

It is almost summertime! This is what we all wait for in quiet desperation through the foggy & soggy winters. The opportunity to frolic in the great outdoors. With so many people visiting our area we all need to think about the abuse our environment takes. Here are a few reminders of how to reduce wear & tear, use less and have fun in Cannon Beach.

- * Always stick to the trails in the Park to help slow down erosion.
- * Bring food & drink from home and save on disposable packaging.
- * ALWAYS, ALWAYS cart out your garbage. Keep our city, parks & beaches litter free.
- * Park your car and walk, take the shuttle, ride your bike, car pool. If we curtail driving around town the less pollution and traffic congestion we will have. Be efficient with your errands.
- * Use public restrooms not the beach or park grounds.
- * Do not purchase overly packaged products. Refuse unnecessary bags. Think before you buy.
- * Reuse beverage containers.
- * If you see litter pick it up. If you see harmful or hazardous products like needles, call the police and let them dispose of it properly.
- * Read the signs on the beach and obey them. They are there for your protection. Swim in the designated safe areas.
- * Never disturb the wildlife or sea life. This is there home too.
- * Enjoy the summer concerts in the Park.
- * Do not attempt to "help" wild life. If you see a stranded animal tell the lifeguards or police.
- * Go visit Haystack Rock during low tide and take advantage of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program.
- * SLOW DOWN.
- Use the sidewalks in town.
- * Above all enjoy yourself, protect yourself from sunburn, drink water and leave with a calm spirit.



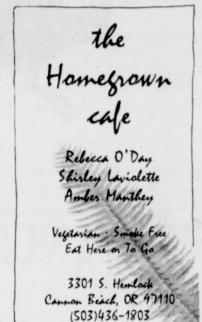
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It Doesn't Hurt to Ask

So, I just finished reading Uncle Mike's Guide to the Real Oregon Coast, and my father calls me up and asks how the weather is down here. He lives in Seattle and says it's pouring rain, this is the wettest spring he remembers ever. He's 72. So I think, hmmm, Uncle Mike, Maybe it's more than just funny stories in your book. We are molding. If this is the wettest spring in at least 72 years, then I know it isn't just me.

So later, at work, a browsing yellow rain coat clad tourist tells me (in an undeniably irritated manner) that they just left Portland. It was sunny there, so they thought they'd come out to the beach,

but it's dumping outside as she says this.

I say, "Well we do get more rain here than Portland.'

She says, "More rain than Portland?" Like there is really something wrong with me and this whole damn place. Then her tone changes, and in a strangely conciliatory, pleading voice she asks, in all sincerity, "When does the rain stop?" At this point, I am wishing Uncle Mike were here to answer this.

I could not have phrased the question to the gods any more succinctly or innocently than this. A goofy smile threatened to betray my professional employee/clerk/hospitality functionary persona, a

grin which I could not wipe away.
"When does the rain stop?" I have to repeat this back, you know, to make sure I heard it right. "Well, um, actually it doesn't." Then she ignores me for a while, so I ask her a question to lighten the air.

"Where are you from?"

"Chicago." Flatly stated.

I cannot think of the next thing to say, so I don't. In a minute she heads out anyway, calling to her kids to come and see the ant farm next door, something about new ants, and I go back to whatever it was I was doing. Those words keep repeating themselves to me, such a nice cadence. When does the rain stop? Like a lonely mantra echoing out into the cosmos.

I catch myself staring out the window, to the aggressive pound of the downpour, and it seems to be chuckling too. I think of Uncle Mike's book and his many references to the moist aspects of our climate. How aptly this little exchange fits even a tongue-in-cheek characterization such as this, and, borrowing from Mr. Barry, "I am not making this up".

Now we sodden outcasts from the drier interior regions have indisputable, written legitimacy for out damp perspectives. Thanks Uncle Mike!

As to the lingering question, 'when does the rain stop?' well, I guess that's sort of what death is about, right?

Margi Curtis



Philip Thompson

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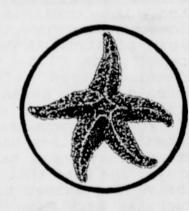


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