



PAUL ATWOOD/ODFW

Roosevelt elk are common native wildlife creatures in the Nehalem estuary.

## What wildlife use the Nehalem estuary and why?

MANZANITA — Estuaries are typically defined as the area where a river meets the sea or the site where freshwater and salt water mix. But estuaries and their surrounding wetlands are so much more than this simple definition.

Estuaries are among the most productive ecosystems in the world and are critical for the health and vitality of communities around the world. They act as a sink for nutrient-rich sediments, filter water before it flows into the ocean and act as a buffer protecting communities from coastal storms. Estuaries are home to unique plant and animal communities that have adapted to regular tide cycles and changing flows from the river. Many animals rely on estuaries for food, as places to breed and as migration stopovers.

Locally, the Nehalem estuary spans more than 2,800 acres and encompasses a variety of habitats from freshwater streams, Spruce swamps, tidal sloughs, salt marshes and much more.

During its next Speaker Series event, the Lower



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Great blue herons are often spotted in river estuaries.

Nehalem Watershed Council will welcome Paul Atwood, assistant district wildlife biologist with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, for a presentation exploring some of the common wildlife species that use coastal Oregon estuaries, including Nehalem Bay and the habitats that each species relies on.

The event will be held Thursday, March 9 at the Pine Grove Community House, located at 225 Laneda Ave. in Manzanita. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for

refreshments. The presentation will start at 7:20 p.m. following an update from Lower Nehalem Watershed Council at 7 p.m.

Atwood's presentation is scheduled just two days before the 10th Biennial Nehalem Estuary Cleanup and will highlight why a debris-free estuary is important for salmon, other wildlife and people. On March 11, over 100 volunteers will descend on the Nehalem estuary to remove trash and recyclables from around the bay. The all-day event culminates in an evening celebration with food, live music and socializing.

The Nehalem Estuary Cleanup is organized by community partners Lower Nehalem Community Trust, Lower Nehalem Watershed Council, CARTM, Nehalem Bay State Park, North Coast Land Conservancy and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, with additional support from local businesses and community members. To learn more about the cleanup or to register as a volunteer, visit [www.nehalemtrust.org/events](http://www.nehalemtrust.org/events)

## Northwest Carriage Museum presents an Afternoon with the Arts on March 5

RAYMOND, Wash. — On Sunday, March 5, enjoy an afternoon strolling among 50 historical, 19th-century, horse-drawn vehicles and meet three local talents at the Northwest Carriage Museum's Afternoon with the Arts.

Author Jan Bono, photographer Cathy Russ and singer-songwriter Jessica Marie Porter will be at the museum from 3 to 6 p.m. to share their latest projects, discuss their talents and sign books and CDs.

Bono is a retired teacher-turned-author from Long Beach, Washington. She has recently completed a mystery series set on the southwest Washington coast. Her poetry and collection of humorous personal experience books will be available. Bono has written plays and has been published in a variety of magazines.

Russ, a photographer, has been a resident of Pacific County for 20 years. She recently released "Barns," a collection of old barns throughout Pacific County.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

See historic carriages up close, hear live music and meet a local photographer and writer at the Northwest Carriage Museum on March 5.

Her keen eye through the lens of her camera records history and nature. Come talk photos with Russ, and enjoy her new book.

Porter began writing songs as a young woman growing up on the Willapa River. After temporarily abandoning her dreams to be a working musician, she has returned to her roots, writing distinctive songs and playing music. Her latest CD will be available at the event, and Porter will

be happy to talk to visitors about songwriting and music between her songs. Her music has been described as folk with a dash of country and a whole lot of love.

The event is free, but donations are welcome. Refreshments will be available.

The Northwest Carriage Museum is located at 314 Alder St. For more information, call 360-942-4150 or visit [www.nwcarriagemuseum.org](http://www.nwcarriagemuseum.org)

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