



# Skyline Ridge Runner

October 2011

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 23, No. 4

A Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

## Bicyclists and Cars: Getting By, Getting Along - Meeting Nov. 9

By Laura Foster, McNamee Road

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011, SRN will host a meeting to bring bikers and drivers together to talk, hear each others' perspectives, and learn what the law says about sharing our Skyline roads.

At any gathering of neighbors, bring up the topic of bicyclists on Skyline area roads and you will hear strong opinions and plenty of anecdotes from both bikers and drivers.

### Incident

In August 2011, an incident on a neighborhood road was brought to the attention of SRN by members of OBRA (Oregon Bike Racing Association). A bicyclist

filed a police report against an area resident who, she alleged, menaced her by driving close to her back wheel, honking, and not passing despite a clear sight line. That same driver, she says, menaced her a month earlier by trailing closely and honking as she rode alone, causing her to fear she was being stalked.

That resident had earlier gone on record regarding his frustration with bicyclists and cited Oregon statutes which, in his interpretation, require the bicyclist to pull off the road if he or she is being overtaken by a vehicle in the same lane while riding at a speed slower than the limit for that section of the road.

### Legal Interpretation

This interpretation of the law is disputed by at least one Oregon lawyer, Ray Thomas, who through his practice and publications advocates for the rights of bicyclists and pedestrians, and by those in Portland's bike racing community, specifically OBRA.

SRN decided it was time to bring bikers and drivers together to look at the laws that apply to sharing the road

and to hear each other's perspectives. In conversations in advance of the meeting, bikers and drivers refer to the same issues: improper use of a lane, and failure of a slower vehicle to yield to an overtaking vehicle. Both will be addressed.

The goal for the meeting is to educate all users of Skyline roads and to find common ground that might lead to less frustration and more goodwill. An account of events at the meeting will be published in the January *Ridge Runner*.

### Facilitator

Stan Sitnick will facilitate the meeting. A McNamee Road resident, bicyclist, driver and professional mediator, Stan will ensure both sides are heard, that civility reigns, and that each point is addressed by representatives of the legal

community.

Bicyclists and drivers will take turns describing behaviors and situations that have generated tension and frustration. Attorney Mark Ginsberg will provide interpretation of the applicable statutes, and representatives of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office will provide law enforcement's perspectives.

In advance of the meeting, we would like to hear more of your specific concerns or bike/car situations you've experienced. Respond via email to [laura@portlandhillwalks.com](mailto:laura@portlandhillwalks.com) or call Laura Foster at 503.621.3450. Consider coming to the meeting to provide your perspective; it should be an illuminating evening.

The meeting will be at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Boulevard from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. Please plan to attend and offer your views on this important issue that affects everyone who uses our rural roads. □



*"And why weren't YOU at the Summer Gathering?," asks the young detective with his secret x-ray goggles under his sunglasses. Read all about it on page 3. (Photo: N. Harger)*

# *Skyline Ridge Runner*

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Send comments, articles, opinions and advertising requests to the Editor, 14355 NW McNamee Road, Portland, OR 97231, ridgerunner@snpdx.org or fax to 503.621.3450. Deadlines for all submissions are the 15th day of March, June, September and December, unless otherwise announced.

→ *Deadline for the next issue is December 15*

## **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.

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## **Skyline Rural Watch Newsline**

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news via the link at [www.snpdx.org](http://www.snpdx.org). Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at [newsline@snpdx.org](mailto:newsline@snpdx.org) or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication

## **SRN Website**

Visit [www.snpdx.org](http://www.snpdx.org) for more news, photos and information about our community. Contact the Webmaster, Agnes Kwan, at [webmaster@snpdx.org](mailto:webmaster@snpdx.org).

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

*There's more online at*  
**[www.snpdx.org](http://www.snpdx.org)**

## **Treasurer's Report**

*By Karen Garber*

### **SRN Income & Expenses**

**6/1/2011 - 9/30/2011**

BEGINNING BALANCE JUNE 1 14,786

#### **INCOME**

Advertising	225
Donations	570
Interest	36
Merchandise Sales	121
Summer Gathering	3,816

TOTAL INCOME 4,768

#### **EXPENSES**

Licenses and Fees	190
Merchandise Expenses	20
Ridge Runner	1,038
Summer Gathering	
Beer & Wine	201
Entertainment	360
Portable Toilets	165
Food	68
Event Insurance	425
Materials	562
Subtotal Summer Gathering	1,781

TOTAL EXPENSES 3,029

NET INCOME/(EXPENSE) 1,739

ENDING BALANCE SEPTEMBER 30 16,525

### **Thanks For Your Donations!**

Many thanks to the following neighbors and friends who made a cash donation to SRN between June 1, 2011 and September 30, 2011:

~ Agnes Kwan	~Claire Stock
~Pacific Pressure Washing	~Karen Garber
~Ava Chapman	
~Loretta Field & Floyd Nelson	

Donations are tax-deductible and always appreciated! Please send them to the SRN Treasurer at Skyline Ridge Neighbors, c/o Karen Garber, 16238 NW McNamee Rd, Portland, OR 97231

# Thanks Volunteers and Donors for a Successful Summer Gathering

*By the SRN Board of Directors*

SRN wishes to thank everyone who participated in our 21st annual Summer Gathering on August 21. We sincerely appreciate the generous support from the neighborhood, especially from those who participated in the auction, who donated auction items or cash, and the many volunteers who made it happen.

Thanks also to all the volunteers who devoted long hours preparing the Skyline Grange to host our Gathering. Many thanks to David Reisch, Billy Kennedy and Jim Boyer, aka The Hill Trio, for serenading us with their homegrown, original music. And thanks, of course, to our auctioneer this year, Ras Sauer.

Photos of the Summer Gathering from 2011 and past years are posted on the SRN website at [www.srnpx.org/2011-summer-gathering](http://www.srnpx.org/2011-summer-gathering). See even more photos on our Flickr photostream at [www.flickr.com/photos/skylineridge](http://www.flickr.com/photos/skylineridge). If you would like to add your own photos to the Flickr album, please contact [srn@srnpx.org](mailto:srn@srnpx.org).

## Volunteers

The Gathering is made possible through the hard work of many volunteers who generously donate their time before, during and after the event. SRN wishes to gratefully thank the following volunteers who worked this year (plus any others whose names we have inadvertently missed!):

Dexter Bacon, Cindy Banks, Pat Barnard, Sharon & Joe Barthmaier, Pat Brady, Vickie Coghil, John Desmarais, Dave Duval, John & Kate Eskew, Karen Garber, Laurel & Joe Erhardt, John Gritzmacher, Natalie Harger, Jennifer Jenkins, Lucca Jenkins, Rebecca Jenkins, Rhonda Kelvin, Sue Kenney, David Lammert, Charlotte Lawrence, Richard & Bobbie Linn, Libby & Miles Merwin, Kelly Sue Munson, Gerry Payton, Julie Perry family, Samantha Perry, Ras Sauer, Dustin Sauer, Laurie Schreiber, Nova Schreiber, George Sowder, Sean Sowder, Sen Speroff, Audrey Vasconcellos, and Tracy Waters.

## Auction Donors

The Gathering would not be a complete success without the generous donations of goods and services that we receive from both individuals and local businesses for our fund raising auctions. SRN wishes to sincerely thank the following individual and business donors this year:

## Business Donors

All About Pets, Zoe Bacon (Zoe Bacon Design & Fabrication), John Gritzmacher (Busy Bee Gardeners), St Johns Veterinary Clinic, Sauvie Island Kennels, Liz Stark & James Lyons (Amber Lion), Ivan McLean, Knife River, Linnton Feed & Seed, Means Nursery, Jeremiah Nadir, Sue Kenney (Painting with Threads), Hart Tree Farm, Ken Pincus Pottery Studio, Scappoose Rural Fire District, Pet Barn,

Mutley Crew, The Meating Place, Jim & Peggy Kessinger (Plumper Pumpkin Patch), Oregon Public Broadcasting, Cindy Roach (Forms in Clay), Gary Houston Design & Installation, Oblation Papers and Press, Ridgeback Tree Farm, Martani Tanning Salon, Peninsula Family Acupuncture, St Johns Bookseller, Forest Park Conservancy, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and Audubon Society of Portland.

## Individual Donors

Susan & Patrick Ahern, Joe & Sharon Barthmaier, Catherine Dalziel, Dan & Holly Danks, Jim & Kandy Davis, Laurel & Joe Erhardt, John & Kate Eskew, Jennifer & Jeff Glowacki, David & Muffy Kruger, Gary & Kelly Kuntz, Charlotte & Robert Lawrence, Richard & Bobbie Linn, Allan Luethe, Miles & Libby Merwin, Jim & Kelly Sue Munson, Pete & Brigitte Nortman, Cindy Roach, Leon & Sen Speroff, Gene & Susan Still, and Audrey Vasconcellos.

## Vendors

This year's Gathering featured a variety of local artisans and farmers. We appreciate the participation of the following vendors who also donated items to our auction: Zoe Bacon (glass & metal sculpture), James Lyons & Liz Stark (jewelry), John Gritzmacher (gardening tools), Ivan McLean (metal sculpture), Ken Pincus (ceramics), Sue Kenney (fabrics), Jeremiah Nadir (leatherwork), Rick Wilding (essential oil products), Kelly Sue Munson (wreaths), and Bob & Diane McCormick (fresh produce). □



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## Full Color Maps of Skyline Area for Sale

SRN offers a 34 x 44 inch color wall map made by Metro that shows an aerial photo of our boundaries in Multnomah Co., overlaid with street names, parcel outlines, creeks, etc. Price is \$23 each. Contact [srn@srnpx.org](mailto:srn@srnpx.org) or 503.621.9867.

## Skyline School Welcomes New Principal, David Wood

By Miles Merwin

This year, Skyline Elementary School has a new face in the Principal's office: David Wood.

Although this is his first assignment as a school principal, this is David's fifth year with Portland Public Schools (PPS). He served two years as administrator of the alternative high school program, and was also district-wide Assistant Director of high school curriculum.

David is a Social Studies and English teacher by training, and has taught in grades 8-12. His teaching experience extends to the college level as well. He is an Assistant Professor and Instructor at University of Oregon and at Lewis & Clark in the Dept. of Educational Leadership.

David explained that his official position this year is as Interim Principal of Skyline. PPS will interview candidates in the spring for the permanent position, and he will be among them. "I don't want to go anywhere else," he said. He likened this school year to an extended job interview with the Skyline School community.



David Wood, new Skyline Elementary School Principal, stands ready to greet students and parents at the school's front door. (Photo: M. Merwin)

later this year.

"Although we are a small school in a rural area, we offer world-level education," he said.

The IB program will help students learn what it means to be global citizen, he said. "Students should be conversant in a second language and learn about different cultures to better connect with people around the world." Since Skyline feeds in Lincoln HS, which has an IB program, students from Skyline can continue towards an IB diploma from Lincoln.

"You can live in a small rural setting and yet be a global citizen," David said. "My goal is to give students better tools to work and learn internationally."

### School community

David wants to help strengthen the tight-knit community of students, parents, teachers and staff at Skyline School. Part of this is to support the continuing process of healing following the disappearance last year of Kyron Horman.

"We are a small school with an incredible sense of community, one that supports a wide diversity of needs, and promotes a culture of acceptance and tolerance," he said.

### Priorities

When asked what his top priorities are for the school year, David offered the following:

#### Stronger math curriculum in K-5

David said that Oregon state standards for more rigorous math education adopted last year are a district-wide priority. Teaching time is increased to 75 minutes per day and students are effectively advancing a grade level in math. The result will be better preparation for high school math, he said.

#### IB Program

Based on efforts started by the previous Principal, Ben Keefer, grades K-5 at Skyline are now part of the International Baccalaureate schools network. IB ([ibo.org](http://ibo.org)) is a nonprofit foundation that assists over 3,000 primary and secondary schools worldwide with curriculum and assessment. One of David's priorities is to more fully develop the IB program at Skyline. He and the Middle Grades team are working to add grades 6-8 at Skyline to the IB program

#### Environmental awareness

At Skyline, students here have an immediate connection to our rural environment. "Our classes take walking field trips - no buses needed," he said. This creates the opportunity to connect school curriculum to the rural environment. David wants to develop closer connections with local farms and woodlands.

Skyline is recognized as a Premier Green School by the Oregon Green Schools alliance ([www.oregongreenschools.org](http://www.oregongreenschools.org)). David supports strong parent involvement with the Green Team that actively promotes sustainability at the school, including waste reduction, recycling, landscaping and renewable energy.

"Being green goes beyond just school operations," he said. "It extends to the classroom, where teachers plan lessons with an environmental context." Through OSU's Sustainable Living schools program ([extension.oregonstate.edu/metro4h/sustainable-living](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/metro4h/sustainable-living)), David said that Skyline teachers will receive training and curriculum assistance to foster environmental awareness. □

## Radon In The Home: How Dangerous is it Really?

By Gayla Smith, Certified Site Inspection & Radon Solutions, LLC

Radon is the classic, sneaky building danger. It is an odorless, colorless, tasteless, naturally occurring gas that is radioactive.

It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium, a radioactive mineral that exists at various concentrations in the crust of the earth. Radon normally rises from the depths of the earth and disperses into the atmosphere harmlessly. Well... that is until a building gets in the way!

If there is any building with a foundation, radon enters the enclosed area through the soil and begins to accumulate within it. Radon is 9 times denser than air. Wood paneling, most insulations, tar paper, mortar, concrete blocks, most building materials (gypsum board) plastics, paints, gas, leather, and paper are easily penetrated by Radon.

Radon can still enter whether or not the building has a cement floor, crawl space, or is a new or old home. The amount of radon depends on chance.

### What is the risk of Radon exposure?

Scientists believe radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer. EPA says radon is the number-one cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers in the U.S., killing an estimated 23,000 people per year. When radon decays, it emits alpha particles. These are small, heavy, electrically charged, sub-atomic particles consisting of two protons and two neutrons. If an alpha particle strikes the chromo-

somes in a lung cell, it could alter the way that cell reproduces. Our body's immune system should recognize and destroy these mutant cells, but they can multiply over the years and mutate into a recognizable cancerous growth.

### How Serious a Risk is Radon?

According to EPA and the Surgeon General, radon is a serious health problem. Read more at EPA Citizens Guide to Radon: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html>.

Once you have tested your home, you will have to make a decision on what type of action you will take. EPA has set the action level at 4.0 pCi/l. The average home is 1.3 pCi/l while outside air is 0.3 pCi/l. If your level is above the EPA action level, you might consider lowering the level. That is why you should have some basic knowledge of the types of radon mitigation (removal) techniques available. Refer to the EPA web page above for more information, but most of all GET TESTED! Know your radon level.

Learn more about radon testing and mitigation in the second article in this series, to be published in the January *Skyline Ridge Runner*. Gayla Smith will present information about radon at a public meeting, organized by Charlotte Lawrence, CSA, and hosted by AmeriCare HomeCare of Oregon. Contact Gayla c/o Certified Site Inspection & Radon Solutions, [www.ARadonSolution.com](http://www.ARadonSolution.com), 503 936-2545." □

## DEQ to Collect Waste Pesticides on Nov. 4

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, in cooperation with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Clean Harbors Environmental Services, announces a Pesticide Collection Event on Friday, Nov. 4, from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m at the Sauvie Island Fire Station. This event is open to all agricultural and farming operations, rural businesses and homeowners in the surrounding area. It is free of charge and no questions will be asked.

Here's what we ask you to do:

1. **Pre-register with Clean Harbors**, at which time you will find out the exact location of the collection. This is so they can make sure to have the proper disposal packaging on site for your waste.

2. **Pre-register** by calling Alan Ranf, of Clean Harbors, 503/785-0404 or email him at [ranf.alan@cleanharbors.com](mailto:ranf.alan@cleanharbors.com). He will send you the registration form which you will fill out and email/fax back to him by Friday, October 28.

3. **You may bring:**

- Old pesticides like DDT, chlordane, aldrin, chlorpyrifos (Dursban), and azinphos-methyl (Guthion);
- Left-over current use pesticides; and
- Empty, triple-rinsed or pressure-washed plastic pes-

ticide containers.

There are no questions asked about the materials, no fines levied or names taken. The goal of the event is to remove old and unwanted pesticides from residents' barns and sheds before they potentially corrode and leak into soil and groundwater.

Similar DEQ-monitored events in Oregon and Washington have been extremely successful and appreciated by home and business owners. For more information, call Scott Gall, Rural Conservationist at West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, 503/238-4775, ext. 105; [scott@wmswcd.org](mailto:scott@wmswcd.org).

### Borrow a Weed Wrench

Yellow is a joyful color when illuminated from the blossoms of daffodils, goldenrod, and stream violets. Unfortunately all too often much of our springtime yellow comes from invasive Scotch broom. Tackle your Scotch broom this fall and winter before they go to seed next spring. Borrow a Weed Wrench from SRN (503-621-3331) to easily uproot these plants. Let's reduce the problematic

**Forest, Farm & Garden, p. 10 ►**

## Grange Hosts First Skyline Arts & Crafts Fair, Nov. 20

By Sen Speroff, Tracy Waters & Miles Merwin

On Sunday, Nov. 20, the Skyline Grange will host the first annual Skyline Arts & Crafts Fair. This special one-day event will feature a variety of artists, craftspeople and farmers from the Skyline area. It will be a great opportunity to support the creative people in our neighborhood and to find some unique, handmade gifts for the holidays.

Local artists will display and sell their creations, including ceramics, glass, fabric and metal. Handmade leather goods, essential oils products, stuffed animals, toys, wreaths and more will be available for purchase. Local farmers have also been invited to bring their winter produce.

The Fair is free and will be open from Noon to 5 PM. We ask that you consider a small voluntary contribution to help us defray the costs of hosting this neighborhood event. The Skyline Grange is located at 11275 NW Skyline Blvd., between Newberry and McNamee Roads.

Handmade Christmas decorations will be available to purchase from a real, lighted Christmas tree. Refreshments will also be on hand. Bring the whole family.

If you are an artist or craftsperson living in the Skyline area, are interested to sell your wares at the Fair, and have not already been invited, please contact us. Space for booths is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for booth reservations is Nov. 12.

The Grange will also provide some table space for people or families who have only a few items they have made and wish to display. Write to skylineartsfest@gmail.com or call Miles at 503-621-9867.

### Fall Garage Sale Oct. 14-15

The annual fall Garage Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, October 14-15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you would like to donate to this sale or volunteer to help, contact skylinegrange894@msn.com, Sen at 503-621-3331, or Sharon Barthmaier at 503-286-1261. Books, furniture, garden tools, kitchen equipment, and quality children's toys are particularly desired. Please no televisions, audio tapes, computers, large exercise equipment, child car seats, or baby cribs. Donations must be received by noon on October 12. Donations are tax-deductible. If you are a garage sale enthusiast or want to contribute to your community, consider volunteering to help with this sale.

### Soup Supper Oct. 22

The third annual Saturday Soup Supper will be held on October 22 from 5-8 p.m. Homemade, hearty, and delicious, and guaranteed to take the chill of rainy Oregon out of your bones. All are invited. There is a suggested donation of \$5/adult or \$12/family – now that's bang for the buck! Questions or to volunteer, contact Tracy at 503-286-1261 or skylinegrange894@msn.com.

### Grange Woods Revitalization Project

For the past year, Grange and community member volunteers have spent over 300 hours removing invasive vegetation and unhealthy trees from the Grange's long neglected woodland. Persistent invasive vegetation has been spot sprayed. During the fall and winter volunteers will continue to remove ivy and prune and thin trees.

Next spring will be celebrated by planting a variety of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to provide diversity and to fill bare places. These efforts transformed the Grange into a pleasant setting for the Summer Gathering, reduced vegetation that could fuel a wildfire while becoming a better habitat for wildlife.

The path provides access for humans to enjoy beauty and quiet. A bench will be installed as a place of rest and contemplation. Funding for the licensed herbicide applicator and purchase of plants is possible through a grant from West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

Monthly work parties will continue on the first Saturday of each month from 9 to noon, excepting the October party on the 8th. Progress is always posted on [www.srn-pdx.org/skyline-grange-894-0](http://www.srn-pdx.org/skyline-grange-894-0). Work party reminders will be announced on the Newline, or you can contact Tracy Waters (503-285-3530) for more information.

### New French Drain

A French drain was installed along the bank side of the driveway as Isaac Ableidinger's Eagle Scout project. Isaac planned the project and procured materials and equipment. This drain should help divert rainwater away from the building. In addition to the drain project, Isaac coordinated an energetic Troop 245, with their fathers, to weed much of the flower beds and bank, and to sand and prepare the old benches for painting. Thank you, Isaac and Troop 245. Also thank you, Knife River at Angell Quarry, for donating a load of rock and to Parkrose Hardware for donating equipment and materials.

It was a beautiful sight watching this project progress with the teamwork of hard working youths who obviously enjoyed each other's company and the bonding experience of working with their fathers. □

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## The Swing and the Doink

By Rich Edwards

I have always been fascinated by air, specifically air that separates me from the ground. Being high above terra firma has always given me a feeling of being alive in ways that, for other people, can only be satisfied by running with live bulls. Any place where a sudden slip or structural failure could cause instant death (or even slight injury) does it for me including tall bridges, trees, ladders and platform shoes.

Surprisingly, flying on airplanes does not give the same kind of thrill because of their terrific safety record.

### Hero Fantasies

To make flying more interesting I often imagine how I would be the hero of the plane crash carrying stunned and injured passengers away from the burning wreckage (babies first, fat stinky guys last). However, when starting up a conversation with a stranger on an airplane, it is best to keep to yourself that you hope to, one day, survive a plane crash.

It's not that I am brave, however. Most of the scary things I have done in life have also involved me screaming like a little girl. My friend Wally, who participated with me during my first bungee jump said once, "Good job screaming, it gives everyone a chance to see you do some really stupid things."

Actually being a coward is helpful in some ways. To get the same thrill that requires some to climb El Capitan in Yosemite, all I have to do is climb a ladder. Not only does this save on travel costs and expensive equipment, but I normally don't have to take weeks off from work unless of course you count recovery time from falling off the ladder.

### "What Was I Thinking?"

Some time ago, I was watching maniacs climb a tree on some TV logging show. Like a lot of red-blooded American men who find themselves later asking "What was I thinking", I thought "We've got trees. I'll bet I could do that".

The first question was "How do I convince the wife that we need \$500 worth of logging equipment?" After some research I told her "We've got to be good stewards of the forest". By that I meant "I'm going to build a really cool tree swing." Actually I'm kidding here. It ended up costing

a lot more than \$500.

I selected a suitable tree, gathered up rope, boards, saws, and axes, but I needed one more thing; the courage to climb up the stupid tree. I thought, "I'll get Wally to help me. He is fairly laid back and had always been nearby whenever I nearly got killed."

I choose to think that Wally has experience in life threatening situations rather than, perhaps more accurately, that Wally is a primary cause of life threatening situations.



*While the more sensible people observe from a safe distance, a grown man prepares to launch himself into a childhood memory. (Photo: R. Edwards)*

### Staying Calm

Calm, level-headed thinking is what you need when stuck 50 feet up an Alder tree wondering whether Alders break in half slowly or if they snap in half like a piece of chalk.

Whenever one of my spikes slipped, I would yell down to Wally, "How am I doing?" Wally would look up, see me trembling, drenched in sweat and sawdust one leg dangling

loosely with the other nearly wrapped around my neck and would shout back the answer least likely to cause him to get up: "You look good to me!"

I spent the entire afternoon cutting off branches with a finicky chain saw while Wally lay on the ground with his hands behind his head making sure I was safe.

On the way up the tree I cut off branches leaving a 10 inch section of each branch to use as a foothold. The plan was to then, on the way down, cut the branches off flush with the tree. This was going fairly well until the chain saw ran out of gas.

### A Fateful Decision

By this time I was exhausted, dying of thirst and my legs had the compressive strength of undercooked oatmeal, I yelled to Wally, "Do you think this one single 10 inch branch segment will ever be an issue if I don't cut it off?"

Thinking that I might ask him to fetch some more fuel, Wally replied "Well, probably not." This was the answer I was looking for and, thus reassured, I finished my descent, kissed mother earth and drank nearly half the nearby creek.

With the swing at a full stop I got on and started my

**The Swing, p. 9 ►**

**Please Thank and Support the Local Business  
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<p><b>Plumper Pumpkin Patch &amp; Tree Farm</b> 11435 NW Old Cornelius Pass Rd, Portland 503-645-9561 www.plumperpumpkin.com</p>	<p><b>St Johns Veterinary Clinic</b> 4818 N Lombard St, Portland 503-289-4996 www.stjohnsvc.com</p>	<p><b>Sauvie Island Kennels</b> 23200 NW Reeder Rd, Portland 503-621-3204 www.sikennels.com</p>
<p><b>Amber Lion Jewelry</b> 22700 NW Moran Rd., North Plains 503-621-3032</p>	<p><b>Forms in Clay</b> 15032 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland 503-621-3644 formsinclay@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>All About Pets</b> 52567 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose 503-543-5740</p>
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<p><b>Busy Bee Gardeners</b> 15800 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland 503-621-9834</p>	<p><b>Ridgeback Tree Farm</b> 13950 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland 503-621-9867</p>	<p><b>Ivan McLean Inc.</b> 6524 N Albina St., Portland 503-679-5433 ivanmclean.com</p>
<p><b>Scappoose Rural Fire District</b> 52751 Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose 503-543-5026 www.srfd.us</p>	<p><b>Pet Barn</b> 12675 NW Cornell Rd Ste A, Portland 503-641-9443 www.petbarn.org</p>	<p><b>Painting With Threads</b> 15055 NW Cornelius Pass Rd., Portland 503-621-3710</p>
<p><b>Oregon Public Broadcasting</b> 7140 SW Macadam Ave, Portland 503-244-9900 www.opb.org</p>	<p><b>Gary Houston Design &amp; Installation</b> PO Box 2295, Portland 503-248-0510 www.voodooatbox.com</p>	<p><b>Oblation Papers and Press</b> 516 NW 12th Ave, Portland 503-223-1093 www.oblationpapers.com</p>
<p><b>Hart Tree Farm</b> 10742 NW Quarry Rd., Portland 503-286-2327</p>	<p><b>Jeremiah Nadir Leatherwork</b> 23000 NW Gilkison Rd., Scappoose 503-543-2383</p>	<p><b>Zoe Bacon Design &amp; Fabrication</b> 15839 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland 503-621-6946</p>
<p><b>MartANi Tanning Salon</b> 7319 N John Ave #102, Portland 503-860-8122 www.myspace.com/martani</p>	<p><b>Knife River Corp.</b> 3330 NW Yeon Ave Ste. 100, Portland 503-286-4201</p>	<p><b>Peninsula Family Acupuncture</b> 7617 N Decatur St, Portland 503-283-5518 www.pfacu.com</p>
<p><b>Mutley Crew</b> 806 NW Murray Blvd., Portland 503-626-8212 www.themuttlecrew.com</p>	<p><b>St Johns Bookseller</b> 8622 N Lombard St, Portland 503-283-0032 www.stjohnsbooks.com</p>	<p><b>Audubon Society of Portland</b> 5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland 503-292-6855 www.audubonportland.org</p>

► **The Swing** (*continued from p. 7*)

ride. With a fifty foot swing radius, the ride was long, flat and slow. The only excitement occurred when I drifted uncontrollably into a stand of salmon berries. After cutting down the salmon berries, I figured the best way to maximize my investment was to find a higher spot to start from.

I propped an aluminum ladder against a handy tree and was a little concerned by how high up the ladder I had to climb to get the slack out of the line. But what was a little excess height when I had spent weeks planning and building this swing? And hadn't I just spent half a day 50 feet up a tree? Heights don't scare me anymore, I thought.

**Macho Bravado**

This feeling of macho bravado lasted about one half of one second; the time it took me to jump off the ladder until the rope hit the 10 inch branch which we thought would never be an issue. This single branch remnant shall forever afterward be known in our house as the 'doink'.

To understand what happened next it is necessary to understand the conservation of angular momentum law which clearly states:

"When the effective radius of a rope swing is cut in half by a short branch sticking out of the tree, an upward acceleration will occur proportional to the quality of advice given during the building of the swing causing the idiot on the swing to scream like a little girl."

As I floated in the air screaming, convinced the rope had broken or the tree had snapped in half, I was concentrating very hard on the ground wondering if I was going to crash into the blackberries or into the nettles.

However, I didn't crash into the ground. As it turned out the rope had not broken and the tree was intact, but there had been a lot of slack in the rope as a result of being caught and then released by the 'doink'.

Also, through no fault of my own, my butt had stayed connected to the seat of the swing so I could have, in the-

ory continued my journey as if nothing had happened. What I did instead was drag my feet on the ground yelling "STOP-STOP-STOP-STOP!" as my best friend and my 12 year old daughter laughed until their sides ached and their faces hurt. Serves them right.

I have since moved the ladder so that it is nearly impossible to hit the doink without trying. For fun, sometimes my daughter will hit the doink on purpose. She describes this as 'thrilling'. One difficulty with taking off from the ladder is if you don't step off far enough, the seat catches and causes the swing to spin in a nausea inducing clockwise direction.

**Wally Takes Flight**

About two years after my maiden voyage, my friend Wally was showing some children how to jump off the ladder and not cause the swing to spin. He did a REALLY good job stepping off, and with no more notice than I had gotten, his rope hit the doink. Wally's butt did not stay attached to the swing as mine had, but he had enough grip to slide down the rope far enough to have the lower half of his body get drug back and forth between the nettles and the blackberries two or three times.

It was a good thing I was watching because the only sound I heard was sound of flesh being torn by blackberries which is not as loud as one might think. As I was helping stop the bleeding, I said the most appropriate thing I could think of: "Wally, next time you gotta scream otherwise people won't know to look." □

<p><b>Local Student Creates iPhone App for Forest Park Maps</b></p>	<p>them an electronic version of the set of 9 paper maps that cover the park. The app is available to download for the iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch for \$3.99. There is a website detailing the app viewable here: <a href="http://forestparkpdx-app.info">http://forestparkpdx-app.info</a>. You may also find the page to purchase the app by opening the iTunes store and typing Forest Park PDX into the search bar in the upper right-hand corner of the home page. If you wish to query the creator, please contact him at: <a href="mailto:dylan.gathey@gmail.com">dylan.gathey@gmail.com</a>. This is his first published work on the iTunes App Store. □</p>
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<p><b>Forest Park Conservancy</b> 1505 NW 23rd Ave., Portland 503-223-5449 <a href="http://forestparkconservancy.org">forestparkconservancy.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Meating Place</b> 6585 NW Cornelius Pass Rd., Hillsboro 503-533-0624 <a href="http://themeatingplacedpx.com">themeatingplacedpx.com</a></p>	<p><b>West Multnomah Soil &amp; Conservation District</b> 2701 NW Vaughn St, Ste 450, Portland 503-238-4775 <a href="http://wmswcd.org">wmswcd.org</a></p>
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## ► **Forest, Farm & Garden (continued from p. 5)**

spread of yellow before next spring. (Weed Wrench is an excellent hand tool to uproot most unwanted saplings. For more information visit [http://www.weedwrench.com/weedwrench/how\\_to\\_use\\_weed\\_wrench.cfm](http://www.weedwrench.com/weedwrench/how_to_use_weed_wrench.cfm))

### **One Ton of Garlic Mustard Pulled**

For the fifth spring of work, Skyline residents pulled 2,000 pounds of flowering garlic mustard plants before

they went to seed. Metro again provided disposal vouchers to this joint effort of SRN, FPNA, and Skyline Grange. Thank you Metro. And thanks to City of Portland, WMSWCD, and to all the local plant pullers! Rest up, because next spring will return as will new garlic mustard plants. ☐

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## **Blackberry Mystery Pest**

*By Sen Speroff*

Do your blackberry leaves look less healthy? A number of local residents have noticed curling of leaves on Armenian (Himalayan) blackberries and to their raspberries.

A blackberry plant specimen, which included a leafhopper insect, was taken to West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and WMSWCD immediately communicated with the Oregon Dept of Agriculture. On Thursday Eric Coombs and Kristen from ODA visited our area to observe and to collect specimens. ODA had not heard of similar sightings from other sections of the Valley. Their concern was that this could be a new disease or insect with potential harm to Oregon caneberry crops.

Later that day, Eric sent this email message: "The leaf galling on the blackberry is caused by a tiny gall-forming midge in the *Dasineura* genus, no species listed and reported only from Oregon. The leafhopper, was just an opportunist taking advantage of the shelter caused by the gall midge. I suppose when conditions are optimal, they could become a minor pest, but there is no opportunity for them to be a bio-control agent of Armenian blackberry."

The good news is that this midge will not significantly affect our caneberry crops. The bad news is that this midge is not the key to developing an effective biological control for our highly invasive, non-native blackberries.

The speed in which both WMSWCD and ODA responded to our concern was impressive, and a local demonstration of our tax dollars put to good service. ☐

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## **Caring for your Oregon Oaks**

*By Kammy Kern-Korot, WMSWCD*

If you have one or more Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) trees on your property, consider yourself lucky. They are part of a "rare and declining" habitat type - either oak woodland or oak savannah, which is grassland with scattered oak trees, generally only one to two per acre. For every 100 acres of oak habitat that previously existed in the Willamette Valley, only 7 acres of woodland and 1 acre of grassland, or prairie, remain.

Fortunately for us, some of that precious oak habitat is found within West Multnomah County, including much of Sauvie Island. There are also scattered Oregon white oaks in the rural West Hills and even within Portland city limits. If you have Oregon oaks on your land, contact West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District so that we can catalog your stand and offer free technical advice on care and maintenance.

To ensure the longevity of your Oregon oak tree(s), which live several hundred years, maintain the site conditions the species likes. Avoid compacting the lateral roots and soil under the tree canopy with traffic by vehicles, livestock or heavy equipment within the "drip zone." There is no need to irrigate established Oregon oak trees since they

send a tap root deep into the soil to find moisture; they are adapted to low moisture conditions, including talus (rocky) slopes with little top soil.

This special tree also loves sun, which means it does best if you help limit shade created by other tree species. Tall Douglas firs are particularly troublesome when growing on the south side of an Oregon white oak.

Lastly, to enhance the habitat value of your Oregon oak(s), control nearby invasive plants and plant associated native species underneath your oaks. Be sure to control particularly aggressive competitors such as English ivy and Himalayan (aka "Armenian") blackberry.

English ivy seeds have made their way onto Sauvie Island and have begun creeping up Oregon oaks and other desirable trees.

Contact [kammy@wmswcd.org](mailto:kammy@wmswcd.org) for help controlling English ivy in your oaks, for getting the perfect seed mix (just now commercially available) for you oak understory, or for ideas on how to enhance or create Oregon white oak habitat on your land. ☐

# Classifieds

**For Rent:** Everyone's Dream Building. 3200 sq ft building on NW Old Germantown Road. Storage only. Open floor plan, 21 ft. ceilings, skylights, cement floors, finished interior, insulated, large sliding entry doors, woodstove. Electronic gate entry with total privacy and security. \$950/month. Call Ann at 503-240-1842.

**Tractor service needed.** Have 4 acres of pasture that has not been touched in many years. Would like it disked and plowed by someone close by. I am on Old Cornelius Pass close to Skyline. Call Steve, 503-890-4893.

**Noble fir Christmas trees at Ridgeback Tree Farm.** You choose, we cut, you haul. All sizes and shapes available. Boughs and greens also. Open by appointment from Nov. 25 to Dec. 18. Call 503-621-9867 or 971-285-6960.

**Free Compost.** Shadysprings Farm has free 2 year old compost available for your flower beds or garden. I will load your truck or trailer for free with my tractor, or you can pay Dexter \$10 to load if I am unavailable. Ask re. dump truck loads. Contact Karin at 503-621-6932 (farm) , 503-799-7082 (cell or text) or ssfarm@me.com. Or contact Dexter 503-621-9878.

**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

**Owen West Electric.** Our specialty: service and panel changes; kitchen and bath remodels; security and yard

lighting. 28 years experience. CCB#29492. 503.297.6375.

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

**Donate your vehicle,** running or not, to MIKE Program commemorating longtime SRN resident, Michael Hartnett. Detailed instructions at [www.mikeprogram.org/vehicle\\_donation](http://www.mikeprogram.org/vehicle_donation) to support health and mentoring enrichment for teens.

**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.skyline-grange.org](http://www.skyline-grange.org) for info.

**Weed wrenches.** Eliminate Scotch broom, holly and other wood shrubs and sapling trees easily with a weed wrench. Borrow one free from SRN. Contact Sen at (503) 621-3331.



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## Community Calendar

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**Oct. 8, 9 AM- Noon:** Grange Woods work day. Volunteers needed to help continue restoring the Grange Woods and building the new trail. For info, contact Tracy Waters bluewaters@pcez.com or 503.285.3530.

**Oct. 13, 7 PM:** SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting, Brooks Hill church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.

**Oct. 14-15, 9 AM – 5 PM:** Grange Garage Sale. If you would like to donate to this sale or volunteer to help, contact skylinegrange894@msn.com, Sen at 503-621-3331, or Sharon Barthmaier at 503-286-1261.

**Oct. 17, 7:30 PM:** Monthly meeting of the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd.

**Oct. 22, 5 – 9 PM:** Third annual Saturday Soup Supper at the Grange. If you would like to donate to this sale or volunteer to help, contact skylinegrange894@msn.com, Sen at 503-621-3331, or Sharon Barthmaier at 503-286-1261.

**Nov. 4, 10 AM – 2 PM:** Unwanted pesticide collection at Sauvie Island Fire Station. For more information, call Scott Gall, West Multnomah SWCD, 503/238-4775, ext. 105; scott@wmswcd.org.

**Nov. 5, 9 AM- Noon:** Grange Woods work day. Volunteers needed to help continue restoring the Grange Woods and building the new trail. For info, contact Tracy Waters bluewaters@pcez.com or 503.285.3530.

**Nov. 9, 7 PM:** Bicyclists and Cars: Getting By, Getting Along. A public meeting at the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd., sponsored by SRN.

**Nov. 10, 7 PM:** SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting, Brooks Hill church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.

**Nov. 14, 7:30 PM:** Monthly meeting of the Skyline Grange, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd.

**Nov. 20, Noon – 5 PM:** First annual Skyline Arts & Crafts Fair at the Skyline Grange. Local artists, crafts people and farmers will offer a variety of handmade wares for holiday gifts. See story this issue for details.

**Dec. 8, 7 PM:** SRN Board of Directors regular monthly meeting, Brooks Hill church, 11539 NW Skyline Blvd.

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