



Photo by Matt Love

Contributor Matt Love built a nap fort in Fort Stevens State Park with his Astoria High School English Credit Recovery class.

A GLIMPSE INSIDE

An occasional feature by MATT LOVE

Nap Fort

I had only one stipulation: the students in my English Credit Recovery class at Astoria High School had to address me as Master Fort Shredder for the duration of our field trip to build driftwood forts.

They agreed because, well, they relished the idea of two hours at the beach during the middle of the school day and eating free Subway sandwiches courtesy of their teacher.

On the bus to Fort Stevens Sate Park, I struck up a conversation with Rooper, the 20-year veteran driver. "I've taken kids everywhere," he said, "but never to build driftwood forts."

He said it with a smile. He was one of us. I promised him a sandwich.

As we neared the park, I started outlining the trip's itinerary when a student raised his hand and said, "Mr. Love, can we just go to the beach and see what happens and build what we want?"

I waited 1.5 seconds before answering. "Yes." There should never be an agenda when building a driftwood fort. That's the whole point. Nothing like a kid wearing his baseball cap sideways who has never built a fort to remind the Master. By they way, 13 out of the 15 students on the trip had never built one and they all live 15 miles from the ocean.

We hit the beach, and all unfolded as it should. Two different teams built two totally different forts: One was for a nap, the other for a party.

At one point, I was building the roof of the nap fort when a student asked, "What happens when you're building one of these and it collapses?"

"It never does," I said. I turned to another student who was weaving a beaver stick into the roof and asked, "And why is that?"

"Because we worked together to leverage all the different shapes in the wood to make the fort sturdy," he said.

"Yes," I said. He then climbed inside the fort, closed his eyes, and started taking a nap. It looked pretty restful in there.

Matt Love is the author/editor of 13 books about Oregon.

They are available at coastal bookstores and through www.nestuccaspitpress.com



By RYAN HUME

Orca [ôr•kə]

noun

1. *Orcinus orca*: a black-and-white, toothed sea mammal of the oceanic dolphin family and the only surviving member of the genus *Orcinus*. Commonly referred to as the "killer whale," they have also been called "blackfish" and "grampus" at various times. Found in every ocean, adult males can grow up to 30 feet long and weigh upwards of 4 tons. Though considered an apex predator, feasting on fish and other sea mammals with no known

natural predators, the Southern Resident orca population that navigates the waters off Washington state and British Columbia were nonetheless added to the U.S. Endangered Species list in 2005, due to dwindling food supplies, pollution and other factors

Origin:

Around 1865. New Latin by way of Latin. The ancient Romans first recorded *orca* in C.E. 16, meaning a kind of whale, and possibly arising from the Greek ὄρυξ, which referred to a type of pick-axe used for digging as well as a great fish. Negative connotation has long followed the blackfish as *orca* shares the same root as *Orcus*, the Latin word for "Hell," from which *ogre* is also speculated to rise from. Enters English as *orc* in the late 16th century also referring to a large whale

and French as *orque*, which had been used to describe a sea monster. By 1841, the generic term "killer whale" had been introduced and would become the go-to name for English-speaking scientists for more than the next hundred years. It has only been since the 1960s that term *orca* has reemerged as the preferred nomenclature due in part to diminish the negativity associated with "killer," but also because the species is more closely related to the dolphin than to other whales.

"The 'killer' whale — a numerous species in North Atlantic waters, as well as in the Pacific — is a far more dangerous animal than any shark, if interfered with by man. It is a true whale, and therefore a mammal and not a fish. Sharks are stupid creatures, but the 'killer' is extremely intelligent and cunning. It will not eat a man (so far as known), but, if pursued, it will turn upon a boat and smash it to

pieces in less than no time."

—Rena Bache, "Sea Monsters Far Deadlier Than Sharks," *The Sunday Oregonian*, Aug. 27, 1916, Magazine Section, P. 2

"After 'Free Willy's' worldwide success (it cost \$19 million to make the movie, which has grossed \$153 million so far), the real-life plight of Keiko the orca hooked public interest as well.

"Free Willy" was completed while screenwriter Keith Walker was playing Dad in Steven Spielberg's 'The Goonies' — filmed in Astoria in 1985."

—Paul Duchene, "Fate binds 'Willy' and Oregon," *The Oregonian*, Wednesday, July 19, 1995, P. E03

"A fake orca brought in to scare sea lions from the port in Astoria, Oregon instead flipped over, filled with water, nearly sank and didn't do a thing to rid the town of the animals, which locals say are basically the worst visitors ever."

—Ed Mazza, "Sea lions are so not afraid of the fake orca sent to scare them off," *The Huffington Post*, Monday, June 8, 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/08/fake-orca-fail-sea-lions_n_7532692.html

Wine Tasting
EVENTS:

Summertime Rosé
June 20th, 1-4pm

Wines for Summer BBQ
June 27th, 1-4pm

Summertime Favorites
July 3, 1-4pm

Oregon Pinot Noir #3
July 11th, 1-4pm

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