



Afternoon activity: Visit Blackberry Bog Farm

BY CAITLIN SEYFRIED

This local family-owned farm and nursery in Svensen offers online ordering for produce, chicken and plants. Drive down U.S. Highway 30 out of Astoria and turn right onto Old U.S. Highway 30. You'll come across Blackberry Bog Farm on the left in 0.7 miles. For an impromptu trip, visit their farm stand Sundays between 1 and 5 p.m., or head to their website to make an order for bulk produce or specialty plants.

Staying home due to the coronavirus? You can go on a virtual farm tour of Blackberry Bog by watching some of the videos posted on their Facebook and Instagram pages.

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small island. Or launch your kayak from Autio's Ramp on Ziak-Gnat Creek Road (a private ramp maintained for public use) to head along Blind Slough, under the bridge on Barendse Road and out past an old railway trestle. On a hot day, you can join the kids jumping from the bridge for a swim if you're not too scared.

Trek along Gnat Creek

Opting for an adventure on foot? Head for a hike on the Gnat Creek Trail. This trail makes for a moderate, choose-your-own adventure since there are two main sections and both are out-and-back hikes.

One section of the trail runs from the trailhead at the Gnat Creek Campground turnoff (look out for the sign along Highway 30), 1.5 miles to the Gnat Creek Hatchery. This first section is relatively flat, with many opportunities to stop by the creek. It is not wheelchair accessible. The trail meanders through the forest, featuring impressively large old stumps now acting as nursery logs for new trees. Bring a mushroom identification book and see how many different varieties are visible along the path.

The other section of the trail starts from the Gnat Creek Hatchery, though the hatchery grounds are currently closed due to the coronavirus. From the hatchery, follow trail markers to Barrier Falls, a small waterfall in Gnat Creek. Informational signs dot the trail here. To continue, follow the Upper Gnat Creek Trail, which heads upstream through dense rainforest. Marking the end of the trail is a loop which intersects Big-foot Creek and a cleared section with two benches overlooking Gnat Creek.



CLOCKWISE: Abandoned buildings off Warren Slough. Blackberry Bog Farm. A Sasquatch statue, viewed from the upper Gnat Creek trail near Big Foot Creek.

Photos by Caitlin Seyfried

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