



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**

'Smiles, Bubbles of the Sun' by Don Frank.

'Beach Morning Glory' by Carol Riley.

'Heartbeat' by Billy Lutz.

A watercolor painting by Clayton C. Elmer.

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trees on the banks of salmon-stocked rivers grow three times faster than rivers free of salmon.

Similarly, coho salmon bring nutrients to the trees that provide shade over the area, which is the root behind the salmon-inspired art installation, Blake said.

"Hopefully that will draw attention to people about how delicate and sacred some

of the spots are because they are so fragile," Blake said. "We're trying to educate people."

**Preserving history**

When visiting the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District for the auction, participants are also invited to stop by the Necanicum Watershed Council's information table setup in Broadway Park.

One of the council's projects include

turning the Seaside Mill Ponds into a Natural History Park with special signage and art to greet visitors. The council plans to also install a trail compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The ponds started out as a gravel quarry in the early 20th century, which was used to construct the Astoria Regional Airport. The quarry was converted into a Shingle Mill, followed by an Alder Mill, which burned down.

The land was later acquired by the North Coast Land Conservancy. Community-driven efforts, such as those by the Parks Advisory Committee and the Necanicum Watershed Council, are bringing awareness to the history of the ponds as well as the thriving wildlife that inhabit them.

"We have just gone through so much and this is like coming back slowly for all sorts of good reasons," Blake said.