

# THE OREGON DRIFTWOOD FORT BRIGADE MANIFESTO

Throw off the yoke of indoorism, hit the beach and build a fort

Story and photos by MATT LOVE

**T**he Oregon Driftwood Fort Brigade Manifesto: (compiled after a recent mission to Fort Stevens State Park where 42 Oregonians constructed 10 forts in two hours).

A spectre is haunting America — the spectre of indoorism. All the powers of the New Digital have entered into a holy alliance to strengthen this spectre: phones and video, Internet and networks, games and hashtagging, tech billionaires and spitfire gadgetry.

The Oregon Driftwood Fort Brigade asks you to throw off the yoke of indoorism this summer, get outside, hit the beach, gather driftwood, and build a fort by yourself or with friends, family, dogs.

Relish the labor. Collaborate. Support. Talk. Invent. Try out ideas. Invite others. Amend them. Discard what doesn't fit. Embrace what does. Seize the metaphor you are fashioning with your own two hands.

Erect spars and stanchions. Hoist, maneuver and interlock crooked wood into shelter, art, studios, secret portals; make pure whimsy or precise architecture that enchants fellow beachcombers.

Watch from afar as they crawl inside the structures and return to childhood. Watch them take naps, too. It always happens.

Turn detritus into delight, flotsam into fun. Add a little cairn here and there for extra measure.

Let everything go with the old sound of the ocean roaring in the background. Relaxation will infiltrate every atom of your existence.

All of this is free to do. Indoorism costs a lot of money

and allows corporations to amass incredible wealth and collect data on everything a person does.

Forage for wood! Fortify your life and find the fort within. Forswear the fiendish foes that finagle frantic fatigue from your soul. Fight the fastidious factory mentality with the fulminations of facetiousness that enable you to forget the furor. Find the best F word in the vocabulary and free it to fly like a falcon and float on forever.

Realize the driftwood fort you will build is unique and belongs to no one except all of us and the eternal cycle of nature. It will not last — that is its simple beauty and profundity.

Join the brigade in the fort building revolution. You have nothing to lose but your digital chains, and the

chains aren't even real; they are self-imposed. What has the slavery of screen time really taught you? Anyone?

But hurry! The wood is disappearing quickly to that other revolutionary analog

organization: the Oregon Beach Bonfire Brigade.

(The best places to build drift-

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wood forts along the North Oregon Coast are the beach near the South Jetty of Nehalem Bay and the beach near the South Jetty of the Columbia River in Fort Stevens State Park.)

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*Matt Love is the author/editor of 14 books, including "A Nice Piece of Astoria" and "The Great Birthright." His books are available at coastal bookstores or his website, [nestuccaspitpress.com](http://nestuccaspitpress.com)*