

Ocean debris inspires Earth Day artwork

Combing the beach, finding inspiration

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

In town, one tourist's trash is another artist's inspiration.

On the eleventh day of the 12 Days of Earth Day, some members of the community took a common vex upon the environment — marine debris — and transformed into art.

About five submissions were admired and voted upon at the annual Earth Day potluck on April 21, where about 60 members of the community came to celebrate Cannon Beach's natural beauty.

Program coordinator of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program Melissa Keyser helped organize this year's Marine Debris Art Contest, which started last year. She carried on the tradition after the original organizer had to take leave from the committee.

"Keeping the beach clean is so important," Keyser said. "Not only does plastic break-down and stay on the beach,



Lisa Nofield's submission to the Marine Debris Art Contest.

but it bioaccumulate chemicals, making highly toxic material."

'Small world'

The theme this year was "It's a small world," which had a size limit of no more

than 2 cubic feet.

Lisa Nofield, one of the artists who submitted, found inspiration in the work of the late Steve McLeod, Cannon Beach artist and ardent beach-comber who died in 2015 and the inspiration for the award

given to the best piece. Nofield's piece was a runner-up.

"I remember Steve telling me about the garbage patch in the ocean, where all the trash accumulates," Nofield said. "Now wherever I walk I pick up trash."

Her piece, which was about 2 feet by 2 feet, was constructed out of just one week's worth of beachcombing. Whole flip-flops, water bottles, plastic netting and more were affixed to a frame with the words "Pick up



BRENNNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE
Patrick Nofield and Eliza Davis look at Lisa Nofield's submission at the 12 Days of Earth Day potluck.

trash" written on the bottom. On April 1, a cleanup event that spread across the Oregon Coast in 45 locations from Fort Stevens to Brookings, resulted in the removal of 56,000 pounds of litter total in just one day.

"I hope that whoever sees this will be inspired to pick up their garbage," she said. "Even if it's one piece at a time."

Debra Carnes won the Steve McLeod award for her basket woven entirely with plastic rope, but was not present at the event.

Talk in Manzanita: Understanding tides

Jonathan White will read from his book "Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean," at the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita on Saturday, May 20, at 7 p.m.

After nearly losing his 65-foot wooden schooner in a large Alaskan tide, writer, sailor, surfer and marine conservationist Jonathan White vowed to understand the tide. He knew the moon had something to do with it, but what exactly?

White has written for the Christian Science Monitor, Sierra, The Sun, Surfer's



Author Jonathan White

Journal, Orion, and other publications. He holds an MFA in creative nonfiction, and lives with his wife and son on a small island in Washington State. He has served on nu-

merous conservation boards and committees, including the San Juan Preservation Trust, the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee, and the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative.

As founder and former director of the Resource Institute, a nonprofit educational organization based in Seattle, he spent eleven years building a seminar program aboard the schooner Crusader in the Pacific Northwest. Resource Institute sponsored weeklong seminars aboard the 65-foot schooner, with subjects rang-

ing from navigation, anthropology, and whale research to poetry, writing, music, and photography. James Hillman, Lynn Margulis, Gary Snyder, Robert Bly, Art Wolfe, and William Stafford were among the many who taught aboard Crusader. White's first book, "Talking on the Water," grew out of these experiences.

The Manzanita Writers' Series is a program of the Hoffman Center for the Arts and will be held at the Hoffman Center across from Manzanita Library at 594 Laneda Ave. Further information is available at hoffmanblog.org.

Conservancy plans guided hikes to Mystery Peak

A botanist-led walk high on Mystery Peak, in the proposed Rainforest Reserve. A cross-country trek to a hidden grove of ancient cedars. A plein air drawing workshop at Circle Creek Conservation Center. Lessons in smartphone nature photography from Gearhart naturalist Neal Maine.

These are among the free guided outings offered this summer by North Coast Land Conservancy. Locations range from Warrenton to Neskowin. The outings

showcase conservancy properties not normally open to the public and adjacent lands illustrating the types of habitats the conservancy protects.

In addition to conservancy staff, trip leaders include a geologist, a botanist, a professional artist and illustrator, and a renowned photojournalist.

The outings are free, but groups are kept small, and preregistration is required. Visit NCLCtrust.org/on-the-land-summer-outings for more details or to register.

'Simple food, done well'

Food from Page 1A

"One day I walked by this building, and it wasn't for sale, but I just loved it," she said. "I saw the owner in the building, and something just told me to turn around and ask about it. I knew it was meant to be a restaurant"

From there, design and details started to all fall into place, she said.

"I love the idea of French food because you start with such excellent ingredients. It's the essence of simple food done well," she said.

All of the food is made in house, including handmade pasta, butter and fresh-caught fish, she said.

"The only thing we buy are the baguettes," she said

While the restaurant has only been open for less than month, Harding said she sees



Jane Harding, co-partner of Harding Trading Company.

keeping up with the growing demand as the next chapter in her vision for the restaurant.

Candlelight and funky French cookware aside, what really drives the ambiance of the place is the crew's passion, she said.

"Running a restaurant is long hours. Nobody does this unless they love it," she said.

"We are operating from passion first and money second."

Harding Trading Company is open Thursday through Monday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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- Cascade Sotheby's Realty
- Duane Johnson Real Estate
- Ecola Creek Lodge
- EVOO
- Hallmark Inns & Resorts
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- Mariner Market
- Martin Hospitality
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Picnic Basket

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Purple Moon/Morris' Fireside Restaurant

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