

Applegater

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Photo by Liz Butler

SPRING 2013
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Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
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Postal Patron

Responsive firefighters honored at banquet

BY SUZANNE OLSON

Every morning we wake up fortunate to find ourselves living in the Applegate Valley. But have you ever wondered who might come to your aid in an emergency? You think you might be having a heart attack or there's a fire in the chimney. Your spouse has fallen down and can't get up. You call 911. Who responds? How long does it take them to get to you? You need help now!

There is help at hand. It comes from our neighbors, the dedicated professionals at our Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD). And they will be there to help you within 6 to 17 minutes. This organization operates with a 95% volunteer workforce that provides 24-hour emergency medical response and wildland and structure fire protection to make the Applegate Valley

an even better place to live.

The fire district is composed of seven stations across 181 square miles west of Medford and southeast of Grants Pass, extending almost to the California-Oregon border. With the new recruits this year, there are 46 volunteer firefighters responding to our population of roughly 10,000 in the mountains and valleys. Fire Chief Brett Fillis says 2012 was a successful recruitment year, though the support and drive to recruit volunteers each year must never let up.

I stopped by headquarters in January to visit with Chief Fillis and district office manager Carey Chaput. I was curious about what was accomplished last year and what they were thinking about for the year ahead. It is an eye-opener to consider the

amount and type of monthly and annual alarms that district personnel responded to in 2012. Here are the numbers:

2012 ALARM STATISTICS

	December	Annual
Fire	9	143
Medical	35	337
Mutual Aid	10	102
Total	54	582

Wow—582 alarm responses in 2012. On average, that's more than one a day. Though as Carey is quick to add, some days there may be nine, some days none at all. Thanks to the tax levy that passed in 2000, the district now provides 24-hour emergency medical response coverage.

See FIREFIGHTERS, page 4



Fire Chief Brett Fillis presented awards to volunteers and employees of AVFD at the annual banquet hosted by Friends of the AVFD. See page 4 for the complete list of awards. Photo by Captain Mike Kuntz.

Local lepidoptera provide spectacular shows

BY LINDA KAPPEN

As nature's renewal begins, the hills and meadows around us are painted in shades of green and colorful wildflowers, and butterfly fauna surrounds us.

There are five families of butterflies that are categorized into many subfamilies. Oregon has 165 species of butterflies and 1,500 species of moths. In southwest Oregon alone there are 117 species of butterflies and 1,000 species of moths. Sound like a lot? It is! Because of the diverse region we live in, this area is known as a hot spot in lepidoptera (butterflies, moths and skippers). The five families of butterflies are:

- *Papilionidae*: Swallowtails, Parnassians
- *Pieridae*: Whites, Sulphurs, Marbles
- *Lycaenidae*: Coppers, Hairstreaks, Blues
- *Nymphalidae*: Brushfooted butterflies, e.g., Monarch (see photo above)



The Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is a milkweed butterfly, in the family Nymphalidae, and may be the best known of all North American butterflies. Photo by Linda Kappen.

• *Hesperiidae*: Skippers
Nymphalidae is the largest family of butterflies. At our lower elevations, there are many species to be enjoyed locally. But how do you tell them apart? It may be helpful to compare the photos accompanying this article (see above and page 12).

A butterfly's life starts as an egg, next as a larva or caterpillar, and then as a pupa or chrysalis. Finally, after a period of time,

See LEPIDOPTERA, page 12

Forestfarm Nursery donated to Pacifica

Forestfarm Nursery has been donated by founders Ray and Peg Prag to Pacifica Garden to provide a stable base of financial support. Established in 1998, Pacifica is a 420-acre nonprofit nature, arts and education center, and is home of the Caterpillar, a mobile science center that brings hands-on science education to 9,500 children and adults every year. Pacifica can be very broadly divided into two parts: a 250-acre planned Botanic Garden and the 200-acre Klamath-Siskiyou Nature Center. Many in the community have already been to Pacifica to attend a wedding, music festival, or arts event. All are also welcome to hike the trails, bird-watch, picnic and enjoy the land.

Forestfarm at Pacifica is a mail-order nursery with an enormous variety (over 5,000 kinds) of ornamental and useful plants from around the world. When you

purchase plants from Forestfarm, you help support Pacifica. If you would like to visit Forestfarm, please call 541-846-7269 to make an appointment as spring shipping is happening and it can get pretty hectic out there.

You are invited to these upcoming events:

- May 11 is an open house at Forestfarm at Pacifica. Come check out the new digs!
- June 29 - July 27: Esther King Price Nature-Art Sculpture Contest. The theme is "Birds." Sculptures will be on display for the month. Come out and vote—there will be a \$200 prize for People's Choice! (If you would like to submit a sculpture, call 541-846-9230.)

New events and classes are happening all the time. Keep up with Pacifica at www.pacificagarden.org.



WE WANT YOU!

The *Applegater* newspaper is seeking a few new members for its Board of Directors—folks with vision, creative fund-raising experience, and the ability to communicate and participate on a *working* board. The lack of remuneration is more than compensated for by the fun and satisfaction of helping to continue publication of this fixture of the Applegate Valley.

If interested, call Paula Rissler at 541-601-8949.

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A huge THANKS to the generous donors who contributed to the *Applegater*.

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Like us on Facebook!

Just go to our website at www.applegater.org and click on "Find us on Facebook"...or search "Applegater Newspaper on Facebook."

Applegate Valley Days on June 22

Mark your calendars for Applegate Valley Days on Saturday, June 22. Hundreds of people enjoyed last year's two days of events, even though Saturday's cold rain kept many away. Although we considered the first-time event a success in gathering and introducing people to the park, the two days involved a tremendous amount of work on the part of the organizers and required more than 75 volunteers. This year's plan is to continue with a format similar to last year's, but on one day only.

In a change from last year, this year's event will have **no admission charge and free parking**, which we hope will attract more people. Although the details are still being planned, we'll again have fun things to see and do. You can look forward to displays of locally made arts, crafts, and food. You'll be able to enjoy that super Applegate Lions BBQ with Applegate Valley wines and other beverages available for purchase. And you'll be entertained by great local musicians.

Watch for updates and details at www.applegatevalleydays.org. Remember June 22 and come enjoy a day by the river. For more information, contact David Laananen at 541-846-0500 or david.laananen@asu.edu.

Historic Logtown Cemetery cleanup day!

Join us for our annual cemetery cleanup:
raking leaves, hauling fallen limbs and picking up trash.

- Saturday, April 27, 10 am to 3 pm
- 2 pm: Hot dog lunch provided by the volunteers of the Logtown Cemetery Association. Please bring your own chairs.
- 2:30 pm: Presentation of cemetery history and interesting facts about some historic figures interred in the cemetery.

For more information, contact Janeen Sathre at 541-899-1443.



The old ARCO gas station, with its now valuable collection of gas pumps, lies beneath Applegate Lake with the rest of the town of Copper, usually under 60 feet of water. Photo by Bert Webber in 1970. From Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley by John and Marguerite Black. Does anyone know what happened to these old pumps when the station was dismantled prior to the filling of Applegate Lake? Contact J.D. Rogers at 541-846-7736.

DEADLINES

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

Spring masthead photo credit

Liz Butler, Williams resident and Herb Pharm webmaster, shot this colorful cluster of old-fashioned bleeding heart blooms in Williams.

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 9,200 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:
Jackson County—Sally Buttshaw
541-646-8418

sallybuttshaw@gmail.com

Josephine County—Shawn Zimmerman
541-414-7301

theszfamily@gmail.com

Next deadline: May 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; Chris Allen, Sue Maesen, Margaret della Santina and Paul Tipton for editing; Teri Becker, Kaye Clayton, P. R. Kellogg 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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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 Connie Johnson at budcon@charter.net or 541-476-2567, or Angie Bifano-Sokol at angiebifano@hotmail.com or 541-862-8228. Visit our website at <http://aauwgrantspass.org>, and see us on Facebook.

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 Road at 7:30 pm, except for the months of March, April and May, which are held at Headquarters, 1095 Upper Applegate Road. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

Applegate 4-H Swine Club meets on Tuesdays 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 at 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 10:30 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 at 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. For more information, call 541-846-6844.

Williams Grange #399 Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7 pm. 20100 Williams Hwy. near Tetherow Rd. For more information, call 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.

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

NEW! MOVIE & BOOK REVIEWS

— Movie —

The Impossible

Reviewer rating: 5 Apples



(1 Apple—Don't bother, 5 Apples—Don't miss)

PG-13; Adventure, Drama; 107 minutes

Opened: December 21, 2012

Cast: Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor, Tom Holland, Oaklee Pendergast

Director: Juan Antonio Bayona

Writer: Sergio G. Sánchez

The Impossible is based on true events. This movie has us sitting on the edge of our seats as we go on a journey with the Bennett family: Maria (Naomi Watts), Henry (Ewan McGregor), and their three sons. They decide to spend Christmas vacation in paradise, a lovely resort in Thailand.

Only minutes into the movie, the deadliest tsunami in human history ravages the shores of cities across Southeast Asia. The Bennett family is separated from one another but never give up hope of finding each other. There are so many wounded, dying, and dead, but while it is a traumatic story, it is also beautiful.

Naomi Watts plays the mother in one of her finest and most physically demanding performances, and was nominated for Best Actress by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. This intense and compelling family melodrama from Spanish director Juan Antonio Bayona sets a new standard for disaster cinema—it is emotionally exhausting and ultimately uplifting. With the powerful staging of the catastrophe and the waves seemingly flowing into the theater, it simply takes your breath away. In fact, the story has an emotional undertow that is sure to sweep you away.

The tidal wave and aftermath scenes are riveting, giving one the feeling of actually being there. The amazing computer-generated effects bring the tsunami right into the theater. It is a real roller-coaster ride with a superb cast.

Sharon Thompson • thompsonsharon99@yahoo.com

Ed. Note: *The reviewer is an ardent moviegoer—often watching the same movie in the theater multiple times.*

— Books —

Waiting for the Rain and *Walking Still*

by Zimbabwean author Charles Mungoshi

It's been a year since my husband and I spent the month of February 2012 in south-central Africa, where in Zimbabwe we strolled with and petted lions, albeit young, carefully guarded ones. But a small book that I read while in Zimbabwe is what has lingered in the edges of my consciousness throughout the past year.

When many of us think of Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), we think of short articles and photos like those in *PARADE* magazine's annual ranking of the world's worst dictators, which always includes Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's president. Or maybe we remember books and stories and histories about Rhodesia. But is there any modern literature, any fiction, being written in that sad country? You bet there is! Charles Mungoshi has won the prestigious PEN Literary Award—twice. His 1975 novel *Waiting for the Rain* is universal in its evocation of an extended family trying to deal with a wayward son. Why is this son, provocatively named Lucifer, wayward? He wants to leave his home, leave his parents, his large family, his village and his culture to live in the “modern” world. He won't settle down to work and marry and be the head of his family as expected; he destroys the gift of sacred medicine lovingly prepared for his departure.

I do not have my tattered copy of *Waiting for the Rain* because I gave it to a waiter in the hotel where we were staying. It was as though I had given him gold and diamonds. And he did insist that I write a gift inscription inside the book—dated, to him, and from me—to prove that he had not stolen such a treasure. I do love the animals of Africa, everything from the industrious dung beetles to the majestic big cats and the elephants, but reactions by Africans to my gifts of books are my most treasured memories of Africa.

Mungoshi's more recent book *Walking Still* is an anthology of short stories. These nine stories also speak to universal concerns: cultural change, war, family dynamics. One story is about a working wife who is ultimately more successful than her husband, another is about a husband who eventually reveals his homosexuality, and the final story, “Sacrifice,” is about a young daughter whose education is cut short because she is scheduled to be sacrificed to the gods. Well, perhaps this last story isn't so universal, you may say. Is Shirley Jackson's American classic “The Lottery” universal? I would assert that Mungoshi's stories have just that kind of tension and fine clarity of insight into the human psyche.

If you want a different view of Zimbabwe than that portrayed in the books set in the former Rhodesia, or in the “Worst Dictators” annual list, give Charles Mungoshi's books—including his poetry if that is your bent—a look.

Julia (Helm) Hoskins • 541-899-8470 • julmudgeon@aol.com

Ed. Note: *Both of these books by Charles Mungoshi are available on Amazon.com. Julia Helm is the author of She Caves to Conquer, a novel set in the American Midwest and in south-central Turkey.*

BORED?

Check out our online calendar
jam-packed with events all over southwest Oregon.

www.applegater.org

Check these out — only on our website

www.applegater.org

- “Chicken herder or Don't be a loser” by J.D. Rogers
- “In the life of a Sanctuary One intern” by Kirk Stonick
- Harris and Stumbo are 2012 Tree Farmers of the Year
- Tax tips for forest landowners

First phase of McKee Bridge restoration starts

BY ROBERT E. VAN HEUIT

The first phase of the McKee Bridge restoration has begun.

The McKee Bridge Historical Society (MBHS) commenced raising matching funds when Jackson County agreed to apply for a grant to restore the bridge. The grant was made by the federal government on August 2, 2012. It totaled \$547,250, of which 10.27% must be raised as matching funds (\$56,202). MBHS is committed to raising all of the matching funds. Of that amount, \$12,000 was needed by January 2013 in order for the initial engineering work to begin.

By the beginning of December 2012, only about \$8,000 had been raised. The Mid Rogue Independent Physician Association and CareSource/Mid Rogue Health Plan came to the rescue with a

commitment to match up to \$2,000 in contributions. Spurred on by this generous commitment, MBHS received almost \$3,000 between the beginning of December and the first week of January. MBHS was able to deposit \$12,000 with Jackson County in January 2013.

The State of Oregon administers the grant and was able to proceed with qualifying engineering firms and then selecting the best-qualified firm to design the repairs for the bridge. Late in January, the state selected Oregon Bridge Engineering Company (OBEC) to do the engineering work. A fee for the work will be negotiated with OBEC in February 2013. Now that the matching funds are in place, the federal government's share of the funds will be sent to the state. It

is expected that the design of the repair, review by environmental organizations and the Department of Fish and Game, will take most of 2013 to complete.

During 2013, MBHS will be working hard to raise the remaining \$44,202. We hope to raise that amount of money by January 2014. If we do, the restoration project will go to bid in the spring of 2014 and the construction will take place during the summer of 2014. If we don't raise that amount of money by then, the repair will be delayed until the matching funds are raised. The board of directors of MBHS will be asking a number of charitable foundations to help us with the needed funds. However, all friends of McKee Bridge will need to help also. Look for our fund-raising thermometer next to the

Ramsay Realty sign in Ruch and the one at the bridge.

Your contributions can be sent to MBHS, P.O. Box 854, Jacksonville, OR 97530 or through PayPal at our website (www.mckeehistoricalcoveredbridge.org). MBHS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. We would like to thank all of the generous people who have already assisted in raising the initial \$12,000. Without your help we couldn't start this phase of the restoration. If you have questions or comments, please call Bob at 541-899-2927 or email rvanh2000@yahoo.com.

Robert E. Van Heuit
President

McKee Bridge Historical Society
541-899-2927
rvanh2000@yahoo.com

FIREFIGHTERS

FROM PAGE 1

What's in those alarm statistics? The lion's share of responses is medical—a traumatic injury, a motor-vehicle accident, a heart attack, or a broken leg several miles down a trail. Wildland and structure fire protection alarms include homes and other buildings, chimney flues, and power-line hazards. Mutual aid is the many federal, state, county and rural agencies that the AVFD cooperates with in emergency response for our safety. Thankfully there are very few false alarms.

To celebrate the successes of these exceptional men and women, each year there is an awards banquet hosted by the Friends of the AVFD. The Friends have been providing family events and raising additional funds to support our firefighters for over 30 years. They, too, are always looking for new recruits with fresh ideas to support our firefighters. Chief Fillis honored this year's award winners at the Friends banquet on February 1 (see box at right).

In the beautiful Applegate Valley, we live in wildfire country. This adds urgency

to our responsibilities to protect our homes and be prepared for emergencies. This time of year, most of the calls for help to AVFD are related to flue fires or escaped pile burns. We can support our community fire team by ensuring our homes and surrounding properties are as fire safe as possible.

There is a very useful safety checklist on the AVFD website at www.applegatefd.com. Take the time to review it and consider your family's preparedness. Be sure you have a current list of prescription drugs that each family member takes so that this can be handed to the emergency medical technician when aid is needed. Being prepared truly is your best defense.

Perhaps you have time to pitch in, help your community in times of need, support the Friends of the AVFD (they could use your help), or just stop by and say thanks to our firefighters. We salute them.

If you have any questions, call Carey Chaput at 541-899-1050.

Suzanne Olson
osoozer@aol.com

Friends of the AFVD 2012 Awards

Dick Rodgers	Firefighter of the Year
A.J. Zanitsch	Rookie of the Year
Cody Goodnough	Emergency Medical Technician of the Year
Dick Rodgers	Most Alarms District Wide (142 alarms)
Bill Dunlap	Most Drills District Wide (91% drills)
Tailese Goodnough	Officer of the Year
Randi Martin	Junior Firefighter of the Year
Brad Barnes	District Employee of the Year
William Schmidt	Fire Prevention/Public Education Presenter of the Year
Greg Gilbert	Instructor of the Year
Anthony Ryan	Annual Maintenance Award
Bob Ziegler	Annual Maintenance Award
Pattie Bakke	Spouse of the Year
Ed Temple	Spirit Award
Carey Chaput	Hall of Flame (Long-term dedicated service to the fire district and the citizens we serve)
Richard Goodnough	Chief's Award
Bob Etnier	Century Club Response to Alarms (115)
Landon Nistler	Century Club Response to Alarms (104)
Jack Lynch	High Drill Award (89%)

Tree School Rogue helps small-acreage owners

Registration opens on March 4 for Tree School Rogue, scheduled for Saturday, April 27, at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass. Tree School is a one-day mini-college for family forestland owners, small-acreage landowners, forestry contractors, and all natural resource enthusiasts interested in trees and forests. We're featuring 27 classes this year, including several perennial favorites and some new offerings, all taught by experienced resource-management professionals. Classes vary in length from 1.5 to 3.5 hours and you can participate in up to four over the course of the day.

Tree School attendees have enjoyed the wide variety of class choices offered in a single event. This is a chance to learn from experts while rubbing shoulders with like-minded landowners. You're guaranteed to pick up some practical tips and come home with something you can use on your own property.

The cost of Tree School Rogue is \$40 per person, or \$49 with lunch. The registration deadline is April 17. There is no walk-in registration. The Tree School program brochure is available

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For more information, contact Max Bennett at 541-776-7371 x221 or max.bennett@oregonstate.edu.

Poetry Corner

Near Chehelam Pass

by Paul Tipton

Cows come down from red barns
Into the black mud of the swale.
Gray pine clapboard houses.
Berry fields and nut orchards.

Small squalls of rain
Move up the wide valley.
Small arrowheads of geese
Point across the large gray sky.

And all this green
Replaces an old woman's life
Whose hair has turned to snow,
Her mind into the poem.

(Previously appeared in *West Wind Review* in 1985)

DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Planting for the future

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Remember when your ma and pa told you to put your pennies or nickels in the piggy bank? They were teaching you to save for your future. Today, we would need to put \$1,000 bills in the piggy bank to save for the future. Some of us did that, and look what happened—the pigs ate it all up. What would have happened if we had been planting nut trees? We now would be enjoying our own foresight and it would be multiplying. Nobody would be eating our nuts, just us.

My mother in most certain terms was *not* a gardener, thereby proving I was obviously found under a romaine lettuce leaf. But at age 89 Mom decided to plant a three-foot-tall magnolia tree. The tree had a potential growth height of 20 to 30 feet. She knew that. Mom never lived long enough to see the tree flower or grow more than a few feet. She never expected to. So why don't we think like my mom? She just thought that maybe the next "new folks" on the block would like a large magnolia tree. A few years ago I visited that tree, now holding its tall glorious own, just to say, "hi" to my mom.

The following list is focused on nut trees only. My garden mentor, Grandma Olga, was a "nut," which is most likely where I inherited my sometimes-eccentric qualities. This column is dedicated with love and endearment to Grandma Olga.

To see a complete list of recommended new, alternative or underutilized fruit trees recommended by OSU, go to <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/cropmap/oregon/crop/treefruit.html>.

I have chosen to focus on just the following three trees:

1. Almond (*Prunus amygdalus*) is related to the peach tree. Think of it as an "inside-out" peach. With the peach, you eat the juicy flesh and spit out the seed or make a peach-pit necklace and earring set. Oh heck, just spit out the peach seed. The almond is just the opposite. You throw away the basically inedible (actually I've never tried nibbling it) outer flesh and eat the inner seed. That is what we know as an almond. As with almost everything (cars,

jewelry, people, ice cream, dogs, cats and nut trees), there are hundreds of varieties. Some do fine living alone, like, well you know what I was going to say (a hermit), and some need a pollinator—a real good buddy so to speak. Most almonds trees need pollinators to make edible almonds. Some, like Marianna (check out Raintree Nursery, Washington), a self-fertile, soft-shelled, sweet almond tree, don't need a boyfriend. I have an almond tree that actually has terrible almonds, which is fine since it turns out I am allergic to those nuts. To make up for that bad deal, and since she is otherwise very healthy, I did not have her bodily removed. In return, each spring I am gifted with a bounty of sweet-smelling, flowering pink branches.



The fruit of a chestnut is contained in a spiny (very sharp) cupule also called "bur" or "burr." The burrs are often paired or clustered on the tree branch and contain one to seven nuts.

Photo: <http://4.bp.blogspot.com>.

Cutting the branches for our house or giving them away for "happy nothing day" is a wonderful trade-off for not being able to eat the nuts.

2. Butternut (*Juglans cinerea* L.). This is not a squash but actually the hardiest nut in the walnut family, sorta like the "little but tougher brother." Funny that this tree has a "squash" name. Because the wood of this tree is very light in color and often used for elegant furniture and paneling, it is sometimes called "white walnut," a more descriptive name. Even the shape of this white walnut tree is quite

different than the black walnut. The black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) is a large deciduous tree attaining heights of 98 to 130 feet. (A point of interest is that, reportedly, one of the largest black walnut trees in the entire country is right here in southern Oregon on Beall Road in Central Point.) The English walnut *Juglans regia* is also a large, deciduous tree attaining heights of 80 feet to possibly over 100 feet with optimum conditions.

The butternut tree shell ends in a sharp point, and the nut has a gentle buttery flavor. It does get lonely and it needs a mate, i.e., a pollinator, to make wee nuts that can grow big and healthy like ma and pa. The butternut tree is not as thirst-driven as its cousin the black walnut, but also does not grow as large.

The website of Stark Bro's nursery states this about its grafted butternut tree: "An overachiever outgrows and out-bears any nut tree we know! This impressive variety yields bountiful crops of mild-flavored nuts that are easy to shell and perfect for eating fresh or baking. Cold-tolerant. Bears in 2-3 years. Matures to be 40-50' tall. Ripens in late August to late September. Grafted. Self-pollinating."

3. Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*, also known as *C. vesca*, *C. vulgaris*, *Fagus castanea*). This deciduous tree grows to 98 feet tall by 49 feet wide. Its growth rate is moderate, it's hardy up to Zone 5 and not frost-tender, especially once established. Here's great news, especially for our local region: it's an excellent soil-enriching understory in pine forests. Cool! This underrated tree is not very fussy about where it grows. It loves well-drained soil in a sunny location, but will also grow in a sandy, loamy or clay soil, and even in nutritionally poor soil. It likes soil with either neutral or acid pH,



Sioux Rogers—And the beet goes on.

which is why it thrives in pine forests. *Castanea sativa* complains only when soil is too high in calcium. So feeding with milk shakes is a no-no. Basically, sun and water are the optimum requests until well-established. Hybrids of American and Chinese chestnuts are blight-resistant and produce straight trunks as well as large nuts.

Ah, its flowers (which show in July), look, well, like spiked green balls from outer space. The seeds ripen in October and, at least to me, are among the most beautiful of all nut seeds, resembling highly polished morsels of wood. To top that, they are a delicious and versatile ingredient in many dishes. Now, about the flowers, they are monoecious. This means that any particular flower can be either male or female. Not sure how that decision is made but both sexes live happily together on the same tree. Before you jump to the wrong conclusion, they both need the bees for pollination. And the bees fortunately love chestnut trees. This is a good thing since the bees don't need to travel so far or work too hard looking for pollinator partners. Flowers are produced on wood of the current year's growth.

The oldest documented *Castanea sativa* is in England's Kew Gardens. Its estimated to be 300 years old.

That's all folks. Remember that Arbor Day is Friday, April 26, 2013, so plant a nut tree in memory or in honor of someone near and dear.

Dirty fingernails and all
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BACK IN TIME

The love of dancing

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

I grew up in a family who loved to dance. That actually began in 1853 with my great-grandfather, John McKee. He was the blacksmith at the gold-mining town of Logtown on Forest Creek between Jacksonville and Ruch. Many Saturday night dances were in his family's home where he also taught dancing. Of course, his children and their children on down followed that tradition.

I remember when a fiddle player, maybe the only musician, would be at some home playing his heart out for a room full of dancers. I was about four years old when I first experienced such an event. It was in some neighbor's home in our upper Applegate area, maybe near the town of Copper (now under Applegate Lake). It was held in the home's large attic where one had to climb a ladder as there were no stairs.

For some reason, I was the only child there but enjoyed the music and watching the dancing that stopped when refreshments were served downstairs in the dining room. That was when I had fallen asleep and my folks left me on a bench covered with their coats. I was terrified when I awoke and no one was in the room. Of course, everyone heard my distress and mother came climbing up the ladder to comfort me.

There was a neighborhood dance almost every month in someone's home, even one in my grandfather's (Amos McKee) barn. I was told it was in late spring when the hay was gone. The barn had a good dance floor, probably on purpose, because it was rather common in those early days to have a barn for dancing.

We had just moved into our newly built home near the Palmer Creek and upper Applegate River around 1932, when mother decided to have a home dance. My dad moved most of the furniture into the bedrooms and, for some reason, my factious mother had the floor thoroughly scrubbed even though it would be later covered with dancing powder. Even the windows were cleaned, which I don't think anybody noticed.

Mother spent much time that



morning before the dance preparing refreshments for the midnight snack. In those days, the snack was more than just a little bite. She made large sandwiches of homemade bread filled with tasty ground-up baked chicken accompanied with potato salad, deviled eggs, and a choice of burnt sugar or cream cakes for dessert.

My grandma McKee had made phone calls on the "farmers only" phone line (formerly the Blue Ledge Mining line) to the neighborhood about the upcoming event. I remember there being a lot of high school kids coming, probably because my brother and sister were of that age. It was in the summer and those kids spent more time outside than inside for the dancing. The younger ones, my age, had a good time sliding up and down on the slick floor between dances. That was more fun than trying to dance.

We sometimes attended public dances at the Applegate Grange, and when the Upper Applegate Grange built their hall in 1936, well, that ended the home dances in our neighborhood. We were going to our grange dances once a month, sometimes so crowded it was difficult to dance, but enjoyable in seeing so many neighbors, friends and relatives.

It is strange that I was never a good



Top photo: Rolland (Sandy) and Clara Smith started holding square dances for locals.

Bottom photo: Dances were held at Little Applegate School on Little Applegate and Yale Creek Roads.

dancer—probably having been born with two left feet didn't help. My family tried to teach me the many dance steps but nothing happened. So, when I met my future husband, I found he couldn't dance either, which made me happy.

A few years later my Aunt Clara Smith (see photo), my mother's sister who was a very good dancer, started having square dances, which had become popular again. She and her husband Rolland (Sandy) had purchased the Crump ranch at Little Applegate and Yale Creek Roads. The abandoned Little Applegate School, still on the property at that time, was where

the dances would be held.

Our first time there was when our daughter, Janeen, was about two years old. Aunt Clara insisted we come even though there was not a place for little children, so we made a bed for her on the back seat of our car and parked close to the front door. She was accustomed to sleeping there on our camping trips and soon fell asleep, probably helped by the sound of music.

It took eight couples for two squares. If more couples came, turns would be taken so no one was left out. Sometimes there were not enough couples for a square, but that didn't keep them from improvising their own dancing routine, which sometimes caused a lot of laughter.

There was no electricity, but the kerosene lights filled the room with a nice warm glow. Aunt Clara's old wind-up Victrola phonograph would play the square-dance records and when the record began to run down, she would quickly run to rewind, then dash back to the square, rarely missing a beat. Everyone would laugh!

Toward the end of the evening, some would be getting a little fatigued, especially my uncle Sandy. He was a hardworking man with a work-clock setting brain; it was up at the break of dawn, a long day of work, then early to bed. So one night, when his dancing interfered with his bedtime, we actually witnessed him falling asleep, still standing, while his wife went to rewind the music.

I'm sorry that I can remember only a few who attended those dances. The ones I remember were Fred and Ethel West, Lance and Stella Offenbacher, Charles and Virginia Chittoch, and one time, Wayne and Jackie Reavis. There had to be more of the Little Applegate people and maybe some newcomers there. I just mostly remember what fun we all had.

My husband and I became expert square dancers, or so we thought. It was the only time we had the beat, the time, and the feet.

Evelyn Byrne Williams
with Janeen Sathre
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THE STARRY SIDE

Two- to three-dimensional

BY GREELEY WELLS

As we define and speak of things, we fix them in those forms and terms in our minds. As we redefine and rename them based on new insights, our knowledge and understanding expands. Here's an example of this process that recently happened for me. Because I was astounded and enlightened by it, I want to pass it on to you.

All of my schooling, all of the books I've read, and all of the astrological pictures I've seen show a two-dimensional (2D) version of our solar system. You've all seen it: concentric circles of planets surrounding the sun at the center. This representation of reality is how we have come to understand, perceive, and describe how our solar system works. Who could argue with that? We all agree, even our scientists...

However, when we look three-dimensionally (3D) at this, a whole new reality and understanding unfolds. It's not that we've been wrong; it's just that we've long had limited 2D thinking about our solar system, and to be woken to the 3rd dimension is to come out of an ancient sleep into the daylight of a new reality.

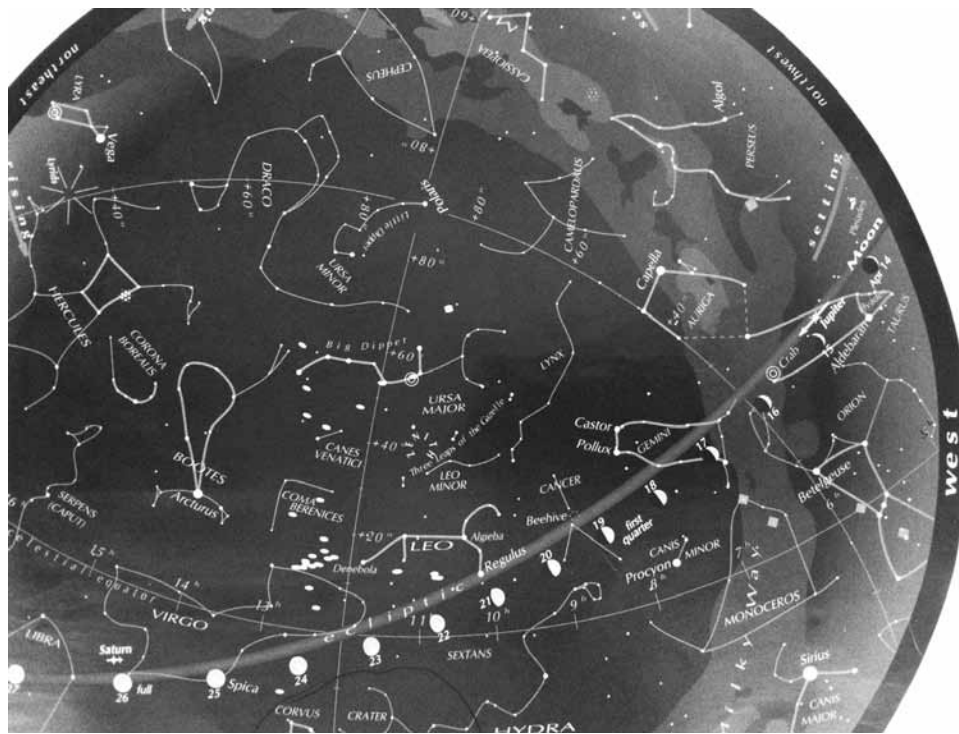
Just as the planets are not static, but move around the sun, the sun is not static either. The sun moves in its own path through our galaxy; therefore, something revolving around the sun is also moving through space. This means the planets don't move in a true circle around the sun; their movement actually forms a spiral shape, because the sun and planets are moving through new space together.

Now, get this: the galaxy itself is moving through the universe, and the universe itself is in motion as well as expanding.

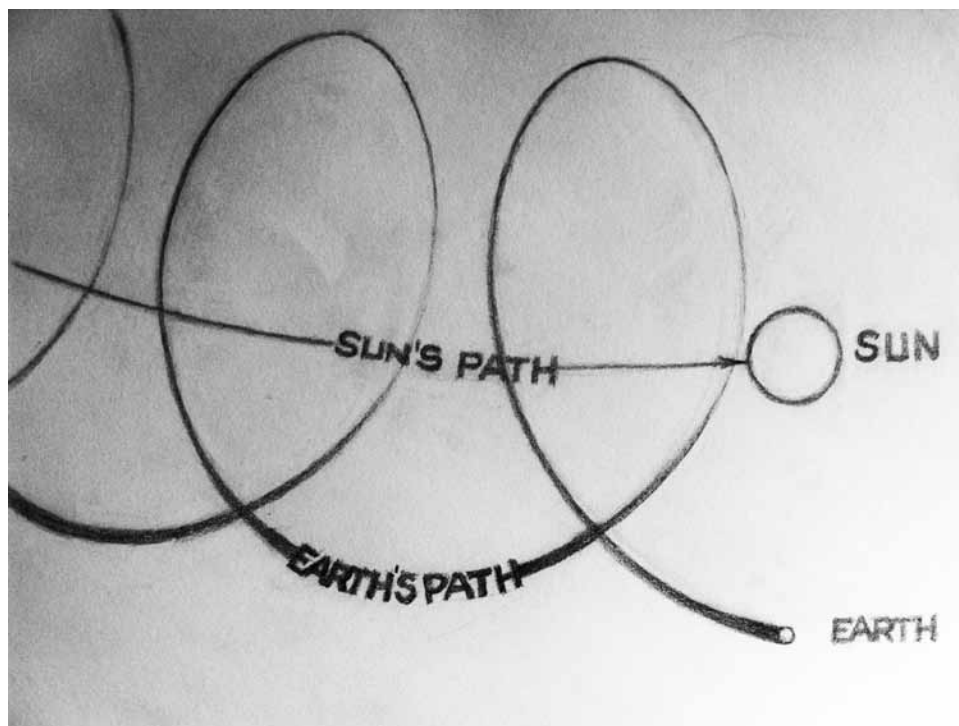
So from a 2D concept we are now invited into a much greater, clearer, more accurate understanding of what is really going on in our solar system. The photo illustrates what it looks like in that whole "new" (to me and now perhaps to you) reality. Isn't it beautiful?

This spring, as you walk out into a clear night with this new understanding of the solar system, you'll see Orion standing upright in the west. To his left is the brightest star in the sky: Sirius, the heart of his faithful dog in Canus Major. Above and to the left of Canus Major is Canus Minor—quite minor, in fact: just one bright and one dim star. Over Orion's head to the left are the Gemini twins (well, they're not identical twins, since one is not quite as bright as the other). Our favorite winter constellations (including Taurus the Bull and Pegasus) are sliding into the west along with Jupiter.

Meanwhile, the eastern sky is busy. The Big Dipper is up early in spring, bringing Arcturus (follow the arch) into view. The Summer Triangle begins to rise in the eastern night, with Vega first rising in the northeast in April. In March, Leo



Note the northeast corner where Vega, in Lyra, the first star of the Summer Triangle, rises—hello, summer to come. In the west, Orion, and Sirius in the southwest, set—goodbye winter. Overhead (the zenith) are the Big Dipper north a bit, and Leo just south with the little Leo Minor between. Illustration from Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar 2012.



This illustration is the author's view as an artist imagining the "real" paths of the sun and earth spiraling around it. Original illustration by Greeley Wells.

the Lion has risen, with the Big Dipper parallel to it. (They are overhead by April and westerly in May; June finds them setting in the west.) By May Deneb rises, and June finds Altar up, completing the Summer Triangle in time for the summer solstice. This same pattern repeats every spring.

You won't find the Milky Way up in May, because it's around you at the horizon line. We're essentially standing on it, looking out away from it. The rest of the seasons, we are looking into it from our vantage point on earth. The Milky Way goes right through the summer triangle, so they rise together.

THE PLANETS

Venus leaves the sky in February, hiding shyly in the sun. She makes her dusk debut in April—very low at first,

and rising higher all month while Jupiter moves quickly lower. On May 10, if you have a low western horizon, you'll see a tiny crescent moon to the lower-left of Venus just after the sunset. Mercury also shows up to join Venus and Jupiter.

Jupiter is the big deal of this season, high in the sky next to the orange Aldebaran in Taurus' V-shaped head. They are joined by a crescent moon on March 17, and again on April 13 and 14. Watch the movement of the moon each night relative to Jupiter and Aldebaran. In May Jupiter heads to the horizon line in the sunset, while Venus and Mercury rise. All three can be seen close together from May 28 - 31. On May 31 they form a diagonal line with Mercury on top and Jupiter below. After sunset they are very low in the western sky—you need a clear view with no obstructions, so climb



Greeley Wells

a mountain! Gotta get out there to see this planetary play!

Saturn is rising in the east after sunset in March and at sunset in April, when he stays up all night. He's rising just after (and south of) Arcturus. On April 26 the moon is just a few degrees away from Saturn, so that would be a good day to find Saturn. On May 22 the crescent moon is to the lower-left of Saturn. By the end of May, Saturn has moved fairly close to Spica.

Mercury is not visible in March or April, but in May becomes visible low in the sunset. Jupiter has also arrived there from above and Venus from below, creating a rare opportunity to see the dim, sun-hugging planet. Whenever you have brighter things around (Jupiter and Venus) you can see the dimmer ones more easily. (To locate Mercury, see the section on Jupiter.)

OF NOTE

The full moon on March 27 is called the Easter Moon this year. April's full (April 25) has a bright visitor, Spica, all night. This moon is called the Egg or Grass or Paschal Moon. The Milk or Planting Moon is May's full moon (May 25).

Set your clocks forward at 2 am on Sunday March 10 ("spring forward"). That hour, from 2 am - 3 am, simply doesn't exist any longer; you killed it. The other thing we've done by changing our clocks is to change our relationship with the sun. At 1 pm, not noon, the sun is now straight up. Strange. I object to this killing of time and manipulating of noon. It "saves" nothing!

Wednesday, March 20, is the vernal or spring equinox: day and night are of equal length. Easter Sunday falls on March 31 this year.

Lyrid meteors show up on April 22; see if you can see some. Vega (of the Summer Triangle) in Lyra is about at the center (or radiant) of the shower. But the full moon a few days later will decrease your chances of seeing these dim meteors. So right near dawn would be the time to look, after the moon sets and before the first light of day.

Eta Aquarids meteors have no moon to outshine them on May 6. Give them a look any time that night, although predawn is the recommended time—great if you're an early riser! Remember, no one can predict what meteor showers will actually do; these pronouncements are based on past experience and estimations...no guarantees possible!

Good luck with all your meteor- and star-hunting. And while you're out there, keep that 3D image in mind!

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TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

White-water Beaver

BY RAUNO PERTTU



Rauno Perttu

I thought I could get away with one more story from my days as a younger geologist. As I mentioned in my last column, exploration geology can be risky and exciting. I've had several close calls over the years. The one I'm about to describe gave me a lifetime appreciation for old, experienced pilots.

I like white water. Over the years, I've run numerous rapids. For years, I ran rivers in my inflatable kayak and raft, and also ran rapids on other peoples' rafts. I've also run rapids as a passenger in jet boats. While trying to see underwater geology, I even snorkeled a river through white water, which was an exciting experience. However, I've only run a rapid once in a floatplane. It happened in Alaska, and was done because there was no other option. I can't recommend it as a thrill ride.

One of my first projects as a geologist was working on the site evaluation for a planned pulp and paper complex on Berners Bay in southeast Alaska, about 30 air miles north of Juneau. The complex was never built, and I had something to do with that. I'll explain later. Personally, I believe the scenically spectacular area is much better left as wilderness.

The project workers lived in trailers that had been brought to the beach site by barge. We slept in bunk beds. I shared a narrow segment of a trailer with a dozer operator, who was always drunk in a "dry" camp, but that's another story. The camp also had a kitchen trailer and bathroom trailer. Our only means of transportation to and from the camp was by floatplane.

The development plans for the pulp complex included building a dam across a small glacial melt river. The proposed dam would need a large volume of gravel in its construction and I was assigned the task of reviewing possible gravel sources in a larger stream to the north. The plan was to barge the gravel to the proposed dam site.

I used a Beaver floatplane for my gravel search. The Beaver is a sturdy and reliable single-engine aircraft. My pilot was a grizzled 63-year-old with many years of bush piloting experience. I like older, veteran pilots. They don't try to impress or take foolish chances. There are enough dangers in bush piloting without the additional risks created by the daredevil stunts of some younger pilots showing off.

I was the only passenger, and sat in the copilot's seat. While we flew north along the coastline, I asked if he had ever crashed a plane. He answered, "Three times."

"Was anyone killed?"

"A couple of passengers. Once I was lying on a glacier for three days before they found me."

As we talked, we came to a river that was fed by a glacier that reached sea level from the nearby rugged mountains. The river was lined with promising gravel bars, so we turned to fly up the river.

Between white-water rapids, the pilot saw a stretch of calm water that looked deep and long enough for us to land. He carefully landed the plane in the calm water and guided the plane to rest against a large gravel bar. After I evaluated the gravel and determined it was suitable, we re-boarded the plane to head back to camp. He floated the plane on idle to the lower end of the calm stretch, then gunned the engine.

As we gained speed roaring up the stretch of calm water, he exclaimed, "We're not going to make it."

When a floatplane is angled nose-up for takeoff, the back ends of its pontoons

can be three feet and more into the water. He quickly reacted and pushed the plane to level again so the pontoons would skim along the water surface. He skillfully water-skied the plane up the rapids, avoiding the bigger rocks. As we swerved and bounced to the next calm stretch, he maintained most of the plane's momentum and, as soon as we hit the calm water, he again gunned the plane.

We lifted off before the next rapid. I breathed a sigh of relief, but as I looked over at him I noticed the pilot was frantically scanning left and right. I asked what was wrong.

He replied, "I have to turn the plane around before we run out of room."

We were flying up a narrow canyon toward a mountain wall. The canyon was too narrow to turn, and the sides of the canyon were too high for the plane to clear. As we neared the mountain wall, the canyon walls were

getting higher faster than the plane could climb. I stared at the rapidly approaching rock face of the mountain.

Abruptly, a side drainage appeared on the left, and the pilot quickly banked the plane hard in the wider space. We completed the turn, cleared the canyon walls, and headed back toward the inlet.

As I again sank back into my seat, the pilot said, "We have to go to Juneau. I don't know what condition the pontoons are in, but we may have holed or damaged them on the rocks we hit, which means we could sink or flip when we land."

We made small talk while flying down to Juneau. I knew both of us were thinking

how unpleasant a swim in the Alaskan ocean water would be. However, we landed uneventfully at Juneau, taxied to the dock and got out to inspect the damage. The floats were badly banged up, but still watertight.

A couple hours later, we were flying back to our camp in a different plane. It had been an interesting day of geology.

As I mentioned earlier, I actually had a role in killing the Berners Bay project. When I arrived on-site, the project had been ongoing for at least a year. Before arriving, I had studied the project topography map and commented, "There must be an active fault that cuts through the dam site." I explained that the morphology strongly suggested a strand of the Denali-Fairweather fault system passed through the site. This fault system is similar to California's San Andreas Fault system.

The project managers said they had drilled several holes at the dam site and found no faults. The system's north-trending fault strands are vertical, so I asked if any of the holes had been angled. When I learned the holes had all been drilled vertically, I suggested drilling an angled hole to pass through where I projected the proposed fault. The hole was drilled and passed through four active fault strands, eliminating the dam site. The project subsequently died.

However, I lived to be frightened and thrilled other days, despite two more close calls on the same project. I also reinforced my prejudice that old, experienced pilots are the ones to use when flying in extreme conditions.

Rauno Perttu
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As we gained speed roaring up the stretch of calm water, he exclaimed, "We're not going to make it."

Applegate Grange update

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The Applegate Valley Community Grange (AVCG) has been moving steadily along since our last update. After our successful brunch in November, the holidays came along and most of the membership took time to celebrate, rest and enjoy friends and family. We showed *The Grinch* movie in December just before Christmas. Despite the small turnout, it was a fun event, and we hope to have more film screenings in the future with a wider attendance.

Most importantly, we are launching a new website (applegategrange.org). You can go to the website to keep updated on what's happening at the Grange, learn about upcoming events,

find information on how you can get involved. It is a work in progress and we're slowly adding content as we go, but it is a starting point for more information. We will begin renting the building for events and classes in the future, so go to the website for more information on fees and how to rent the building.

The membership of the Grange met in early February for a retreat in which we came together as a group to define our short-term and long-term goals for the Grange. This was an important event for the Grange—a chance to retreat and take a look at our priorities. It was an important team-building exercise and we feel energized



Members of Applegate Valley Community Grange at February retreat.
Photo by Claude Aron.

and excited moving forward in 2013.

Expect some interesting events, talks and other community celebrations from the Grange this year. To get involved, check

the website: www.applegategrange.org.

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Applegate potter inspired by nature

BY SEBASTIAN KLINEFELTER

Nancy Yturriaga never planned on a career as a nationally known ceramic artist. It was an accident. As a young child in San Francisco she could have gone in any direction—the place being known worldwide for unique, controversial ideas and radical forms of expression.

Despite the lack of funding for art education in the schools, Nancy says that as a child she gravitated toward expressing herself with color; exploring nature was her greatest inspiration.

At age 18, while attending City College of San Francisco in the late 1960s, Nancy stumbled into the ceramics studio and thought, “Ah, this looks like fun!” But her skill at making pottery didn’t come easily. “Art is a constant struggle; it’s the nature of the beast,” she remarked.

Having found her medium of expression, Nancy purchased a potter’s wheel and began throwing pots in her San Francisco basement. She would pack her unfinished pieces and, baby under one arm and pots under the other, catch a municipal bus to the historic Victorian studio owned by well-known artist and teacher Ruby O’Burke in San Francisco’s colorful and outrageous Castro District. A much-loved mother figure and patron of the arts, O’Burke rented studio space to potters and jewelers, allowing them to work cooperatively in a unique inner-city setting. After her passing, her studio was forever dedicated for working artists to create their art.

Several years later, now in San Geronimo, California, the next step required was to convert Nancy’s garden shed into a producing ceramic studio. This included the acquisition of a small electric kiln, “the old Duncan,” which she still uses today.

Nancy’s style is nicely expressed through her statement: “I don’t plan on



Black dragon teapot in carving stage.



Finished black dragon teapot. Nancy also creates pottery featuring lizards, ravens, frogs, owls, dragonflies and other creatures.

anything; I just let my mind caress the image.” While originally inspired by classical Asian art, Yturriaga’s efforts have

blossomed over the decades into a unique body of work that communes with and depicts the natural world that she so loves.

Nancy has enjoyed great success as an accomplished artist; over the years her work has been exhibited in fine galleries and shows nationwide.

She gained great inspiration from the painter Georgia O’Keefe, whom she describes as “a brave woman exemplifying what can happen if a person is willing to give everything for her art.” After 45 years working with clay, Nancy has clearly given her complete dedication to the artistry that is her passion. Of her consummate skill with clay, she laughed and remarked, “Once you learn the steps, then you just dance!”

Spurning the idea of getting a “real job,” Nancy dedicated herself to her art, bought a horse, and retreated more deeply into the wild. Ten years ago, she arrived in the Applegate Valley to “spend the golden years potting and riding horses.”

Nancy calls her home and studio “The Sweetwater Ranch.” At the ranch there is magic in the air; one almost expects to catch a glimpse of a fairy among the trees. This magic is reflected in the clay art created by the hands of the artist I call “The Sweetwater Potter.”

For more information about Nancy Yturriaga and her pottery, visit www.nancyadams.net.

Sebastian Klinefelter
541-846-6689

Applegate denizen and nationally known ceramic artist Nancy Yturriaga.
Photo by Joan Peterson.

“They live among us” is an ongoing feature highlighting people of interest who live in the Applegate Watershed. The Applegater newspaper is looking for volunteers to take on this column each issue. If interested, call J.D. Rogers, editor, at 541-846-7736.

Long live Ruch Community K-8 School

BY MARGARET DELLA SANTINA AND MICHELLE HENSMAN

Ruch Community K-8 School has long been known for its parent involvement and strong community ties, which play a critical role in the academic and social success of Ruch students. Our rural setting provides a healthy and exciting learning environment; the flip side of our rural location, however, is that our enrollment is significantly lower than other Medford schools.

Applegate Partners Promoting Local Education (APPLE) has been working diligently to keep Ruch School sustainable for generations to come—the school will celebrate its centennial this fall, and we want to be sure it celebrates its Bicentennial in 2113!

In November 2012, the Medford School Board endorsed APPLE’s proposal that Ruch K-8 become a community school with a “place-based” curriculum reflecting its unique rural location in the Applegate Valley.

What is a community school? A community school partners with various organizations to provide services and resources the community may need—in short, it’s an integral part of a thriving community where students are able to learn and achieve.

What is place-based learning? Place-based learning connects national learning standards and classroom activities with real-world learning rooted in the local environment. Students in community schools with place-based learning curricula tend to have a strong appreciation for the natural environment they live in, and learn the importance of community responsibility while mastering academic content and skills.

The Oregon Department of Education website notes:

Community schools are grounded in the concept that learning occurs in many places—in school, after school, in neighborhoods and communities-throughout our lives. Evaluations of community school programs have shown that they help improve student achievement, increase attendance and reduce participation in high-risk behaviors. (www.ode.state.or.us/search/page?id=575)

Ruch families and community partners are committed to ensuring the success of our pioneering little school that is so rich in educational history, natural resources, and community support. Here are a few of the exciting things we are looking forward to in the coming months:

• **The Ruch School Family Resource**

Center (across from the office) offers health/wellness resources, advocacy, referrals, and more! Open Fridays 8 am - noon and by appointment Monday - Thursday.

• **After-school tutoring** and academic support for students in grades K-3, coming in spring 2013.

• **Community Garden.** This exciting project is part of a Master Gardeners’ grant and partnership, as well as a recipient of a YES (Youth, Education, Success) grant, sponsored by local businesses and local TV channel KOBI-TV (NBC5). We are actively seeking volunteers for this project, including people with strong backs, machinery, design ideas or materials (soil, crushed granite, cement, plants, pots, fencing, fertilizer, irrigation materials, etc.). Students and community members will cultivate a fruit and vegetable garden, which will promote team building and healthy living. Produce will be used to prepare school meals, and for the Ruch School ACCESS Food Bank. Silver Springs Nursery is donating native plants to create a “100 Years of Agriculture in the Applegate” educational trail that will culminate at our community garden.

• **Summer programs for pre-K children.** Weeklong, themed camps during June, July and August, offered at the Ruch School campus.

• **Exciting weeklong summer camps for K-8 students,** focusing on arts, writing, science, health and wellness, gardening and environmental stewardship, fire-rescue and first aid.

• **Preschool at Ruch.** We are working toward establishing a preschool on the Ruch School campus beginning this fall.

• **Save the date!** Ruch Community Festival, Saturday, March 9, 2013; 11 am – 3 pm. The community is invited to meet our staff, students, volunteers and community partners. Come learn more about the wonderful place-based-learning programs students are currently engaged in, as well as the opportunities ahead. Enjoy food, entertainment and fun activities for children and adults.

Organizations can participate in the Ruch Community Festival free of charge; we simply ask that partners bring pop-up tents, and display and advertisement materials, and share their positive energy with Ruch School and community. If you know of a business or organization that would like to attend as a community partner, please have them contact Michelle Hensman at 1-541-306-0668.

For more information about any of the above programs or events, please call Ruch School at 541-842-3850.

Margaret della Santina and
Michelle Hensman • 541-306-0668

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Trolling for new talent: Applegate Partnership still practicing trust 20 years later

BY BARBARA SUMMERHAWK

This last fall, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) celebrated 20 continuous years of activity on behalf of the Applegate Valley's biocracy and is now trolling for new talent to work alongside old hands on its board of directors.

The partnership got its start in October, 1992, when representatives of environmental groups, the timber industry, the federal land management agencies [Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service], local farmers and other residents sat down at the table on Applegate Valley activist Jack Shipley's deck and crafted the following vision statement: "The Applegate Partnership is a

community-based project involving industry, conservation groups, natural resources agencies, and residents cooperating to encourage and facilitate the use of resource principles that promote ecosystem health and diversity." The partnership later became the APWC and was instrumental in creating the *Applegater* newspaper (a vital communication vehicle that goes out to all Applegate residents), and also the community management of Cantrall-Buckley Park.

After the divisive decade preceding the partnership that pitted "us vs them" around the issue of northern spotted owl preservation and logging, the partnership set out with the slogan "Practice Trust—

Them is Us," stressing collaboration rather than confrontation. One early success was the Ramsey Thin, an early timber sale negotiated by the partnership. Instead of clear-cutting patches, the timber company involved used helicopter logging. Although some old growth was taken, the amount was far less than had originally been planned. This sale helped set the stage for future negotiations on the public forests of the Applegate. While other areas of the country during this time suffered horrendous timber sales resulting in environmental degradation, every timber sale in the Applegate Valley had a full environmental review. Nevertheless, the Ramsey Thin was controversial with environmental groups here, who opposed the cutting of any old growth. Over the years, however, environmentalists have stayed on the board of the APWC, bringing necessary balance to the process of harvest and restoration.

A contemporary approach to land management being used by BLM stresses "integration of ecosystem restoration, conservation of northern spotted owl habitat and commodity production." In an article for the *Society of American Foresters* (SAF) journal, Ed Reilly analyzes results of the recently concluded Pilot Joe Project of the Middle Applegate Watershed, noting that "Public participation was...critical to its success..." specifically commending the APWC as a strong participant, and that the APWC, along with the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, aka the "Knitting Circle," was "instrumental to the success of the project development and public review process..." Reilly also mentions the importance of the ongoing post-harvest monitoring. Pilot Joe wrapped up not without controversy over several trees that were marked for cutting that

should not have been. Protocols are being developed to safeguard similar occurrences on subsequent projects. Learning from the mistakes and the successes, and understanding the importance of public involvement and monitoring, BLM is moving forward on the second phase, Pilot Thompson, scheduled for later this year.

According to Jerry Franklin and Norman Johnson in another article in the SAF journal, the number one obstacle to implementing new policies is "public distrust of the agencies." This is where the APWC and Knitting Circle play a crucial role—through agency monitoring, community outreach and continuing discussions with stakeholders on the future of the Applegate Valley ecosystem. If you are interested in supporting and joining in the APWC's mission "to promote ecosystem health across the Applegate watershed through stewardship, education and restoration carried out in partnership with landowners, agencies and other interested parties while contributing to local economic and community well-being," please contact Janelle Dunlevy, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council coordinator at 541-899-9982 or by e-mail at coordinator@arwc.org. Please visit our website at www.applegatepartnership.org.

Barbara Summerhawk

APWC Board Member

barbsummerhawk@yahoo.com

Note: Articles quoted in this story are by Jerry F. Franklin, PhD, and Norman K. Johnson, PhD ("A Restoration Framework for Federal Forests in the Pacific Northwest," *Journal of Forestry*, December 2012), and Ed Reilly, an Applegate resident recently retired from BLM ("The Pilot Joe Project: Dry Forest Restoration in Southwestern Oregon," *Journal of Forestry*, December 2012).

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—George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second...if there is one."

—Winston Churchill, in response

Applegate stonecrop worth protecting

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Sedum oblancoelatum, otherwise known by its common name, Applegate stonecrop, is a succulent perennial plant. As its name implies, Applegate stonecrop grows almost exclusively in the Applegate River watershed, making it an Applegate endemic. An endemic plant is one that is native to a well-defined geographical area and grows only in that area. This pretty, rock-loving plant is found primarily in the Jackson County portion of the watershed, but some plants can be found in the Josephine County portion, as well as the Siskiyou County, California, portion. The only population found outside the watershed is in the headwaters of Seiad Creek on the south side of the Siskiyou Crest above the Klamath River, but very few plants exist there.

The conservation status of Applegate stonecrop gets confusing because the Applegate River watershed is located across two states (Oregon and California), and two federal agencies (the forest service and the Bureau of Land Management) each have their own classification. In Oregon, the forest service used to list Applegate stonecrop as a "sensitive" species; this gave it extra protection during federal project planning (e.g., timber sales, mining, road construction, etc.). The Oregon Biodiversity Information

Center now includes Applegate stonecrop on List 4, which means, federally, it has conservation concerns and requires continued monitoring, but is not currently threatened or endangered. This listing can include plants that are very rare but have a secure population, like Applegate stonecrop. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (Plant Division) lists Applegate stonecrop as a candidate for the state's threatened or endangered list. In California, where Applegate stonecrop is even more geographically limited, the species is given the status of "rare and endangered" by the California Native Plant Society.

The Applegate Valley has many special, rare and endangered plant species (including nine other sedum species), but no other can claim the Applegate as its namesake. Applegate stonecrop can be found growing on dry, exposed rocky slopes and rock outcrops up to 5,700 feet in elevation. It blooms from June to July and has cream or pale yellow flowers. A chance sighting of this rare plant in flower is a treat—it puts on quite a showy display considering the harsh conditions in which it happily grows. The fleshy succulent leaves form dense, attractive rosettes that can be easily distinguished from other native sedums found in the Applegate.



Applegate stonecrop is a succulent perennial plant that grows almost exclusively in the Applegate River watershed.

Unlike the other sedums you'll see around, the leaves of Applegate stonecrop are very glaucous, meaning that they are covered with a white waxy powder. The fleshy leaves of stonecrops are an adaptation for enduring drought in their usually dry habitats. Sedum, from the Latin *sedeo* ("to sit"), is an appropriate name for a plant that apparently "sits" steadfastly in a rocky stronghold.

Ethnobotanical documentation shows Native Americans used the fleshy leaves of many kinds of sedums. Northwest tribes are known to have eaten the leaves raw and cooked, and to have used the plant as a female tonic and many other medicinal uses. I have not found specific

documentation regarding the use of Applegate stonecrop by the Dakubetede, who originally inhabited the Applegate Valley before the European invasion, but I would guess that they also used it.

It is my desire in highlighting this local beauty to inspire Applegaters to seek out the rare, endemic and special plants right here in our own low-elevation foothills. The amazingly diverse botanical wealth of the Applegate is something we should all be proud of and work hard to protect.

Get out for a hike this spring and relish the wildlands of the Applegate!

Suzie Savoie
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LEPIDOPTERA

FROM PAGE 1

an adult butterfly ecloses (emerges) into one of the beautiful winged pollinating insects we see flying about.

The plants they use as larvae are referred to as host plants or LFPs (larval food plant). Each butterfly has a special plant or group of plants they use. As adults, they nectar on many flowers. You can see the male of some species nectar on wet soils, carrion or dung to obtain nutrients. For the butterflies in these photos, I will mention a little about their larval food plants.

Monarch butterflies migrate to our area and feed on native and non-native species of milkweed. Currently there is a movement to protect our native species of milkweed for the monarchs—people are encouraged to plant more native milkweed.

Host plant sources for the Western Tiger Swallowtail (see photo) are broadleaf trees such as bigleaf maples, willows, etc. California Sister's (see photo) host plants are mostly live oaks of the evergreen species and chinquapin. Loroquin's Admiral (see photo) larvae feed on willows, poplars, and many other trees and shrubs.

These butterflies come out at different times throughout the spring. Although the complete list of species within each family is too long to include, here are a few:

- *Papilionidae*: Swallowtails
- *Pieridae*: Cabbage White, Spring White, Sara's Orangetip
- *Lycaenidae*: Silvery Blue, Spring Azure
- *Nymphalidae*: Monarch, Mourning Cloak, California Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Ladies, Crescents, Checkerspots
- *Hesperiidae*: Silver-spotted Skipper, Propertius Duskywing, Two-banded Checkered Skipper

In the lower elevations, these butterflies can be seen throughout the spring and summer. In the photos, note the

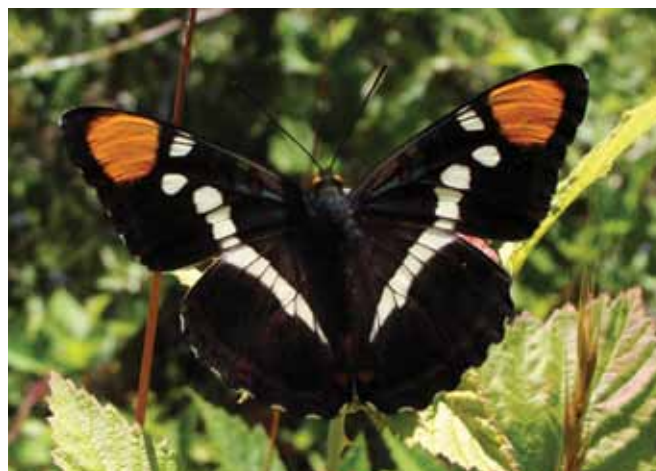
difference in color from Monarch to Swallowtail. The orange spots on the California Sister compare to the orange band on the edge of the wing of the Loroquin's Admiral.

Good resources to use are *The Butterflies of Cascadia*, a field guide by Robert Michael Pyle, and a website that is being developed called BAMONA or Butterflies and Moths of North America (<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org>).

Looking at butterflies can be fun, relaxing, and a good way to get outdoors to enjoy the world around you. Oh, and remember to leave the porch light on to see what moths may come for a visit!

Linda Kappen
humbugkapps@hotmail.com

Ed. Note: Linda Kappen is a schoolwide education assistant at Applegate School, where she started the school's butterfly garden 12 years ago. At the school, yearly monarch butterfly releases are held; in spring 2012, painted lady butterflies were reared there. Linda earned a naturalist certification from Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) and last summer hosted a two-day butterfly/moth course at SFI.



Photos, top to bottom: Western Tiger Swallowtail; California Sister; Loroquin's Admiral. Photos by Linda Kappen.

Voices of the Applegate spring concerts

We have a wonderful program in store for our spring concert. Blake Weller, our director, has chosen some delightful music that will appeal to most every musical taste.

We will be singing a set of four madrigals including "All Ye Who Music" by Balthazar Donato and "My Heart Doth Beg You'll Not Forget" by Orlando Lasso. Next we have a pair of Jewish folk songs including "Eerv Shel Shoshanim" or "Evening of Roses" by Josef Hadar. We will also sing Bobby McFerrin's version of "The 23rd Psalm," and conclude with a set from The Mamas & the Papas, including "California Dreaming."

Voices of the Applegate is a community choir consisting of about 25 dedicated singers. We sing four-part harmony and perform two concerts every year, one in the spring and one in the fall. We meet every Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Applegate Library Meeting Room. No auditions are necessary.

Our spring session began on January 16 and will end with two concerts in April. The first concert will be performed on April 12 at 7:30 pm at the Old Presbyterian Church on California Street in Jacksonville. The second concert will be at the Applegate River Lodge in downtown Applegate on Sunday, April 14, at 3 pm. All are invited to attend. Admission is free.

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

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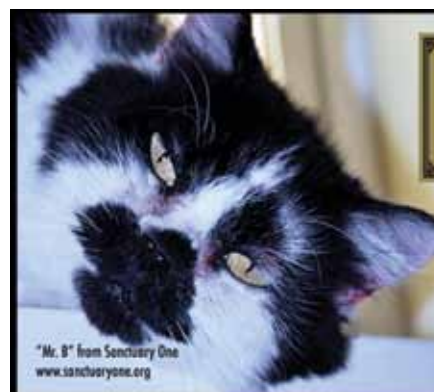


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BIRDMAN

Spring migration

BY TED A. GLOVER

Spring is in the air and the migration of thousands of birds is well under way by now. Many of these little fellows have wintered far to the south, some as far as South America. But they are on the move now and it is fun to keep our eyes out as they return to the Applegate Valley.

Rufous Hummingbirds are among the first to arrive, coming into our area in early March. Band-tailed Pigeons arrive here about mid-March. They have a distinctive light gray-tipped tail, yellow bill and legs, and a beautiful lavender hue on their bodies.

By the end of April the Black-headed Grosbeaks are back showing off a buffy orange breast and white patches on their wings as they move around foraging in the trees for pine and other seeds and various insects. Also arriving in April are the spectacular Lazuli Buntings, the male a vibrant sky-blue color with reddish breast and white belly. You'll see them close to or on the ground foraging for seeds, or at your thistle and sunflower feeders often with groups of American and Lesser Goldfinches.

One really special spring and summer

visitor to our area is the Western Kingbird. You should spot them quietly perched on power wires or fences watching for flying insects. If one happens by, off they fly to pick them out of the air, then return to their perch to gobble it down and wait patiently for the next one. The Western Kingbird has a light gray head, throat and upper breast, but a bright yellow belly. The tail of the Western Kingbird is square-tipped and black, with white on the outer edge of each side that is very noticeable when flying.

A relative of the Western Kingbird is the Tropical Kingbird that has a limited range north of the Mexican border, but is, in fact, the most widespread of all the kingbirds, nesting from Arizona and Texas

to central Argentina. But every year in the fall some Tropical Kingbirds wander along the Pacific Coast, even as far north as Canada and Alaska. We saw a pair of Tropical Kingbirds at the Arcata Marsh this past October.

Take some time this spring to notice the birds as they travel through our beautiful valley. The colors are magnificent as they reach their peak breeding plumage and begin to search for nesting sites to raise their young.

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681
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Ted A. Glover



The **Band-tailed Pigeon** is the largest pigeon in North America. It is found at altitudes between 3,000 and 12,000 feet, and feeds on seeds, especially acorns. Photo: Gary Kramer, fws.org.



Male **Lazuli Bunting**. The Lazuli Bunting is a North American songbird named for the gemstone lapis lazuli. Its habitat is brushy areas and sometimes weedy pastures. Photo: Dave Menke, fws.gov.



The **American Goldfinch** is the only finch in its subfamily that undergoes a complete molt. It is generally monogamous and produces one brood each year. Photo: Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream.



The **Western Kingbird** derives its name from its "take-charge" behavior. These birds defend their territory against much larger birds—even hawks. Photo: Peter J. Thiemann, Flickr photo stream.

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JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

Applegate Library

March is the month for our spring membership drive. Listen up all of you library patrons. If you haven't yet become members of Friends of the Applegate Library (FOAL), now is your chance. You can either join FOAL or renew your annual membership by mailing in a check for \$15 made out to Friends of the Applegate Library and address the envelope to Carol Hoon, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3257, Applegate, Oregon 97530.

We are not mailing out newsletters this spring as we have in the past. We are saving our money for the new storage building that will replace the building that burned to the ground last summer. We want to express our thanks to the generous people who donated money to the building fund after our cry for help in the last *Applegater*. We are making progress, but we are still seeking donations. If you renew your membership, you might also add a few dollars to your check for the building fund. Please specify the amount you are donating as separate from the \$15 membership fee. Or you can just write a check out for the building fund if you are already a member of FOAL. We have calculated that with 3,000 people living in the community of Applegate, if everyone just donated one dollar, we would have \$3,000. How about dropping by the library with your dollar (or more!).

We have already sponsored two holiday programs, one for Christmas, and the other for Valentine's Day. We have had wonderful attendance and a lot of community support. Although we planned these events as fund-raisers, they have turned out to be "fun-raisers" with our sing-alongs, poetry and community spirit. Thanks to all of you who have come to our

Ruch Library

Come and celebrate spring and the beginning of the gardening season at Ruch Library! We have books to inspire, inform, and help you select the best plants, garden furniture, and landscape designs to suit your needs.

We can help you use Freegal to download music from our vast store of music, and Library2Go, for free downloadable books. Once again we are offering free computer classes. Basics II covers word processing, digital photo processing, file management, and graphic design. These classes run March 21 - April 11. Then, beginning April 25, we will be starting a four-class Basics III class, where you can learn about advanced word processing, spreadsheets, computer management, and Internet services. Our classes are held on Thursdays from 1 to 3 pm, and preregistration is encouraged. Call Ruch Library to sign up now.

We have moved some books around

programs and have enjoyed the socializing, refreshments and songs.

Carol Hoon and Kirsten Shockey are organizing a knitting circle, which will meet in the library meeting room every first Friday of the month beginning March 1. We will get together and share patterns, skills, knowledge and creativity. Bring your projects and be inspired! Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Carol Hoon at 541-787-7261.

The libraries of Jackson County are getting ready for their summer reading programs. Check out the website for the county at www.jcls.org for more information. Also check out the Patron's Corner and find many interesting databases that can be downloaded for free. For instance, there is a database for genealogy, Blue Book information, languages, and homework help. Also, you can now download music with a system called Freegal. It's free and legal music, and it's the latest thing available from your library. You are able to download three songs per week at no charge.

Be sure to come into the library during the month of March to see the Crater Rock Museum presentation in the display case. You won't want to miss it.

Lucia Smith, our storytelling volunteer, has retired and moved farther away from Applegate. We are looking for new volunteers to come to the library to read to the children one day per week. Please come in and talk to Phyllis if you are interested in volunteering for this exciting job.

Continue to visit our library to find out about the latest news, information and programs. You will be surprised at how much is going on. We are more than just a library!

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

and now have a cozy Young Adult area where you can sit in the sun and read, study, work on a computer, play chess, or quietly visit with friends. We encourage teens and preteens to come in and check it out! Be sure and stop to see our window displays from Crater Rock Museum while you are here.

Jackson County Summer Reading Program is looking for presenters to offer programs for children that fit within the theme "Dig into Reading," covering underground animals, archeology, gardening, dirt, mining, dinosaurs, rocks, etc. The programs would run between June 10 and August 10, and small stipends are available. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity (in Ruch and Applegate—or beyond!), please contact your local library for more information.

We look forward to seeing you at the library!

Thalia Truesdell
Ruch Branch Manager
541-899-7438

FEATURED ADVERTISER

Each issue, the *Applegater* features one of our valued advertisers. Here is the story of McKee Bridge Restaurant in Applegate, Oregon, one of our long-time advertisers.

McKee Bridge Restaurant

BY SALLY BUTTSHAW

First there was the historic McKee Bridge, built in 1917 to provide transport to Medford for the copper that was mined on the other side of the Applegate river in the little town of Copper, now submerged beneath the waters of Applegate Lake.

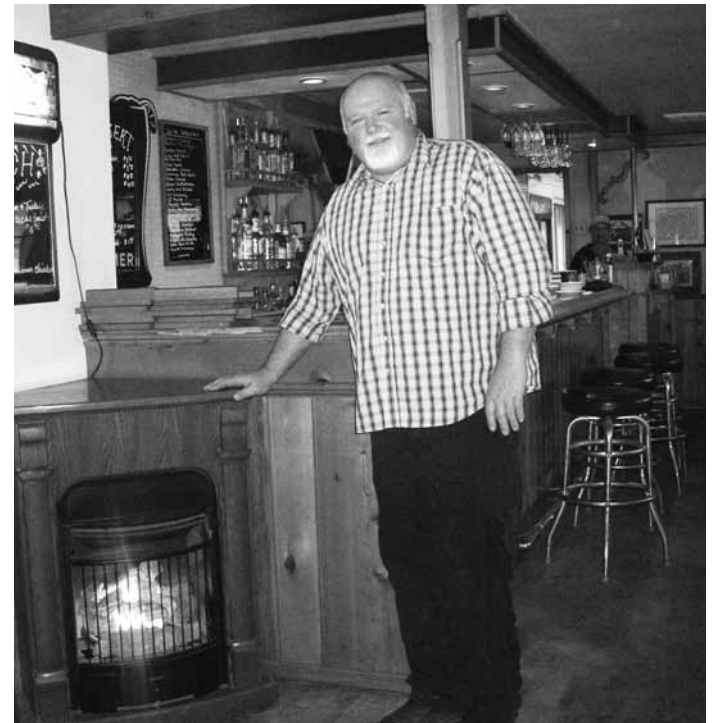
Then, in 1938, the McKee Bridge Restaurant opened, and it is now the oldest continually operated restaurant in southern Oregon. Owned and operated for the past nine years by Preston and Maggie Shreve, this is a wonderful place to grab a bite

for breakfast, lunch or dinner. The food is mostly homemade, everything from egg dishes and juice to their ever-popular fried chicken. Prime rib is the feature on Fridays and Saturdays.

When I stopped in on a dreary January afternoon, the roaring wood fire in the dining room was a welcome sight. And I have to say, the onion rings were fantastic, as were the chocolate chip cookies! But then I was too full to try something from the dessert menu, which featured four pies that day.

McKee Bridge Restaurant also features a full bar with TV screens and a nice wine selection.

Community events are hosted, from



Preston Shreve warming himself in front of the fireplace at McKee Bridge Restaurant, which he and his wife Maggie operate.
Photo by Sally Buttshaw.

pinocle on Wednesday, and bingo every other Sunday, to occasional Saturday night entertainment. In the dining room, paintings by local artists adorn the walls and are offered for sale. There is also a convenience store with beer, wine, milk, snacks and more.

Be sure to stop by this hidden gem on the way to Applegate Lake or when you are in the Ruch area. Located at 9045 Upper Applegate Road, the restaurant is just south of the Star Ranger Station. Restaurant hours are 8 am - 9 pm on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays; and 10 am - 9 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sally Buttshaw • 541-646-8418

Friends of Ruch Library Update

Greetings from Friends of Ruch Library (FORL)! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and have jumped into this new year with vigor. We want to thank each and every person who volunteered time and donated funds to our most recent Saturday Hours campaign. Thanks to the support, we are happy to announce that the Ruch Library Branch will be open on Saturdays in 2013.

With that in mind, it is time to move our focus to making sure we have the funds secured to make extended hours a reality for Saturdays in 2014 as well. To that end, we have news to share with you.

First, we are set to kick off our membership drive that will run from March 5 to April 5, and we hope to have many new Friends to welcome to our annual meeting on April 6. Next, we have new Ruch Library t-shirts designed by a local artist available for pre-order, to be picked up at the annual meeting. Order yours now. Contact Donna Epstein at dowritede@aol.com for information. In May, we will be in our usual spot in the post office at Buncom Day. Become a Friend and join us.

Membership is just \$10 per year for individuals and \$18 per year for families.

Membership gains you a vote at the annual meeting, advance notice of events, discounts at the A-Frame bookstore, a first choice preview at our annual fall book sale, and a welcome letter and bookmark. Even if you have donated to extended hours, it is important to join as a "Friend" with membership in order to take advantage of these benefits.

FORL is in need of volunteers to help coordinate events, sell books in the A-Frame, assist in fund-raising, and to become board members. Gaining new volunteers and board members is vital to our continued success in supporting the Ruch Branch Library. Ask a librarian at the Ruch Library, or visit us at our monthly board meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm to find out how to volunteer.

We look forward to your membership and your attendance at our annual meeting on April 6.

Have a wonderful year!

Donna Epstein, Chair
Friends of Ruch Library
dowritede@aol.com
Shonda Siler, Secretary
Gerri Leinfelder, Marketing
Tina Drake, Treasurer



Applegate woman starts nonprofit retreat for wounded veterans

BY A. PARADISO

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have been going on for more than ten years. Over two million Americans have served overseas. Whatever you may think about the politics, one thing is undoubtedly true—many Americans who have done what they considered their duty serving their country have come home emotionally and physically wounded.

Julie Fossen Wheeler grew up near McKee Bridge. Her family also purchased property in the Wallowa Mountains near Joseph, Oregon, when she was a teen. Her father used the 40 acres and five cabins, known as Divide Camp, as a base for elk hunting and summer pack trips.

After her father's death the camp didn't see much use. Her mother considered selling it, but the place it held in her memories made that an undesirable option. When Julie shared her vision of hosting wounded warriors her mother agreed that would be a wonderful use for the camp.

Newly retired, Julie created Divide Camp, Inc., a nonprofit gearing up to provide cost-free wilderness adventures primarily to post-9/11 wounded veterans. There are many such facilities in the south, but few in the northwest.

"I believe we owe those who fight for us," Julie says. "Even if you don't support war, we should all support our troops."

Applegate rancher and welder Carl Offenbacher, who has been working in Afghanistan, and longtime Divide Camp elk hunter Phil Moyer came on board as directors. Local guides in Wallowa County will lead hunting and fishing trips. Hiking, cross-country skiing, trail riding, snowmobiling and equine therapy are among the future goals.

Few people realize that many discouraged vets attempt suicide after returning home. The Veterans Administration estimates that a veteran dies by suicide every 80 minutes. Divide Camp is conceived as a therapeutic setting

to help wounded vets find spiritual and emotional well-being.

Aware that not everyone supports hunting, the board nonetheless feels that, particularly for those who grew up in rural cultures where hunting and fishing were the norm, being able to return to such pastimes can play an important role in the healing process.

"Finding a new 'normal' is critical," Julie says, "especially for those with new prosthetic limbs. Being outdoors and with other vets aids in recovery."

The Wallows have been referred to as "America's Switzerland." There are 70 lakes tucked in among the remote mountains, and numerous unique flora and fauna including 80 different wildflowers. It is also known for its elk hunting.

Last year Julie spent six months at the camp, with occasional help, cleaning out and refurbishing. She installed new floors and chinked the exterior logs in two cabins, redeveloped the spring complete with solar pump and installed water and power lines. Julie plans to spend another six months this year completing everything necessary to update the camp. She will be joined by Carl and Phil, and other volunteers during

the summer for differing periods of time. She hopes her mother will spend part of the summer enjoying the camp for the first time in years.

Still needed are more chinking, fencing, plumbing, wiring and help completing the photovoltaic electric system. The goal is to retain the rustic camp flavor, but also provide insulated cabins, semi-modern plumbing and electric lights.

Julie is using her own resources and will look for sponsorship and contributions from businesses and foundations. She has decided not to seek federal grant money "with all their strings attached."

Tax-deductible donations are appreciated. Help with public relations and physical labor is needed. Anyone interested in a working vacation in the Wallowa Mountains should contact Julie at 541-531-9939 for details. Go to www.dividecamp.org for more information.

A. Paradiso • paradiso@terragon.com



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Notes from a Rogue entomologist

Ants in the house and the curious case of the velvety tree ant

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

“What should I do if I have ants in the house?” This is a question that every entomologist has probably heard more than once. E.O. Wilson, our most famous living entomologist and a specialist on ants, provides this answer: “Be sure you have some time available, get a magnifying glass and prepare to study an alien society.” While this is not the answer most people are looking for, it is very typical of E.O. Wilson, who is an authority on biodiversity and actively involved in preserving it.

When I read Wilson’s autobiography, *The Naturalist*, I discovered that he had spent some of his youth in Washington, DC, and he would often visit Rock Creek Park where he surveyed and cataloged species of ants there. I grew up in DC and also spent considerable time in the park, but I was more likely to step on an ant than study it. I remember one occasion when, along with a couple of friends (I am not taking sole responsibility for this), I put a red ant and a black ant together in a jar to see them duke it out. Having rather short attention spans, when nothing happened after five minutes or so we released the ants and moved on to other entertainment. In looking back on my youth, I do think it is fortunate that video games were not available and that we had only three TV channels. But let’s move on before I start sounding like Clint Eastwood in the movie *Gran Torino*.

It is very likely that those black and red ants that we captured were carpenter ants. The largest ants that we encounter locally are carpenter ants ranging from one-quarter to one-half inch in size and, as their name implies, they will, on occasion, enter houses and excavate wood, particularly if the wood has been softened by moisture. Carpenter ants do not feed on wood as do termites; they are only removing the wood to create a nesting space.

Then there are those small ants that are often seen invading the kitchen

looking for food or possibly water. These smaller ants can be a number of different species and they are referred to by various names, such as sugar ants and piss ants. I

When an insect is brightly colored like that it usually means that they taste bad (possibly poisonous) or they can deliver a painful sting.

was curious about the origin of the term “piss ant”; apparently, it is derived from “pismire,” the Middle English word for ant, which referred to the pungent smell of ant nests in the woods. The smell is the result of formic acid (in Latin, *formica*), which was first isolated from ants. Our most common sugar or piss ant is the aptly named odorous house ant. These small black ants are frequent home invaders and give off an odor when crushed. The odor has been described as the smell of a coconut, which I do not get at all, but my sense of smell is not the best. However, if you happen to crush a velvety tree ant, I guarantee that you will get to experience the pungent, acrid smell of formic acid. Velvety tree ants are variable in size but may grow to a quarter inch—larger than most of the pest ants in your house, but still smaller than a carpenter ant. The color of the velvety tree ant varies from a dark brown head and abdomen to a red or even yellow thorax, and “velvety” refers to a layer of fine hairs on their body.

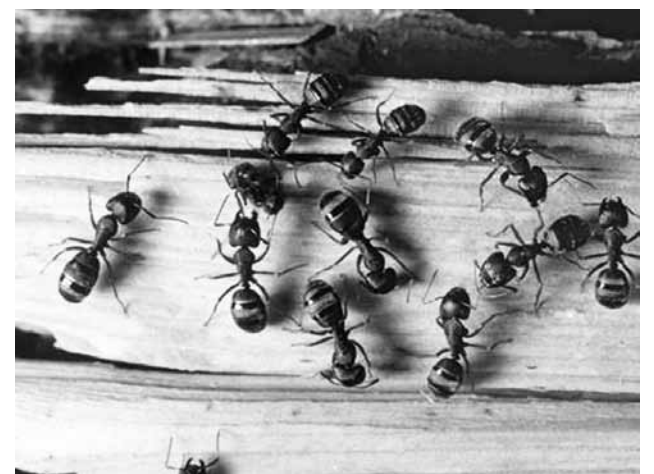
Velvety tree ants are not to be confused with the velvet ant (this is the problem with common names). The velvet ant is actually a type of solitary wasp; the females are wingless so they resemble ants. They are large, very hairy, and have patches of bright red. When an insect is brightly colored like that it usually means that they taste bad

(possibly poisonous) or they can deliver a painful sting. In the case of the velvet ant, it is most definitely the latter, and folks who have made the mistake of picking one up or accidentally stepping on one while barefoot can attest to the wasp’s “cow killer” nickname, as the sting is reported to be quite memorable. Velvet ants do not live in colonies and are usually found crawling on the ground in open areas.

When I first arrived in southern Oregon a little over 25 years ago, the velvety tree ant was not considered to be a pest. Now it has become a common ant pest found in the home, particularly if you live in a wooded area. I looked at some references from the 1990s on ant pests, and the velvety tree ant does not usually warrant even a mention. I also checked the *Pacific Northwest Insect Management Handbook*, which is updated annually. In 2007 the velvety tree ant is mentioned as a structural pest; prior to that the only ants discussed were carpenter ants. A list of nuisance ants found in the home does not include the velvety tree ant until 2009. So what happened between 25 years ago and now to elevate the velvety tree ant to common-pest status? Perhaps it increased its range, but I have not found much evidence of that. In fact, when I looked into Louis Gentner’s old insect collection here at the research center, I found half a dozen specimens of *Liometopum occidentale*, or velvety tree ant, collected here locally dating back to the 1930s.

Could something have changed in the home environment to favor the velvety tree ant? Well, it just happens that the velvety tree ant has a distinct proclivity for nesting in Styrofoam insulation. They seem to love the stuff. I guess it makes sense—why mess around with damp wood when it is so easy to chew a nice cavity into Styrofoam? Carpenter ants will occasionally nest in attic insulation, but they do not seem to prefer it the way the velvety tree ants do. I have seen velvety tree ant nests in walls, ceilings, even doors and windowsills that contained foam insulation. My hypothesis is that the proliferation of foam insulation over the last 25 years in our homes has provided a new and most favorable habitat for velvety tree ants to exploit.

But remember, both velvety tree ants and carpenter ants are using the structure only as a nesting spot. Although they may feed on foodstuffs from indoors, their food is primarily obtained outdoors; they eat mainly live and dead insects along with honeydew (i.e., sugary excretions) produced by other insects such as aphids. If ants are taking up residence in your home, finding and eliminating the original nest will usually provide excellent control. Carpenter ants found in the home are often coming from a nearby tree stump, one of



Top photo: Carpenter ants are the largest ants found locally. Photo: pestid.msu.edu. **Bottom photo:** Odorous house ants often invade kitchens. Photo: nathistoc.bio.uci.edu.

their favored nesting sites. Velvety tree ants, as the name suggests, are most often nesting in a tree hole. While you might think it would be simple to track the ants back to their nest, I have rarely found it to be easy.

Carpenter ants were invading our house a while ago and I tried using a stethoscope for locating their nest in the wall; this is actually a recommended technique, but it did not work for me. On another occasion, we had some odorous house ants that were getting into the kitchen and I happened to be digging around the foundation for another reason when I unearthed their nest. I did feel a slight pang as I saw the worker ants scurrying for shelter, most of them carrying a small white larva in their mandibles. But, with the nest demolished, the ants were no longer a problem in the house.

If you have ant problems, it is recommended to block points of entry. Remove plants right around the foundation, especially tree limbs that are touching the roof since ants will often climb on vegetation to access your house. Baiting can be an efficient way to eliminate ants in the house. The ants will take the poison bait back to the nest and feed it to the developing larvae, thereby eliminating the nest. When using ant bait, try to check and see that the ants are taking the bait. Ants will often be looking for either sugar or protein and, if the bait is not what they are looking for, they may pass it up. While ants are a wonderful object of study, I realize that most people do not want to share their living space with an alien society.

Richard J. Hilton
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Oregon State University
Southern Oregon Research
and Extension Center
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The velvety tree ant has become a common house pest, particularly in wooded areas. Photo: bugguide.net.

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happy ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

New state wildfire bill proposed

BY SANDY SHAFFER

A new bill is being discussed in the Oregon legislature this session that has the potential to significantly influence our future wildfire seasons, and our pocketbooks!

The proposed "Wildfire Protection Act" would change how fire suppression resources are funded, as well as when and how these resources are ordered up. If your property is classified as forest-timber or grazing land, you should be very interested in this new bill, because you help fund fire suppression in our state.

As a forest landowner I was definitely interested and so I did a little research on what we have now versus what is being proposed; then I talked to a couple of experts from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to better understand the possible changes. I liked what I learned.

Presently, we forest or grazing landowners pay a fee on our property-tax bills (labeled "OR Forestry Fire, Timber/Grazing") for wildfire protection by our local Medford district of the ODF. If there is a structure on the property there is a second fee labeled "OR Forestry Fire, surcharge," because it's a known fact that humans are the main cause of wildfires. Both fees are calculated annually.

These fees go toward funding two levels of fire suppression: (1) Local "initial attack" of fires on private lands in our area by the ODF (usually fires less than 10 acres in size, which is about 95% of all fires); and (2) A statewide fund that covers the

first \$10 million to fight "large fires" (those requiring resources such as aerial retardant, aircraft, helicopters, or additional crews and fire teams). If the state's "large-fire" costs are even higher, the next \$15 million is currently covered by the state's general fund, and after that a special insurance policy takes over to cover up to another \$25 million.

Currently the local "initial attack" is funded 50-50 by private landowner taxes and the state's general fund. However, the first \$10 million of the statewide "large-fire" fund is paid solely by our private landowner taxes.

The primary reasoning behind this new Wildfire Protection Act is that it's more effective, less costly and safer for communities to extinguish wildfires while they are small. This isn't rocket science; it's universally accepted that, aside from fire prevention, reducing the response time to a wildfire is the most effective factor under our control to keep wildfires small. Because costs for "large fires" can escalate very quickly, more "initial attack" resources just makes sense.

The other reason for this new Act is that the cost of fighting Oregon's "large fires" has only been averaging around \$8

million annually. This means that private landowners are the only ones footing that bill (because the costs are within that first \$10 million). Good news, yes, but fair? Hardly.

The new proposal is two-fold: to shift about \$3 million of private landowner funds from the statewide "large-fire"

bucket over to the local "initial attack" buckets, and to also gradually (over two years) get to an even 50-50 split (private landowners and general fund) on the first \$20 million for "large fire" suppression costs. After that, the special insurance policy would go into affect. With increased firefighting resources throughout the state, that \$8-million average should drop (or maybe stay level if you

account for climate change?).

If you are really paying attention to these numbers, you might be questioning the math on the "large fires"? Currently \$10 million plus another \$15 million needs to be paid before the insurance policy kicks in, but the new proposal is for only \$20 million to be spent before it takes affect. Why? Well, since Oregon has done such a great job of being prepared, reducing wildfire risks and having effective initial

attacks on fires, the state's "deductible" for the wildfire insurance policy was reduced by \$5 million! So, we all should be patting ourselves on the back—our fire prevention and preparedness work has paid off!

You might also notice, as I did, that the proposed changes have the state's general fund paying out more for wildfire costs in the long run. Yes, everyone in the state would be paying more and I have to say that there's a part of me that's pleased about this. After all, the majority of wildfires are human-caused and locally only about half of those are from landowners on their own property. The other half are caused by "the public"—motorists, recreationists, hunters, arson, etc., according to Dan Thorpe, our local ODF district forester.

The state's reasoning for taking a greater share of wildfire suppression costs (in addition to the importance of wildfire protection to public safety) is their recognition of the broad public benefits of a healthy forest landscape—clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, economic contributions, recreation and more. The feeling is that Oregon's livability is defined by its forests.

When/if this Wildfire Protection Act passes, we would see more firefighting resources available locally and possibly lower annual tax rates for our fire protection.

Sandy Shaffer

Applegate Fire Plan Coordinator
sassyoneOR@q.com

So, we all should be patting ourselves on the back—our fire prevention and preparedness work has paid off!

NEWS from Oregon Department of Forestry

Josephine County's last chance for wildfire fuel reduction assistance

Get a jump on protecting your home from wildfire by getting fuel reduction assistance today. Several Josephine County agencies and nonprofit partners have joined forces to help landowners get prepared for fire season. Assistance money can help landowners with brush reduction, dead vegetation removal, tree thinning and other landscaping projects that can significantly reduce the intensity of a potentially destructive wildfire.

In many cases, financial assistance is in the form of partial reimbursement after a fuel reduction job is completed. In some cases, such as when a landowner is physically unable to do fuel reduction work, assistance is available to cover most if not all of the cost.

In all cases, the goal is to make defensible space zones around homes in wildfire-risk areas. These zones help firefighters to protect homes threatened by wildfire. In some situations, it may be beneficial to reduce fuels along property lines, roadsides or other areas on larger lots.

The partners involved in this cooperative effort include:

- Grants Pass Department of Safety, Fire and Rescue Division
- Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (grant ends December 31)
- Illinois Valley Fire District
- Josephine County Forestry (grants ends in June)
- Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Oregon Department of Forestry, Grants Pass Unit

For a free on-site fuel reduction assessment, call 541-471-4248.

Smoke on the horizon

It happens every burning season. You want to burn your pile of brush and branches, but the air quality index is too high and open burning is shut off. Yet you can see plumes of smoke rising from the surrounding mountains.

How come burning is allowed in the high country when it's shut off in the valley?

Burning is sometimes allowed on a higher-elevation site if the fire can generate enough heat energy to propel its smoke high enough where wind will blow it away from the valley. Debris pile fires in valley areas often don't generate enough heat energy to propel smoke high enough to catch the upper-elevation winds. Burning in valley areas is often allowed only when lower-elevation winds exist to blow away smoke generated at the valley floor and from the surrounding foothills.

Higher-elevation burning is done primarily to reduce slash left over following a logging operation, or to get rid of tree branches, boles and brush cuttings created by a fuel-reduction project. Most of the higher-elevation burns take place on industrial forestlands, national forest lands, or Bureau of Land Management lands. Prior to igniting the burn, the owner or manager of the lands must have submitted a detailed analysis of the fuel to be burned, as well as the site, to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Factors in the burn plan include site elevation, aspect, slope percentage, a description of the fuel (such as tree species), the age of the fuel, the amount of fuel and the size of the area to be burned. There must also be an ignition plan, which describes the optimum temperature and wind speed

for burning, the ignition method, and the estimated time it will take to fully ignite all of the fuel. The plan must be approved by ODF before ignition may take place, and ODF's smoke management meteorologists also decide when the burn may take place.

Information about ODF's Smoke Management Program is posted on the Internet at <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/fire/smp/dailysmoke.aspx>.

For daily information about prescribed fire projects on federal lands in southwest Oregon, see <http://ormic.org/rxfire.shtml> or call 800-267-3126.

Brian Ballou • 541-665-0662

Fire Prevention Specialist
ODF Southwest Oregon District
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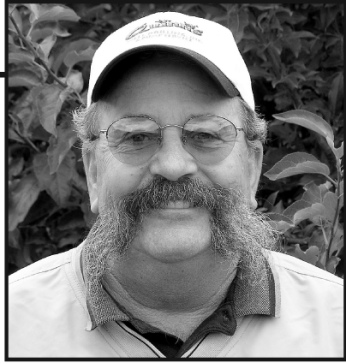
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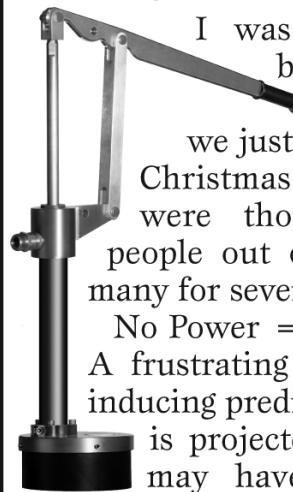
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Hand Pump

with Bob Quinn, the Water Doctor



I was reflecting back to the storm we just had before Christmas. There were thousands of people out of power - many for several days. No Power = No Water A frustrating and panic inducing predicament. It is projected that we may have a harsh winter and many of us could be faced with power outages again.

Don't be left without water. A hand operated pump can be installed on your well. Most people picture a hand pump being such that you have to be a weight lifter to get the water to come up and then you have to break your back carrying buckets of water.

The "Simple Pump" can be installed so that you easily lift the handle and you have water in your house! A small child can operate the Simple Pump. No buckets required and no weight lifting!

Quinn's is your exclusive "Simple Pump" dealer in Southern Oregon. Give us a call for more information and a Free Estimate.

Water is a geological cocktail so DRINK MORE WATER!



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TALL TALES FROM THE EDITOR

The Rim mine

or

Climbing toward the light



It's a strange sensation, an urge that overcomes me every once in awhile. I am swallowed up in a dark, dreary, menacing ocean of desire. Why? I can't say. Years ago I had no appetite for the blackened hole of hell that I cry out for today.

So why now do I find myself wanting to climb into a cage, ride down a dark shaft that's dripping wet all the way to the bottom of a deep black hole—one that opens into a chamber of slow death, also known as a uranium mine.

The one uranium mine image that fills what's left of my now depleted brain cells was called The Rim. It was located out in the rattlesnake, scorpion, no-see-um infested cedar and piñon pine forest of southeast Utah. The forest on the plateau in this area was interspersed with pinto bean and winter wheat fields depending on the time of year.

The Rim wasn't the deepest hole I'd ever been in, being only 650 feet down or so. The deepest was Rio Algom, which was around 1,600 feet deep.

I was the flunky in the geology department of a future financially and environmentally bankrupt Fortune 500 company called Atlas Corporation. It had maybe a dozen mines in this part of a rapidly vanishing paradise.

I owed this job to J. Michael Pearce, formerly of the J. Michael Pearce band. He had the uncanny insight to get a degree in geology just in case the world of a delusional, self-gratifying, despicable, short-lived life of a rock star eluded him. This is unlike his buddy (that would be me) who has always been delusional and with no back-up plan.

Usually I was J. Michael's flunky.

"Hey J.D., why don't you carry our lunch pails over to that beautiful overlook so we can gaze down on the red rocks of Canyonlands National Park. We can kill the afternoon here. Want a brownie?"

Or "Why don't you drive us over to the Frontier bar in Dove Creek, Colorado. I need a nap before we party."

If we had the whole day to kill, usually Wednesday through Friday, we'd go to the Saloon bar in Telluride, then referred to as "To-hell-you-ride," Colorado.

J. Michael never worked me beyond my job-skill level. On this particular day, I was carrying the lunch pail for Jack Morton, one of the other geologists. I'd worked with Jack many times, and we were heading out to my favorite mine, The Rim, to spend the morning probing longholes.

One of my few official job descriptions was "longhole prober." Probing longholes is accomplished when you push your probe 50 to 150 feet into a hole that's about the

size of the diameter of a silver dollar. As you slowly pull your probe out, you take a reading on an instrument much like a Geiger counter and record on paper your findings every foot. These earlier drilled holes were usually in mined-out stopes at various degrees, above and below eye level. For example, I would spray paint on the wall in red "+24°," "+16°," "+8°," "0°," "-8°," "-16°," etc. Later I would draw a graph from the probe information to see what the ore body, if any, might look like.

Jack and I had planned to spend the afternoon drinking Scotch with Felix Medesco, a very large man of Basque heritage. He could lift double the weight I could. Wait, that's not a fair comparison because I tried not to lift anything heavier than a guitar pick. Anyway, Felix was quite strong with a hearty laugh. He ran The Rim mine as a lease operation from Atlas. If Felix wasn't topside in his ratty 1960 single-wide trailer that served as his office, we'd go arrowhead hunting instead. There was no shortage of things to do while still on the time clock.

We'd gotten into the cage, an iron box that could hold eight men or so. Jack pushed the button to let the hoist man know we were ready to go topside. We'd gone 150, maybe 200 feet, when the cage came to an abrupt stop with enough force to move one's Rocky Mountain oysters to your eyeballs. "What the?" we yelled in unison.

Jack went to use the emergency phone that's in the cage to call the hoist man and find out what's up. "This is just perfect," Jack said. He may have used stronger language when the phone didn't work. It was all corroded and rusted, like 1959 was the last year it had been used."

After about 45 minutes or so, Jack said, "We'll have to climb out."

"You bet," I said with a smirk. "It's at least 500 feet to the surface and what if the cage starts moving again when we're half in and half out of it?"

Jack laughed and said, "You won't be so tall then."

It took a few minutes to pry open the rusted safety escape door on the side of the cage. Looking out the escape door, I wasn't feeling very comfortable with the thought of climbing 500 feet or so up a wooden ladder that was installed in the early Stone Age days of uranium mining

when The Rim mine shaft was sunk. The fit was so tight I wasn't sure I'd be able to squeeze myself out of the cage onto a wooden beam (wood is what the mine shaft was cribbed in).

There was a downpour of pebbles and water outside the cage. The wooden beams and wooden ladder were as slippery as ice. I looked up and couldn't believe how small the hole of light looked up at the top. I felt like I was thousands of feet below the surface. While looking up, my hard hat fell off, but my mine lamp stayed attached to it (which was attached to the lamp battery on my mine belt), so I didn't lose the hard hat.

Recovering my balance and putting my hard hat back on left my head exposed for just enough time for a speeding pebble to hit its target. If I hadn't had so much hair, it could have caused more brain damage. Something a little larger might even have knocked me off the ladder. Keep focused, I told myself. Climb toward the light. Surely it would grow bigger and brighter as I experienced my own episode of *The Twilight Zone*.

"J.D., here's a section with a couple of ladder runs missing. The one you need to grab hold of to pull yourself up is loose, so be careful."

Right. It was all I could do not to stay wrapped around the timber next to me, but I kept climbing toward the light. Climb, rest, climb. So it went for what felt like days.

When we finally pulled our soaked-to-the-bone bodies up and over the ledge at the top of the mine shaft, we'd been climbing ever so slowly for more than two hours. My arms and legs were as limp as a drowned rag doll. Man, did that warm sun feel good; the Utah blue sky never looked bluer.

The hoist man, Freddy Skidmore, was there to greet us. (Freddy was a rail of a man who wore his ball cap cocked to the right, one pant leg inside his scuffed brown work boots and the other outside. I believe this look may be a genetic trait that runs throughout southeast Utah. Quite trendy.) "Power's out," he told us.

"No kidding," Jack said sarcastically.

"Yes, sir. No telling when it will be back on. Them Navajos [miners] might be stuck down there all night. You know I ain't never seen no one climb up out of that shaft before."

Years later, I took my bride Sioux to see The Rim mine early on in our adventures together in life. Unfortunately, most everything was gone. A chain-link fence now enclosed my favorite radioactive hole. While Doo Doo the Wonder Dog ran around marking all the "Danger, No Trespassing" signs, I regaled Sioux with other Rim mine tales. This is one of my favorites.

I've never quit climbing toward the light, which represents my dreams in life. I have been sidetracked, laid up, down dead-end roads, but I am still climbing. Whatever your dreams are—love, health, happiness, fame, money—keep climbing. You lose only when you quit the journey toward the light.

Years ago I had no appetite for the blackened hole of hell that I cry out for today.



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The Editor, J.D. Rogers
541-846-7736

OPINION

Pilot Joe Treegate

BY JOHN GERRITSMASMA

The cutting of two old-growth trees on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pilot Joe project are opined to be the trust-buster with the Applegate community according to Luke Ruediger's opinion in the last issue of the *Applegater*.

As an integral part of the Pilot, the BLM requested and funded a multiparty monitoring effort led by the Southern Oregon Restoration Collaborative (formerly Small Diameter Collaborative). Part of the monitoring effort is the establishment of plots for pre- and post-data gathering on the Pilot Joe. It was during the establishment of one of those plots that the group came across a questionable mark of what appeared to be six to eight large trees on unit 26-1A. Along with the monitoring group that day in the field was the current Applegate Partnership president, Aaron Krikava. Aaron photographed and documented the marked trees and through the Applegate Partnership forwarded the information to me. Seeing what appeared to be a questionable mark on at least some of the six or so trees in the photos, I arranged for Nate, my silviculturist (who writes the stand prescriptions and marking guides), to have a look. Two days after receiving the information from the Partnership, Nate field checked the situation.

BLM uses orange flagging to denote a unit boundary prior to finalizing a boundary with orange paint. Noting an orange flag line adjacent to the trees in question, Nate surmised the boundary was not fully marked with paint at that location, and filled in the boundary with paint, which effectively excluded the photographed trees from the unit to be harvested. I reported the information back to Aaron and others. The purchaser of the project was about to begin cutting in that unit, so I felt satisfied the situation had been resolved and the trees would not be cut.

In an effort to provide Aaron a learning opportunity about the project's implementation related to cable corridors, I invited Aaron to go along with the logger and my sale administrator in unit 26-1A during the corridor layout and approval process. Upon reaching the questionable trees, the group discovered a much different situation than what was surmised and reported to me by Nate. A purchaser will flag in his cable corridors, in any color but orange, for approval by the sale administrator. In this particular (rare and only) instance, the purchaser used orange flagging, which created the confusion for Nate that caused him to deduce the boundary of the unit had excluded the trees in question. In reality, the flagging was only a logging corridor, and not a boundary. The bottom line is that six

or so trees in question were designated for cutting. Thus, about two weeks had passed during which time I reported the trees to be excluded from harvest, only to find out at the end of the two weeks such was not the case.

It is also crucial to note that the sale is under contract, and the purchaser (Boise) must agree to any adjustment in trees designated for harvest. They were only willing to give up the larger of the questionable trees, and proceeded to cut the remaining ones, including two trees that were afterward determined to be of old-growth age (i.e., older than 180 years old). Whether there was one day, one week, or one month before cutting when the trees were detected, only the purchaser can relinquish trees they have under contract in circumstances such as the one at Pilot Joe. Therefore, allegations that BLM did nothing, despite pleas from the community, are completely false. BLM was unable to do anything. The remaining trees cut in the group were under 150 years of age and therefore within the age criteria for harvest. However, the size of the trees compared to the surrounding trees would lead one to deduce such trees would stay under the Pilot Joe prescription, and a re-reading of the detailed prescription confirmed the error in not designating all six or so trees to be retained from harvest.

It was never BLM's intent to harvest two old-growth trees and the adjacent younger but large trees. While I don't wish to diminish the value of an old-growth tree or downplay that BLM made a mistake, the BLM marked some 22,000 trees in that sale. An error rate of six or so trees out of 22,000 is certainly not a poster child for what is wrong with BLM's Pilot Joe project. It should simply have been a joint effort between BLM and the collaborators to fix what was necessary to not repeat the event.

So, the unintentional harvest of about six trees discovered by a multiparty monitoring effort paid for by the BLM is reason for Luke to conclude that the BLM can no longer be trusted. Those who wish to make the "Pilot Joe Treegate" an incident with consequences far beyond its real significance will do so for ulterior motives. The rest of us will continue to strive toward meaningful community involvement and learning to continually improve the implementation of the restoration principles. That is why the rest of us will continue our collaboration effort on the Applegate Pilot.

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A more progressive approach to forest management

BY CHERYL BRUNER

The Williams Integrative Vegetative Management (WIVM) Environmental Assessment (EA) was made public on December 18, 2012, and a decision is expected in a couple of months. The WIVM is a 10-year, 6,604-acre Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forest-management project that includes hazardous fuels reduction as well as commercial thinning. Since the introduction of the project in April of 2012, the Williams community has participated vigorously in the assessment and submission of comments to BLM. The Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP) and the community are promoting a more progressive approach to forest management that would embrace local values.

The bulk of the commercial timber volume for this BLM proposal will come from plantations that are less than 60 years old. We are supportive of such timber extraction, as well as certain proposed variable density logging in some areas, as BLM proposes. However, we do object strongly to BLM's cutting of trees over 100 years old in natural stands. BLM wants to log trees up to 150 years, like they did in the Pilot Joe timber sale. The average age of trees in our area, as determined by BLM, is 102 years. We are disappointed in the BLM who, despite several meetings and field trips, refuses to modify their original proposal or develop prescriptions for thinning with a 100-year standard.

In addition, the EA proposes fuels treatment and commercial logging immediately adjacent to the recent Riggs Lone Creek 250-acre clear-cut. Claudia Beausoleil, WCFP vice president, says, "We are shocked that the BLM EA fails to acknowledge the Williams IVM Scoping comment letter of June 14, 2012, to drop treatments adjacent to private land clear-cutting." We recommend that units adjacent to this clear-cut have no treatment to provide a refugia for displaced animals and mitigate edge habitat, effects and fragmentations as clear-cut areas recover. Treating BLM areas adjacent to this recent clear-cut exacerbates local cumulative impacts. These effects are negative to

many species in terms of population densities, gene flow and local extirpation of populations.

The proposed WIVM also includes forested areas that were part of the BLM Scattered Apples Forest management plan in 2004 that was protested by the community because of its aggressive approach in northern spotted owl habitat. The BLM is again proposing commercial thinning in this area, which has a lack of hazardous fuels and provides nesting, roosting and forage habitat for the spotted owl. It would be foolish and wasteful to degrade spotted owl critical habitat and log century-old trees that have almost no chance of burning.

WCFP is requesting that the BLM include citizen monitoring as part of quality control. As an Adaptive Management Area, the Williams IVM could be a model for effective collaboration among stakeholders. The Williams Community is home to a diverse group of citizens who have intimate relationships with the forests. Their knowledge and reliance on the forests makes them uniquely qualified to help the BLM stay on track with management goals. Citizen monitors could help prevent socially unacceptable cutting that does not follow prescriptions. This collaboration is timely as socially acceptable forestry management becomes more mainstream.

These issues are vital to the Williams community who have chosen to live here because of the amazing mountains, trees, plants, and wildlife.

The Williams Community Forest Project will continue to sponsor community meetings to provide a forum for communication regarding the WIVM and the establishment of a monitoring program. Refer to the website at williamscommunityforestproject.org for information regarding the WIVM.

For further information, contact Cheryl Bruner at 541-846-1729 or info@williamscommunityforestproject.org.

Cheryl Bruner • 541-846-1729

President, Williams Community Forest Project

info@williamscommunityforestproject.org

Check these out — only on our website

www.applegater.org

- "Chicken herder or Don't be a loser" by J.D. Rogers
- "In the life of a Sanctuary One intern" by Kirk Stonick
- Harris and Stumbo are 2012 Tree Farmers of the Year
- Tax tips for forest landowners

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Address Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor to:
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Beaver in the Applegate

BY JAKOB SHOCKEY

In 1826 - 27, a Canadian fur trapper named Peter Skene Ogden became the first white explorer to document the valleys of southwestern Oregon when Ogden was appointed by Hudson's Bay Company to lead a series of mass beaver-trapping expeditions, called the Snake River Expeditions. The goal was to leave no live beaver behind. The British Hudson's Bay Company was firmly established north of the Columbia River, but they were concerned about American trappers moving up the coast into what is present-day Oregon. To buffer themselves from the encroachment of these American frontiersmen, the Hudson's Bay Company resolved to create a "fur-desert" across the landscape south of the Columbia River.

Upon reaching the area of present-day Ashland, Peter Ogden was surprised to find beaver were already being hunted for meat by the local Shasta tribe. This was distressing to Ogden, for the Shasta roasted the beaver whole and allowed their valuable fur to burn away in the process. As his trappers went to work in the Rogue Valley, Ogden noted that six in every ten beavers they killed were scarred with old arrow and spear wounds. As he traversed this novel landscape, Ogden's focus on the extirpation of beaver was indefatigable. Upon encountering war between the tribes near present-day Klamath Falls, Ogden wrote "they may destroy each other, the more the better; if they are fond of war, let them enjoy it and we in the [meantime] will endeavor to wage war with their beaver."

Beavers are the only animal, next to the human, that can engineer dramatic change to their surrounding landscape and ecosystem. They are strict herbivores and eat leaves, twigs and the cambium bark layer from the trees they fell. Their dams back up water and create wetland ponds from which they can escape from predators and keep their vegetation cuttings fresh. They will either den in stream banks or construct lodges within their ponds, and

they will often disguise the entrance tunnel beneath the water's surface. They mate for life and have tight family units in which the mother is primarily responsible for maintaining the dam, lodge and food stores, while the father and older siblings are largely responsible for raising young.

When beavers move into an area of a stream and begin damming, the riparian ecosystem quickly changes. Water begins to back up against their dams, slowing the water's velocity and allowing more water to seep into the local water table. With this increased groundwater, streamside vegetation multiplies (despite the trees felled by beavers) and ground-cooled water begins upwelling back into the creek. These cool and often shaded pools become invaluable habitat for salmon and other fish. Suspended sediment and nutrients settle out of the slowed water and are deposited behind the beaver dams and around the surrounding vegetation.

The long-term effects of these beaver ecosystems are considerable and have been gaining more attention across the country in recent years. Due to elevated water tables, streams with beaver dams have consistently more water during the dry summer months and seasonal streams have been returned to year-round flow with the addition of beavers. Ranchers, land managers and municipalities are using the practice of reintroduction as a valid tool for water catchment across the west.

The sequestered water and vegetation complexity that beaver ecosystems create

also has a striking effect upon fish and wildlife. Salmon populations expand, bringing marine nitrogen into our landscape as their carcasses are hauled away by scavengers. Bird diversity and wild ungulate populations also flourish off this beaver habitat. That's why organizations like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Ducks Unlimited have funded efforts to reintroduce beavers.

However, these same effects can come in direct conflict with people and property because the best habitat is in the low-gradient streams along the valley floor, which is also often prime real estate,

pond culverts can be protected with various do-it-yourself "beaver deceivers" that have been developed in recent years. However, living with beavers in our waterways also requires a willingness to acknowledge their place in this valley and the benefit of the positive changes they bring to our creeks.

In Canyonville this January, the Cowcreek Band of Umpqua Indians and the Beaver Advocacy Committee of the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (SURCP) hosted the third international State of the Beaver Conference. For three days people from many walks of life (from scientists to trappers) converged to share research projects, stories, and a passion for the beaver and what it does for our water and land. Across North America, people, towns and watershed councils have rallied around the reintroduction of this species into its native habitat. There were many technical presentations on mapping suitable beaver habitat or counting how many more salmon fry survive in beaver-influenced streams, but the greater message of this conference was simple: If we leave them alone, beavers are capable of doing things with our waterways from which people, salmon and the rest of our ecosystem benefit.

Before Peter Ogden and the Hudson's Bay Company, this area was thick with beavers and the beneficial effects they had upon the landscape. The water of free-flowing creeks like Thompson, Williams and Sterling would have moved sluggishly from one beaver pond to the next in a successional chain of wetland to the Applegate River. Today, beavers and their ponds have faded from these creeks and the Applegate Valley. However, fragmented colonies still live scattered at higher elevations and along riverbanks. Someday, we may again see their dams and lodges in southwest Oregon. I hope that we can be grateful for their work and respect their place in this valley.

For more information on designing and installing a beaver deceiver, contact me or check out *The Best Beaver Management Practices* DVD at the Applegate Library.

Jakob Shockey
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Beavers are strict herbivores and eat leaves, twigs and the cambium bark layer from the trees they fell. Photo: <http://www.martinezbeavers.org>.

pasture and agricultural land. Beavers will fell unprotected ornamental and fruit trees, and their wetland expansion efforts can flood cropland, backyards and pasture. Also, like a hole in a very long dam, beavers often find plugging roadway culverts to be an irresistible opportunity for creating a pond. Fortunately, to outsmart a beaver you have to be only slightly smarter than a beaver, and there are practical and inexpensive solutions to these problems. Tree trunks can be wrapped in chicken wire, and road or

— Consider a pet trust —

Most people remember the story of hotel heiress Leona Helmsley, who left 12-million dollars to her Maltese dog, Trouble. Because of death threats, the dog had its own security at a cost of \$100,000 per year!

While most of us do not have those resources to commit, responsible pet owners do want to make sure that, in the

event of their death, their pets are cared for. Many assume that they can leave a portion of their estate to their pet in a will, but this is not allowed under Oregon law. Oregon law does, however, allow the creation of a pet trust. In creating the trust, the pet owner names a trustworthy caregiver as the animal's recipient and leaves a sum of money to provide for the animal's care.

Pet owners creating a pet trust should ensure that the designated caregiver will be committed to the long-term care of the animal, and the trust should be drafted to include specific instructions on how the funds should be applied toward that care.

The Oregon Humane Society (OHS) offers a related program called "Friends Forever," which houses surviving pets when

OHS is named in a planned gift.

Make sure to consider how to provide for your pets in the event that they survive you. If you wish to memorialize this arrangement in your estate planning documents, it is good to have an attorney review any written declaration.

Alissa M. Weaver
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MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

No man's land

BY CHRIS BRATT

One day, 25 years ago, I said something I thought would be humorous about our family owning more Applegate property than the deed to our land recognized. On that occasion, I was walking on our property with two of my young nephews whose mother is a person of native Latin-American origin. At one point on our walk, we came to an opening in the forest and could easily observe the demarcation line between our young forest trees and the old-growth trees on the public lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). After pointing out the joint property line, I casually stated that I owned all the BLM property, too, since it was public land and I was part of the public. At that time, neither of the young men commented on or questioned my jest, and I forgot the whole event.

A few years later when my nephews were grown men and visiting us again, they reminded me of the previous statements I had made about owning all the surrounding lands. But this time around, they didn't remain silent and argued that neither I nor the BLM really had any valid rights to the lands we were each claiming.

Their belief was that there is no law of nature giving me or the BLM exclusive authority over these lands that would allow us to disregard any use or claims by all other people in the world. In addition, they reminded me that most of both North and South America's landmasses were acquired under very questionable circumstances: some by direct expropriation of our first Americans' lands, and the rest through conquest, wars, treaties or land purchases from other imposing nations. This forced land acquisition and the resulting inhumane

treatment (slavery) of native people by foreign invaders corrupted the more collective land-ownership and social systems already present in the Americas.

I empathize with my nephews' feelings and agree in large part with their historic view of how other nations gained possession of the lands and resources in both North and South America. The settling of our own country is not a pretty picture either.

Much of our past treatment of Native Americans or Africans is appalling. This is especially true regarding the conquest of Native American lands and installing individual land ownership by federal or state government decree along with the enslavement of large numbers of people from Africa. The individual property rights we glorify in America today were not meant for use by the original native peoples or slaves.

Presently, the system of land use and ownership we embrace in America continues to be dominated by a privileged class of wealthy politicians, individuals and corporations (which by law now are considered "persons") that favor elevated individual property rights over other kinds of public or common land ownership rights. This private ownership of land and other resources is managed through a hodgepodge system of laws, practices, rules and orders. Federal, state

The individual property rights we glorify in America today were not meant for use by the original native peoples or slaves.

and local government bodies have exclusive authority to make, interpret and apply the laws that decide who owns the land and who doesn't. These laws are enforced by local police or the army to make sure they are obeyed.

The more traditional and Native American values that cherish nature, families, communities and a more collective ownership of the earth are rapidly being eroded even

further. We are not only trying to privatize more public land, but wealthy interests are exerting private control over our entire economy as well. Even in the midst of a floundering global economic system our "job creators" can't imagine supporting any publicly owned enterprises. We seem to have no intention of changing our institutions to better equalize the distribution of our nation's wealth and natural resources to make a good life for everyone. Our country would rather continue the narrow thinking and poor political, social and economic ideologies that have resulted in a series of tragic events.

Extensive bank failures and foreclosures on homeowners, faltering consumerism, low wages and lost jobs have put us and many other parts of the world into another deep recession. More and more people around the world are feeling the effects of this greedy economic system.

People are also concerned with a host of environmental problems like climate change, clean air and water and private ownership of the genes in our bodies, the seeds we plant for food and the ability to patent all forms of life, to name a few.

Many multinational corporations in our country are now richer and more powerful than other industrialized nations, yet about one half of the people in America are living below the poverty line. Still, our only answer to our nation's and peoples' problems is to continue on with the same economic fantasies that got us into this predicament.

Though there are no easy answers to all the problems and dilemmas we are facing, one logical solution is to change the present economic system into one that has more state-owned enterprises, especially on public land and resources. We have many good examples of public enterprise already working in America and they need to be expanded.

The first peoples living in our country had the good sense to recognize that human survival rested on being good stewards of the land and sharing the wealth that nature provided. It's time for us to take up their philosophy in earnest and use our participatory democracy to make the necessary changes to secure a decent future for our children and country. Let's create an economic system we can all believe in.

Let me know your ideas.

Chris Bratt
541-846-6988



Chris Bratt

Sap tap wrap

BY LAIRD FUNK

"We may know more about teenagers than we do these maple trees!" That quote from a British Columbia parent and bigleaf maple syrup maker may just sum up this season so far for "sapsuckers." Just as the trees gave up sap like we thought they were supposed to, things changed. Instead of the reliable flows coming with only a freezing/thaw cycle, some trees kept flowing even when they weren't "supposed" to during a rain. Some gave flow when it was "too cold" for it, and some kept flowing when it got "too warm." But most importantly, we got enough sap to finish off about three quarts of syrup from the January cycle and, if February cooperates, we will likely double that by the season's end.

Some *Applegater* readers may recall that the process here is a bit different from the classic picture we have in our heads of a covered bucket hanging from a spile to catch the sap dripping from it. These days most folks doing bigleaf maple syrup drill a hole as always, going about 2-1/2" into the trunk with a slight upward angle, but then instead of the cast metal spile they insert a molded plastic one shaped to attach a tube leading to a sealed collection jug. Tappers in this part of Oregon find that clean one-gallon milk jugs make handy containers requiring only a hole drilled in the lid to take the tube. Tappers on Vancouver Island need bigger containers because their flows can approach 19 liters per day per spile!

During the first run in the beginning of January, the trees, assisted by nine inches of rain in December and the preferable temperature range of 28 degrees for a low and 48 degrees for a high, gave flows in the range of 17 to 19 gallons per day total from 28 spiles for five days. Fortunately the flow slowed in time so I wasn't overwhelmed by the required boiling off. This contrasts with last January when we had received much less rain and much less sap, often just a quart per day. The sugar level was nearly the same overall as last year, so we ended up with more syrup.

A tapper in Williams Valley had similar flows from his creekside grove, with many trees filling a gallon jug per day. Those with water at their feet did the best with those on higher ground giving less or none at all. This tapper experienced the other side of a successful harvest. When syrup is approaching the finish sugar levels, it is very easy to misjudge the syrup and suddenly you have charcoal instead of maple syrup! He was horrified to see the results: a charcoal black crust, along with the mineral precipitate from syrup making, covered the entire evaporator surface. It took muriatic acid to clean the stainless steel, but it cleaned up in time for the second short flow. But according to my friend and mentor Gary Backlund on Vancouver Island, you really aren't a true "sapsucker" until you've burned at least one batch.

Last year the work of carrying sap through the forest in buckets got old fast so this year we tried using our tractor loader bucket to carry the collecting buckets, but found it a bit cumbersome in the woods. Then I tried using our lawn tractor with the mowing deck removed to tow a small trailer that I found one day driving back from town. I was driving along thinking I needed a lawn tractor-trailer to haul my collecting gear through the woods when, behold, there was one leaned up against a roadside tree with a "Free" sign on it! A couple inner tubes later and I was equipped! It is almost perfect and makes the hauling work much more pleasant.

I used propane again this year to power the evaporator on my outdoor kitchen range and was happy the price was 20% cheaper than last year. The figures for my first run are 55 gallons of sap into the evaporator and .55 gallons of syrup out using 10 gallons of propane. While there are various methods of estimating syrup production using sap volumes, the ratio here seems to hold at a 1% syrup return by volume of sap going in. That is less than the return from sugar maples, but it does



Sapsucker Laird Funk and his free lawn tractor collect gallon jugs of maple sap for boiling down to delicious homemade syrup.

give you great-tasting homemade syrup for your waffles, pancakes and other cooking uses that you can't get anywhere else!

If you want to try your hand at tapping, you can get a spile and tube set for about \$1.89 from an outfit called mapleguys.com. I found out they can sell you supplies cheaper than I could so I recommend them. For guidance, I greatly recommend the book that Gary Backlund and his daughter Katherine wrote titled *Bigleaf Sugaring: Tapping the western maple*. It gives a thorough introduction to the craft and you can get one by emailing Gary at Bigleaf Maple (blmaple@telus.net). You can also, of course, call me for advice and encouragement.

Okay, all for now. Back to tapping!
Laird Funk • 541-846-6759
lairdfunk@apbb.net

Cantrall-Buckley Park NEWS

The Cantrall-Buckley Park Committee continues to work on the playground improvement plan and has made tentative choices for new equipment. The playground is not currently American Disabilities Act (ADA) approved, and we are trying to include an area for ADA accessibility in the plan. This area could be used by all children, including those with physical limitations. There are many aspects to our improvement plan beyond selection and purchase of the playground equipment. We need to remove some existing structures and older equipment. A barrier will need to be constructed around most of the play area to contain new soft-fall material in the playground.

We have also discussed placing some form of barrier or screen below the road on the uphill side of the play area to discourage children from getting too close to the road and to give drivers a visual barrier. Items that are deemed unsafe by today's playground standards need to be repaired or removed. We plan to add new picnic tables and replace two benches currently in need of repair. Getting everything to fit in the existing footprint of the play area will require good planning and a little magic.

Serious outdoor cleanup was needed by many of us after the series of storms that blew through the valley this winter. The park is no exception, and there is a lot of tree debris on the road and ground. There

was tree damage, and some trees have fallen into the river. With only the park manager on duty, it is impossible for the park to get cleaned up.

A community cleanup day at the park is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, from 9 am to 12 noon. Volunteers are asked to bring their own equipment—gloves, brooms, blowers, rakes, shovels, rakes, pruners—with the plan of getting the road, parking areas and picnic areas cleaned up. This is an event for all ages; if students need credit for community service in school, this will qualify. Community involvement in an event like this can help us get grant money to fund improvements like the playground, as donation of community time on a

project can contribute to a higher ranking on grant applications. Refreshments will be served, or bring your lunch and have a nice picnic after the cleanup. This will be a fun and rewarding time, and an excellent contribution to your community. We hope to see you at the cleanup on March 23.

The park committee is looking forward to **Applegate Valley Days, Saturday, June 22**. This year's event, to be held one day only, will have **free parking and no admission charge**. Watch for details on www.applegatevalleydays.org and mark your calendars now for June 22. Come out to enjoy a day by the river.

Pat Randall • 541-646-8022
patspond@hotmail.com

Applegate trails: Strengthening our bonds with wild plants

BY MICHELLE LAFAVE

Snow drips from the trees and the frosted ground crunches beneath my boots. I love winter hiking because I don't get overheated. The air is crisp and fresh. I rejoice in hearing the music of the forest.

But alas, the harmony of the winter forest is disturbed by coughs and sneezes. Fear not, noble hiker, your deep breaths will return in no time if you embrace the natural healing wonders of the living plant world. Call their names with reverence as you encounter them on the trail: usnea, Oregon grape, elderberry, nettles, coltsfoot, not to mention yerba santa and beloved osha.

You may have a bottle of elderberry cough syrup on your shelf at home. Mothers may have tasted dried nettles in their pregnancy teas. However, nothing compares to the nourishment of fresh nettles stewed lightly as a spring tonic—

they are high in iron, calcium, and vitamins C, D, and K. Meeting and familiarizing yourself with your plant allies in person is a key part of long-term wellness, not only for individuals, but also for assuring the survival of natural, wild medicines. Strengthening our bonds with wild plants is a way of solidifying our commitment to future health, for what we know and love, we protect.

Stinging nettle (*Urtica spp.*) is typically found near water and boggy areas. Nettles grow in large stands, composed of single stalk, stinger-bearing specimens bearing dark green leaves. Handle raw nettles with gloves! Nettles concentrate minerals, especially in the roots, and so should never be harvested near old mines, agricultural sites, or roadways. Their high mineral concentration makes them an excellent nutritional for recuperation

after illness. You can enjoy the fresh leaves consumed as cooked greens in soup and in dried form as tea or ground into powder to be added to foods. As an astringent, nettle tea helps with internal bleeding and clears congestion. (Moore, 2003) As a diuretic, nettle tea or juice cleanses the blood, thus providing an aid in arthritis and skin conditions as it rids the body of toxins. (Moore, 1993) Throughout the northern hemisphere, nettles have long been regarded as a cleansing spring tonic.

Remember the ethics of wildcrafting. Do no harm. Take only what you need and leave plenty for the animals. Offer the earth something in return such as a prayer or small natural gift. Protect the gift of natural medicine by working to keep our forests healthy and whole.

If you are interested in promoting nonmotorized trails, participating in forest education projects, or learning more about native forests, please join the Applegate Trails Association. We have a number of great ongoing projects:

- Develop trailheads at six key access

points along the Applegate Ridge Trail (pending Title II funding)

- Continue to refine the on-the-ground location of the Applegate Ridge Trail
- Offer Applegate Trails Association group hikes for 2013
- Collaborate on trail maintenance at Cantrall-Buckley Park
- Coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to identify existing and potential nonmotorized trails for protection
- Host fund-raising dinner/campout at Jackson Campground in September 2013

Look for our schedule of upcoming hikes on www.applegatetrails.org.

Michelle LaFave
Board Member

Applegate Trails Association
michelle@applegatetrails.org

References:

Moore, Michael. Medicinal Plants of the Mountain West. Santa Fe, NM: Museum of New Mexico Press, 2003.

Moore, Michael. Medicinal Plants of the Pacific West. Santa Fe, NM: Red Crane Books, 1993.

Where is the trail?

Do you know of a trail on public lands and are you willing to share that knowledge? For those who live near Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, this hiking trail may be an easy walk right over your property boundary. There are other trails that have grown over in places enough to make them difficult to find. BLM is in the process of creating a new Resource Management Plan (RMP), which will be their guide for the next ten years or more. Although you may be hesitant to tell BLM about your "secret" trail, allowing the agency to document these user-created and sometimes historic trails improves the odds that that trail may be designated for nonmotorized use. The alternative may see muscle-powered use trumped by off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. Generally, trails used regularly by motorcycles are not desirable for hikers and horses, and proper planning can help avoid conflict between muscle-powered and fossil fuel users.

Please contact David Calahan at 541-899-1226 or david@applegatetrails.org or any of the board members of the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) to help relay your knowledge to BLM. Or you may contact Dennis Byrd at Medford BLM at dbyrd@blm.gov with your information.

ATA is a nonprofit local organization formed to develop a system of hiking, biking and equestrian trails in the Applegate Valley. Check out our website at www.applegatetrails.org and consider that our existence is helped immensely by your donations. Thank you.

Applegate Trails Association guided spring hikes

The Applegate Trails Association (ATA) will host a beautiful off-trail hike in April and an easier flower-filled hike in May, both on the Applegate Ridge Trail (ART). ATA is looking forward to seeing familiar faces and making new acquaintances as we celebrate our third hiking season together.

Saturday, April 20. For our first outing we will explore the east ART, which is located on the ridge north of Bishop Creek between Sterling Creek and Highway 238. We meet at 9 am at the Bunny Meadows Staging Area (off Highway 238 at the intersection of Forest Creek Road and Longanecker Road). From there we will carpool to the trailhead. This off-trail hike is approximately five miles long and is rated moderate to difficult. The elevation gain and loss is over 1,000 feet.

Saturday, May 18. We will visit the flower-covered mountain meadows above Balls Branch, a tributary to Humbug Creek and the Applegate River. We again meet at 9 am at the Bunny Meadows Staging Area,

and from there we carpool to the trailhead, a 20-minute drive up Forest Creek. The out and back hike is rated moderate (about two-and-a-half miles). A second hike leader will offer an alternate thru-hike down into the proposed 6,000-acre Wellington wildlands. This longer trek (approximately four miles) is rated moderate to difficult due to the elevation changes and condition of the trail.

An RSVP is always appreciated. Please contact hike leader David Calahan at 541-899-1226 or david@applegatetrails.org for details and sign-in. Remember to wear sturdy footwear, appropriate clothing for the weather, and perhaps bring a hiking stick for the uneven terrain. Please leave your pets at home.

Check out our website at www.applegatetrails.org for individual hikes, and stay tuned as ATA will be featuring more hikes in 2013.

David Calahan • 541-899-1226
Chairman, Applegate Trails Association
david@applegatetrails.org

NEXT GENERATION

"Next Generation" features the talents of our local students. All schools in the Applegate Valley are encouraged to submit art, writing, photography and any other creative pieces to gater@applegater.org.

RUCH SCHOOL

I Am Poems

I am a Ruch Cougar.
I wonder what will be waiting for me in the future.
I hear kids laughing on the playground.
I see myself being successful in the future.
I want little kids to look up to me in the future.
I am a Ruch Cougar.
I imagine that I will inspire others in the future.
I feel the mountain air blowing through my hair.
I touch the flowers on the hillside.
I worry about leaving.
I cry while thinking about the day it will be time to leave.
I am a Ruch Cougar.
I understand the day will come
I say great things will happen soon
I dream that I won't have to leave
I try to tell my friends it will be okay.
I hope great things will happen in the future.
I am a Ruch Cougar.

Saige Bostwick, Grade 7



I am a Proud Ruch Cougar!
I wonder why someone wouldn't come out to Ruch?
I hear the School bell ring. I'm excited to learn!
I see great teachers and a awesome campus!
I want more students to come join us.
I am a proud Ruch cougar!
I imagine Ruch's future.
I feel myself learning every day.
I touch my future through my friends.
I connect with my peers.
I cry when my classmates graduate.
I am a proud Ruch Cougar.
I understand I will have to move on.
I say my time here was fantastic
I dream of inspiring younger kids.
I try to do my best.
I hope to succeed
I am a Proud Ruch Cougar!

Ryan Beck, Grade 7



I am a Ruch Cougar!
I wonder about ways to skate by my competitors,
I hear the gravel crunch underfoot.
I see nothing but the finish line.
I want to be the best that I can be.
I am a Ruch Cougar!
I pretend that nothing is more important.
I feel my energy coursing through my veins.
I touch my fate.
I worry of things getting in my way.
I cry for nothing but this.
I am a Ruch Cougar!
I understand you can never be perfect.
I say never give up and have fun at whatever you do.
I dream of a confident future.
I try for success.
I hope I can inspire all people.
I am a Ruch Cougar!

Drew Raby, Grade 7

Submitted by
Julie Hill, Principal, Ruch School
541-842-3850
julie.hill@medford.k12.or.us

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

The following statements are from Applegate School 2/3 students about their music program taught by Warren Whistler and Alison Huber.

James: The best part of strings is that you can learn very nice songs that I didn't know that you could play. And that when you sing a song with Warren and Alison I'm always so alive.

Conner: I love singing with Warren because it is fun. They both do wonderful jobs. Warren and Alison are the best teachers in the world.

Abi: I love singing with Warren because they sing really good and then they encourage kids and they have great music and they are good.

Carlen: I love singing with Warren because I love singing but never do sing. I love the songs so much. They are the best and really fun to sing. It helps you wake up. The best part of strings is that you get to learn to play the coolest songs by yourself and maybe even be like my big brothers. Warren is so lucky to have a friend like Alison.

Coral: The best part of strings is being able to play the guitar and learn how to play it. It makes me feel happy inside. And I love music so learning how to play the guitar is good.

Natalia: I love singing with Warren because Warren and Alison always encourage us to be ourselves. I barely ever get to sing with people. It makes me feel really happy to sing with other people. My two favorites are "Ghost Riders in the Sky" and "Rocky Top."

Noah: I like strings because...I learned the violin and happy birthday and a song I made up and "Stand by Me." I'm going to play the guitar. My whole life I bet I am going to be on the radio. I bet it is going to be fun.

Soren: I love singing because Warren lets us learn how to play the guitar. Warren and Alison are awesome at their jobs. I can listen to them all day all night even a year. That's how good they are.

Taj: I love singing with Warren because it's nice and beautiful to my heart.

Sofi Hart (now in 9th grade): From the excitement of learning my first song in third grade and the sadness when I learned my last song in eighth grade, each week it was something I looked forward to and something I still miss.

Arek Rein Jungwirth (now in 11th grade): Warren Whistler's strings program has touched the lives of countless students, including my own. I still play guitar on a daily basis—a passion that will last for a lifetime. Most importantly, however, learning music at an early age has greatly improved my success in other academic areas, and inspired me to consider various music-related careers.

Special arts programs at Applegate School

While many changes have taken place over the years at Applegate School, an area we continue to focus on is the arts. Within the walls of the classroom, students grow in confidence and the outside world through personal expression. It is a world they can make their own, learning tolerance and understanding of others while communicating in group settings.

Middle-school students enjoy a **visual-arts elective** class that teaches them basic art skills that enhance personal creativity. Recycled art is the current focus. The first project is acrylic painting on reclaimed vinyl records. Students learn art concepts and processes, then create their own styles or designs.

The **drama elective** is another area for growing and learning together. It focuses on the individual and develops for learning stage-setting skills, group organization and speaking confidence. The list goes on. The production of a play is something students can look at with pride, knowing everyone's hard work has come together working as a team. A drama production and a visual arts display are scheduled every spring.

The **tech elective** exposes students to the world of computer-based art skills. Creating designs, taking apart computers, learning about the functions of the parts, and applying other technological skills to the visual arts can prepare students for the ever-changing world of technology.

Our **intramural sports elective** offers physical activity in a team-building atmosphere. As students learn a variety of outdoor and indoor games, they expand their sense of their physical limits. We

Applegate School music program

Beyond the red brick building you see on the hill as you drive on Highway 238 in Applegate is a world filled with the sound of music. The music program at Applegate School was started and is still supported by folks in our surrounding communities, and over the years, it has evolved from brass to a stringed instrument program.

Students in third through eighth grades can elect to participate in learning guitar and violin from local music teachers Warren Whistler and Alison Huber. The students learn a long list of songs and perform them at school functions. The stringed instrument group puts together a special evening show that usually takes place in the spring. There are beginning, intermediate and advanced level groups of musicians who perform separately and sometimes together. Some students have opportunities to entertain with their singing skills or perform as a small group. More advanced students have been known to plug in their electric guitars and play rock solos for the audience. Sometimes percussion is added to the performance. With a mix of bluegrass and Americana, it is a not-to-miss show to witness these young performers fill the house with music.

Learning to play musical instruments can develop positive attitudes, behavior and habits. Children in third through fifth grades begin lessons that take them to advanced levels by the time they reach middle school.

This year we began a program that takes place on "Strings Day" where Warren and Alison visit the K/1 and 2/3 classes and teach them to sing bluegrass and folk songs. The K/1 class dances happily around their classroom while listening to music played by the duo. In the 2/3 class, students



Students use acrylic paint to turn old records into works of art. Student paintings by Gabe (top photo); and Nora (bottom photo). Photos by Mikell Nielsen.

think of this as the art of balancing body and mind.

An **art and nature after-school program** for fourth and fifth grades offers an introduction to drawing and other mediums. (Fourth- and fifth-grade homeschool students are welcome to participate.) This program also focuses on the art of simple gardening skills in our butterfly gardens and greenhouse as well as outdoor art with nature and wildflower walks.

Art demonstrations and teaching for the art electives are encouraged and welcomed. Whole-school programs can also be arranged. If you are interested in participating, please contact Applegate School at 541-846-6280.



Local music teacher Warren Whistler leads the strings class at Applegate School. Photo by Mikell Nielsen.

learn lyrics to famous bluegrass songs. The children's sweet young voices fill the room as they learn how to sing these songs to the guitar and fiddle. Their enthusiasm puts a smile on your face. It is truly a welcoming and positive start to a new day of learning.

In addition to musical opportunities, the 4/5-grade class welcomes a volunteer who teaches them to sing traditional American songs. They perform with other elementary-grade students from surrounding schools at the Grants Pass High School Performing Arts Center in a singing program called Get America Singing. This program takes place in spring, and the students travel by bus to sing for the day.

There is much excitement on strings day with many guitars and violins being carried to school, then back home with the students for weekly practice. It is very comforting knowing these children are excited and involved in a skill that will be a positive point in their lives as years go by.

We are very grateful for our music program that enriches the learning experience for our students at Applegate School.

Linda Kappen • 541-846-6280
Schoolwide Education Assistant
Applegate School

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Take us with you on your next trip. Then send your favorite "Reading the Gater" photo to gater@applegater.org or mail to *Applegater*, P.O. Box 14, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Photos will appear as space allows.



Photos, top row from left:
 —Barbara Summerhawk at Mount Fuji Sky Asagiri Paragliding Club in Japan with her latest *Applegater* delivered by carrier pigeon.
 —Jim Clover, Hope Robertson, Neal Anderson and Annette Parsons brush up on the latest gardening tips in the *Gater* to impress the folks at the botanical gardens near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

—Jackson County Integrated Fuels Committee members study the *Applegater* to determine its fire-starting capabilities.

Photo, bottom left:
 — In Papua, New Guinea, Tom and Cathy Carstens check the *Gater's* want ads to see if there is a demand for freshly shrunken heads in Oregon.

Keep those articles, letters, opinions and "Reading the Gater" photos coming in. You are the Gater! The *Applegater* Staff and Board

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