

A marvel at the Mill Ponds

Seaside event promotes local art and nature

BY RAY GARCIA

After the coronavirus pandemic canceled last year's festivities, the much-anticipated Art in the Park ... Naturally and Virtually event will make its debut on Saturday at the Mill Ponds in Seaside.

The event will feature two parts: An educational outing at the historic Mill Ponds and a lively auction at the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District.

Mary Blake, a member of the advisory committee, said participants are invited out to the ponds to enjoy the natural setting. Attendees will be given free tote bags and ready-to-plant trees.

"(The event is a chance) to get outdoors. But the neat thing about our auction is that the live auction items are all about local artists and also local experiences. So, there are some one-of-a-kind pieces of artwork and one-of-a-kind adventure trips," Blake said.

The event is hosted by the City of Seaside, North Coast Land Conservancy, Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District and the Necanicum Watershed Council.

The auction

To kick off the event, attendees can place in-person bids at the auction starting at 1 p.m.

Event workers will be taking guests' temperatures and enforcing social distancing.

For those who can't make it to the auction in person, there will be a live auction at 2 p.m. but virtual attendees must register online beforehand.

Auction items includes dozens of art pieces created by local artists; and an adventure trip led by geologist Tom Horning. He is also the council liaison to the Seaside Parks Advisory Committee.

Horning will take the auction winners on an adventure around Seaside, teaching



A blue heron, photographed by Neal Maine.

them about its rich geological history. The auction winners will discover how large tsunamis from the past impacted the region and see where the Lewis and Clark Expedition established their salt works.

"It is a bit like peeling an onion, unraveling history layer by layer, the story bringing tears to one's eyes," Horning said. "I am looking forward to people getting out on the land, discovering nature and finding special meaning from it."

'Salmon in the Trees'

In 1999, the North Coast Land Conservancy acquired the Mill Ponds, transferred ownership to the City of Seaside and began extensive wetland restoration efforts to conserve the ponds and the surrounding wildlife.

Since the eastern pond connects to the Neawanna Creek, which gets its fair share of coho salmon, the advisory committee plans to use some of the event's proceed-



'Coastal Solitude' by Clayton Rippey.

If You Go

Art in the Park ... Naturally and Virtually

1 to 4 p.m., Saturday at the Seaside Mill Ponds and online

Auction

2 to 3 p.m. Saturday at Sunset Recreation Center, 1120 Broadway Ave., Seaside, and online

Register at Facebook: [facebook.com/artintheparkseasideoregon/](https://www.facebook.com/artintheparkseasideoregon/)

Online auction link: bit.ly/3dKFU8Y

ings to install an art piece called "Salmon in the Trees."

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, studies have found that



See Page 9 'Miriam and the Moon' by Marcus Lundell.

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