

Biodiversity begins with a B(ee)

Jerry Freilich talks bees at Nature Matters

ASTORIA — Most people can name a handful of different kinds of bees, but did you know there are 4,000 species of native bees in North America and probably several hundred in the North Coast area?

Most bees are tiny, don't bother people and are vital to the ecosystem as pollinators. Join Jerry Freilich as he discusses how these important insects fit in with the larger topic of biodiversity Thursday, April 16.

The 7 p.m. Nature Matters presentation takes place at the Fort George Lovell Showroom. The event is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

It can be challenging to learn many species even if one is comfortable with long Latin names. Freilich will illustrate how the diversity of bees are related to other insects and will discuss bee lifestyles as a thoughtful way of encouraging further study.

There are a number of reasons why we don't know and speak about these many bee species. The simplest reason is because most are small (half the size of a honey bee), fast moving and inconspicuous. They pollinate the many species of flowering plants so important to our ecosystems, but they don't sting people and in general they don't

interact with us.

Beyond this, the anatomical differences among the species require careful examination under the microscope, which in turn requires knowledge of bee anatomy. Bee species differ, for example, in details of their wing veins, the claws and "spurs" on their legs, or in the placement of

tiny body hairs.

Freilich, an entomologist working as research coordinator at Olympic National Park, has been with the National Park Service since 1978, working at six national parks all across the country. He got his start in science as a youngster; Freilich was a student and curatorial as-

sistant at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia when he was 10 years old. He has a master's degree in environmental education and a doctorate in entomology. His chief interests have always been the wonders of nature: marine seashells, aquatic insects, birding, desert tortoises and, now, bees.

Nature Matters is hosted by Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in partnership with the North Coast Watershed Association and the Fort George. The series delves into the many ways human beings look to the natural world for inspiration, sustenance and survival — the intersection of nature and culture.



Submitted photo

Learn how bees are important for biodiversity at the next Nature Matters free speaker event.

Queer film fest plays Astoria

Columbian Theater hosts Shorty Shorts

ASTORIA — Shorty Shorts, an annual Portland queer film festival featuring the works of independent filmmakers, is coming to Astoria for the second year in a row.

Get in line at the Columbian Theater, 1102 Marine Drive, Saturday, April 18. Tickets are \$6, and doors open at 10 p.m. The event is 21 and over only and is intended for a mature audience.

Shorty Shorts was dreamed up about five years ago, the idea being that anyone could make a short, 10-minute-or-less film and have it shown on the big screen. Regardless of whether a filmmaker uses an HD camera or a simple cell phone, Shorty Shorts wants

everyone to have the opportunity to show their work and ideas.

This year's one-night Astoria festival features a slew of different genres, including comedy, drama, horror, music, romance, documentary, spoof, satire, animation and action. Shorty Shorts will make you laugh, think and maybe cry. Keep your eyes out for some local talent.

Gula Delgatto will host the show, along with special guest Shitney Houston. Grab cocktails with the drag queens after the festival at the Voodoo Lounge.

For more information, visit www.shortyshortsfilmfest.com



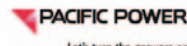
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