

PARTING SHOT

A weekly snapshot from The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer photographers



Sage Delong, of Vale, right, competes in the 3A 300-meter hurdles event during sunset at the OSAA 2015 Track and Field State Championships at Hayward Field in Eugene last Friday.

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Seen from Seaside: Finding wonder in the commonplace

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

It's refreshing to hear a speaker who doesn't use a PowerPoint presentation and marks his place in a book by sticking Post-it notes on the page.

Last week, educator, naturalist and photographer Neal Maine delivered the final lecture for the "What Do We Hear?" series at the Seaside Public Library.

Maine, a science teacher at Seaside High School for three decades and the first executive director of the North Coast Land Conservancy, guided the audience to rediscovery, turning the commonplace around us into an illumination of nature.

Here are some randomly selected gems from Maine's words that night:

- Quoting T.S. Eliot: "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

- On trash: "There is no 'away' when you say 'throw that away.' Because 'away' is here."

- "We need to look to nature more to see how we can solve problems and what their solutions are."

- "In 1994, I wrote an article suggesting that teaching



R.J. Marx

high school biology was a really bad idea, that biology is something that might work later, but people should be getting ecology first, which is the integrative process of living things in their environment."

- "You can study oxygen and study hydrogen, but there would be no clue that when you link them they would make something fairly significant. The isolated study doesn't present the 'emergent property,' in this case, doesn't make water. It's the cake theory: you can study flour, you can study baking soda, all their proper-

ties — but you couldn't ever make cake from that. Those emergent properties are so fundamental to everything that's going on."

- "Each grain of sand has its own ecology."

- "Trees are just a tiny part of a forest. And yet the forest has been translated into trees. The forest is something else, and it just happens to have trees as one of its elements."

- "Get a piece of ground, follow it for a year, and see what happens."

- "Being a community member goes beyond attending city council meetings, or protesting the next thing you don't like. It's a function of the whole system itself — land, water, air, the whole bit.

Being a community member means staying out of harm's way, but also celebrating the natural phenomena of the planet."

- From author George Perkins Marsh, who wrote 130 years ago in "Man and Nature": "In these pages, it is my aim to stimulate, not to satisfy curiosity. And it is no part of my object to save my readers the labor of observation or of thought. Labor is life, and death lives where power lives unused. The self is the schoolmaster whose lessons are best worth his wages. The power most important to cultivate and hardest to acquire is seeing what is before him: sight is faculty, seeing is art."

Draw your own conclu-

sions — I'm sure that's what Neal Maine would want you to do. As our climate and atmosphere become more chaotic, as natural forces rule human decisions, his tutelage may lead us to a response that is both sane and secure. Listen to the land.

The event was presented by the North Coast Land Conservancy and the Necanicum Watershed Council in partnership with the Seaside Public Library and supported by the Seaside Chamber of Commerce. To them we are grateful!

R.J. Marx is the editor of the Seaside Signal and Cannon Beach Gazette and the North Coast reporter for The Daily Astorian.

ODDITY

Fido al fresco? NY weighs allowing outdoor dining with dogs

Some health officials worry about cleanliness, bites

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Never mind the doggie bag: Spot wants a seat at the outdoor table, or rather under it.

New York is considering whether to join a growing number of states that give pet dogs legal entree, if not actual entrees, at open-air eateries.

Dog lovers and restaurateurs say the proposal would safely accommodate people who want to dine out with man's best friend in places from Manhattan sidewalk cafes to country ice cream stands. But a statewide health officials' group is against it, and at least one lawmaker is



RICHARD DREW — AP photo

Loni Dantzler, from San Francisco, with her 11-year-old Golden Doodle service dog "Zola," visit a cafe in a Manhattan park, on New York's Upper West Side on May 19.

raising questions, and some restaurant-goers fear an onslaught of begging, barking, biting and other doggie don'ts — or, worse, doggie dos.

Owners like Michelle Vargas feel the estimated 500,000 dogs in the nation's biggest city have a place in al fresco dining and it's not on the pave-

ment outside a patio railing, where the current law would have them.

"For me, there's nothing better than being with — I don't even call them my dogs. They're my boys," Vargas said while relaxing this past week with her poodle mixes, Luigi and Carmine, and a friend's

wire fox terrier at an outdoor Manhattan park cafe.

American public health officials have long banned pet dogs from eateries, out of concerns including potential biting or transmitting germs to people's food. A 2013 study in the Journal of Environmental Health found such risks haven't been clearly quantified amid slim research.

Aficionados counter that dogs hang out safely in home kitchens and even make hospital visits. California, Florida, Maryland, New Mexico and some other states and communities around the country have opened restaurant patios to dogs within the last decade; North Carolina even approved cats, too.

After getting a unanimous OK from New York's Senate, advocates are pressing its Assembly to sign on this spring.

New York City's 83,000 restaurant inspections per year yield only about 170 tickets for letting pets in. But furry faces

often can be seen while inspectors are elsewhere.

Dougie the poodle peeked discreetly from beneath owner Marni Turner's chair at a Manhattan sidewalk cafe table one recent day. If he could be a legit guest, "it would make my life a lot easier," Turner said.

State Sen. Kemp Hannon and Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal say their proposed law would do that, while protecting people's safety by barring servers from petting dogs and banning dogs from the furniture, among other provisions.

The lawmakers, who don't have dogs, stress that restaurants could decide whether and how to host Fido outdoors. Options could include special sections.

The American Kennel Club cheers the proposal as good for owners and dogs. Restaurateurs are generally supportive, state restaurant association President Melissa Fleishschut says.

Albany pub manager Tess Collins would welcome having permission for patio dogs, since many patrons already bring them along.

"It's created a camaraderie" among customers, she says.

But the idea gives some New Yorkers pause.

"Who wants somebody's dog next to them, begging, when they're trying to eat?" says Erik Galloway, of Shoreham, on Long Island.

He likes dogs generally but notes diners can't be sure how healthy another patron's dog is.

The state Association of County Health Officials voted to oppose the measure, amid concerns including cleanliness, bites and whether local governments could enforce tougher rules, executive director Linda Wagner said. Assembly Health Committee Chairman Richard Gottfried said this week he was exploring the proposal's ramifications.

OUR COAST

M A G A Z I N E

GET
YOUR COPY
TODAY!

DiscoverOurCoast.com