Meetings resume in October

Very Special Event (see pg 5)
“Original Spirits” to benefit VHP

- Oct. 3—1:30 to 4:30p

Wednesday Evening Meetings:
- Oct. 20—7p to 9p
- Nov 17—7p to 9p
- Dec 15—7p to 9p

please check the chapter website (www.acspugetsound.org) for program information

Event Information

All speaker series events meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle, just north of the Woodland Park Zoo. Doors open at 7pm and the program starts at 7:30pm. Plenty of free parking is available in the upper and lower parking lots. Admission is free—donations are gratefully appreciated.

Chapter Currents

by Uko Gorter, ACS/PS President

Summer has blessed our Pacific Northwest with plenty of sun and higher than average temperatures. While we are enjoying the heat, or escaping it, we are reminded of our duty to conserve water. By doing so we help, not only to secure our drinking water, but also our salmon. Of course we ultimately help our resident killer whales with a steady supply of their favorite food.

In this issue you may find a number of articles about salmon. As the main food source for orcas, we thought it would be of great interest to our readers. We would like to thank Alexandra Morton in particular, for her contribution to our newsletter. Her article on fish farms is fascinating and poignant. Enjoy reading.

ACS/PS would like to extend our condolences to the Orange County Chapter with the passing of their chapter president, Jack Kidwell. Jack died on June 30 of this year, from complications arising from a recent heart attack. We will miss Jack’s dedication and great sense of humor. Jack has willed many of his whale books to the ACS library, for which we are very grateful.

On a lighter note. We are very proud to announce the launching of the ACS na-

(Continued on page 4)

Whales, Salmon Farms and Oil

by Alexandra Morton
Echo Bay, BC

When the first salmon farm was towed past my house in 1987, I thought “good idea.” Many people share this appraisal, because we want to protect wild fish from the voracious human appetite. However, several powerful corporations engaged in salmon farming have been my neighbours for 16 years now and as a result I have seen the underside of an industry I now think of as, ruthless.

Fish farming has gone on for over 10,000 years and can actually create good food in a sustainable manner, but the ancient farmer never attempted to rear a carnivore. Salmon are carnivores. To feed them the southern Pacific and north Atlantic small schooling fish species are being pillaged. After capture they are processed, extruded, packaged and then transported at great energy cost to this ocean. Here they are thrown back into the sea to produce a lesser amount of farm fish. Salmon farming steals from one ocean, to pollute another, in the process harming fish predators such as birds and marine mammals with an end result of less fish for humans than what the ocean itself offers.

The farm salmon stock of choice is the Atlantic salmon. This species has been domesti-
Summit for Salmon

by Peggy Foreman

Summit for Salmon was an expedition to the summit of Mt. Rainier to benefit a non-profit organization called Save Our Wild Salmon. This team of 12 volunteers each raised $2,000 supporting the efforts to restore wild salmon to the Columbia and Snake Rivers here in Washington State. Two of our board members helped to support this effort. Darcie Larson helped organize the fundraiser and Peggy Foreman climbed Rainier. Every participant successfully completed the Three Day Summit Climb led by experienced mountain guides at Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. on July 24, 2004. Funds raised through the climb were donated to the Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition, a nationwide coalition of conservation organizations, commercial and sports fishing associations, businesses, river groups, and taxpayer advocates.

Save Our Wild Salmon works to restore abundant, harvestable wild salmon runs to the Columbia Basin. Their current priority is an exciting national campaign to restore endangered salmon and steelhead by partially removing four dams on the lower Snake River here in our state.

2004 is a critical year for their campaign since the future of our nation’s salmon could be decided by President Bush’s soon-to-be written “Salmon Plan.” The money raised and attention gained by this expedition will help ensure salmon climb past the many obstacles before them. If you are interested in learning more about Save Our Wild Salmon, please visit their website to find out how you can help endangered wild salmon (www.wildsalmon.org).

Summit for Salmon A Success!

The entire Summit for Salmon team reached the top of Mt. Rainier at approximately 7:30 am on Saturday, July 24th. They had beautiful weather on the mountain (as you may remember, July 24th was the day the Puget Sound region saw record-breaking high temperatures) which made for a pretty spectacular view from the top from what I hear. Perhaps most importantly, they all made it down safely too. The climb raised over $25,000 for Save Our Wild Salmon. Congratulations Peggy, and thank you for your awesome fundraising efforts! — Darcie Larson

calling all Whalies

Would you like to help make a difference? Would you like to help foster positive changes in Puget Sound (and the world) but are short on time & don’t want to get involved with any highly political groups? ACS/PS is looking for a few part-time volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks. Skills particularly needed are bookkeeping, public relations, and secretarial. The ability to realistically plan and self-direct are desirable. Most important is the ability to laugh, to work together, and a love of the sea, & all that it contains & touches. The time commitment is open — from 2 hrs/month up, depending on which assignment you choose and whether you chose to do extra. See Uko or any board member.

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I have come to see salmon farms as the cancerous-like growth of "et al 2004). We have unprecedented algae blooms of species such salmon to near extinction (Morton and Williams in press, Morton near, and only near, salmon farms that ate two year classes of pink (Morton and Volpe 2002). In 2001, I recorded a plague of sea lice first test of an invasive species – they had learned to eat wild food salmon in fishermen's nets and proved these fish had passed the use of underwater acoustic harassment devices (Morton and Sym- fish-eating resident whales were driven out by the salmon farmers’ Kingcome inlets for 20 years trying to study whales. In 1993 the I have lived in the Broughton Archipelago between Knight and salmon farmers do not want to deal with their wastes, but unlike and high fat-content diet on a marine feedlot. Like most of us salmon farmers do not want to deal with their wastes, but unlike the rest of us they are allowed to release tons of feces directly into the ocean by using net pens. Wild salmon thrift disease by their nomadic lifestyle. But fattening up to 1.3 million salmon in one place not only suffocates the sea floor, it allows a Pandora’s Box of pathogens to spill out of control into the wild at unnatural and dangerous levels. I have witnessed the offal wafting out of a farm during an epidemic. Fish farms have thus been dubbed “pathogen culturing facilities” (Bakke and Harris 1998).

I have lived in the Broughton Archipelago between Knight and Kingcome inlets for 20 years trying to study whales. In 1993 the fish-eating resident whales were driven out by the salmon farmers’ use of underwater acoustic harassment devices (Morton and Symmonds 2002). Displacing whales is a federal offense in Canada, but nothing was done. In 2000, I recorded over 10,000 Atlantic salmon in fishermen's nets and proved these fish had passed the first test of an invasive species – they had learned to eat wild food (Morton and Volpe 2002). In 2001, I recorded a plague of sea lice near, and only near, salmon farms that ate two year classes of pink salmon to near extinction (Morton and Williams in press, Morton et al 2004). We have unprecedented algae blooms of species such as Noctiluca which in a brilliant orange stain on the sea broadcasts “overload.” Despite this new farms appear annually.

I have come to see salmon farms as the cancerous-like growth of one species destroying the living system in which it is lodged. I have given great thought to why any government would risk an ecosystem like ours producing clean air, water and food. These are the rarest and most valuable essentials for life on earth. Farm salmon are not even a healthy product reared as they are essen- the rarest and most valuable essentials for life on earth. Farm salmon need almost none of this. If only we could weaned off wild salmon to accept farm salmon the great rivers could be logged, dammed and di- hands that feed them. Wild salmon need trees, wild unfettered rivers and oceans free of oil slicks, farm salmon need almost none of this. If only we could be weaned off wild salmon to accept farm salmon the great rivers could be logged, dammed and di-verted oil given the green light. As usual the unraveling threads of our world can be traced back to a few hands in the insatiable corporate world. I only wonder where they think their children will take shelter from the world they create. Don’t eat farm salmon, eat the best food there is, the wild salmon which feed low on the food chain, the pink, the sockeye and the chum for more information: www.raincoastresearch.org www.farmedanddangerous.org

Alexandra Morton is a whale researcher, photographer and writer, well known for her slide shows, films and TV appearances, and for her books, some of which are Siwitt—A Whale's Story, In the Company of Whales, and Heart of the Raincoast
Cetacean Systematics Symposium

by Uko Gorter

We promised you in our last issue of ‘Whulj’, that we would update you on the Cetacean Systematics Workshop held at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, on April 28-29. What follows is a brief summary of this important meeting.

A vital part of managing and conserving cetacean populations is understanding their taxonomy. This includes, knowing how many species are alive today, recognizing their geographic boundaries, and the differences in their appearance. While much progress has been made in the last few decades, there are still many shortcomings in this area. A case in point are our own Southern Resident Killer Whales, where listing them as an endangered population depends on poorly understood taxonomic relationships of killer whales world wide. Therefore, the recently held Cetacean Systematics Symposium is of great importance.

The opening session started with Bill Perrin, a senior researcher, giving an overview of the current status of cetacean taxonomy. While 533 different species have been described throughout history, today we recognize only 83. Perrin discussed the need for a worldwide inventory of museum specimens. He also believes that subspecies should be characterized by their morphology, geography, distribution, genetics, as well as reduced fertility in hybrids.

Richard LeDuc’s presentation, titled, “Species: hard to define, but we know it when we see it...or do we?” focused on the definition of a species. His talk highlighted some examples of the confusing species and subspecies concept. Why, for instance, do we recognize three different species of right whales but only recognize harbor porpoises at a subspecies level, while the latter show a similar genetic variation.

Of special interest to us in the Pacific Northwest, was Charissa Fung’s presentation on the skull differences between transient and resident killer whales in the North Eastern Pacific. She found that mammal eating transient skulls are more robust than their pisciverous cousins. An adaptive evolutionary divergence that may support the notion of two different species of killer whales.

Rus Hoelzel pointed to a low world-wide genetic diversity in killer whales and even suggested evidence of gene flow between the different ecotypes.

Many other researchers and scientists from all over the world gave presentations on subjects ranging from chromosome markers to acoustical insights into cetacean systematics. Let us hope that this symposium will increase our understanding, and widen a cooperation between researchers and scientists worldwide. What the impact of this symposium will have on the listing of our beloved orcas is, remains to be seen. There is a lot of work to be done.

Thanks to: Michelle Berman, president ACS/ Channel Islands Chapter, for her summary.

Sources: Cetacean Systematics Symposium abstract book. This book is available through Sarah Mesnick of the Center for marine Biodiversity and Conservation (sarah.mesnick@noaa.gov).

Cetacean Systematics website: http://cmbc.usd.edu/about/cetaceanconf.cfm

Chapter Currents Continued...

(Continued from page 1) national website redesign. At over 600 pages, this is a very comprehensive site with many new features that make it fun to browse. You may find interactive pages, new species fact sheets, an incredible cetacean curriculum, and lots more... ACS’ national webmaster, Diane Allen, is an ACS/PS member. She has worked many hours to make this site a reality. We are extremely grateful for the work she has put into it. It is clear that this was a labor of love on her part. Please take the time to browse the redesigned site (www.acsonline.org) and have fun. While you are browsing the new site, be sure to run your cursor around the pages to discover the hidden/convenience links.

The ACS national website also has a couple new easier-to-remember names (all of which go to the same website). They are www.whaleanddolphin.info and www.whaleinfo.info and www.dolphininfo.info.

We would like to thank Mosquito Fleet yet again. Their generous gift of $500 towards our chapter, made possible through their onboard raffles, goes a long way to help our goals to fund research grants, and other important programs. Thank you Mike Bennett and crew!

ACS/PS is doubly proud of our education chair, Peggy Foreman. First of all, Peggy has successfully climbed Mount Rainier to raise funds for Save Our Wild Salmon (see her article on page 2); a feat that is remarkable in itself. Secondly, she outstandingly represented our chapter as a keynote speaker at the recent conference of the National Aquatic and Marine Educators (NAME, Aug 17-20), at Evergreen State College Olympia, Washington. ACS/PS had a booth at the conference. Did we see you there?

At this writing a federal judge in San Francisco has rejected the Bush administration’s attempt to relax the nation’s “dolphin-safe” tuna labeling standard in a scathing decision that accuses the administration of sacrificing science and dolphins for politics.

It is election time, no, for our chapter I mean. Please, fill out the enclosed ballot, fold it and send it to us before September 28.

Thank you for staying involved and making a difference.
Original Spirits: A Tribute to Our Relations, Animal and Tribal

Mark your calendars!

- **Sunday, October 3, 1:30 – 4:30 PM**
- McMurray Middle School, 9329 SW Cemetery Road, Vashon, WA 98070

The ACS/PS Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) and WolfTown present “Original Spirits: A Tribute to Our Relations, Animal and Tribal,” a unique, family friendly event showcasing:

- Native performance
- Educational displays by ACS/PS, VHP, and WolfTown
- Tlingit art and carving exhibits

Featured Performers and Presenters:

- **Kuteeyaa Dancers**, a multi-tribal, multi-cultural dance group from Alaska
- **Red Eagle Soaring** Native Youth Theater Group
- WolfTown Ambassador Animals
- **Keet Shu-ka:** An Indigenous Tribute to Killer Whales, by Odin Lonning and Ann Stateler

WolfTown is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, USDA recognized wolf, horse, and raptor rescue center located on Vashon Island. Visit [www.wolftown.org](http://www.wolftown.org) to learn more about WolfTown’s amazing animals and vital rehabilitation work. At “Original Spirits,” you will meet WolfTown teaching raptors, such as a Red Tailed Hawk or Great Horned Owl. WolfTown director T Martino, Osage, is an accomplished horsewoman, wildlife educator, artist, and author.

**Kuteeyaa Dancers** performed a Tlingit ceremonial sendoff for **Keetla** (Springer’s Tlingit name) at the Vashon ferry dock in June 2002. “Dancing connects me to my ancestors. The songs tell stories of how we lived, and how we still believe. Together, the dancing and singing is like a prayer, an indefinable way to connect humans to the spiritual realm. When we dance in public, we are inviting you to join us in this prayer of song and dance,” says dance group leader Florentino Barril, Tlingit.

**Red Eagle Soaring** produces “contemporary and traditional Native American theater arts such as plays, storytelling, and educational workshops, that entertain, inspire, and educate both Native American and multi-cultural audiences, and that instill pride and self-esteem in Native American communities.” Learn more about the socially relevant work of **Red Eagle Soaring** at [http://home.earthlink.net/~resoaring/](http://home.earthlink.net/~resoaring/).


**Kuteeyaa Dancers** and **Red Eagle Soaring** will have recently returned from the September 2004 National Museum of the American Indian grand opening in Washington, DC. Both have busy touring schedules. Do not miss your chance to see them perform together in the Seattle area!

Birders also Whale Watch

by Mike Donahue, [www.westportseabirds.com](http://www.westportseabirds.com)

All day trips head out to Grays Canyon, a submarine canyon which lies 35 nautical miles due west from the mouth of Grays Harbor, on the edge of the continental shelf. The fertile waters at the outer half of the shelf and the canyon support a vast array of marine life. While the primary focus is on finding seabirds such as albatross, shearwaters and storm-petrels, marine mammals are also highly sought after. Regularly encountered are Pacific White-sided Dolphin, Risso’s Dolphin, Dall’s Porpoise, Harbor Porpoise, Northern Fur Seal, Humpback Whale, and Gray Whale. Less common are Northern Right Whale Dolphin, Northern Elephant Seal, and Orca. April 2002 produced one of the few Westport Seabirds records (and the first since the 1970s) of Baird’s Beaked Whale and Sei Whale, plus the first Westport Seabirds record of Fin Whale—all on the same trip!

McMurray Middle School is centrally located and easily accessed from both the north end (Fauntleroy/Southworth) and south end (Tacoma) Vashon ferry docks. Ample, free parking is available. Check the ACS/PS website, [www.acspugetsound.org](http://www.acspugetsound.org) for directions and more event information.

**Advance tickets cost $8.00 general, $5.00 for students and seniors.** Tickets will be $10.00/$7.00 at the door.

To order tickets now, contact Ann at 206-463-9041 or [Vashonorcas@aol.com](mailto:Vashonorcas@aol.com). Soon we will post other locations where tickets will be available on the ACS/PS web site.

This event is made possible by support from the Vashon Park District. Once again, we are grateful to Richard Rogers for creating beautiful event tickets and helping us with event posters!
On June 28, 2004, Springer (A73) the Orphan Orca returned to Johnstone Strait, off the northeast side of Vancouver Island, BC, with her Northern Resident killer whale relatives.

“This morning, tiny Springer spent hours sandwiched between the huge forms of two male orcas, almost invisible from a distance. Her distinctive calls gave her presence away to listeners at Hanson Island’s OrcaLab research station . . . and her distinctive open saddle patch was spotted by observers from BC Parks Warden Program,” said OrcaLab Director Dr. Paul Spong in a press release.

Springer was seen near the Robson Bight Ecological Reserve, accompanied by the stately A36 brothers Dr. Spong mentions, and her great aunt Yakat’s family, the A11’s.

Springer spent six months near Vashon Island’s north end ferry dock, from January to June of 2002. Researcher Mark Sears discovered her near Vashon on January 14, 2002. She was barely two years old at the time. No one knows for certain how the little orphan wandered alone into central Puget Sound, hundreds of miles from her home range.

Springer was underweight and had several serious health problems. She sought attention from humans in boats and frolicked in the busy ferry lanes. Killer whale experts grew concerned for her safety and long-term well being. A historic decision was made to send Springer home.

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) and the Orphan Orca Fund, a coalition of whale conservation groups, collaborated with Canada’s Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Vancouver Aquarium on an unprecedented plan to rehabilitate and reintroduce A73/Springer to her Northern Resident orca community.

Project Seawolf was also instrumental in acquiring generous financial and in-kind donations from businesses and individuals that ensured the success of the relocation plan and led to a triumphant outcome for Springer.

ACS/PS was a charter member of the Orphan Orca Fund. From acoustic and behavioral monitoring to fundraising and public education, many ACS/PS Board members and scientific advisors contributed to Springer’s rescue and relocation. ACS/PS was privileged to participate in this extraordinary endeavor.

In addition, ACS/PS member Odin Lonning (Tlingit) and I performed with Kuteeyaa Dancers, an Alaska Native dance group, in a ceremonial sendoff for Keetla (Springer’s Tlingit name) at the Vashon ferry dock in June 2002.

BC First Nations also hailed Keetla’s repatriation in July 2002. The Namgis Band of Alert Bay turned out in regalia, dancing, drumming, and singing as the young maxinux (killer whale) got reacquainted with her ancestral waters. A sign read “Maxinux Bedo: Welcome Home Baby Orca.” The Band Chief spoke to Keetla, greeting her as a long lost relative.

Upon making acoustic contact and showing considerable enthusiasm for, presumably, being “home” with other orcas, Springer was released to A5 Pod relatives in Blackfish Sound on July 14, 2002.

On a visit to Johnstone Strait last summer, Odin and I were thrilled to see Keetla traveling with her A11 relatives, close beside her adult uncle Skeena, A13. We felt immensely gratified watching Springer ignore boats she would have found tempting when she was at Vashon.

Springer has now survived two winters with her killer whale kin. Whale conservationists celebrate her reintegration into wild orca society as a stunning success.

To read more about Springer and find links to other Orphan Orca Fund partners, visit www.acsonline.org, www.orcalab.org, and www.vanaqua.org.
Kids Corner
by Peggy Foreman, Education Chair

Did you know that a killer whale may reach a weight of 12,000 pounds and a length of 27 feet? And an average adult Chinook Salmon weighs about 15 lbs. (some as big as 135 lbs.) You can find out some pretty cool information, but first you’ll need to jump on a scale and figure out how much you weigh; then measure your height in inches. Next, figure out how many of you would it take to equal the weight of a killer whale?

(HINT: _________ pounds /, _________ pounds = ____________ of me equals the weight of a killer whale.)

(killer whale weight your weight)

Next figure out how many of your body lengths would it take to equal the length of a killer whale?

(HINT: ___________feet X 12 = ___________ in inches

(whale length whale length

___________ inches /, __________ inches = __________ of me equals the length of a killer whale

(whale length in inches your height)

How could you draw a picture that resembles this relationship? Send in your drawing and share what you have learned!

Unusual Visitor to Puget Sound

“Dalco,” a juvenile Humpback whale who resided in Vashon-Maury waters from mid-May to mid-June of 2004. Here "Dalco" breaches in Dalco Pass between Vashon Island and Tacoma, with Brown's Point and Commencement Bay in the background.

It was a rare treat for VHP associates Mark Sears and Ann Stateler to observe an endangered Humpback whale foraging in local waters. In her ten years on Vashon, Ann has never seen a Humpback hang out for an extended stay.

Young "Dalco" was likely attracted by this year's abundant herring run.

John Calambokidis of Cascadia Research said this 30 ft. juvenile is a previously unidentified whale, with no match among Cascadia's extensive collection of Humpback ID photos.

ACS/PS is grateful to Mark for donating proceeds from sales of this "Dalco" photo to our Vashon Hydrophone Project. To purchase one of these beautiful prints, commemorating a historic visit to Puget Sound by an endangered species, contact Ann, the VHP Coordinator, at 206-463-9041 or Vashonorcas@aol.com.

“Dalco” — photo courtesy Mark Sears, copyright 2004, all rights reserved
SAVE THE DATE

Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle, 7-9 pm, (just north of the Woodland Park Zoo)
1st evening meeting of 2004-2005 season: October 20th

Sunday October 3rd—Special Event
Original Spirits: A Tribute to Our Relations, Animal and Tribal
1:30 to 4:30 pm—McMurray Middle School, Vashon Island

YES! — ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE
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Please make check payable to ACS and mail to: ACS/Puget Sound Chapter, P.O. Box 17136, Seattle, WA 98127-0836

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