

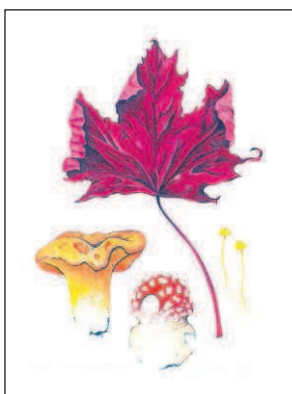
Plant yourself in this art class

SEASIDE — Channel your inner Rembrandt at the Seaside Public Library's Old World Botanical Drawing Class with local artist and illustrator Dorota Haber-Lehigh.

The free workshop will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. You must sign up for this class and can do so at the circulation desk or by phone. All materials will be provided.

Haber-Lehigh will venture into the realm of old-world drawing. Participants will learn how to create a miniature botanical drawing using colored pencils on walnut ink-stained paper, creating the antiqued look of old-world documents.

The class draws from observation, and everyone is encouraged to bring a small rose hip, acorn, maple samsara or small seed pod. Haber-Lehigh will focus on simple colored pencil techniques for blending and layering colors, and how to achieve form when balancing light and dark tones.



A botanical drawing by Dorota Haber-Lehigh.

The workshop is sponsored by the Friends of the Seaside Library.

Haber-Lehigh received a bachelor of arts degree from Pacific University with a focus on printmaking and art history. She designed, illustrated and published the coloring books "ABC of Native Plants of the Coastal Pacific Northwest," "Native Berries of the Pacific Northwest" and "Creatures of Haystack Rock."

The library is at 1131 Broadway St. For more information, call 503-738-6742 or visit seasidelibrary.org.

One man's cure for midlife crisis: photogenic polar bears in the Arctic

Here is how Seattle-based wildlife photographer Paul Souders used to go about his work: "Get up in the morning. Go out and take some pictures. Go to bed a happy man."

But then life got complicated. He got married. He turned 50. And instead of getting complacent, he developed an obsession for photographing polar bears in the wild.

In his new book, "Arctic Solitaire," Souders describes how his quest transformed him from a fairly standard professional wildlife photographer into someone who was "more like a twitchy and compulsive survivalist."

His winters in Seattle became a flurry of equipment purchases and packing lists and complicated itineraries covering land and sea — only to submit to the vagaries of Arctic summers: mosquitoes and icebergs and dodgy weather, not to mention locals (both bear and human) who didn't take kindly to being messed with.

But he persevered. For



PAUL SOUDERS PHOTO

A self-portrait of photographer Paul Souders atop an iceberg, beside an ice-trapped expedition boat along Frozen Strait on Hudson Bay.

four summers between 2012 and 2015, Souders headed to Hudson Bay to cast off in his C-Dory (christened "C-Sick") and search for photogenic wildlife — not only the sought-after polar bears, but walrus and narwhals, too.

This account is, by turns, delightful and harrowing. One minute, you'll be chortling about the cocky way Souders executes makeshift repairs. The next, you'll be hyperventilating over yet another close encounter with a large and toothy *Ursus maritimus*.

Souders writes in a breezy style, quick to point out his foibles with good humor. He never casts himself as a hero, but more typically as a bumbling fellow who relies on perseverance rather than skill to navigate tricky tides, frigid waters, mechanical failures and disgruntled locals.

In some of the villages he stops at, he encounters suspicion. Is he with Greenpeace? There's not much use

"Arctic Solitaire"
By Paul Souders
Mountaineers
304 pp
\$24.95

for a do-gooding outsider who aims to expose a traditional way of life.

In other places, Souders meets souls whose brand of bemused generosity and wisdom is reassuring and sometimes even lifesaving.

And every night, on the phone via satellite, his loving, level-headed spouse, Janis, keeps track of his coordinates and counsels him on how to make a decent spaghetti carbonara.

Souders keeps in mind the intrepid naval explorers who, centuries earlier, also struggled through the ice-choked waters of Hudson Bay — John Franklin, George Lyon, and Henry Hudson himself (who mapped the eastern coast

of the bay that was named after him before he was set adrift in a small boat by his mutinous crew).

While our 21st century adventurer confesses his own mistakes and brushes with misfortune, he has no crew to mutiny against him. And C-Sick, despite being a highly improbable choice for a vessel in the ice-choked waters, manages never to let him down.

Did I mention ice yet? There's a lot of it to contend with in this book — it would have been a great read for one of those sultry days last month.

Even in September, "Arctic Solitaire" is a riveting read. And yes, Souders does share some fine photographs of polar bears.

The Bookmonger is Barbara Lloyd McMichael, who writes this weekly column focusing on the books, authors and publishers of the Pacific Northwest. Contact her at bkmonger@nwlk.com.

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