

# Finding wonder in the commonplace

It's refreshing to hear a speaker who doesn't use a PowerPoint presentation and marks his place in a book by sticking Post-its on the page.

At the Seaside library in late May, educator, naturalist and photographer Neal Maine delivered the final lecture for the "What Do We Hear?" series at the Seaside Public Library. Maine, a science teacher at Seaside High School for three decades, the first executive director of the North Coast Land Conservancy, guided the audience to re-discovery, turning the commonplace around us into an illumination of nature.

Here is some randomly selected wisdom from Maine's words that night:

- Quoting T.S. Eliot: "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."
- On trash: "There is no 'away' when you say 'throw that away.' Because 'away' is here."
- "We need to look to nature more to see how we can solve

problems and what their solutions are."

- "In 1994, I wrote an article suggesting that teaching high school biology was a really bad idea, that biology is something that might work later, but people should be getting ecology first, which is the integrative process of living things in their environment."
- "You can study oxygen and study hydrogen, but there would be no clue that when you link them they would make something fairly significant. The isolated study doesn't present the 'emergent property,' in this case, doesn't make water. It's the cake theory: you can study flour, you can study baking soda, all their properties — but you couldn't ever make cake from that. Those emergent properties are so fundamental to everything that's going on."
- "Each grain of sand has its own ecology."
- "Trees are just a tiny part of a forest. And yet the forest has been translated into trees. The forest is something else, and it just hap-

pens to have trees as one of its elements."

- "Get a piece of ground, follow it for a year, and see what happens."
- "Being a community member goes beyond attending city council meetings, or protesting the next

## SEEN FROM SEASIDE

By  
R.J.  
MARX

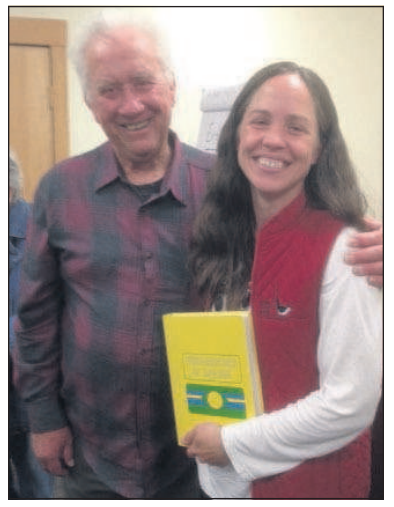


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thing you don't like. It's a function of the whole system itself — land, water, air, the whole bit. Being a community member means staying out of harm's way, but also celebrating the natural phenomena of the planet."

• From author George Perkins Marsh, who wrote 130 years ago in "Man and Nature": "In these pages, it is my aim to stimulate, not to satisfy curiosity. And it is no part of my object to save my readers the labor of observation or of thought. Labor is life, and death lives where power lives unused. The self is the schoolmaster whose lessons are best worth his wages. The power most important to cultivate and hardest to acquire is seeing what is before him: sight is faculty, seeing is art."

Draw your own conclusions — I'm sure that's what Neal Maine would want you to do. As our climate and atmosphere become more chaotic, as natural forces rule human decisions, his tutelage may lead us to a response that is both sane and secure. Listen to the land.



R.J. MARX PHOTO  
**Neal Maine and North Coast Land Conservancy Executive Director Katie Voelke at the Seaside Public Library.**

The event was presented by the North Coast Land Conservancy and the Necanicum Watershed Council in partnership with the Seaside Public Library and supported by the Seaside Chamber of Commerce. To them we are grateful!

## Scene and Heard

CLAIRE LOVELL

# Meeting friends — old and new — in the community

Gary sent me an article from the San Francisco Chronicle about the battleship USS Oregon. It was reminding us that she was instrumental in getting our country to build the Panama Canal. During the war with Spain, the Oregon sailed from Bremerton, Washington around Cape Horn to Florida, a distance of 14,000 miles, which would have been 4,000 miles with the Canal. I remember as a teenager when brother Rudy took me to see that ship on the Portland waterfront. It was impressive.

One Friday, I took a cab to the post office but was too cheap to ride both ways, so I walked home. Going 16 blocks more or less with

plantar fasciitis is physically challenging, and took a long time. I found that when I'm walking, old buildings are easier to identify. Just touching their edges makes them familiar, like the Seaside grille next to the Strand Theater, for instance.

I met two ladies from Canada who were enjoying the sea breeze and found it invigorating while I was cold! Cold! Cold! I met three other strangers on my jaunt, too; one Lady who recognized me and lives with her husband, I think in the former Ballhorn house. They have a flower garden facing Holladay. I met Mr. Fulton, present owner of the Hagmeier, George Gray, John Jandrall house, which has



CLAIRE LOVELL

undergone some significant changes. He had some flattering things to say about having read my column for 25 years.

Near my home, I met a former British nurse Jennifer, because she had a

contractor working for her who interested me. It was an informative though tiring walk. The recognizability of the path came back to me as I avoided familiar depressions in the pavement and spots where it grabs the soles of my shoes and threatens to throw me over.

Thursday night was fortuitous. My friend Emmy and I went to Kentucky Fried Chicken for our dinner. Next day was the Kentucky Derby where American Pharoah won and everybody sang "My Old Kentucky Home" — not "My Old Kentucky Fried Chicken." It was a great day.

Can you imagine thousands of turkeys having their temperatures taken and

getting their "noses" wiped somewhere in the middle west or wherever they hang out? Thanksgiving is a long way off, but we hope they bird flu will be all cleaned up by then. If you're talking turkey, how do you say, "ah-choo?"

May 7, I walked to Dooger's to attend about the 10th annual prayer breakfast. It was our usual enthusiastic program with heartfelt singing, prayers from almost every pastor in town on various subjects relevant to today's living plus a solo of "How Great Thou Art." Darren Dunn is the new organizer, replacing Carroll Van Dyke who died last year. Carroll was recognized for her faithful role in previous

service for the prayer breakfasts. I think it's a wonderful thing Doug Wiese does for us every year. We always have a great, stick-to-your-ribs breakfast, though, for me, there's never enough time to eat, but we need to be through in two hours for regular business. Thank you Doug for your generosity with time and talents. We all appreciate it. I'm sure the prayers were helpful to heal our land as well. I met several new people and a nice tablemate, Renee, who gave me a ride home.

### Laugh line:

P.S., have you heard about the cross-eyed teacher who couldn't control her pupils?

## Scandinavian Court



R.J. MARX PHOTO

**Senior Miss Sweden Kristina Kjellberg, Senior Miss Denmark Meisha Boettcher, Miss Scandinavia Abbie Johnson, Senior Miss Norway Leah Talen and Bev Hoofnagle of the 2015 Scandinavian Court at the Twisted Fish Chamber of Commerce breakfast Friday, May 29. They are participants in the Astorian Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, from June 19 to June 21.**

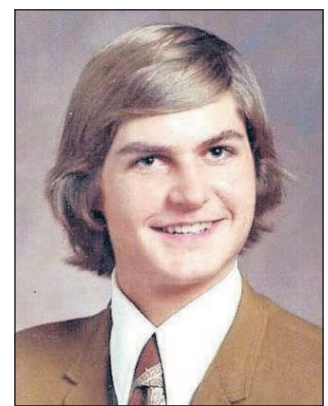
## Obituaries

### Courtney Ostlund

Feb. 22, 1957 — June 1, 2015

Courtney Dralle Ostlund passed away peacefully at his home in Astoria on June 1, 2015, at the age of 58. Courtney was born Feb. 22, 1957, to Lt. Col. Donald Paul and Cynthia Qualey Ostlund in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

As a young teenager, he went overseas with his dad to Japan twice. In high school he restored a 1957 Mercedes, where he first developed his enthusiasm for cars. Courtney then moved to Reno, Nev., where he learned to make jewelry, and was most notable for the WWF championship belt buckles he



Courtney Ostlund

made.

He eventually moved back to Astoria, Ore., where he got back into his love of cars; as an avid

car salesman, he was able to make a lot of friends, including his wife Brita. Courtney and Brita got married on Feb. 26, 2006.

He is survived by his wife, Brita Ostlund, and son, William Ostlund. He was preceded in death by his two brothers, Doug and Greg, and his parents.

A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2015, at 3 p.m. at Hughes-Ransom Mortuary in Astoria, with a reception to follow.

Please visit [www.hughes-ransom.com](http://www.hughes-ransom.com) to leave memories and sign the guest book.

### Steven Thompson

June 7, 1965 — July 18, 2014

A year ago this July we lost our beloved son, Steven. He was 49. Steven was a son, brother and uncle to us.

His ashes were laid to rest at the West Bay Marina in Olympia, Wash., on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, among loving friends and family. A fitting resting place. It was the place where he was the happiest, working

on boats and being close to the water. He left behind his mother, Marga Mueller; his father, Dennis Thompson; Rick Thompson his brother; and his niece, Chelsea Weber.

We will sorely miss him until we are ultimately reunited again in Heaven. Rest in peace Steve, until we meet again. We love you.



Steven Thompson

## Letters to the Editor

### Seaside, pick up your butts

To the Editor:  
Oregon Revised Statutes 164.805 states:  
A person commits the crime of offensive littering if the person creates an objectionable stench or degrades the beauty or appearance of property or detracts from the natural cleanliness or safety of property by intentionally:  
(a) Discarding or depositing any rubbish, trash, garbage, debris or other refuse

upon the land of another without permission of the owner, or upon any public way or in or upon any public transportation facility.

Discarding cigarettes on the ground is considered offensive littering and is subject to 30 days in jail or \$1250 fine.

The 32 cigarette butts I picked up this morning (and just about every morning) had the possibility of generating \$37,500 in fines. What a revenue generator! The City of Seaside pays a contractor \$29,700 per year for litter removal.

They will walk the streets of Seaside this summer and pick up thousands of butts. Fines for the butts I picked up this morning would cover the cost of contracted litter removal for over a year!

Cigarette butts are not only an obvious eyesore, but they get washed into the storm drains and out into our waterways. Research states that only 10 percent of cigarette butts are disposed of property and 32 percent of litter at storm drains is tobacco products.

I'm not advocating that every cigarette tosser be fined \$1,250; I just ask that smokers be more diligent about disposing of their butts. It's our town, let's keep it clean!

Patrick Duhacek  
Seaside

### Support local businesses

To the editor,  
Let's support locally owned businesses. As the former owner of a Seaside tee shirt and sweat-shirt store for more than

20 years, I am shocked and dismayed when I see the Seaside Safeway supermarket now displaying and selling "Seaside" screen-printed shirts.

We have several local owners of good quality shirt stores who make their living being in the souvenir shirt business. These stores offer quality merchandise at very competitive prices. Downtown Broadway has several excellent shirt stores owned by locals who live and work in our community, pay local taxes, support our schools and

make generous contributions to our city.

We are a resort beach town of local business owners who live here year-round. Why would "the giant Safeway Corporation" decide to be in competition with "their own customers" right here in Seaside?

Safeway is a fine supermarket. I would suggest to their local and corporate management to rethink their decision to sell souvenir "Seaside" shirts in our community.

Marty Gill  
Gearhart