

Fishing club proves strong lure for students

By Katherine Lacaze
For Seaside Signal

Being in nature, standing beside a river holding a fishing rod or searching for cockles in wet sand, can initiate an experience that engages all of a person's senses in a mystical and meditational way.

"Above anything else, there's something kind of magical about being outdoors," said Seaside High School English teacher Mark Mizell, who oversees the school's fishing club.

Take, for example, going clam-digging on a peaceful night, under the stars, when the dark expanse of the beach is speckled with glowing lanterns — "it's unbelievable," Mizell said.

Fishing, crabbing, clamming and simply exploring the wild, untamed countryside; the fishing club is designed to help students develop and expand their passion and interest in activities such as these.

"Even if you don't catch fish, it's not that big of a deal," Mizell said.

Freshman Andrew Loke, one of the relatively small club's core members, echoed this sentiment. His favorite part of fishing and other outdoor activities, he said, is "wandering around." Beside a bay, surrounded by the woods or on the beach, a person is compelled to "go explore the wilderness and ponder questions," Loke said.

What can make these ex-



KATHERINE LACAZE/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Seaside High School freshman Andrew Loke, a member of the fishing club, demonstrates the technique of fly casting.

periences more enjoyable is sharing them with a friend, family member or peer, whether that means swapping stories of struggles and

successes or taking to the outdoors together. That's where the fishing club comes in. It was started in the 2013-14 school year by

Luke Robbins, who recently left the district to take a teaching position out East. While starting it, Robbins asked Mizell to join him as a co-adviser.

Mizell's father took him fishing when he was in the seventh grade, and "it ended up being something I've done all my life," he said. Now, he hopes to share that affinity with the club members and introduce them "to a few things they maybe haven't done before."

The club, which started in November, is fairly low-key. In addition to Loke, the other regulars include freshmen Nate Ryan and Fernando Dzul Fisher. Often other students will join for a meeting or activity. During lunch on the first

Friday of each month, the group meets to discuss what activity they would like to do for that month.

The year started off with a full-day field trip to Tillamook County in mid-December. The highlight was raking for cockles and hunting for red rock crabs and softshell clams at Netarts Bay. The students also toured a couple cheese factories and viewed lighthouses on their road trip through Tillamook. When they arrived back to Seaside, they dined on the day's haul.

Other club activities held so far this year have included shorter, simpler sessions on tying flies, like the Woolly Bugger and

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