

Creating More
Marine Sanctuaries



Ocean Steward Art
Contest Winners



Data from the Web
to the Waters of
Monterey Bay

odyssey NEWS

Our Ocean Backyard: *Creating More Marine Sanctuaries*

BY DAN HAIFLEY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Twenty-five years ago, San Luis Obispo County planner John Von Reis made a proposal at a public meeting in Monterey to enlarge the size of then-proposed Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary south to include waters off San Luis Obispo County.

When the sanctuary was subsequently established in 1992, the largest in the nation, its southern terminus was fixed at Santa Rosa Creek in far northern San Luis Obispo County. Planner Von Reis' former associate Karl Kempton, now retired, is among those supporting a proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (www.chumashsanctuary.com) to cover waters south of that southern boundary.

National marine sanctuaries like Monterey Bay are ocean and Great Lakes areas managed for their unique ecological or cultural value and to promote resource protection, research and education. Besides rules such as a ban on oil and gas drilling, they also exist to, among other things, protect marine heritage sites such as

shipwrecks. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which runs 14 sites under varying levels of management and protection, recently invited communities to nominate new areas for possible protection.

Jason Patlis, who runs the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, recently co-authored an article for the Environmental Law Reporter, entitled The National Marine Sanctuary System: The Once and Future Promise of Comprehensive Ocean Governance, which argues that national marine sanctuaries offer a comprehensive approach to managing ocean areas, and that the new nominations process can unlock their potential to protect marine life, ecosystems and maritime heritage sites.

Matt Brookhart, Chief for Policy and Planning for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, explained that establishing the nomination process resulted from a public demand that has grown since a similar program was put on hiatus 20 years ago. He pointed out that the proposed federal rule to re-open nominations received more than 18,000

public comments, 90% of which were in support. "That level of support is unheard of," he told me. "We wanted to be responsive for requests for new sanctuary sites that we've gotten from citizens and Members of Congress, especially from communities that have seen their success," he said, pointing out that the influence of Thunder Bay site in the Great Lakes, Florida Keys, and Monterey Bay have inspired requests for protection for other areas.

NOAA has set no deadlines for the submission of nominations, and so far four have been received. The proposal for Chumash National Marine Sanctuary has not yet been submitted as of this writing, but the four that have include one to protect an area around Alaska's Aleutian Islands and another to preserve a portion of Lake Michigan off Wisconsin, both of which are being reviewed. A proposal for a Eubalaena Oculina marine sanctuary at Florida's northeast Atlantic coast has been declined by the agency, and a portion of Potomac River's Mallow Bay in Maryland has been accepted for consideration.

(‘Sanctuaries’ continued inside)



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Student Art Contest A Great Way to Engage Students



BY JACK, BRIDGET & TIM O'NEILL

When OSO Operations Coordinator Adam Steckley came up with the idea to engage students in an art contest and presented it to the Board of Directors, it made

perfect sense. Why not? For years students have been sending pieces of art representing their OSO experience to the program, where we have devoted an entire wall in the hallway of our education center. In fact, we receive so many pieces that we have to change them out every few months.

When OSO instructor Lauren Hanneman worked on her study of OSO's long-term impact on students, she used art as a primary method of measuring knowledge and understanding of the subjects involved. While using surveys

may tell some of the story of what a student knows, a work of art provides a means of full expression.

Implementing the art contest takes a bit of work on the part of our staff, volunteers and our Board of Directors, but it's worth it. It's one more way for a student to express themselves about what they know, what they love, and what they are willing to protect.

We wish to extend our congratulations to this year's winners, and many thanks to all those who participated! ♦

Ocean Steward Art Contest: Winners Announced

BY ADAM STECKLEY, OSO
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

Last fall, 4th - 6th grade O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) students were invited to submit their artwork to the Ocean Steward Art Contest – a creative interpretation of the watershed, marine and/or stewardship themes learned while attending the OSO program. In January, OSO and its Board of Directors announced the

winners and awarded the efforts of the students, teachers, schools and communities. Victoria Preciado (grade 5), of El Granada Elementary in Half Moon Bay, CA, was the grand prize winner.

"It delivers a visual and verbal message that speaks from the 'ocean's' side of things – not our side," said Mike McCabe, OSO Board Member. Miss Preciado and her teacher, Laurie McMahon, each received passes for a

one-hour public sail aboard the Team O'Neill catamaran.

In honor of Victoria Preciado and her award winning piece, "Care for the Ocean," O'Neill Sea Odyssey presented an enlarged mounted copy of the artwork to both El Granada Elementary and Comerica Bank, who provided funding for Miss McMahon's class. The three honorable mention winners included: Jazmin Sofia Zilla (grade 5), of El Granada Elementary; Naomi Naito (*'Art' cont. inside right page*)

Rafael Lopez, Watsonville
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Simon Salinas, Monterey County
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Joe Simitian, Santa Clara
County Supervisor

Bill Simpkins, Community Volunteer,
Boat Owner

Robert Stephens, President, California
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Mark Tracy, Santa Cruz County Sheriff-
Coroner (ret.)

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): _____

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

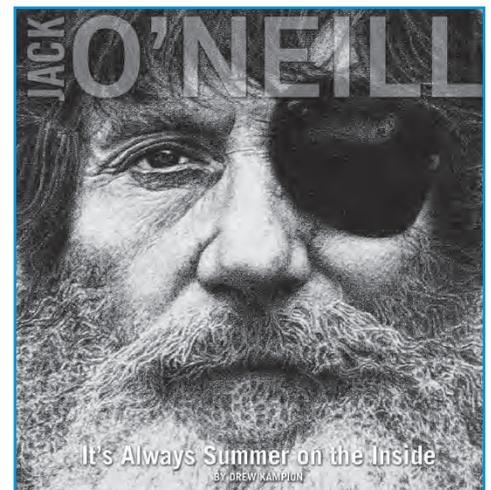
(‘Sanctuaries’ cont. from front cover)

Nominations, such as the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, will be evaluated for their contribution to ocean management and protection. To learn more go to: www.nominate.noaa.gov

A version of this column appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on January 31, 2015 ♦

Autographed Copy of Jack O’Neill: It’s Always Summer on the Inside

Full of unique, personal stories and photos of the life and times of Jack O’Neill, this beautiful 250 page coffee table book is a rarity, but when coupled with his autograph...wow. With a \$500 donation to the O’Neill Sea Odyssey, you will receive one of these unique books, complete with a letter of authenticity. Originally, this book was sold at retail stores for \$40 and even more than that online. Hurry, because there are just a few remaining! Donate at www.oneillseaodyssey.org ♦



Sending Data to the Web from the Waters of Monterey Bay

BY DAN HAIFLEY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to four young coders from UCSC, the world of ocean science, and environmental activism is about to be unveiled just a little more to more than 5,000 elementary school students per year who participate in O'Neill Sea Odyssey's (OSO) free ocean-going program.

The programmers are Alexander Henry, Chris Hsiao, Brad Bernard and Arjun Gopisetty who collectively call themselves The Plankton Guys. They were participants in Hack UCSC 2015, where they heard pitches by OSO's education coordinator Laura Barnes and me asking for an app that would allow our students to collect and enter ocean data they could call their own.

Previously OSO used old fashioned clipboards and paper on the boat

for data recording, which is done by the instructor. The data reflects oceanographic conditions and biology data at that point in time. Each class of 30 students is divided into three groups for a 10:1 student to instructor ratio. For the navigation, ecology and marine biology lessons on the boat, we record data three times, one for each group of ten students.

Previously, the instructor records the data into our website after the class, which is time consuming and does not engage the students. The data entry portal is difficult to navigate and use.

OSO purchased the iPads thanks to generous donors to enable our students to record and enter the data directly into our website, both at the same time, on the boat. We want the students to discover, collect, and enter the data onto our website so their class can view it later. The data includes information

such as water pH, wildlife counts, GPS coordinates, compass bearings, plankton species, and other information that we used to collect on clipboard and paper.

Rather than replicate our paper-based data collection sheet, the app The Plankton Guys are developing uses a graphic interface that makes data entry easier to do. It sends the data directly into the database on our website, through our existing data portal. But all the students will see is the cool app on the iPad. The goal is for data entry to be user friendly for the students, so they can concentrate on the significance and meaning of the data itself and not on how aggravating it is to enter it.

This is a modified version of an article that appeared in Santa Cruz Tech Beat (www.santacruztechbeat.com) in February, 2015. ♦

(Art' cont.) (grade 5) of El Granada Elementary; Molly Berman (grade 4) of Vine Hill Elementary in Scotts Valley, CA. Their artwork is currently on exhibit in the OSO classrooms. Congratulations! ♦



Above: Honorable Mention Winner Deep Sea Creatures by Molly Berman. Right:

Honorable Mention Winner Living Clean, Living Together by Jazmin Sofia Zilla



Left: Grand Prize Winner, Care for the Ocean by Victoria Preciado



Below: Honorable Mention Winner Pools, by Naomi Naito





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