

## BioBlitz: Park is focusing on pollinators

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Expert biologists will lead groups of about 12 on hikes to inventory species. The experts will also give presentations and demonstrations. The family-friendly event will have free children's activities, information booths and a chance to use microscopes.

The flurry of activities will be held around Netul Landing. Park rangers are calling the area, "Science Central."

"We are centering the event around the Netul area, where we have a big shelter," Carla Cole, the park's natural resource program manager, said.

Cole said the park is focusing its BioBlitz on pollinators, since it does not have much information on them or the funding to conduct inventories.

The effort also falls in line with a national pollinator initiative. In 2014, President Barack Obama directed an interagency task force to develop a national strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators.

Cole said the strategy focuses on bringing awareness and encouraging federal agencies, such as the national parks, to promote the conservation of pollinators.

Visitors this weekend will discover moths, butterflies, dragonflies and beetles, Cole said.

"These BioBlitz events are a great opportunity to utilize citizen scientists to build our species list," she said.

In addition to the scientific work, the event will have a cultural aspect. Tony John-

son, chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation, will present a traditional wood carving demonstration on Saturday.

Overall, Cole said, BioBlitz is meant to encourage citizen scientists to better understand their parks and engage the next generation of stewards.

### Own neighborhood

The way people experience national parks has drastically changed over the years, Tucker said. Part of the centennial celebration has been for national parks to examine how they relate with their communities.

More park visitors look to connect through technology, whether it is liking a park's Facebook page or using an online application such as iNaturalist.

The BioBlitz event is a good way to embrace the technology, Tucker said. Visitors can count plant and animal species using apps such as Bumble Bee Watch, Project Budburst, eBird, along with iNaturalist. These programs allow anyone to become a citizen scientist.

The park wants visitors to know the same programs can be applied in their own neighborhoods.

Tucker said the park is relying on more citizen scientists since it does not have the resources to hire biologists for inventories each year. An event like BioBlitz helps involve the community.

"One of the overarching goals of the centennial is to engage the next generation of park visitors," Tucker said.



Submitted Photos  
Carla Cole, natural resource program manager at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, helps students identify and measure dragonfly larvae.



A park ranger helps a child identify species at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

## Column: Nonprofit Friends of the Column manages the park

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Di Bartolomeo posted on Facebook that he would cover the parking fee for any student who paid on prom night. The fierce reaction to his post caught the attention of City Councilor Drew Herzig, who brought the issue up at a City Council meeting this week.

"Congratulations on your

graduation and come to the Column to celebrate," LaMear and Schnitzer said in the statement. "We look forward to all your 'posts' on social media!"

The City Council agreed to raise the fee to \$5, up from \$2, to generate money to help pay for maintenance and improvements at the Column. The Column is a city park, but is managed by the nonprofit Friends

of the Column.

Attendants at the Column have recently been more aggressive about collecting the fee, a pass good for a year.

LaMear said Schnitzer was very gracious when he heard about the complaints. The philanthropist has donated and raised money to preserve the Column, relieving pressure on the city to maintain the

landmark, but city officials are often the ones left to answer when questions get prickly.

"I got one very irate call today saying that they were upset about it," LaMear said. "And they were upset about the whole \$5 fee. But I also explained that was what we used to maintain the Column, and that that was an expensive venture to maintain that place."

## Shipyard: 'It's a bad deal. Boats might sink because it's not there'

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Astoria Marine opened in 1926, building wooden-hulled sailing and fishing boats. During World War II and the Korean War, the company built military vessels, which led to much of the site's contamination. Since the 1960s, it has primarily repaired fishing boats. In 2014, the shipyard was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Dave Jordan, an advisory group member who lives near Tillamook and bases his fishing boat out of Warrenton, said it takes him as little as 45 minutes for his boat to get to Astoria Marine. Astoria Marine helps change his equipment between the crab, shrimp and tuna seasons, along with biennial haul-outs and emergency repairs.

"That's one of the big losses, is the emergency part of it," he said. "It's a bad deal. Boats might sink because it's not there."

The closest shipyards are in Toledo, Reedsport and Portland, along with Port Angeles and Port Townsend in Washington state and Crescent City in California. Jordan said he would need to rent a room and stay a day or two if he had to go to Toledo.

Because of its history, Astoria Marine includes specialized equipment for boats smaller than 50 feet, which Löffman wrote make up about half of the local fishing fleet. Her letter also mentioned that neighbors and recreational users are not impacted by the limited scope of contamination at Astoria Marine.

"I just don't see the reason to shut them down," Jordan said. "It's true. There's no groundwater contamination. Their neighbors are not impacted by them. It is a perceived problem, and I don't actually think it is a problem."

### Port support

The advisory group's letter comes after another signed in September by Port of Astoria

commissioners affirming their support for relocating the shipyard. The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners has also penned such a letter, and local fish processors and others have offered support.

The Port is trying to move its boatyard off of Pier 3 to accommodate Astoria Forest Products' expanding log export operation, and hopes to include a facility like Astoria Marine in the move.

Executive Director Jim Knight sent a white paper — a report meant to summarize an issue — to Mark Ellsworth, the North Coast Regional Solutions Team coordinator for the governor's office.

"Jim gave me a white paper outlining the need ... so that we could use it in discussions with different agencies and funding sources" for a feasibility study, Ellsworth said.

During a budget message Tuesday, Knight said the Port is planning the study in the coming year. Ellsworth said the project would take multiple years and involve cobbling together funding from multiple sources.

### Complicated cleanup

In a possible reprieve for Astoria Marine, Williams said he is not confident the cleanup of the shipyard will start this summer because of the lengthy permitting process. GSI Water Solutions Inc. is planning the project and trying to secure permits.

Rod Struck, the principal hydrologist with GSI, said the most onerous permit is from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to excavate contaminated sediment from the Lewis and Clark River and build an earthen dike to protect upland properties after the cleanup is done. Another issue, he said, is making sure the money is there from insurers.

While GSI is seeking permits, Williams is sifting through public comment before he issues a record of decision, and eventually a consent order to start the project.



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