

ORVW Rally at Bullards Beach State Park
By Marjo Sankey and Jeanette Haller
May 18-21, 2018



What a wonderful weekend with a group of wonderful women! About 35 women (including Cascadia members and other first-time visitors) attended the ORVW rally at Bullards Beach State Park in Bandon, Oregon. The group has not held a rally at a state park in a very long time. It's generally hard to get reservations (the state parks are so popular) and the weather on the Oregon coast can be iffy at best (rain, fog, cold). This weekend was lovely.



Though there were a couple mornings of overcast, the sun was out most of the time.

Our gracious host, Doris Westoby, guided us through the weekend. She provided us with a wealth of information about Bandon (only a couple miles from the park) and the surrounding areas. There is so much to do and see in this area. Bullards Beach is a destination in itself, so if you never leave the park there is still plenty to do.

The rally officially began Friday evening with our finger-food potluck in the community yurt. There is always a variety of dishes to share and no one ever walks away hungry. There was a buzz in the air with women catching up since the last time we all got together. As always, dog-walking and socializing filled the rest of the night. Cards, a puzzle, Rummikub, and talking happened in the yurt. MarJo Sankey often hosts a fire in her site and this weekend was no exception. She had a fire every night in her washtub fire pit. The tub is perfect for everyone to sit around since it distributes the heat in all directions.

Saturday and Sunday had women going in all directions. Here are some of their reports:

Marie Vandaveer: We enjoyed the labyrinth created with sticks and rakes on a minus tide. A local artist lays out the lines and volunteers rake the sand and add embellishments. People can then take a stone from a shell bowl and walk the labyrinth. Everyone was smiling and happy, creating great energy. Some of us went both Friday and Saturday. We also walked into and through cathedral rock beside the labyrinth, which is possible only on minus tides. An added bonus was seeing tufted puffins from the Face Rock overlook with the scopes manned by SEA volunteers. The puffins nest in burrows they dig horizontally into the sand.



Kim Roy: Barb and I went into Bandon. We sampled cheese at Face Rock Creamery and bought ice cream cones. Next, we went into old town, visited several shops, and ate lunch at a great fish taco place at the local fish market along the dock. We went to Washed Ashore. Washed Ashore is a non-profit community art project founded by artist and educator, Angela Haseltine Pozzi in 2010. The project is based in Bandon, Oregon, where Angela first recognized the amount of plastic washing up on the beaches she loved and decided to take action. Since 2010, Washed Ashore has processed tons of plastic

pollution from Pacific beaches to create monumental art that is awakening the hearts and minds of viewers to the global marine debris crisis. We looked at all of their exhibits and listened to what their organization was all about. Next, we went to the local farmers market, to check out the local vendors and bought some local eggs. We also went to the Face Rock beach area to see the Circles In The Sand display and chat with Denny, the artist. From the campground, we drove to the Coquille Lighthouse and walked to the beach area.



MarJo Sankey: I spent a wonderful day at Bandon Beach with the beautiful labyrinth circles in the sand! Sighted from the top of the cliffs and with the silent meditation through the labyrinth, it was a wonderful personal experience.



June Willoughby: Several of us went to the West Coast Game Park south of Bandon. What makes this place unique is they always have baby animals that they hand raise and allow you to pet. We saw a 2 week old baby raccoon being bottle fed by a handler. Its eyes weren't even open yet.



We also got to pet two different species of lynx and a baby fox. Then we got to pet the nursery regulars - a ferret, a full grown red fox and a possum. The park is always full of wandering goats, deer and a few llamas and they know exactly which gates to stand around for the treats. On the way out we stopped to see a chimpanzee that actually interacted with us – sticking out her



tongue, patting herself on the back and clapping. The other chimp was less friendly and threw orange peels at some folks a few minutes later. While I wish their various enclosures were larger, I do think that they are all well cared for and I love going there at least once a year.



Doris planned Saturday night as movie night. She provided the movie (there was a TV and DVD player in the yurt) and a large variety of popcorn. Linda Waterman's granddaughter set the stage and handled the technical issues so that we could watch *The North Avenue Irregulars*. It is an old Disney comedy, full of suspense. We all laughed and chatted our way through the show.

Doris went all out baking dozens of cookies, providing lots of healthy fruit, and healthy breakfasts for 3 mornings to get us going in the morning. It was a challenge to provide/store food the way she wanted to without a refrigerator in the yurt, but people pitched in and shared refrigerator space in their rigs. It turned out perfect.

It was a fun-filled, food-filled, friend-filled weekend!