

# in the garden



Howard Clarke and his wife, Wendela Howie, stand in their garden.

Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

## Q&A

with

### Howard Clarke and Wendela Howie

**Q: What's going on in your vertical greenhouse? What's coming up?**

A: The greenhouse currently houses three tomato plants, Beefsteak, Yellow Pear cherry tomato and Stupice, They are all indeterminate plants. Determinate tomato plants remain bushlike, while indeterminate plants are the ones you can train up a wire.

**Q: How are your kiwi plants looking? Are you still consuming last year's kiwi harvest?**

A: The kiwis are doing great, so much so that they are trying to engulf our pie cherry tree. More pruning ahead. We do still have some frozen kiwis from last season.

**Q: Last year's harvest off your apple trees was impressive. You have a number of heirloom varieties. Did some of those trees produce more than others?**

A: Some apple trees do produce more than others — both heirloom and newer varieties. We don't get huge production from Northern Spy or Gloria Munde, but they both produce large apples.

**Q: Did the neighborhood bear leave your trees alone?**



A cherry begins to ripen on a cherry tree at Howard Clarke and Wendela Howie's garden in Astoria.

A: Fortunately, no bears last year.

**Q: Are you planting anything new this season?**

A: Aside from trying three new tomato varieties, no new stuff that I'm aware of. But Wendela does the vegetable planting and it's still ongoing. So she may try something new.

Wendela: We have always planted zucchini and sometimes acorn squash. But last year we tried delicata squash, which we both love. It thrived. So we're planting more this year.

**Q: Your garden represents a lot of work between the two of you. How do you split the labor?**

A: I typically do the bull-in-the-china shop stuff, rototilling, raking up the beds, fence repair. We both try to be involved in putting in pea and bean poles, and she takes care of the planting and what hand-watering we do, as well as practicing whatever other magic stuff is required to persuade plants to produce.

*Howard Clarke and Wendela Howie maintain a dense vegetable garden in Astoria with a high fence against the local deer population.*

## Time capsule: It's part of Every Kid in a Park program

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### Return in 25 years

Before the time capsule was sealed at a gathering in the elementary school, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Superintendent Scott Tucker encouraged the fourth-graders to come back in 25 years.

"We are going to come back and we are going to open this up and we are going to read what you had to say," Tucker said. "If you live here or are in the area, when you are

35, you should come back, too. You should check it out and remember what you wrote."

Tucker asked the class what they imagine they will be doing in 25 years. Students blurted out, "playing football," "working" and "making money."

### Free visit

As part of the centennial celebration, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, which oversees Fort Clatsop, is participating in a yearlong program called Every Kid in

a Park. The program invites all fourth-grade students and their families to visit the park for free through August.

"One of the ways the National Parks Service decided they wanted to celebrate the great places like in your neighborhood in Fort Clatsop was invite every fourth-grader in the country to a national park," Tucker told the students. "We decided we wanted to tie that idea of every fourth-grader in the park to Bella's senior project."

Out of 411 national parks around the country, Tucker estimates, there are going to be about 50 time capsules that have fourth-graders' items put in them. Out of the entire West Coast, there are 12 time capsules being sealed this summer in national parks. Only three will have fourth-grader input in them, with one being the time capsule in Seaside.

"Your story is what's going to move the National Park Service into the next century," Tucker said.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Isabella Curcin, a senior at Seaside High School, speaks with fourth-graders about the time capsule project she organized.

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