

An artistic salute to the belittled umbrella

It was pouring rain and our friend Joe and his basset hound Columbo were stranded at our house in the storm. I offered them a ride home, but Joe politely declined.

I was baffled by his complete willingness to get soaked.

“Do you have an umbrella, perchance?” Joe asked.

Umbrella? Oregonians hate umbrellas, so I’d heard.

Joe was unabashed, so I poked around the trunk of the car and pulled out a collapsible blue umbrella, a remnant from our 3,000-mile cross-county journey last spring.

The magical whoosh of the umbrella as it opened —

Mission accomplished. Dog and owner were walkin’ in the rain in style.

Turning function into form

On Manhattan streets, alas, umbrellas priced high and low are more often than not used to spear a pedestrian’s way through a storm, and metal sticks and shreds of umbrellas of all price points are routinely found poking out of trash bins upside down.

At Grand Central Station, people huddle under the awning when the rain starts to fall. Miraculously, on the corners, men of international descent magically appear selling \$6 umbrellas. Those will get you from 42nd to 44th Street but then not much further.

At Brooks Brothers on Madison Avenue, you can like the “window-paned checked automatic” umbrella, priced at a reasonable \$60. Nordstrom’s can supply you with an Italian-made Alexander McQueen bone handle umbrella for slightly more, \$635, rain not included.

In China, the umbrella even became the inspiration for a po-

CANNON SHOTS

By
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Umbrellas, like kites, are magical museum creations — form and function majestically married to art and nature.

litical movement, inspiring democracy protesters in 2014. The umbrella not only protected protesters from the rain and sun, but served to deflect pepper spray and tear gas.

My favorite umbrella movie is “Les Parapluies de Cherbourg,” marked by the lilting and memorable Michel Legrand score. The melody “I Will Wait for You” plays throughout the movie as a young Catherine Deneuve makes young men swoon, all to the pitter-patter of raindrops and the subtext of the French/Algerian war.

Chicago’s Morton Salt girl, whose iconic umbrella is placed prominently along the Kennedy Expressway, is more than a century old.

Our son, who learned about rain at the University of Oregon, introduced us to Oregon’s anti-umbrella tone. There are no charming Morton Salt girls here, no umbrella democracy.

True Oregonians don’t use umbrellas, he averred, preferring to mummify themselves in rubber or latex or just flat-out get drenched. Maybe that’s why his Van’s sneakers were squeaking all the time.

We get it. While it’s been relatively dry since our arrival in May, even in the rain we haven’t had occasion to grab the umbrella. Standing on a look-out over Hug Point a couple of weeks ago in a windstorm was enough to set me straight. Gusts that can blow a car door off its hinges would churn an umbrella into bobby pins and shredded nylon with merely a breath.

What’s under your umbrella?

At the Stormy Weather Arts Festival this weekend, Cannon Beach once again jumps on — to mix a metaphor — the umbrella bandwagon.

Five artists will present four one-of-a-kind painted umbrellas to be auctioned off Friday, Nov. 6, but held in reserve until Saturday when they will be used in the Stormy Weather runway show, “Dancin’ in the Rain.”

Designing artists are Bonny Gorsuch, represented by the Cannon Beach Gallery; Dragon Fire’s Nancy Norman; Marianne Post, representing Primary Elements Gallery; Krista Guenther from the Coaster Theatre; and students from Seaside High School’s art class.

The brilliant 28th Annual Stormy Weather poster artwork was created by Ken Grant and presented by White Bird Gallery.

The event will help provide establish scholarships to local arts’ camps in Cannon Beach, the Cannon Beach Arts Association art camp for Kids, Coaster Theatre Theater Camp for kids, and



SUBMITTED PHOTOS/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

LEFT: Nancy Norman’s umbrella, presented by DragonFire Gallery. RIGHT: Umbrella designed by Marianne Post and presented by Primary Elements Gallery for the Stormy Weather Arts Festival. “My inspiration for this comes from my work with a tropical landscape designer on the Big Island of Hawaii,” Post said “I call it my Hibiscus umbrella and dreaming of the islands gets me cheerfully through wet and stormy days.”

Sea Ranch RV Resort and Music Camp for Kids.

The show is free and begins at 10:30 a.m., with clothing from Dena’s Shop on the Corner, La Luna Loca, Maggie & Henry’s, Fruffles and Dragon Fire Gallery. Refreshments are provided by Sleepy Monk Coffee and Sea Level Bakery.

“We wanted to make sure we had a really strong connection with the arts community with this,” Court Carrier of the Chamber of Commerce said.

We are delighted to see umbrellas finally getting their due. Their struggles against the elements in Cannon Beach are as iconic as the Rock.

Cannon Beach Photo has a website with 546 umbrella photos. Pelican Bay Brewing Co. brews an “Umbrella IPA.” Umbrellas, like kites, are magical museum creations — form and function majestically married to art and nature.

Just got word that my friend Joe just returned the little blue folding \$6 umbrella. Use it in the

rain? Fuggetaboutit. It’s a collector’s item!

If you must use your umbrella, super-size it

Should you use an umbrella in Cannon Beach? The bigger the better, said Ann-Marie Radich of the gallery Found.

“For the most part day to day, wind and rain, umbrellas don’t do any good because they blow inside out,” Radich said last Sunday on the porch of Sleepy Monk. “We went to a Seaside Seagulls football last week. We thought we were prepared with stadium blankets — water repellent on the outside, fuzzy on the inside — rain gear, big-hooded Carhart rain coats, when it started to rain like nobody’s business. Somebody in front of us had a huge stadium umbrella my mom got to use. If you’re sitting still at a game where you can keep — I never would have thought — my mom had suggested we bring an umbrella — that would have been inside out before we were in our seats. But in that case, very smart.”

At the Library CARLA O'REILLY

Library introduces readers to the ABC's of eBooks

As we move into the time of year with shorter periods of daylight and stormier weather, our thoughts turn to snuggling up with a great read. Card-holders at the Cannon Beach Library now have the additional option of “borrowing” books from our newly-installed eBook program. Containing thousands of reading options, both regular and audio, the program is easy to access, and interested patrons may pick up a sheet of instructions at the check-out desk. Library Office Manager Buddie Anderson states: “Anyone needing extra help accessing eBooks is very welcome to ask for my help.

I’d be happy to walk people through the process.” Buddie is in her office at the library from 8:30 on, Monday through Friday.

Reading purists may insist on actually experiencing a book made of paper — but an exciting option is being able to “check out” a book from anyplace without having to get in the car, especially if a storm is raging outdoors!

Our younger generation is very accustomed to digital learning, so the Cannon Beach Library is prepared to make this form of reading available to them, and what a great extra option for participating in the summer



CARLA O'REILLY

reading contest in 2016. Those of us who are “a little older” are told the way to keep our minds fresh and alert is to try something new — so why not try out digital reading just for the experience!

Bottom line is that this is not an either/or issue. Reading an occasional eBook is not an act of disloyalty to our trusty and beloved library books, but an exciting additional way to experience the joy of reading.

November events at the library

In November we welcome another season of “The World of Haystack Rock” lecture series, co-sponsored by The Friends of Haystack Rock and the Library. The first lecture will be Wednesday, November 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., when Bill Peterson of NOAA will speak on “Effects of Variable Ocean Conditions

and Climate Change on Marine Food Chains, Salmon, and Other Fishes”.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m. the Northwest Author Series will continue as author Urban Waite talks about “Sometimes the Wolf.” The book is set in the Pacific Northwest and is a spellbinding story of family ties, violence, and unintended consequences.

Cannon Beach reads will meet Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The book they have been reading this month is One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest by Ken Kesey. New members are welcome to join the group any time.

And looking ahead to December — which apparently is just around the corner! — we will have our annual holiday tea at the Library Dec. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. Cookies and other treats will be served. Save the date and come enjoy our hospitality and warm fireplace, followed by the lamp lighting ceremony in town. We also will be having our quilt drawing at the tea, so this is a good time to drop into the library and purchase some raffle tickets before it’s too late!

The library will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26. We at the library wish all of you a blessed Thanksgiving!

Boac’s Bird Notes SUSAN BOAC

Catching up with an old friend on the birding trail

Look who I met up with in Grants Pass last month! Many of you will recognize Nala Cardillo, former Cannon Beach resident and director of Haystack Rock Awareness Program. I was fortunate to catch Nala on a free day while Scott and I were in his home town visiting friends and family. We enjoyed catching up on each others live’s and of course all the latest happenings in Cannon Beach.

It was destined to be a beautiful day, starting a bit chilly in the morning but sunny and the promise of comfortable temperatures. (It actually got so hot that

day, that I became weary by midday) The birding was fabulous and so fun with two sets of eyes finding and calling out over 40 different species in five hours of birding!

We went to a couple of my favorite spots just outside Grants Pass. Whitehorse County Park, which runs along the infamous Rogue River, considered one of the birding hot spots in Josephine County, and Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou. This beautiful piece of land is open to the public, offering trails and many different settings for a great variety of birds..



SUSAN BOAC

I delight in watching the gregarious acorn woodpeckers found in southern Oregon. They are generally found in busy, loud groups. Their clown-like faces make me smile. Nala and

I came upon a tree where they had done some serious work. They chip out rows and rows of holes and then stuff them with — you guessed it — acorns! What a sight to see!

Other noteables for the day were many blue-throated gray warblers, red-breasted sapsuckers, oak titmouse, wrentit, mourning dove and western bluebird. Of course many of these birds are seen in Clatsop County as well, but I seem to have trouble finding them, as regular readers (thanks Mom and John) of this column well know.



Nature selfie as Nala and Susan enjoy birding in southern Oregon.

I hope some of you will join a group of people for our own birding adventures in the Cannon Beach area. We meet the first Sunday of the month at the Lagoon Trail parking lot on Second Street at 9 a.m. As a group, we de-

side where the best birding is and bird until about 11:00. Bring binoculars and wear appropriate clothing. Everyone is welcome! Upcoming dates are Dec. 6 and Jan. 3.

Susan has spent her life enjoying the great outdoors from the lakes and woods of Northern Minnesota, Mount Adams in Washington and now the Oregon beach environs. After spending many pleasurable hours driving her avid birder parents around, she has taken up birding as a passion, to the mixed emotions of her husband Scott. The Boacs reside on the Neawanna Creek in Seaside where their backyard is a birder’s paradise.

Catching the waves



R.J. MARX PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

View from Ecola State Park.

Holiday treasures at Cannon Beach PEO event

Cannon Beach PEO will help fund scholarships Thursday, Nov. 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Butterfield Cottage, 570 Necanicum Dr. in Seaside, next to the Seaside Museum. The event is presented by Cannon Beach PEO, Chapter FB, and features handcrafted needlework, kitchen delights, holiday décor, and gift items. Sale proceeds benefit scholarships for women either continuing their education after high school graduation or returning to school after a break in their educational pursuits.

Members have been working on beautiful items not found locally, as well as gifts for children and adults. Autographed copies of Nancy Berry’s book “A Gift of Poems for Christmas” illustrated by Sally Steidel will be available. A limited number of Bill

Steidel’s new children’s book will also be for sale.

Nancy Anderson will have her popular doll kits. A supply of magnolia leaves will be available for creative holiday décor. Contemporary needlework by Jan Lambert is ready for purchase, in addition to other members’ wide array of Thanksgiving and Christmas hand-crafted decorations, gifts and specialty food items to jump start the holidays.

The Cannon Beach Chapter currently sponsors three local women with scholarships: Alanna Kieffer and Rosemary Kinch of Seaside, and Amelia Fitch of Astoria.

Butterfield Cottage is located next to the Seaside Museum at 570 Necanicum Drive.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Examples of holiday treasures available for sale Thursday, Nov. 19, at Seaside’s Historic Butterfield Cottage.