

POETRYFEST 2016

# It's prime time for rhyme in Manzanita

By Dave Fisher  
For Cannon Beach Gazette

It's a good news/bad news situation PoetryFest 2016 organizers find themselves in for the upcoming three-day event in Manzanita. First, the bad news. If you were looking forward to honing your poetry writing skills in the workshops associated with PoetryFest, well, they're full — even before advance press releases had been written and submitted.

The good news? The public is invited to hear critically acclaimed poets and workshop leaders John Brehm and Andrea Hollander, who will read from their latest collections and sign books at the Hoffman Center for the Arts Saturday evening, April 23. PoetryFest returns to Manzanita on April 22-24.

This is the first, three-day, all-weekend event for the Manzanita Writers' Series, pulling in attendees from Portland, and the local area, as well as other locations in the Northwest.

"I thought last year that there was potential to grow," said Emily Ransdell, who, along with Phyllis Mannan, coordinated this year's event. "The poets who are teaching have a following and Manzanita is a great place to come for a weekend getaway."

The expanded PoetryFest allows for 24 people to take advantage of workshops to improve writing skills, practice public reading and participate in roundtable discussions. As for this year's instructors, John Brehm is the



DAVE FISHER/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Manzanita Writers' Series founders and PoetryFest creators Kathie Hightower, left, and Vera Wildauer.

author of two books of poems, "Help Is On the Way" and "Sea of Faith, and the associate editor of The Oxford Book of American Poetry.

His poems have appeared in Poetry, The Southern Review, New Ohio Review, The Sun, Prairie Schooner, The Writer's Almanac, The Norton Introduction to Literature, and many other journals and anthologies. Brehm teaches for Mountain Writers Series, Literary Arts, and The Lighthouse Writers Workshop in Denver. Andrea

Hollander's first full-length poetry collection received the 1993 Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize; her fourth was a finalist for the 2014 Oregon Book Award.

Other honors include two poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Pushcart Prizes in both poetry and memoir, and poetry fellowships from the Arkansas Arts Council and Literary Arts of Portland, Oregon, where she has lived since 2011 and where she conducts writing



Andrea Hollander

John Brehm

workshops at both the Attic Institute and Mountain Writers Series.

"I have studied with Hollander and can attest to how good she is. Several poems I wrote in her class have been published," said Ransdell of the award-winning poet.

PoetryFest is an offshoot of the Manzanita Writers' Series, which was launched in June 2008. An ongoing program, the Writers' Series helps foster the local writing community and brings well-known authors to the area to read from their latest books and interact with the audience. The program, which is conducted primarily during the "shoulder season," has been tremendously successful, according to founders Vera Wildauer and Kathie Hightower, in achieving its mission and continuing to attract well-known authors. "PoetryFest came about because it was less successful as a Writers' Series evening event, however the poetry workshops were very successful," said Wildauer, who noted that the expanded two days of workshops has helped in accommodating nearly twice as many participants over last year.

Local businesses have gotten into the act, as well, to enhance the weekend in April for all participants. Ocean Inn is offering reduced rates the weekend of PoetryFest 2016, while VINO has expanded its hours to encourage workshop attendees to continue after-hour conversations. "We've had a lot of writing workshops early on this year in addition to PoetryFest, for writers to hone their skills," said Hightower, "and participants are encouraged to submit their work for publication in the Squid," a literary journal featuring the works of north Oregon coast writers. Both Hightower and Wildauer view Manzanita as a thriving "literary community," noting that several authors have moved to the area or purchased a second home. Brehm and Hollander will conduct daytime workshops during PoetryFest 2016 on The Magic of Metaphor and The Importance of Powerful Titles & Great Opening Lines, offering an opportunity for both beginning and serious poets alike to practice and polish their craft. In addition, they will read from their works at 7 p.m. on Saturday at the Hoffman Center, located at 594 Laneda Ave. in Manzanita. Admission to the public reading is \$7.

Although PoetryFest 2016 workshops are currently full, those interested can be put on a waiting list in case of cancellations. Contact Mannan if you wish to be added to the list at phmannan@gmail.com.

Further information on PoetryFest is available online at hoffmanblog.org.

## Documentaries give 'appreciation' of salmon

Salmon from Page 1A

Prior to this, Wiley, an avid fly fisherman and photographer, filmed bits and pieces of his fishing expeditions for his own personal use. And although producing documentary videos is not in his job description, Wiley's interest piqued following his attendance at meetings of the American Fisheries Society in Seaside and Portland last summer.

In particular, he was captivated by the power of documentaries in a special session he attended while in Portland. That, he says, was the catalyst.

"Journey's End," an 18-minute video capturing underwater behavior and spawning of wild chum salmon, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and Pacific lamprey in rivers and creeks on the northern Oregon Coast, was, for the most part, pieced together using footage Wiley had shot previously. The video, set to music, isn't necessarily a documentary, according to Wiley, but an effort to show people fish in their natural setting.

"People don't typically get a chance to see that, especially from our own coastal streams. Journey's End captures fish in their natural environment so viewers can appreciate what's going on," he said.

Salmonid Life Cycle Monitoring on the North Fork Nehalem River is a 30-minute narrated documentary about the fish and wildlife department's life cycle monitoring activities on the North Fork Nehalem River with a focus on the 2015 fall salmon trapping season.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife crew leader Aaron Truesdell on the North Fork Nehalem holding a wild fall Chinook salmon prior to tagging at Waterhouse Falls adult trap.

"It's a documentary designed to pull you into our world," said Wiley of his Tillamook District office-based job and that of members of his field crew, who work the fish traps at Waterhouse and Fall Creek falls on the upper North Fork Nehalem where they monitor migration of coho and Chinook salmon.

Filmed from September 2015 through January of this year, the film takes an up-close, behind the scenes look at how the department crew members spend their days at work tagging fish and monitoring the migration and life cycle of spawning salmon.

Dictated by the annual fall migration, it's hard work and

performed rain or shine. This season was marked by significant lower than average returns of coho through November and torrential rains in December that raised river levels on the North Fork Nehalem 10 feet and effectively shut down operations at the fish traps for a period of three weeks. What was supposed to be a relatively drier than normal winter because of El Niño was anything but, leaving officials scratching their heads about weather prediction. What's more, the "chocolate brown" raging waters are sure to have a negative effect, according to Wiley, on graveled areas upstream where salmon

spawned prior to the December floodwaters.

Future public screenings of the documentaries are in the works for other north coast watershed councils and the possibility exists that they will be available online as well. As for future efforts, Wiley is mum, though he looks forward to getting out into the wilds again with his GoPro camera in hand.

Alix Lee, coordinator for the watershed council, caught wind of Wiley's fall monitoring film project as it got underway and could hardly wait to see the finished product. Though she had seen a few clips, the recent screening was the first time she saw Salmonid Life Cycle Monitoring on the North Fork Nehalem River in its entirety.

"I think it gives viewers an appreciation of these fish in the Nehalem and Tillamook watersheds and also create awareness of the state's monitoring program and how that information is used," she said.

Said one audience member of the videos following the presentation, "It was had no idea of what these guys (monitors) go through. It was \fascinating."

The next watershed council speaker presentation will be held May 12 at Pine Grove Community Center in Manzanita. Door opens at 6:30 p.m. for social time followed by the program at 7 p.m.

For more information on the series, visit the LNWC Facebook page.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Devil's Cauldron from Oswald West State Park.

## Earth Day Hike to Devil's Cauldron

Experience the connection between land and sea during the upcoming Earth Day Hike to Devil's Cauldron and Short Sands Beach in Oswald West State Park, Sunday, April 24, at 1 p.m.

This free guided hike is part of the Explore Nature series of hikes, walks, paddles and outdoor adventures. Hosted by a consortium of volunteer community and non-profit organizations, these meaningful nature-based experiences highlight the unique beauty of Tillamook County and the work being done to preserve and conserve the area's natural resources and natural resource-based economy. The hike is offered in partnership with the North County Recreation District's Earth Day Eco Fair event held April 22-23 at 36155 9th St., Nehalem.

Devil's Cauldron is an easy, short 1/4-mile hike open to all ages. The hike

will be led by Chrissy Smith of Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve and Dale Cramer Burr of Lower Nehalem Community Trust. Experience the unique story of our coastline, from natural history to ongoing land and ocean conservation activities, including the new Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. Continue on Elk Flats Trail for a 3-mile moderate to difficult hike to Short Sands Beach. The Elk Flats Trail, which leads hikers through stunning old growth trees is steep in some sections and can be muddy this time of year; be prepared to scamper over sizable fallen trees. This event is fee and open to the public. There are no bathrooms or drinking water facilities on this hike. Bring water and snacks.

Parking is limited; carpool when possible. Registration encouraged but not required. Register at 2016earthdayhike.eventbrite.com.

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