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New website offers rare glimpse beneath ocean

NEWPORT — Ever wondered what lies beneath the surface of Oregon's ocean? Curious about marine scientific research?

The new Oregon Marine Reserves website, www.oregonmarinereserves.com, provides a rare glimpse below the surface of Oregon's ocean waters and a behind-the-scenes peek at scientists in action.

The website revamp was headed up by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which oversees the management and scientific monitoring of Oregon's system of five marine reserve sites located off the Oregon coast.

The website went live March 31.

The new website offers quick and easy access to research news, underwater videos and information about each marine reserve site, along with a comprehensive look at the science and management efforts underway by ODFW and partners.

Additionally, the website offers user friendly features



COURTESY PHOTO ODFW

Rockfish swimming through the Oregon Marine Reserves are captured on the new OMR website.

such as interactive maps, e-notifications and downloadable GPS coordinates.

"We are excited that we can

now showcase life below the surface of Oregon's nearshore waters" said Cristen Don, ODFW Marine Reserves

Program Leader. "We hope people dive in and check out the new website and learn about the important marine

research efforts that are underway."

In 2012, Oregon completed designation of five marine reserve sites. These are areas in Oregon's coastal waters dedicated to conservation and scientific research. Fishing and ocean development are prohibited in these areas.

For a state famous for exploration, Oregon has only skimmed the surface of its coastal waters. The marine reserves are living laboratories where scientists are learning about Oregon's nearshore ocean environment and the effects that protections (no fishing and conservation) have over time on species and habitats.

This long-term research and monitoring program conducts research to support the management of marine reserves and sustainable nearshore ocean resources in Oregon, now and into the future.

For more information about Oregon's marine reserves, call ODFW's Newport Office at 541-867-4741.

Artist-in-residence part of new program at Cape Perpetua

YACHATS — Janet Essley uses nature to create art in nature. The 2016 Cape Perpetua artist-in-residence will make her debut from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center, 2400 S. Highway 101, three miles south of Yachats.

She will spend the year helping visitors connect with nature through her unique form of

environmental art.

"Making art in nature gives one time to connect with place in unexpected and rewarding ways," Essley said. "Time slows. One becomes aware of sounds, smells, light, textures, colors, movement and the extraordinary diversity of ordinary things. No two fir cones are alike."

Essley will lead groups, families and individuals in the

process of creating art using found natural objects, such as sticks, rocks, sand, moss and bark. No live materials will be cut, moved or damaged.

Once created, artwork will be left where it was created to be enjoyed by others and eventually recycled by nature.

Photographs will be the only permanent record of the creations, such of which will be displayed at the Visitor Center.

"Making art from and within the natural world affirms the individual's ability to be a steward of the environment," Essley said.

Essley resides in the Columbia Gorge, but spent 10 years in the Coast Range participating in scientific studies of gray whales and Brant geese.

She has 25 years of experience teaching art and leading groups in the creation of murals and

other forms of art, both nationally and internationally.

The Cape Perpetua artist-in-residence program is free to participants, but a Northwest Forest Pass, Oregon Coast Passport, federal recreation pass or \$5 day-use fee is required within the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area.

For more information, contact the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center at 541-547-3289.

Lost in the woods? Here are some tips

If you aren't prepared and don't know about the area you want to explore, don't go. Wait and go with someone who's familiar with the area or study maps and search the Internet for more information of the area you're looking to explore.

Each time Search and Rescue (SAR) teams in Oregon initiate a rescue, we learn more about human behavior and what they might do in a situation depending on their health, experience and knowledge of the area.

One very important action is letting your family or friends know where you are going, when you are expected back, and — most importantly — do not hesitate to call for help.

This is a beautiful state we live in, but it can be very unforgiving when the elements and the environment change.

If you are traveling on the back roads and your vehicle breaks down, stay with your vehicle. Try your cell phone. If there is no cell service, stay with your vehicle. The vehicle is your shelter from the elements and your vehicle is easier to spot from a plane or helicopter.

If it is too hazardous to remain with the vehicle, don't walk further than eyesight from the vehicle. Often, a person attempts to walk out and ends up in more danger than if they had waited.

If you are lost or injured in the woods, stay near a trail and try to make yourself a shelter.

If you can, prepare an area for a warming and signal fire. Keep in mind the time of the year and the conditions in the woods; you don't want to start a forest fire. Staying dry and warm is very important.

Stay hydrated if it is warm. Remain calm and listen for searchers and hopefully you have a signal whistle in your pack. Listen for aircraft in the area and hopefully you have packed a signal mirror or flashlight.

Each year, SAR looks for mushroom pickers. They get turned around and can't find their way back to their vehicle. Many have been rescued because they had cell service; some have never been found.

Pay attention to the direction you are going and stay as close to the trails as you can. Some will mark their way in with surveyor's tape and then collect it on their way out.

It's easy to get turned around when you walk with your head down all day looking for mushrooms. This is why it is so important to have a map and become familiar with the area.

You can purchase a good Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) device for less than \$100 that can lead you back to where you started.

Most importantly, stay calm and conserve your energy. Some people panic and wander off from the area resulting in injury.

SAR hopes you plan your trip according to our recommendations. You can never be too prepared, but being unprepared can cost you your life. When you choose to explore the areas of this great state, be safe.

For more information and tips, visit www.lincolncountysheriff.net.

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