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With Beth Swank, U of O Career Counselor


WHEN: THURSDAY, FEB 4, 12:00 - 1:00 PM
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You are invited to meet representatives from Cannon Beach Conference Center, Camp Harlow, Lutherwood, Camp Tadmor, Upward Bound and Warm Beach Camp today, February 1, from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the EMU Lobby.

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WHALES
 Continued from Page 1

Overall, between 200 and 400 whales live along the Oregon Coast, said Bruce Mate, a professor of fisheries and wildlife at Oregon State University. From December to mid-January, nearly 21,000 whales migrate south from their summer feeding grounds in the Bering Sea near Alaska to their winter breeding grounds off the Baja coast near California.

The peak of this migration occurs during the first week of January, when nearly 30 whales pass every hour.

Beginning in March and continuing through May, the whales migrate again, this time traveling north in two groups.

The first group, animals without calves, migrates primarily in March. The second group, which includes mothers and calves, migrates in April and May.

The mothers, which bear single one-ton calves every other year, give birth to and nurse their young in three calving lagoons along the western coast of the Baja Peninsula, Mate said.

After the calf is born, it consumes 20 gallons of fat-rich whale milk daily, Mate said, and continues to nurse until strong enough to migrate north with its mother.

"In a two-year period," Mate said, "a mother is either pregnant or nursing for three-quarters of the time."

Whale watching is especially popular among tourists, Hobbs said. "Most of the people who take the tours have never seen whales before," he said.

Lisa LaGuardia, from Salem, was no exception. "I've always wanted to do it," LaGuardia said. "I'm originally from Pennsylvania, so there's not a lot of whales there."

Other first-time whale watchers included six-year-old Cody and eight-year-old Vincent Kreger, who were with their grandfather, Denny Kreger Sr. They drove from Ridgefield, Wash., Saturday morning.

Cody, who was on the ocean for the first time, said he believed the whales would be "blue" and "big."

"I don't like to take kids under 10 on a boat," said Kreger, whose family deep-sea fishes and scuba dives, "but if they can handle this, then they can go on short ocean trips."

"How deep is it, Grandpa?" Vincent asked, hanging onto the railing and looking at the green water and kelp strands that washed around the sides of the boat.

"Well, we're at 35 fathoms, and there's six feet to a fathom, so about 200 feet," Kreger said. "It'd take a lot of bourbon to mix it half and half."

For the novice whale watchers, Hobbs said the first sign of a whale would be exhaled whale

'Last year, we had them come out of the water, right up to the boat. People were actually petting them.'

— Darrell Hobbs,
 owner of Depoe Bay Sport Fishing

breath, like puffs of vapor 12 to 15 feet above the water's surface.

"If you're downwind of one of those," Kreger said, "it's a real rotten stench, kind of like bad breath."

Mate said this smell is a sign the whale fed recently, and when the whales reach the southern breeding grounds, their exhalations have almost no odor.

"I've actually found whales in the fog by smelling their breath and heading upwind," Mate said.

Gray whales are the most common whale species seen along the Oregon Coast, making up 90 percent of all sightings from shore. But 26 different species, including sperm whales, blue whales, humpback whales and killer whales are seen, Mate said.

Whale watchers might also see porpoises or sunfish, which Hobbs described as a "big, round fish with a fin up on the top."

Hobbs said he had seen more whales in the past few years than before.

"When they were on the endangered species list," Hobbs said, "there was a rule that we had to stay at least 300 feet from the whale, but nobody told the whale it had to stay 300 feet from us."

"Last year, we had them come out of the water, right up to the boat. People were actually petting them," he said.

"At the turn of the century," Mate said, "there were only about 4,000 gray whales in the wild because of whaling. Today, they're as abundant as they were before they were ever hunted."

The gray whale's comeback and subsequent removal from the list of endangered species is a success story sometimes not experienced by other whales, Mate said.

The north Atlantic right whale, called that because it was the "right" whale to hunt, numbers only 350 in the north Atlantic and 100 in the north Pacific, Mate said.

But whales or other wildlife of any sort were scarce during the trip.

"I wanted to show you something living out here," Hobbs told the passengers after a high easterly wind prevented him from steering the boat into Whale Cove south of Depoe Bay to look at the fur seal colony seeking shelter on the rocks.

"Well, doggone it," Hobbs said as the Kadahoa headed back to shore without a single whale sighting, "no whales."

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Circle K will meet for a Valentine's Day card making for retirement center tonight at 6:30 in EMU Cedar Room D. For more information, call 345-7154.

Students for Equal Access - Disabled Students will meet today from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in EMU Century Room E. For more information, call 346-6011.

Akhepiads will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Cedar Room E. For more information, call 687-8266.

Incidental Fee Committee will have a budget hearing today at 3:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room C for the following groups: Black Student Union, Associated Students for Historic Preservation, and Council for Musical Arts. For more information, call 346-3749.

American Indian Science & Engineering Society will meet to go over summer internships, co-ops and job finding tonight at 6 in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 687-7127.

Family Center will meet for Campus Parent Coffee Hour today from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Family Center. For more information, call 346-0652.

RELIGION

Newman Center will show and discuss the film *Doing Time on Maple Drive* tonight at 7:30 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St. For more information, call 346-4468.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Development Internship Program will meet for spring orientation today at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. The meeting will provide the first opportunity for students to sign up for interviews. For more information, call 346-6011.

Career Planning and Placement Service will begin interview bidding today for the following companies: Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Norwest Financial Services, Cintas Corporation, Unum Life, Great West Life/Employee Benefits and E&J Gallo Winery. There will also be an office orientation today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, go to Room 244 Hendricks.

Deadline for submitting *Et Als* to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. The news editor does not have a time machine. *Et Als* run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

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