

Applegater

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Photo by Teya Jacobi

FALL 2012
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Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
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Postal Patron

Your Applegater needs YOU!



It's that time of year when we ask you—our readers and friends—to help support the *Applegater*. Our financial situation is even more critical this year because we were unable to hold our annual BBQ fundraiser this past spring, and printing and mailing costs are continually rising, in spite of utilizing the cheapest methods and materials available to us.

Although revenue from our loyal advertisers helps greatly, it isn't enough to cover our costs.

The Applegater needs your DONATIONS!

A donation envelope tucked into the centerfold of this issue makes it easy for you to send a tax-deductible donation to the newspaper. Put this envelope with your bills and when you are writing your checks include one to the *Applegater* (or donate online at www.applegater.org using your credit card or PayPal).

The *Applegater* is mailed quarterly to each household in the Applegate watershed, which stretches from Wonder and Wilderville in Josephine County, to the Red Buttes Wilderness area in Siskiyou County, to McKee Bridge and Jacksonville Hill in Jackson County, and everywhere in between. Although you receive it for free, the costs are considerable to prepare, publish and mail, even with most of the work being done by unpaid volunteers.

Keep it coming!

Over the last 18 years, the *Applegater* has been your source of interesting, educational and relevant news, events and activities that are important to you. In addition, volunteer *Applegater* contributors keep our fellow Applegaters informed about fire, fish, farming, wildlife, forestry projects and community activities. Interesting stories, commentaries and a sprinkling of humor also make the Gater what it is today.

Our online calendar showcases events all over the region and is a source of news and other information between Gater publications. The Gater website has articles exclusive to our site, and the readership of the online version is steadily rising.

Please help keep the *Applegater* coming to your mailbox. Thank you for your donations and thanks to all who have supported us throughout the years, especially the 50-plus volunteers who contribute their time to help keep our community informed and entertained.

Board of Directors
Applegater Newspaper

TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

Lady lost

BY RAUNO PERTTU

My wife Jan passed away early on the morning of June 25. She was 62. Five days earlier, her dementia had taken away even her ability to swallow. So began the vigil for me and our children Kirk and Emily. In the end, death was merciful in freeing her from the personal prison that had been

slowly built by her progressing disease. Yet no matter how merciful, it was still painful.

Some of us are lucky enough to have the person we fall head over heels for actually love us in return. With Jan, I was one of those lucky people. We shared 38 eventful years and two children together. I wish we could have had many more years, but life granted me those 38, so I have to consider myself very lucky. She was a special lady.

Jan grew up in Portland in a family of skiers. She had an older brother who died many years ago in an automobile accident, and a younger sister who lives near Whitefish, Montana. They had a cabin at Mount Hood and spent many winter weekends there, where everyone including her mother and father "hit the slopes." Her parents took the family to many ski areas and ski competitions, where Jan



Jan Perttu racing down the slopes of Mount Hood.

distinguished herself, including winning the Shakespeare Cup and other trophies at our local Mount Ashland. Her love of skiing led Jan to Colorado College in Colorado Springs, and onto the college ski team. After her first year, she decided to take a year off and became a "ski bum" at Steamboat Springs. After her year of fun, she returned to Portland and enrolled at Portland State University in geology, which was a fortunate choice for me because it led to our eventual meeting.

When I met Jan, she was an honors graduate student in geology at Portland State. Our geology connection and the fact that she was an intelligent, attractive blonde with a delightful sense of humor caught my attention. I quickly realized that I would have to become a skier if I were to have any long-term chance with

See LADY LOST, page 8

Applegate Valley Days 2012 a success

BY DAVID LAANANEN

The first Applegate Valley Days, held on June 23 and 24, was a success. Although the weekend weather, including a very wet Saturday, wasn't the best, more than 500 people took part. One of the goals of the weekend was to introduce people to Cantrall-Buckley Park,



Christina Duane performs with Butch and Skip of Sons of the Oregon Trail.

Photo by Hincks Photography.

a Jackson County park that is operated by the nonprofit Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation in partnership with the county. Many visitors were delighted to see and tour this beautiful facility on the Applegate River.

Most of the events were held at the park. Showcasing the history of the area were displays of old logging equipment (thanks to Bob Baize) and antique cars (thanks to the Rogue Valley Model A Club), as well as demonstrations of gold panning. Also at the park, 35 vendors showed off their local products, including arts and crafts and a variety of outstanding locally produced food

See APPLEGATE VALLEY DAYS, page 22

INSIDE THE GATER

Get yer goat.....page 4 Great gardens start with sweet Winter Dreams.....page 15
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A huge THANKS to the generous donors who have recently donated to the *Applegater*.

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Rauno Perttu, Jacksonville, OR

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Update: Applegate Dam hydroelectric project

Construction of the Applegate Dam hydroelectric project, originally scheduled to begin in January 2012, has been delayed while engineers redesign the outlet tunnel at the base of the dam. The US Army Corps of Engineers rejected Symbiotics Inc.'s final design for the project in late 2011 because of concerns that it would "reduce the flow volume through the single existing outlet at the dam," according to a representative of the Oregon Water Resources Department.

In response, Symbiotics, Inc. has undertaken a "massive redesign" of the outlet tunnel, explains Erik Steimle, Symbiotics director of environmental compliance. The new outlet tunnel is intended not to affect or compromise the existing Corps of Engineers outlet in any way.

All of the other features of the project will remain the same, including the buried transmission line and construction of the fish passage.

This engineering redesign effort is still under way and, as a result, construction on the hydroelectric project will not begin in 2012. Symbiotics expects to announce an estimated start date sometime this winter. Stay tuned!

Margaret della Santina • 541-899-9950



On August 5, a lightning storm with winds nearing 50 miles per hour (as reported by National Weather Service spotter Paul Tipton) resulted in multiple fires called the Fort Complex Fire in and around Red Buttes Wilderness Area. All but the Goff Fire are contained. As of August 24, a total of 6,683 acres have been scorched by the Fort Complex fires. Photo by Rauno Perttu.



Thanks to Dan Bryant of NRBA Riverboard Excursions for loaning the *Applegater* a canopy to keep us dry during the afternoon showers at Applegate Valley Days. Photo by Linda Fischer.

DEADLINES

ISSUE	DATE
Winter	November 1
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1
Fall	August 1

Fall masthead photo credit

Applegate resident Teya Jacobi, retired attorney and newspaper photographer, took this photo of carved pumpkins at a Hope Mountain Barter Fair in Takilma.

Photo Specs

To be printable, all photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 30" x 40").

Advertisers!

We can help you reach your market. The *Applegater* is the only newspaper covering the entire Applegate Valley.

With a circulation of 9,300 and a readership of over 20,000, we cover Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

For more information, contact:

Sally Buttshaw

541-646-8418

sallybuttshaw@ymail.com

Next deadline: November 1

WHO WE ARE

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newspaper, which, we feel, reflects the heart and soul of our community.

Our Mission

The nonprofit Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. (AVCN), provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the *Applegater* newspaper, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our quarterly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resources
- ecology and other science information
- historical and current events
- community news and opinions

AVCN encourages and publishes differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newspaper, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

Acknowledgements

The *Applegater* Newspaper is published quarterly by the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., and is funded by donations from our loyal readers and advertisements for local businesses.

Special thanks to Barbara Holiday for layout; Margaret della Santina, Sue Maesen, Chris Allen and Paul Tipton for editing; P. R. Kellogg, Kaye Clayton and Paul Tipton for proofing; and Rona Jones for bookkeeping.

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PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

The *Applegater* requires that any and all materials submitted for publication be the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

Letters to the Editor cannot be more than 450 words. Opinion pieces and unsolicited articles cannot exceed 600 words. Community calendar submissions must be brief.

All photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 30" x 40"). Any questions, email gater@applegater.org.

All submissions for our next issue must be received either at the address or email below by the deadline.

The Applegater
c/o Applegate Valley
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P.O. Box 14
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Email: gater@applegater.org
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Community Calendar

AA Meeting There is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous every Wednesday at 7 am at the Williams Community Church Fellowship Hall on East Fork Road in Williams. This meeting is open to those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking, and also to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from drinking.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Grants Pass Branch meets monthly from September through June. Days, times, and locations vary. All those who hold an associate of arts, a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university are welcome to join. Contact Sylvia Rose at snrjrose2@charter.net or 541-479-0277 or Georgia Applegate at gkapple@apbb.net or 541-787-7175.

Applegate Christian Fellowship. For service times, call 541-899-8732, 24 hours/day.

Applegate Fire District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Station 1 - 18489 N. Applegate Rd. at 7:30 pm. Except for the months of March, April and May, which are held at Headquarters - 1095 Upper Applegate Rd. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

Applegate 4-H Swine Club meets on Tuesday following the third Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. For more information contact Charles Elmore at 541-846-6528 or Barbara Niedermeyer at 541-846-7635.

Applegate Friends of Fire District #9 meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station—1095 Upper Applegate Road—at 6 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

Applegate Library Hours
 Sunday.....closed
 Monday.....closed
 Tuesday.....2 pm - 6 pm
 Wednesday.....closed
 Thursday.....closed
 Friday.....2 pm - 6 pm
 Saturday.....10 am - 2 pm
 (Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 2:30 pm.)

Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Ruch Library. All interested persons are welcome to attend. ANN is a community organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring the Applegate watershed. For more information about ANN, call Duane Bowman, 541-899-7264.

Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council meets the 4th Thursday of the month at the Applegate Library. For more information call 541-899-9982.

Applegate Valley Garden Club meets at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month from September through May. For meeting locations and programs, call Sandra King at 541-899-9027 or Betty Lou Smith at 541-846-6817.

Food & Friends Senior Nutrition Program invites local 60+ seniors to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal served at 11:30 am Monday through Friday at the Jacksonville IOOF Hall located at the corner of Main and Oregon Streets. A donation is suggested and appreciated. Volunteers help serve meals or deliver meals to homebound seniors. For information about volunteering (it takes 40 volunteers to keep the Jacksonville program going) or receiving meals, call Food & Friends at 541-664-6674, x246 or x208.

Friends of Ruch Library Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Ruch Library. All are welcome. 541-899-7438.

Grants Pass Nordic Ski Club meets on the first Thursday of the month, November through April, at the Newman Methodist Church at 7th and B Streets in Grants Pass at 7 pm. Ski outings are on Saturdays. Listings are on the snow phone at 541-592-4977.

Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation meets the second Wednesday of January, April, July and October at 6 pm at Applegate Fire District Station 1, 18489 North Applegate Road. For more information, go to www.gacdc.org.

Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call 541-474-6840.

Ruch Library Hours
 Sunday.....closed
 Monday.....closed
 Tuesday.....11 am - 5 pm
 Wednesday.....closed
 Thursday.....1 pm - 7 pm
 Friday.....closed
 Saturday.....12 pm - 4 pm
 (Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 11 am.)

Sanctuary One is open to the public for farm tours every Wednesday and Saturday at 10 am. Recommended donation is \$5. Please check out our website for details: www.SanctuaryOne.org and call to reserve a spot. 541-899-8627.

Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association meets the first Monday of each month, 7:30 pm, at the OSU extension. For more information, please contact sobeekeepers@gmail.com.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Monday morning at Applegate Church, 18960 North Applegate Road (at the corner of Hwy. 238 and N. Applegate Road). Weigh-in starts at 8:30 am; the meeting starts at 9:00 am. Come join us!

Williams Creek Watershed Council Meetings: fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Creek Fire Station. The Public is welcome. For more information, call 541-846-9175.

Williams Grange Pancake Breakfast, second Sunday of each month, 8:30 to 11 am, followed by the Bluegrass Jam, 11 am to 1 pm. Closed July and August. 20100 Williams Hwy. near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

Williams Grange #399 Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm. 20100 Williams Hwy. near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

Williams Library Hours
 Sunday.....closed
 Monday.....closed
 Tuesday.....1:30 pm - 4 pm
 Wednesday.....1:30 pm - 4 pm
 Thursday.....closed
 Friday.....closed
 Saturday.....12 pm - 4 pm

Williams Rural Fire Protection District Meetings: fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Fire Department.

Women Helping Other Women (WHOW) meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10036 Hwy 238 (Gyda Lane) at 6:30 pm for a potluck meeting to plan work parties at each other's homes. New members are welcome. For more information, call Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8741 or Sioux Rogers at 541-846-7736.

Wonder Neighborhood Watch Meetings: second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, Wonder Bible Chapel.

Transparency and public involvement continue with Pilot projects

BY JOHN GERRITSMASMA

A cornerstone for the success thus far of the Secretarial restoration Pilot projects, Pilot Joe and Pilot Thompson, has been a commitment to maintain transparency in the various project developments and implementations, and a commitment to keep local and interested stakeholders informed.



Working with the Southern Oregon Restoration Collaborative (formerly the Knitting Circle) and the Applegate Partnership, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has provided a number of public involvement opportunities. These opportunities range from simply giving you information, to you having a voice in the design of the project, or overseeing the effects of its implementation. Here is a list of activities to date:

- **Public meetings**—designed and sponsored by the collaborative groups rather than BLM. The end result is more “community-speak” and less “bureaucratese.”
- **Neighborhood meetings**—an intimate venue for neighbors to have localized discussion with BLM about Pilot Thompson in their neighborhood. All you need is a living room or porch and BLM will meet with you and invited neighbors for a one-on-one discussion with BLM. Contact me if you have a group.
- **Collaboration groups**—formed around a specific issue. A community group explored the road issues (new construction) and opportunities (removing unwanted roads) related to Pilot Thompson. A common understanding of the needs for BLM and concerns from Thompson Creek residents resulted in a proposal to remove roads at a 5:1 ratio to building new ones.
- **Public interdisciplinary team members**—community participation on interdisciplinary teams, the BLM resource specialists who help frame up the project and discuss the various effects and mitigation of project design.
- **Field trips**—early and often. More are scheduled for late summer and fall of 2012. The website will have information on dates and times. You can also get on the Pilot project mailing list and will be notified via email of field trips.
- **Project information on website**—accessible information for the public, such as project notes, maps and photos. In addition, there are links to other Pilot projects.
- **Scoping Report**—a detailed categorization of public scoping

comments that help define the upcoming analysis work for the Pilot Thompson project. The report is available on the website and provides stakeholders the understanding and insight into how the interdisciplinary team will be using public comments in the environmental analysis.

• **Multiparty monitoring**—placement of plots with photos and data to track the changes that occur after the implementation of the Pilot projects. The team is open to anyone who would like to help monitor the effects of implementing the Johnson and Franklin principles. The team is managed by the Restoration Collaborative and the Applegate Partnership.

The Pilot projects are being implemented under the Middle Applegate Restoration Pilot designated by Secretary Ken Salazar in 2011 to demonstrate the restoration principles of Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin. The projects consist of logging and other vegetation removal operations to reduce tree densities and create conditions that are more consistent with the ecological processes of the area. As of July 2012, Pilot Joe is about 50 percent treated (the operator has not yet returned to the project site after the spring hiatus), and Pilot Thompson is in the middle of an analysis phase by BLM resource specialists. Pilot Thompson contracts will be advertised in the spring of 2013. Field trips to both projects will resume in September 2012, and information will be posted on the website. The website address for information on the Pilot projects is <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/forestrypilot/>.

Anyone who is interested in keeping abreast of developments with the Pilots via email, who would like to be involved in any of the public events or activities, or has questions about the projects can contact me at john_gerritsma@blm.gov or 541-618-2438.

John Gerritsma
 541-618-2438
 Ashland Field Manager
 Medford District
 Bureau of Land Management
john_gerritsma@blm.gov

Send your calendar information to gater@applegater.org.
 Be sure to keep the Gater updated with any changes to these
 Community Calendar listings.

BORED?

Check out our online calendar
 jam-packed with events all over southwest Oregon.
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Upper Applegate Grange Get yer goat

Rechartered and revived

BY CYNTHIA CHENEY

The Grange Chapter #839 at 3901 Upper Applegate Road is being revived by a diverse group of Applegate residents who envision the organization and its building as an exciting, vibrant rural hub for the area. Melissa Matthewson of Barking Moon Farm in Applegate led the effort, gathering interested folks for a series

of meetings beginning in April. While the chapter was previously called the Upper Applegate Grange, the new chapter wants to expressly invite residents from a wider area, and the name will be changed to the Applegate Valley Community Grange.

These meetings, and hard work by officers and committee members, have taken us through much of the necessary bureaucratic details. The chapter has been rechartered by the state and national grange organizations, and the 38 new members have elected officers who will serve for the rest of 2012, with elections in November for the coming year. Committees are working on areas including formulating a statement of the group's values and mission to serve as the basis for activities and service in the future, framing bylaws, evaluating fundraising ideas (such as a monthly pancake breakfast), and youth participation. A website for the grange is also under construction.

The chapter's green cinderblock building, for those who haven't seen the inside, is larger than it seems and includes a big kitchen, a dining area seating about 75, and a large room seating perhaps 150 with a small raised stage at one end. It was the site for the Friends of Ruch Library's Country Dance in 2010, and will soon be able to provide various community organizations with meeting space for reasonable rental fees (as yet to be decided by the grange membership). This building has a lot of potential in an area with few public spaces available for events, group meetings, classes, and so on.

Historically, the Grange is a national organization that formed in the 19th century to unite rural residents (mostly farmers) for their growth through social, educational, cultural, and legislative



Initial members of the Applegate Valley Community Grange.

activities. One of the movement's great strengths is its democratic nature and promotion of a fellowship based on mutual respect.

The Upper Applegate chapter has been a very active part of the community for many years with a variety of programs. Many of you might remember that the grange sponsored the wonderful Father's Day barbecues and the St. Patrick's Day corned beef feasts that the community so enjoyed. In 2002, the building was used as a center for firefighters to stay and to give information to local residents during the Squire's Peak fire. The grange hosted a thank-you party afterwards for the firefighters.

Membership is open to local residents over the age of 13 and the application fee and dues for the remainder of 2012 are \$25. Regular monthly meetings are held at the grange hall on the second Sunday of each month, with a potluck from 6 pm to 7 pm, followed by the meeting for about an hour. We welcome back any past members who wish to join us.

The potlucks have been fun, and we're all looking forward to completing the start-up work so we can have more varied meetings that will include educational presentations relevant to small farmers and rural residents, music, and adoption of community service projects. Providing available childcare during the meetings is high on the agenda, too.

For more information or to become a member, please contact Grange Master Melissa Matthewson (melmatthewson@gmail.com or 541-846-6297) or Secretary Janis Mohr-Tipton (janismohr@tipton.com or 541-846-7501).

Cynthia Cheney
akantha@mac.com

BY MAUD POWELL

Goats represent the fastest growing species of livestock in the United States. Why? For one, goats have great personalities and are very sociable creatures. Other important reasons include the low start-up cost of beginning a meat- or dairy-goat operation, the versatility of goats, and the fact that they can graze and browse on marginal pasture, woodlands and rangeland. The US Department of Agriculture published a report on the goat industry in 2005 and cited the changing demographics of the United States, as well as the increased number of hobby farms as additional reasons for the increase in popularity of these ruminants.

Commercial growers, hobby farmers and homesteaders keep goats for a variety of reasons. They are most often raised to produce milk, fiber or meat, but can also be used to effectively manage weeds or kept as pets. Common breeds of goats are Alpine, Lamancha, Oberhasli, Saanen, Angora, Boer, Nigerian dwarf and Nubian.

Elizabeth Murphy, Oregon State University (OSU) Extension's new forage instructor in the Small Farms program, offered a class in July on managing meat goats. Murphy remarked, "Goats represent a promising livestock opportunity. There is a growing demand for goat meat in niche markets, both in traditional ethnic cuisine and more recently, in nontraditional American fare. Goat milk and cheese have been touted for their health benefits and thus have high value to consumers. In

addition to their market potential, goats provide additional value-added services, such as fuels reduction and weed control, thereby increasing farmers' production profit margins." Murphy's Extension class filled up and had a long waiting list, further demonstrating the popularity surge of raising goats.

On September 29, the Rogue Valley Goat Dairy Association and OSU Extension Small Farms are hosting the third annual "Get yer Goat" Education Day from 8 am to 4:30 pm at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center at 569 Hanley Road in Central Point. Participants have the option to sign up for a day of multitrack workshops, including breeding and kidding, feed and forage, nutrition, parasites, milking, and soap making, or for an all-day cheese-making class with Gianacis Caldwell of Pholia Farms. The Goat Dairy Association sponsors a raffle with prizes, including goat kids, and brings some of their goats in for demonstrations.

To learn more about the workshop, contact Maud Powell at 541-776-7371 ext. 208 or maud.powell@oregonstate.edu. To register, visit the Southern Oregon Research and Extension website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/farms>.

Maud Powell
541-776-7371

Oregon State University Extension
Small Farms
maud.powell@oregonstate.edu



Family fun returns to Applegate's landmark swimming hole

BY CHRISTINA DUANE

We have reopened Wayside Park to park patrons this summer. Our mission is to provide a place where the extended family can gather to create memories and share the history of the great American West. Through music, art, and nature, we will celebrate the woven pasts of all who built the West, and learn the lessons this history teaches to foster love, respect and hope for this and future generations.

Oh Oregon Frontier Park and Cultural Center is a registered nonprofit corporation in the process of filing for 501(c)3 status. When this process is

completed by the end of the year, all donations will be tax-deductible retroactive to our filing date of May 30, 2012.

The Frontier Park (Wayside Park property) is currently in escrow and has a lease for the summer. We are currently gathering the capital to complete the purchase of the property through a combination of private and corporate sponsors and our commemorative brick patron donations. (See www.frontierpark.org for donation information.)

Through our family and several private donors, the first of the down

payment and the lease were secured. The second phase of fundraising, which will complete the down payment, is coming from major sponsors and from community donations that will also provide a base which, combined with the revenue from other activities on the property and our financial commitment to the project, will cover the mortgage and ongoing park operating costs to keep it open for families to enjoy.

We are seeking seven major sponsors to participate at the level of \$7,000 to \$10,000 dollars and asking the community to continue to become brick patrons. Brick donations and bench donations have raised \$6,000 to date through our 25 park patrons who have been enjoying the park. Many are sending in their donations but we need a total of about 300 brick patrons and corporate sponsors to fulfill our goal.

Beverly Mee Reed, known as "Grandma Bev" by the thousands of children she mentored, was my "adopted" grandma and we spent many days last

summer together on the balcony of the Indian Room at the Applegate Lodge. Grandma Bev reminisced about her golden childhood on the Mee farm on Thompson Creek in the 1930s. She spoke of going to school in the one-room Applegate School, the boys catching snakes to hide in the girl's desks and scare them, and dipping their pigtailed tails in the inkwells before school was out. They spent long summer afternoons at the nearby swimming hole long before it became a park.

Melissa Davis spoke of the younger generation's love for the majestic, lush park with its rock walls that form the deep river pool where Applegate youth learned to swim, celebrated birthdays, and where many teens had their first kiss. This beloved spot transcends time, age and cultural barriers. Everyone who tells a story of the park lights up with love of this land.

Those who treasured the park were not the only ones who came there. In recent years, some people have been careless,

See SWIMMING HOLE, page 21

DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Putting all your eggs in one basket

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Putting all your eggs in one basket is generally advised against in the financial world or otherwise. Let's call this basket analogy "monoculture," and call storing eggs in different containers "polyculture." What is the concern?

Monoculture vs. polyculture is actually a no-brainer, but somehow, while the principles may be understood, the long-term consequences of polyculture are often elusive. Think of monoculture as having a continuous diet of hot dogs three meals a day. Okay, cook them every which way, but still you have a monodiet. Think you will eventually become ill, malnourished and unable to function? Well, yep, I would think so. So why are you eating just hot dogs? The rhetorical answers could be: (1) cheap; (2) easy; (3) convenient; (4) can always take medication if you get sick; (5) very short-sighted; (6) short-term cravings override long-term wisdom...or something like that; (7) probably missed a few.

So why do most big agribusinesses and many home gardeners practice a system that will have an eventual bad outcome? In the short run, check out (1) through (7) above.

While planting single crops is simple in that watering, fertilizing, and spraying for disease are no-brainers and the gardener can focus on a single crop, eventually a domino catastrophic effect will occur. In other words, the hot-dog diet may work for a while and may be simple, but eventually the fatal flaws will catch up.

If nothing else, planting the same crop, same species in the same space year after year would get rather boring. So maybe the plants actually die of boredom.

If all of this monoculture babble still appears ridiculous or elusive, read about the Irish potato famine of 1845 (http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/agriculture_02).

A healthy, well-balanced garden should have an abundant variety of crops. Variety, aside from being the spice of life, has a synergistic effect in all of nature. In

the garden, for example, peas put nitrogen back into the soil so a green leafy vegetable such as kale can grow tall and healthy if planted in the same soil after the peas are harvested. Another great practice is to plant a cover crop such as clover or legumes. Digging or plowing under the finished crop will then replace and



Several varieties of cucumbers grow in a raised bed with dill and volunteer gladiolas.

refurbish the soil's nitrogen. This is called "green manure."

I was taught to rotate crops by planting a root crop one year—such as beets, parsnips, carrots, potatoes—with an aboveground crop the next planting. Aboveground crops might be lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, kale, etc.

Now that you have read all my rantings about monoculture, you logically might ask, "What do I need to do to be a polyculture gardener?" Clue: This is not the same as Polident.

For starts, if you are really planting a large crop of any one food, plant different varieties, like several types of beets or corn.

Rotate crops, for goodness sake. That means you do not plant the same type of tomato in the same spot year after year. If you do, I bet you are using more and more pesticides every year and will eventually pay the piper's fee. The fee being that bugs will like your spray and you will need to switch to another flavor spray and then the bugs eventually will like that, too, and you will need to switch again. Sooner or later, you will not be able to control any disease that may attack your former favorite tomato.

Personally, my garden strategy has included multiple approaches. First, and most important, is to keep the soil healthy. I continuously add compost. Actually, since I am a very lazy gardener and, since you've probably already heard the gossip, I confess that I actually dig a pit in various garden beds and dump kitchen waste directly into raised beds. I also add the regular compost that I have made along with rotten leaves, chicken coop sweepings, you name it, I have added it.

Secondly, I am a profound believer in edible landscaping.

Outside my kitchen door, I often have Japanese eggplants interplanted with colorful petunias, and basil growing with my flowering lavender.

Acknowledge the wisdom of volunteer plants. I figure that if they are willing and able to volunteer, they must be good, strong survivors. Right now, I have a giant squash plant growing in the onion patch. Who would have thought onions and squash would be good teammates?

While I have always loved and practiced companion planting, I am, of late, more drawn to "trap" plants. For example, I have many volunteer orange calendulas. Several years ago I noticed that



Sioux Rogers—And the beet goes on.

about halfway through the growing season, say about mid-July, the calendulas started to be devoured by a small black beetle and I would pull all the calendulas out. What I finally (okay, so I am slow) realized is that calendulas seemed to be the black beetles favorite food and, therefore, the beetles did not dine on any of my vegetables. The calendulas now have permanent residence wherever they seasonally drop by. This is called a "trap" plant. Often having weeds around the perimeter of your garden serves the same purpose.

In conclusion, on the subject of mono/polyculture—well, what happens if you put all your eggs in one basket and then drop it? Splat, you have scrambled floor. Monoculture simply does not occur naturally in nature.

Dirty fingernails and all
Sioux Rogers • 541-846-7736
mumearth@dishmail.net

"But perhaps the most alarming ingredient in a Chicken McNugget is tertiary butylhydroquinone, or TBHQ, an antioxidant derived from petroleum... Ingesting five grams of TBHQ can kill."
— Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*

Coins for Kitties

Friends of the Animal Shelter and Jackson County Umpqua Bank branches are again teaming up for Coins for Kitties, a spare change fundraising drive.

Throughout the month of September, Coins for Kitties offers a convenient and tax-deductible way to donate the contents of piggy banks, coin jars and heavy pockets to a great cause just by dropping by an Umpqua Bank location.

Coins for Kitties donations fund 2-Fur-1 adoptions of homeless cats and kittens. The 2-Fur-1 program enables qualified applicants to adopt two cats or kittens at the same time from the Jackson County Animal Shelter while paying only one \$70 adoption fee; Friends of the Animal Shelter pays the second \$70 adoption fee. Cats and kittens that have a playmate tend to be healthier, more socially well adjusted, less likely to have behavior problems from shyness to scratching furniture, more active and playful, and live longer, happier lives. All kittens and cats are neutered and spayed before adoption at no extra cost. So, 2-Fur-1 adoptions help alleviate overcrowding at the Shelter today, while reducing the number of homeless cats and kittens in the future.

Friends of the Animal Shelter and Umpqua Bank hope to raise \$1,000 for the 2-Fur-1 program in the month of September. FOTAS accepts donations anytime during the year, but Coins for Kitties containers are at Umpqua Bank during September only! Donating change is an easy way to help FOTAS find forever homes for the many needy kitties.

Umpqua Bank is accepting Coins for Kitties donations at all Jackson County branch locations.

Donors do not need to wrap or count their spare change. Umpqua Bank's coin counting machines will tally donations free of charge.

Your spare change can change kitties lives forever!

Contact Jeane Lind for additional information at 541-482-6272.



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BACK IN TIME

To Victoria and return—Part One

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

I found a few pages written by my dad about a trip my parents took in 1937 to Victoria, Canada. I do not remember my dad writing about this trip, but do recall how unhappy my sister Gladys and I were to be left behind. My Uncle Harold, Aunt Maud, and their son Bernard were here from San Jose and they planned to travel north to Victoria. With my parents and all their camping gear in the car, there was not enough room for Gladys and me and, who knows, maybe it was just nice to have some time away from the kids.

I was 11, and I remember my Uncle Harold giving me a five-dollar bill for my birthday, which was the day after they left. Gladys, several years older, and I stayed at our house, though I did spend a lot of the time at my grandparents across the river. I ate with them and helped with the haying by making many trips with cold water to the fields where Grandpa was working.

Here are a few excerpts from my dad's notes, along with a photo. By looking at the clothing they are wearing, hard to believe they were camping along the way!

Dad's Story

So the morning of the 21st of June, 1937, found us trekking across the wire foot bridge. Harold, impatient to be away, performed most of the menial labor, and when everything was beside the car, started stowing it away. It took a good deal of maneuvering and repressed swearing to get everything tucked in and our bed roll lashed on behind.

At this point Dad, who was mowing hay just over the wire fence, flushed a rabbit, and the dogs were in hot pursuit. Bernard hastily got his movie picture camera in position, and no doubt would have got a picture notable for its action, as the rabbit and dogs came right down the road and into the midst of us, then dashed away and out of sight. Later we learned that the film was stuck and did not register.

But this put us in a good frame of mind, and we hurriedly bid the kiddies goodbye and were off. It flashed over me that we might not see them again—there are so many things that can happen—but this is life, and we put it quickly aside.

We went down the Applegate and were in Grants Pass at 10 am. The road between Grants Pass and Roseburg is noted for its crooks and turns, but the country is very beautiful, or at least it is at this time of the year. We were pretty well wedged in the back seat, and did not slide around a great deal, but taking the turns at a pretty good clip, we imagined we could hear the car groan at every joint. Maybe it is just a Scotch idea of ours not to want to subject such a fine piece of machinery to so much strain.

There also developed at this time the first faint rumblings of the back seat drivers. It was destined to grow louder and more confusing when we reached the cities, but it seemingly was taken in good part by the drivers—or at least we hope it was.

We ate lunch in Roseburg at 12:30. Most notable through this section are the wild roses in bloom in fields and pastures along the highway. We noted cattle and sheep and rolling green hills. Arrived at Cottage Grove at 3:33 [p.m.] and visited Ernest and Eileene. We were in Salem at 6:20 and decided to camp. The Lone Star Auto Camp looked good, so we unpacked and later were directed to the "Argo" hotel, where we dined for fifty cents a plate, family style. As we had had a strenuous day, we retired early.

We had heard a great deal of the Columbia River highway, and we were not disappointed in the highway or in the grandeur of the scenery. Multnomah Falls has to be seen to be appreciated, and all of the falls along here would be a pleasant place to be on a hot day; one could easily take a cold shower from the

spray. Numerous trails lead from here up into the back country, and we believe we could enjoy a few days following these trails out with a light camping outfit.

Hunger again assailed us, and we reached Bonneville dam in time for lunch. Plenty of eating places and a good deal of a rush, as this is a busy place. The government has built a small town below the dam on this side of the river, presumably for government workers and officials. Numerous small houses are built in all the nooks and corners along the highway here. We drove on up a short distance to the Bridge of the Gods, a toll bridge, and crossed to the Washington side. This seemed to be the main town for the laborers. From an observation point we watched the huge machinery in operation. Towers, cables, cars, huge cranes, shovels, and mixers, and men crawling around like a lot of ants. We hope the power generated from this great dam will be used wisely and well for all the people.

Camas was our next stop. We were in a heavy down-pour and pulled into a filling station and took a look at our bed roll to check the moisture. Here is a large paper mill; the attendant told us the largest of its kind in the world, but we don't know if this is correct. Vancouver, Washington next and then North again. Gassed up in Woodland, and then on to Chehalis, a very nice town. We did some shopping here as we have a light camping outfit with us.

Sun up about five o'clock June 23rd. Just enough to induce us to roll out early, and then it started raining again. We were equipped with a waffle iron, and although it was against the rules in all the camps we visited, we plugged in and started making waffles. It seemed like pouring sand in a rat hole, but Harold stayed manfully with it until we were all fortified for a day's run.

At 11:30 we found ourselves in a large public market [Seattle], and as the



Left to right, Dad and Mom (John and Pearl Byrne) and Aunt Maud.

waffles and coffee seemed to have lost their potency, we dined, overlooking the bay or sound. This is a very large market, and everything looked good. Wanting to buy some strawberries, and kept looking the stalls over. Harold wanted to boycott the Japanese, of which there were a goodly number, so we finally bought some from a white dealer, but when we emptied them out that evening the bottom ones were small and moldy. Ahem!!

The nicest gardens we saw on the trip were just south of Seattle. Left Seattle at noon and it is still raining. A wonderful new highway north to Everett. Stopped a few minutes in Everett at 12:45 and Bellingham at 2:30. This is all very rich looking farming country through here. We are now nearing the border, and this is one of the high spots of our trip, as we are about to leave the United States. We checked through at 3:30.

To be continued...

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
541-899-1443

Federal grant approved to restore McKee Bridge

BY ROBERT E. VAN HEUIT

On August 2, 2012, the federal government awarded a grant to Jackson County in the amount of \$491,048 to restore McKee Bridge. The grant was among 22 issued nationwide as part of the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program for 2012.

McKee Bridge was inspected in October 2011. During the inspection, a critical structural deficiency was discovered and the engineer, Oregon Bridge Engineering Company (OBEC), recommended that the bridge be closed to pedestrian use until it was corrected.

Jackson County, with assistance from the State of Oregon, OBEC, and the McKee Bridge Historical Society

(MBHS), submitted a request for a grant to completely restore the bridge. Jackson County submitted the grant application through the State of Oregon in December 2011 for \$491,048. MBHS has agreed to raise the matching funds of about \$57,000. MBHS has made many contacts with charitable foundations, but found it difficult to get assistance until the grant was approved. Now that the grant has been awarded, we will be better able to pursue assistance from these foundations; however, almost all foundations also require matching funds.

MBHS has established the McKee Bridge Restoration Fund (MBRF) and has successfully raised over \$5,000 to date. If you wish to help by contributing to MBRF, please send checks to MBHS, P.O. Box 854, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530. MBHS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation and all contributions are tax-deductible. If you have any questions, please call Robert Van Heuit at 541-899-2927.

Robert E. Van Heuit • 541-899-2927
President

McKee Bridge Historical Society



Poetry Corner

Children

by John Taylor, Grants Pass, OR

Let's always be like children,
Happy, running free,
Rolling down a hillside,
Climbing up a tree.

Squeezing fuzzy kittens,
Drinking chocolate from a mug,
Feeling soft warm mittens,
Giving dogs a hug.

Like a child you giggle,
And my tummy turns its cogs.
I feel it do a wiggle,
Like a pocket full of frogs.

Time will pass and we'll grow old,
But let us all recall,
Those happy laughing children,
They're us after all?



Plain Murder

by A.G. Prys-Jones (1888 - 1987), Wales

I saw a wasp upon a wall
and did not like his face at all:
And so the creature had no time
To wonder whether he liked mine.

THE STARRY SIDE

Morning glory and shooting stars

BY GREELEY WELLS

Here it comes: fall! Seemed like a short summer, and slow coming. Now we're looking at cooling down already—I'm writing this in late July during rainstorms and cool weather! What is going on?

At the end of August, though, when you get this issue, summer is still in the sky, thank goodness. Look up tonight: there's the famous summer triangle I talk about before, during and after summer every year. And Pegasus is near the top of the sky attached to Andromeda, leading to Perseus and Cassiopeia and their wonderful stories I've repeated in this column a few times. In September these two share the top of the night sky; by October the huge square of Pegasus is straight overhead. That's Arcturus bright and low in the west-northwest. And the big dipper, known in England as the plough, is swinging under the North Star, Polaris. Summer is leaving the sky but the summer triangle is not gone, and will still be visible at Halloween. Even in November when it's getting wintry, the summer cross is not quite down in the west yet.

At the same time in late summer, winter constellations are rising in the east. As I write this in July, I can see Orion and company rising early in the morning (between midnight and dawn), they are coming—we morning risers are witness!

By October, Pleiades and Taurus are showing up in the east around 10 pm, leading the winter constellations. By 10 pm in November, Orion is up in his usual horizontal, lazy, lying-down posture, which he will improve as the season progresses. Over his head, to his left, are Castor and Pollux, the Gemini twins. The two bright stars named Castor and Pollux are their heads; their feet are just over Orion's club

(which is just above his head). Out in front of Orion that beautiful "V" is Taurus the bull's face. And further up are the Pleiades, the seven sisters of Greek lore. (Can you see seven? It's a Greek eye test. Many not-so-good eyes see only six.) The bright star further left is Capella, part of the five-sided constellation Auriga. The Pleiades, Taurus, Gemini, Auriga: you could say

closing in on a golden-yellow Regulus. On the morning of October 3, they are at their closest, with morning Regulus fading but Venus still bright enough for a daytime view after sunrise! This is pretty rare—the key to seeing a "day star" is knowing where it is. So if you sit or stand in one spot at dawn noting what's close to the track of the planet, you'll figure out approximately

Venus.

Have you noticed I don't talk about Pluto (is it even a planet?), Uranus or Neptune? Well, though you can see them sometimes with a telescope, and even occasionally with binoculars, they never really offer naked-eye images, which is what I'm interested in and try to share with you.

OF NOTE

Full moons this season include the Fruit Moon (September 30) and the Harvest Moon (October 29). The full moon on November 28 has three name choices: Frosty, Beaver or Hunter's Moon. The crescent moon will be quite close to Mars after sunset on September 19. On November 11, a crescent moon makes a triangle with Venus and Spica in the dawn.

The autumn or fall equinox is on Saturday, September 22. Days and nights of equal length mark this midpoint between the winter and summer solstices.

Meteor showers seem to be prevalent this season. I hope you caught the Perseids on August 12, the most impressive



To see more accurately, swing the illustration around to match your horizon line direction. Illustration from Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar 2012 (www.universalworkshop.com).

and most consistent shower of the year. This year the sometimes spectacular Northern Taurid's may include some possible fireballs. They extend from late October to mid-November, but there's a full moon near the beginning of this period so the latter part will provide the best viewing. The peak of the showers is after the moon "interruption," so that's good news. Some are predicting a swarm of bright meteors and fireballs that may overwhelm even a full moon! But listen, this is theoretical so don't put much money down on a bet. The meteors will seem to radiate from Taurus, that "V" shape, in the east. Wish us all luck. I love meteors, they make me feel special somehow.

THE PLANETS

Venus is the glory of the sunrise throughout the fall! In early September (the 1st), it passes right between the Gemini twins after rising three hours before the sun. By mid-September (the 12-13th), it passes the dim Bee Hive Cluster in Cancer at dawn, with a nearby moon to heighten the experience.

October finds a blue-white Venus

where it will be next. As the sky brightens keep looking and pretty soon you'll be looking at a "day star"—a planet, actually.

In November, Venus almost kisses Saturn from the 26th to the 28th. The rings of Saturn are also open so they are easily seen in telescopes, and may appear as bumps in binoculars. Both planets are so close they may well be in one field of view—a great comparison possibility. Give a look at all these close encounters if you have the tools.

Jupiter begins this season visible from late night till dawn. In September, it rises earlier and earlier; at month's end it's rising after about 10:00 pm. October finds Jupiter rising ever earlier, getting brighter, and beginning to dominate the evening sky. In November, the planet is rising a couple of hours after sunset and is bright all night and into the dawn, when it's visible with Venus and Saturn and even Mercury [even lower] and reddish Aldebaran in Taurus's "V". On November 1, Jupiter is right next to the just-full moon.

Mars fades below the dusk horizon line in September. Saturn holds a dim, low position for the whole month.

Mercury rises from obscurity at the end of September's sunsets. It makes a low dawn appearance at the end of November, to the left of Saturn and lower-left of

and most consistent shower of the year. This year the sometimes spectacular Northern Taurid's may include some possible fireballs. They extend from late October to mid-November, but there's a full moon near the beginning of this period so the latter part will provide the best viewing. The peak of the showers is after the moon "interruption," so that's good news. Some are predicting a swarm of bright meteors and fireballs that may overwhelm even a full moon! But listen, this is theoretical so don't put much money down on a bet. The meteors will seem to radiate from Taurus, that "V" shape, in the east. Wish us all luck. I love meteors, they make me feel special somehow.

Orionids may also be good this year around October 20-21, as the moon will set before their 11 pm or midnight peak. The radiant will be around Orion, moving outward. The Orionids are usually bright meteors with persistent trails. This year's have been labeled "very favorable." Oh boy!

Halloween is October 31. All Saints Day is November 1 and November 2 is All Souls Day.

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TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

LADY LOST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her. With her sense of reckless daring, she volunteered to teach me to ski. I soon learned that she had additional noble attributes—patience and the ability to laugh with me, not at me. After many spills and much frustration (vocal by me and thankfully not vocal by her), she proclaimed me able to ski. In starting as an adult, I was adequate, but never graceful. She effortlessly streaked down the mountainside, with me trailing and doing my best to keep up. The fact that her ex-ski team friends would visit, and we would all go skiing, greatly improved my ability. They, of course, disdained the gentle slopes and dived onto the black diamond runs and ungrooved mountainsides. To avoid embarrassment, and out of vanity, I had to follow and try to keep up.

When we moved back to Oregon, Jan and I agreed to alternate ski vacations (her preference) with warm water vacations (my preference). However, I had developed a secret weapon. Our kids were growing older. I would ask them, "Which would you rather do, go skiing in the cold, icy mountains, or go play on a sunny beach with warm water?" I still feel a bit guilty that we spent many more vacations on warm beaches.

Because I could earn more money, and because she could spend more time as a loving and involved mother, we mostly moved where my work took us. Together, we lived in Hillsboro, Denver, Tigard, Hillsboro (again), Spokane, Salt Lake City and Coos Bay (I'm probably forgetting a place or two) before finally settling in the Applegate 25 years ago. We had checked many places for good schools, good climate, and a good living environment, and the Applegate rose to the top of our choices. We never regretted our decision.

At times, Jan was able to accompany me in my work. A couple of the companies I worked for paid her travel expenses, figuring they were getting a second geologist for free. At times, she had her own work. She worked in Portland for a foundation engineering company

that had her traveling to exotic places like New York City's underground sewers (pre-functional). In Salt Lake City, she became the state's nuclear waste repository expert. She was assigned the task of keeping the repository out of Utah.

Wherever we were, Jan was always involved in her community, and the Applegate was no exception. As our young children entered Ruch School, she volunteered as a classroom assistant, and volunteered us for numerous school-related tasks. She joined the PTO, served for a time as PTO president, and accomplished playground expansions and additions.

When she read of plans for very extensive clear-cutting of Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands in our area, she recognized the potentially harmful consequences. She understood that while clear-cutting may be effective in wetter, cloudier forests to the

north, with our dry, sunny conditions, thin soils and steep slopes, selective logging was more effective and much less damaging. She approached the agencies and got to know the key decision-makers. She met with representatives of groups on all sides of the clear-cutting issue. She recognized the need for a much better dialogue between the various agencies and interest groups, including those opposed to logging and those in favor. She also recognized



Jan Perttu 1950 - 2012

that a confrontational approach to the controlling agencies would not be nearly as effective as an educational approach backed by strong community support. She printed and distributed pamphlets, and organized and held countless meetings in an ultimately successful attempt to modify the planned logging, and helped to include community

input and science into forest-management decisions.

In the course of her meetings and discussions, she became aware of other groups and individuals concerned over the same issues. In her meetings with these various factions, she became a key founder of the Applegate Partnership, which strived to form a middle ground between the various interests and a broader forum where all the diverse ideas could be heard in a tolerant environment. The Applegate Watershed Council was formed as the working organization associated

with the Partnership. She became the first Applegate Watershed coordinator, a position she held for nine years. She helped raise substantial funding for a wide variety of watershed projects, and at one point managed the efforts of a dozen employees, several of them professionals. One of the projects she helped start was the *Applegater* newspaper—not only as a means of sharing information important to watershed residents but also to help build

a feeling of community.

The Partnership, largely because of the work of the Watershed Council, gained national recognition for its efforts, including visits by national political figures, and was used as a role model for many other watersheds nationally and even internationally. Jan received recognition and awards for her leadership. One she was fond of was the 1998 Salmon Enhancement Award from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. I suspect she especially liked it because it was engraved on an interesting piece of slate, which seemed fitting for a geologist. In the Applegate, my name was "Jan's husband," that strange guy she allowed to follow her around.

Soon after we moved to the Applegate, Jan's mother followed, buying a farm three miles downstream of us. When Jan's mother developed Alzheimer's, Jan, with periodic help from her sister, and with my support, helped her mother through some difficult declining years with the disease. When her mother died, doctors reassured Jan that she had a low chance (statistically about 20 percent) of coming down with the disease. We agreed that in many ways it was worse than cancer, and she expressed her horror at the thought of contracting the illness.

Eight years ago, we received the confirmation of Jan's worst fears. I admired her strength in facing the future with humor and resolution. During the years of the disease's progression, she remained strong and kept her sense of humor to the end. I will always love her for those qualities, which I'm unsure if I would be able to maintain if facing the same situation. She will be fondly remembered by those of us who knew her. Others, who never met her, will nevertheless see an Applegate Valley today that is different and better than it would have been without her.

Rauno Perttu
541-899-8036
jrperttu@charter.net

In the Applegate, my name was "Jan's husband," that strange guy...

Long-time forest service hotshot Hugh Leslie dies

The Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest are deeply saddened by the loss of former forest service employee Hugh Leslie. Hugh started his career as a hotshot (specially trained wildlands firefighter) at Star Gulch in the Applegate Valley in the mid 60s. In addition to his firefighting duties, he spent his entire career as a timber sale administrator for the Star Ranger District. Hugh was a close friend to a number of forest service employees and retirees and he will be missed by all.

At the time of his death, he was picking up a radio and keys to volunteer at the historic Dutchman Lookout, something he was very excited about.

Hugh is survived by his wife, Kay

(also a former forest service employee); son Ross Leslie (wife Tracie, three children) of Rogue River; daughter Tricia Deller (husband John, one child) of Jacksonville; stepson Steve Straube (wife Donna) of Upper Applegate; stepdaughter Sue Snavelly (husband Cliff Snavelly, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District employee) of Applegate; stepdaughter Debbie McGuire (Medford District Bureau of Land Management employee, husband Del) of Ruch; and stepdaughter Audra Feedback (husband Mark) of Redding, California.

Virginia Gibbons
541-618-2113
Public Affairs &
Partnerships Staff Officer
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest



Hugh Leslie, retired firefighter and timber sales administrator for Star Ranger District. Photo courtesy of Barb Mumblo.

Excerpt from Jim Labbe tribute to Jan Perttu

Jan was someone with an inherent sense of her own significance and ability to make positive change in the world. Yet she simultaneously embodied the C.S. Lewis definition of humility, a state of "not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less."

Read the complete
tribute online at
www.applegater.org.


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Tributes to Jan Perttu

A quiet warrior passes

She was indeed quiet, but sometimes she was not. Both times you had better be on your toes or the woman would run right past you—or over you if need be. She was a warrior in spirit for the Applegate, which for her was a perfect representation of everything good that Oregon had to offer. She was a passionate believer in taking action not only to protect this place in all its natural glory, but also to do things to make it better. This was Jan Perttu.

I first met Jan back in the early days of the formation of the Applegate Partnership and admired her incisive logic and fiery nature during the countless hours of political wrangling it took to launch that concept and organization. Then along came Governor (first-term) Kitzhaber and a plan that was, at that time, called the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board (GWEB). This concept was to collect all state agencies into a review process for watershed enhancement projects. It was the birth of the Oregon Watershed Health Program and the organization of the first watershed councils. And here is where the warrior found a great purpose and voice. The Applegate River Watershed Council (ARWC) chose Jan as the coordinator and she immersed herself in the work.

One of the things Jan and I shared was a love for Alpine ski racing. Both of us had an ability to launch from a starting gate completely focused on nothing else but to fly down that course undaunted by any fear or frustration. Jan took that warrior passion for success and applied it to leading the effort to protect and enhance the watersheds of the Applegate. Her spirit inspired me to do the best I could to bring watershed projects to fruition.

ARWC quickly gained model status for the state. The key to that recognition for excellence was our "quiet" warrior Jan. When struggling councils needed a shining example of excellence, they looked to the Applegate. By the end of our first year, we had implemented 186 individual riparian tree-planting projects to shade and protect our Applegate streams, despite the fact it was considered an unachievable goal to plant even one project site in the first year. Just a first effort for Jan! Her work for the council and the Applegate had just begun.

Today some of those trees stand nearly 40 feet high along the waterways. Jan's mark upon the Applegate will live long after her passing.

Daryl Jackson
daryljackson22@gmail.com

Remembering a dear friend of the Applegate

On June 25, 2012, when Jan Perttu passed away, the Applegate lost a dear friend and environmental advocate.

In 1992, Jan was one of eight founding Board members of the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council. Because of Jan's extensive geology training, she was the logical candidate to become our first paid council coordinator.

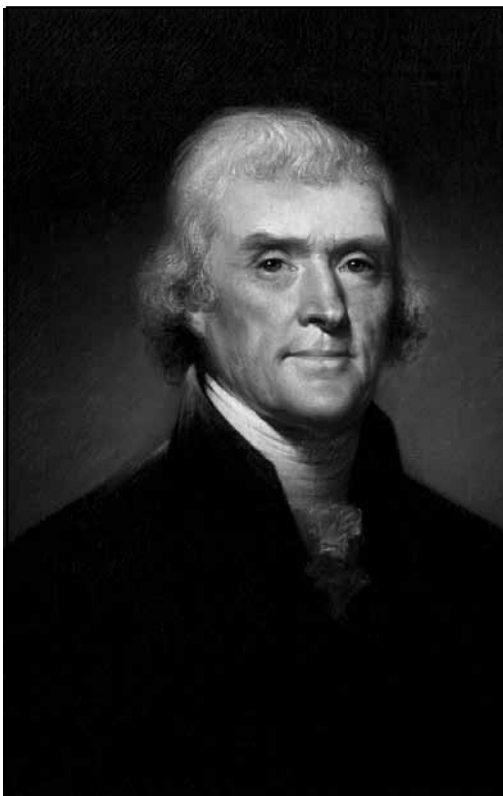
Jan shepherded our first major funding program that resulted in many ecologically significant restoration projects within the Applegate watershed. Ecological assessments were made of every sub-watershed within the Applegate during Jan's leadership. Jan was a bridge builder who shaped and guided the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council into a model for others to follow throughout the country.

Prior to the founding of the Applegate Partnership, Jan ramrodded a group called the Applegate Watershed Conservancy. Jan spent many sleepless nights writing responses to environmental assessments in an attempt to change and/or improve on federal forestland projects proposed within the Applegate Valley. Because of Jan and other active volunteers, we can say with pride that there have not been any clear-cuts on public lands in the Applegate for almost 15 years. The groundwork had been set for federal agencies to eventually progress into ecological forestry, which we are now beginning to experience with the Bureau of Land Management Pilot Joe and Pilot Thompson projects.

Jan will be missed by family and friends, but the Applegate Watershed that she dearly loved will particularly miss her educated, concerned, informed and smiling leadership.

Jack Shipley
Secretary and founding Board member
Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council
541-846-6917
rockycreekfarms@apbb.net

For more tributes to Jan Perttu, see "Tall Tales from the Editor," page 18, and "Remembering Jan Perttu's leadership" by Jim Labbe, online at www.applegater.org.



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Large wood in the creek

Love it and leave it

BY ELIZABETH MURPHY

In January, the National Marine Fisheries Service released its draft of the Southern Oregon Northern California Coho Recovery Plan (<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/recovery/>). This document addressed the status of coho salmon in the Middle Rogue/Applegate Rivers and detailed limitations and threats to recovery. According to the assessment, coho in this part of the Rogue basin are at high risk of extinction. As detailed by the plan, the Applegate Valley, though limited by some steep gradient and mountainous terrain, does contain many important coho tributaries, which have high value and high potential for fish habitat recovery. Tributaries listed include Slate, Cheney, Murphy, Thompson, Beaver, and Williams creeks.

Nonetheless, these important fish-bearing streams are threatened by limited fish-habitat conditions, such as low flow, increased temperature, limited shade from riparian trees lining the creek, altered sediment supply and limited floodplain and channel complexity and connectivity, to name a few. One important factor in these limitations is the absence of large wood along many miles of these tributaries.

Large wood in the creek has important hydrological and ecological functions. It slows water, creates deep pools, stabilizes banks, contributes nutrients to the stream, and provides important habitat for coho and other fish species. In addition, contrary to popular belief, large wood in the creek and on the floodplain can actually reduce the severity of flood events.

The presence of large wood and root wads causes scouring of pools, important for holding fish, and deposition of gravel beds, which are vital for spawning. Additionally, the shade and cover offered by wood and root wads in the creek provide cooler summer water temperatures and protection from predators. For these reasons, large wood is vital to promoting, protecting, and restoring salmon in the Applegate Valley. Looking at the stream from a fish-eye view offers an amazing perspective on the depleted habitat and food resources of a seemingly beautiful stream. A little large wood can go a long way.

Because of these ecological benefits, public and private stream restoration projects have placed large wood in streams across much of Oregon. In the Applegate Valley, the Williams Creek Watershed Council has implemented many of these projects along Williams Creek and its tributaries over the last decade. Hundreds of donated standing dead and hazard trees have been placed within the waters of the creeks in the Williams Creek watershed for habitat improvements and bank stabilization. Numerous other Applegate Valley landowners have used large wood as a bioengineering tool for bank stabilization. In contrast to using hardened boulders or concrete to address bank erosion, large wood provides added habitat benefits for fish, such as reduced flood severity due to increased channel roughness.

So what can you do to promote fish habitat in Applegate Valley tributaries?

For starters, leave it! If wood falls

in the creek, don't remove it without a good reason. It might look messy at first, but after realizing all the benefits it holds, these fallen logs become more and more appealing. If

you need technical assistance or advice, call the watershed council to come take a look.

Enhance riparian areas to provide the potential for large-wood recruitment in the future. One reason for the absence of large wood is the removal of conifers from riparian forests in agricultural and urban areas. Replanting these species not only provides the important water-cooling benefits of streamside shade vital to improving fish habitat, but also offers wood for the next generation of fallen logs. Contact the Applegate Watershed Council for more information about its ongoing riparian restoration program.

Add it! If you don't see a stick of large wood in the creek that runs through your property, consider getting involved in restoration. If you have a bank stabilization project, consider using wood instead of hardened materials like rock or concrete. The Williams Creek and Applegate River Watershed Councils offer the resources to assess the benefits of specific large-wood projects and to make these projects a reality when appropriate.

Finally, learn more about the steps you can take to improve fish habitat



A large-wood installation on the west fork of Williams Creek. Photo by Chas Rogers.

across the Applegate Valley. The Williams Creek and Applegate Valley Watershed Councils will be offering a large-wood information session and field tour in November, highlighting the successful work of the Williams Creek Watershed Council over the last decade. We will hold an informative presentation about instream large-wood projects on Friday, November 2, from 6 - 8 pm (location to be announced) and a field tour of Williams Creek projects on Sunday, November 4, from 1 - 4:30 pm.

To learn more about large-wood projects in your area, receive technical assistance, assess the habitat conditions of your stream, or attend the large-wood workshops, please contact Ea Murphy, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council riparian program manager, at riparianprogram@arwc.org or 541-890-8458.

Elizabeth "Ea" Murphy
Riparian Program Manager
Applegate Partnership and
Watershed Council
Riparianprogram@arwc.org
541-899-9982

Propagating, planting and partnering

Seventeen years of riparian restoration in the Applegate

BY JANELLE DUNLEVY AND ELIZABETH MURPHY

Since 1994, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) has worked with hundreds of landowners to restore degraded streamside riparian areas across the valley. Since its formation, many people have dedicated their time, knowledge and hard work to develop APWC's programs across the Applegate Watershed. The late Jan Perttu was one of those dedicated individuals, as several writers so eloquently attest to in this *Applegater* issue.

Over the last 18 years, with funding and partnerships from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), nonprofit organizations, and federal agencies, hundreds of thousands of native trees and shrubs have been planted along more than 80 stream miles. Enhanced riparian conditions through these efforts have improved fish habitat, water quality, bank stability, non-point source pollution, and the esthetic appeal of waterways throughout the valley.

Throughout the last decade, the late Tim Franklin was instrumental in ensuring the success of the Watershed Council's Riparian Restoration Program. As an Applegate Valley resident and farmer, he cared deeply about the environmental quality of the Applegate Watershed and dedicated himself to improving native plant communities, water quality, and fish habitat. At Yale Creek Ranch, Tim endeavored to demonstrate through his own management style that ranching does not have to have negative environmental impacts. In addition to serving as



Annual volunteer work party at Provolt Seed Orchard, March 2012.

the riparian program manager, Tim participated in numerous restoration projects including road improvements, fish passage enhancement, water quality monitoring, and youth education programs. He also initiated and administered the Salmon-Safe certification in the Applegate Valley. Tim's training as a watershed scientist was invaluable to the watershed-wide monitoring and assessment efforts completed by APWC over the last decade. His high regard and good relations in the community strengthened partnerships with landowners and high levels of participation in the Riparian Restoration Program. Tim Franklin, who tragically passed away last October, will be greatly missed by all. His efforts to restore and protect the Applegate River Watershed

will not be easily forgotten. The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council extend its deepest thanks to Tim Franklin and his family for his selfless work in the Applegate over the years.

The Riparian Restoration Program continues the efforts of Jan Perttu, Tim Franklin and other former program managers in 2011-2013 with support from OWEB. Watershed-wide restoration activities include projects on Yale Creek, Quartz Gulch, the Little Applegate River, Forest Creek, Humbug Creek, Williams Creek, and Cheney Creek. Many of the targeted projects are on streams listed as water-quality limited by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and streams that have high potential for fish habitat enhancement. In the 2012-2013 season, additional planting stock and technical assistance will be available to landowners interested in improving riparian conditions. In 2012-2013, the watershed council will also implement targeted restoration efforts along a two-mile contiguous stretch of Thompson Creek with support from Blue Sky Habitat Funds. This work along a significant portion of the creek will go a long way to improving fish habitat conditions in future generations. The watershed council recently hired a new riparian restoration program manager, Elizabeth (Ea) Murphy, to continue these efforts. Ea has worked on restoration projects in southern Oregon for over a decade and holds an MSc in soils and biogeochemistry.

The success of the Applegate

Riparian Restoration Program over the years is also indebted to the volunteer plant propagation crew, formerly led by Applegate resident Hal Macy. According to Tami Jebb, horticulturalist at Sprague Seed Orchard, the Applegate plant propagation program was a model of rural communities taking part in restoration. From 2004 to 2010, the volunteer crew collected seeds and worked with Tami Jebb to grow and maintain thousands of Applegate Valley native plants for use in the Riparian Restoration Program. These efforts amounted to thousands of dollars in savings and allowed the Riparian Restoration Program to considerably expand its planting efforts. At the same time, it offered skills training for Applegate Valley residents in plant propagation techniques and tools. The Riparian Restoration program is currently looking for new volunteers to continue the successful work of the plant propagation program. The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council will host a plant propagation workshop on Friday, September 14, from 1 - 4:30 pm at the Applegate Library for those interested in learning more about propagating native Applegate Valley plants from seed.

For more information about Applegate riparian restoration, native plant propagation, resources available for Applegate Valley residents, or volunteer opportunities with APWC, please contact Ea Murphy at riparianprogram@arwc.org or 541-890-8458.

Janelle Dunlevy
APWC Coordinator
Elizabeth "Ea" Murphy
APWC Riparian Program Manager
541-899-9982
coordinator@arwc.org

Sanctuary One: A volunteer's story

BY DELLA MERRILL

Sanctuary One is a care farm in the Applegate Valley. We now care for more than 100 farm and domestic animals. We also have gardens to tend, pastures to irrigate, and all the other responsibilities that go into caring for a 55-acre farm. How do we do this with a staff of just four? Hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours make this project successful. Without their help, dedication and support, we could not possibly do what we do. I asked one of our volunteers, Debra, what inspires her to help, to drive an hour each way, every week, to volunteer at Sanctuary One. Below is her story.

Debra's story

I believe in the interconnectedness of all things. Volunteering at Sanctuary One is one place that I can see this working out in a very real, tangible way. Connecting with animals, the earth and other humans to create a healing space is one of the most profound experiences I've been witness to. Healing and transformation happens all the time there.

I started volunteering after I had a severe relapse with a health condition and being around people was too draining for me. I was in a very discouraged place. I didn't have a lot of energy, but I felt that by working with animals, I might be able to speed up my own healing, as well as help others in some small way.

One of my goals was to work with the sanctuary horses, since I've never had much exposure to them except for occasional horseback rides. I wanted to learn about who they really are, find out how to communicate with them, develop a relationship with them, and to get over my fear of being in their presence. I also thought this might help me get over some

of the fears I was experiencing regarding my own illness.

I have benefited greatly from this opportunity. My physical health is much stronger, and I feel I can still contribute to the world. The silence of nature, punctuated by the various sounds and antics of the animals, has been very healing. Seeing abused or injured animals begin to relax, learn to trust, and play again with the love and gentle care of others is beyond words.

Every time I go to Sanctuary One, some wonderful little miracle happens. One of my favorite moments was when I went to the big pasture to find one of the mares, Crissy, to groom her. Instead, Calli, who I had only worked with once before and who was usually quite standoffish, came right up to me, allowed me to halter her, groom her, and play a few natural horsemanship games. I then took the halter off, and instead of Calli romping off to find her horse buddy Rogue, she stayed right next to me and followed me around the pasture for a good while. For some reason, Calli and I bonded for those moments, and I will never forget it.

We currently have two full-time volunteer internships opening up in the fall. We also have an ongoing need for volunteers willing to help out once a week or more. Please call general manager Della Merrill at 541-899-8627 or email info@sanctuaryone.org if you are interested and/or would like more information.

Della Merrill
541-899-8627
General Manager
Sanctuary One
info@sanctuaryone.org



Sanctuary One volunteers bathing Junior (photo, top right), exercising dogs (photo, middle right), and planting raspberries (photo, bottom right).

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BIRDMAN

Summer visitors move on

BY TED A. GLOVER

As the fall season arrives, birds are on the move again. Many birds have left already, especially the beautiful rufous hummingbirds, and others will follow soon, including the Western tanager, the black-headed grosbeak, most of the swallows, the strikingly handsome lazuli bunting, most of the wood warblers, and almost all of the flycatchers, including the ash-throated flycatcher.

We have seen, or mostly heard, the crested species of the tyrant flycatcher family around our house all summer. The

ash-throated flycatcher is a mostly brown bird above with a whitish-gray throat and chest and very pale yellow on his belly. While they dwell mostly along forest edges or in open habitats, they can be spotted as they fly from their perch to catch any flying insect. But what we recognize first is their unusual call, which reminds us of a police whistle!

This summer we had most of the woodpeckers that inhabit our area right in our own yard, visiting our sunflower feeders and helping themselves to our

supply of suet. (Interestingly, woodpeckers do not rely solely on insects they find on trees, they also catch flies and eat fruits and seeds.) We had a chance to watch some of the newborns as well. The most common woodpecker in this area is the acorn woodpecker with its clear black back and vibrant red on its crown. It also has a white forehead and cheek, with a hint of yellow on its throat, giving it a somewhat clownish look. In fact, it's very vocal and its loud call seems almost like it is laughing. Of course, its favorite food is the acorn and it can be seen and heard drilling holes in trees, utility poles and even structures to store the acorns and other nuts for later use. We were visited regularly by a family

of hairy woodpeckers along with their smaller cousins, the downy woodpeckers. Both of these woodpeckers have a white patch in the middle of their back and unmarked whitish flanks.

The woodpeckers are year-round residents in our area—watch for them as they climb trees using their sharp bills to hammer and chisel beneath the bark for various bugs.

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681
tedglover9@gmail.com



Ted A. Glover



Photos clockwise: **Western tanager**, a medium-sized American songbird, was formerly placed in the tanager family, but it and other members of this genus are now classified in the cardinal family (Gary Kramer, fws.org); **black-headed grosbeak** (Dave Menke, fws.org); **lazuli buntings**, named after the gemstone lapis lazuli, migrate to southeastern Arizona and Mexico (fws.org); **ash-throated flycatcher** (Gary Kramer, fws.org); **downy woodpecker**, the smallest of North America's woodpeckers (David Brezinski, fws.org); **acorn woodpecker** (Gary Kramer, fws.org).

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Fourth annual AAUW fall garden tour

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Medford will hold its fourth annual fall garden tour, "Garden Inspirations," from 11 am to 4 pm, Sunday, September 16. The tour includes six gardens varying in size and type from small lots to large estates. Visitors will see water-wise, deer-resistant, and low-maintenance gardens; water features including fountains and koi ponds; vegetables, herbs, perennials, and aquatic plants; woodland and view settings, greenhouses and birdhouses; and much more. One of the gardens is actually multiple gardens in the Rogue Valley Manor (RVM) Resident Garden Area off Mira Mar Avenue.

Garden tour signs at RVM will direct you there. Tickets and maps to the gardens will be available at RVM and at all the gardens the day of the tour. Proceeds will fund local scholarships for women and girls. Cost is \$12 per person, free for children. Advance tickets are available at all Grange Co-ops and Wild Birds Unlimited. For more information and maps, go to <http://www.aauwmedford.org> or call Barbara Basden at 541-772-0579 or 541-499-8586.

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Notes from a Rogue entomologist

The sting of summer: Yellow jackets and paper wasps

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

There is nothing like having a large black and yellow insect buzz by at eye level to get one's attention. I am not talking about a warm and fuzzy bumblebee, but a cold and steely yellow jacket, one of the banes of summer. That combination of black and yellow is a signal that we readily recognize, informing us that this insect is capable of inflicting a painful sting to defend itself or its nest. Yellow jackets are members of a group of stinging insects known as the social wasps or vespids. One sting is more than sufficient to instill a measure of respect for these insects, and for the one or two people in a thousand who are severely allergic to the venom, one sting can be a potentially life-threatening event.

Entomologists have tried to quantify the pain inflicted by various insect stings. The Schmidt Sting Pain Index is a 5-point pain scale, numbered from 0 to 4. The sting from a honeybee, yellow jacket, and bald-faced hornet all rate a 2, which is classified as simply painful. The paper wasp sting rates a 3, or very painful. The rating of 4, extremely or excruciatingly painful, is reserved for the likes of the tarantula hawk or the bullet ant, neither of which, luckily, are inhabitants of southern Oregon. Of course, pain is a subjective response and there is good evidence that one's pain tolerance is to a significant degree genetically determined. So if you have a low pain tolerance, it is not that you lack courage or fortitude, you were most likely born that way.

The social wasps that we contend with locally are several species of yellow jackets, including the bald-faced hornet and a number of paper wasps. Most of these insects are beneficial in that they are predators and consume a variety of other insects and spiders. When encountered away from their nest, they do not usually sting except when harassed. In our region, yellow jackets are generally ground nesters, using an abandoned burrow in which to build their nest, although they may occasionally use a wall void or similar cavity. Bald-faced hornets, although technically yellow jackets, are black

and white and build their nests above ground, usually in shrubs. This is a large football-shaped nest with an entry hole at the bottom that is often mistakenly depicted in children's books as a honeybee hive. Paper wasps are most familiar as the wasps that build their relatively small nests under eaves. Paper wasps are rather inappropriately named since all the social wasps build their nests using paper, i.e., masticated plant material. In fact, while the yellow jacket and bald-faced hornet nests are encased in paper, the nests of the paper wasps are open and you can see the cells of the nest from below. One entomologist tried to introduce the name "umbrella wasp," which describes their open nest, but old habits die hard.

According to the aforementioned Schmidt scale and other sources (including my wife, who recently had an unfortunate encounter with some paper wasps in the pump house), the paper wasp sting is more painful than a yellow jacket or bald-faced hornet, but the good news is that paper wasps are generally nonaggressive and sting only when their nest is actively threatened. (Note: Always check the pump house for paper wasp nests). As is often the case, if you leave them alone, they will leave you alone. However, yellow jackets and bald-faced hornets tend to be more aggressive in protecting their nests, and that is usually when people get stung.

All these wasp nests are used only for a single year and are started by a queen in the spring, so the nests start out very small and increase in size over the summer. By the end of summer, the nests of some species, such as the western yellow jacket and the bald-faced hornet, may have gotten very large, so there can be a lot of workers around and they will defend the nest vigorously. In late summer it is not uncommon to walk by a yellow jacket ground nest unawares and suddenly find yourself under attack. Plus, the stinger of social wasps, unlike a honeybee, is not barbed, allowing them to sting repeatedly. The western yellow jacket (*Vespula*

pennsylvanica) is by far the worst offender in our area. This species has adapted to become a scavenger, particularly late in the summer, and this is the yellow jacket that is commonly a nuisance at picnics and barbecues. Since it is a scavenger, it is generally able to find ample food through the summer, and the nests continue to grow so that you can eventually have thousands of individuals in a single nest.

As these social wasps do sting and can be a nuisance, the question of how best to control them is a common one, but do not forget that these insects are primarily predators and are beneficial. Avoidance is always the first option, but trapping and nest elimination may be needed in some cases. Trapping the yellow jacket queens in the spring may be helpful in reducing the number of nests in an area, and trapping in the summer to reduce the overall number of yellow jackets may be of some benefit, especially in areas that get a lot of recreational use. As for nest elimination, this is done most easily for paper wasps and bald-faced hornets, whose nests are usually visible and accessible. However, since paper wasps are not very aggressive, their nests should be left alone unless they are in an area where they are likely to be disturbed (such as a pump house). As for ground nests, they are often discovered late in the summer when the nest is large. If avoidance is not possible, it is generally advisable to consult a professional, since spraying nests, particularly ground nests, can be both tricky and risky.

Richard Hilton • 541-772-5165
Senior Research Assistant/
Entomologist
Oregon State University
Southern Oregon Research
and Extension Center
richard.hilton@oregonstate.edu



Photos, top to bottom: paper wasp; nest of paper wasp; yellow jacket; bald-faced hornet; and nest of bald-faced hornet. Photo credits, top to bottom: www.sutter-yubamvcd.org; www.lawestvector.org; www.beneficialbugs.org; www.indianahoney.com; www.sierrapotomac.org.

I am not talking about a warm and fuzzy bumblebee, but a cold and steely yellow jacket...



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JACKSON COUNTY

Library Services

Applegate Library

Our summer was full of interesting programs:

In May, Barbara Mumblo from the forest service's Star Ranger Station came to the library to discuss invasive plant species. She was informative and gave a great discussion on how to control these species and keep them from invading our gardens and property.

In June, artist Mary Kelly showed children how to make dream catchers and discussed a variety of Native American legends. Some beautiful dream catchers were made. Also in June, the Basic III computer class was offered at the library. Check the library schedule for future classes and locations.

In July, storyteller Mark Ropers arrived for the children's summer reading program.

On August 4, Pacifica brought an animal science program to the library for ages 3-12.

Summer reading continued until August 4. Awards included a countywide drawing for a dinner gift card for two adults; a library drawing for a Kindle Touch e-book for teens; and a Barnes and Noble gift certificate for children from our Friends of the Library.

The library is now alive with programs and plans for the fall and winter months. Keep an eye out for the fall programs, which will be posted in the library.

We are always looking for new library members. If you would like to join Friends of the Library or renew your membership, stop by the library, give them your e-mail address and pay your membership fee of \$15. Every little bit helps continue the activities at our library.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

Ruch Library

Ruch Library has had an exciting summer. Seventy-six children participated in the Summer Reading Program, attending programs, reading books, and learning about the night sky, which was the theme for this year. Our programs were enthusiastically attended. The Planetarium, brought to us by ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum in Ashland, was a huge success, as was Steampunk Jewelry with Janis Mohr-Tipton.

Two levels of free computer classes will be offered at the Ruch Library this fall. Computer Basics II covers word processing, digital photo processing, file management, and graphic design and review. The four classes run from September 20 to October 11 on Thursdays from 1 to 3 pm.

Computer Basics III classes are October 25 - November 15, also Thursdays from 1 to 3 pm. These classes cover advanced word processing, spreadsheets, computer management and Internet services. Please stop by or call 541-899-7438 to register for a class.

Stop by the library to see the amazing miniatures from the Southern Oregon Miniaturists, which will be on display through September 18. Following that, we will have a canning display—just in time for the fall canning season. We also have an abundant crop of food preservation books, well worth perusing to discover the new methods for dealing with lower-acid vegetables.

See you at the library!
Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-7438
Branch Manager

New offices for Jacksonville attorney

Alissa M. Weaver is a long-time resident of the Applegate Valley. After graduation from Willamette University College of Law, she began practicing law in Jackson County in 1996 at the Center for Nonprofit Legal Services, where she specialized in consumer law and landlord/tenant issues. She then joined Southern Oregon Public Defenders specializing in juvenile law before deciding to open a practice in Jacksonville last year. Her present practice focuses on estate planning and probate, including the preparation of wills and trusts and advising clients in elder law issues.



Alissa Weaver, Jacksonville attorney specializing in estate planning.

Alissa has been a member of the Oregon State Bar since 1996, serving on the executive committee of the animal law section of the Oregon State Bar. Community service is a priority for Alissa and she serves on the advisory committee of the Walker Fund through the Oregon Community Foundation, and is the treasurer for her son's Boy Scout troop. In her limited spare time, Alissa continues to pursue her passion for music by singing in her church choir at St. Joseph's in Jacksonville, and writing music that she performs with her daughter.

Her new office is located at 933 B North Fifth Street in Jacksonville, right behind Pioneer Village and next door to the Jacksonville Veterinary Clinic. Notary services are available by appointment. For more information, please call 541-890-0147.

Thank you from Friends of Ruch Library

A hearty "Thank You" to all the businesses and individuals who support our "Sponsor-A-Saturday" campaign. Thanks to your donor support, we have funded 15 Saturdays in 2012. For only \$250, you can join this generous group and see your name on our new trailer sign/reader board behind Ramsay Realty if you wish. For more information on Friends of Ruch Library, call Tina Drake at 541-702-2152 or email her at smartina@charter.net.

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Great gardens start with Winter Dreams

BY MARCUS SMITH

Mark your calendar: Next summer begins in November!

Make plans today to attend the Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Symposium sponsored by the Jackson County Master Gardener Association on November 3, 2012. Now in its 14th season, this daylong event brings the region's leading gardening authorities together for a lively exploration of topics and issues that challenge gardeners throughout the Applegate Valley.

For many area gardeners, Winter Dreams is the most eagerly anticipated educational experience of the year—a meeting of the minds with offerings for gardeners at any level of expertise. In addition to learning from scholars, researchers and renowned practitioners, the symposium is a great opportunity to rub shoulders and swap ideas with fellow gardeners.

You'll be immersed in a learning environment where science-based practices and state-of-the-art thinking are seasoned with generous doses of local garden lore and priceless hands-on experience.

Enrollment includes your choice of four 90-minute classroom sessions plus a catered gourmet lunch where you can chat informally with the experts and other local gardeners.

It's as easy as it is rewarding: Just choose the topics of interest to you. Then reserve your spot by calling 541-776-7371. Or email robert.reynolds@oregonstate.edu.

Summer Dreams takes place at the RCC-SOU Higher Education Center in downtown Medford and parking during the event is free. For detailed class descriptions, visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/mg>.

Marcus Smith • 541-776-7371

Master Gardener Press Liaison, OSU Extension Service Office

Class Listing for the 2012 Winter Dreams Symposium

The class list is subject to revision. For an updated class list and detailed class descriptions, visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/mg>.

- Pretty as a Picture: Garden Photography
- Introduction to Irrigation System Design
- Attracting Birds to your Garden
- Residential Landscape Design from Concept to Implementation
- The Wonders of Pollination
- Color in the Ornamental Garden
- The Wide World of Orchids
- Seed-Saving Techniques
- Enjoy Food from your Garden and Local Sources Year-round
- Preserve your Own Lawns and Ground Cover
- Hardscape: Design and Build
- Composting for Small Gardens
- Landscaping with Native Plants
- Growing Roses in the Rogue Valley
- Vegetables: Easy and Delicious!
- From Romaine to Radicchio and Beyond: Growing Fall and Winter Harvests
- Mediterranean Gardens
- Home Greenhouse Gardens
- A Bee-autiful Garden: The Fascinating History of Humans, Bees, Flowers and Food
- Square-Foot Gardening
- Year-Round Flowers
- Choosing and Caring for Fruit Trees in the Valley
- The Care and Pruning of Wisteria
- How to Identify Woody Landscape Plants
- Natural Form Shrub Pruning, Getting away from Gumdrops
- Preventing and/or Treating Gardening Aches and Pains
- Carnivorous Plants
- Grow Great Blueberries
- Tools: The Cutting Edge

What:

The 14th Annual Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Symposium

When:

Saturday, November 3, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Where:

RCC/SOU Higher Education Center
101 South Bartlett Street, Medford

Cost:

\$40 fee includes four 90-minute sessions—plus lunch.
Downtown Medford parking is FREE.



Highlights of the 2012 Winter Dreams Symposium

In addition to popular favorites such as vegetables, perennials, roses, trees, birds and bees, you can also stay current on these timely topics:

A Future Rogue Climate: Master Gardening for the Change

Alan Journet, a professional ecologist and conservation biologist, addresses the threat to our natural systems posed by current climate disruptions and how we can mitigate the inevitable.

The Science of GMO

Gail Langellotto, PhD, explains the current science as well as popular misconceptions around this hot-button issue. She studies ecological relationships as a geneticist at OSU's Department of Horticulture.

A Year in the Life of a Locavore

Master Gardener Jane Moyer shares her personal quest to "eat local." Her monthly diary is a practical, humorous, firsthand look at the limits and possibilities of regional food sourcing.

To Till or Not to Till?

That is the question addressed by Stan Mapolski (aka "The Rogue Gardener"). Stan's Saturday call-in show is heard weekly on KMED 1440 from 9 - 10 am.

Gardening with Children (Parts I, II and III)

Susan Muller, Tracy Harding and Rebecca Slosberg share projects and ideas about keeping our families involved—and our futures green—one happy child at a time.

Composting and Soil Amendments (Basic & Advanced)

Biodynamic composter Denny Morelli shows how to transform ordinary garden trimmings into rich, custom-blended soils. The fine art of alchemy is alive and well.

Is Your Thumb Blue? Water Efficiency Starts with You!

Julie Smitherman, water conservation specialist for the City of Ashland, discusses conservation, garden planning and the potential for using gray water for home gardens.

Plants that Can Hurt You

Medford dermatologist Jeri Mendelsen, noted authority on travel medicine, discusses the dangers of toxic plants and what to do in case of a plant emergency.

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Thin for quality and health, not spacing

BY MAX BENNETT AND STEPHEN FITZGERALD

Your chainsaw is revved up and you're about to sink the bar into a nearby Douglas fir sapling. But which one? You're surrounded by hundreds of them—some smaller, some larger, all pretty close together, but not uniformly spaced. There are some madrone trees, too, and cedar, and a few spindly pine. You heard somewhere that trees should be 10 feet or 12 feet apart...or was it 15 feet? You can't quite remember. What to do?

Many landowners ask about proper or optimum spacing when thinning trees. We'd suggest not getting too hung up initially on spacing, but instead focus on tree quality and health (vigor). If you leave primarily high-quality trees and take out mostly low-quality trees, it's hard to go wrong. You're likely to have a healthier, more vigorous, more fire-resistant, and more valuable stand in the long run.

Is spacing between trees unimportant? Not at all. Trees need adequate growing space to thrive. However, rigidly adhering to exact spacing (e.g., 14 feet x 14 feet) may lead you to cut trees that should be left and to leave trees that should be cut. This is especially true in natural stands where spacing between trees is highly variable. In plantations where spacing between trees is more regular, using predetermined

spacing or stand density rules makes more sense. Remember that spacing guidelines are just that—they are guidelines and, as such, should remain flexible for leaving the best trees. Also, remember that as trees grow bigger, they progressively need more space, so space trees out wide enough so that they will grow well until the next thinning.

So what makes a high-quality, vigorous tree? Following are some guidelines for "leave" and "cut" trees related to tree quality that you can use to "eyeball" out in the woods. While these points focus on conifer trees, the basic principles also apply to hardwoods.

Characteristics of "leave" trees

- Good live crown ratio (30% or greater)
- Good height growth for species and age
- A-shaped crown (pointy top)
- Abundant foliage with good color
- Good form (straight, without sweeps, crooks, forks, etc.)
- Species is well suited to the site over the long term

Characteristics of "cut" trees

- Poor crown ratio (less than 30%)
- Poor height growth and crown form (flat or rounded top, lopsided)
- Foliage is sparse or off-color

- Poor form or has signs of damage or internal decay
- Species not well suited to the site

Crown ratio

Crown ratio is the percentage of the total height of the tree that is occupied by the live green crown. For example, a tree that is 75 feet tall and has crown on the upper 25 feet of the tree has a live crown ratio of one-third or 33 percent. Crown ratio is important because the bigger the crown (the tree's "food factory"), the better the tree's growth. The rate of growth slows down in most species when the live crown ratio drops below 40 percent. Trees with crown ratios of 30 percent and greater often respond well to release (removal of surrounding competing trees), while trees with crown ratios below 30 percent often respond poorly. These trees may experience thinning shock or sunscald, or grow very slowly. Trees with very small crown ratios may simply die after thinning. This often happens after diameter-limit thinning (removal of all trees above a certain diameter limit) or high grading ("cut the best and leave the rest"). Gradual, light thinnings are recommended for

very dense stands where few, if any, "leave" trees have desirable crown ratios.

Height growth

Height growth can be determined by examining the length of the leader if visible, or on many conifer species (including the true firs, pines, Douglas fir), the length of internodes, which is the distance between branch layers or whorls. Trees with good height growth are preferred as "leave" trees.

Crown shape/form

Pointy-topped or A-shaped crowns indicate rapid height growth. Rounded tops mean height growth has slowed. Good height growth is a sign of good vigor. However, as trees age, height growth slows, and trees tend to develop a round or flat top. Full, symmetrical crowns are preferred over ragged or lopsided crowns. Lopsided crowns develop when a tree is crowded on one or more sides. Trees with lopsided crowns are more vulnerable to blow down or breakage in snow and ice storms.

Crown color/needle density

A dark green color indicates good vigor. Light green or greenish-yellow foliage (chlorotic foliage) is a sign of stress. This may be due to nitrogen deficiency, root disease, bark beetle attacks, or simply moisture stress.

Crown sparseness

A sparse or thinning crown resulting



The tree on the right has a sparse, thinning crown, possibly due to stress, insect attack, or root disease.

Trees on the left have full crowns, indicating relatively better health.

from needle loss is another sign of stress. This can often be best determined by comparing a thin or sparse crown with a denser crown on a nearby tree. An abundant crop of undersized cones (distress crop) is sometimes an indication that the tree is severely stressed and likely to die in the near future.

Tree form

The form of the tree trunk (stem) is an important consideration in thinning. All other things being equal, trees with straight trunks and little taper that are free of defect are most desirable as "leave" trees from a timber perspective. However, trees that are very tall for their diameter, especially conifers, tend to be unstable and easily bent by the wind or snow, so some taper is important. Trees that have forked or broken tops, crooked trunks or evidence of rot and defect may be candidates for removal. However, defective trees may also make good wildlife trees, so aiming

for a balance is important. For example, large deformed black oak trees with broken branches or heart rot are some of the best habitat trees around. Unless they threaten to demolish your house or barn if they topple, consider leaving them alone.

Other considerations

These guidelines touch on a few key indicators of tree quality. You should also be on the lookout for evidence of insect and disease problems, some of which may warrant tree removal regardless of other factors. Tree species should also be considered. Many landowners like to leave a mixture of tree species, both for esthetic reasons and because a mixed-species forest is often thought to be less vulnerable to a pest problem that might devastate a single-species stand (monoculture). That's generally true, but make sure that the species is well suited to your site. For example, hot, dry south-facing slopes in the Applegate are good for pine and oak, but aren't so favorable for Douglas fir.

In a nutshell, these guidelines follow the old adage, "cut the sick, lame, and lazy, and leave the better ones." As you thin for quality, you will probably also be reducing stand density to more desirable levels. It may not be too scientific, but forestry, after all, is a science and an art.

Max Bennett

541-776-7371 x221

Forestry/Natural Resources Agent
Oregon State University
Extension Service

Jackson-Josephine Counties
max.bennett@oregonstate.edu

In a nutshell,
... "cut the sick,
lame, and lazy,
and leave the
better ones."

JACKSON COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

PETS OF THE MONTH



Chloe - #K0772
Chloe has the cutest markings on her face.



Tristan - #K0415
This big boy looks like a chunky tiger dog.



Emily - #K0854
Emily would love to read poems with you.



Bo - #K1112
This pup has the greatest Spaniel ears.



Hazel - #K0473
Hazel is sure to add a little flavor to your life.



Pippa - #K0385
Pippa is an adorable Rat Terrier girl.

For other informative woodland articles

Visit the online E-Newsletter of SW Oregon Woodland News at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/small-woodlands-july-eneews-2012>. Check out the following stories:

- The chain saw circle: Women of the woodlands
- Supreme Court to decide if logging road runoff is pollution
- Environmental groups say it will take 20 years to thin northwest forests
- Forest Capital Partners sells its timber portfolio
- The importance of burls and four other surprises from The Biscuit Fire

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Forest maintenance work leads to questions

BY SANDY SHAFFER

It's been 10 years since my husband and I took advantage of fuel reduction grants and had almost all of our forested property thinned. This spring as I was pruning, mowing, weed whacking and such in preparation for fire season, I noticed that too many of our stands had closed up, and the ladder fuels were plentiful.

Maybe it's because we were short on stacked firewood, or maybe because we haven't had a fire out in this part of the Applegate in a decade, but I realized it was time to do some major thinning! My husband and I feel that protecting our trees from wildfire is just as important as protecting our home.

So out came the blue ribbon to mark trees for removal this fall. Sometimes I found it easy to tag a tree, but much of the time I wasn't sure how to decide between two perfectly healthy trees of different species. I realized that while I've learned a lot about defensible space over the years, when it came to trees and fire, I had more questions than answers! So I called on our local OSU Extension forester, Max Bennett, for some advice on how to decide which types of trees I should cut and which I should leave.

Our 20-acre parcel here in the Applegate is basically a hilltop, so that gives us a 360-degree changing aspect. Consequently, we are lucky to have four conifer species (ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, sugar pine and incense cedar) and three species of hardwoods (Pacific madrone, Oregon white oak and black oak) on our property. It's fun (and challenging) to manage this mix of species, and I like to maintain a good balance for wildlife habitat and stand resilience, as well as for our firewood supply.

My questions for Max mainly revolved around the fire resilience of these seven various tree species. (But first, a quick clarification on the difference between fire resistance and fire resilience, because they do have "practical implications" per Max. "Resistance means the ability to resist change from a disturbance like fire. A ponderosa pine is resistant to fire. Resilience means the ability to return to the original state after the disturbance. Madrone is pretty resilient to fire, but not very resistant." So resistance means surviving a fire, and resilience means being able to bounce back from fire, usually by resprouting.)

So here are my questions, with Max's responses in italics:

Q1: If a ground fire were to come

through my mixed stands, how would these seven species fare with a scorching of the bark?

A1: *Fire kills trees by killing the cambium layer just underneath the bark near the base of the tree, and by killing leaves (needles) and buds. Death can result from either one of these, but usually it's a combination of the two. Trees with thicker bark are more resistant to cambial damage. Trees with larger buds and longer needles are more resistant to crown scorch. Of the trees listed, ponderosa pine is the most fire-resistant. It has thick bark and can survive surface fires at the sapling/pole stage (a few inches in diameter). Its large buds, long needles (which help protect the buds) and elevated crown make it less vulnerable to scorch. Douglas fir is the next most fire-resistant species. When small/young, it is more vulnerable to cambial damage than pine, but old-growth Douglas fir trees have very thick bark and are just as, or perhaps even more, fire-resistant than ponderosa pine. Sugar pine and incense cedar have thinner bark and are more vulnerable to fire than pine and Douglas fir. Of the hardwoods, Oregon white oak is the most fire-resistant, California black oak is in the middle, and madrone is least fire-resistant. Of course, the hardwoods sprout right back after fire, while local conifers lack that ability. (See photo, top right.)*

Q2: Does this depend upon the size of the tree—are smaller trees always more susceptible to scorched bark?

A2: *Yes, smaller trees are generally more susceptible to bark scorch and cambial damage. The bigger the tree, the thicker the bark. Some trees, such as pine, can survive fires at relatively small sizes while others must grow much larger to attain the same degree of fire-resistance. (See photo, bottom right.)*

Q3: So, in general, how would you rank these seven species for fire resistance?

A3: *Here's a table summarizing fire-resistance of the species and the size/age at which they attain medium to high fire-resistance.*

Species	Size	Fire-resistance at maturity
Ponderosa pine	Sapling/pole	High
Douglas fir	Pole/mature	High
Sugar pine	Mature	Medium
Incense cedar	Mature	Medium
Black oak	Mature	Low/medium
White oak	Pole	Medium
Madrone	None	Low

Q4: Which of these seven species are the most flammable?

A4: *Conifers are generally more flammable than hardwoods due to the chemical compounds in needles that burn readily when*

ignited. Differences in the flammability of the foliage between individual conifer species are less important than the density of foliage and how close the branches are to the ground. (So keep pruning up those branches!)

Deciduous hardwoods are less flammable, because their leaves do not contain those types of resins that conifer do.

Q5: If I were choosing between one of the three hardwoods to keep near my house, which would be safer and more fire-resistant?

A5: *Choosing among the hardwoods when close to the house, I'd prefer to have an oak, all other things equal. Madrone foliage (live on the tree and dead on the ground) seems a little more flammable, its bark sheds, and its habit of dropping leaves in the summer make it a maintenance headache near the house.*

Q6: Which of these seven species can withstand low water years or a drought best?

A6: *The species in order of drought tolerance, from highest to lowest, are:*

*Oregon white oak
California black oak
Ponderosa pine
Incense cedar and Pacific madrone
Douglas fir
Sugar pine*

Well, I hope that these questions and answers have helped some of you a bit in your forest-stand management decisions. Thanks to Max, I feel a lot more comfortable walking around with my blue



Pacific madrones (right) peel off a thin layer of their bark each year, unlike thick ponderosa pine bark (left).



This old white oak (left) has a much better chance of surviving a ground fire than the smaller oak saplings (right).

ribbon! You know, private landowners don't need to do this alone. There are tons of resources across our valley to help us out, so use them! The more acres being managed, the better for all of our lands here in the Applegate. (FYI: Max and his colleague Steve Fitzgerald have an article on page 16 on how to thin stands for optimum management—check it out.)

Sandy Shaffer
Landowner/
Applegate Fire Plan Coordinator
sassyoneOR@q.com

“A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain.”

—Clarence Darrow



Hospice?

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Tall Tales from the Editor

Jan's flyer or I can't thank you enough

I never know what I might find in the mailbox besides bills. It was no different 20 years ago when I walked out to our mailbox thinking, "Will there be a court summons, hate mail from one of the many jilted fiancées (before my bride Sioux), or a political announcement from yet another politician informing me that if I vote for them my life will be perfect?"

What I found that day was a flyer announcing that there was to be a 7 pm meeting in a couple of days at the Ruch Library (at that time, it was located in the basement of the Sunshine Plaza) about some Bureau of Land Management (BLM) timber sales. I remember one of them was called Misty Rocks—such a pretty name for a clear-cut.

Now don't get your panties all knotted up. I'm not antilogging. Why, we live in a 95-year-old log house and burn wood for heat. My guitars are made of wood. My shop teacher from the rumored unaccredited Avon High School, Mr. Moore, had a wooden left leg.

Indiana's greatest rock 'n' roll drummer, Marty "Chickslayer" Wilson, practiced his short-lived craft of wood-

lathe art on Mr. Moore's wooden leg when he found it in the shop room closet. For some unknown reason, Mr. Moore was rather ticked off when he saw the lathe work on his leg. Luckily for Chickslayer, Mr. Moore never discovered the identity of our Leonardo da Vinci of the wood lathe, but hey, a drummer needs drumsticks.

Like Chickslayer, I like wood products, but not these large clear-cuts that were being proposed. So I went to the meeting.

The library was standing room only. Leading this meeting was Jan Perttu, who had distributed the flyer. She presented everyone with an overview of the proposed timber sales, which sounded to me like eventually most everything would become a clear-cut here in the Applegate.

Jan asked for volunteers to help her write a response to the BLM environmental assessment. I was among five or six folks who volunteered to meet with Jan after that meeting.

Right off the bat, I knew that Jan was going to be fun to work with. She had an infectious sense of humor, and over the years we shared some great laughs.

After a short while, we decided to form an official group called The Applegate Watershed Conservancy to advocate watershed restoration and a much lighter touch in logging. We put Jan at the helm—she was the perfect skipper with a questionable crew on deck.

A year or so later when the Applegate Partnership was formed, Jan was one of its organizers. It was also Jan who led the development of the Applegate River Watershed Council (ARWC) for the Applegate Partnership.

One of the many projects to come out of ARWC was a newspaper—you know it as the *Applegater*—and I became its editor. Now you know that you can blame it all on Jan's flyer. (Jan discovered that anything over four letters was a challenge for me, so she edited my responses to the BLM environmental assessments.)

Jan's flyer took this unknown rock star down a road he never would have traveled. Besides being editor of the *Applegater* for 18 years now, I served on the Jackson County Natural Resource Committee for seven or eight years. I've met governors, congressmen and senators. I was involved for awhile with the talk radio program, Southern Oregon Forestry Forum. My

columns from the *Applegater* have been published in a book, but, best of all, I've met so many wonderful folks from here in the Applegate that I probably wouldn't have otherwise. That would have been a huge loss for me.

As you can see, Jan's flyer altered my life in a very positive way, and I can never thank her enough.

Sadly, Jan Perttu died this past June at the young age of 62. After an almost decade-long struggle with Alzheimer's, her positive can-do spirit will be greatly missed.

She was a real person who always offered a hand. I never heard her say a

disparaging word about another individual, and it made no difference to her if she or someone else was recognized for the work done by the ARWC.

Jan, thank you for putting that flyer in my mailbox and opening the door that has taken me on countless great adventures.

Until our trails cross again...

Jan's flyer took this unknown rock star down a road he never would have traveled.



The Editor, J.D. Rogers
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Ruch School looking forward

BY MARGARET PERROW DELLA SANTINA

Like many school districts, the Medford School District (549C) is in the midst of a severe budget crisis. The district's approximately \$4.3-million deficit looms over the school board, administrators, teachers, and ultimately parents and kids. Although the 2012-13 school budget was approved without any proposed school closures, the school board is beginning budget talks for 2013 later this year, and the topic of school closures will inevitably arise.

Now for the good (even exciting) news: a group of parents and community members (Applegate Partners Promoting Local Education or APPLE) is in the process of developing plans to ensure the continued operation of Ruch School in 2013-14 and beyond. Meeting regularly since April in consultation with Ruch School principal Julie Hill, APPLE aims to be as proactive as possible. As a school, as a community, and as a bioregion, we have a lot that is unique—things we see as potentially valuable assets to the district. While we understand that the district faces a fiscal crisis and is looking for places to cut the budget, we are very excited about the educational value that Ruch can provide the district.

In the past months, we have consulted with education professionals, made presentations to the 549C school board, and had conversations with individual school board members as well as district superintendent Phil Long. We have discovered ample research, spanning decades, proving that school closures do not ultimately save districts money. In fact, rural school closures have devastating long-term economic and social impacts on the broader region of which they are a part.

We have the active support and involvement of Senator Alan Bates and Representative Peter Buckley, with whom we communicate regularly about our ideas and progress.

We have demonstrated clearly that Ruch School is not losing the district money; that is, revenues attributable to Ruch School more than cover the direct expenses of the school and contribute to the district's overhead costs. Moreover, we have secured for the district an additional \$52,000 annually in Remote Rural Schools

funding, due wholly to the fact that Ruch School is part of the Medford School District.

Perhaps most importantly, Ruch School already has a highly successful academic program: our students' test scores, daily attendance rates, and later high school graduation rates surpass district averages. Our goal now is to build on those successes. We are currently focusing on two related goals: First, to develop a more enriched educational model that is closely tied to the unique characteristics and values of our local community and unique bioregion. And second, to generate greater revenue for the district through the increased enrollment that will result from such an educational model.

To help envision what such an enriched educational model at Ruch School might look like, APPLE is conducting an online community survey. Results of this survey will also help ensure that Ruch School remains a true community school that engages community volunteers in academics and enrichment programs, while providing services to the community more broadly. Our principal—in consultation with our site council, members of APPLE, and a former teacher from another successful rural community school in Oregon—worked on a preliminary proposal presented to the school board in late August.

We hope you share our enthusiasm for developing a more enriched and robust educational program, closely tied to our community and bioregion, which we believe could be a "magnet" and a model for the district. If you would like more information about the work of APPLE, would like to share ideas to help make Ruch School sustainable, or would like to be included on our email list, please contact Matt Epstein at matepstein@aol.com or 541-899-8644. And if you have not yet completed our community survey online, please take a few minutes to give us your input! Just go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JRDQ8VG>.

The strength of the relationship between our local school and our community depends on all of us.

Margaret Perrow della Santina
541-899-9950

contributed their beautiful winery setting, their fabulous cooking and baking skills, their auctioneering talents, the setup crew, the teardown crew, and so many more.

Please show your thanks to everyone whose businesses were involved by patronizing them, and make our treasured Ruch Country Store your first stop for your weekly groceries. Craig and Amber Hamm are the personification of "community," aren't they?

Hooray for Ruch School!!
Priscilla Weaver
priscilla@saltmarshranch.com

APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

Gone fishin'

BY BOB FISCHER

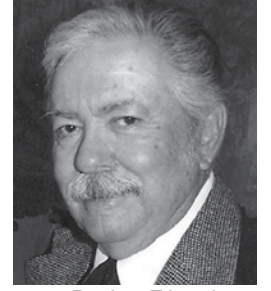


I have decided to go fishing for awhile.

I hope I have brought into someone's life a little humor and some happiness in this troubled world.

Happy trails.

Bob Fischer
541-846-6218



Bob Fischer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper. We are a community-based newspaper that receives diverse opinions on different topics. Letters should be no longer than 450 words, and may be edited for grammar and length. Opinion Pieces should be no longer than 600 words. All Letters and Opinion Pieces must be signed, with a full street address or P.O. Box and phone number. Individual Letters may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

Address Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor to:
The Applegater c/o Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
P.O. Box 14
Jacksonville, OR 97530
Email: gater@applegater.org

To the Editor:

After reading the latest of Chris Bratt's articles, "Safekeeping the lands we share in common," I wanted to write and express my appreciation for his constant vigilance, around our forestlands.

With 36 years in the valley, I've witnessed many "forest battles," and for me, Chris has been a truth beacon I can rely on, sorting out the issues, and compelling common sense, community inclusive approaches.

At the close of his most recent piece, Chris leaves us with a real forest doctrine to live by when he encourages us to recognize "our obligations as citizens to preserve and revitalize them for future generations."

Thank you, Chris.

Paul Safady
Williams

Hi, how are ya?

I'm Bryan Applegate from New Haven, Connecticut, just wondering how on Earth a whole town's got the same name as me! My parents are from New York City and I'm just doing great. I have a bachelors degree from Western Connecticut State University in law administration with a concentration in paralegal studies. My cousin, a Harvard graduate, is a scientist at Oxford. I'm confused, though. Shouldn't I be planting apple trees?

Sincerely,

Bryan Alfred Pope St. Damasus I Applegate
Co-manager at Subterranean Sound Studio, LLC
Waterbury, Connecticut
Keep me in your thoughts and prayers!

June benefit at Red Lily Vineyards

Ruch School scores big

It is with pride, humility and elation that I share the results of the Ruch School benefit at Red Lily Vineyards. Although the number is not quite final, the net amount raised for art, music, and other enrichment programs at Ruch School will be nearly \$30,000. That's right, almost \$30K. Wow!

There is no way to adequately express my personal thanks and gratitude for all the Ruch School students, parents, grandparents, and friends for this outpouring of community support. All of us are grateful for every single dollar contributed. And we are equally grateful to the dozens of people who

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- ☞ Sunday, November 4th, 1-4:30pm - Tour of Large Wood Projects on Williams Cr.

Elizabeth Murphy,
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riparianprogram@arwc.org
Janelle Dunlevy,
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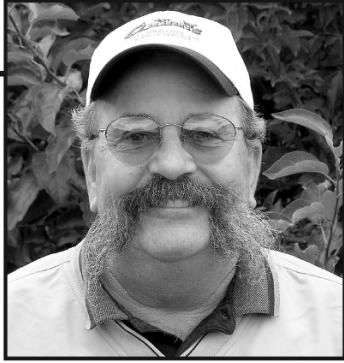
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Hello Again!

with Bob Quinn

It is the time of year that we like to start giving out all kinds of helpful information about your water well, pump system and the quality of your water. We hope you enjoy our weekly columns. Please feel free to call if there is a subject you would like to hear about.

Our phone has been ringing like crazy with questions like, *How can I possibly get water out of my well if I don't have power?* We have the solution to that problem. There are hand pumps that can be installed with your current pump and it can be used to put water directly into your pressure tank. No more back breaking trips with a bucket full of water to flush your toilet!

Technology has changed a lot over the years and we are finding that this new system exceeds our expectations. If you have a concern about not having water during a power outage, call your favorite well and pump service to inquire.

Don't be a "Fish Out Of Water"! Our knowledgeable staff is in the office 8-5pm, Mon.-Fri. to take your call!



Bob Quinn is the owner of **Quinn's Well & Pump Service** located at 6811 Williams Hwy. We install, maintain and repair complete water pumping systems, and we offer a complete line of water filtration equipment. Contact our professional staff by phone, e-mail, or visit our office. quinnswell.com CCB #192047

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Have you seen the Gater's online calendar? www.applegater.org

Applegate outdoor options

BY JACOB HOLDEN

It's still summer! You wake up, it's beautiful outside, and you're wondering, "What am I to do this beautiful afternoon?" Fortunately, living in the Applegate surrounds you with a wide variety of outdoor adventure. Whether you are looking for swimming, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, even paragliding, the day is yours for the taking.

Here are a few recreational opportunities half an hour from Applegate: Enchanted Forest, Jacksonville Woodland Trails, Sterling Mine Ditch Trail and Kenney Meadows are a short drive to get to the outdoor day you're looking for. Enchanted Forest is an easy walk through lush green forest with a sun umbrella to keep you cool. This short walk, which gives you a certain sense of mysticism, also connects you to Felton Memorial Trail, which is dedicated to three men who lost their lives in a helicopter accident. Jacksonville Woodland Trails, my favorite, offers hiking, mountain biking, sightseeing, and interpretive trails. Off the trail, you can walk directly into Jacksonville to grab a quick bite to eat after a day in the sun.

Sterling Mine Ditch Trail and Kenney Meadows are relatively close to one another off Little Applegate Road. Sterling Mine Ditch is an extensive 18.2-mile trail system primarily for hiking and equestrian use. It has beautiful wildflowers February through May, and offers picturesque views if you have the fortitude to go up Wolf Gap. Wolf Gap Trail, though only a couple of miles long, is an uphill shot to a beautiful view. The trail recently was cleared by the local job council, making navigation and use much easier. The parking area at the

Tunnel Ridge trailhead for Sterling Mine offers a day-use area for picnicking and wading in the nearby stream. Kenney Meadows is a great place for a daytime picnic with friends. Located right next to Yale Creek, wading in the water is a



quick way to cool down. Also, be sure to check out the reconstructed cabin on the opposite side of the road, which mimics a shelter used by Christian J. Kenney, who conveyed the property to the US government.

How about an overnight trip? Hyatt Lake, outside of Ashland, offers a wide range of activities and facilities to suit the needs of any individual. With camping fees as low as \$7 nightly, this is a highly affordable camping destination. The Hyatt Lake Recreation Complex provides sightseeing, swimming, hiking or biking, horseback riding and fishhook tying. Near Hyatt Lake you will find access to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), the most famous trail on the West Coast. If you're looking to do some overnight backpacking

or a day hike, the easiest place to access the PCT in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is at the Greensprings Summit. From I-5, take exit 14 near Ashland and turn on Highway 66 toward Klamath Falls. Take Highway 66 for 17 miles to the Greensprings Summit. A trailhead and parking area are located at the summit. From there, follow the PCT six miles north to Hyatt Reservoir or south to Soda Mountain, Hobart Bluff, and Pilot Rock (12 miles).

For some, getting to spend a day in nature can be compared to recharging a battery. Being able to escape the everyday hustle-bustle of our fast-paced society could be just what you need. Maybe you're an outdoor enthusiast who has been there, done that, and is looking for something new to try. Do you have kids and want to get out of the house for a day and teach them a little about nature? Or you might long to get out and enjoy this beautiful southern Oregon weather. Go for it!

All these recreational opportunities, along with many others, can be accessed through the BLM website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/recreation/>. Here you can find thorough directions, more descriptions, and browse for other wilderness escapes within a short drive. You can also navigate the website to find more information about the PCT as well as important matters to consider when engaging in outdoor activities.

Jacob Holden • 541-618-2237
Public Affairs / Social Media
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District
J1holden@blm.gov

News from the Williams Community Forest Project

Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP) has been actively involved with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to achieve ecological watershed and forest restoration with two BLM activities affecting the Williams watershed, but we hope that BLM will also engage the WCFP in their long-term plans for public forests around the Williams community.

In April 2012, the proposed Williams Integrative Management Project (IVM) was available for public comments. IVM is a 6,604-acre forest management project to be conducted by BLM from 2013 to 2023 in the Williams watershed for the objectives of restoring forest ecological systems, reducing wildfire danger and contributing to continuous timber production. WCFP coordinated two educational sessions and field trips given by BLM for the Williams community and submitted comments from the community during the comment period. After BLM has evaluated the comments, an environmental analysis will be done, which will be available for a 30-day public review in September. WCFP's objectives are to continue to work with BLM to achieve the Williams watershed forest health.

In March of 2012, BLM announced its intent to revise the 20-year management plans for 2.5-million acres of public forests in western Oregon. The planning process will take place through 2015. The Resource Management Plan's (RMP) intent is to address forest health, recovery of endangered species and socioeconomic needs. The comment period ended July 5. The alternatives will be formulated from July to October and analyzed from November 2012 to July 2013. Representing Williams, WCFP submitted the following letter to BLM during the comment period for the RMP requesting that BLM accept a Williams Watershed Community Alternative.

Letter to BLM

The Williams Community Forest Project, WCFP, has notified our local Williams Creek Watershed Council and the elected officials of the Williams Citizen Advisory Council of our intention to create a "Williams Watershed Community Alternative" for the BLM RMP process. These agencies know the WCFP will be working with Williams residents and will remain transparent during this planning process. Williams, Oregon,

is located in the BLM Applegate AMA (Adaptive Management Area). With broad community support from residents of our watershed, we request that BLM accept:

The Williams Watershed Community Alternative (WWCA) will be submitted by the WCFP to BLM by October 31, 2012.

We do not want to be known as a "no action" alternative in Williams. The WWCA assessment will be based on restoration, fuels management, and stewardship contracts. These items will be addressed in the Williams Watershed Community Alternative:

- Preservation and promotion of old-growth forest
 - Water and Salmon conservation
 - Transportation management, including roads and off-road vehicles
 - Cumulative affects with private and BLM lands management
 - Port Orford cedar management
 - Wildlife and plants with a focus on threatened and endangered species
 - Local stewardship contracts
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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

I like it wild

BY CHRIS BRATT



Chris Bratt

Here I am, glad to be back home in Applegate after a couple of family visits and work trips to the City. The City is San Francisco, California, where I was born and didn't leave until I was in my early 20s. Despite all of the blacktop, I once thought of this city and surrounding urban areas as underdeveloped with a simple, slow pace of life. Now the City and beyond presents a picture of mega-urbanization, overdevelopment, population overflow and an unequalled rate of technological change. I understand these same developments are happening worldwide. I believe the people of the Bay Area (and maybe the world, too) are now adapting to a way of life that is exclusively about humans, and that our natural and wild environments will not survive without the artificial aids that only we humans can provide.

The writer Michael Pollan observed over a decade ago, "All of nature (that includes us) is in the process of being domesticated, of coming or finding itself under the roof of civilization. Indeed, even the wild now depends on civilization for its survival." Pollan is right. And my particular trip into the mega-urban world showed me firsthand the changes transforming our country's shrinking wildlands into tamed cultivated places that accommodate a city dweller's lifestyle. I also recognized that we humans are in control of evolution now and in command of the survival of what we consider the fittest. (If Darwin were still alive, he'd probably have to alter his theory.)

But our control over nature is going

to require responsibility. Every person has to begin playing a part in the area where they live, whether you live in the country or city, suburban or rural surroundings, you must become a caretaker of these lands and communities. We can no longer wait for bureaucrats or politicians to solve or correct our defaced landscape or other problems. We who share love for a place are obligated to protect it.

Here in rural southern Oregon, we have a distinct advantage over other areas in searching for new ways to live sustainably. To a large extent, we are already maintaining our outstanding and globally significant natural areas on the extensive public lands. Local forest service and Bureau of Land Management agencies have begun many new restoration programs on our public forests. We have many local residents who love this area. Some are developing family organic farming. Others are building local economies through food and wine sales and distribution by connecting with local and regional cities. Carpenters, painters and other tradespeople keep our economy going, too.

We also have a large group of old-timers, farmers and ranchers who have taken care of the land long before most

of us arrived here. And don't forget our friends the environmentalists. National, regional and local environmental groups and individuals work and speak out against urban, suburban, rural and wildland degradation. They support new approaches to land use design, reduced dependence on cars and preserving farmland and open space. Environmental folks make good use of the law when our environment needs protecting.

Spotted owls, salmon, and old-growth forests are just a few of the thousands of species that are in jeopardy and are now dependent on us for survival. There are also damaged landscapes to restore, heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere to regulate, and water and air to free from

pollution. Are we willing to acknowledge that humans have caused these problems? I hope we are, because there is an urgent need for action to prop up our planet.

The resources nature has provided to be unending. This, of course, we all know is a false assumption. Also, many times we put people in charge of addressing our ecological problems who are the very people who are making the problems themselves and allowing them to continue.

There are many reasons the world's environment is in such bad shape. But the main reason is that the present corporation-ruled economic system in use worldwide has failed to maintain the health and stability of the natural world. Rather, these corporations have exploited the world's resources for financial gain. Enough gain to make them richer than most nations in the world. Changing this system should be our first order of business.

If residents of this region want a healthy economy, a pristine environment and quality of life, they will have to make the political and economic investments necessary to guard against environmental degradation. These are chronic problems we face, but they are not insurmountable. If communities can agree to take the lead in settling their differences for the common good, preventing exploitation without limits and relying on the best available science for caretaking nature, we have a chance to continue. But, we must make peace with nature and embrace our compatibility with all things if we want to avoid economic disaster and survive ourselves.

The world is now part of our community and each one of us must show the way by becoming its guardian. Can I sign you up?

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988

If residents of this region want a healthy economy, a pristine environment and quality of life, they will have to...

SWIMMING HOLE

FROM PAGE 4

leaving behind broken glass and trash, and creating a public safety hazard that forced owner Jackie Inman to reluctantly close the park. Jackie and Scott Carey have lovingly maintained it for years in hopes it could be reopened again under the right circumstances. While the park may have been quiet, a groundswell of appreciation for this family landmark would create the right climate in which to reopen the park.

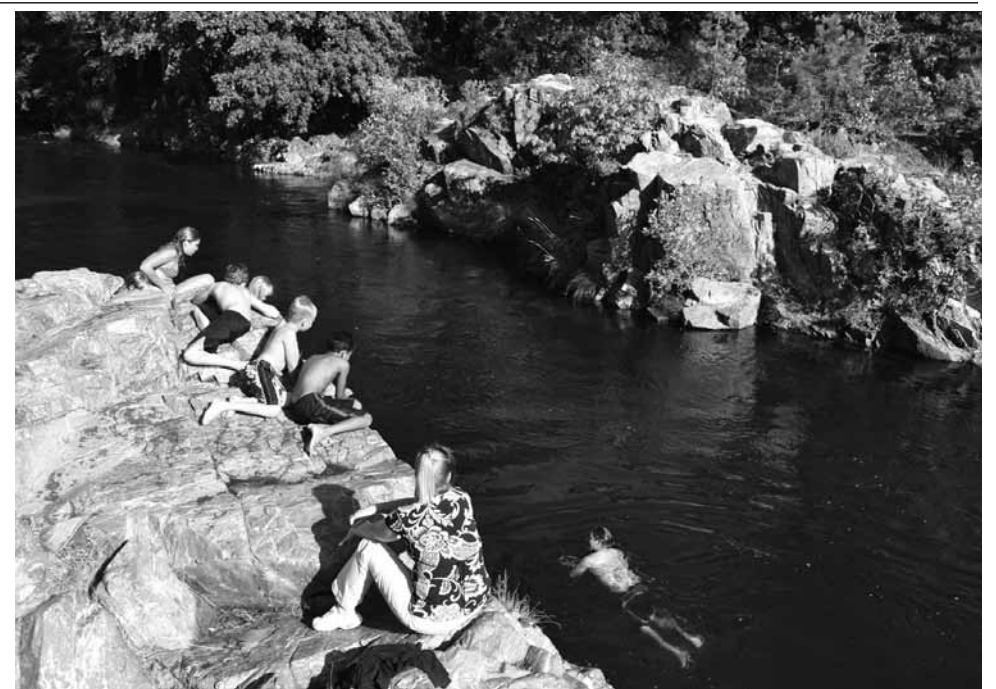
The park is a tribute to the extended family where multiple generations have made memories. Now through family camps (Family Frontier Vacations), families will stay at Applegate River Ranch Lodge, surrounding properties and in historic Jacksonville, and will dine at Applegate River Ranch Restaurant, the Applegate Cafe and Store, and enjoy local wineries.

Children will experience history, nature, art and music while their parents tour local wineries, and families can river raft, swim, and enjoy time together. The

Frontier Park will host art shows, special events, feature a small-log visitor center and several teepees.

"Romancing the West," a musical revue that tells the stories of over two centuries of Oregon and California history through music and visuals, will now be rooted into the community with a home base where its lessons and stories will find their fullest expression. This is also where artists in the production, including Native American Educator of the Year Jacque Nunez, will teach Native American and pioneer history. (For more information about "Romancing the West," visit www.romancingthewest.org.)

Williams resident, educator Jim Bickers who, along with his wife Merry, invented the Oregon lamp, had first encouraged me to think about how we might create something wonderful at the park. We are very grateful to Jackie Inman for giving us an opportunity to fulfill this



After years of being closed, the swimming hole at Oh Oregon Frontier Park and Cultural Center (Wayside Park) in downtown Applegate is open once again due the efforts of Christina Duane.

vision and for all of you who have donated by ordering your park patronage brick. The sentiments on the bricks are so touching and showcase the beauty and diversity of the people here. It brings all of us joy to see the community coming together and enjoying the river there again.

Our sponsors will be paid honor

in the park as those who joined the community in preserving and creating family traditions for residents and visitors alike, and leaving the legacy of this land and its people to the next generation.

Christina Duane
541-292-7829
christina2@purposemedia.com

The Frontier Park will host art shows, special events and feature a small-log visitor center...

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A Wise Alternative

Cantrall-Buckley Park

NEWS

APPLEGATE VALLEY DAYS

FROM PAGE 1

items. A winery pavilion operated by the Applegate Valley Vintners' Association offered a variety of Applegate wines.

People who attended were able to spend time outdoors in a beautiful setting by the river. The Applegate Lions Club barbecued tri-tip for lunch and throughout the afternoon on Saturday and Sunday, and the Illinois Valley Lions Club put on a pancake breakfast on both days. On Saturday, additional treats were provided by wood-fired pizza from Rise Up! Artisan Bakery and roasted corn from the Ruch Country Store.

A special children's area, hosted by the Applegate Valley Garden Club, was located in the park's playground. Kid Time of Medford contributed giant Lego blocks and other outdoor toys that were devoted to play and learning. Pacifica—A Garden in the Siskiyou brought their Caterpillar Mobile Science and Education Center, which was enjoyed by children of all ages.

The dog agility demonstrations that went on hourly throughout the weekend

were a big hit thanks to Cooperative Canines (www.cooperativecanines.net).

The Oregon Department of Forestry had equipment and representatives on hand to show what they do and how they do it. The Applegate Fire District hosted an educational fire-safety exhibit for children.

Although most of the events were located at the park, several activities were held elsewhere in the Applegate Valley. The "Amazing Geocache" event was run from Ryan's Outpost, combining "Amazing Race" type activities with the treasure hunt of geocaching. The Medford Porsche Club did a poker run to area wineries. Also, the Friends of the Applegate Fire District held a community yard sale on the athletic field at Ruch Elementary School.

Unfortunately, persistent rain on Saturday afternoon forced cancellation of the concert planned for Saturday evening. However, local musicians provided entertainment throughout the afternoons. Special thanks to the Sons of the Oregon

Trail and Christina Duane.

Applegate Valley Days could not have been successful without the assistance of our sponsors. A generous contribution from South Valley Bank allowed us to purchase t-shirts for the event staff and the many willing volunteers who made the event possible. The *Mail Tribune* and Bicoastal Media donated advertising space in print and on the air. We also appreciate the wonderful coverage by KOB Channel 5 during the week before the event.

Due to safety concerns and limited parking available within Cantrall-Buckley Park, we arranged for parking on Hamilton Road and provided regular shuttle service between the parking lot and the park. Bigham Knoll provided the Frau Kemmling school bus and driver on Saturday, and we greatly appreciate their generosity. Because we paid for the use of the Hamilton Road parking area, we charged \$4 per car for parking. However, we apparently didn't provide adequate notice of the parking fee, and a number of visitors let us know that

they were not pleased with the surprise. We will do better next year to make sure that there are no hidden fees.

Applegate Valley Days 2013

Because we received lots of positive feedback about the event, we've already started planning for next year and have selected June 22-23, 2013. In response to the request for more adult activities, a volleyball tournament will be included. If you have an interest in participating in any part of the weekend or have ideas for new activities, please let us know. Information will be available beginning this fall at www.applegatevalleydays.org. In fact, if you haven't done so before, check out the website (created and maintained by Shelley-Ann Hincks of SA Web Engineering) and enjoy the beautiful pictures courtesy of Hincks Photography (www.hinckspphoto.com).

David Laananen
541-846-0500
david.laananen@asu.edu

ATA holds monthly classes

BY TOM CARSTENS

"In 20 minutes I've learned more about our valley than I have in the last 20 years!"

One of our longtime Applegate Valley residents made this comment while on one of the recent hikes sponsored by the Applegate Trails Association (ATA). This is indicative of the eclectic education one can gain while on one of the group's monthly hikes in the Applegate Watershed. The faculty for this schooling is...us! Our collective knowledge of history, biology, ecology, hydrology, geology and an endless variety of other topics amaze all of us who have participated in these events. The really good news is that we can do this while enjoying the great outdoors—and staying fit!

The photo to the right is of Hinkle Lake, the destination of a recent ATA hike. This was a pleasant experience, not just for the beauty of the hike, but also for the interesting talk given by one of the hike leaders about the ecology of the lake and its surrounding wetlands. The number of species residing in the lake is amazing. We saw critters like fairy shrimp, salamanders, rough-skinned newts, flatworms, and ducks. Hikers also learned about the unique, threatened flora of the area, like alpine liverwort, flowering bleeding heart, Marshall's currant, Howell's clover, and wild ginger. (Unfortunately, too much of this plant life is being destroyed by thoughtless and illegal use of off-road vehicles in this sensitive area.) Massive old-growth fir and cedar were seen along O'Connell Creek.

Group hikes are only one aspect of this wonderful organization. Since forming more than a year ago, ATA has been hard at work with Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service

staffs and other local groups trying to promote the nonmotorized recreational opportunities that should be protected in our neck of the woods. As an example, ATA is working with the forest service to seek ways to better protect the Hinkle Lake basin from unauthorized use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs). Under David Calahan's leadership, ATA has been forthright in seeking to better define the boundaries between motorized and nonmotorized use of our pristine valley. OHV use in the John's Peak area has been the subject of a BLM-sponsored resolution process in which ATA is a participant. To learn more, visit this website: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/recreation/timbermountain/timb-mt-adrp.php>.

As a valley resident, you can gain a better appreciation of the issue by seeing for yourself how we can work together to foster better stewardship of our wild resources—come out on a monthly hike!

Upcoming hikes

September 7—short hike: The next monthly ATA hike will be on the Isabelle Spring Trail, rated easy to moderate. This section is part of the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail being developed by ATA. The narrow historic trail follows the contour on the steep, rocky west side of Mount Isabelle to pass through mixed woods of fir, black oak, white oak and mountain mahogany. A huge fire-scarred fir stands sentry over the box spring that was developed in 1940 to serve the lookout on Mount Isabelle. Prior to the spring development, lookouts packed their water by horse or mule from the Oregon Belle Mine. Two hikes will be offered: (1) an easy one of two miles, and (2) a moderate one of four miles. Hikers will meet at Bunny Meadows parking area,

one mile up Forest Creek Road, at 9 am. Stress-free hiking in some beautiful terrain!

October 21—driving tour: In October, ATA will introduce the panoramic views of the western portion of the Applegate Ridge Trail. This event will be for all ages and abilities. We will drive a portion of this system that is accessed from Savage Creek off the Rogue River Highway. We will carpool from Applegate Store at 9 am.

Applegate Ridge Trail

ATA is hard at work on a number of fronts, all dedicated to promoting nonmotorized recreational use of our trail system. One of the chief projects is developing a hiking, biking and equestrian trail, along with access, along the high ridge overlooking the Applegate Valley. This trail will be many years in the making, but will eventually serve our residents in gaining a stunning panoramic perspective of our valley, while enjoying the fresh air and serenity provided free of charge by Mother Nature. ATA calls this trail the "Applegate Ridge Trail" (ART). The group is serious about its mission, but is having a lot of fun putting plans together. "Preserving and connecting historic trails for future generations" is more than a tagline for this group—it's a credo that keeps its core group of volunteers motivated and enthused.

ATA fundraiser to be held

September 22-23 at Jackson Campground

All of this takes money going forward. ATA is very appreciative of the generosity shown so far by valley residents. These donations have allowed the group to make significant progress on a variety of trail-related projects. ATA has also applied for a Title II grant to improve trailheads and



Kendall Cabin at Hinkle Lake, destination of a recent ATA hike. Photo by David Calahan.

install educational signs along the ART.

In the spirit of its outdoor mission, ATA is holding a fundraising campout at Jackson Campground, which is just below Applegate Lake. The campout will feature educational hikes and two gourmet meals (with vegetarian options) prepared by ATA board members. Local author and radio commentator Diana Coogle will give a campfire lecture on living with nature in the Siskiyou. Ms. Coogle recently completed her PhD in English and enjoys teaching at the University of Oregon and Rogue Community College.

The campout will take place the weekend of September 22 and 23. The cost will be \$40 per person, \$60 per couple, and \$10 for kids under 12. Make your reservations early—participation is limited to 30 folks. All reservations must be in by September 10. Don't forget to bring plates and utensils.

To make reservations, please email josh@applegatetrails.org, or give Josh a call at 541-846-0738. Visit our website, www.applegatetrails.org, for more information.

Even if you can't make it, we'd appreciate your donations. You can hit the "Donate" button on our website, or mail a check to ATA, P.O. Box 105, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530. All donations are tax-deductible.

Step forward with a gift to all generations. Thank you!

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

Ruch bungalow—cozy getaway

Creating a fully furnished nightly rental in the village of Ruch seemed like a worthwhile project to a recently retired local woman. With hang gliding and paragliding competitions, amazing wine tasting, weddings at both churches and other local venues, fishing and boating at Applegate Lake



and just minutes away from Jacksonville and the incredible Britt Festival line-up, it seemed the perfect location for a quaint and cozy getaway.

Inspired by a friend with experience in the nightly rental business, Julie Wheeler began remodeling the nearly 50-year-old house. The small carport was converted to a gorgeous veranda with a beautiful cedar slab bar on three sides cut at our local mill. Patio table and chairs make it a cool retreat on hot days with overhead fans and a pleasant view of the nearby mountains. The interior was tastefully decorated and furnished with complete kitchen supplies, Wi-Fi and cable television, games, books, washer and dryer, and plenty of linens.

Many family guests prefer to have their own space during a visit, and with restaurants, churches, postal service, groceries, deli, fishing licenses, and even beautiful flower arrangements available nearby, the Ruch community offers everything needed to support a memorable bungalow stay.

For more information, contact Peggy at 541-621-6261.



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VOICES of the

APPLEGATE



Voices of the Applegate will begin another year of singing with Blake Weller, our director, on Wednesday evening, September 5, at the Applegate Branch Library, 18485 North Applegate Road. Our rehearsals begin at 7 pm, but we encourage people to arrive around 6:30 pm to register on the first rehearsal evening. Our rehearsals end promptly at 8:30 pm.

Voices of the Applegate is a four-part community choir that has been in existence for about 10 years. We have 25 regular members, and the only requirement for joining the choir is that you love to sing. We do not have auditions.

Blake Weller is not only a skilled director, but he is also an exceptional teacher who guides his choir through challenging music from all genres and styles. We sing everything from 17th-century madrigals to 20th-century pop, folk, gospel and jazz. Blake offered a sight-singing class this past May and June for which 15 members of the choir signed up to learn more about rhythm and notes.

The Voices of the Applegate will end this fall session with two concerts in November. Look for advertisements in the library and on bulletin boards to announce the time, dates and places of the concerts.

For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.

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Photos, top row from left:

—Jane and John Fischer visit Blue Earth Minnesota to introduce granddaughters Ella and Wren to the *Applegater* (oh, and maybe the Jolly Green Giant, too).

—Lynn and Laird Funk acquaint Eagle, the chief totem spirit of the First Nation residents of Bella Coola, B.C., with his fellow totem spirit, *Gater*.

—Having nothing better to do, Dan and Janeen Sathre peruse the *Applegater* in the courtyard of Kilkenny Castle in Kilkenny, Ireland.

Photos, middle row from left:

—Julie Wiles, head of Whatcom County, Washington, public defenders office, and husband Michael admire the editorial skills of

her former client.

—The Accidental Ensemble takes a rehearsal break to chuckle at the always entertaining feature articles in the *Applegater*.

—Tom and Kathy Carstens are forced to share the *Applegater* with fierce warriors of the Toka Leya tribe in Mosi Oa Tunya National Park, Zambia.

Photos, bottom row from left:

—Margaret Shoemaker shows off the *Gater* to fellow students at Corbin University in Germany.

—While at the Roman ruins at Baalbek in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Annette Parsons shares a *Gater* blooper with Joseph Bechara with the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative.