



PRESS RELEASE

Olympic National Park
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Port Angeles, WA 98362

North Olympic Library System
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Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 8, 2025
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Re: Olympic National Park's Perspectives Speaker Series
Attached: *juvenile_salmon_credit-DaveParks_CWI.jpg*

Olympic National Park's Perspectives Speaker Series is hosted by the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) in a hybrid format via Zoom and in person at the Port Angeles Main Library, 2210 S. Peabody St. The free talks begin at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month, January through April. No registration is needed. Join the livestream using the link at NOLS.org/ONP, or attend the presentations at the library.

The series is made possible through the work of Olympic National Park, the North Olympic Library System, Discover Your Northwest, and the Friends of Olympic National Park.

2025 Schedule

January 14

The Dynamics of Kelp Forests, Forage Fish, and Salmon

Presented by: **Dr. Anne Shaffer**, the lead scientist and executive director of the Coastal Watershed Institute (CWI) and an adjunct professor, and **Annabelle ByrneStrong**, a nearshore biologist-in-training at CWI

Kelp forests, salmon, and forage fish are foundational, dynamic, and tightly intertwined components of northeast Pacific coastal ecosystems. The Coastal Watershed Institute has spent decades researching various aspects of our kelp forests. In this presentation, Ms. Annabelle ByrneStrong and Dr. Anne Shaffer will share highlights of decades of novel research to understand the interconnected ecosystem functions of Washington kelp forests, how salmon and forage fish utilize them, and the critical actions needed to preserve and restore these wild cold water systems.

February 11

Canopy Soils in Pacific Northwest Rainforests

Presented by: **Dr. Korena Mafune**, University of Washington, named a 2021 Washington Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow

Don't forget to look up! Canopy soils occur on tree branches throughout the temperate rainforests of the Pacific Northwest Coast and are recognized as a defining characteristic of these ecosystems. Certain tree species extend roots from their branches into these canopy soil environments. Yet, research on canopy root-associated fungi remains limited. Dr. Korena Mafune will discuss the study that found that canopy and forest floor roots had similar fungal establishment and were associating with a diversity of mutualistic fungi.

March 11

High Mountain Lakes Response to Shifting Climate

Presented by: **Bill Baccus**, a climate ecologist at Olympic National Park, and **Dr. Steve Fradkin**, a coastal ecologist and limnologist at Olympic National Park

Mountain lakes are ecologically important and charismatic features of the high country of the national parks of the North Coast and Cascades Network (NCCN), which includes Olympic, Mount Rainier, North Cascades. These lakes are ice-free approximately five months of the year. The remainder of the year they are locked under a thick blanket of ice and snow that limits the amount of light, atmospheric gas exchange, nutrient dynamics, and the pace of biological activity. As the global climate changes due to warming, the duration of winter ice cover is expected to decrease with potentially profound changes to these fragile ecosystems. The presentation includes a long-term dataset (up to 16 years) of ice duration from 21 NCCN

lakes. This period of record illustrates changes in ice duration and includes examples of conditions expected in a near-future warmed world.

April 8

Coastal Bluff Erosion at Kalaloch

Presented by: **Dr. Ian Miller**, coastal hazards specialist at Washington Sea Grant

The coastal bluffs at Kalaloch have been eroding at various rates since at least since 1974 based on available analyses of the site. Erosion at this site presents a variety of management problems, placing buildings and recreational infrastructure at risk. A variety of approaches have been employed to monitor and understand patterns of erosion of the bluffs at Kalaloch that will be summarized in this presentation, including ground surveys, aerial lidar, and five Chronolog community-science photo monitoring stations.



Olympic National Park's Perspectives Speaker Series begins on Jan. 14 with "The Dynamics of Kelp Forests, Forage Fish, and Salmon," presented by Dr. Anne Shaffer and Annabelle ByrneStrong of the Coastal Watershed Institute (CWI). Photo by Dave Parks and CWI.

For more information about Olympic National Park, visit www.nps.gov/olym.

For more information about this and other upcoming events at your library, visit NOLS.org, call 360-417-8500 or email discover@nols.org.

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