

Travel writer recounts paddling Columbia River Charlotte Austin to share stories, photos at Nature Matters

ASTORIA — Their plan was simple: Follow the river to the ocean.

Beginning at Beacon Rock, they paddled through the stunning Columbia River Gorge, past the Portland/Vancouver metro area, along and through several national wildlife refuges to their final destination in Astoria.

The next Nature Matters will present an evening of stories and photographs with travel writer Charlotte Austin at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 21 at the Fort George Lovell Showroom. This event is free and open to the public.

During the last week of October 2014, Austin and several friends and colleagues took an incredible, seven-day kayak-

Nature Matters

7 p.m. Thursday, May 21

Fort George Lovell Showroom

426 14th St., Astoria

Free

ing journey along the Lower Columbia River Water Trail, a 146-mile route stretching from Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean. While following the paddle strokes of Lewis and Clark, they saw eagles, salmon and sea lions camped on uninhabited islands, explored urban

waterways, weathered a few storms, and met some delightful strangers who are now friends. Austin returns to Astoria to tell her adventure stories, share photos and video and show off the scars from her blisters.

Austin is a writer, editor and mountain guide living in Seattle, Washington. She did her undergraduate work at Scotland's University of Saint Andrews and the University of Washington, where she earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies. She also attended the Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Alaska, Anchorage in creative nonfiction.

Austin was the writer-in-residence at the Oregon State University's H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest as part of the Long Term Ecological Reflections program in October 2013. Last year, she led a panel on transmedia storytelling techniques at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs in Seattle and attended a month-long artist residency at Jentel in Wyoming.

Nature Matters, a lively conversation about the intersection of nature and culture, takes place on the third Thursday of each month, October through May. Nature Matters is hosted by Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in partnership with the North Coast Watershed Association and Fort George Brewery.

Fort George Lovell Showroom is located at 426 14th St. Doors will open at 6 p.m.



Submitted photo

At the next Nature Matters, travel writer Charlotte Austin will talk about her seven-day kayaking journey along the Lower Columbia River Water Trail.

Astoria School of Ballet presents public performance of 'Cinderella' May 15 See 41 student dancers bring this classic fairy tale to life on the Liberty Theater's stage



Submitted photo

Magwire Hammond of Portland Festival Ballet will dance the title role in "Cinderella."

ASTORIA — The Astoria School of Ballet will offer a vibrant presentation of Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella," based on the Charles Perrault fairy tale, on Friday, May 15 at the Liberty Theater, located at 1203 Commercial St.

The ballet will feature guest artist Alexander Negron, courtesy of Oregon Ballet Theatre, as the Prince, and Magwire Hammond of Portland Festival Ballet in the title role.

Astoria School of Ballet will put on three shows for area

'Cinderella'

7 p.m. Friday, May 15

Liberty Theater

1203 Commercial St., Astoria

\$10 adults, \$5 children

school students, with a final show open to the public at 7 p.m. Friday.

With 41 students from the

Astoria School of Ballet, choreography by director Margaret Wall, and Prokofiev's lush 20th century score, "Cinderella" is sure to delight.

Performances are made possible with support from the Clatsop Cultural Coalition, All Season's Kidstuff, Wi-mahl Family Clinic, City Lumber, and Baked Alaska Restaurant and Lounge.

Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under. Tickets are available at the Liberty Theater box office and at ticketswest.com

In Their Footsteps talks cataclysms on the Columbia River

ASTORIA — Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop announces the next In Their Footsteps free speaker series event. This program is "Lewis and Clark and Cataclysms on the Columbia" presented by Jim O'Connor at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 17 in the Netul River Room of the Fort

Clatsop visitor center.

Geologic cataclysms affecting the Columbia River Gorge include the gigantic ice age floods thousands of years ago. Others involve more human timescales. In addition to shooting through the narrows at The Dalles of the Columbia, perhaps a remnant of the great

ice-age floods, the Lewis and Clark Expedition members drifted past a submerged forest and portaged Cascade Rapids, the result of a huge landslide only 350 years before their exploration. At the downstream end of the gorge, they walked on rich bottomlands partly formed by Mt. Hood

volcanism fewer than 25 years earlier.

This talk weaves Capt.s Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's first maps and observations of these three areas into a narrative of modern geologic thinking about landscape formation, particularly for the Columbia River Gorge.

O'Connor is a Pacific Northwest native with a long interest in the processes and events shaping the remarkable and diverse landscapes of the region. He pursued these interests with a Bachelor of Science in geological sciences at the University of Washington and Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Arizona. Since 1990 he has studied regional rivers

and landscapes, for the last 18 years with the U.S. Geological Survey in Portland.

This monthly Sunday forum is sponsored by the Lewis & Clark National Park Association and the park. These programs are held in the Netul River Room of Fort Clatsop's visitor center and are free of charge.

For more information, call the park at 503-861-2471.