Faces of the Sea Odyssey

The faces of children learning the fundamentals of science and environmental stewardship while asking ‘Why are we here’ are the subject of renowned, local photographer David Demens’s work, “Faces of the Sea Odyssey,” consisting of several photos for sale, many of which were on display in March at the Santa Cruz Coffee Shop located downstairs from O’Neill Sea Odyssey at the Santa Cruz Harbor.

A First Friday reception on February 5 at the Floof 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 sat on June 23, 2015 from the Nueva Vista Community Resources, formerly Beach Pals and Familia Center, in Santa Cruz and a class of students with special needs from Yerba Buena School in San Jose.

“David Demens has created an approach he calls philanthropic photography,” said Dan Hafley, 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.”
Please Join Us for Our 20th Anniversary!

O'Neill Sea Odyssey's 20th Anniversary celebration themed “The Ocean Is Alive” will take place at 5 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 oso.org.

Here's a list of the major milestones and during the 20 years that started with those first two classes that teacher Peggy Markellos brought to the Santa Cruz Harbor from Mountain School in 1993.

1993 Jack and Tim O'Neil purchase Teen O'Neil statements in Santa Cruz and bring it back to the Santa Cruz Harbor where it's used for many purposes.

1992 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary designed.

1996 First two OBS classes occur in December, 1996.

1999 Field trip extended 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 Adams Webster Memorial Fund for special needs youth.

2000 Jack O'Neill and Harry Fred donate O'Neill building to OBS.

2003 Classroom curriculum handbook published and distributed, including an 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 OBS education center.

2011 Roster, curriculum, data set to OCLC/CLCD through the Long Beach campus.

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

2013 Receive 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 iPad for data entry from boot to website. 85,000th student served.


2017 A new partnership with Del Monte High School. A new partnership with Santa Cruz City Public Schools.

2018 A new partnership with Santa Cruz County Parks.

2019 A new partnership with Santa Cruz County Parks.

2020 A new partnership with Santa Cruz County Parks.
Leave a Legacy for Youth and the Ocean

You've 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 environmental program. This has been possible in part because you have provided much-needed and deeply appreciated support for OSO's program for every youth. In 2009 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 secure a permanent legacy and help some of OSO's younger students including a charitable gift from your estate, a charitable gift from your life insurance, a gift of appreciated securities, or a gift of real estate. You can also support our permanent fund in a way that works best for you. Please contact Don Harley at (408) 685-4938 or at don.harley@oillseaseodyyssey.org to fill out the form below and mail it to us. Thank you!

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 across Santa Cruz County.

In the fall of 2016, OSO's Sea Odyssey curriculum will be available free of charge 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 2015-2016 Strategic Five Year Plan is the expansion 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.

Enrollment Form

☐ I have named OSO in my estate plan (we will contact you to receive your name)
☐ I would like to talk to someone about a gift to OSO in my estate plan
☐ I want to learn more about the OSO/Community Foundations gift registry 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, 2022 East Cliff Drive, Suite 202, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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 dbh@oillseaseodyyssey.org and write in the subject line "Email newsletter please." Thank you!
Our Ocean Backyard: Why Bother With Coastal Cleanups?

BY DANN HAUSSLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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lthough International Coastal Cleanup day isn’t until Sep. 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. They do make a difference.

But before we look at the scope of the problem, which is reported by Cap. Charles Moore, who accidentally encountered a region of mostly plastic waste while sailing from Hawaii to Long Beach in 1997, let’s try to imagine what it might be like to have been the first to discover the phenomenon, but that we’re the first to formulate a significant response to it.

Science founded the Algalita Foundation, which performed some of the initial research to learn more about ocean trash. Most official estimates show that 90 percent of that pollution comes from land. Solid waste, such as single-use plastic bags, is browned by wind, or carried by water through storms, rivers, and oceans. Most is not filtered through the sanitary sewer. Much of it gets trapped, creating in the ocean’s great gyres.

Currently, sun, wind and saltwater photo-degrade plastics into smaller pieces, which retain their polymer structure. They are ingested by marine life, become persistent in the water column, and carry trace metals which may bio-accumulate as they move through the food web.

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

A research paper based on sampling conducted from 2007 to 2013, using 985 tons of nets through ocean water around the globe, was published last year. Authored by Dr. Gynne (institute scientist) Maxine Fisker and a number of international colleagues, the analysis estimated the world’s oceans contain a minimum of 3.25 trillion plastic parts weighing 260,000 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 50 countries on a single weekend day in September 2014. That means that about 3,000 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 95,000 volunteers. Monterey Bay State Parks, our shores reported that 3,000 volunteers removed 3,820 pounds of trash and 2,549 pounds of recyclable material in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties in three hours on that day.

In addition to the 5 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.

Our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters at Esalen Studies.

From Left to Right: Dan Duflo, DOO Executive Director, Bruce Mcllveen of Esalen Studies, Judy Nicholas, Terry Nelson, and Merrill Short of Esalen Studies
El Niño, Dredge Issues Delayed OSO’s 2016 Opener

El Niño-driven storms in late 2015 and early 2016 plied thousands of tons 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 deific work by OSO education coordinator Louise 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.

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