santa Cruz Harbor takes downstairs.

2006 Begins paying for bus transportation for lower income schools. Receives Senator Barbara Boxer's Environmental Champion award. Weather station installed.

2008 Solar system installed for OSO and Surfrider Foundation.

2009 Adam Webster Memorial Fund receives the Community Spinners award. 50,000th student served.

2012 Curriculum aligned to Ocean Literacy principles and distributed throughout California.

2013 Receives Silicon Valley Business Journal's Community Impact Award. 75,000th student served. Study of program's long-term impact completed.

2014 Curriculum aligned to Common Core & Next Generation Science Standards. 80,000th student served.

2015 Virtual program, and iPads for data entry from boat to website. 85,000th student served. ♦

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Leave a Legacy for Youth and the Ocean

You're part of the reason we're here and you can also be part of the reason we'll be here 100 years from now. Since 1996, O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) has served nearly 75,000 youth with a free, ocean-going science and environment program.

This has been possible in part because you have provided much-needed and deeply appreciated support for OSO's program for area youth. In 2005 OSO's Board of Directors made a commitment to raise funds to ensure

our future by establishing a permanent endowment fund for OSO which is housed at the Community Foundation for Santa Cruz County.

We would like to invite you to help us build a future foundation for our program, for the kids, and for the ocean. You can do this by naming OSO's permanent fund at Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County in your estate plan. There are also many ways to leave a permanent legacy and reap some significant financial benefits before hand, including: a beneficiary designation in your retirement fund or insurance policy, gifts from a will or living trust, an annuity that provides you with lifetime income, gifts of real estate, and charitable trusts.

We would be honored to meet with you to discuss supporting our permanent fund in a way that works best for you. Please contact Dan Haifley at **(831) 465-9390** or at dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org, or fill out the form below and mail it to us. Thank you! ♦

Enrollment Form

- ☐ I have named OSO in my estate plan (we will contact you relative to recognition)
- ☐ I would like to talk to someone about a gift to OSO in my estate plan
- ☐ I wish to learn more about the OSO/Community Foundation's gift annuity program
- ☐ I would like the recommended language for including OSO in my estate plan

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (day): _____ Telephone (evening): _____

Email: _____

Please send to OSO, 2222 East Cliff Drive, Suite 222, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

O'Neill Sea Odyssey In-Classroom Curriculum to Go National

You have heard over the years about O'Neill Sea Odyssey's comprehensive science curriculum package - based on ocean concepts - that are used by school classes that participate in our program. In 2002, a grant from the Toyota USA Foundation enabled us to work with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to distribute our curriculum to school science teachers and environmental educators throughout the country.

In the fall of 2016, O'Neill Sea Odyssey curriculum will be available to schools throughout the nation, thanks to an agreement approved by the OSO Board of Directors in March with the Pepper Career & College Readiness Network.

While OSO classroom curriculum will still be available free of charge to schools that participate in our program, Pepper will sell our curriculum via its online platform nationwide to schools and educators. A goal of OSO's 2013-2018 Strategic Five Year Plan is the exportation of our curriculum, and this new partnership effort will help accomplish that.

There is currently a dearth of quality science curricula available, but that will soon change. ♦

Want Your Newsletter Emailed?

If you would like to opt out of the paper version of this newsletter and would like a PDF emailed to you, please email dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org and write in the subject line: "Email newsletter please". Thank you! ♦

Our Ocean Backyard: *Why Bother With Coastal Cleanups?*

BY DAN HAIFLEY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Although International Coastal Cleanup day isn't until Sept. 17, people around the world spend time year-round picking up waste along their shorelines that would otherwise wind up in the ocean.

Recently an organizer of a regular cleanup effort by the Santa Cruz Rotary Club asked me if the cleanups really make a difference in the fight against ocean pollution. They do make a difference.

But before we explore why, let's look at the scope of the problem, which was noticed by Capt. Charles Moore, who accidentally encountered a region of mostly plastic waste while sailing from Hawaii to Long Beach in 1997.

He may or may not have been the first to discover the phenomenon, but he was the first to formulate a significant response to it.

Moore founded the Algalita Foundation, which performed some of the initial research to learn more about ocean trash. Most official estimates show that 80 percent of that pollution comes from land. Solid waste, such as single-use plastic bags, is blown by wind, or carried by water through storm

drains and rivers. Most is not filtered through the sanitary sewer. Much of it gets trapped, circulating in the ocean's great gyres.

Currents, sun, wind and saltwater photo-degrade plastic into smaller pieces, which retain its polymer structure. They are ingested by marine life, become persistent in the water column, and carry toxins which may "bio-accumulate" as they move through the food web.

Several islands in the Pacific host plastic and other trash on their beaches which made its way from the mainland, carried there by the sea's complex currents.

A research paper based on sampling conducted from 2007 to 2013, using 680 tows of nets through ocean water around the globe, was published last year. Authored by 5 Gyres Institute scientist Marcus Eriksen and a number of international colleagues, the analysis estimated that the world's ocean contains "a minimum of 5.25 trillion (plastic) particles weighing 268,940 tons."

That's a big number. No matter how daunting, the problem does have a solution, with two distinct parts. The first is prevention, by which objects that would otherwise become waste can

be re-used, recycled or composted. The second part is intervention at the shoreline, through which 500,000 volunteers removed 16 million pounds in 91 counties on a single weekend day in September 2014. That means that about 8,000 tons — an amount just short of 3 percent of what's in the ocean — was kept out of it.

According to the California Coastal Commission, on September 19, 2015 the state had volunteers at 900 sites in 54 counties. More than 1.14 million pounds of trash and recyclables were removed by 68,000 volunteers. In Monterey Bay, Save Our Shores reported that 3,209 volunteers removed 13,623 pounds of trash and 2,649 pounds of recyclable material in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties in three hours on that day.

In addition to the 91 million pounds retrieved internationally on one day each year, there are thousands of year-round efforts. Santa Cruz Rotary's regular cleanups at Cowell Beach is an excellent example. The cleanups really do make a difference.

A version of this column appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on February 14, 2016. ♦



Our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters at System Studies.

From Left to Right, Dan Haifley, OSO Executive Director, Becca Mosely of Systems Studies, Judy Webster, Tom Webster, and Sheryll Hiatt of System Studies



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El Niño, Dredge Issues Delayed OSO's 2016 Opener

El Niño-driven storms in late 2015 and early 2016 piled thousands of yards of sand into the Santa Cruz Harbor mouth, significantly delaying OSO's start. In early March, classes were taught using a modified program within the Santa Cruz Harbor. Thanks to the flexibility of classroom teachers

and deft work by OSO education coordinator Laura Barnes Walker, most classes were re-scheduled until later in the spring.

The upshot is that the program will not serve our goal of 210 classes this year. But, we will get close. Stay tuned for final numbers in late summer. ♦



Thanks to the Santa Cruz County Fish and Game Advisory Commission, we now have a brand new microscope for use in our program.



Summer 2016 News
oneillseaodyssey.org