

Oregon Poet Laureate Peter Sears to visit Astoria library Saturday

ASTORIA — Oregon's poet laureate, Peter Sears, will lead a poetry workshop at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 23 at Astoria Public Library, located at 450 10th St. Space is limited, and registration is required. For more information about this free event and to register, contact Ami Kreider at 503-325-7323 or akreider@astoria.or.us

Gov. John Kitzhaber named Sears to a two-year appointment as Oregon's seventh poet laureate on April 25, 2014. Sears has taught creative writing at Reed College, Bard College and Pacific University and is the founder of Oregon Literary Coalition and co-founder of Friends of William Stafford and Cloudbank Books.

He is a widely published poet, with four collections: "Tour" (2002), "The Brink" (2004), "Green Driver" (2006)



Submitted photo Oregon Poet Laureate Peter Sears will lead a poetry writing workshop Saturday, April 23 at the Astoria Public Library.

and "Small Talk, New and Selected Poems" (2014). His poems have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers, including The New York Times and The Atlantic.

Sears has received several awards, including the Gibbs-Smith prize and the Western

States Book Award for Poetry for "The Brink." The collection was also named one of Oregon's 150 best books by the Oregon State Library in 2009.

Sears is the author of two supplementary teaching texts, "Secret Writing" and "I'm Gonna Bake Me a Rainbow Poem." He has dedicated himself to teaching and leading poetry workshops in public schools, libraries, colleges, community centers and literary festivals throughout the state.

The poet laureate position is a collaborative project of the state's five statewide cultural partners: Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Historical Society, Oregon Humanities and State Historic Preservation Office. More information on the program is at oregonpoetlaureate.org



Submitted photo by Christine Smith

Enjoy a guided hike to Devil's Cauldron in Oswald West State Park on April 24.

Enjoy a free guided Earth Day hike

Learn about local land and ocean conservation efforts

MANZANITA — Experience the connection between land and sea during an Earth Day Hike in Oswald West State Park on Sunday, April 24.

This free guided hike is part of the Explore Nature series of hikes, walks, paddles and outdoor adventures. Hosted by a consortium of volunteer community and nonprofit organizations, these nature-based experiences highlight the beauty of Tillamook County and the work being done to preserve and conserve the area's natural resources and natural resource-based economy.

The hike will start at 1 p.m. with an easy, quarter-mile hike to Devil's Cauldron in Oswald West State Park. Meet at the Neahkahnie Mountain Trailhead; the parking area is on the west side of U.S. Highway 101 just north of milepost 40 and 1 mile south of Short Sand Beach. Parking is limited; carpooling is



Photo by Dwight Caswell

Participants can hike to Short Sand Beach in Oswald West State Park.

encouraged.

The hike will be led by Chrisy Smith of Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve and Dale Cramer Burr of Lower Nehalem Community Trust. Participants will experience the story of the coastline, from natural history to ongoing land and ocean conservation activities, including the new Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.

If you're up for more, continue on the Elk Flats Trail for a 3-mile, moderate-to-difficult hike to Short Sand Beach. The

Elk Flats Trail, which leads hikers through old-growth trees, is steep in some sections and can be muddy this time of year; be prepared to scamper over sizable fallen trees.

The hike is free and open to the public. There are no bathrooms or drinking water facilities on this hike. Weather on the Oregon Coast is unpredictable, and trails can be slick and muddy. Bring water, snacks and appropriate gear and clothing. Expect to spend about an hour on the Devil's Cauldron Hike and an additional two hours to continue on to Short Sand Beach. Registration is encouraged but not required; register at 2016earthday-hike.eventbrite.com

This hike is offered in partnership with the North County Recreation District's Earth Day Eco Fair event held April 22 and 23 at 36155 Ninth St. in Nehalem.



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