

Lower Columbia River Trail Adventure

Nature Matters presents an evening of stories and photographs with travel writer Charlotte Austin

Thursday, May 21 at Astoria's Fort George Brewery

ASTORIA - Their plan was simple: follow the river to the ocean. Beginning at Beacon Rock, they paddled through the stunning Columbia River Gorge, past the Portland/Vancouver metro area, along and through several National Wildlife Refuges, to their final destination in Astoria.

During the last week of October 2014, travel writer Charlotte Austin and several friends and colleagues took an incredible 7 day kayaking journey along the Lower Columbia River Water Trail, a 146-mile route stretching from Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean. While following the paddle strokes of Lewis & Clark, they saw eagles, salmon, and sea lions, camped on uninhabited islands, explored urban waterways, weathered a few storms, and met some delightful strangers who are now friends. Thursday, May 21 Austin returns to Astoria to tell her adventure stories, share photos and video, and show off the scars from her blisters.

Nature Matters is free, open to the public, and will take place in the Fort George's Lovell Building showroom. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for those wanting to purchase dinner or beverages at the George before the event begins at 7 p.m.

Charlotte Austin is a writer, editor, and mountain guide living in Seattle, Washington. Charlotte did her undergraduate work at Scotland's University of Saint Andrews and the University of Washington in Seattle, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. She also attended the Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Alaska Anchorage in creative non-fiction. Charlotte was the writer-in-residence at the Oregon State University's H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest as part of the Long Term Ecological Reflections (LTER) program in October 2013. Last year, she led a panel on transmedia storytelling techniques at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) in Seattle, and attended a month-long artist residency at Jentel in Wyoming.

Nature Matters, a lively conversation about the intersection of nature and culture, takes place on the third Thursday of each month, October through May. Nature Matters is hosted by Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in partnership with the North Coast Watershed Association and the Fort George. The series delves into the many ways that human beings look to the natural world for inspiration, sustenance and survival - the intersection of nature and culture.