

Beach Fire plays three shows

ASTORIA and LONG BEACH, Wash. — Hear Beach Fire perform on both sides of the river this weekend.

First watch the Portland group play in the Pickled Fish atop the Adrift Hotel at 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 21 and 22 in Long Beach, Wash. Then, see them rock the Fort George Brewery in Astoria at 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23.

Beach Fire is Sloan Martin's new project. After the death of drummer Kipp Crawford from Martin's old project Celilo, the band realized

things would never be the same. Martin moved to Los Angeles to get his musical bearings, discovered new influences, and came back with rock 'n' roll songs stripped of alt-country twang.

He briefly formed Steel Head to test out this new style only to start playing piano to while away the rain blues, which set him off into another direction: back-beat, soulful pop injected with disco and Pink Floyd-type ambiance. Thus Beach Fire came to be.

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was a change from her childhood in Poland.

"It's just sad that people don't have as much knowledge about native plants that grow in this area, and then they don't keep them — I hear about so many people tearing out salal and tearing out native trees or native shrubs," she says. "Kids are growing up in this vacuum; they're disconnected from not knowing where food comes from — I mean even some adults are just so disconnected."

Haber-Lehigh says she wants to encourage locals to appreciate native plants. One way she does this is with her coloring books. While field guides exist, she hadn't seen any educational material for children about native plants, and she hopes her coloring books can help fill the void.

Another way is by teaching botanical drawing classes and giving presentations in the community.

"Since I've always enjoyed teaching, it just naturally translated into me wanting to share this with other people," she says. "I wanted to

offer a class because I wanted to kind of give back. I don't see a lot of affordable art classes."

The workshops started at Seaside Public Library and have spread from there. Haber-Lehigh has taught or presented at Clatsop Community College, Fort Clatsop, Cannon Beach History Center & Museum, and Cannon Beach Arts Association. She recently wrapped up two classes at the Columbia River Maritime Museum's Barbey Maritime Center in Astoria and at the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita.

Up next is a workshop Aug. 23 and 24 at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, located north of Lincoln City. And this October, Haber-Lehigh will teach an intro to botanical drawing class on Saturdays at CCC's Seaside campus for four weeks.

"I felt good that I was able to offer something for the community that was some sort of enrichment," Haber-Lehigh says. "I believe in life-long learning. I like taking classes and workshops and going to lectures, so I felt like it was kind of my turn to reciprocate that for the community."



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