

# Applegater

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Photo by John Woods

WINTER 2010  
Volume 3, No. 1

Applegate Valley Community Newspaper  
Serving Jackson and Josephine Counties — Circulation: 9,000

Postal Patron

## To be or not to be... is that the question?

BY PAULA RISSLER.

A few weeks ago while visiting friends in San Francisco, I was reading an article in the Sunday *New York Times*. Seeing that is something that I rarely do, I was enjoying myself immensely until I happened upon an article about the end of newspapers as we know them. Granted, the *New York Times* isn't going out of business anytime soon (at least I don't think so) but the article made me ponder the issue as it relates to our own little *Applegater* newspaper. Many big city papers are merging together; in markets where there may have once been three daily papers, now there is only one. As circulation drops everywhere, many papers are cutting issues and people to survive. Papers that previously published seven days a week are now printing six or only five issues.

I love the *Applegater*. I have always loved it...but until I joined the Board of Directors, I had no idea how much work was involved in actually putting the paper together and getting it out to all the families in our watershed. It couldn't be that hard - or could it?

In early 2008, when the Applegate Partnership decided they no longer wanted to be in the newspaper business, a concerned group of locals (myself included) decided to pick up the reins and make the *Applegater* an independent publication. Once we started to delve into the cost of each issue, we started to realize that maybe our job wasn't quite so easy after all. Previously, grants had helped publish the paper along with advertising revenues and donations from our readers. In the present economy however, grants have dried up. As 2008 progressed, we started seeing advertising revenues declining as well. Some fundraising events had low attendance and donations dropped off. In early 2009, the Board decided that to cut

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From right: Andrew Watson and sons, Aaron, Andrew Jr. and Alan.

## Autumn of the bees

BY ANDREW WATSON, M.D.

White smoke permeates an opened hive as my sons and I assess and feed the bees. Shards of unwanted burr comb add a rich aroma to pungent smoke of smoldering pine needles within the tin smoker can. Many hundreds of worker bees peer up at us from between the frames as they place themselves to protect the colony from invaders or to insulate their young from the cool fall air. The colonies are now almost devoid of drones as these worker bees, sensing the coming winter, have evicted the males to meet their fate outside the hive. Workers and their queen will continue to raise young in their brood nest, a small cluster of capped cells, incubated at a continuous 93 degrees through winter. This hive, weighing 140 lbs, is filled with

an orderly mass of honeybees and stores to last until spring.

Our mood is pensive as we move between pallets of hives. Many colonies are less populous or light on honey. These bees have been fed sugar syrup and supplemental pollen from mid-August through October to augment their stores. In Southern Oregon, the year has been tough for pollinators as heat and dry conditions wilted vetch and shortened the blackberry bloom. This year was also an off year for the springtime madrone nectar flow, and conditions were too dry for star thistle to produce its flavorful fall nectar. We are not alone in our sentiment, as beekeepers across the country have also experienced a hard year. Much of the east coast was overly wet; California continued a searing drought; and much of

See BEES, page 4

## Williams Branch Library Grand Re-Opening

BY BONNIE JOHNSON



We did it! On November 7, 2009 the Williams community was joined by library supporters from across the county (as far away as Cave Junction and Wolf Creek) in celebrating the re-opening of the branch library, after its having been closed for thirty months. It was grand. The morning's events included exceptional guitar music from Bob Larsen, delicious refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library and Thompson Creek Organics, and a slide show commemorating the eventful years of service at the Williams library and at community fundraising

events. A thank you also goes out to Forestfarm, Goodwin Creek Gardens and White Oak Farm for the handsome plants and flower arrangements to decorate the Williams Elementary School reception.

Speakers included Sara Katz

as moderator, Bonnie Johnson as Liaison for JCLI and the Williams Friends of the Library, Kristin Ginther who spoke for the Williams Friends about all their fundraising efforts and support for the reopening, and Doug Walker, President of the Josephine Community Libraries, Inc, about future directions for our libraries, which will include stable county funding and possibly funding brand new buildings.

Susan Bondesen read supportive letters from our County Commissioners,

See WILLIAMS LIBRARY, page 9

Save this date:

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010  
Annual Applegater BBQ and  
Silent Auction Fundraiser

at the  
Applegate River Ranch Lodge & Restaurant

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation of either money or item(s) for the upcoming *Applegater's* fundraiser silent auction, please contact Sioux Rogers at 541-846-7736 or e-mail at [mumearth@apbb.net](mailto:mumearth@apbb.net). Donations can be any type of gift certificate from fishing trips, restaurant dining, car oil changes, beauty shops, massages, etc. Other great donations are: art work, collectibles, exceptional clothing, jewelry or anything YOU would bid on at a silent auction.



## Applegater now online!

The *Applegater* is now publishing a web site that is a companion and expansion of the content and services that the printed *Applegater* newspaper provides.

Highlights of what this website will offer include:

- **Index and viewable/downloadable issues** of the *Applegater* starting from March 2008.
- **Expansion of content and pictures** of selected articles that appear in the printed paper.
- **Community calendar** that nonprofit organizations and Gater advertisers can post special events (sorry, no classes) by contacting our webmaster via email.
- **Community services directory** with contacts, current activities and bulletins for all our major community services such as police, fire, library, BLM, etc.
- **Directory of local businesses.**
- **Listing of web sites** that pertain to the Applegate Valley.
- **Changing collection of images** of scenery and activities within our beautiful valley.

We encourage you to log on to [www.Applegater.org](http://www.Applegater.org). Be sure to add the Gater web site to your favorites!

Joe Lavine, Webmaster  
joelavine@hotmail.com

## QUESTION

## FROM PAGE 1

costs we would become a quarterly paper instead of a bimonthly and try to ride out the economic downturn. Our thinking was that we could always return to a bimonthly publication when times got better.

Reading the *New York Times* article made me think more about the future of our little paper. Will we have to throw in the towel? Should we go to an online version only? None of the Board members want to do either. We love that the paper is mailed FREE-of-charge to over 7500 households—rich or poor—in the Applegate Watershed, plus numerous drop-off points. There are many elderly people living in these hills and valleys that love the *Applegater* because it keeps them connected to our community. These people don't have the internet. What's the answer? We don't want to go to paid subscriptions. I certainly don't have the answer, but I will keep on fundraising and soliciting donations, doing what it takes to keep the Gater in our mailboxes.

Below is the quarterly cost for each issue of the *Applegater*. I was surprised when I saw the actual numbers. We have enough funds in the bank right now for this issue and the next depending on advertising income. Maybe one of the grants that we continuously apply for will come through but we can't rely on that.

### Applegater Quarterly Cost Per Issue:

Postage \$1050  
Printing \$1390  
General Operating Costs \$225 (mileage, permits, copies, etc)  
Payroll (taxes/wages/worker's comp) \$2760  
Contract Services (bookkeeping, graphic designer and salesperson)  
\$2340 average for the past year  
**Average Applegater Quarterly Cost 2009 Total \$7765**

### Applegater Quarterly Income 2009

Grants: \$500  
Donations and Fundraising \$2733  
Advertising \$3284  
Shortfall of \$1248 per issue  
With no grants anticipated for 2010, our shortfall will be approximately \$1748 per quarterly issue.

The BBQ fundraiser/silent auction that the Applegate River Ranch Lodge and Restaurant hosted in April 2009, was a success and we will be doing that fundraiser again this year on April 25, 2010, but spring is a long time coming. Please take a look at the supporter levels listed below and consider making a tax-deductible donation to the paper. Keep the *Applegater* from becoming just another economic downturn statistic.

Sponsor \$5 - \$50  
Supporter \$51 - \$200  
Contributor \$201 - \$500  
Sustainer \$501 - \$1000  
Patron - over \$1000

All contributors will receive recognition in the *Applegater*. Please let us know if you don't want your name listed in the paper. I know that you are all thinking that I shouldn't have read that *New York Times* article, but...I did and it was food for thought. Thanks in advance from all of us on the Board.

Paula Rissler  
541-846-7673

## The Gater is gratified by the support of these recent donors

### Contributor

Charlotte Hughes & Chris Combs  
Los Angeles, CA  
Tracy Parks Lamblin, Jacksonville, OR  
Joan Peterson, Applegate, OR

### Supporters

Thomas & Kathy Carstens,  
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Suzanne & Joe Lavine, Grants Pass, OR  
Ellen Levine, Applegate, OR  
Conny & Walter Lindley, Williams, OR  
Maggie Purves, Grants Pass, OR

### Sponsors

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All donations are tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. Please make your checks payable to *Applegater* Newspaper and mail to:

*Applegater*  
7386 Highway 238 • PMB 308  
Jacksonville, OR 97530

### Fall masthead photo credit

This issue's photo of Lewman's field was taken from the end of Lofland Lane in Williams by John Woods

## Applegater

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Spring	March 1
Summer	June 1
Fall	September 1
Winter	December 1

## ADVERTISERS!

We can help you reach your market —  
Grants Pass, Medford and the Applegate Valley.  
For Jackson County call  
Ruth Austin  
541-899-7476

**WANTED:**  
**Sales People**  
The *Applegater* is looking for a person(s) to sell ads in Grants Pass and/or Medford areas. Commissions are a high 25% to 30% per sale. Contact JD Rogers 541-846-7736.

## 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. Make your contributions to either the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. or to the *Applegater*.

### 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 resource issues
- 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* 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 Carole Moskovita for layout; Louise Butler, Margaret Della Sanitina, Jodie Feighner, Sue Maesen, Joan Peterson and Paul Tipton for editing; P. R. Kellogg and Kay Clayton for proofing; Susan Bondesen and Patsy King for transcription and Lisa Crean for bookkeeping.

### Board of Directors

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All articles, stories, opinions and letters that appear in the *Applegater* are the opinion and property of the author, and not necessarily that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.

### 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 to the point. All submissions must be received either at the address or email below by March 1 for our next issue.

The *Applegater*  
c/o Applegate Valley  
Community Newspaper, Inc.  
7386 Highway 238, PMB 308  
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Email: [gater@Applegater.org](mailto:gater@Applegater.org)  
Website: [www.Applegater.org](http://www.Applegater.org)



## Community Calendar

**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.

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

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

**Applegate Friends of Fire District #9** meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station—1095 Upper Applegate Road—at 6:00 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

**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!

**Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

**Applegate Valley Community Forum (AVCF)** meets the third Thursday of each month, location alternating between Applegate and Ruch. For more information, call Pat Gordon at 541-899-7655.

**Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Applegate Library on North Applegate Road in downtown Applegate. For more information, call toll-free at 866-289-1638.

**American Association of University Women (AAUW)** Grants Pass area meets monthly from September to June. College degree required for membership. Days and locations vary. Contact Ann Kistler 541-471-1963 or Kathy Kirchen 541-846-9039.

**AA Meeting** Tuesday nights at 7 pm in Williams. Upstairs at the American Legion Hall. Contact Stan at 541-846-0734.

**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.)

**Ruch Branch 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.)

**Friends of Ruch Library Board of Directors** meets monthly. Check with the Ruch Library for schedule. 541-899-7438.

**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.

**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

**Josephine County Farm Bureau.** For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

**Upper Applegate Grange #239** Business meetings: second Thursday at 7:30 pm. Potluck/Social meetings: fourth Friday at 7:30 pm, open to the public. Join us for informative meetings, fun and involvement in community service. Sponsors of Boy Scout Pack Troop #18. Call 541-899-6987.

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

**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 am to 11:00 am. Closed July and August. Bring the whole family! 20100 Williams Hwy, corner of Tetherow Road near the Williams General Store. For more information, call 541-846-6844.

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

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

**Applegate 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.

**Women Helping Other Women (WHOW)** meets the second Thursday 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.

**Applegate Lake Cub Scouts Pack #18** (Ruch Region) Outdoor activity (fishing, rafting, hikes, etc.) the first Friday of each month; regular meeting the third Friday of each month. Upper Applegate Grange from 10 am to 1 pm. All boys in grades first through fifth including homeschoolers, Ruch students, and non-Ruch students are welcome. For more information, contact Cub Leader Vic Agnifili at 541-899-1717.

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

Email calendar information to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

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## Jackson County

### Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program



## Special Classes and Activities

**Saturday February 13, 9 am - 12 pm**  
**GRAPE PRUNING**

**Chris Hubert, Quail Run Vineyard**

The emphasis of this class will be growing grapes in the home garden, especially how, when, and where to prune. Participants will also learn terminology that applies to growing grapes, care of grapes, and solutions for common grape problems in the home garden. The class will conclude with an outdoor demonstration in pruning grapes, so dress for the weather. This class qualifies for Master Gardener recertification hours.

**Saturday February 20, 9 am - 12 pm**  
**FRUIT TREE PRUNING**

**Terry Helfrich, Professional Orchardist**

The emphasis of this class will be growing fruit trees in the home garden especially how, when, and where to prune. Selection of trees and planting site, tree structure, planting requirements, spacing, tree training will also be discussed with the goal of producing more fruit. The class will conclude with an outdoor demonstration in pruning fruit trees, so dress for the weather. This class qualifies for Master Gardener recertification hours.

*There is a fee of \$5.00 per class unless indicated otherwise. Master Gardeners wearing their badges are admitted free (materials fees still apply). The classes are held at the OSU Extension Center located at 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Oregon. 541-776-7371.*

*To learn more about Jackson county Master Gardener Association go to: <http://extension.orst.edu/sorec/mg>.*

*The Master Gardener Program educates local gardeners on the art and science of growing and caring for plants. Trained Master Gardener volunteers extend sustainable gardening information to their communities through educational outreach programs.*

## Student Scholarship Opportunity

The Applegate Valley Garden Club (AVGC) has some exciting news! The garden club is offering a \$500 scholarship to the college of your choice for the fall of 2010. This is a non-renewable scholarship for first time college students only—no matter what age or financial need. Please note college courses taken during the time of high school attendance do not disqualify you from this scholarship.

If you are a Hidden Valley High or South Medford High student, contact the appropriate office for an application and the criteria sought by the club. If you are a home-schooled student, have already graduated from high school (or received your GED), served in the military and are back home now, have a job, or have become a homemaker and are now ready to attend college, contact a club member for an application and a list of essay questions to be answered.

Hurry though, there is a deadline of March 31, 2010, in which the application, at least one letter of recommendation, and answers to essay questions must be submitted to the Applegate Valley Garden Club for consideration.

If you receive the award, the money will be given to the Scholarship Office at the college of your choice for distribution once you have enrolled in six or more units for the fall 2010 semester/quarter.

The criteria are as follows:

1. Must be an Applegate Valley resident
2. Minimum high school GPA of 2.5
3. Your major course of study should demonstrate an interest in the development activities of the Applegate Valley:

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Culinary Arts
- Viticulture
- Veterinary Services
- Restaurant/Hotel Management
- Landscaping
- Environmental Engineering
- Business Administration
- Other related fields of study

Call Sue Bailey at 541-899-3273 for further information and an application packet. Again, South Medford High and Hidden Valley High students need to contact their respective schools for the application packet. The above contact number is for home-schooled students or students who have already graduated from high school and meet the above mentioned criteria.

The garden club strives to give back to the residents of the beautiful Applegate Valley and to make this a better place to live for all of us.



## BEES

FROM PAGE 1

the Dakotas, with plentiful moisture and expanses of sweet clover, remained too cold for bees to venture from the hive. Across the country pollinators have been stressed by adverse climate conditions.

A seed of doubt arises as we find a cluster of bees the size of a baseball. This one, and others like it, too small to generate needed warmth, will surely perish early in the winter. We will combine the clusters and wish them the best of luck. Why are these recently populous colonies failing? The queens are young, supplemental feed has been provided, recommended medications have been administered, yet the colony has virtually disappeared. The specter of Colony Collapse Disorder evokes a sense of foreboding.

After two punishing years, with 50-100% of hives lost in some commercial and sideline beekeeping operations, 2009 saw a decrease in cases of Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD. While new research grants have funded numerous studies, the best explanation for this phenomenon of missing bees continues to be, according to Dr. Eric Mussen of U.C Davis, that numerous factors create a cumulative effect which the colony cannot endure. Many theories have been disproved, but others remain strong candidates. Globally, bee health has declined due to parasites such as the varroa mite, tracheal mite, and *Nosema cerana*, a recently identified fungus which invades the bee's gut. Viruses introduced to bees by these parasites spread between hive mates causing deformity, brood death, and bee paralysis. Pesticides, applied both by the beekeeper within the hive and by the farmer to crops, accumulate in the wax comb; producing a toxic environment for developing larvae. Fungicides, introduced in pollen, prevent its fermentation to nutritious "bee bread" by naturally occurring yeasts. Climate change may bring unpredictable precipitation for floral nectar sources. Increased atmospheric carbon dioxide may result in reduced protein content of pollen sources. As these factors weaken the bees, yet another more insidious threat looms.

The most damaging effect of bee losses is reduced genetic diversity. Genetic diversity is the hive's most powerful resource for continued survival. This gene loss is further compounded by commercial queen breeders who collectively select only 500 queen mothers to produce a million queens per year. These mass-produced queens provide the inherited characteristics of their new colony. As dead hives are repopulated with colonies lacking genetic diversity, inbreeding of the 2.3 million managed hives in America occurs. The end result, per Dr. Steve Sheppard of WSU, is the documented loss of 25% of honeybee alleles, or gene variants,

over the past decade in North America. Alleles determine specific traits which related bees share. New alleles, possibly introduced by Africanized and Australian bees, have recently been found in the bee's genetic code. These new traits partly offset this loss of genetic material, but they may have questionable benefit.

Our bees, managed for honey production and pollination, lead a pampered existence when compared to feral honeybee colonies and local native bee pollinators. These untended bees will not be fed sugar or pollen supplement in a drought year. Viruses and parasites infect their colonies, often crossing host species from managed bees. New high potency pesticides and fungicides contaminate food supplies. Floral nectar sources disappear as we seed pastures for grass hay (a virtual desert to pollinators) and apply herbicides to roadside vegetation. Diminishing numbers of various bumblebees, leafcutter bees, and other solitary bees are reported.

We need both managed bees for monoculture crop production and feral and native bees for our gardens and wild flora. Fortunately, competition for nectar sources is somewhat limited between bee species due to differing floral preferences. To assist our pollinators, we must view our world from their perspective. When possible, monoculture farmlands requiring bees should be interspersed with a variety of floral nectar and pollen sources. Roadside ditches and pastures should likewise be cultivated to provide bloom throughout the summer, especially during July through September as bees prepare for winter.

Our last five pallets bring hope as we open hive after hive packed with healthy and heavy winter bees. The question arises "what makes these bees different?" Hive records indicate these colonies spent late summer adjacent to an alfalfa field which the farmer generously let bloom to 75% before the last cutting. During this time, these bees could copiously nourish their larval winter sisters. Interestingly, at the time, I had noticed an abundance of bumblebees and other native bees also collecting from the fronds of deep blue flowers. Bee colonies from this area will likely emerge from winter with strength to begin the next year. We must act now to prevent poisoning our insect pollinators, to plant for managed and native bees, and to educate others so that we may insure the survival of our pollinators and, thus, ourselves.

*Coming next: Planting for pollinators.*

Andrew Watson, M.D.  
boradabeedoc@gmail.com

## Applegate Food Pantry



### Applegaters!

We greatly appreciate all of your donations to the Applegate Food Pantry and remind you that nonperishable foods (as well as winter clothes) can be left at the Ruch Library. Checks should be made to "Applegate Access."

The address for donations is:

Applegate Access

P.O. Box 1692, Jacksonville, OR 97530

**Thank you and Happy New Year!**

**Arlene and Claude Aron**

**and all of the wonderful volunteers.**

Claude and Arlene Aron • 541-846-0380

## Annual celebration, auction and awards ceremony for Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

The annual celebration, auction and awards ceremony for Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District will be held in Eagle Point, Friday, January 15, 2010. The catered dinner will feature local products in keeping with the theme of "From Farm to School." Helena Darling will prepare local pumpkin and red pepper roast chicken with spinach pesto, Oregon blue cheese roast potatoes with rosemary and lemon, green salad with fresh pear vinaigrette, served with fresh bread and butter. Darling operates her business out of Ashland.

Speakers for the evening will include Marc Marelich of Bon Apétit food service and Barbara Boyer of Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District. Marelich serves local and sustainable products at several outlets at Willamette University in Salem. Boyer will discuss Yamhill's experience in developing a farm-to-school program and the role districts can play in developing a local foods program. Both promise to be interesting speakers who promote "direct to the table" sustainable agriculture.

Several awards in recognition for outstanding achievement will be awarded to the "volunteer of the year," the poster contest, watershed steward award and the conservation of the year award. The event will feature a year-in-review and recognition for outstanding contributions conserving our soils and water.

Jackson County commissioner C. W. Smith will act as auctioneer for the Fred Straube memorial scholarship fund and scholarship winners honored. Mel Morris will provide technical assistance during the auction. Friends having items to donate for the auction need to have those to the District Office no later than January 8.

Please contact the JSWCD office at 541-776-4270 (ext 3), to RSVP by January 5, to have a count for the caterer.

Please note the change in phone numbers for the District. Cost for the dinner is just \$10. Doors open at the Eagle Point High School at 5:30 pm and the event begins at 6 pm.

Ralph McKechnie  
541-776-4270 (ext. 3)

## Voices of the Applegate will keep on singing

The Voices of the Applegate community choir will begin their new year of song starting on January 6 for the 12-week winter session. Tami Marston, our new director for this session, will direct our choir for Wednesday evening rehearsals from January 6 through March 17, with a concert to be held on March 21. Rehearsals will begin promptly at 7:00 pm at the Applegate Library and will last for about an hour and a half. All are invited to participate in the choir, and no auditions are required.

The spring session (April 7- June 20) will be directed by Cyrise Beatty and the fall session (September 8-November 21) will be directed by Blake Weller.

The Voices of the Applegate are looking forward to a new year of song and joy. Come join us and be sure to mark your calendars for the free concert at 3:00 pm on March 21 at The Applegate River Ranch House.

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## DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

## If the shoe fits

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Life these days...wow, what a wild ride. Sometimes, just to look around the corner, one needs to use a periscope. Yet, we all know, it has been worse. We still have the potential, and we hope for a better future. Breathe and take a blessed step forward every time you move. Many people I talk to are "lightening the load." That means getting rid of all the clutter in our house, closets, garages, and in our everyday life. How can we make sense of all the pervasive toxic junk in our possession, minds, political arena, and the world in general? If I even had a clue, I probably could fly too. For this day and moment, I am going to stick with what is closest to my heart: dirt, earthworms and rearranging my garden.

"So, what is wrong with the garden now?" lower management asked. I had quite a bit of explaining to do, after I had already, with a little help from my friends, moved bushes, thinned

else that directs your life style and may make this change too crazy and certainly not a worthwhile undertaking. Maybe you would prefer to just go to the local grocery store or the grower's mart to buy your herbs. So, if the shoe fits wear it, otherwise garden in your socks.

I feel a theme coming on...make your garden and your life fit you, as best you can. Do now, what you didn't do then. Remove the clutter, the toxins, and the long steps from here to there. Of all the things in ones life, your garden, despite the work, should make you happy most of the time. If you do not like to garden, then don't do it. If it is too big, figure out how to make it smaller. Don't plant what you don't eat. Last summer, with the help of a friend, we built three fantastic tepees for string beans. Yep they grew and they grew and then, grew a little more. We had purple, green, and red ones. Hmmm, reminds me of the song

by Malvina Reynolds, "Little Boxes." I must say, the chickens enjoyed every single bean. Can you imagine my doing all that work and fussing, and never eating one string bean? That is insanity, overworked. After the beans exploded to

giant woody pods, I just pulled up the entire plants, and the chickens had one more gourmet meal, based on my not thinking and planning ahead. I was certainly wearing shoes that did not fit. The pathos of this tale of woe is that I have done this before! Next planting time, so she says, will be different. The tepees will be used for cucumbers, those we eat by the bushel. Several of my gardener friends consider string beans the highlight of their summer garden. Hurrah for them. At least they know what they like and it works for them. So, the ideas here are: don't plant what you don't like to eat and don't plant what you may never get around to eating.

Tailor your garden for your lifestyle. The only limiting factors are your mind and your imagination. If you have an abundance of sun, then don't try and

plant all the leafy greens in that space. They will burn too easily. Instead plant those wonderful tomatoes and melons, potatoes and cucumbers, etc., they like the sun. You can always trade with your "shady" neighbors, their leafy greens for your sunshine melons.

Don't ever be afraid to re-do or move or throw away (better yet give away or trade) a "mistake." There are actually no mistakes in a garden. Your plant may just be in the wrong neighborhood, so move it. I have a rose, "Sally Holmes," to be precise. I have moved her three times. She has never complained. Guess she is very well adjusted. My three hebes, that were all planted in one container, grew way too big. I pulled them out of the pots and replanted them in the garden. They thrived and grew even more, becoming too crowded once again. Several weeks ago, when I thought they were dormant, they were once more moved. Happy as little canaries, one of them decided to start blooming! I thought they were all asleep. Last year I removed ALL my dahlias from "dahlia hill" because I hated looking at all those dahlia stakes. On "the hill," I planted squash instead; the sun exposure was perfect for the sprawling squash vines. I personally am a shaker and mover in my own garden. Well, I used to be. My new vision is to find "comfortable shoes" that fit my needs for much longer than a season. But, for better or worse, a garden is a living, giving and growing entity. It is not static and often takes on a life of its own. Changes that need to be made, by you the caretaker and the garden, the giver, should make you both comfortable and happy.

One's garden should be in balance with one's personal needs, and one's ability to care for what you plant. If you have a front lawn and you never step on it except to give it a hair cut, rethink this sorry state. Does it have good sun exposure? Consider planting it with corn, cucumbers, any squash, artichokes, bean vines, and edible fruit trees provided you can keep the deer out.

Edible landscaping has always



out rubble and re-arranged the former "yellow" garden. The herb garden was too far from the house, I explained. Voila! A solution was pronounced; it seemed perfect! The grass, invasive "flowers," and everything else outside my kitchen door were removed. A rather big deal, that needed some planning ahead. But now I have a fabulous "herb kitchen garden" right where I need it, feet away from the kitchen. Is this a great or even a good idea? Well, for me it was, for you maybe not. I am not aware of your lifestyle or what you like to do, let alone whether you might run out to your garden to pluck an herb. I don't know where the sun rises and sets in relationship to your house. Is the best place for a kitchen garden one and the same with where your dogs like to nap, run or do their dog "thing?" I don't know everything

been my passion. I have recently seen this done in many residential areas. This is a modern day version of (for those who can remember) the "Victory Garden." I have a dear friend who lives in a residential area in Los Angeles. Her property is small but I remember her saying to me, over thirty-five years ago "I never plant anything I cannot eat." To this day, she has fig trees, a date tree and, ye gads, who knows what else growing from her front door to the sidewalk. Good for her!

No one wants to come home and crash over a giant zucchini, which added twenty pounds of weight while you were slaving at your desk job. I doubt if you care to walk up to your front door and be enmeshed in a gourmet salad about to eat you, instead of the reverse.


Where does all this end up? You don't need to be just another "pretty face." Your yard, front and back, can be functional, edible and lovely. Good design can happen; it just takes forethought, a bit of planning and the desire for good aesthetics.

*"If the shoe doesn't fit, change your feet."*

*Anonymous*

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# What is a watershed?

BY CHARLES ROGERS

We are asked many times to explain, what is a watershed? Why are watersheds important?

A watershed is the area encompassed within a geographic boundary where all the water that falls within that boundary flows downstream through creeks and groundwater and out of the area through the mouth of a single stream channel. This stream can flow into another stream system, a river, or large body of water such as a lake, or even into the ocean. Generally, a watershed is bounded by a ridge system that separates it from adjacent watersheds. This can be a sharp division or a gently sloping one, but the geography determines the direction that the water flows within that area. Rainfall, snowfall, surface water, and groundwater within a watershed are all hydrologically connected. This hydrologic connectivity is the most important reason to consider aquatic health on a watershed level.

Watersheds, as a method of defining a geographic area, are useful when addressing social and environmental issues such as population, demographics, fish and wildlife usage, forestry and agriculture, climate, economics, human water use, pollution, access, and social lifestyles. These all can be effectively analyzed within the watershed context.

Since water flows downstream, any activity that affects water quality, quantity, or velocity at one site can have an impact on locations downstream. Some watersheds flow into larger watersheds. For instance, the Williams Creek Watershed flows directly into the Applegate River Watershed. Other watersheds, like the Lower Rogue River Watershed, flow directly into the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach. Some watersheds have no outlet and drain internally. An example is the Malheur Basin in eastern Oregon that empties into the wetlands of desert

lakes and ponds that expand and shrink seasonally with rainfall and snowmelt.

Watershed boundaries are often used to assign a physical place and connection to an area where people live and interact with each other. Within watersheds, people develop connections with the land and streams. We also find human connections to riparian areas and aquatic wildlife in the streams and rivers. Watersheds are found delineated within watersheds and

an assessment of the Williams Creek Watershed shows it to be 52,000 acres in size. It has approximately 3000 people in the unincorporated rural community of Williams. It is one of the largest tributaries to the Applegate River, and has some of the best native fish habitat in the Rogue Basin. The watershed contains spawning grounds of several species of anadromous fish, including coho, steelhead and Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey as well as resident

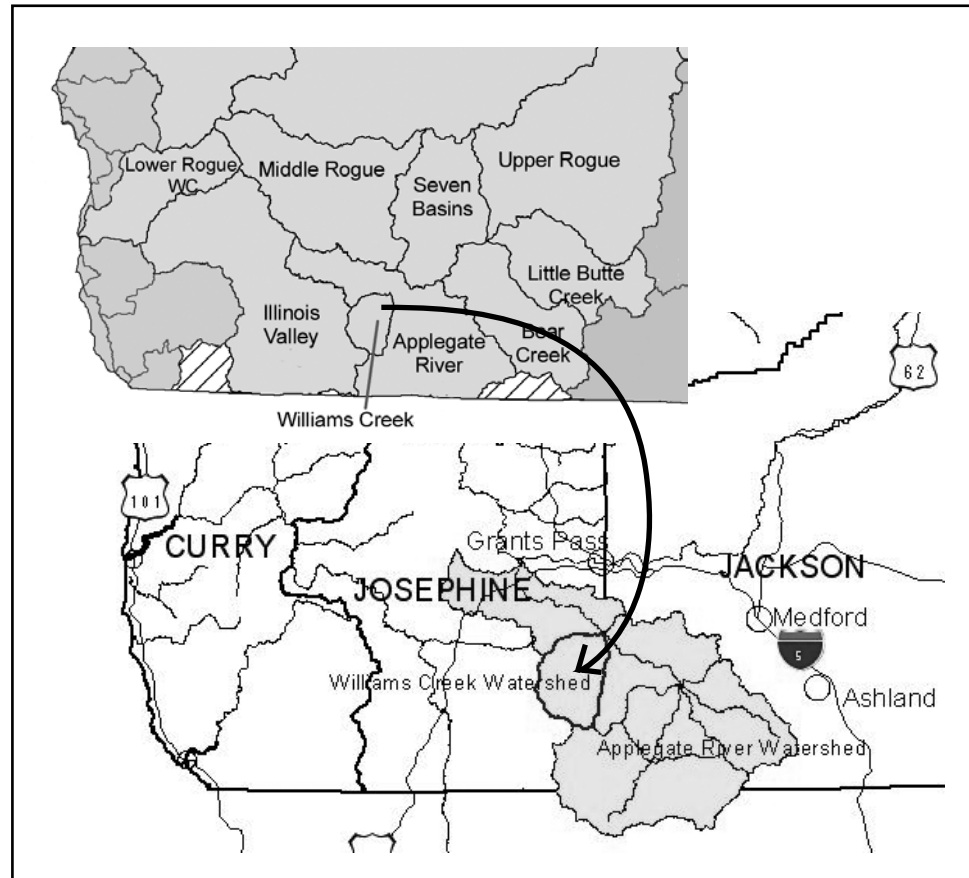
Applegate River system.

When reviewing conditions within a given watershed, we search for ideas to make it a healthier place. This involved process seeks to identify the ideal natural habitats within a watershed. The health of a watershed refers to a sustainable balance of the functions of water, land, air, flora and fauna. Human activities such as dam building, mining, and stream cleaning have often changed this natural balance in an unhealthy way. Today, however, environmental organizations such as watershed councils and the public have joined forces with fishermen to insure salmon survival by enacting policies and programs that help fish and the watershed in general. Other organizations such as the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the National Marine Fisheries Service support watershed councils in their work.

Working for environmental health, from a watershed perspective, places a major part of the responsibility on the people who live within the watershed. As community members become more aware of watershed issues, they often become actively involved in decision-making as well as environmental restoration efforts. Through local participation, watershed restoration work builds a sense of community, increases local interest in finding solutions, and improves the probability of success for environmental programs.

Watersheds, rather than arbitrary politically defined areas, will continue to be the most useful land unit to use for managing environmental issues as well as social and economic ones. For more information about your watershed, or how you can help with restoration efforts, contact your local watershed council.

Charles Rogers • 541-846-9175  
Williams Creek Watershed Council



constitute a mosaic of drainage basins that connect within the stream systems that make up the landscape. The watershed perspective allows us to recognize the many water uses within its boundaries and to evaluate and improve the stream system.

Watersheds are used to assess environmental characteristics of specific areas within a larger region. For instance,

cutthroat trout. Over 150 miles of potential fish habitat exist in Williams Creek and its tributaries, including five miles of 'core' coho habitat, one of three such areas in the greater Applegate River Watershed. Using the watershed approach for environmental assessments reveals that the Williams Creek Watershed has a high potential for helping restore healthy salmon runs in the

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## TRENDS

## Creeping changes

BY RAUNO PERTTU

Some historic events occur with the suddenness of Germany's Blitzkrieg of Poland to start World War Two. Many more "historic events" creep in slowly over years and decades, and can go unnoticed by those living the history. Only through the time compression allowed by viewing the past do these creeping changes become historic events.

One of my professors in undergraduate history pointed out that the barbarian invasions of the historical Roman Empire were for the most part actually creeping changes rather than dramatic events. The population of the northern portion of the Roman Empire was declining and the growing population of "barbarians" from the north simply moved in to occupy vacated farm lands. When the cumulative change created by the progressive shift in population is viewed historically today, it was a major historic event, but occurred mostly unnoticed by those living through it.

Today, in our country, similar creeping changes are occurring that will be viewed in the future as historic events. One such event is the change in cultural demographics that is accompanying our population growth. Our population has progressively grown from about 76 million in 1900 to about 308 million today. In that growth is a progressive change that most of us recognize, but may not fully appreciate.

Our majority population of European ancestry has a birth rate that is much lower than the birth rate of minorities. Today, about 34 percent of our population is minorities, with the fastest growing minority being Asian, but the largest minority group being Hispanic. Census Bureau projections show that our country's internal birth rate is about 2.1 percent, at which rate our population, while changing in ethnicity, would remain constant. However, when legal and illegal immigration are factored in, our population is projected to continue to climb to perhaps 420 million by 2050. Americans of European ancestry will be in the minority before that date. The culture of the America of 2050 will reflect those demographic changes. Our country, despite foreign critics, is progressing on integrating new immigrants and minorities into the larger society, so I don't expect any major abrupt changes.

The same calm outlook may not hold true for Europe. Much of Europe has no internal population growth, and is locally in actual population decline. Somewhat more than 5 percent of Europe is Muslim, although the Muslim population is not evenly spread across the continent. As one might expect, 98 percent of Turkey is Muslim, based on its historical geography. Similarly, 80 percent of Albania is Muslim. Also based on historical geography, the countries of Eastern Europe and Italy have extremely low Muslim populations. Scandinavia and Iceland to the north and Spain to the south have very modest Muslim populations in the range of one percent or less.

The central European nations including the Netherlands, France and Germany have Muslim populations of more than 5 percent. Switzerland has a Muslim population of about 4.3 percent. These Muslim populations largely represent the descendent families of guest workers who moved to Europe from Africa and Asia to fill needed jobs during Europe's strong post-war economic growth. These families are disproportionately poor and less educated, and tend to have significantly more children. Unfortunately, they have not been well integrated into their new countries. The terrorist bombings in Spain and England have made many Europeans uncomfortably aware of the rise of radical Islam within this small but growing minority in their midst. Radical groups have had visible success in recruiting alienated individuals within this minority population, increasing concerns.

Projections of Muslim population growth, to even majority status, flood the internet. These projections overtly or indirectly assert that this growing Muslim population will be loyal to radical non-European Muslim leaders, and that their goal is the eventual conquest of Europe through population growth. How much reality, if any, there is behind these forecasts is unclear. However, what is clear is that the perceived threat of Islamification of Europe is becoming a large, emotionally-charged issue that could have serious consequences. The cultural and economic divide between the Muslim minorities and the larger population is being exploited by radicals.

A recurring theme is that Muslims will eventually become the majority, and long before this time, will come a powerful, perhaps intimidating force in European life. A disturbing trend reported in news stories is the radicalization of today's young European Muslim population, and the associated acceptance of violence as a tool of social change. This apparent trend is coupled with the growing anti-Muslim focus of European rightist groups and the fears of many Europeans that they will lose their cultural identity as the number of Muslims grows. In addition, cultural clashes based in part on religious differences become magnified as issues of safety in the streets and as challenges to freedom of speech and other freedoms.

I have always thought of Europe's historic bloody wars and conflicts as something in the past. The beautiful, tranquil landscapes and towns seen on vacation seem incapable of being the scenes of ugly violence. It's a bit worrisome to think that the polarization developing from the focus on Europe's small but growing Muslim population could be a very early harbinger of future violent conflicts. Let's hope that, instead, this focus leads to better integration and a happier future for this recently arrived Muslim minority.

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## MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

## Monopoly revisited

BY CHRIS BRATT

Do you worry about not having enough health care coverage, the slow fading away of your savings, not being able to keep up payments on the house mortgage, the vulnerability of your job or business, wars dragging on and the American economy not humming away like it used to? Well, you are not alone. Most of us are feeling that our nation's ongoing actions and strategies regarding these issues have resulted in failure. It often seems our whole economic and social system is becoming more vulnerable every day.

It is time to think about overhauling the game we play of accumulating wealth. Presently a corporate CEO can make an exorbitant \$10,000 per hour, plus bonus money while most of the corporation's workers are struggling to make ends meet. Let's try a new form of democratic capitalism (if that's still the economic system we want to bank on). Our nation needs to get people off of the treadmill of work, debt, consumption and the economic inequities this routine leads to. We have to give up the false ideas that we're all capable of becoming rich if we would only work a little harder or that we can go from rags to riches by simply winning the lottery.

The reality is most of us have never really had an equal chance of getting rich, given that most of the high paying jobs in the established corporation world are scarce and already filled. It's also very difficult to buy a large number of corporate stock shares when you only earn a family or minimum wage. I would say there are relatively few Americans able to make superior salaries and investments and many of those people violate the rules of the game in making their way to the top.

I may have (at least in part) a modest answer to our serious economic challenges. Almost every American (at least in my generation) knows of or has played the board game known as Monopoly. The idea of the game is to buy, rent, improve and sell properties, railroads, utilities, etc., for a profit and become the wealthiest player and the eventual winner of the game. But the interesting part of this game is that each

player is given an equal amount of money at the start of the game so every player has an equal and fair chance of making the most profit and win. No one starts the game with the unfair advantage of already having more money or property. Every Monopoly player must also follow very specific rules on how the game is to be played. These rules hold the players in check by limiting or preventing an action that would create an unfair advantage for one player.

Admittedly, Monopoly is a game and probably not the economic model we should choose. But, there is no question we need a new prototype for creating jobs and distributing our wealth more evenly and fairly. It may be difficult to distribute money and properties as easily as you do at the beginning of the Monopoly game, but we could certainly use the billions of national inheritance tax dollars we receive for investment grants in new worthwhile enterprises.

For a start, we could write and enforce some better laws for corporations to live by, have more fair taxation for poor people, offer bail-out money to people who have lost their jobs, and create jobs like we did during the Great Depression through programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). For the long term, there are some European democracies that could teach us plenty about economic stability and justice.


Any reform of our inequitable economic system must address not only individual and corporate power structures, but also the quality of life issues for all working people. Things like job security, retirement, health care and sharing in the profits and the decision making must be considered.

After all this, if you still believe you're the one who will become the rich American by hard work or the lottery, I say, dream on. I hope you're smart enough to make it, but if not, at least try your luck at Monopoly and collect your \$200 for passing "Go."

If you think I'm the one who should dream on, give me a call.

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# JACKSON COUNTY

Library Services

## Free community programs at Ruch Library

Ruch Library was a busy place last year with monthly programs on a wide range of subjects: gardening, singing, local and state history, dog behavior, geology, justice and more. We have an eclectic roster for this winter and spring as well, and we hope you can join us for fun, adventure and a chance to learn more about our valley and the world around us. All the programs are free and will be held in the Ruch Library Community Room.

**January 8, Friday 7-pm. Preparing for Climate Change in the Rogue River Basin** will be the basis of a presentation by Cindy Deacon Williams from the National Center for Conservation Science and Policy. Climate change is likely to produce significant alterations to water quality, fish, wildlife, plant life, forest and fire regimes, and those changes will have important consequences for the economy, infrastructure, and human services on which the people and communities within the Rogue Basin rely for their quality of life. The information in this presentation will cover the stressors, risks, and recommendations for increasing resilience and resistance in human, built, economic, and natural systems.

Several artists who studied this model last spring through the Jefferson Nature Center will be present with their artistic interpretations of climate change. They will exhibit, perhaps perform, and be available to discuss their paintings, songs, poems, photography, weaving and sculpture.

**January 23, Saturday, 1-3 pm Historic Trails to the West Revisited.** Journey along the historic westward trails with April Whitten as she presents her recreated wagon train trip in this family program.

Passionate about geoarchaeology,

natural history, environmental science, as well as exploration of the great outdoors, Ms. Whitten will use PowerPoint to bring alive the experience of traveling across the Great Plains with the wagon train. Her research as a geoarchaeologist has focused on the Overland Emigration Trails of North America and other migratory routes.

**February 6, Saturday, 1:00 pm Landscapes and Livelihoods: A Sustainable Future for Rural Oregon.**

Join facilitator and rural sociologist Vicky Sturtevant for a conversation about the challenges of balancing ecological, social and economic objectives in the Applegate. This Conversation Project is a new Chautauqua program of Oregon Humanities (formerly Oregon Council for the Humanities).

**March 13, Saturday, 2:00 pm Thomas Doty, storyteller, author and teacher will share native myths and original stories.** Tom's history with our library pre-dates our opening in our first location. It's always an honor to have him return and this time he'll have some of his Applegate books with him, too! Copies will also be available for purchase. Come at 1:00 pm for the Friends of Ruch Library's Annual Business Meeting and stay for stories and refreshments.

**April 9, Friday, 7-9 pm There's More Than Gold in These Here Hills!** Janeen Sathre returns by popular demand with the promised Part Two of her Applegate History series. She will talk about the area under water and around Applegate Dam, and what and who was there before. She will also tell us more about the Blue Ledge Mine and that community. The talk will include old photos, interesting stories and probably some audience contributions.

Thalia Truesdell • 541-899-8741



Thomas Doty performing Applegate River blessing.

You are invited to join in a conversation:

## Landscapes and Livelihoods: A Sustainable Future for Rural Oregon

Saturday, February 6, 2010  
1:00 pm at the Ruch Library

Your voice and ideas – and those of your friends and neighbors – are important for this community discussion of the possibilities and challenges for the Applegate Valley's future.

Here are some questions this Oregon Humanities Chautauqua Conversation program invites you to consider:



Vicky Sturtevant

- How can the Applegate Valley—and Oregon's other rural communities—balance ecological, social, and economic needs and objectives for a sustainable future?
- What can citizens do to chart their future while preserving their family legacies, attachment to place, and heritage of making a living from the land?
- How have newcomers and a changing interconnectedness with urban places brought new economic opportunities and social challenges?
- How can we in the Applegate nurture civic involvement?

This Saturday afternoon dialogue will be facilitated by Vicky Sturtevant, a rural sociologist and retired professor at Southern Oregon University. Vicky has worked for a couple of decades with community-based stewardship initiatives in Oregon, including work with the Applegate Partnership since the early 1990s.

The Friends of Ruch Library are pleased to present this program with support from Oregon Humanities (formerly Oregon Council for the Humanities). Our discussion will only benefit our community if you join in—Saturday, February 6, 1:00 pm, Ruch Library Community Meeting Room, 7919 Hwy 238, Ruch. Please invite your neighbors, too.

No charge. Refreshments will be served.

For further information call Ruch Library at 541-899-7438.

Pat Gordon – 541-899-7655

Friends of Ruch Library Program Committee

## Wende Glimpse— new Branch Manager at Ruch Library

Have you noticed a fresh, friendly face at the Ruch Branch Library? Wende Glimpse is the new Branch Manager at the Ruch Branch Library, 7919 Highway 238. In the position since August, Wende is continuing her 12-year career with the Jackson County Libraries. She has progressed from being a library shelver and working in Technical Services to becoming the branch manager in Ruch. Wende is working toward her Masters of Library and Information Science degree and really wanted to work with people. This mother of two sons and the proud grandma of a five year-old grandson is about to celebrate her 30th wedding anniversary in March.

"I am enjoying the opportunity to work with kids, doing storytime and seeing a whole different part of the library." The Friends of the Ruch Branch Library have been very helpful and have made the transition easier. Wende enjoys meeting the families that come to use the library regularly and she appreciates Ruch's sense of community.

Wende is actively recruiting volunteers for the library, even pressing her mother into service. Currently, she needs a "plant person" who could help the library's plants thrive, just as Wende is helping the Ruch Branch Library continue to bloom.

Carrie Prechtel • 541-774-6407

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## Friends of the Applegate Library News

At our October meeting, The Friends of the Applegate Library elected Kirstin Shockey to be the new Treasurer for the coming year. We voted to sell more greeting cards by local artists and budgeted \$100 to buy cards from the artists to sell at a 25% profit for \$4.00 each. The artists have been contacted and the cards are now on sale in the library.

The November Book Sale was a success and made \$276.50. Some of this money will be used to buy a decorative rug for the children's section of the library. Carol Karvis will select the new rug, and FOAL will match the book sale funds for the purchase of the new rug.

Applegate Branch patron Geneva Rabern put on a Tea Party for our other patrons. Eve's Garden Gate Cafe loaned hats and boas for the partygoers. Tea cakes and cookies were served, along with the various teas in flowered tea cups and a jolly time was had by all who attended.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled year at the library with our new board of directors for FOAL and a dedicated staff to provide all of our library needs.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

## WILLIAMS LIBRARY

FROM PAGE 1



Signing up for library cards.

Dave Toler and Dwight Ellis, who regretted they could not attend. Shavana Fineberg read an eloquent letter from the Williams Town Council in support of the value of libraries and lifelong learning and the ongoing inspiration available to all users.

Then, in a hard act to follow, three fourth graders from Williams Elementary School, Jessica Hendrickson, Alice Holcombe and Lindsey Ann Northrup, read their own statements about how and why libraries were so important to them. It could be called the highlight of the day. This is the next generation, and we owe them everything that good libraries offer.

Local authors, Butch Martin and J. D. Rogers, did a superb job in following the girls, to illustrate again how libraries

are meaningful in so many ways to people from everywhere in the country. Libraries have always inspired future writers. Loraine Sherman, retired librarian, was the perfect choice to cut the ribbon to open the doors for regular library service in Williams. Fortunately, our community is lucky to have Prem Miles back as Library manager, especially since she already knows most of the children in Williams! The new hours for the Williams Branch Library are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1:30–4:00 pm, and Saturdays from Noon to 4:00 pm. Please remember the three days we are open will be until 4:00 pm, so be sure to stop in and pick up your goodies!

The Josephine Community Libraries Inc. fall membership drive is in full swing, and we hope everyone in Williams will get a library card and become a member of JCLI (<http://www.josephinelibrary.org/>). We will be adding new books and magazines specifically related to local interests, such as solar energy, sustainable forestry, organic farming, permaculture,

home-schooling, gardening, quilting, and just plain joy in life. Please let library staff know what you want in your library.

You may also borrow anything from the Grants Pass and Illinois Valley Branch Libraries using the online catalog. Using your library card barcode and password you can enter your request online, through your own patron account. You can go to <http://josephine.polarislibrary.com/search/default>, and have the items sent to the Williams branch. The first important thing is to make sure your library card is current. This will give free access to the whole globe. Patrons can also use 20 incredible research databases (six especially useful for children) from their home computers. Full text newspapers, magazines, and reference works are available 24/7, for homework, and general information seeking. High-speed internet computers are available in the library during the nine hours open each week.

Thank you all for your enthusiastic support. We hope community membership in JCLI continues to grow, and everyone in Williams will have a library card! For more information about the Williams Friends of the Library, please call Kristin Ginther, 846-6004. For more information about JCLI please visit <http://www.josephinelibrary.org>.

Bonnie Johnson  
541-846-6016

## Storytelling Guild

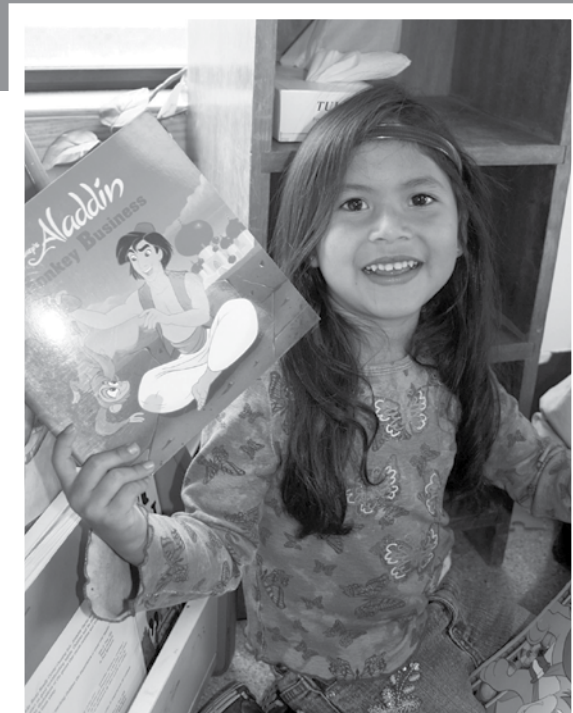
The Storytelling Guild of Jackson County is once again collecting gently used and new children's books for its "Pass the Book" program. Each year the Storytelling Guild distributes children's books to agencies in Jackson County to share with the families they serve. From Head Start to the Children's Advocacy Center, from the Dunn House to foster children, from the Community Health Centers to Healthy Start, last Spring 4,805 children's books made their way into the hands of children ... in their homes, in waiting rooms, at Kids Unlimited, in Juvenile Detention and the Juvenile Shelter, at On Track, the Magdalene House, the Providence Birth Place, at Rogue Valley Medical Center's Moms and Tots and Pediatrics, through Jackson County Health and Human Services Vital Links program, at Access food pantries, and at North Medford High School's Child Development program.

Through the generosity of donors in every community in Jackson County, and with the support of Jackson County Library Services and Umpqua Bank, the Storytelling Guild distributed more books to agencies in the fall. Several new agencies were happy recipients, including the Ruch Kids Book Bank and the Butte Falls Community/School Partnership.

Books may be donated to "Pass the Book" during the month of January at all 15 branches of the Jackson County Library and at all eight branches of Umpqua Bank in Jackson County. Books are needed for all age groups, from babies (board books are very welcome) to teens and all ages in between. Teen books are especially needed. Share your love of books and reading: donate children's books to the Storytelling Guild's "Pass the Book" program. For questions please e-mail [billeter@entwood.com](mailto:billeter@entwood.com).

The Storytelling Guild is a group of volunteers dedicated to serving the community by providing opportunities for children to be exposed to the

magic of books and the joy of reading. "Pass the Book" is just one of their programs. They also present an annual "Book Walk" fashion show of books to third graders, present a weekly preschool story time at the Medford Library, Wednesdays at 11 am, sponsor a free show at the Craterian each January, provide 24-hour access to Dial-a-Story at 541-774-6439, and provide a scholarship to an RCC student passionate about early literacy and/or early childhood education. The Storytelling Guild is best known for the annual Children's Festival. Planning has begun for the 44th Children's Festival at the Britt Grounds in Jacksonville, in July 2010. Exact dates of the three-day festival will be announced in January. More information about the Storytelling Guild is available at [www.storytellingguild.org](http://www.storytellingguild.org).



One of the Central Point Head Start children who received Storytelling books to keep.

Anne Billeter  
41-772-5697

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**BIRDMAN**

*Klamath Basin*  
**Where the birds are**



BY TED A. GLOVER

Those of you who follow this column know that we have a special place in our "Birding Heart" for the glorious Klamath Basin. Winter time is particularly wonderful around the Basin, beginning in the Klamath Marsh: east of Sand Creek, Oregon, down through Upper Klamath Lake, into Klamath Falls and then across the California border to Lower Klamath, Tule Lake, and Clear Lake refuges. Winter bald eagle numbers reach their peak in February, with concentrations of 1,000 or more. This is the largest concentration of bald eagles anywhere in the contiguous United States. Other raptors also concentrate in the area, including golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, rough-legged hawks and northern harriers. The northern harrier is a fascinating bird and one of the most graceful in flight. They do everything from soaring high in thermals, perhaps reaching 4000 feet or more, to flying low over agricultural fields, skimming along the surface searching for small mammals to feed on. Harriers have been reported to have one of the

longest migrations, moving south from late summer to early winter and then turning north into May. Their numbers are believed to be over one million in the United States. There are auto tour routes available at Tule Lake Refuge and at Lower Klamath Refuge. A passenger car is all you need. Expect to see hundreds of ducks, plus American white pelicans, black-necked stilts, sandhill cranes, several varieties of grebes and perhaps a great horned owl. While staying in Klamath Falls, don't miss the Link River Trail, which is about one and a half miles along both riparian habitat and an arid hillside. It cuts through a camp along the river that links the Upper Klamath Lake to the Klamath River. We see hundreds of black-crowned night herons as well as hooded mergansers and it is our favorite place to see barrow's and common goldeneye.

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681



Photos clockwise from top: Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge; Western grebe tending nest in Klamath marsh; Pie-billed grebe by Dave Menke; Northern harrier; Amercian white pelicans. All photos taken at the Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, courtesy U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



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**THE STARRY SIDE**

**Both sides of Orion**

BY GREELEY WELLS

If you absorbed last quarter's discussion of Orion and found him leaping up from his back in the east, you've probably been watching him swing up overhead in the south and begins to stand up straighter. Each week, he's higher up and more obviously the king of the winter sky. Now, using Orion as a base, let's look on both sides of him for some other real delights.

In front of him to our right, is a bright star in a small distinctive triangle just outside Orion's shield. Orion's protecting himself from Taurus the bull and he's raising his club in his other arm about to swing a blow on Taurus. The triangle is Taurus' face and is also called the Hyades star cluster. The bright star is Aldebaran, the wild bull's bloodshot reddish eye. The triangle forming Taurus' face is distinct, and his horns go way out from the triangle; you can find the two ends of the horns about where you'd expect them to be, but way far up.

Further yet to the right is one of my all-time favorites: the Pleiades, or seven sisters—but with binoculars there are actually dozens! Some people think the Pleiades is the shoulder of Taurus, but I don't see it that way. The Greeks thought of the Pleiades as a perfect test for eyesight. Do you find six or seven? Or just a smudge? If you make out seven you've got good vision. (The shape of the Pleiades is often mistaken for the little dipper, which is actually a circumpolar constellation; the end of the little dipper's handle is the North Star, or Polaris.)

Now behind Orion, to our left, following him faithfully, is his dog, Canus Major. That bright star is Sirius, the brightest star in all the heavens. (This does not include planets, some of which are brighter than Sirius.) Sirius is the dog's heart. Below Sirius is the dog's front leg. To the left of Sirius a small triangle forms the dog's back leg and tail. Above Sirius, a few dim stars help you imagine a head.

Canus Major, Orion, Taurus and the Pleiades: These four constellations make a wonderful and notable set together. They're all pretty much in line with each other and together cover most of the high southern sky. I find them distinct and beautiful in the clear, cold winter sky. And as usual, they offer much to explore with any kind of optical aids.

**THE PLANETS**

Jupiter starts high in the south on early-January evenings, and ends the month having moved to the southwest and setting just after dusk. This is our last chance to enjoy it for a while, as Mars (see below) becomes our new planet companion in the night sky. On the 15th of February Jupiter has a close brush with the moon in the sunset, and with Venus if you can find it below. Jupiter has been moving steadily closer to the sun all through February and will disappear into it at month's end. It will appear again in April's dawn.

Mars spends the month of January getting up earlier and earlier. At the beginning of the month he starts rising around 7 pm; he ends the month rising around sunset. He's also closer and therefore seems larger than he has since 2008, and he won't appear this large again until 2012. By the end of January he'll spend the whole night with us: at the full moon on the 30th, he'll rise at sunset and set at dawn. February finds Mars still bright and big for one last month, so get out there and see it! It'll pass the Beehive Cluster around February fourth. On March 11, Mars becomes stationary for

a short time compared to the stars behind it, but then resumes its eastward movement. I must admit I've never been able to notice one of these changes in a planet's movement; see if you can!

Saturn is rising around 11:30 pm in January and about two hours earlier by month's end. It makes for good telescope viewing on January 8, when it's high up and the rings tip the most for us too see. Saturn's rising time in early February is 9:30 pm, and by late month it's 7:30 pm. During this time it's getting closer to the earth and so might appear bigger. By late March, Saturn is rising around sunset.

Mercury is in the sun and invisible to us until late in January. Then, caught by dawn, it's low and hard to see (although for Mercury it's a relatively good view) 30 minutes before dawn. This pattern continues in the first half of February. In March Mercury pops up in the sunset, as usual very low and close to the sun.

Venus is hidden in the sun until February, when it rises briefly in the sunset and is very close to Jupiter on the 15th; look for it very close to the horizon line. Then in March Venus begins rising in the sunset and setting later and later than the sun, becoming more and more visible.

**OF SPECIAL NOTE**

Earth is at perihelion, its position nearest to the sun, on January 3. You probably know the earth is 93 million miles from the sun; that's in all the books. Well, on the third it's only 91.4 million miles from the sun. Interesting how everything is not set in stone—there are variations in nature; it's only in the classroom where it's all predictable with one answer!

We have the Quadrantid meteors this year on Sunday, January 3 but the moon will be strong almost all night and will foul up seeing them.

February 2 is Candlemas or Groundhog Day, a "cross-quarter" day half way between the solstice and the equinox.

March 14, Sunday is the time to "spring forward." At bedtime Saturday night, set your clocks one hour forward. Have you ever thought about the logistics of the time change? Interestingly, to make it all work there is technically no clock hour between 2 am and 3 am! Also, until the next time change this summer, the sun is actually at its highest at 1 pm, not at noon! (I still wish we'd stop playing with time.)

Saturday, March 20 brings the spring or vernal equinox. Until 2007 it was on the 21st, but from now till 2043 it'll be on the 20th. Go figure. Another of nature's variations, or is that man's variations?

MOONS: Saturday, January 30 is the full moon, known as the Moon After Yule or the Old Moon. In January the full moon rises just to the right of Mars, who is also rising. They will spend the night together, the warrior and the beautiful female moon. On the night of January 11, look for a crescent moon right next to Antares, the red rival of Mars, in Scorpio. February's full moon is on Sunday the 28th; it's called the Wolf Moon, Snow Moon or Hunger Moon. March's full moon is on the 30th, and is called the Lenten Moon, the Sap Moon, Crow Moon or Worm Moon. I think I must someday figure out where some of these interesting (and sometimes weird) names came from!

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## REVIEW

**Song of Extinction**

BY PAUL TORRENCE

Ashland, Oregon, USA, was recently the venue for a reading of a remarkable play that delves into issues we mostly refuse to face. This play was about the Bolivian Amazon, tropical deforestation, species extinction, loss, separation, cancer, death and the killing fields of Cambodia.

Playwright E. M. Lewis, is a native Oregonian. He researched this play by reading such sobering works as *The Sixth Extinction* (R. Leakey and R. Lewin), *Survival in the Killing Fields* (H. Ngor), and *Children of Cambodia's Killing Fields: Memoirs by Survivors* (D. Pran). None of these can be read without a prescription of Prozac at hand. But Lewis is not content there (if content can be imagined in this framework), but proceeds to explore other dark themes such as father-son alienation, obsession, the agonizing death of a cancer victim, the once-impenetrable shell of a war victim and the inability to deal with death.

This is no play for the weak of heart. There was palpable regret, remorse, sorrow, grief, pity and compassion amongst the audience. Yet I feared that while people grasped the unfolding human tragedy that saw some resolution, they failed, in the words of Khim Phan, (and I paraphrase) Americans just don't get it (extinction). He talks about the 30,000 species gone every year. "That is why I assign a paper," he explains. "I believe this is worthy of some thought. But they look at me like small animals. Deers. Pigeons. Wolves." And later, "If you teach high school, you must understand you will be teaching to purposefully blank faces for your whole life, and when they are not blank they will be angry." And in the opening dialog, "There are things I know about extinction I don't know how to tell to my students. Maybe I'm afraid to tell...Extinction is a very messy business," he goes on. "In books it looks clean. But I remember extinction and it was not clean."

If the opportunity presents, don't miss this play!

I refer the interested reader to further review: <http://www.curtainup.com/songofextinctionla.html>

And from the perspective of our community, I must mention the impressive pre-play violin performance of Lindan Burns who is just nine years old and already an accomplished musician. Thanks Lindan!

Paul Torrence  
541-846-0616

**Pets and livestock in disaster planning****Don't leave home without them!**

BY LIN BERNHARDT



Most of us know the importance of planning ahead in case of disaster, but the motivation to do so often comes too late, resulting in tragic losses. Katrina taught us a lot, but so have some wildfires here in the Applegate. Just this past summer we saw evacuations beginning for fires in east Medford and Ashland. These fires were small and quickly contained thanks to a series of fortunate events. We all know the potential for catastrophic wildfire in this area is great, and that we're not exempt from earthquakes and floods.

One of the most important lessons learned from Katrina, Rita, and other disasters, is the importance of planning ahead for our animals. The new mantra is take them with you if you evacuate. People often consider companion animals family members, and if unable to take them along, have refused to leave. Some people have waited until the last minute to move horses and other livestock, clogging roadways and tying up emergency efforts. A lack of planning can put not only the lives of animals at risk, but the lives of the animals' owners and responders as well.

**Leading causes of death in large animals during disaster**

- Collapsed barns
- Kidney failure due to dehydration
- Electrocution from downed power lines
- Fencing failures

Source: California Department of Food and Agriculture

While ensuring the safety of your animals requires some advance planning, there are a few simple things you can do **right now** to help keep your animals safe:

- Find a safe place for your animals ahead of time.

If you evacuate, plan on taking your pets with you since you have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area.

- Make sure pets are wearing up-to-date identification at all times and livestock can be identified via good photographs, names on horse halters, brands, etc.
- Vaccinations should be up to date and health records kept accessible in the event you need to evacuate.
- Prepare an emergency kit for pets and other animals (go online for specifics). It should include a minimum of three days of food and water.
- Assess your property to see if it's possible to shelter livestock in place during a disaster. If not, make arrangements to move them off site. Make sure all animals are used to loading in a trailer.
- Meet with your neighbors to develop a neighborhood plan for pets and livestock.

Following Katrina, federal and

state lawmakers realized the importance of state and local jurisdictions taking into account the pet- and livestock-owning population in their emergency response efforts. Legislation was passed at both the federal and state levels requiring these jurisdictions to have plans in effect to deal with their animal-owning populations as a matter of public safety.

Jackson County has a limited plan for pets, but is currently undergoing an effort to expand the plan to include livestock and meet other requirements of the law. Josephine County is in the process of developing a plan to do the same.

In addition to the county plans, local or neighborhood plans will also be encouraged. There will be a meeting on January 7, 10:00 am, at the Applegate library to begin developing a plan for the Applegate. All Applegate residents are invited to attend. There are many ways you can be involved, from helping to develop resource lists (such as identifying sites that could shelter animals) to hosting neighborhood meetings. For more information or assistance with developing a plan for your neighborhood, please contact the county's contractor, Lin Bernhardt at (541) 840-9903, or [linb@clearwire.net](mailto:linb@clearwire.net).

For more information on preparing for animals in disasters, please visit [www.fema.gov/individual/animals.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/individual/animals.shtm), or [www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal\\_rescue/tips/disaster\\_preparedness\\_1.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/disaster_preparedness_1.html)  
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**In the ditch**

BY DARYL JACKSON

The folks in Williams have probably noticed people working in the roadside ditches lately. Our efforts are part of our agreement with Josephine County Public Works to maintain our roadsides. The photograph lower right might also seem familiar. So why the heck is this "ditch" so important?

First of all, it isn't just a ditch. This little waterway is actually a portion of Butcher Creek, which is a tributary to Williams Creek, and believe it or not we have spotted cutthroat trout and other aquatic beasts there.

Because this spot is one of the first things you see when you approach *greater metropolitan Williams*, it seemed appropriate to make it an example of our efforts to manage roadside vegetation. Since Williams roadsides (maintained by Josephine County), are no longer herbicide-sprayed, it was a great opportunity to try to get a grip on some of the noxious and invasive vegetation along the creek.

Last spring the Josephine County road crew mowed the blackberries and weeds along the creek and reshaped the roadside banks to improve water flow and protect the road surface. It looked so good that it seemed appropriate to us to enhance their efforts. First we placed small

structures (like the ones the county crew installed along lower Watergap Road) to reduce velocity and erosion potential. These also provide refuge and habitat for aquatic life. Next, we cut and pulled the nonnative blackberries, starthistle, peavine and scotch broom because nonnative, invasive vegetation results in a net reduction of species diversity besides creating a road maintenance headache.

Once that was done we planted native grass seed, shrubs, hardwoods and conifers.

The idea is to provide an esthetically pleasing and functional stream habitat at the roadside that does not rely on herbicides. Although this treatment was very intensive and time consuming, it is not appropriate for the entire county road system. It does provide a good example of how it is possible to succeed without chemicals. Once the native vegetation has become established it will no longer be necessary to struggle so much with the blackberry because it does not thrive in

the shade. Next time you drive by, take a look and tell us what you think.

For further information or comments contact:  
[daryljackson22@live.com](mailto:daryljackson22@live.com)

Daryl Jackson  
541- 291-3199





# Applegate solar tour a big hit

BY TOM CARSTENS

Saturday, October 3, was a full day for the Applegate residents and volunteers who helped make this year's solar tour a resounding success. The popular event was a sellout for the second year in a row. Four valley homeowners and one business offered the public a peek at their innovative energy efficient designs.

All of the homes on the tour featured three inexpensive traits: a) they each used ample insulation in tightly constructed exterior walls and ceilings; b) they all took advantage of passive solar gain; and c) each used thermal mass to minimize interior temperature fluctuation. A well-insulated structure provides a complete thermal envelope that minimizes heat loss in winter and generally obviates the need for expensive cooling systems in our hot summers. Maximizing southern exposure permits the sun's rays to penetrate south-oriented glazing to provide light and heat in the winter months. For summer months, this design must also be accompanied by some sort of shading, such as eaves or deciduous trees. The temperature retention characteristics of concrete, rocks, or just plain earth will complement the effects of solar gain and help keep room temperatures steady and power bills low.

All the homes on the tour offer very comfortable and affordable living. One of the tour homes was rewarded with Earth Advantage's highest level for sustainable construction, the Platinum Certification.

Most of the tour stops featured active solar systems as well. The most popular solar system in the Applegate Valley is a solar hot water system. This relatively simple system commonly relies on rooftop panels to collect the sun's rays that heat a fluid and send it to a heat-exchanger that, in turn, heats domestic

water. Since about 25% of our total energy expense goes to heat our water, this is no insignificant contribution. Current rebates and tax incentives make this a very affordable option with a quick payback.

Two of the stops employed grid-tied photovoltaic (PV) systems to complement Pacific Power electricity. PV panels on the roofs convert sunlight to DC power. An inverter converts this power to AC current that can be utilized by the homeowner. Excess power is returned to the electricity grid for retail credit to the homeowner. These systems tend to be less popular because of their expense and relatively low efficiency. Their installation makes good sense, however, in a well-insulated structure. According to Solar Oregon, current incentives offered by the state of Oregon and the federal government can reduce the cost to the customer by up to 70%, and even more for a commercial enterprise.

The tour wasn't all work. The 100 patrons enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by Eve's Cafe. Troon Vineyard hosted a grand finale with live music, wine tasting, and scrumptious hors d'oeuvres.

The tour was sponsored by our own Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation and the Earth Advantage Institute. The American Solar Energy Society provided materials and financial support. Next year, solar tours will be offered in other communities of the Rogue Valley.

For those interested, The Energy Trust of Oregon, Solar Oregon, and the Oregon Dept of Energy are excellent resources for information. If you're thinking of building or remodeling, Earth Advantage can help get you started.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025



Above: Bill Dunlap shows off his Platinum Level Earth Advantage home to the Applegate Valley Solar Tour. Photo: Nancy McLain

Below: David Kennedy explains his strawbale home to Applegate Valley Solar Tour patrons. Photo: Tom Carstens



## Become a Master Recycler in Spring 2010

Jackson County Recycling Partnership and OSU Extension Service invite residents and business representatives to become Master Recyclers, gaining a broad understanding of waste prevention, recycling, the local solid waste infrastructure, hazardous waste avoidance, and composting. Join a ten-week training course that offers an extensive training manual, discussion-based classes, presentations from local and regional experts and field trips to relevant sites, including the regional landfill, waste-to-energy plant, composting facility and a waste water treatment plant.

Master Recyclers are required to give 40 service hours to support and expand local waste diversion programs and projects. Weekly classes will take place on Tuesday evenings, March 2-May 11, 5:30-8:30 pm at the OSU Extension classroom, 569 Hanley Road. Applications are due Monday, February 1, 2010 and are available online at [www.jcmasterrecyclers.org](http://www.jcmasterrecyclers.org). For more information, contact OSU Extension Service at 541-776-7371.

## 2009 Plastic Round-up Results

The 2009 Jackson County Plastic Round-up was a big success! Over 18 tons (36,268 lbs) of plastic were diverted from the landfill in two days! That's 617 cubic yards, or 16,659 cubic feet. Folks in over 700 cars and trucks dropped off plastic generated by their homes, neighbors and businesses.

Time to start saving plastic for the 2010 event! Organizers are already planning the next annual Round-up for autumn of next year. For a list of plastic items that are acceptable for recycling, visit [www.jcrecycle.org](http://www.jcrecycle.org) and go to "Special Events."

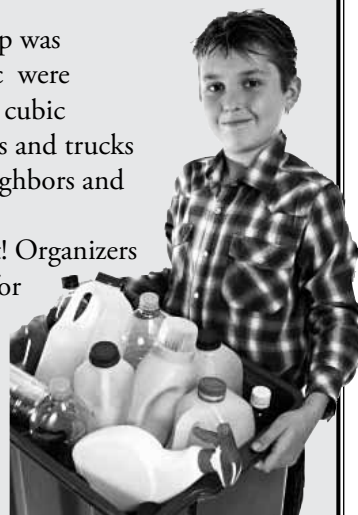


Photo: <http://www.rabbittrecycling.co.uk/plastics>

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## PETS OF THE MONTH

		
<b>Taffy</b> - #K2816 a 3-year-old Tortie with medium-length fur.	<b>Guido</b> - #K2857 a loving & obedient Italian Greyhound.	<b>Ziggy</b> - #K2720 a Seal Point Siamese kitten with blue eyes.
		
<b>Guinea Pig</b> a cute little fuzz-ball with long black fur.	<b>Mia</b> - #K1899 a beautiful & very sweet powder white cat.	<b>Riley</b> - #K2995 a 5-month-old Pit mix who loves to play.

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# Tall Tales from the Editor

## Mr. Magoo ears or A toxic product

"What did you say?" I asked my bride, Sioux. "I can't hear you. Would you please look at me when you're speaking to me? What? Yes, yes, I did pick up the Manischewitz cherry wine that you wanted from town." With that response, my wife started to laugh hysterically. Between laughs she said, "I asked you to pick up a bottle of cooking sherry." Once Sioux recovered from her hysteria, she said something else to me, which I could not quite understand. I said, "What do you mean the pink has a slugged sprain?" Now Sioux was on the ground in pain with laughter. She said, "No, Mr. Magoo Ears, I said 'The sink has a plugged drain,'" followed with more laughter... and so it goes.

This affliction I'm experiencing started a few days ago. I had taken a shower (unfortunately, it was a lonely solo shower. I can't seem to talk anyone into sharing hot water with me). After I was scrubbed shiny and as squeaky as crystal glass, I emerged from the fog of steam, dried off, and dressed. I walked out into our living room, where I found our old Border Collie, Utah, standing in the middle of the room shaking like a leaf in an Indiana tornado.

"What's the matter, old buddy?" I asked. Utah was staring at our 16-month-old Border Collie, Barney McGee, also known as Mr. McGee, and in some circles as Monster Boy. McGee was lying on his back chewing and crunching away on something. I asked, "What are you chewing on, McGee?" He wagged his tail when I spoke to him. That's when I noticed all of these little itty-bitsy pieces of debris lying around him. Holy Moly, those were the remains of my hearing aids! McGee had swiped them off the bathroom counter while I was in the shower.

"Monster Boy!" I screamed. I don't think my scream was as loud as I intended, because I felt sick at that moment thinking about how much those hearing aids had cost me and how long it took to save up for them. McGee stood up, gave a big old shake while still wagging his tail. His expression said, "What are you mad about? There's no reason to get your undies all bunched up into a snuggie. These hearing aids tasted a lot better than those old bones you give me."

I grabbed him by the collar and asked him through gritted teeth, "How would you like to become a throw rug, or better yet, a lining in one of my jackets? I could use a warm winter jacket." Old Utah didn't like the sound of either of those options. He had ratcheted up his shaking to a class five hurricane. I told him, "You're not in trouble, Utah; you're a good boy!" On the other hand, there's Monster Boy! "NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, McGee," followed with "Why, why, why, McGee? Geezes!"

This past summer, "No, McGee" was a phrase our 21-month-old grandson Adam had learned in some sort of baby jabber. Whenever Adam would see McGee running towards, by, or around him, he'd hold up his hand and say, "No, McGee!" It didn't matter: Adam would get knocked over anyway. Still, Adam wanted to hug McGee 'cause he loved him. Just like Adam, I can't stay mad at McGee for any extended time. I always give in to those big brown eyes. Yes, I'm a sucker; just ask

my brown-eyed wife. She and McGee both know how to manipulate me.

Now that my hearing aids look like shredded coleslaw, I'm going to have Mr. Magoo ears for a long while. I can see a B-movie in the making now: I'll be stopped by local law enforcement for some minor infraction. The cop will give me a verbal command, "Put your hands where I can see them. Now!" I'll respond with "You want me to do what with my head?" At that moment, I'll get tazered, maced, and bean bagged all in one afternoon. From Mr. Magoo Ears I thank you, Mr. McGee.

Maybe Monsanto has developed some genetically modified bean seeds that I can plant in my ears that will restore my hearing. You know, though, I really couldn't trust Monsanto if they had developed such a wonder bean. Not after the French Supreme Court's recent upholding of two lower court convictions against Monsanto for lying. Monsanto has been telling folks that their product Roundup is "biodegradable" and "left the soil clean." It seemed Monsanto was saying, "Folks, Roundup isn't a toxic product." Wrong!

Fortunately, the French Supreme Court justices could hear very clearly in upholding Monsanto's two convictions for lying about their "love child" product, Roundup. Could you really expect anything different from the same company that gave us dioxin (Agent Orange)? Another safe product...you bet...just ask the opinion of any Vietnam veteran who's been dealing with his many different illnesses after his exposure to Agent Orange.

Then there's Monsanto's product polychlorinated biphenyl known as PCBs. Is there anybody that's not familiar with the environmental and health problems associated with PCBs?

How about Monsanto's genetically engineered bovine growth hormone (rBGH) that's injected into dairy cows for greater milk production? Why, this growth hormone is so safe that it's been banned in Canada, Japan, Europe, New Zealand, and Australia. No Mr. Magoo ears in those countries when it comes to Monsanto's bovine growth hormone.

What about here in our homeland America, land of the free? Now I don't wish to shock you, and I know you'll find this hard to believe: The new senior advisor for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a former vice president of public policy and chief lobbyist from...where? Come on, guess where he's from...Ta-da, that's right, Monsanto! Yes, Michael Taylor will be advising our Mr. Magoo Ears one-party system on how safe and great Monsanto's products are for us. That's not all. Taylor is only one of many Monsanto key players who are part of this president's "we'll do things different" administration "of change."

So, can you all say "Genetically modified food crops for all?"  
 I can't hear you!

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



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Address Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor to:

The *Applegater* c/o Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.  
7386 Highway 238 • PMB 308  
Jacksonville, OR 97530  
Email: gater@Applegater.org

## Organic farming

Dear Editor,

With all due respect to Sioux Rogers (*Dirty Fingernails, "I am not a gardener anymore, Applegater Fall 2009"*), she is certainly entitled to her opinion and free to practice organic farming if she wishes.

Having said that, let's be realistic. We can't go back to the horse and buggy days. First of all organic farming cannot feed the world's population. That is a fact. Furthermore, I doubt that the people in third world countries who are already on the brink of starvation would care if their food was organic or not. They would simply like to have something to eat.

I almost wish farmers across the country could stop using crop protection chemicals and commercial fertilizers for just one year. Then, you would see what the quality, quantity, availability and prices of food would become.

Richard Cody, Applegate

**Applegater: A community effort**

Dear Reader,

For many years now I've worked on, with, and for the *Applegater*. The most fun I've had is in the self expression of articles. When we passed on from the Applegate Partnership into our own independent nonprofit, I was asked to be the Gater Board Chairman working as a volunteer (as usual) with a wonderful group of fellow volunteers. The learning curve was steep and the duties many in that first year, but it's calming down now to two issues: the steady production of the newspaper and the continual concern over money. We really only have one paid employee, the editor. We are not owned by a big company so we are free to write for you, the Applegate community and free to publish just about anything that you, the reader, send to us. We really see ourselves as your community paper. This is not a business, it's a service. There are no profits or shareholders to demand them. We barely make ends meet!

Over 15 years ago, we set our mission to get the Gater into every home in the Applegate Watershed free of charge. We feel the community connection, the science, information, local news and entertainment should get to all regardless of anyone's financial state.

The recent downturn in our economy has hit us as it has you. Our expenses, notably printing and postage, have gone up and continue to rise. We seem to be one or two issues away from empty coffers at every moment. It's a hard way to run a community effort. The grants of yester years have dried up though we have not given up trying for them. We work steadily on fund raising to try to keep our head above water. For this we are very grateful and thankful to all who have helped us and hopefully will continue to in any way large and small! It all keeps us going.

There may be new folks out there or some who just don't know how tight things have been or others that have already helped and might be able to again. It's for you all that I write this. If by some chance you are able to help us out financially, I invite you to consider doing so on a yearly basis.

Again, thanks to everyone for all you do including just reading and enjoying the paper. Even starting your fire with it when you're done—we're so useful!

Help us ensure that we have the ongoing support needed to publish the *Applegater*. All contributors will receive recognition in the *Applegater*.

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Thank you,  
Greeley Wells  
Board Chair of the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper  
Jacksonville

## OPINION

**Williams community champions campaign for a Siskiyou Crest National Monument**

BY PAUL TORRENCE

Williams businesses and organizations have endorsed the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center ([www.KSWild.org](http://www.KSWild.org)) campaign for a Siskiyou Crest National Monument Campaign ([www.siskiyoucrest.org](http://www.siskiyoucrest.org)) that would conserve an ecologically critical scenic and recreational landscape.

What is the proposed "Siskiyou Crest National Monument?" It would consist of existing federal lands in an area of about 600,000 acres (about 940 square miles) and would have at its heart the high elevation peaks and ridges of the Siskiyou Mountains, running from just west of Ashland to east of Cave Junction and Takilma. To the north, it could include parts of (the headwaters) Williams Creek, and the Applegate and Little Applegate Rivers watersheds. Heading south, the monument could range nearly to the Klamath River and Happy Camp. It would thus be split equally between Oregon and California.

About 60 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail would be incorporated into the monument as well as the established Red Buttes Wilderness and, in the far southwest, the established Siskiyou Wilderness. There would be five inventoried roadless areas that would receive protection: Little Grayback (8,000 acres), Kangaroo (100,000 acre), McDonald Peak (12,000 acres), Condrey Mountain (20,000 acres), and the Kinney (10,000 acre). *No private lands would be included.*

A Siskiyou Crest National Monument would have as its overarching goal the protection of the remarkable species diversity that exists there. It would also provide a critical land bridge between the Cascade Mountains in the east and the Coast Range in the west. Such a corridor is of vital importance in these times of global warming and climate change to give species a chance to migrate and adapt.

Monument status (which would here be largely Forest Service administered) would provide recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing and mountain biking, to name a few. It would also encourage recovery of the lands from the abuse of poorly managed and overstocked forest plantations, off-road vehicle degradation, livestock grazing, mining and a glut of old logging roads that pollute the streams. Continuation of these destructive practices will cripple the capacity of the Siskiyou to act as a land bridge and further imperil the remarkable landscapes and species found there.

Those who cherish the Applegate Valley will want to secure a robust future for the Siskiyou Mountains that nourish our bioregion. The ancient Siskiyou provide ecosystem services that are becoming more and more rare on our blue-green planet. Those benefits that often are taken for granted now will be viewed with great awe and appreciation in the future. It's time to place the heartlands and summits of our Siskiyou under greater protection. To begin, let's designate the Siskiyou Crest as a National Monument.

Visit the Siskiyou Crest website ([www.siskiyoucrest.org](http://www.siskiyoucrest.org)) and find out why this proposal deserves *your* support.

A Siskiyou Crest National Monument would safeguard our backyard. It would protect the waters and forests while providing sanctuary to wildlife. It would benefit our generation and untold generations to come. A Siskiyou Crest National Monument would protect a region that is globally important in the struggle to preserve the diversity of life.

Paul Torrence • 541-846-6016

**Williams businesses and organization championing The Siskiyou Crest National Monument Proposal**

Williams Town Council,  
Citizen Advisory Council  
Williams Grange #399  
Applegate Valley Artisan Breads  
Dan the Backhoe Man  
Forest Farm  
Freedom To Heal  
Good Oak Farm  
Goodwin Creek Gardens  
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# Invasive forest insects and pathogens: Past, Present, and Future

BY ELLEN MICHAELS GOHEEN

In 2010, forest pathologists will **NOT** be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the arrival in western North America of *Cronartium ribicola*, the invasive fungus that causes white pine blister rust. Instead we will only be reminded of the continuing destruction and damage that invasive species have on our environment and economy.

An invasive species is federally defined as a "species that is non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." Invasive species have been characterized as "catastrophic wildfires in slow motion" because of the massive disruptions in ecosystem function, reduced biodiversity and the degradation of urban landscapes, forests, prairies, wetlands, rivers, and oceans that they cause.

Private landowners and small communities are often some of the hardest hit by invasive species. Most people think that invasive species must come from a foreign country or different continent, yet organisms "arriving and settling in" from other parts of the U.S. can be just as devastating as those coming from across the ocean. The pitch canker fungus, which threatens California's small and isolated populations of Monterey pine, came to the west from the southeastern U.S. Evidence is suggesting that a new-to-California (2004) woodboring beetle, the golden spotted oak borer, which is currently causing substantial mortality of California black oak, canyon live oak, and coast live oak in forest and woodland settings in San Diego County, arrived in California on firewood from Arizona, where this beetle is native.

Southwestern Oregonians are no strangers to dealing with invasive species in the form of vascular plants; we've fought and will continue to fight the good fight against yellow star thistle, puncture vine, and many other noxious invasive plants. What is not well publicized though, is the substantial impact that non-native forest insects and pathogens have had, are having, and will certainly continue to have in southwest Oregon's forests.

The impact of native bark beetles is also a very important issue here. Native pathogens such as dwarf mistletoes and several fungi that cause root diseases can severely impact species composition, stand structure, and ecological function over time in our forests. This is especially true in light of human-influenced changes in ecosystem processes, such as reduced stand diversity through single-species planting or the impacts of fire exclusion. Yet the staff at the Southwest Oregon Forest Insect and Disease Service Center, which has served all federal land managers since 1994, has spent roughly 80 percent of staff time on three invasive pathogens: *Cronartium ribicola* (the cause of white pine blister rust), *Phytophthora lateralis* (the cause of Port-Orford-cedar root disease), and *Phytophthora ramorum* (the cause of sudden oak death) and only 20 percent on the natives.

Why are invasive insects and pathogens so bad? Their small or microscopic nature makes them difficult to detect and they often reside deep in wood. Damage may not be noticed until populations are established. Symptoms of infection may be masked by use of chemicals; "healthy-appearing" plants that are infected may pass visual inspections. Insect and pathogen biology may not be well known in their country of origin, making successful treatments subject to trial and error. Natural controlling processes and limiting factors that keep them in check may not be present in their new environment. Native organisms may serve as efficient vectors of non-native ones. And, the short generation time of many invasives may facilitate processes such as genetic mutation and hybridization.

## THE LEGENDS

**Chestnut Blight.** Few people interested in forests and forestry issues have not heard about how the fungus causing chestnut blight, arriving from Asia into New York in 1904 via one shipment of chestnut nursery stock, changed forever the hardwood forests of the east coast and was the force behind the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912. It took 15,000 years for American chestnut to attain its post-glacial range from Georgia to Maine; it took only fifty years for chestnut blight to spread through the same area. What many people are not aware of is that another invasive root rot pathogen, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, arrived in the southeastern U.S. in 1824 and had already killed chestnut at a landscape scale in the moist lowland forests of the south before the chestnut blight even started. The two invasive pathogens together virtually wiped out American chestnuts.

**Dutch Elm Disease.** Seventy million American elm trees died between the 1920s and the 1970s, when the pathogen causing Dutch elm disease arrived on elm logs.

Urban, suburban, and rural landscapes were significantly altered. Dutch elm disease was first reported in Oregon in 1973; more recently it has caused the removal of numerous elms from urban parks and streets in the Rogue Valley. In a twist of nature, the Dutch elm disease fungus mutated on American trees and a new, much more damaging strain was accidentally sent back to Europe, causing another extensive wave of mortality there.

**European Gypsy Moth.** Perhaps most famous in the history of invasives is the story of European gypsy moth, brought by design to Massachusetts in 1869 to start up an American silk industry which didn't quite work out. The moths were freed and began defoliating eastern forests at a great rate. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to slow the spread of gypsy moth from east to west and to eradicate isolated gypsy moth populations, particularly those that show up in western states. The gypsy moth is an extremely successful hitchhiker. Its egg masses are frequently moved long distances on vehicles or household articles. Thanks to an elegant trapping and survey system used diligently by western state Departments of Agriculture, new arrivals of moths can often be pinpointed down to the offending wheel well or recently-transported backyard birdbath, and eradication efforts can be kept to very small areas. In 2006, as an example, 66 gypsy moths were caught in Oregon, most of them in Bend. As they investigated further, Oregon Department of Agriculture personnel found out that the Bend infestation had arrived from Connecticut in a 1967 Chevy purchased through an internet auction site! Despite several introductions in recent years (Central Point, Ashland, Shady Cove), European gypsy moth has not become established here thanks to timely detection and treatment.

## THE PRESENT

**White Pine Blister Rust.** White pine blister rust is now a well-established disease in southwestern Oregon, and has killed and continues to threaten five-needle pines (western white pine, sugar pine, and whitebark pine) growing on moist, high hazard sites. The fungus causing the disease was introduced to the west coast on one shipment of eastern white pine seedlings from France offloaded in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1910. It quickly spread throughout the western range of western white pine and was first described on sugar pine in Oregon in 1936. Although evidence was that the pathogen had been there on that host for several years previously it is a more recent invader of our high-elevation whitebark pines. It is difficult to quantify the damage that blister rust has caused in our area because of lack of background information on historic population levels of five-needle pines. However, we know that impacts have been and continue to be huge. Current surveys show that in southwest Oregon, 20 percent of our sugar pines, 30 percent of our western white pines, and 52 percent of our white bark pines are infected by the blister rust fungus. Only active management will protect and restore five-needle pines in southwest Oregon. A program was begun in the 1950s to identify potentially disease-resistant five needle pines. Planting resistant stock mixed with other species on appropriate sites in concert with management activities



Whitebark pine killed by white pine blister rust.

such as pruning is now the foundation for the restoration strategy for five-needle pines.

**Port-Orford-cedar Root Disease.** Port-Orford-cedar is an extremely valuable tree both from an economic and ecological perspective. Not only has it commanded some of the highest prices ever paid for the wood of a conifer, its role as a riparian species that provides stream shade and large wood structure and its unique ability to grow and attain large size on ultramafic soils make it a critical ecological resource. Port-Orford-cedar's native range is limited to a relatively small area in southwest Oregon and northwest California. What is now known as Port-Orford-cedar root disease was first described on ornamental Port-Orford-cedar nursery stock being grown near Seattle in 1923. The causal pathogen, *Phytophthora lateralis*, was described on ornamental Port-Orford-cedars in the Willamette Valley in 1948. It was first found in the native range of Port-Orford-cedar near Coos Bay in 1952. Where it originally came from and how it got to Seattle and then Oregon is unknown. Although interest in Port-Orford-cedar and its Asian cousins as valuable nursery stock was high in those early years, the nursery trade is a likely pathway. Unfortunately, the pathogen virtually eliminated Port-Orford-cedar as a nursery commodity. Moved by water and in soil organic matter, the pathogen quickly spread in the wild and now occurs on about 25 percent of high-risk sites (low-lying areas, streams, wet drainages) through most of Port-Orford-cedar's native range in Oregon. On such sites, the disease causes extensive



Symptoms of *P. ramorum* infection on tan oak leaves.

mortality, especially of the larger host trees. In the 1990s a breeding program was begun to identify naturally resistant Port-Orford-cedars. 12,500 apparently resistant trees have been tested and about two percent have been proven to have usable resistance to the disease. Planting resistant trees on appropriate sites, combined with such management techniques as preventing or regulating access into uninfested areas, careful scheduling of activities in Port-Orford-cedar areas, vehicle washing, and favoring Port-Orford-cedar on low-risk sites (areas away from roads and streams, upland sites, well-drained areas) are key to maintaining the species.

**Sudden Oak Death.** An unprecedented level of mortality in tanoaks and coast live oaks was first described in Marin County, California in the mid 1990s and coined "sudden oak death" because of the apparently rapid death of affected trees. The causal pathogen, *Phytophthora ramorum*, was identified in 2000. *Phytophthora ramorum* has since spread into 14 coastal California counties from Monterey to Humboldt. Millions of oaks and tanoaks have been killed in California. In some watersheds, 90 percent of the tanoaks are dead. Sudden oak death was confirmed in Oregon, just outside of Brookings in Curry County in 2001, where its main host is tanoak. It is also present in nurseries throughout Europe and in nurseries and some woodlands in the United Kingdom.

New to science and of unknown origin, *P. ramorum* causes mortality of oaks in the red oak group, mortality of tanoaks, and branch and twig dieback and leaf blights on more than 100 other plant species. Its hosts include many common woodland understory species and several extremely popular nursery-grown landscape plants. Unlike *P. lateralis*, *P. ramorum* is an above-ground pathogen infecting leaves, twigs and stems. While it can survive in organic matter in the soil for at least several years and has been shown to be moved in soil, its spread is predominantly aerial. Favored by moist conditions, spores are moved from canopy to understory by rainfall and rain drip, can be picked up in wind-driven rain and clouds, and can occasionally move as far as three miles. Very long distance spread via nursery plants has occurred across the US and across countries in Europe.

*Phytophthora ramorum* is subject to both federal and state regulations. Nurseries in Washington, Oregon, and California must be inspected for the presence of the pathogen. Those that ship out-of-state are inspected more



## INSECTS

FROM PAGE 18

frequently. If the pathogen is found, affected plants and neighboring host plants are destroyed and the loss borne by the grower. Quarantines to prevent human-assisted spread of *P. ramorum* are in place. All fourteen infested counties in California are under quarantine. Depending on species, host plants or regulated plant parts cannot be transported out of these counties at all or may require mitigation such as heat treatment or inspection and disease-free certification before being moved. Oregon's quarantine area, 160 square miles from just north of the Oregon border to the Pistol River area and inland approximately 12 miles from the coast, is subject to the same rules as those in place in California. In addition, Oregon currently requires that treatments to eradicate the pathogen be done on private lands. While not subject to these state regulations, federal land managers in Oregon have cooperated with the state in these efforts and have treated their lands similarly.

In Oregon, aggressive efforts to eradicate the pathogen from infested forests have been underway since 2001. These treatments have evolved over time as new information has become available about the pathogen, its hosts, its survival capability and its spread potential. Treatments currently involve using injected herbicide to prevent growth of highly susceptible tanoak sprouts, and cutting and burning infected and exposed host plants. Private, state, and federal affected lands are treated. Wet springs and/or summers in 2005 and 2006 caused a marked increase in infection in 2006 and 2007 and logistical difficulties in 2008 and 2009 have slowed the efforts. However, the Oregon situation relative to that in California is still hopeful. Only 800 trees have been found infected in Oregon since 2001. With buffer areas included, approximately 2900 acres in total have been treated or are awaiting treatment, compared with approximately 5,000 infested acres mapped from 2001-2008 in Humboldt County, CA alone.

Resources: [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org) for overview, useful links, and California information. [http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/NURSERY/reg\\_sod.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/NURSERY/reg_sod.shtml) and <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/fhInvasives.shtml> for information specific to Oregon.

## THE FUTURE

Unfortunately many known invasive insects and pathogens are not currently present in Southwest Oregon but have the potential to be introduced here. *Their existence gives us reasons to be very, very, concerned.* Golden spotted oak borer could arrive quite quickly from southern California via infested oak firewood or more slowly, marching up through the range of California black oak and canyon live oak to kill our own black oaks and canyon live oaks. Asian longhorned beetle, which was introduced from Asia into New York, Illinois, New Jersey, and Massachusetts over the last two decades in solid wood packing material (crates and boxes) has been the cause of the destruction of hundreds of thousands of trees in urban and suburban forests in the effected states. As of 2008, total state and federal costs for the Asian longhorned beetle eradication program, including research and development, was approximately \$373 million for the U.S. Asian longhorned beetle has the potential to cause extensive impacts given its ability to infest and eventually kill hardwood trees in more than 15 plant families. In particular, this insect's affinity for maples suggests high risk for our riparian ecosystems where bigleaf maple thrives and for neighborhoods and urban areas with planted maples if the insect were to be introduced.

Likewise, emerald ash borer, another Asian import that arrived via wood packing material and has killed tens of millions of native ash trees in the Midwest and Great Lake states, poses a threat to Oregon ash (an important



Adult asian longhorned beetle photo by - Donald Duerr USDA, Forest Service

tree in our riparian ecosystems) as well as other ash species planted as ornamentals. The spread of emerald ash borer results from beetle flight and human transport of infested ash firewood, logs, lumber and nursery stock. Other *Phytophthora* species are also waiting in the wings. *Phytophthora kernoviae*, found in the UK as a result of P.

ramorum surveys, is an aggressive pathogen that infects and kills a host of tree and woodland shrub species. Laurel wilt, the result of a formerly unknown ambrosia beetle vectoring a newly described fungus, is killing redbay, a common coastal understory shrub, in the southeast. Greenhouse tests have shown that Oregon myrtlewood is highly susceptible to the fungus that causes this disease.

Unfortunately, numerous organisms that we currently know nothing about at all could potentially be our next invasives. Many of the species that have arrived here, both insects and pathogens, were originally of little importance and virtually unknown in their regions of origin.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

While there are other potential pathways for the introduction of invasive forest insects and pathogens, the past suggests that live plant material or wood in the form of logs, firewood, or solid wood packing materials pose substantial risk. Today, increased global travel, renewed interest in gardening with new and unusual plant specimens, increased trade in general, and a sharp rise in internet trade all combine to increase the opportunities for insects and pathogens to cross geographic boundaries at accelerating rates. Once established in new areas, they are very difficult and usually very expensive to control. Preventing their arrival in the first place is much more desirable and cost-effective. Early detection and rapid response once a potential problem is detected is the best approach. Unfortunately, it is usually quite difficult.

At the international and national level, the USDA has recently adopted international standards that require solid wood packing material used in international trade to be heat-treated and certified as such or it will be turned back at ports of entry. Current regulations associated with the importation of plants for planting are undergoing enhancement. Concerned citizens have been asked to suggest and discuss mitigation measures that could be applied to wood packing material used in domestic (interstate) commerce and to firewood moved across state lines. Some states have already enacted regulations that forbid entry of uncertified firewood. Programs are in place at selected ports for early detection of bark beetles and wood-boring insects.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

While additional regulations are discussed and debated, there are things that you as a concerned private citizen can do to minimize the potential for spreading invasive forest insects and pathogens into and around southwest Oregon. These include:

Know the location of the *Phytophthora ramorum* quarantine area. If you travel, recreate, work or play in the fourteen coastal California Counties or the portion of southern Curry County infested with *Phytophthora ramorum*, wash the dirt and mud from your mountain bike, ATV, car, truck or travel trailer before you leave the area. Remove plant debris from your pockets, cuffs, camping gear and vehicles. Leave plants in the woods. Know the quarantine rules and follow them.

Don't move firewood. Moving firewood can spread insects and pathogens that kill trees. Obtain a local source and burn it locally. Even if you think your wood is pest-free, don't take it with you on your next vacation. Tell your relatives from the East Coast or Midwest, or wherever they live, to leave their wood at home. If you buy packaged firewood at the store, make sure it has been heat-treated to kill resident pests. <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org>

Buy local nursery stock if you can. Buy from reputable licensed nurseries. Licensed nurseries are inspected for a variety of invasive pests. Ask nursery growers about the source of their stock; clean seeds and tissue culture starts are low risk for moving invasive pathogens.

Stay informed. <http://oregon.gov/OISC/index.shtml>, [www.invasivespecies.org](http://www.invasivespecies.org) and <http://www.gisnetwork.org>

Stay alert. Report suspicious sightings to 1-866-Invader. Twenty-five exotic beetles became established in the US between 1985 and 2005. Eight of the 25 were first detected in official surveillance programs. *The rest were brought to the attention of authorities by the public noticing damaged trees or by insect collectors and scientists doing field work.* Take a digital picture of insects or disease symptoms that you think are unusual and show them to an expert. Entomologists and pathologists would much rather examine numerous pictures and specimens of native insects that are sent to them, than to let a single invader go undetected.

Ellen Goheen • 541-858-6100

Ellen Goheen, a resident of the Applegate, is a Plant Pathologist with the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, Southwest Oregon Forest Insect and Disease Service Center located at J. Herbert Stone Nursery in Central Point. Email her at [egoheen@fs.fed.us](mailto:egoheen@fs.fed.us)

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# Can the Applegate be a “Fire-Adapted” Community?

BY SANDY SHAFFER

The U.S. Western Governors Association (WGA) has a federal advisory committee that focuses on forest health issues (FHAC). I've been a member of this committee since 2003; it's currently comprised of about 65 people representing 16 western states. The experience of working on a nation-wide committee and the exposure to national-level natural resource planning have been eye-opening, to say the least. My voice, as a community fire-plan coordinator and as a private landowner, has been heard at the Washington D.C. level, and what a feeling that is. Over the years I've offered opinions and gleaned information to bring back to my community, so that we in southwest Oregon can try to stay on top of wildfire issues. This fall something new on the FHAC's agenda caught my attention.

You may recall that last year I wrote in the *Applegater* about talk of shifting roles and responsibilities in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), with increased private landowner responsibility a probable outcome. Well, there is a name to this federal concept and it's called “fire-adapted human communities.” My first reaction was, “Whoa!”

Details on this concept are found in the 2009 Quadrennial Fire Review (QFR), a report written by the five federal land managing departments (Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service) and the National Association of State Foresters. The QFR discusses the past decade of wildland fire, forces seen as driving the future, and strategies for the next decade. It's pretty dry reading until you get to the “fire-adapted communities” part, so I'll just give you some of the high points.

After a review of the first QFR in 2005, five main driving forces were identified in the 2009 version:

- The effects of climate change will continue to result in greater probability of longer and bigger fire seasons, in more regions in the nation.
- Cumulative drought effects will further stress fuels accumulations.

- There will be continued wildfire risk in the Wildland Urban Interface despite greater public awareness and broader involvement of communities.
- Emergency response demands will escalate.
- Fire agency budget resources – federal, tribal, state or local – will be strained by increased demands and rising costs during a period where government budget revenues will be very tight or falling

I can understand all of these points, since we are, as of the end of November, still in a “moderate drought” in SW Oregon; and, recently I've seen some of our big ponderosa pine dying off. I found the fourth point interesting; because of the extreme climatic changes being felt throughout the world, there are more natural disasters (floods, tsunamis, storms), and, there is also the potential for “major events” where FEMA and other emergency responder efforts (including fire management) could be required. Indeed, our local fire district and federal agency fire folks have assisted in Katrina, the World Trade Center disaster, the Columbia space disaster, and Australian bushfires.

A key observation in the QFR was that the effects of climate change on our forests are producing regional fire seasons that are sporadic and unpredictable in both severity and duration. This makes it harder to plan and budget for what the feds are calling “asymmetric” or irregular fire across the country. Who will need what degree of fire protection when, and for how long? This has produced a new strategy for fighting wildfire – “Strategic Management Response” (SMR) – to replace “Appropriate Management Response.” (Don't you just love the terms they come up with?)

Across the nation, fire seasons are lengthening, with an average of eight to ten million acres burning from wildfires each year. Federal fuels treatments, however, are averaging only half of that number, at four million acres treated per year. Add in the perpetual growth of biomass in our forests and we are falling further and further behind.

Several issues regarding WUI communities (and our private properties) are contributing to this big equation. Most noteworthy is that housing and population growth rates in the WUI are nearly triple the rates of increase seen outside of the WUI. Most of this growth is in the “intermix” (another new word), which is defined as where there are more trees and fewer homes, but they are more “likely to be outside of fire district and community jurisdiction boundaries.” The fact that many large timber holdings are being sold for development only adds to this equation. So, no surprise that studies by the Government Accountability Office have shown that “rising fire suppression costs are driven primarily by suppression efforts tied to protecting private property.”

The solution? Promote “fire-adapted human communities” rather than escalating protection of communities at risk in the WUI, as was suggested in the 2000 National Fire Plan. Because, as the QFR states, “As some ecosystems must adapt to a fire-prone environment in order to survive, so must human communities in

One of the specifics of how the QFR suggests we become “fire-adapted” includes creating *community* defensible space and fuel reduction zones for the WUI; going beyond individual home defensible spaces to larger treated areas that would protect the infrastructure of the community in the event of a wildfire. (*We know defensible space can work – read Tim Gonzales' article “National Fire Plan Grant success stories and how you can help” on page 22.*) Something I like is the idea of prioritizing funding of fuel reduction projects around “proactive communities” (those with a CWPP or a Firewise or Fire Safe designation). Help the communities that are helping themselves – yes, yes, yes!

Another element of becoming a fire-adapted community is having a wider range of alternatives around evacuation policies. By enabling the “Leave Early or Stay and Defend” concept that was first developed in Australia, private WUI landowners take responsibility for their choices: the choice to make their home more fire resilient, the choice to ignore the issue and evacuate ASAP, the choice to prepare and defend their home safely. And, there would be the possibility of more options for wildfire managers. Firefighters could potentially use point protection tactics (defending single homes here and there) rather than trying to protect the whole perimeter of the fire. Save the homes

## “A key observation in the QFR was that the effects of climate change on our forests are producing regional fire seasons that are sporadic and unpredictable in both severity and duration.”

the interface, if they are to survive over the long-term.” Hmmmm...

But first the fire governance has to be “re-affirmed” to clarify and *realign* “existing federal, state and local roles, responsibilities and authorities for protecting the WUI.” A facet of SMR would also reshape national emergency response within fire leadership, to help address the increase in natural disaster situations. So, by giving fire suppression responsibility to the “party best suited to that area,” the feds could focus on the wildland, while state and local agencies covered more populated areas. Might make sense on paper, but what about a fire on federal land in a populated area, and what about our struggling state and local budgets? Given the current financial situation, I'm not quite sure how this realignment might come about, but one option in the QFR was stewardship contracts for fuels reduction in the WUI. Hmmmm...interesting.

The QFR says this is all about changing the public's expectation that “government will always be there” during a wildfire event, and about encouraging communities and property owners to “take responsibility and become active participants” in the wildfire equation. A starting point, says the QFR, would be to link community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs such as our Applegate Fire Plan) to federal fire management plans, including a joint community wildfire response plan.

instead of the forest, and save money? I think that's what I'm understanding, but given the enormity of the wildfire problem and how little we've accomplished in the past decade, I'm not sure there are other alternatives. What do you think?

The underlying strategy for achieving fire-adapted communities is to be able to include them as a component within the new Strategic Management Response to wildfire in the future. By developing “understandable and demonstrable metrics” (beyond a simple checklist of items such as fuels treatment programs, defensible space work, ingress/egress, and local building codes or ordinances) of what “fire-adapted” means, an evaluation of the return on investments of those efforts to address fire risk in the WUI can be realized. The QFR suggests that only by successfully “extending the base,” having local government, communities and residents as full partners in the wildfire scenario, can we address “the threats and risks of the escalating wildfire challenge.”

I totally agree with this inclusive philosophy, but how to get there is the billion-dollar question. It will be interesting to see how these SMR and “fire-adapted” concepts are developed.

Sandy Shaffer • 541-899-9541  
Applegate Fire Plan Coordinator

REFERENCE NOTE: Items in quotes above are all from the 2009 Quadrennial Fire Review.



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## BACK IN TIME

## Applegate Dam

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE

With the recent removal of some of our local dams and others being considered for removal, it brings back memories about the pros and cons of the Applegate Dam. For years many old timers living near the Applegate River wished there was a dam to ease the flooding of their lands. Still others strongly objected to where such a dam would be built and how it would change the river. Here are some interesting facts from my scrapbook.

As early as 1962, opposition to the possibility of a dam on the river was being heard at local gatherings. Some of the older land owners were worried that they would lose their free water rights for irrigating their fields. Others were actually worried about losing their lands. A petition against the dam was circulated that stated:

- With irrigation the only source of payment, the project is not fair and equitable to water users.
- The farm production of the United States does not require 5,000 new acres in the Applegate Valley ( I assume this means acreage no longer subject to flooding).
- The loss of at least seven miles of fish spawning beds above the dam will do more destruction than will be gained by the plans for fish enhancement. The quick benefits, such as employment, merchandise sales, land sales, rentals for workers, are not good long range economics for the Applegate Valley.
- The dam will spoil the Applegate as a family recreation stream.
- The deep reservoir would be dangerous for small children, access would be limited and difficult, and many camps would be flooded out and could not be replaced because of the steep terrain.
- The reservoir would be subject to severe fluctuations, up to draw downs of 122 feet.

And then there was the cost; in 1974 the Corps of Engineers presented an estimate of \$50.2 million to build the dam, by the next year the estimate was up to \$63 million. In 1976 a "Save the Applegate" group had been organized that wished to create an alternative program for flood control. It included an intensive reforestation program of the whole Applegate watershed, revised forestry road building practices, river channel cleaning, and purchase of necessary lower Applegate flood plain lands. The plan would reduce heavy rain runoff, riverbank overflow, maintain present irrigation rights and provide increased recreational access to the river. The association was seeking to halt further funding of the Applegate Dam, for which land was being purchased by the Corps. President Ford's Budget already included \$ 3 million for the project. (MMT March 2, 1976)

Jackson County Commissioners had been contacted about having a vote on the Dam proposal during November general elections. Even though Jackson County would be left with all of the continued cost after the dam was in (i.e. road maintenance), Josephine County Commissioners were also contacted because a substantial portion of flood control benefits would occur in their county. Both counties were opposed to

having a public vote on the proposal. In April 1976, the Save the Applegate Valley Association spent almost a week in Washington D.C. to convince Congress to support the idea of a local opinion vote. The vote never materialized.

By October 1, 1977 the price tag for the Applegate Dam was roughly \$89.4 million. The plans for the dam had been changed several times in the last five years. The plan now called for a 242-foot high, 1,200-foot long rock fill dam located about one half mile downstream from French Gulch. When filled, it would hold 82,000 acre-feet of water, making the lake about five miles long with an 18-mile shoreline.

Long periods of interruptions by governmental and citizens actions finally gave way and the first phase of the dam started in 1977, even though the bulk of the money had not been approved by Congress or President Carter. The Corps went ahead anyway and started acquiring private land in the upper Applegate Valley, getting the approved funds by the groundbreaking date of June 18, 1978.

The ceremony took place near the project site on the Applegate River at milepost 15 on Upper Applegate Road. The Rogue Basin Flood Control and Water Resources Association, the Committee to Revitalize our Applegate River and the Upper Applegate Grange sponsored the groundbreaking event.

The Dam was completed in October 1980 for \$96 million; by March 1981 the reservoir behind the dam was more than half full and ready for a dedication on May 27. There were 350 people at the formal dedication which included Oregon Governor Atiyeh, Oregon Senator Hatfield, and other dignitaries. The sun shone down on the gathering of the man-made lake, an historic event. Was it worth the cost and



completely destroying the little community of Watkins and Copper, now beneath its waters? Only time will really decide that question. Those who had been against the project may now agree that it is at least a beautiful lake when filled and the snow-capped Siskiyou Red Butte mountains behind adds to its luster.

This closing is by Eric W. Allen Jr., editor of the *Medford Mail Tribune* May 27, 1981:

The Applegate Valley, jewel of the Siskiyou,  
Now gains a new gem in a lake  
That will serve the many purposes  
of man...

And will become a part of the  
history  
Of an area with a rich historic  
background.

*Articles from the Medford Mail Tribune were used for timeline and cost estimates.*

Evelyn Byrne Williams  
with Janeen Sathre  
541-899-1443

*Photo above: Applegate Lake. Courtesy of Jan Wilts.*

*Photo below: The Copper Store before the construction of the Applegate Dam.*



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from Mama Gump

with Bob Quinn

*Was it Forrest Gump's mother who used to say that during the dreary winter doldrums you have to work hard to use your brain. Otherwise it can clog up and might not be there when you need it...*

If so, she might just as well have been talking about a ground water source well. Wintertime is usually a time of year when water demand drops to a level that is only what's needed for normal domestic consumption.

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The best advice is to run your well pump hard at least twice during the winter season. This practice will help flush out the iron and is good preventive care for your investment. Personally, I think Forrest Gump's mom was a lot smarter than some of the politicians in Washington, but that's a whole other story...

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# National Fire Plan Grant success stories and how you can help

BY TIM GONZALES

Since the implementation of the 2001 National Fire Plan (NFP), federal funds have been allocated to encourage private landowners to make their properties more wildfire-resilient. The goal of the NFP is to protect communities from wildfires. Two main tools to achieve the goal are thinning dense vegetation to slow fire spread, and educating landowners on ways to create properties with good fire safety standards. NFP funds were awarded in grants to non-profit organizations, rural fire departments, counties, and state forestry departments.



Access with fire engine after fuels treatment during the Lone Mountain Fire 8-24-09.

One such grant was awarded to the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) in the O'Brien area south of Cave Junction. The project work is being administered in partnership with the Illinois Valley Fire Department (IVFD) and is credited with saving at least one home along Lone Mountain Road. Grant work is still in process, but last August (2009) a fire started near Lone Mountain Road and spread rapidly in dense, dry fuels. Quite predictably for fires in the Illinois Valley, the Lone Mountain Fire traveled northeast, right toward the town of O'Brien. Due to typical afternoon summer winds, the fire soon had flame lengths exceeding 100 feet, and moved upon homes and other structures. Fortunately, several properties in the line of fire had already benefited from hazardous fuel-reduction work either through the NFP grant or by the homeowners themselves. Regrettably, the fast-moving fire destroyed five buildings but thankfully, no one lost their home. Two homes were spared thanks to fuel reduction around the house creating a defensible space, and access/escape routes providing safe passage for fire trucks. Along one driveway work had just been completed, resulting in a dramatic reduction of dense brush and small trees which allowed an IVFD fire truck access. That fire company assisted the property owner in saving his house and evacuating livestock and pets.

The outcome of another grant was also positive. Ashland Fire and Rescue developed the fuels-reduction prescription and coordinated the project. The work, performed by Lomakatsi Restoration Project, is credited with helping save at least 30 homes in the south Ashland area. In September 2009, less than one month after the dangerous Lone Mountain Fire, a fire started near Siskiyou Boulevard just 3.6 miles from downtown Ashland. Like the Lone Mountain Fire, the Siskiyou Fire spread quickly but in a westerly direction (due to strong dry east winds) toward hundreds of homes near Tolman Creek Road. The fire moved so quickly that several residents did not know about the fire until it was on their property. Unfortunately, one home and three other buildings were destroyed. It was truly amazing, however, that more property damage did not occur. Considering that over 160 homes were threatened

and 150 homes were evacuated, the Siskiyou Fire had the potential to do far more damage. As the fire traveled through dense vegetation, it arrived at the parcels treated by Lomakatsi, and flame lengths and fire intensities were reduced, enabling firefighters to stop the fire before it reached Tolman Creek Road. One resident near Tolman Creek Road attributes the work performed on her 20 acres to saving her home which was in the line of fire.

These are success stories. Our goal is to limit property damage, and avoid injuries to both the public and firefighters. The fires were contained at approximately 50 and 190 acres respectively because of able fire responders, excellent fire commanders, and available resources. But enough cannot be said about how the lack of fuel continuity retarded the spread of wildfires, thereby contributing to these successes. The unsung heroes in this success story are the diligent, responsible landowners who either signed up for available grant help or reduced hazardous fuels on their own recognition.

While firefighting is obviously inherently dangerous work, we as a society have a responsibility to make it as safe as possible by providing a safer fire environment near our homes. While paid state and federal firefighters have the enormous job of corralling a fire along its perimeter, city and rural fire departments (rural fire departments are composed mostly of volunteers) have the onerous responsibility of protecting residents and helping to evacuate occupants. By not providing adequate fire safety standards at our homes, we put ourselves and our firefighters at unnecessary risks. Let us not forget the fire in Southern California in 2009 which consumed 209 structures. As climate change is slowly altering our environment to encourage larger, more severe fires, it is more urgent than ever to provide more defensible space for our firefighters.

Dozens of NFP grants have been awarded to date in Jackson and Josephine Counties over the last seven years. Over 20,000 acres of private land have been treated through the grants. Many other landowners have treated their property on their own. There are still active cost-share grants available in both counties. There are also special needs grants which pay 100 percent if you qualify.

O'Brien resident Nigel Cooper escaping with pals Amos and Otis during the 8-24-09 Lone Mountain Fire.



If you are interested in having your property assessed for fire safety, please call me and I will provide you the phone number to contact the organization in your area.

*Tim Gonzales is a Fire Mitigation & Education Specialist for the BLM in Grants Pass, OR. and can be reached at 541-471-6643. Tim has fire qualifications which include: Incident Commander Type III, Wildland Fire Investigator, Division/Group Supervisor, Safety Officer II and Structure Protection Specialist.*

Tim Gonzales • 541-471-6643



# Flu

BY PAUL SAGE

**Definition:**

**Pandemic Novel H1N1 2009 aka "swine flu":**

1. A novel influenza strain that was first noticed in Mexico early in 2009 and quickly became a pandemic that has touched every corner of the world.
2. a media frenzy.

Novel H1N1 2009 influenza appeared in the Rogue Valley in late September 2009. It belongs in a family of influenza viruses that can infect people, birds, swine, and now cats. This virus is the result of the reassortment of genetic material of viruses that obtained the ability to infect other organisms (people, birds, cats and swine). The pig is the host that allowed the reassortment in this case, hence "swine flu."

Seasonal influenza viruses change every year by changing their genetic material. This change is called antigenic drift. This is why there is a different influenza vaccine every year. Novel H1N1 2009 is the result of a new reassortment of genetic material, an antigenic shift which produces a whole new influenza. Novel H1N1 2009 is a new subtype of influenza not recently detected in people. There is some protection for people who had been exposed to the 1957 flu outbreak. Because this is a new subtype of influenza virus, the majority of the population is susceptible for this infection which is greatly increased over other seasonal influenza viruses.

We have a history of similar outbreaks of influenza in the past, including the 1918 Spanish Flu and the 1976 Swine Flu. The 1918 strain started a pandemic and left a mark in history with many deaths and much suffering. The 1976 Swine Flu was transmissible person-to-person but was limited to U.S. Army personnel at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Our Novel H1N1 2009 has turned into a world-wide pandemic and is recognized as an illness easily spread from person to person.

Jackson and Josephine Counties in southern Oregon had been hit harder than the rest of the State of Oregon by Novel H1N1 2009 as of the first week in November 2009. During the beginning of October 2009 both Rogue Valley Medical Center and Providence Medford Medical Center had increases of between 20 and 40 extra patients per day that were likely influenza cases. Although there is not an accurate rapid test for Novel H1N1 2009 that can be used to diagnose a patient in the emergency department, many people were strongly suspected of having Novel H1N1 2009 and clinically diagnosed with a flu-like illness. Jackson County public health was reporting no seasonal (regular) influenza activity at this time.

(Seasonal influenza is not expected in the Rogue Valley until some time between Thanksgiving and January 2010.)

Influenza virus is spread through droplets produced by coughing or sneezing. These droplets can be propelled up to six feet from the coughing or sneezing source. Touching the eyes, nose, or mouth can transfer the virus to another person if proper hand hygiene (washing with soap and warm water) is not performed. The virus can live on nonporous surfaces for up to 24 hours and on facial tissue and clothes for up to eight hours, but it is very short-lived on human hands or skin. This virus needs access to mucosal tissue like the nose, throat, lungs or eyes.

People die of seasonal influenza every year: over 30,000 annually in the U.S. alone. Over 200,000 people are hospitalized according to the CDC. While the illness that is produced by Novel H1N1 is similar to seasonal influenza, the concern about a pandemic influenza is the sheer number of people that can be infected and the ease of transmission from person to person. The vast majority of people who presented to our hospital emergency department were ill with an influenza-like illness (sore throat, cough, fever, body aches, chills, and miserable).

Most of these people went home after clinical evaluation

(history, physical exam, vital sign review, and possible chest radiograph, possible strep throat screen). Some were admitted to the hospital due to co-morbid illness like Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma, poorly controlled diabetes, or other chronic illnesses or conditions that affected the patient's immune system and/or something of concern on their clinical evaluation. In some people there was also a secondary pneumonia associated with this influenza.

The Novel H1N1 2009 story is not over. This virus will likely be with us for years to come, being another seasonal influenza virus that will genetically drift. It may disappear, although that is unlikely, due to its ease of spreading globally. It was not a very virulent influenza as the vast majority of infected people did not get life-threatening illnesses. There are other influenza viruses, H5N1 Avian Influenza, that are spread person-to-person that have a much higher and more terrifying mortality rate. Paul Sage is a Physician Assistant who trained in family medicine at OHSU and has been practicing at Providence Medford Medical Center Department of Emergency Services for almost nine years.

Paul Sage • 541-899-8009

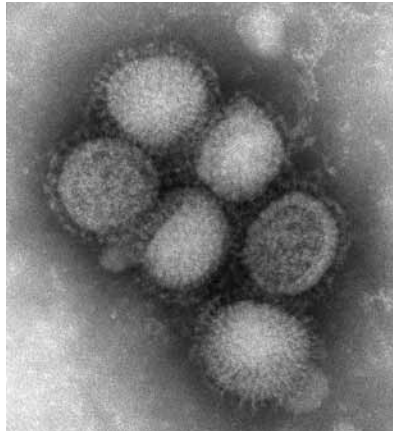


Image of the newly identified H1N1 influenza virus taken in the CDC Influenza Laboratory.

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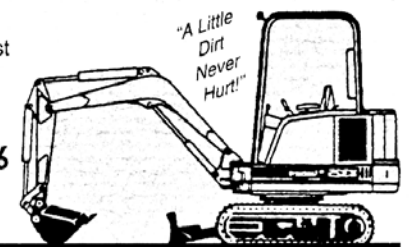
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## Look who's reading the Gater!



Photos, clockwise from top left:

— Jonas and Linford Beachy reading the Gater at Machu Picchu, Peru.

— Claude Aron with friend Allen Hallmark (a local who lives in Sam's Valley) at the Chateau de Beynac in France, overlooking the Dordogne River.

— Carl Whippo Patterson enjoys reading the Gater during his free time away from the weight pile or while paint dries on his art work at Montana State Prison

— Naomi and Beth Gates at the Indianapolis, Indiana War Memorial.

— The Watson Girls—Alyssa, Ammie and Anny Watson—while drinking a flask of freshly made carrot juice.

— Tom and Kristi Kowalski reading the Gater in Dresden, Germany.

— Dennis Apilada, former resident and soon to return, reading the Gater at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville in Grand Cayman Islands.

— Monika and just born Jackym Taussig.



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