



Fall Fungi Frolic

delivers mycological treasures

Katherine Lacaze to the Circle Creek property study a wide fungi.



Katherine Lacaze North Coast Land Conservancy Land Steward Eric Owen discusses mycology, the branch of biology concerned with the study of fungi, during the organization's Fall Fungi Frolic.

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For Seaside Signal

The going was slow along the trails at Circle Creek the afternoon of Oct. 25 during the North Coast Land Conservancy's Fall Fungi Frolic.

However, the small group of participants was less interested in getting from a specific Point A to Point B as quickly as possible than they were in observing the treasure trove of mycelium and mushrooms along the way.

"Mushrooms are super cool, super important parts of our ecosystems," Land Steward Eric Owen told participants before leading them out onto the 364-acre Circle Creek property for the conservancy's final "On the Land" outing of the 2019 season.

Nature's bounty

As the group meandered along the verdant trails, still damp and muddy from the autumn rain that had fallen early that day, the participants enjoyed their discoveries in numerous ways — discussing the various fungi they happened upon, collecting small specimens to take back to the Circle Creek Conservation Center to identify, snapping pictures, and even hand-drawing images of the mushrooms.

As Owen pointed out to the group, there are four main classifications of fungi: the chytridiomycota, zygomycota, ascomycota, and basidiomycota. Fungi in their various forms are both prolific and critical to a wide range of habitats, with scientists estimating as many as 90% of plant species relying on them for life. More and more, emerging research in the field of mycology is exploring the sentience of fungi, their genetic and biochemical properties, and how they interact with soil, plants, and one another.

Owen recommended the participants keep hard copies of field guides and other references to help identify and learn

more about the different species they find at their own property or when out mushroom-hunting.

"Use all the resources available to you," he said.

Living off the land

Kristin Koptiuch, who moved from Phoenix, Arizona, to Rockaway Beach in June, has recently embraced the study of mycology as a way to adapt to and explore her new environment, interact with the specific landscape of the North Oregon Coast, and "use what grows on the land."

In the past month, she has attended three mushroom workshops and events — including the Fall Fungi Frolic — and she was planning to attend a fourth in the coming week.

Koptiuch's interest is learning where to scavenge for mushrooms, how to identify them, and how to use them for medicine, food, and other purposes. Based on her research so far, she is especially excited about finding the popular King Boletus mushroom, which is "supposed to have the best flavor," she said.

Gearhart resident Pat Wollner, who demonstrated her enthusiasm and knowledge of the mycelium network frequently throughout the outing, said there tend to be two groups of fungi enthusiasts: those who are interested in finding edible varieties to cook with and use for practical purposes, and those who are enamored with the fascinating — and often slimy — world of fungi, including mold and yeast. Regardless, when it comes to studying mycology, "some of the best people do it," she joked.

Wollner got interested in scavenging for and researching fungi about two years ago. Since then, she said, "it's kind of consumed me."

"I am so enthusiastic about the whole science of the thing, the whole mycelium network," she said, adding, "It's so diverse."

Cove Beach property owners question moratorium

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Property owners in Cove Beach are raising concerns about the lack of transparency and oversight of the Falcon Cove Beach Water District.

The water district voted for a six-month moratorium last December after reporting water production had been at record low levels for the past several years during the late summer months.

The moratorium was extended for another six months in June so the board could continue to look at long-term options to protect the water supply. The water

district may vote to extend the moratorium again in December.

As long as the moratorium is in effect, property owners have to come up with another means of getting their water to obtain a development permit from Clatsop County, said Gail Henrikson, the county's director of land use planning.

Each home is required to document a water source that will provide 250 gallons a day.

The county accepts several types of alternate water supply systems, including rain catchment. But the alternatives can increase building costs, leaving some property owners in limbo as

they are unclear how long the moratorium will be in place.

Several property owners are not convinced there is an emergency that warrants a moratorium.

Guido Papanoni and his wife, Margaret Rozendaal, bought a parcel in Cove Beach in 2017. They want to build a home and move to the coast when they retire.

Papanoni has a Ph.D. in economic geology and Rozendaal has a Ph.D. in climate science. They decided to use their expertise to examine the data themselves.

They looked at multiple sources, including data reported to the state of how

much water is produced by the spring, data recorded by the water district using water meters and data measured by independent weather stations in Cove Beach and Manzanita.

They concluded there is no water shortage.

The water district could not be reached for comment.

"The goal here is not to fix it. The goal here is to maintain lack of development and they're doing it through the duration of an emergency that doesn't exist," Papanoni said. "And because an emergency doesn't exist, the moratorium is without a technical basis. You cannot have a moratorium without an emergency."

Conservation group completes restoration project on Mill Creek

The Astorian

The North Coast Watershed Association, a local nonprofit conservation group serving Clatsop County, has just wrapped up a successful stream restoration project on Mill Creek.

The project removed culverts, sediment and fill that had blocked fish migration for decades, reopened and planted 1.6 miles of stream, and

decommissioned almost 2 miles of old forest road.

"With state funding and contracted work through the Oregon Department of Forestry," Jane Harris, executive director for the organization, explained, "we have been able to rehabilitate an important stream for migrating salmon to its original healthy flow."

People interested in local watershed health can learn more at clatsop-watersheds.org

THE AMERICAN LEGION
100 Years
VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

Seaside American Legion Post 99 • 100th Birthday of the American Legion
Semi formal Celebration

November 10th
No host Cocktail hour 5:30

Dinner served 6:00pm
\$30.00 per ticket
Prime Rib or Salmon

All Dinner Guests MUST RSVP before November 2nd so do it now!
503-440-7630 • 1315 Broadway Seaside Oregon
Public event Proceeds go toward helping our Veterans

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

On behalf of all of our members, volunteers and most importantly, THE KIDS who benefit from our programs, the Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific would like to thank everyone who made the 12th Annual Home & Chef Tour a huge success!

Event Sponsor:

Jill & Tony Garvey and Alix & Tom Goodman,
Susan & Eric Hoffman and Fred Trullinger, Page Knudsen Cowles,
Richard & Margaret Marino, Elizabeth Kingery Warren, and Connie Cosner.

Home Sponsors
Englund Marine, Autio Co., Dr. & Sheila Miller for Dr. Russel Keizer, Lums Auto Center, TOTEM Properties, U S Bank, and Bigby's Tree Service.

Chefs
Thai Me Up, Finn's Fish House, Maggie's on Prom, Pacific Way Café, Dough Dough Bakery and The Sweet Shop.

Florists
Bloomin' Crazy, Natural Nook, and Erickson Floral

Printer
Anchor Graphics

Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific is a nonprofit, all-volunteer, organization whose philanthropic programs promote the well-being and self-esteem of children and teens throughout Clatsop County.
To learn more or get involved please visit www.assistanceleaguecp.org