

Views from the Rock

What needs to be done to best prepare for a Cascadia event?

If there's a way to demystify coastal resiliency, Oregon State University has found ways to do it.

We've seen results in signage, mapping and awareness through state programs like the Great ShakeOut and "Two Weeks Ready," which aims to inspire citizens to be self-sufficient for two weeks in the aftermath of a major disaster. A new survey is headed to a cross-section of Seaside residents to develop a better understanding of perceptions and preparedness toward a Cascadia event.

Clatsop County Emergency Manager Tiffany Brown, Oregon State University Coastal Natural Hazards Specialist Patrick Corcoran and other local officials including Cannon Beach's Robin Risley and Seaside Planning Director Kevin Cupples joined those seeking to prioritize research needs for the North Coast. The session was the first of three workshops — the others held in Newport and Coos Bay.

Coastal priorities

We know that when the Big One hits it could bring a 9.0 earthquake and waves from 30 to 120 feet high. Our bridges could collapse and our cities flood. Mass casualties would almost be a certainty.

If Japan's 2011 tsunami is any example — 20,000 deaths, 2,500 missing — we need to take note. And we're nowhere as well prepared as they are.

"In Japan they don't need to be convinced," Corcoran said.

Corcoran described attendees as "researchers from OSU, students, agency folks, and planning commission types — the usual suspects who want to think their way through problems."

They are the "right people" to have in the room when thinking about resiliency, OSU Professor Peter Ruggiero said, matching university skills with a target audience.

Ruggiero and others are seeking seed money via an Oregon Sea Grant, which provides grant opportunities related to the marine environment.

Researchers seek to connect "the kind of things we are interested in and the things coastal communities have identified as significant priorities," Ruggiero said.

"We are talking about before and after the event," workshop attendee Patrick Wingard of the state's Department of Land Conservation said.

That means preparing for disaster, minimizing risk and response readiness. Recovery follows.

Research projects could address elements of all of these, Wingard said.

Local partners

The goal, Wingard said, is to provide elected officials with the information and resources needed to



Oregon State University Professor Peter Ruggiero speaks in Seaside.

CANNON SHOTS

R.J. MARX



resolve the Coast's complex hazards, even when long-term answers are more costly than the quick fix.

"Let's dig deeper," he said. "We could do more looking forward and thinking about the long range consequences of our short-term decisions."

The process involves "a bit of matchmaking," Corcoran said.

At the library workshop, some of that matchmaking unfolded as city officials interacted with university academics on issues of interest to both.

Cupples suggested a multi-hazard approach, taking into account not only preparation for a tsunami and its aftermath, but for wind and rainstorms — "the things we have all the time," he said.

John Dunzer, a Seaside resident, sought ways to develop alternative energy sources that would provide local power sources after a catastrophic event.

Brown said the county was still "in the first 12 hours" of a catastrophe and needed to look to longer-term recovery.

"What about the 1,000 people on the hill that don't have shelter?" the emergency manager asked. "We have so many unanswered questions about that phase."

Strategic, proactive

"Resiliency" is one of those words newspaper editors and TV news channels hate, neutering truly terrifying concepts in a cloak of slick jargon. Others are phrases like "infrastructure solutions," "robust facilities" and "natural hazard mitigation."



Patrick Corcoran contemplates a large-scale Cascadia Subduction Zone event.

During the school district's tsunami awareness campaign a few years back, earthquakes and tsunamis were referred to by "T-shirt sizes": M, L, XL, and XXL for example. I found that a little more graphic and easier to grasp.

It's not a game and all the big words in the world can't disguise the disastrous potential of a Cascadia event.

One takeaway from the Seaside workshop is the growing sense by people to be strategic and proactive regarding hazards.

"This is about local people who want to work with us," Corcoran said. "As a land-grant university, we want to address local needs. To the extent where our research can align with community needs, this is a home-run for us."

Whether it has the sex appeal or the catastrophic sense of a disaster movie is another story.

Let's hope that's not what it takes to get some action.

State of the Coast

Registration has opened for Oregon Sea Grant's annual State of the Coast conference, which will be held Oct. 28 in Florence.

Billed as Oregon's coastal conference for everyone, the event aims to bring together the public, scientists, fishermen, resource managers, teachers, students and conservationists. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn, network and talk about the current status and future of Oregon's

marine environment.

The keynote speaker will be Rick Spinrad, the chief scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from 2014 to January 2017. He was also the vice president of research at Oregon State University from 2010 to 2014.

Students from various universities in Oregon will talk about their coastal research. Also, a coastal chef will demonstrate how to pre-

pare various types of seafood.

Registration in advance is recommended as space is limited. Cost is \$35 for the public and \$25 for students. It includes refreshments, lunch and a raffle ticket. The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes with a reception that starts at 4 p.m. For more information and to register, visit www.stateofthecoast.com. The event will take place at the Florence Events Center at 715 Quince St.

Prizes, games, refreshments and a 90th-birthday cake!

The Cannon Beach Library is very excited to announce that from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, we will be hosting our 90th birthday celebration. The library began in 1927 when eight women stocked three shelves in a local variety store with books donated from the state library. Over the next 90 years, thanks to many volunteer hours and the generosity of the city of Cannon Beach and many other supporters, we have grown into an important Cannon Beach entity, providing over 14,000 books, a fabulous children's room, interlibrary

AT THE LIBRARY

CARLA O'REILLY



loan services, an ongoing book sale room, free Wi-Fi, and many other events and services. At the celebration, we will have light refreshments, a 90th birthday cake, prizes, and many other surprises. Drop in and join us for this exciting event.

And speaking of events, our next membership meeting will be on

Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 10 a.m. Our hostesses Buddie, Linda Rook, and myself will be preparing a festive light brunch. The speaker will be Katie Voelke from the North Coast Land Conservancy and the topic of the talk will be about our local Land Trust. Plan on joining us at this cozy event. New members and guests are always welcome.

The ongoing HRAP lecture series is beginning for the autumn and winter months. The first lecture will be at 7 p.m. November 8th, when Dr. Debbie Duffield will be presenting "Marine Mammals, Why They Don't Eat Grapes." The talk

will focus on changes in our marine environment as they are reflected in the marine mammals of the Northwest.

And speaking of exciting upcoming events, Wow! Cannon Beach, otherwise known as Women's Only Weekend, is coming up the weekend of Nov. 10-12. There will be shopping, classes, parties, and more. A great way to get a jump-start on the holiday season. Main event tickets are available now online at tickettomato.com and soon to be at the library, for \$35. If purchased at the door, at the beginning of the weekend, the price

will be \$40. All proceeds from the weekend main events will go to help support the library. For more information please contact Buddie at 971-241-3864.

Finally, Cannon Beach Reads, our ongoing reading and discussion group, will be meeting at 7 p.m. on Nov. 15. The group will have read, and will be discussing, Agatha Christie's book "The Mysterious Affair at Styles." Group member Tom Schaeffer will be discussion leader for November.

Again, please join us for our 90th birthday celebration. The more the merrier.



At the September Art Walk in Seaside at Fairweather Gallery.

A whirlwind weekend in Cannon Beach

"We have two missions this evening," said my spouse. It was Saturday afternoon and the first mission started at 5 p.m., which is, in my opinion, an ideal hour to commence drinking. Even though we live in Party Central, one of my nicknames for the Coast, where people start drinking at noon or earlier, I have retained my East Coast prudishness about afternoon imbibing. A entertaining and educational beer tasting event we went to a few months ago at Haystack Gardens sponsored by Martin Hospitality and hosted by Public Coast where I drank a lot of beer at 2 p.m. made me feel naughty and guilty.

Our first mission Saturday was to head over to Fairweather House & Gallery in Seaside where the proprietor, Denise Fairweather, had assembled a party to kick off the autumn season of Saturday Art Walks. While featured artists took turns talking, I wandered

about, nibbling cheese and drinking wine out of an alarmingly leaky plastic cup. The "home" part of Fairweather is a dominant feature of the gallery showcasing a remarkable collection of useful, decorative, artisanal items to buy for yourself and others. I could easily envision spooning up my morning yogurt from one of those handmade bowls. A very luxe silvery candlestick would look good on my holiday mantel.

The next stop was Imprint Gallery in Cannon Beach where there was another party honoring artists Alfredo Arreguin and Yuji Hiratsuka. A limited edition print (there are just 15) called "Brico," by Hiratsuka caught my husband's eye. It depicts two young women talking. "They look really happy, truly unadulterated happy," he said. "So carefree and full of life."

The wine was served in real glasses at Imprint, so I accepted a glass and had a look around. I fell in love with a Maggie Taylor surreal image called "The Waiting Game," of a woman with a fish on her head. "This is quite marvelous," I said to a Gearhart friend we had in tow. I've been introducing her to my favorite spots in Cannon Beach, including Sea Level Bakery and Coffee. "The art here is as good as anything you'd see in a Manhattan gallery," I said. "And here we are in Cannon Beach. Isn't that lovely?"

Feeling peckish, we took a chance getting into Harding Trading Co. in north Cannon Beach. They don't take reservations, alas. "This is our third time trying to get in," I said to our friend. "Perhaps you are our lucky charm." It turned out to be true and we got a table. We had a delicious and fun dinner that included a richly intoxicating fish bisque, Caesar salad, paté with cornichons, halibut with puréed peas ("Radical," my husband called them), and my own personal favorite, mushroom tart. And of course there was wine. Since there were three of us, we got a bottle. Despite the fact I'd imbibed at both galleries, I had a glass-and-a-half of a superb pinot noir. As I said, I wasn't driving.

VIEW FROM THE PORCH

EVE MARX



Salish Sea, oil on canvas by Alfredo Arreguin.