



Skyline Ridge Runner

April 2009

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 21, No. 2

A Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

SRN Hosts Weed Watchers Workshop May 13 at the Grange

The Skyline Ridge neighborhood is better off than some—for now—in terms of the level of invasive plants such as English ivy, Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard. It's still relatively easy to wipe out these noxious weeds, before they become intractable as they have in some neighborhoods closer in to the city center.

Come to SRN's meeting at 7:30 PM on May 13 at the Skyline Grange to find out how you can identify and get help removing invasive weeds on your property. Mary Logalbo, Conservation Planner with the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) will talk about the district's new Multnomah Weed Watchers program and the McCarthy Creek Weed Control program.

The Multnomah Weed Watchers Program was created to detect new ecosystem altering, noxious weeds when they occur in only a few, small populations within Multnomah County and rapidly begin eradication of these species. The program was created by combining the independent Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) programs of WMSWCD, the East Multnomah Soil and



Japanese Knotweed, a highly invasive plant in our neighborhood (Photo: WMSWCD)

Water Conservation District (EMSWCD), and the City of Portland. In this combined program, EDRR efforts are carried out independently by each jurisdiction in three distinct geographic areas that, when combined, encompasses all of Multnomah County. Early detection and eradication of noxious weeds when they occur in only a few, small isolated populations is the most cost-effective method of noxious weed control.

The mouth of McCarthy Creek is near Cornelius Pass and Highway 30. There, the district has partnered with NARA NW in a demonstration project in which knotweed is removed and native plants replanted. The District and NARA NW hope to further partner on this project by offering residents opportunities to learn more about the traditional medicinal and edible uses of native plants. This demonstration will serve as a highly visual demonstration of what landowners throughout the watershed can do to improve their reach of McCarthy Creek.

Reach Mary Logalbo at 503-238-4775 or mary.logalbo@or.nacdnet.net. □

SRN Members to Vote on Bylaws and Directors at May 13 Meeting

By Miles Merwin, SRN Co-President

Your nonprofit neighborhood association, Skyline Ridge Neighbors, runs entirely on the skills and dedication of volunteers. SRN invites anyone living in our area to get more involved with the affairs of the neighborhood by attending a short business meeting at 7 p.m., May 13, at the Skyline Grange, just prior to the Weed Watchers presentation by Mary Logalbo that evening.

At the 7 PM meeting, new and renewing members of the Board of Directors will be elected by SRN members. We have a lively, enthusiastic and hard-working Board and we welcome anyone from our area willing to donate a little time by serving a two-year term on the Board. The only requirements for Board members are residence within the SRN boundaries and commitment to attend once-a-month meetings. We are looking for positive people who can apply their skills to help better our neighborhood, especially in the areas of writing/reporting, photography, volunteer

coordination and web technology. You can nominate yourself or someone else present at the May 13 meeting to run for election to the Board.

SRN members will also consider an amendment to the SRN Bylaws at the meeting. The proposed amendment, referred by the Board to a member vote, would add a sentence to Section 9 of Article IV regarding removal of Directors for cause, as follows: "The Board may elect to terminate the membership of a Board member after three consecutive unexcused absences from monthly Board meetings."

Although anyone is welcome to attend the May 13 business meeting, only SRN members will be eligible to vote in the election of Directors and proposed Bylaws amendment. All residents within the SRN boundaries are eligible to be members, and all that's required is signing a simple statement requesting to be an SRN member. A list of all current members and sign-ups forms for new members will be available at the May meeting. □

Skyline Ridge Runner

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Skyline Ridge Neighbors Inc.

Skyline Ridge Neighbors is a nonprofit organization serving rural northwestern Multnomah County through educational, environmental and social programs that inform residents on relevant issues and events. SRN endeavors to better our community, encourage volunteer efforts, and openly communicate with residents and outside organizations.

SRN Board of Directors

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Skyline Rural Watch Newsline

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news by sending your email address to newsline@skylineridgeneighbors.org. Contact the Editor, Rich Edwards, at the same email address or at 503. 289.7169 to submit items for publication.

SRN Website

Visit www.skylineridgeneighbors.org for more news, photos and information about our community. Contact the Webmaster, Agnes Kwan, at webmaster@skylineridgeneighbors.org.

The views and opinions presented herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by SRN or Skyline neighborhood residents.

SRN News & Events

SRN Updates Skyline Resource Directory

The updated 2009 Skyline Resource Directory is here! It has been two years since the last edition of the Resource Directory. The current edition incorporates all changes since then.

SRN publishes the Resource Directory as a service for Skyline area residents. The Directory lists many governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations that provide services to the Skyline neighborhood. It also lists businesses located in our area or whose owners live here.

The Resource Directory will primarily be published on the SRN website. This will make it easier to update it with new or modified listings. The latest version will be available at www.skylineridgeneighbors.org. You can view the Directory online or download and print it if you wish.

Nevertheless, the Resource Directory is not just for those with computer access. Any SRN resident can request a printed copy. To defray costs, SRN suggests a donation of \$1 per printed copy or \$2 each if mailed. Send a check (no cash please) to SRN, c/o Laurel Erhardt, 14416 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland, OR 97231.

Anyone who lives within the SRN boundaries and who owns or operates a business that offers products or services to neighborhood residents is eligible for a free listing in the Resource Directory. To add a new, or edit an existing listing, please send a short description and full contact details to directory@skylineridgeneighbors.org or call the Directory editor at 503-621-9867.

SRN offers the Resource Directory as a public service. To remain fair and impartial, no endorsement by SRN is implied in the listing of any organization and business in the Resource Directory, nor is lack of endorsement implied for organizations or businesses that are not included. Because listings are provided by the agency or business representative, SRN cannot guarantee their accuracy or completeness of information. If you find errors in the Directory, please contact the editor at directory@skylineridgeneighbors.org or 503-621-9867.

SRN Treasurers Report

By Laurel Erhardt, Treasurer

Special thanks to those who took a moment to write a donation check to SRN: Neil and Terrie Stone, John and Lynn Barnes, Linda Barnes and Bob Vanderwerf, And thank you to all those whose continuous contribution of time make Skyline Ridge Neighbors such a nice neighborhood to live in.

Please don't hesitate to send a tax-deductible donation to demonstrate your continued support of the 501(c)3 Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Association. Donations can be sent to "SRN", c/o Laurel Erhardt, 14416 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97231.

Continued ►

Warning: It's Soap

by Kim Johnson

My neighbor called the other day and asked, "Hey, what was in that soap you made?" I was hoping she loved it and not calling because someone had developed a rash.

"The ingredients?" I asked dumbly.

"I cut it up and fed it to my mother," she informed me. Three things struck me immediately. One, she didn't have a rash so maybe she liked the soap. Two, she must be joking because who would eat soap? And three, to avoid future lawsuits my soap needed a warning label, something like: "Warning! Soap is for external use only! Not intended as a food item! Achtung, Baby!"

My neighbor went on to say that it was really her husband's fault because she left the soap on the counter and he wrapped it in plastic and put it in the cheese drawer. Needing to give Nana a snack, she removed the soap from the cheese drawer, sliced and served. Clearly, if the husband hadn't been so Johnny-on-the-spot with his clean up, this disaster would have been avoided.

I began making soap several months prior to Nana's fateful ingestion of my cleaning product. With a surplus of goat milk I wanted to make a product with a longer shelf life than cheese. Soap only gets better the longer it ages or "cures." I read many books and online articles about soap-making. I quickly realized that soap-making is complicated. It requires a rich attention to detail and a high level of precision with measurements. Many sources likened it to cooking. What they should have likened it to was college-level chemistry. While cooking is an art, soap-making is a calculated science. If cooking goes outside the recipe the end result is usually at least edible, and in the hands of a creative chef often better. Soap-making outside

the recipe is an excellent way to burn down your house, corrode your plumbing, and/or lose your eyesight.

I had many creative disasters in my early attempts. Most involved a fundamental error called failure to follow directions. One memorable mistake involved pouring the soap into an aluminum mold. Soap-making 101 teaches



that sodium hydroxide, the lye ingredient in soap, reacts badly to metals. This should have been obvious to me, as I earned a minor in chemistry. My husband pointed this fact out *over* and *over* as we dragged the spewing concoction outdoors to vent the poisonous gasses. I told him that the metal molds looked cool and would have made neatly shaped soaps. He countered with something witty like, "No one

wants to wash up with noxious fumes." After many trials and mostly errors I began producing consistently good soaps, adding in different scents and essential oils.

The soap Nana ate contained essential oil of orange, with a wonderful floral bouquet. It certainly smelled tasty. I rattled off a list of its ingredients to my neighbor and suggested she call poison control. Although I didn't think any of the ingredients were harmful, better not take any chances. I wished her luck and hurried off to my computer to print a warning label: "Smells good, like oranges, but for the love of God, don't eat it!" Turns out Nana was fine, she just needed to drink some cool liquids before she caught the bus back to the senior center. □

SRN Income & Expense 1/8/2009 Through 4/24/2009

Income

Ridge Runner Advertising	195
Donations	170
Interest Inc	84
Total Income	\$449

Expenses

Administration	361
Sheriff Public Meetings Notice	207
SOLV	113
Ridge Runner Printing and Postage	726
Summer Gathering Tent	120
Total Expenses	\$1527

OVERALL TOTAL <\$1079>



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Sustainable Living Workshop Series Starts May 9

The economic downturn has focused our attention on regaining some of the traditional skills for self-sufficient rural living like gardening, canning, animal husbandry, etc. Living among us here in the Skyline area are many folks who have firsthand practical knowledge gained over many years of growing plants or raising livestock on the Hill. They have a lot to teach others who want to get started or learn more.

To connect knowledgeable locals with those who want to learn more skills for self-reliance, SRN is starting an ongoing series of Sustainable Living workshops.

The series will begin with three sessions in May and June. All workshops begin at 9 a.m., last about 90 minutes (including question time) and will be at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd. SRN is suggesting a donation of \$3 per person or \$5 per couple to defray expenses.

Organic Gardening, Saturday, May 9. OSU Master Gardener Randolph Young will talk about the basics of organic gardening and share his experiences raising a vegetable garden and fruit trees while living on McNamee Road since 1996. He completed the Columbia County Master Gardener program in 2003 and has been gardening for many years.

He will discuss what has worked (and what has not) for him over the years and some of the resources available to the gardener in this area. Some specific topics he will cover include soils, composting, fertilizer, irrigation, recommended plant varieties, pest control and info resources.

Basics of Beekeeping, Saturday, May 23. Local beekeeper Mark Johnson will describe how to get started with a few hives in your backyard to provide both honey and pollination for your home orchard. He will show the basic tools, equipment and supplies needed to tend bees and give an overview of the steps required to establish, manage and harvest your own hives. There will be time to answer your bee-related questions.

Backyard Chickens, Saturday, June 6. Two young people with lots of experience raising chickens will discuss the basic of bird care, common breeds, disease prevention and nutrition. Tony Barnard is in 4H and Travis Schaal is an OSU Poultry Science student. They will bring some live animals, free Extension info, and samples of egg colors.

SRN plans to continue the Sustainable Living workshop series with more events in late summer and fall. Are there subjects you are interested in learning about? Do you have practical experience in a particular subject and willingness to teach others, or can you recommend a friend or neighbor who does? SRN welcomes your input as we develop new topics for Sustainable Living workshops and recruit speakers. Please contact the SRN Co-President at president@skylineridgeneighbors.org or 503.621.9867.



SOLV volunteers Michelle Mintmier, TK Goldenbaum and Brian Mintmier helped clean our roadsides (Photo: M. Merwin)

SOLV Volunteers Clean Up Our Neighborhood

Over 50 volunteers, including 6 youths, pitched in on April 18 to clean over 21 miles of roadsides in our area plus the Skyline School grounds. An estimated 2 tons of trash, 400 pounds of scrap metal and 50 old tires were collected.

"The best news is that everybody came back reporting that the roads were much cleaner to start with this year than ever before," said local site coordinator Karen Garber. "We collected only about half as much as trash as we have in the past, even with the same number of volunteers and covering the same mileage."

On behalf of the neighborhood, SRN extends a big thank you to all the hard-working volunteers who participated and to Karen Garber for leading a safe and successful event. SRN also wishes to thank SOLV for providing supplies and support every year, Waste Management for donating the dumpster, and the local Les Schwab store for recycling the tires free of charge.

How to Be Good to Your Septic System

By Carolyn Myers Lindberg, WMSWCD

Maintaining your septic system could mean the difference between spending \$350 every three years in pumping costs or as much as \$20,000 for a new drainfield. That's what 50 participants heard at a Septic Maintenance and Well Water Workshop March 3, 2009 at the Skyline Grange. The workshop was sponsored by West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD).

For most households, pumping should be done every three years to keep solids out of the drainfield and prevent septic failure. Larger septic tanks used by a big family, for instance, could require more frequent pumping. Colbey Browne of Goodman Sanitation said other causes of septic

Continued ►

Skyline Newsline Best Source for Latest News (and Humor)

If you're not getting, via email, the *Skyline Ridge Newsline*, you're missing some good stuff. Topics include meetings, plant sales, classified listings, and agency and government news that pertain to our area. Other topics recently covered include coyote raids on chicken coops, neighborhood vandalism, and a Cornelius Pass road update. If you're not online at home, the Newsline is archived at www.skylineridgeneighbors.org, which can be viewed at libraries or anywhere with Internet access. Some *Newsline* content makes it into the *Ridge Runner*, but not all. The *Newsline* provides a more comprehensive and timely look at what's happening in and around the Ridge. Here's a recent snippet from the *Newsline* that addresses an annual annoyance (at least to some of us):

A neighbor writes in:

"Thanks for the information about the unwanted/unneeded yellow pages directory. Our moorage residents dumped those piled atop our mail boxes into the recycling bin. However, the sailboat moorage down the road has an unused row of mailboxes with yellow pages (rather soggy) which have been on top upwards of six weeks. I'm trying the suggested method of deep sixing that eyesore."

Editor's Note: The email address to request pickup of unwanted yellow page directories

► *Septic System, continued*

failure are overloading the system, water leaks, placement of the tank in a poor drainage area or not installing the system according to code. He recommends homeowners be kind to their systems by not pouring grease down the drain, not using the garbage disposal too much, and flushing cigarette butts and inorganic materials down the toilet. In addition, he warns, using salt and water softeners will harm the system, as will driving over your drainfield or allowing livestock access to the area.

Mike Ebeling and Erin Mick with the Portland Bureau of Development Services explained how to site a septic system to make sure that soil, drainage and topography are adequate and that enough space is allowed for the proper drainfield. Mick said a variety of septic systems are on the market, some of which require much more maintenance than others. He noted that some of the new technology in waste water treatment will require maintenance as a condition for installation.

In addition, Scott Gall, Conservation Planner with the WMSWCD, spoke about Oregon Senate Bill 1010, which contains clean water requirements for rural landowners and agricultural operators. He suggested that homeowners and businesses remove any chemicals stored in well houses, ensure that sanitary seals are tight and that backflow protectors are installed on all outdoor

faucets. He recommends that residents have their water tested for nitrates and coliform bacteria, which may signal that organisms are getting into your well and could be a human health hazard. Gall suggests testing once a year, after any work is done on the well or if you notice surface water not draining around the well. Gall cites OSU Extension which asks residents to limit the use of lawn and garden chemicals, protect their soil from oil, gasoline and household chemicals and shield animal waste from the rain. □

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To receive the *Newsline* or to send in content for it, contact its editor, Rich Edwards, at newsline@skylineridgeneighbors.org.

Linnton Community Center Activities

Summer Fun Program offers an action-packed fun and adventure-based camp where children are encouraged to fully experience the joys of using their own creativity and imagination. Includes hiking, swimming, sports, games, and field trips. For information call 503.286.4990.

Weekend Market Day & Artisans Guild happens every first Saturday at LCC, 10614 NW St. Helens Road. Want to teach a class or show your goods at a table? There's no charge for a table. Contact Nancy Hamer at (503) 286-7752 or oomoo@spiritone.com

Feldenkrais Method® is a movement-based class for those dealing with recovery from physical or emotional trauma. Classes are taught by Johanna Rayman and Joan McMillen. Mondays, 11 a.m. to noon, \$25/month. Call 503.380.5437 for information. □

Thanks to Les Schwab Tire Center for recycling old tires from the SOLV clean-up!

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Patrick the Mailman Retiring

By Sen Speroff

Six days a week for 22 years, “Patrick the Mailman” has driven a 50-mile route delivering bills, checks, letters from mama, Ridge Runners, medicines, and holiday packages to many residents of Skyline Ridge. From the St. Johns post office, he delivers to 410 mailboxes along Beck, Brooks, Elliott, Germantown (from 185th to Skyline), Johnson (from Washington Co. to Skyline), Kaiser (from Cornelius Pass to Germantown), Old Cornelius Pass (from Rock Creek Tavern to Cornelius Pass), Old Germantown, Plainview, Quarry, Rock Creek, Skyline (from Quarry to Johnson), 185th Place, and 220th Avenue. Yup, rain or shine. His real name is Patrick Noe and he is retiring this spring.

His faithful Subaru Legacy has logged 298,354 miles. Since U. S. postal trucks are not issued on routes over 25 miles, Patrick owns his mail car, and is responsible for all repairs and insurance. Because his Subaru is designed with steering on the right, the car is probably destined to continue in postal service and not retire with Patrick.

When asked what residents can do to help their postal carriers, Patrick answered without hesitation, “I hate to beat an old drum, but clearing snow so that the mail car can approach the mailbox, deliver that mail and return to the road safely is the single most helpful thing one can do to aid the mail person. It is impossible to deliver mail safely within daylight hours without some cooperation from the residents of the route – greatly appreciated when people do so.”

Patrick Noe is a product of love between an American G.I. and a beautiful 19-year-old French woman. Though born in Tacoma, his family moved to France when he was seven. His mother immersed her children in French culture, stimulating in them a passion for art and architecture. Returning to the United States, Patrick graduated from the College of Charleston with a degree in art. Working as a rural mail carrier first in Charleston then along Skyline Ridge allowed him to support his family and his love of art. His entrepreneur daughter, Josie, got her potter father to fire up the kiln again and sell wares at Portland Saturday Market for seventeen years. Patrick’s evolution in crafts went from Christmas ornaments to clay jewelry to handmade ceramic tile and switch plate covers, finally changing back to painting again. The textural and sculptural elements of clay added a new dimension to his work and became part of his inspiration. After retirement, he will become a full time artist with hopes of pursuing public commissions. Also he looks forward to small organic farming, travel, hiking, camping, museum visits, and sports.

When asked what he will miss, he answered, “I have gotten to know quite a few of my patrons, some I consider friends, and I will miss that when I leave. I also have never tired of the natural beauty of the route.” Often Patrick would go beyond postal requirements by hand delivering medicines or checks to people who had difficulty retrieving

their mail, and would honk to indicate mail delivery to people who had trouble with mail theft.

A retirement party was held at Brooks Hill Historic Church on March 11 with St. Johns postal employees and Skyline residents honoring Patrick. His art work was on display, verifying that we have had a very gifted postal carrier. Visit www.patricknoe.com to learn more about Patrick as a person and his art work. You can also send him a note at art2noe@yahoo.com.

Ralph F. Pauly 1919-2009

By Margaret Pauly Tate

Ralph Pauly was born on the Pauly farm (on today’s Pauly Road) and grew up there. It was called Linnton then. He attended Brooks Elementary School. After finishing his schooling, he helped his dad on the farm. Later on in his life, he would tell about the difficulties of plowing the steeper fields with a team of horses, or of making shingles and re-roofing the barn, or of taking the produce into Portland to sell to the grocers.

On January 13, 1943, he was drafted into the military service. After training at Fort Lewis, Washington, and in Mississippi and Texas, he was assigned to the Fifth Air Force Command where he became a combat engineer on a B24 Liberator called the “Flak Fled Flapper,” assigned to the South Pacific, specifically New Guinea and Northern Australia.

During his service he achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and was awarded the Air Medal with three clusters, ribbons from the Philippines and Pacific theatres and three Battle Stars. He accrued 400 air combat hours and was discharged from military service on September 15, 1945 and shipped home. Three members of his crew are still living. All four kept in touch. Post traumatic stress syndrome was greatly experienced then by the G.I.s.

After Ralph came home, he worked for a timber company and then for the Multnomah County Road Department. Later he became district supervisor for this area and continued in that position for many years.

He is survived by his wife Josephine, two stepsons Michael and Tim and their families, and by three sisters, Margaret Tate, Winifred Hopkins, and Doris Pauly, and a number of nieces and nephews.

We will miss him.

Andy Huserik

By Sharon Barthmaier

Huserik? Does the name sound familiar? It might spark memories of a popular teacher from the old Skyline School Days, Ramona Huserik (Andy Huserik’s sister-in-law who passed away in June), or perhaps cutting a Christmas tree at Andy’s tree farm on Germantown Road. There were

10 children (8 boys and 2 girls) in the Huserik family who grew up on Old Germantown Road and several continue to live in the area today.

Andy's father, Paul, emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1911 and eventually purchased 40 acres which included a .5 acre piece that had been deeded to Liberty School. The immigrant's future wife arrived later. The Huseriks moved into the house that was then on the property but in 1929 built a new house, further up the hill from Old Germantown Road. Andy's garage is built where the old house originally stood. Before the new house was built a well was dug to the depth of 127 feet. Andy remembers that the well cost \$3 a foot and he has the original paper signed by the driller to prove it! It was quite a bargain as the well is still in use. Andy bought the property from his brother and sisters in 1986 and built his present home in 1988 where he continues to live.

Andy, the youngest boy of the Huserik family (he had a younger sister), was born in 1925 on the family farm. The 40 acres is now down to 20 acres, and includes the tree farm that many of us know. Andy is a tall, distinguished man who speaks with a delightful accent while recalling growing up in the rural Skyline area.

Andy and his siblings initially attended Liberty School which was a one room school with 29 students. The teacher, Mary Traxell, walked from Bruggere Road to school each day. The old school building remains in its original location on Old Germantown Road, and is now a private residence.

Andy remembers when road crews straightened Germantown Road (which ran through their property.) because its turns were too difficult for the new Model Ts to navigate. At that time he was probably in the 3rd or 4th grade. He and his brothers, like typical boys, loved to watch the men work.

An enthusiastic fisherman in his younger years he also trapped skunks with one of his brothers to make money. They would tie a 10 foot wire to a trap, put the trap in the skunk's burrow and then tie the wire to a tree. Eventually they would pull the skunk out of its burrow by the attached wire and attempt to club it before it could spray them. They would skin the critter and dry the hide on cedar planks. Hides sold for \$1-2 each. On one occasion they failed to avoid the skunk's aim. Andy recalls how they hurried on to school where the teacher recognized their error and immediately sent them home. Their mom chased them to a ditch, giving them her homemade soap to scrub themselves and the clothes. It was several days before the clothes were again wearable!

These minor mishaps did not deter Andy and his brothers from trapping, and they evidently perfected their art. In high school Andy trapped muskrats and sold the skins for \$2 apiece. One spring Andy caught four muskrats

and made \$8 by selling the furs to Sears and Roebuck in Spokane.

The Huserik family raised both rabbits and beef for meat. Their mother would cut the meat into quarters and can it in half-gallon jars. Andy fondly remembers that as the best tasting meat imaginable.

He and his brothers were tall, strapping young men.

They did the usual work that farm kids did to earn money: picking strawberries, chopping wood, and working in the fields during haying. Additionally, they also played football for Beaverton High School. They had to walk home after practice and games, but were usually able to hitch a ride from neighborly folks.

In 1964 Andy began raising Christmas trees, although he is no longer planting new ones. His tree farm is on the acreage where he resides. This area was originally old growth

forest where the older Huserik boys would cut the trees into 16 inch long pieces for the cook stove. The tree stumps would eventually be "grubbed" or blasted out. Andy remembers that he and his brothers used to have a "hoot fest" communicating with the hoot howls and big horned owls that inhabited the area.

An annual tradition at the Huseriks, before World War II, was the "Spud Bowl." After Thanksgiving, when the potatoes had been dug up, families from Helvetia and North Plains would come for a day of touch football "on the softest ground you can imagine."

Andy spent 2 years in the Army in the Philippines and Japan. Five of his brothers also fought in WWII and participated in the heaviest fighting in the South Pacific. After the war, from 1947 - 1950, Andy worked for a logging company in Tillamook where he had the difficult job of "chocker setter." He would fasten a choker around the log to hold it steady so that it could be pulled out of a canyon. After that he worked as a second rigger whose job was to tell the chocker setters what logs to put the chocker on.

While Andy was working as a logger, he and another young man who lived in the forest camp gathered foxglove (*digitalis*) that grew abundantly in the area. They were able to take it into Tillamook where it was used as heart medicine. They earned \$8-10 apiece. Andy has had jobs in construction as a pile driver, and worked for the Port of Portland in dock maintenance - rebuilding docks from the pilings up. It was from this job that he eventually retired to focus on his farm and fishing. He also found time to be one of the first volunteer fire fighters in our area and was chief for two years, eventually resigning his position when the tree farm demanded too much of his time.

Andy continues to be active, fishing and maintaining the tree farm. His experiences and memories of the "ridge" provide wonderful insights into the history of this area. □



Andy Huserik awaits the next customer at his Christmas tree farm on Old Germantown Road (Photo courtesy A. Huserik)

OSU to Reopen Gardening Hotline in Multnomah County

By Tiffany Woods (tiffany.woods@oregonstate.edu)

Gardeners in Multnomah County now can get answers to questions ranging from how to keep black spot off their roses to how to grow beans and blueberries. The Oregon State University Extension Service has reopened its gardening hotline (503-445-4608) for county residents. In 2003, budget cuts forced it to close its office in the county.

Volunteer Master Gardeners, trained by Extension to answer horticulture questions, will staff the hotline Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Or chat with them in person at 2701 NW Vaughn St., Suite 453, during these same hours. The office is in the headquarters of the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, which is providing the equipment, phone line and office space as part of a new partnership.

For more information about gardening hotlines in the Portland metro area, go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/questions>.

A Cooperative Attack on Garlic Mustard

By Sen Speroff

It is spring and garlic mustard is again pushing its ugly green body from the soil. Many agencies and groups are gearing up to cooperatively locate, pull, spot-spray, and map this highly invasive plant before it overtakes our roadsides and woodlands.

Since 2007, the SRN, Forest Park Neighborhood Associations (FPNA), and the Skyline Grange have supported local volunteers in identifying and removing 11,440 pounds of garlic mustard. SRN was recently awarded a grant from West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) for signage and project supplies and received disposal vouchers from Metro. Our appreciation goes to WMSWCD and Metro; their funding will sustain our Skyline Ridge Resident-Based Garlic Mustard Effort for another spring.

Our role is part of a larger, multi-agency effort. Garlic mustard is such a threat to the West Hills ecology that even under economic hard times, agencies are making control a priority. Local residents are vital to the control effort because they are personally invested and have the ability to frequently monitor their land and to locate, map, and react to new infestations.

Here is a summary of the cooperative efforts and how you can be a part of them:

Local residents, walkers and hikers can report locations of garlic mustard and help pull plants. To see a plant display and get information about the Skyline Ridge Resident-Based Garlic Mustard Effort, visit Plainview Grocery (on Cornelius Pass Road at Skyline), Skyline

Grange, or marked roadside locations; or attend spring SRN and Grange events; or visit www.skylineridgeneighbors.org (click "How to Remove Garlic Mustard" and "About Garlic Mustard"). This is a great opportunity for students needing community service hours.

If you see garlic mustard anywhere across the state, report it at <http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>. Also report it to SRN or FPNA if you find it in our neighborhoods.



Garlic mustard - BAD!
(Photo: WMSWCD)

If you think you might have garlic mustard on your property, report it to SRN or FPNA. We will help with plant identification, provide information, and refer you to agencies or perhaps get local neighbors to help you pull plants. For SRN residents, contact Sen Speroff (503-621-3331 or sensperoff@hotmail.com). For FPNA

residents, contact Karen Smith (503-285-0207 or karen9248@comcast.net).

In late April and early May, the City of Portland (Portland Parks and Recreation and Bureau of Environmental Services) will spot-spray plants along many road rights-of-way and remove plants from Forest Park trails. The City may be able to assist landowners with garlic mustard, especially if plants are in riparian areas. Visit www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=498777 for more information.

Clean Water Services may be able to help in plant removal in riparian areas adjacent to streams flowing into the Tualatin River. If you are such a landowner with garlic mustard, contact Peter Guillozet at 503-681-3606.

WMSWCD may be able to offer garlic mustard removal assistance to landowners in unincorporated sections of West Multnomah County in the form of work crews pulling/spraying. Contact Mary Logalbo at 503-238-4775.

Thanks to the Three Rivers Land Conservancy, a portion of the City's efforts are funded through a grant from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Join Portland Parks and Recreation at the Garlic Mustard Monster Mash, May 16, 2009. Time and location are to be determined. Visit www.portlandonline.com/parks or contact Rachel Felice for information (503-823-9423 or rachel.felice@ci.portland.or.us). □

"Clean Yer Boots!"

After walking or biking in areas with garlic mustard plants, clean the mud off your shoes and bike tires before leaving the area so seeds won't spread to other locations.

Talk to Rep. Mitch Greenlick

Our State Rep. Mitch Greenlick will discuss issues facing the legislature and answer your questions at two Town Hall meetings: May 9, 1 p.m. at the Northwest Library, NW 23rd Avenue and Thurman Street; and May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Cedar Mill Grange Hall, on NW Saltzman Road, just north of Cornell Road (across from the Cedar Mill Library). To get on Rep. Greenlick's "Mitch Message" email summary of his legislative work, email mitchgreenlick@msn.com.

Balch Creek Watershed Summit

Join the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and Audubon Society of Portland for a free summit on the current condition and threats to the future of the Balch Creek Watershed. The meeting will be Saturday, May 9, 10 AM – 1 PM at the Audubon Society, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland. Register online at registration@westmultconserv.org

Many issues affect this vital bird and wildlife sanctuary, including invasive weeds, soil erosion and septic maintenance. The summit will be an opportunity to learn about the watershed, its challenges and the

measures we can take to lessen human impact. You'll have the opportunity to talk with local experts and neighbors about these issues and go on a nature walk through the watershed courtesy of Audubon Society naturalists.

Speakers at the event include:

- John Gillilan, engineer, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Mary Logalbo, Conservation Planner/Technician, WMSWCD
- Virginia Bowers, Three Rivers Land Conservancy
- Erin Mick, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Stormwater & Sanitation Expert
- Tom Costello, Audubon Society Sanctuary Director

The Balch Creek Watershed, located in Macleay Park at the end of NW Upshur, was formed 13 million years ago by the folding of ancient basalt flows that covered the area that is now metropolitan Portland. The watershed contains over 120 separate plant species including Hemlock, Pacific Yew, Cedar, and Madrone, as well as abundant wildlife. A 2001 City of Portland study found over 70 resident and migrant species from bobcats and bats to the rare Tennessee warbler. It's also home to native cutthroat trout. □

Skyline School News

Skyline School Gets a Facelift

In April, a rejuvenation of the old landscape at Skyline school began. Skyline School parent Jill Inahara won a \$22,000 grant for the school from Metro, the WMSWCD and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to remove non-native (and overgrown) plants in front of the school and to replace them with native species, as well as make other enhancements to the site. Volunteers with chain saws removed decades old juniper and other gnarly plants and on April 25, volunteers from Hands-on-Portland joined the Skyline community to get the ground ready for fall planting. Melingo Studios and Abundiflora Landscape Design are donating professional expertise. For information contact Jinnet Powel at 503.286.2408 or jinnetpowel@comcast.net.

Skyline Golf Tournament

Come out on Sunday, May 17 at Wildwood Golf Course, on Highway 30, for a chance to win the glory and to support Skyline! This is an all-skill level tournament with competitions for the experts and mulligans on sale for the hackers. Go to www.bniorregon.com/SkylineFoundation.php to learn more and to register for the tournament. If you aren't a golfer, but want to help, please consider volunteering. We are particularly interested in a photographer and in officials for the game. Please contact

Tripp Ritter at 503-287-3051 or trippritter@gmail.com with any questions.

Skyline Auction

The annual auction, held March 14 in the school gym, raised \$75,000; the money will be used to enhance staffing at the school to keep class sizes small. Some of the more useful or unusual items auctioned: 10 pounds of pork, a chance to forge your own cast iron bottle opener with a Skyline parent, a Mount Hood vacation rental, a mirror with about 500 plastic toys glued to its frame (for playing I Spy). Prices went from next to nothing to pretty darn high. There was something for everyone at this fun community event. □

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Tools Explained

By Rich Edwards, Editor Skyline Newsline

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.



WISE-GRIPS: Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

If you are starting a project and find you need a tool that you don't already own, in our neighborhood I have found that every tool known to man is already owned by one or more nearby neighbors who are willing to loan you the tool if you are willing to:

- Listen to a bunch of stories from when they did a similar project
- Act interested in their stories
- Allow them to show you the 'right' way to use the tool
- Be grateful for the lesson even though you thought

you already know how to swing a sledge hammer

- Show off your project while in progress and when finished
- Listen to a whole bunch more stories from when they did a similar project
- Tell them that 'Yes the lesson on how to use the tool was useful' even though you didn't follow a word they said during the lesson, especially the parts about 'rotational acceleration' and 'fulcrum'
- In addition to the above requirements, you might also wish to do the following optional steps:
 - Not completely destroy the tool
 - Return the tool

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Owner: Wendy Burley
Office: 503.621.1217
Cell: 503.936.3577

Web Savvy? SRN is seeking volunteers with web design or programming experience to join a committee that is planning a complete make-over of its website. Contact Miles at president@skylineridgeighbors.org or 503.621.9867.

Questions? Answers? Suggestions? Opinions? You are welcome to add yours to the online conversation happening at Skyline Online, a place where the Skyline community meets to talk and trade. www.skylineonline.org

Certified Reading Therapist. Private sessions to improve your child's reading skills. Call for information or to schedule an evaluation. Caren 503-327-8046 or cbcohen@hotmail.com

Sisters Vacation Rental. Enjoy the Central Oregon outdoors at this Sisters getaway: 3 bed/2 bath home sleeps 6/7 people. From \$125 p/n plus tax/cleaning. 503.240.2992 or email: sistershome@comcast.net. View at www.vrbo.com #168319.

Free Compost at Karin Hunt's Shadysprings Farm. Call Dexter Bacon to load up your truck, 503.621.9878. For questions about the compost, call Karin at 503.799.7082.

Learn to Build an Earthen Cottage, Skyline area. Learn construction of an earthen building: foundation, earthbag & cob walls, earthen floors, ecoroof, earthen fireplace, and

more. Four weekends in May-July. Register for the series or individual workshops. Contact Scott at (503) 287-2442, scott@earthenhand.com, or <http://earthenhand.com/Newberry.html>.

Metal roofing. Approx. 40 pieces of snap-lock panels 16" wide x 14 ft. long. Grey color. Make an offer. Call 621-9867.

Free Mushroom Compost: Shiitake mushroom blocks make great compost and some block will still produce. One full size pick-up load per week. For best compost blocks need seasoning. Contact Mary 503-522-7379.

Brooks Hill Historic Church. Open for weddings, music events. Beautifully remodeled. Ask about rental discounts for Skyline neighbors. 11539 NW Skyline Blvd. Call Cindy at (503) 629-9700 or visit www.brookshill.com.

Rent the Skyline Grange. Planning an event? The Grange may be the perfect spot. Contact Pat Barnard at (503) 286-2857 or pbarnard2@aol.com. Visit www.skylinegrange.org for info.

Weed wrenches. Eliminate Scot's broom, holly and other woody shrubs and sapling trees easily with a weed wrench. Borrow one free from Skyline Ridge Neighbors. Contact Sen at (503) 621-3331.

Community Calendar

May 9, Saturday: "Organic Gardening" workshop lead by OSU Master Gardener Randolph Young. Part of SRN Sustainable Living series. 9 AM, Skyline Grange.

May 9, Saturday: Rep. Greenlick Town Hall meeting. 1 PM at the Northwest Library, NW 23rd Avenue and Thurman Street.

May 9, Saturday: Balch Creek Watershed Summit, presented by West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation

District and Audubon Society of Portland. 10 AM – 1 PM at the Audubon Society, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland. Register online at registration@westmultconserv.org

May 11, Monday: Rep. Greenlick Town Hall meeting. 7 PM at the Cedar Mill Grange Hall, on NW Saltzman Road, just north of Cornell Road (across from the Cedar Mill Library).

Continued ►

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► **Community Calendar**, *continued*

May 13, Wednesday: "Weed Watchers" program, presented by Mary Logalbo or WMSWCD, and SRN Business Meeting. Members will vote on proposed Bylaws amendment and to elect directors. 7 PM, Skyline Grange.

May 16, Saturday: Garlic Mustard Monster Mash. Time and location TBA. Visit www.portlandonline.com/parks or contact Rachel Felice for information (503-823-9423 or rachel.felice@ci.portland.or.us).

May 16-17, Saturday-Sunday: Portland Audubon native plant sale. Over 100 species of Oregon wildflowers, shrubs, and trees will be available to enhance your yard, stream bank, or country property. 10:00AM to 4:00PM at 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland. For more information: http://www.audubonportland.org/events/plant_sale

May 17, Sunday: Skyline Golf Tournament, benefit for Skyline School. Wildwood Golf Course, on Highway 30. Contact Tripp Ritter at 503-287-3051 or trippitter@gmail.com.

May 18, Monday: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome. 7:30 PM.

May 23, Saturday: "Basics of Beekeeping" workshop lead by local beekeeper Mark Johnson. Part of SRN Sustainable Living series. 9 AM, Skyline Grange.

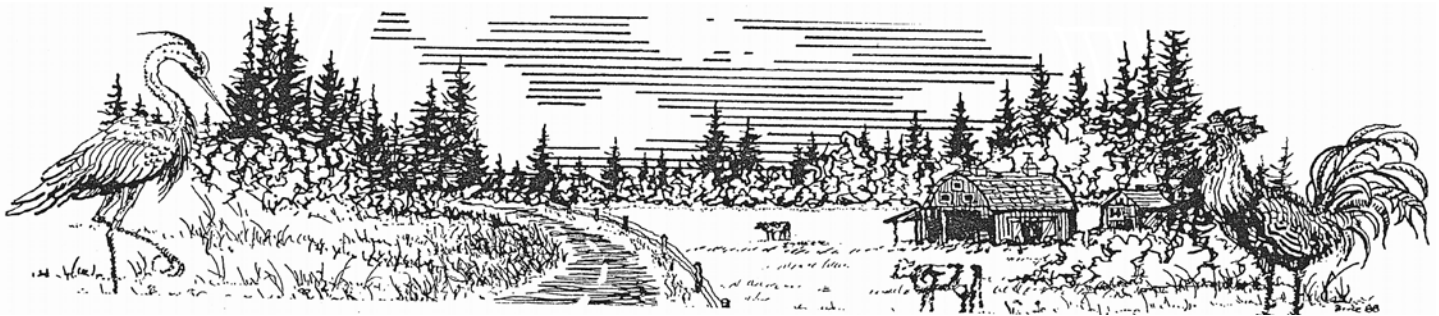
June 6, Saturday: "Backyard Chickens" workshop. Part of SRN Sustainable Living series. 9 AM, Skyline Grange.

June 15, Monday: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome. 7:30 PM.

The new, 2009 Skyline Ridge Neighbors Resource Directory is here!

View, download and print the latest version online at www.skylineridgeneighbors.org.
To order a printed copy mailed to you, please send a check (no cash) payable to SRN for \$2 each to Laurel Erhardt, 14416 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland 97231

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