

Sign up for a tour through a mushroom wonderland

ARCH CAPE — Hike through the mushroom wonderland that is Oswald West State Park with ecologist and mushroom workshop leader Ida Gianopulos. She will guide this two-hour hike into mysterious, dense, temperate rainforest showcasing mushrooms common to the North Coast of Oregon.

Hosted by the Lower Nehalem Community Trust as part of the Explore Nature series, this rain or shine hike will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 15. Hikers will depart from the southwest parking lot at Oswald West State Park.

Prepayment and registration are required for this event. The cost is \$20 or \$10



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY MONICA GIANOPULOS
Ida Gianopulos will lead a mushroom hike in Oswald West State Park on Oct. 15.

for Lower Nehalem Community Trust members. To reserve your spot,

send a check made out to LNCT, Box 496, Manzanita, OR 97130 or drop it by the LNCT office at 532 Laneda Ave. in Manzanita. Event updates will be posted on nehalemtrust.org

For questions or further information, email LNCT@nehalemtrust.org with Wild Mushroom Hike in the subject or call 503-368-3203.

Lower Nehalem Community Trust has protected nearly 140 acres of wildlife habitat and fragile wetlands around the Nehalem estuary. Dedicated to building community and promoting conservation values, the trust also owns and manages Alder Creek Farm, a 59-acre natural area and wildlife

sanctuary on the north edge of the Nehalem estuary.

Explore Nature is a series of hikes, walks, paddles and outdoor adventures throughout Tillamook County. Created by Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Lower Nehalem Community Trust, Lower Nehalem Watershed Council, Friends of Netarts Bay WEBS, Tillamook Bay Watershed Council, Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council, and Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, these meaningful, nature-based experiences highlight the beauty of Tillamook County and the work being done to conserve the area's natural resources.

Humane society hosts Blessing of the Animals

Bring your dog, cat, fish or bird to be blessed Oct. 1

LONG BEACH, Wash. — On Saturday, Oct. 1 members of the public are invited to the annual Blessing of the Animals at the South Pacific County Humane Society.

Bring your pets to the parking lot area to participate in the Blessing, which takes place at 1 p.m.

Before and after the main event, head inside for light refreshments and an open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., where you can meet humane society volunteers and animals.

The South Pacific County Humane Society is located at 330 Second St.

This year's blessing will be conducted by Rev. Richard Loop, the vicar at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Loop will bless the shelter animals and then come outside to bless visiting animals.

All socialized animals are welcome. Pets may include dogs, cats, fish and birds. Some people choose to bring photos of their pets if it is difficult for their pets to

attend the blessing.

Families bring their pets to the shelter to be blessed on St. Francis' Day because of his love for animals as expressed in his "Canticle of the Creatures."

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi as an opportunity to teach children about endangered or abused animals and what can be done to help save these animals.

St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and the environment. Many celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4 each year, commemorating the life of St. Francis, who was born in the 12th century. He died on Oct. 4, 1226, and Pope Gregory IX pronounced Francis of Assisi a saint in 1228.

This local Blessing of the Animals event is recognized by the Washington Federation of Animal Care and Control Agencies through the Pawsitive Alliance.

Donations of needed items for the humane society shelter and its animals are welcome at the Blessing event.

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