

'Wild Edge' draws conservancy supporters to Astoria

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

More than 250 people celebrated the release of "The Wild Edge: Freedom to Roam The Pacific Coast" Friday night at the Red Loft building in Astoria.

The event, sponsored by the North Coast Land Conservancy, honored "heroes of the coast," including the land conservancy's Katie Voelke. Proceeds benefit NCLC's conservation work on the Oregon Coast.

It was the first event the conservancy has held in Astoria, Voelke said in introductory remarks, and the first event to have an admission fee, in this case, \$10 per person. Funds will be used to support the conservancy's Coastal Edge initiative, designed to

protect lands between Tillamook Head and Nehalem Bay to create a corridor of ecological connectivity along the Oregon Coast.

In her opening remarks to the capacity crowd, Voelke described having her "breath taken away" by natural wonders and wildlife, describing the head of a whale as it majestically dove into water near Cannon Beach.

"I feel so grateful to be doing this small work in this small community that I live in," Voelke said. "I had the humbling experience of being in this book as a conservation hero. The only reason I made it in that book is because you have made it possible. All of you are cultural heroes from this coast also."

The gala celebrated coastal conservation from Baja to the



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian
Author Bruce Barcott, who wrote the introduction to "The Wild Edge," essays and photos by Florian Schultz.

Arctic, marked by the release of the book, which is a photographic journey from the deep ocean to the summit of coast-

al-fronting mountains.

Images were displayed as author Bruce Barcott read portions of his introductory

essay, among a collection by naturalists and conservationists including Barcott, Philippe Cousteau, Exequiel Ezcurra, Bonnie Henderson, Jon Hoekstra and Eric Scigliano.

"The Wild Edge," celebrated as the first book on the ocean-based North American wildlife corridor, describes in words and photos the "great Pacific seam of North America that reveals the great Pacific seam of North America from the Baja Peninsula to the Beaufort Sea of Alaska."

Barcott described the genesis of the book and forays of the photographer, Florian Schultz.

In a wide-ranging discussion he touched on national parks, our endangered species and how closed habitats can spell death for a species. "The animals need room to roam

outside the boundaries," he said.

Species enclosed on reserves or wildlife areas, he said, are likely to be extinct within a century, creating the need for corridors to sustain ecosystems.

Schultz, a German-born wildlife photographer, is exhibiting his latest work, "To the Arctic," at the Anchorage Museum.

Among guests at Friday's event were the North Coast Land Conservancy's directors and staff, including wildlife photographer Neal Maine, author Bonnie Henderson and treasurer, the geologist Tom Horning. Local business supporters included Anchor Graphics, Cannery Pier Hotel, North Coast Food Web, Fort George Brewery, Flair and Grizzlies Brand.

Loser: He has enjoyed volunteering ever since he can remember

Continued from Page 1A

One nomination described Loser as "always willing to help out, lend his support and offer his expertise and wisdom" in support of the Seaside community.

"(Loser) is one of those tireless workers for our community that keeps a low profile, but is key to any project he is involved with," Seaside resident Karen Murray said in her nomination.

She has worked with Loser about 25 years on the Seaside Service Club's annual Christmas dinner for seniors, which provides a holiday get-together for elderly individuals in the area. Both Loser and Murray are members of the Kiwanis Club of Seaside and have worked together on several events, such as the annual Pancake Feed and Christmas tree sales, Murray wrote.

"Both of these events would not happen without his support," she added.

He also volunteers for the Providence Festival of Trees and the Miss Oregon Pageant. Steve Wright, president



Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group
Past Byron Award winners Cheryle Barker (from left), Doug Barker and Sandy McDowell present this year's recipient, Fred Loser, with the Byron Award during the Seaside Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet and awards ceremony Tuesday night.

of the Seaside Museum and Historical Society Board, said Loser "has been an integral part of making Seaside's Fourth of July Parade a success." Loser helped the Seaside Police Department and Seaside Public Works staff place cones, barricades and tape along the 1-mile route during the day before and early morning of the event to block traffic from using the route, according to Wright.

"Words don't adequately describe the intricacies or physical labor entailed," he wrote in his nomination of Loser, made on behalf of the museum's board.

Until this year, the museum sponsored the parade. When the responsibility was transferred to a community committee, Loser "was right there to continue his commitment to the community," Wright said.

SEASIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2015 AWARD WINNERS

- Board member of the year: Robin Knoll
- Volunteer of the year: Ruth Swenson
- Business of the year: Seaside Brewing Co.
- Corporate business of the year: Seaside Lodgings
- Building blocks: Sea Star Gelato; Helping Hands Re-entry Outreach Centers
- Chamber ambassadors of the year: Dolores and Bob Tomasso
- Lifetime member award: Don Larson

"(Loser) sees a need for help and he pitches in," Wright wrote. "He doesn't shirk responsibility and doesn't ask for big kudos. He has been a selfless volunteer, throughout many years, to the Seaside Museum and countless other organizations, setting a fine example for us all."

SDDA Executive Director Tita Montero, who submitted a nomination on behalf of the association's board, said Loser has been "an unflinching volunteer at most of SDDA's numerous events for many years." He helps with registration at the biannual Downtown Wine Walk; volunteers for the Muscle and Chrome and Wheels and Waves car shows; assists in placing the Community Flower Bas-

kets downtown; and serves as a committee member for the annual Hot Rod Classic Charity Golf Tournament and Auction Dinner, sponsored by SDDA and Seaside Kids.

"(Loser) just pitches in for any event or activity where he sees the help is needed," Montero wrote.

Loser was surprised to be given the award, he said. He originally was not going to attend the banquet, because he planned to volunteer for Seaside Kids' annual Pancake Feed fundraiser, also scheduled for Tuesday night. Through some "sneaky" maneuvering, he said, the chamber staff convinced him to be at the banquet instead.

Ever since he can remember, he has enjoyed volunteering and giving back to the

community. In particular, he likes "watching people enjoy themselves" at community events — festivals, car shows, golf tournaments and parades.

"People enjoy what we do for the community and they look forward to it," he said.

The Byron Award, created in 2001, was named and dedicated to the memory of Byron Meek, a man "who knew all about volunteerism," said Sandy McDowell, of the chamber and a past Byron winner.

"He was a man who wanted it to be a win-win in every situation," she said. "It's such a wonderful thing to be called a Byron."

A new recipient for the award has been picked each year since 2001. Mary Blake was the winner last year.

What will the Oregon economy look like in 2016?



Joe Cortright
November 5

Joe Cortright is president and principal economist of Impresa Consulting of Portland. He is chair of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. Also he is director of a new think tank called City Observer, funded by the John S. Knight Foundation.

TO ATTEND:

For Members:
Dinner & Lecture: \$25 ea.
Lecture only: no charge

For Non-Members:
Dinner & Lecture: \$35 ea.
Lecture only: \$15 ea.

Appetizers will be available at 6 p.m.
Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will begin after the dinner service is complete and non-dinner members and guests of the audience take their seats.

Forum to be held at the CMH Community Center at 2021 Exchange St., Astoria.

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— Award nomination for Macaroni Lattig

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