

2008 Annual Report

In conjunction with the State Legislature, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire formed the Puget Sound Partnership, and charged it with six goals to be met by 2020 in order to bring Puget Sound from the brink of environmental disaster to a measurable condition of good health. These goals and the approaches to meeting them are outlined in the Puget Sound Action Plan, located at: http://www.psp.wa.gov/aa_action_agenda.php

The essential conclusion drawn during the research in developing the plan is: "Fundamentally, people care passionately about Puget Sound and want to ensure it is passed on to the future".

Among many important priorities for reaching these goals is to **"increase and sustain coordinated efforts for communication, outreach, and education in order to increase public awareness and encourage individual stewardship"**. (Priority E-4)

From its inception, Harbor WildWatch has been working to increase public awareness and individual stewardship, and is now poised to work in collaboration with other community agencies and organizations to continue building on its educational outreach. Through interpretive programs at area beaches, junior naturalist programs, elementary school workshops, and the development and distribution of a variety of environmental education resources, Harbor WildWatch is a growing environmental education organization serving the public in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula area.

In 2008, Harbor WildWatch reached 10,900 people through 246 environmental education programs and workshops.



seaStars and sunStars aboard the Adventuress

Get Your Feet Wet is our summer inter-active outdoor interpretive event on local area beaches. Harbor WildWatch naturalists and volunteers contacted 7,874 visitors while leading low-tide beach walks and showcasing marine life in touch-tanks during 61 beach programs.

The mission of the **seaStars & Beyond Jr. Naturalist** program:

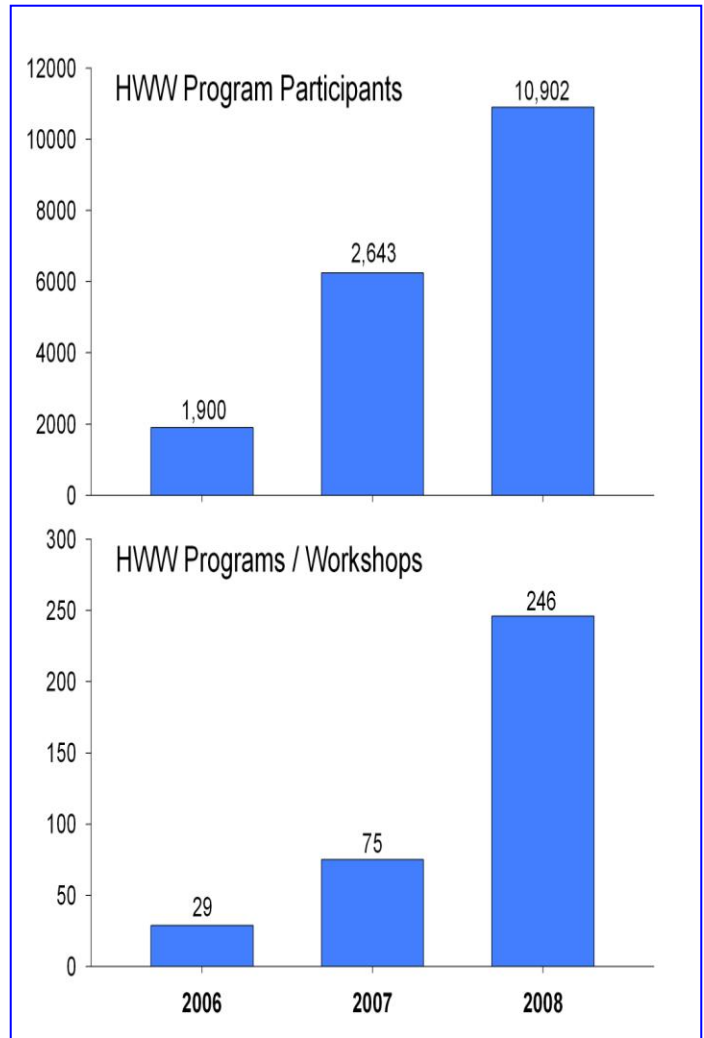
To inspire young people to be good stewards of the environment through learning and studying the various ecosystems and their own connections to them.

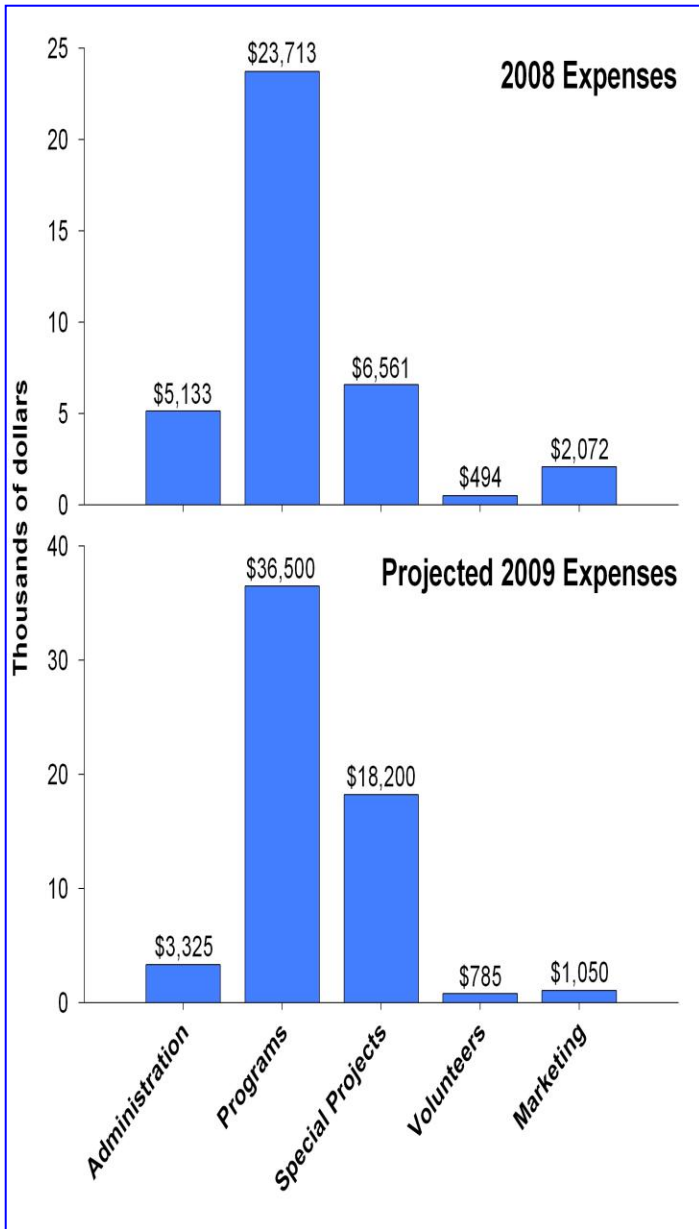
In 2008, 28 teacher-recommended elementary students were engaged in seaStar and sunStar workshops. We hope they will eventually continue as marine naturalists in the future. Shown above is the group on their end of season field trip aboard the *Adventuress*, an environmental learning tall ship. (See picture on page 1)

The **Harbor Outreach Program (HOP)** conducted 147 workshops in seven elementary schools teaching over 2,000 students basic ecological subjects.

The hour-long, interactive workshops address various environmental topics, ranging from how our local watershed works, to the wonders of exploring our rich inter-tidal zones.

In 2008, Explore the Beach provided over 30 mini-workshops in seven schools instructing over 1,000 students in proper beach etiquette by Washington State Park rangers.





The combined mission of HOP and Explore the Beach is:

To offer students and teachers engaging hands-on activities while promoting environmental awareness and respect towards Puget Sound.

In 2008, Harbor WildWatch designed and installed two additional environmental interpretive signs titled "Protect Our Home". The signs are located at Kopachuck State Park and Penrose State Park.

The Harbor WildWatch Board of Directors is dedicated to carrying out the mission and vision of the organization through:

- careful management of the resources of the organization,
- ongoing recruitment of volunteers and additional directors,
- robust efforts toward financial sustainability,
- strong collaborations with other like-focused groups.

In the current financial climate the Board of Directors recognizes there is no room for duplication of effort and wasteful expenditure of resources.

We would like to express our heart-felt gratitude to all our generous funders, energetic partners, hard working volunteers, and dedicated staff. Thank you.

Harbor WildWatch Mission:

To inspire stewardship of the Puget Sound by providing learning opportunities about the environment to the people of our local communities.

Harbor WildWatch Vision:

To be a catalyst for environmental education contributing significantly to our community’s understanding of the environment in which we live and our impact on the Puget Sound.



A moon snail feasts on a cockle

Our programs would not be possible without the continued support and hard work of the following:

Generous funders

- The Russell Family Foundation
- Gig Harbor Gallery Association
- The KGI Watershed Council
- Lu Winsor Grant Program
- Bechtel Corporation
- REI
- Kay Holser
- Columbia Bank
- The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation / Hayes Family Foundation
- The Mountaineers Foundation
- Anonymous private donors

Energetic partners:

- Washington State Parks (*and their wonderful overworked rangers*)
- Pierce Conservation District
- Friends of Pierce County
- Crescent Valley Alliance
- REI
- The City of Gig Harbor
- Laureen Lund
- Pierce County Shellfish Partners
- KGI Watershed Council
- The Seattle Aquarium/COSEE
- Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, (*especially Alan Rammer*)

Hard working volunteers:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Cathy Adams | Carolyn Allen |
| Abby Aspee | Jim Christiansen |
| Roger Erickson | Barbara Erickson |
| John Harrington | Ernie Karlstrom |
| Barbara Lutewitz | Dyanna Lambourn |
| Jill Myers | Carmela Micheli |
| Suzanne Ofenloch | Talli Rudnick |
| Kirsten Singh | Roslyn Townsend |
| Dan-vi Hoang | Kirsten Carlson |

Dedicated staff:

- Rebecca Mullen, Environmental Program Director
- Rachel Easton, Naturalist
- Megan Healy, Naturalist
- John Valentine, Naturalist
- Hope Anderson, Naturalist
- Sandy Dawson, seaStars Coordinator
- Racheal Villa, sunStars Coordinator

Harbor WildWatch Board of Directors:

- Bruce Holser, President*
- Dee Dee Holser, Founder*
- Joyce Murray, Secretary*
- Paul Bourscheidt, Treas.*
- Michael Behrens, PhD*
- Barbara Bourscheidt*
- Erin Ewald*
- Sharon Haddox*



Learn. Have Fun.