



**Bella Union**  
**Restaurant & Saloon**  
 Jacksonville Oregon 541 899-1770

AMENDMENTS - IRRIGATION - POTTING SOIL



**TAKUBEH**  
 farm & garden  
**WAREHOUSE**  
 "KEEPIN' IT LOCAL!"

WORM CASTINGS - GUANOS - LIQUID FERTILIZERS  
 20690 Williams Hwy. Williams  
 Mon-Sat. 10-4pm or by appointment  
**8 4 6 - 0 4 2 0**  
 takubeh@email.com



**Ramsay Realty**  
 (541) 899-1184 Ext. 229  
 CELL: (541) 621-2480



Jeanne Schattler, Realtor®  
 Broker

7604 Hwy 238 • Jacksonville, OR 97530  
 Fax: (541) 899-1772 • E-Mail: jeanne@ramsayrealty.com  
 Web Site: <http://jschattler.com>



**Crafts-n-Crops**  
 8800 N. Applegate Rd.  
 Grants Pass, OR 97527

-Just past Mile Post 2, on the left, going East-

**Home of Irish Lass Soap**  
 The Choice of Many Scents

Soap, Seasonal Produce, Stained Glass, Jewelry & More!

**(541) 862-7380** We Ship!



**Save lives...  
 spay/neuter.**

- A female cat can begin breeding at 4 months old.
- In 7 years she and her off-spring can produce as many as 420,000 cats!

**Call SNYP today:  
 858-3325**  
[www.spayneuter.org](http://www.spayneuter.org)

20 200	<b>E</b>	1	<b>Jacksonville Vision Clinic</b> Julie D. Danielson, O.D.  <b>(541) 899-2020</b>  950 North Fifth Street Jacksonville, OR 97530
20 100	<b>YE</b>	2	
20 70	<b>CARE</b>	3	
20 50	<b>FOR YOU</b>	4	

## APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

# Class act

BY BOB FISCHER



Bob Fischer

I have got to tell you, I do not exactly know everything there is to know about duck hunting. I have done some duck shooting, heard a few of the experts call ducks and watched some good dogs at work. But the fine art that goes with the sport I have missed. So when Mack Trucko, a well-to-do auto dealer in Medford that I have known for several years, said that I should come shoot with him at his blind at a local Medford Club, I jumped at it.

I had never hunted on a club lease before, or even seen one for that matter. I would be a raw kid in a country club setting. It was still dark at 4 am when I arrived for, "a cup of coffee," as Mack put it. I had no idea there would be silver table settings and trays of sausage, bacon and hotcakes, toast and gallons of coffee. All of which was catered by two women in white uniforms.

They looked at me like I was crazy, standing there in my hip boots and shell vest. The "gentlemen" had on flannel morning jackets and mole-skin pants, their feet in sheerling slippers. My dog "Barf" whined at the door of the club, a remodeled farm house with bedrooms for members who stayed overnight. Mack said to let my dog in, and Barf promptly got into a fight with two Chesapeakes who thought he was intruding. The bedlam did not exactly endear me to the membership. Barf went back outside. The tray of sausage he knocked over went also.

We rode to the blinds in a horse-drawn wagon and when I asked if they had forgot the decoys, Mack laughed and said, "they never leave the water unless it freezes." When I mentioned to Mack that he should have worn a heavier coat, he laughed again. The blinds were heated, he explained. Once there, the mounds of clothing I had on were merely stacked in a corner.

It was daylight, I was anxious to burn some powder and nailed

a fat shoveller that skimmed over our decoys.

"A little too soon," Mack said and pointed to a half dozen mallards over the trees that fringed the water. "We don't shoot little ducks!"

"Sorry," I said and wished that I was back on the river where I usually hunted with J.D. Three-Toes and felt a lot more comfortable. And, when I whispered for Barf to go get my bird, Mack put his hand on my shoulder telling me that I should wait until the shooting was done. Then, the Chesapeakes would scour the water for cripples and kills alike.

By then it was almost nine in the morning, and I swallowed my fifteenth cup of coffee. "No point in sitting out here all morning when they're not moving," Mack said. "Lets go in, I can get some things done at the office and we can do this when the weather's better."

I looked around. It was clear as a bell and it was a good three miles through the mud to the clubhouse.

Mack reached under a cover at the back of the blind and drew forth a telephone. "Brigsby," Mack said, "will you bring the lorry down to the Trucko Blind please?" There was a pause. Mack continued, "and bring a decanter of brandy, right!" Mack looked at me and winked.

A few days later I was sitting in my own river blind with my feet in freezing slush and old J.D. Three-Toes next to me, glowering into the sleet.

"How was your day at the club?" he asked.

I shrugged. The temperature was dropping and a small flight of birds were angling across the river to our decoys. "Coffee was hot!" was my reply. . .

Bob Fischer • 541-846.6218

## Maintaining your defensible space

BY SANDY SHAFFER

I'm going to take a chance that the wet spring will continue for a few more weeks, so that those who haven't finished spiffing up their defensible space can still safely do so before fire season. Many of us created a defensible homesite quite a few years ago when the county fire plans were being written and grant dollars first became available. If you haven't done much since then, *surprise!* The trees and shrubs have grown a lot, and maybe your homesite has as well. Adding a tool shed or a new fence around the yard, or even taking a gardening course can all affect your "defensible space."

Following are some ideas of where to begin refreshing your 100-foot defensible space. Once you get things back into shape, try to maintain this area *annually*, because it's *much* easier than having to start over every four or five years! One word of caution: don't wait too long to get started. Be alert this month to when burning and equipment use restrictions might go into effect, and call your local Fire District or ODF (541-664-3328) with questions.

First off, are there any new buildings or structures (like a flammable wood fence) that tie to the house, so that your "defensible space" zone needs to be extended? If an out-building has been added to your homesite, thin at least 30 feet all around the new building, and more if it's close to the home! Any new roads that need thinning along the edges? Treat them just as you would your main driveway.

*Maintaining* a defensible space over time comes down to looking at a few things: ladder fuels, vegetation growth, spacing and sprouting. What has grown enough so that you have *continuous ladder fuels* from the

ground up to the tree crowns? Are shrubs too close to the house or a window? Are branches of a tree hanging over the roof or getting too close (within 10 feet) to your chimney? If so, get out the ladder and pole saw! Did those small saplings that you left five years ago take off growing and become "real" trees and are now too close to each other? Take one or two out to give them more room to grow; and while you're at it, prune up the lower branches a tad (but don't prune up more than 1/3 the total height of the tree). It's not usually necessary to limb up trees more than 10 feet off the ground.

Some trees (oaks and madrone, mainly) sprout new shoots after they've been cut, and I know from experience that this provides *a lot* of ladder fuel. They re-sprout for years! If you can lop them back each year, it's a lot less work than waiting until they get so large that you need a saw to do the job. If you pick the straightest, strongest shoot and let it grow, the others eventually stop coming back, plus, you've got a nice new healthy tree. This can come in handy if you have a tree die and need to take it out. (Remember, *no dead vegetation* within that 100-foot zone.)

And talking about replacing vegetation in your defensible space: *use fire-resistant plants!* This is where the aforementioned gardening course can come into play: I know (from experience) that new gardeners are forever bringing home new stuff to plant, especially in the spring.

Make sure the plants around your homesite are supple and green rather than with lots of dead leaves or needles, and irrigate them regularly. For more information, go to: <http://rvfpc.com> or to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/>.

Make sure *your* home is defensible this summer!

Sandy Shaffer • 541-899-9541

*Prune tree limbs that overhang the roofline of your home.*

