

Hiking inspires brewers to create beers

Learn about Beers Made by Walking at monthly co-op lecture

ASTORIA — A style of wild-craft beer brewing will take the spotlight at the next Beers to Your Health talk, Astoria Co-op Grocery's monthly health and wellness lecture.

Eric Steen, who works as a communications specialist at Hopworks Urban Brewery in Portland, will present about Beers Made by Walking, a program he founded that invites brewers on nature hikes to make beer inspired by the plants

they find. Proceeds from Beers Made by Walking go toward environmental non-profits.

Steen will give his talk at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Fort George Lovell Showroom, located at 426 14th St. The talk is co-sponsored by Fort George Brewery. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the presentation is free and open to all ages.

"What's exciting about Beers Made by Walking is people that go on hikes get

to learn what's growing in their region," Steen said. "They learn either about native plants or invasive and how it affects the land."

Steen will show a history of Beers Made by Walking and images of different hikes and beers as well as pop-up pubs and other unorthodox beer events he has been organizing since 2008. For example, he worked with the Portland Art Museum to have local brewers make beer inspired by an 18th century

French painting called the "Drunken Cobbler."

"You'll learn a little bit about how beer can be inspired by place and specifically learn about how a lot of Oregon breweries have approached place-making and beer-making as a united concept," Steen said.

Steen says it's not unusual to identify up to 30 medicinal plants on a walk that can be used for tea, beer or food. A local example is salal. Steen says the berry grows all over the coast, but you don't see anyone using it, until recently a couple brewers used it in their beer.



Submitted photo by Duplex Gallery

Founder Eric Steen will speak about the Beers Made by Walking program at the next Beers to Your Health lecture on Feb. 11.

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