

iNaturalist

Volunteers are invited to explore nature during BioBlitz

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

For many, exploring nature used to mean pinning butterflies to a board or capturing bugs in a jar.

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park wants visitors to rekindle that wonder by volunteering as citizen scientists this weekend for a nationwide effort to record the biological diversity in more than 100 national parks.

During the BioBlitz event today and Saturday, visitors are invited to go around Netul Landing and identify every living thing they come across, with a focus on pollinators such as birds, insects and plants. Experts will lead hikes to help inventory different species.

Rather than grabbing or killing the various pollinators, visitors will be encouraged to take photographs of the species and upload them through the cell-phone application, iNaturalist.

Photos can also be uploaded at iNaturalist.org, an online community for reporting personal observations of any plant or animal species in the world.

All experts need is a clear photo to properly identify many species, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Superintendent Scott Tucker said, and not a board pinned with insects.

"This is a great way to show folks they can come out into nature and utilize technology to enhance their experience," Tucker said.

National attention

National parks have held individual BioBlitz events in the past. This weekend will be the first time national parks make the effort simultaneously.

The event is part of the National Park Service's ongoing centennial celebration.

A Jumbotron will be set up at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., during the two-day event to showcase each national park's findings. What is found in Astoria may be broadcast on the Jumbotron in the nation's capital. The same feed on the Jumbotron will be projected at Netul Landing, for local participants to see what is being found across the country.

"Thousands of people will be able to see the parks in a different way than they ever had before and learn about the natural resources," Tucker said.

Science Central

When visitors arrive at BioBlitz, they will have a variety of ways to participate.

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Scott Tucker

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park superintendent



Submitted Photo

Citizen scientists identify and measure dragonfly larvae at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

ABOUT THE EXPERTS

Experts from across the region will be on hand to educate and assist citizen scientists during the BioBlitz event at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

• **Jerry Freilich**, a former research coordinator at Olympic National Park and director of the North Coast & Cascades Science Learning Network. He has worked in six national parks since 1978 as a ranger, naturalist and research scientist.

• **Robert Michael Pyle**, an expert in butterfly science and conservation for more than 50 years. He has a Ph.D. in butterfly ecology from Yale University. He lives and studies maritime butterflies in Grays River, Washington.

• **Rich Hatfield**, a senior conservation biologist for the Xerces Society, an international nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat. He is a founder of Bumble Bee Watch, a citizen science website to track and conserve North America's bumble bees.

• **Jim Johnson**, an expert studying the carnivorous insect Odonata since 1995 and photographing them since 2006. His focus is on the identification and distribution of Pacific Northwest species with occasional forays to other areas of the continent and Latin America.

• **Candace Fallon**, a conservation biologist at the Xerces Society. She is a coauthor of the society's latest book, "Gardening for Butterflies: How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects."

• **Mike Patterson**, a biologist, educator and professional counter of things living in Astoria.

• **Kathleen Sayce**, a Willapa Bay-based ecologist. She is a board member of Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris, South Pacific County Community Foundation, and Filipendula Chapter, Native Plant Society of Oregon.

• **Tony Johnson**, chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation. He is the education director for the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, and a teacher of students of all ages.

IF YOU GO

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park is hosting BioBlitz, an event where citizen scientists are invited to join experts to explore and inventory the park's pollinators, plants and other species.

Those interested can sign up online at Eventbrite.com, or just show up.

BioBlitz begins at 8 p.m. Friday for Moth Night. The event continues Saturday for a sunrise bird count from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., and biodiversity festival and inventories from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will meet for the events at Netul Landing.

For more information, contact the park at (503) 861-2471 or go online to www.nps.gov/lewi

Support builds for embattled shipyard

Advisory group hopes to relocate Astoria Marine Construction

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The advisory group overseeing the cleanup of Astoria Marine Construction Co.'s contaminated shipyard has asked the state to support a public-private partnership to relocate the business.

Denise Löfman, director of the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce and chairwoman of the advisory group, wrote a letter to Robert Williams, the cleanup project manager for the state Department of Environmental Quality.

In 2012, the shipyard avoided a listing as a federal Superfund site when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave the state cleanup oversight. The state was taking comments until last week on a plan to cap contaminated soil at the shipyard and remove contaminated sediment from the shipways along the Lewis and Clark River. The cleanup, estimated to cost more than \$2 million, is expected to close Astoria Marine once it starts.

Critical for fishing

"The long-term impact of the closure of AMCCO on our fishing fleet could have severe economic consequences, as the loss of the fleet will impact fish processing and other businesses related to the fishing industry," Löfman wrote. "Commercial fishing represents 18.6 percent (\$142.4 million) of all earned income in Clatsop County."

Löfman, who also sent the letter to a long list of local, state and national legislators, said she put the letter out to raise awareness about the clear need for the shipyard.

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Grads get free pass at Column

Announcement comes after students charged to park on prom night

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

High school students who want to mark graduation or prom with photos at the Astoria Column can park for free.

In a statement Thursday, Mayor Arline LaMear and Jordan Schnitzer, a Portland real estate magnate and philanthropist who is president of Friends of the Astoria Column, said Astoria, Warrenton and Knappa high school students who show student identification will not have to pay \$5 at the Column for their celebrations through June.

The announcement came a day after The Daily Astorian wrote about Joe Di Bartolomeo, an attorney who was surprised by the \$5 fee when he went to take photos with his daughter, Libby, an Astoria High School student, on prom night in early May.

See **COLUMN**, Page 8A

Army veteran enjoys sharing new ideas

Every Wednesday and Friday for the next few weeks, The Daily Astorian features an area teacher as we head toward graduation and summer break.

Tim Mahoney

John Jacob Astor Elementary School, second-grade general education

Why did you become a teacher, and what was your biggest surprise?

I initially thought about becoming a teacher my first year in college. I had spent three years in the Army, and after being discharged, started up at Portland Community College taking a few courses before moving on to Lewis-Clark State College. An instruc-



Teachers Talk About Teaching

tor said she thought I would be good with kids, and I had already been a counselor at some summer camps, so I figured maybe she was right. The biggest surprise to me was my ability to control a room of 25 students.

What part of the job do you enjoy the most?

What I enjoy most is being able to share new ideas with students. They all come to you with some sort of prior knowledge of at least a few things, but there's plenty they don't know. That's the best part — teaching them new

things. And when you have all those personalities with similarities and differences, it makes each day unique.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Education in America is just like its people — it loves fads, the next great thing, etc. New ideas and fresh philosophies have an important place, but it's also nice to let things work for awhile before we discard them and start something new.

— Edward Stratton



Tim Mahoney

