

Skyline Ridge Runner

January 2023

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

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Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Skyline Neighbors Start Tapping Bigleaf Maples for Syrup

By Laura O. Foster, NW McNamee Road

Thirteen maple species grow in North America, with nearly all commercial maple syrup coming from one species, the sugar maple. Native Americans on the East Coast were the first peoples known to have harvested maple sap for food; in the 1600s, they shared their tree-tapping knowledge with European settlers. Four hundred years later, the Pacific Northwest is experiencing an emerging maple sugar movement, using one of our local species, bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*). Of the 125 maple species worldwide, bigleaf maple is the tallest, has the largest leaves, and is quite capable of producing delicious syrup. The flavor is complex, with tones of bourbon, the woods, and vanilla. Oregon State University notes that it's also high in minerals: potassium, calcium, magnesium, manganese, iron, and zinc. Like wine, the terroir (and time of year) can influence flavor.

Both Oregon State and Washington State universities are encouraging landowners to explore this unexploited natural and renewable resource. University-based researchers, emerging commercial producers, and hobbyists are building a growing knowledge base for new sapsuckers to tap into. WSU notes, "We are learning all the time while working with these admirable trees." In the Skyline neighborhood several landowners are in their first or second year of tapping their trees. Last year, Ben Malbin tapped 30 maples on his family's 80 acres; this year he has a network of 500 feet of line with 222 taps, roughly aligned along an old logging road. He is using a combination of gravity and a vacuum pump to pull sap into his evaporation tank and will boil the sap down using wood (for the initial evaporation) and then propane (when nearing the necessary 66 percent sugar level requires a more precise heat source). Others, like me and my husband, are tapping just a few dozen trees using gallon milk jugs.

Some maple syrup facts

1. Sugar maple sap ranges from 2 to 5 percent sugar; for sap with a 2 percent sugar content, you must boil 43 gallons of sap to obtain one gallon of syrup (66 percent sugar). Bigleaf maple sap is less sweet: at about 1 percent sugar, it requires 86 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Sugar percent varies from tree to tree, and time of year.

2. Sugar maples back East are tapped in late winter, as temperatures rise. But in the Pacific Northwest, bigleaf maple sap is tapped from late November to late February. Frosty or freezing nights followed by warm days offer best tapping potential, and 30- to 50-year-old trees are more productive than very young or old trees.

3. Coppiced trees (in which multiple shoots grow after a maple has been cut---a typical growth habit in our logged forests) offer an efficient resource to tap: the bark is smooth and root systems are expansive.

Each shoot can be tapped and lines fed to one central 5-gallon bucket. OSU notes that a trunk diameter (of each shoot) between 4 and 18 inches is best.

4. Trees growing in ground with a high moisture content, near streams or in creek valleys, offer more sap than those in drier areas.
5. Sap should be collected daily and stored at 38 degrees Fahrenheit or frozen if not immediately boiled off, to prevent bacterial growth.
6. Some people boil off the sap only partially, to drink so-called maple water (up to about 20 percent sugar), a cold, mineral-rich beverage.

Locally, the Oregon Maple Project (OMP), founded in 2020 by former Arbor School educator Eliza Nelson, provides a community open to anyone who wants to tap

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Eliza Nelson and Deanna Tomasso, members of the Oregon Maple Project, with Kevin Foster looking for suitable bigleaf maples for tapping. Photo L. Foster

Skyline Ridge Runner

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→ *Deadline for the next issue is March 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.srnpx.org. Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at newslines@srnpx.org or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication.

SRN Website

Visit www.srnpx.org for more news, photos and information about our community. If you have questions or comments, contact the Webmaster, Agnes Kwan, at webmaster@srnpx.org.

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

Thanks for Your Donations!

Many thanks to the following neighbors and friends who recently made cash donations to SRN:

~ James Emerson

~ Loretta Field & Floyd Nelson

SRN relies on the financial support of the Skyline community to pursue its nonprofit, educational mission. We operate entirely on the volunteers efforts of neighbors like you. Donations are tax-deductible and always appreciated! Please make checks payable to SRN and send them to Rachael Brake, SRN Treasurer, 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. Thank you.



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Skyline is a Paradise for Horse Lovers

By Alex Rose, Skyline Blvd.

Who would have thought that NW rural Portland would boast so many incredible equine facilities for horse enthusiasts!? Our Skyline community offers an eye-opening range of choices. Each of the stables we've spoken with offers an array of services, with each featuring unique programs appealing to various groups in the community.

All offer riding lessons of various types as well as boarding services and some form of lessons. If you're interested in specific skills such as hunting, jumping, and dressage, you'd be considering Abbey Creek, Cornerstone, Hest Training, Phoenix Farm, and Skyline Equestrian Center. Lessons and training are offered to enthusiastic children – starting as early as 4 years of age – to beginners and pleasure riders, all the way to advanced levels; and some of these stables provide the highest levels of competition training. Interestingly, a number of American colleges and universities offer full-ride sports scholarships to high-school graduates who ride at the stellar levels.

Surprisingly, perhaps, some riders continue into their 70's and 80's; and if non-competition riding and natural trails are enticing, Denali Natural Horsemanship and Sky Ranch Stables would be ideal places to start.

Heartwarming stories abound with these owners/trainers, and they often involve their riders (young and old, alike) as well as land-mark events in their long, passion-driven equine "journeys."

Melissa Gallentine from Abbey Creek enthuses, "One of my riders just turned 10, and she's been able to ride over 60 horses in my stable – from green ponies to our professional warmbloods. We run a "no-drama" barn, and I have the best customers in the world; they're not snooty and will happily pick up a shovel. I've wanted to own a stable since I was 9 years old, and I'm here because I like horses better than people."

Linda Worley from Cornerstone chuckles, "I like to see kids fall off their ponies; it tests their mettle. If they get right back on, they're likely to be enthusiasts and go the distance. If they balk at remounting, you might want to consider another sport. I'm a second mother to many of my students; they spend a lot of time with me training and showing. I have kids I taught since they were 5, then, I taught them through high school, and saw them 'ride' off

to college! Then, I continue on as part of the family."

Christina Traunweiser from Phoenix Farm recounts when a paraplegic student with no muscle movement from the waist down wanted to ride. "Much younger and stronger than I am now, I lifted her out of her wheelchair and onto a pony; and she slipped right off! I had to be on my toes to catch her! During the years, we built her a ramp so she learned to lift herself from her wheelchair onto the horse all alone. She learned to saddle, bridle, groom – even pick her horse's hooves herself. She became the inspiration for our program for riders with special needs which continues today."



Addi Slothower astride one of Phoenix Farm's favorite mares, Hopscotch. Photo courtesy of Phoenix Farm

Joanne Emerson from Skyline Equestrian Center loves giving pony parties and watching children who are initially scared to death, warm to their first "horse" experience. "I love to see my riders reach the point where they get the 'feel' that they're in a partnership with the horse."

From Hest Training, Krista Hest's heart warms when her retired 28-year old prize-winning jumper, Dermot, roams her premises, free-ranging and visiting all the horses in the barn, who love him. "I won all my 'big stuff' on him – the \$25,000 Grand Prix and many \$5,000 classes."

When looking for a training or boarding facility, these owners provide excellent advice. Worley suggests, "Get references from other barns and owners." Gallentine advises, "Take a look at the horses. Are their bridles, saddles, and blankets well-fitted? Talk to other people in the barn, and look for happy, healthy horses. Most of all, clarify YOUR goals; what do you want from a stable?" Jon Deleonardo from Sky Ranch counsels, "Choose a place where you can have agency over your own experience, one where the owner lives on the property, and where you can establish a relationship with the owner and the staff." Hest encourages, "Find a barn with comfortable, happy horses and look for 'that friendly vibe.'" Traunweiser suggests, "Find what speaks to your heart."

If your family is looking to buy a mount, Gallentine specializes in what she calls "project horses." Her extensive experience working with hundreds of equine veterinarians and selling ultrasound equipment all over the U.S. has gifted her with special talents in recognizing

Paradise for Horse Lovers, p. 6 ➤

Friends, mechanics

By Elinor Markgraf, Cornelius Pass Rd.

The weather is still cold, and the streets are wet. Neighbors don't gather by mailboxes as readily as in warmer months. Sometimes it isn't until the daffodils are up that I get to catch up with my cronies – to exclaim how big that baby is getting, and is it true that Kim is expecting again?

Although we might not see more than a wave from behind a steering wheel, the news of our doings still gets around. I see Wanda and she'll have seen Ras and he'll have talked to Bob and he'll have visited Lynn.

My daughter has returned to school after a too-long hiatus. No one is happier than she is – I'm sure I run a close second – but she needed some wheels to get from her job to school in a timely manner. We found a very cheap truck, but it needed work.

I turned to Dexter. He was delighted to hear that Zoë was back in school and agreed she needed something safe and reliable. "The first thing we'll check is the brakes. She must have good brakes," he said as he prowled around the vehicle. He looked under the hood and made a lot of loud noises about compression testing and the importance of the changing air filters. He howled when he saw that the radiator shield had been removed and tsk-tsked when he saw screws missing from door seals.

"There's no excuse. Ultimately the door won't seal. These errors are so easy to correct," he said, shaking his head.

This is exactly why I wanted Dexter to look at my daughter's truck. Someone else might fix the brakes, but they wouldn't pay any attention to the door seals.

A week later I pulled into Plainview Grocery just as Lynn was pulling out. We simultaneously rolled down car windows.

"What's wrong?" she asked when she spied my scowling face. "I'm trying to pay Dexter for some work," I answered bleakly. "Oh, he's finished with the brakes, did he tell you?" Lynn asked brightly. "The idiot that installed them put them in backward. So every time you used the brakes, they were adjusted like when you put the brakes

when you're driving in reverse," Lynn said. "Isn't that hysterical?"

"Yes. He says it runs a lot better now," I said. "But I'm having a hard time paying him."

"Stop! Don't tell me. He only wants a hundred dollars."

"The parts alone cost that, almost. I tried giving him 200, but he won't have it."

"He'll never take 200," Lynn said knowingly. "Did you try 150?"

"I thought 175. What do you think?"

"He won't take 200. He might take 150," she advised.

"He deserves 200. He worked like a demon. He fixed the doors. He fixed the camper shell door. He put that thing back around the radiator that I don't know what to call it. He rigged up a handle for that jack that didn't have a handle. And he changed the tire that went flat."

"I'm going to try 175 and see if that works," I said decisively, just as Wanda drove up to get a gallon of milk. Although she said she was in a hurry, she climbed into my car to further consult on the problem.

"I'll tell you what. I could pay a lot of money to someone who wouldn't do as good a job," Wanda declared. "Remember when my locust tree fell last month and nearly killed me and my girls? Well, it would have crushed us all if we hadn't started running when we heard it creak, then it crashed, bam, right on the bridge. We couldn't get out of our driveway."

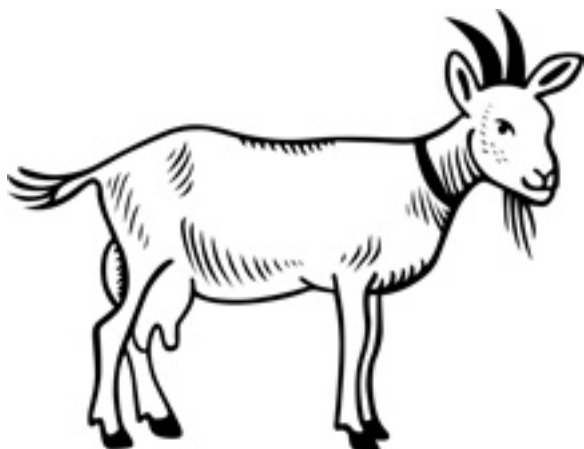
"Ras and Mike and Dexter came over and spent all day cutting that tree. I thought they were going to kill themselves. It was a dangerous job. I tried to pay them, but they laughed at me. Or got insulted."

We shook our heads, commiserating.

"Tomorrow Dexter is taking the truck up to George to get the electric stuff fixed," I said glumly.

"George is good with electric stuff," Lynn said.

"I know, but how am I going to get him to let me pay for it?" □



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Meet Our New Extension Forester

Please join us in welcoming Alex Gorman, the new Oregon State University Extension Forester for Washington, Columbia, and Yamhill counties. While those counties are his primary service area, he is also available to assist private forest landowners in NW Multnomah Co.

A serious new pest in Oregon, the emerald ash borer, is one of Alex's top priorities at present. Besides assisting forest landowners with best management practices on their properties, he is also focused on plans for the Matteson Demonstration Forest in Washington Co.

Alex grew up in Northern California and received his bachelor's degree in Forestry from California Polytechnic University, Humboldt in 2018. Before starting his master's degree in 2020, Alex worked for the industrial timber and education sectors. Alex's master's thesis focused on the intersection of forest health and forest management. In particular, how to regenerate black spruce that has been



Alex is our new OSU Extension Forester, serving landowners in NW Multnomah Co. Photo courtesy A. Gorman

harvested after a dwarf mistletoe infection in the southern boreal forest of Northern Minnesota.

In his free time, Alex enjoys spending time outdoors with his family and friends. Alex is an avid hunter and angler and volunteers with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, a non-profit committed to advocating for public lands, public waters, and wildlife. After learning the ropes of hunting and angling in Minnesota, Alex is excited to explore the many hunting and angling opportunities Oregon has to offer. Most recently, Alex has gone crabbing and salmon fishing with his twin brother who lives in Central Oregon. Alex also enjoys woodworking and has enjoyed making furniture for his family when he has the time.

Alex is excited to be in Oregon and hopes to one-day purchase timber property to live and hunt on, as well as to manage.

You can contact Alex at alexander.gorman@oregonstate.edu or at his office 505 N Columbia River Hwy, St Helens, OR 97051, P: 503.397.3462 x2. ☐

► **Bigleaf Maple Syrup** (continued from p. 1)

their maples. Members of this year's sugaring collective cohort own or manage from 3 to 800 acres of land, ranging from hobbyists to those intending commercial production. For a small fee, collective members gain access to the growing knowledge base of a community of sapsuckers, a site analysis by Eliza, and most of the supplies needed to tap 10 to 25 trees. In early March, members bring their frozen sap to OMP's sugar shack, in the deep woods of Camp Colton (near Molalla). There, it's combined with the sap from other members' trees, and boiled off in OMP's evaporator.

This is the first of a two-part article on bigleaf maple sap harvesting. In the next issue, we'll talk with local folks and Oregon Maple Project collective members about how their tapping and harvesting went this winter.

Resources

- [Bigleaf Sugaring: Tapping the Western Maple](#) by Gary and Katherine Backlund (available at the Washington County Cooperative Library system:

wccls.org)

- [Oregon Maple Project](#)
- [Oregon Tree Tappers](#), a project of Oregon State University's Department of Forestry, provides resources on commercial and tax deferral aspects of managing bigleaf maples for agricultural purposes.
- [BLM Syrup net](#) is a useful listserv populated by sap harvesters in Oregon and Washington.
- [Bigleaf Maple Syrup Resources](#) is curated by Washington State University's Extension Forestry service, as is [Sapsuckers](#), a citizen science group devoted to bigleaf maple syrup production.
- The only online source to purchase bigleaf maple syrup: [Neil's Bigleaf Maple Syrup](#) in Acme, Washington.
- Facebook group: [Bigleaf Maple Tapping in the Pacific Northwest](#) ☐

► **Paradise for Horse Lovers** (continued from p. 3)

horses displaying strong potential. Her biggest reward is, "Figuring out how to turn unrideable horses from the track into solid 'citizens' who flourish in a loving home." Worley from Cornerstone is often called upon by clients to find European Warmbloods – currently the most prized steeds for dressage, hunting, and jumping – but she warns, "Get ready for 6-figure horses; prices are mind boggling!"

Skyline Neighborhood Horse Facilities

ABBEY CREEK – COMPETITION, TRAINING, AND SALES BARN

Clients here value competition, and most boarders are full-training clients, whom Gallentine accompanies to show competitions twice a month. Besides hunting and jumping, a strong focus is placed on dressage, and Gallentine owns a Dressage School Master Horse, a rare 6-figure mount that is so highly-trained and sensitive to a rider's commands, the mare responds to the movement of the rider's eyes. The stable is also home to an IEA Team (The Interscholastic Equestrian Association is a nonprofit organization that gives youth in grades 4-12 the opportunity to compete in team and individual equestrian competition without the financial burden of owning a horse.) And Abbey Creek stable boasts the only sanctioned IEA team in the dressage discipline in the entire state of Oregon.

CORNERSTONE HUNTERS & JUMPERS – is a top-performing facility specializing in training riders of all ages, some of whom are either candidates for or working their way to the stellar Premier level of competition, i.e., National and Regional Medals. To qualify at the "Premier Level," riders must win a significant number of competitions throughout the year. Owner and veteran trainer, Linda Worley reports, "We have a 15-year old student who has qualified, and we look forward to traveling back East with her for the Fall Major Indoor Circuit." Worley began riding at 5 years of age, had her own pony at 7, began teaching at 16, built and established Cornerstone 23 years ago, and continued teaching, steadily, for more than 50 years.

DENALI NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP - Anyone who has owned horses understands the sizable expenses and the non-stop, labor-intensive work. For those enthusiasts who are choosing to not own their own steed or enter competitions, but who want to continue pleasure riding or honing their amateur skills, Denali Natural Horsemanship is the perfect facility with its long-lease riding program. Owner April Gutierrez offers, "We're a very quiet, small business. No one's chasing ribbons here. We differentiate ourselves from a lesson barn, and we're not a competition barn." Denali offers a large open-air arena for beginners or riders wanting to work with one of the Denali trainers. Alternatively, for a more experienced rider wanting to enjoy the pleasure of the trail, scenic trails are accessible nearby.

HEST TRAINING – Describing their training program for jumpers, Hest states, "I enjoy working with riders who are passionate about this sport; we're not fancy here; chickens, goats, and pigs roam the place – we're low-key and friendly, focusing on the horses' contentment. We love to go to shows, about 7 a year". Hest just returned from a large show in Palm Springs, where one of her young riders took a championship, and two others received top placements. Most everyone in her barn shows, but Hest also works with riders who jump for pleasure. The barn is at full capacity with 18 horses; and besides giving lessons, Hest rides at least 10 mounts a day while owners ride the rest.

PHOENIX FARM – "We've been at this location for 46 years – We now have three generations of horsewomen active at the farm," reports Kati Traunweiser. "We offer and arrange full and half leases. This is a wonderful way for people to learn the ins-and-outs of horse ownership, and for people to have a bond with a horse they can ride regularly. Several of our customers are happy to share their horse with someone who's an appropriate fit. We provide hunter/jumper/equitation, basic dressage, ground-work, and vaulting lessons. We also offer some special needs lessons, since that is an important family tradition for us. Her mother, Christina Traunweiser muses on her love of horses, "Some people pop out of the womb and say, "I'm going to ride a horse; and if they find themselves horseless, they just can't function."

SKYLINE EQUESTRIAN CENTER – Joanne Emerson adds, "We're a small, individualized business that caters to our riders' needs. We tend to focus on Three-day Eventing, which includes dressage, cross-country, and show jumping, known as the Triathlon of riding. Top tier event horses need to be extremely athletic, which calls for breeds like Warmbloods and Thoroughbreds, but any breed can do the job at introductory or starter levels." Emerson's riders have won top honors at national competitions. Her facility attracts a wide-range of "disparate professionals of all ages, who form very tight bonds over their love of horses, and who, otherwise, wouldn't ever be together." She enjoys watching adults shed their everyday problems as they focus on the horses – reducing the tension of high-stress professions.

SKY RANCH STABLES – Jon Deleonardo, an architect by trade, extolls the joys of a natural ranch setting he owns and lives on and the satisfaction of getting up at the crack of dawn every morning and mucking out stalls. He feels, "There are certain life realities to overseeing your business that involves other peoples' horses." His clients are mainly "pleasure-riding professionals – psychiatrists, PhD-level scientists, business owners, etc. looking for a high-level of horse satisfaction and to unwind from professional stress." The horses that his clients board are often retired competition horses as well as trail horses of every breed. His joy is to see these horses revel as they roll in the grass

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Communication in a Disaster is Vital

By Sen Speroff

When a disaster strikes, there are so many unanswered questions. This is true for individuals, the community and our Skyline Ridge NET team. Our protocol is to wait for a deployment directive from Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) but in a widespread disaster, our team would self-deploy. One of the first questions will be where can we do the most good. Should NETs immediately go to Skyline Elementary School, a building very vulnerable to earthquakes? Or to our staging areas to organize house-to-house checks? Where are the safest escape routes off the Ridge? Are the fuel tanks in Linnton compromised and how will that affect us? How many people are injured? How extensive is the disaster? Can emergency responders even get to us? To learn answers, there must be an effective communication system within our local area and to “the outside world.”

Mapping Our Area

Each NET Team member has their own personal FRS walkie-talkie. These are battery dependent and have at best a range of several miles with that range further limited by environmental obstructions. We are mapping out local “hot spots” where reception is better, not as obstructed by terrain, cloud cover and foliage. Several members have GMRS radios which are a bit more effective than the FRS walkie-talkies. We know communication will be challenging.

Amateur Radio Operators Wanted

To report our crisis situation and needs to the outside world our FRS walkie-talkies are inadequate. It is crucial we develop a collaborative working relationship with local amateur radio operators. If you are a licensed amateur (HAM) radio operator living in the Skyline Ridge Neighbors or Forest Park Neighborhood Association areas, please let Team Leader Rachael Brake know. You do not need to be a NET trained person to be involved, you can be a vital Affiliate Team Member.

Become an Amateur Radio Operator

There are lots of reasons to become an amateur radio operator. It's fun. It's pretty easy to get a license. You are part of a supportive international radio community. You can communicate long distances without Internet or cell service. You could be a crucial community volunteer in a crisis.

Operation of an amateur station requires an amateur operator license grant from the FCC. The FCC issues several types of license operator classes, each authorizing varying levels of privileges. Usually, people get a Technician Class license first, then advance to the General Class or Amateur Extra Class operator license. There is an exam

for each class. There is lots of support to become an operator. Helpful study guides for the exam and training courses are widely available. The Portland Amateur Radio Club hosts a Beginning Ham Radio meeting series. Portland NET Amateur Radio Operator Workshops are held about twice a year.

Sources

- [Portland Amateur Radio Club](#)
- [Amateur Radio Service](#)
- [Hamstudy](#)

Become a NET team member!

Did you know most of the people rescued in a disaster are rescued by their neighbors, NOT by professional first responders? The Portland NET program will train you on the basic skills you need to be a neighborhood hero after a disaster, and to do it safely. Your instructors are Portland Fire & Rescue firefighters and emergency response professionals. You will learn search and rescue, basic medical response to treat injuries, radio communications, disaster psychology, and much more.

NET volunteers are prepared to be self-sufficient for two weeks during any emergency, able to provide emergency assistance to their family and immediate neighbors; able to work within an emergency response team to save lives and property in their neighborhood; able to guide untrained volunteers who want to help others in the aftermath of a disaster. Graduating from Basic NET Training also gives you access to advanced training opportunities, such as certifying for Wilderness First Aid, emergency animal sheltering, amateur radio communications, and more!

Affiliated Team Membership

If you're not interested or just don't have time to do the full NET training, we welcome local expertise to join us as “Affiliated” team volunteers (ATVs). We would welcome your aid and experience in a disaster and we'd love for you to attend our meetings but we need to know you're out there. One position that doesn't require any physical work would be that of an Amateur Radio Operator for Skyline Ridge NET. AROs are vital in an emergency, especially with the limitations of two-way radios in our steep, vegetated terrain. For further details log into Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) | [Portland.gov](#) or contact Rachael Brake.

Contact Us

NETS are here to support the community. Questions? Email Skyline Ridge NET at SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com or contact Rachael Brake, Team Leader, at 503-621-3423. ☐

Plan Ahead for Skyline Grange Tree and Native Plant Sales

By Sen Speroff

We are revving up for a busy winter/spring. Please note some of the dates may have changed from previously published dates.

Pancakes, Etc. Brunch 2/19

Skyline Grange invites the Skyline community to a hearty brunch on Sunday, February 19, serving from 9:30-11:30 a.m. We cook; you enjoy. Rightly so, people have come to expect Grange home cooking with no processed, boxed foods. Come fill your bellies with pancakes, waffles, French toast, breakfast muffins/breads, quiches/stratas, fresh fruit, and fresh brewed coffee.

Mostly Tree Seedling Sale

This is the first of our two annual plant sales. It features native tree seedlings by pre-order ONLY. Pick-up dates are on Friday-Saturday, March 3-4. Contact skylinegrange894@msn.com for a pre-order form or download from our website in early January. Deadline to pre-order is Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 5 p.m.

Spring Garage Sale 3/17-18

Spring Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, March 17-18, 2023. Donations from local households give our garage sales a uniquely Skyline flavor. We call our garage sales "Everything But the Kitchen Sink" but our garage sales are much more. We guarantee you will find items from zany to practical, with quality, quantity, good prices, and a welcoming atmosphere.

If you would like to donate clean, functioning items, drop-off times and criteria will be posted later on SRN's Newsline and on our website. All proceeds will go to our Capital Improvement Fundraising Campaign.

Tree & Native Plant Sale 4/7-8

This huge 18th annual sale is on Friday-Saturday, April 7-8, 2023. There are two parts to our sale. The indoor Native Plant Section has a large variety of native plants which can be obtained either by pre-order (encouraged) or purchased on sale days. The outdoor Bareroot Section has bareroot fruit-bearing trees, shade, flowering and ornamental trees and ornamental shrubs. You cannot pre-order bareroots but only purchase on sale days. Most of these bareroot trees and shrubs are not true PNW "natives", but they have been selected for their ability to thrive in our area while not out-competing

plants in our native habitat.

All plants are from licensed local nurseries. Grange has a Temporary Nursery Sale license from Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. Expect both quality and quantity at good prices.

Skyline Living Lecture Series

Please join us for the first two presentations of 2023, both very relevant to Skyline living.

"Building Forest Resiliency in a Time of Climate Change" 2/16

Scheduled on Thursday, February 16 at 7 p.m., we will have an important discussion for Northwest forest landowners and all of our Skyline neighbors in this time of rapidly changing climate. Figuring out how to plant, grow and steward a climate adapted forest is a fascinating and relevant topic. The evening will begin with a video presentation by Kirk Hanson of Northwest Natural Resources Group (NNRG), an ecological forestry consulting service. This will be followed by our own Laura Taylor, forest conservationist for West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District who will bring the topic a bit closer to home. She will provide information about resources which are available to help us realize a forestry plan that improves forest health while reducing wildfire risk. Ample time will be provided to answer your questions.

"Skyline Elk" 3/29

Many of our properties are shared with occasional visits of Skyline herds, sometimes one individual and other times up to 90. Come learn about them on March 29, at 7p.m. Ben Cate, Wildlife Biologist, at Sauvie Island Division of Oregon Fish & Wildlife will discuss the life cycle, habitat, territory, reproduction, hoof disease, hunting regulations, and elk proof fences. Get to know these 4-legged neighbors.

Yoga at the Grange

Feeling stiff from inactivity or holiday overeating? Come to yoga classes at the Grange on most Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9 a.m. Join in no matter age, flexibility or experience. For updates, schedule, and required registration, visit Janci's website at www.yogainalignment.com.

Capital Improvement Update

As most of you know, our Grange Hall burned down in 1974 and was rebuilt with \$12,000 of insurance money, ►

donated materials, and lots of volunteer hours two years later. In more recent years, our vision has expanded from being a fraternal organization doing community service to being a real community asset owned by a fraternal organization. This transition in focus requires us to address modern accessibility and safety codes, and improve functionality for community use. A well thought out step-by-step capital improvement plan was designed, consultants hired, and fundraising started. Since the last Ridge Runner, we feel as though our Capital Improvement plans are living the title of that old cowboy movie "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly."

The Ugly: A Shocking Sticker Price

Our architect has recommended combining 2 phases of our capital improvement plan to minimize unnecessary duplications, and thus ultimately reducing cost. This means combining the North End Project that addresses the deteriorating north basement wall and drainage issues together with the Accessibility Project which provides both an ADA restroom and second emergency exit on the main level and construction of a small addition. The addition has triggered numerous code requirements including the need to install significant seismic upgrades unless we separate the addition from the original structure. Having a public building that could withstand a significant earthquake is very desirable for the community. Unfortunately, the cost of doing so is financially prohibitive at this time, thus our architect has recommended we separate the addition structurally from the building. We requested an estimate for constructing these 2 phases together. A professional estimator gave us a whopping price tag of \$820,000 just for the construction. This does not include planning expenditures nor permits/inspection costs.

After paying land survey, civil engineering, structural engineering, and architectural expenditures, we have a current balance of \$241,500 in our Capital Improvement Fund. This amount includes monetary donations from the community and Grange members, Grange fundraising events, and most of the \$155,000 CSFRF grant. That's not close to the estimated funds that we need for the construction, permits, inspections, etc. of these two combined projects.

The Bad: Limits in Ability to Fundraise

We have found it almost impossible to qualify for grant money earmarked for capital improvement because of our IRS classification as a 501(c)10 fraternal organization, and not as a 501(c)3 organization. Also, donations to our capital improvement fund are not tax-deductible. And, NO, we cannot change our IRS status from being a 501(c)10 to a 501(c)3 which would enable us to more successfully obtain grants. NO, it is very unlikely we could establish a 501(c)3 "Friends of Skyline Grange" to legally channel tax-deductible donations and grant money to the Grange for capital improvements. This is based on consultation with two non-profit attorneys. NO, our capital improvement

projects are not projects that can be completed mostly by Grange members and volunteers.

The Good: A Surprising Gift

In the midst of this disheartening news, our Treasurer went to her mailbox. In it was a stuffed envelope with a typed note from "Anonymous Donor" saying "Am old. Have been stuffing my mattress for years. Use for Grange." The envelope contained \$28,220 in cash including some old bills. We do not know who you are, but our Grange is honored and grateful. We have put a challenge out to the Skyline community for others to donate contents of their piggy banks, coin jars, and mattresses. So far, \$840.00 towards this Mattress Challenge has been collected.

Bottom Line

Here are some truths. 1) We can no longer ignore the deteriorating north wall and the drainage problems and will need to use Capital Improvement funds to pay for that repair. 2) We are required to spend our CSFRF grant by the end of 2024, thus limiting the time to raise additional funds. 3) Construction costs have significantly escalated over the last few years while code requirements get more stringent every change. As a result, the estimate for our planned project is at least twice what was anticipated. 4) Due to grant requirements, liability issues and the complexity of the newer building codes, we will need to use licensed and bonded contractors. 5) While we will continue to explore grant funding and seek donations, raising the required funds seems out of reach for now. We will also explore ways to spend our money efficiently including modifying the grant requirements to eliminate the building addition. This unfortunately will negate the pledge of \$50,000 for a lift between floors.

Despite these setbacks, the members of Skyline Grange remain committed to the importance of maintaining our building as a community asset. We will continue to look for ways to upgrade our building to better serve you.

Donate

By donating to Skyline Grange's Capital Improvement Fund, you are supporting your community and its need for a place to gather, connect. You can donate to our Capital Improvement Fund, by: 1. Sending a check to "Skyline Grange" earmarked for capital improvement, c/o 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd, Portland, OR 97231. 2. Donate by Venmo or credit card by contacting treasurer Rachael Brake at 503-621-3423. 3. Bringing your jars of coins to an event at the Grange, during a scheduled drop-off date, or by making other arrangements.

Video Series Explores Diversity of Forest Management Styles

From Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI)

Oregon has more than 70,000 forestland owners, each managing their forest in different ways to achieve unique goals for their property. OFRI has produced a new seven-part educational video series that explores this diversity of forest management styles.

The "Different Forests, Different Goals" video series highlights varied forms of forest management found across Oregon, as well as partnerships and collaborations that make forest management work. The aim is to help Oregonians understand that there are many different ways to manage a forest besides for timber production or as a nature preserve, and that forestland owners often manage their forests for multiple uses, including recreation, wildlife habitat and carbon storage.

Each installment of the video series visits a different part of the state to profile forestland owners and discuss how they manage their forests differently from their neigh-

bors for:

- Carbon storage in Clatsop County
- Fire resiliency in Klamath County
- Songbird habitat in Polk County
- Certified tree farming in Washington County
- Forest grazing in Wallowa County
- Threatened species habitat in Lincoln County
- Multiple uses in Deschutes County

The series was created by OFRI over a 12-month period with the help of partners from the forest products industry, forestry education organizations, government agencies and conservation groups. The full series can be watched on OFRI's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/oregonforests>

This story originally appeared in the "In the Woods" podcast series from OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension: <https://inthewoodspodcast.com/> □

► **Grange News** (continued from pg. 9)

Join Skyline Grange

Grange is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-profit, and totally volunteer-driven organization. We are a diverse group of people who believe that we are fortunate to live in the Skyline area and want to support its well-being.

We take seriously the fact that our building is a community asset as a gathering place. Our impact, activities, and accomplishments depend upon our members and community volunteers.

► **Paradise for Horse Lovers** continued from p. 6)

of his large pastures. And he derives great pleasure "seeing my boarders' kids grow up and get to know about horses." With 270 acres in which to roam, riders have plenty of trails to explore.

Directory of Horse Facilities

Abbey Creek Equestrian Center – Melissa Gallentine, topspeceqimports@gmail.com, 15248 NW Germantown Rd. 503.955.7016

Cornerstone Hunters & Jumpers - Linda + Wade Worley – owners; Linda Worley, Trainer, jump@cornerstonehj.com, 8310 NW Kaiser Rd 503.321.3253

Denali Natural Horsemanship – April Gutierrez, info@denalinaturalhorsemanship.com, 11908 NW McNamee Rd 503.341.2376

Hest Training – Krista Hest, k.vangstad@hotmail.com,

Contact Information

Website: www.SkylineGrange894.org (upcoming events, capital improvement, calendar, rental info, etc.)

General Communication: email Skyline-Grange894@msn.com

Rental Communication: email SkylineGrange894@gmail.com (see website for rental details)

Physical Address: 11275 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97231

Mailing Address: 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Skyline-Grange-894-169559023662398/> □

16340 NW Rock Creek Rd 425.753.3597

Phoenix Farm – Christina & Kati Traunweiser, www.Phoenixfarmpdx.com, 16428 NW Rock Creek Rd 503.621.3823

Skyline Equestrian Center - Joanne Emerson - Barn Manager and Instructor; joanne@SkylineEQ.com, 22029 NW Skyline Blvd 503.502.7203

Joni Feryn – Owner & Office Manager, joni@Skyline-EQ.com 503.816.5996

Sky Ranch Stables – Jon Deleonardo - Owner, info@skyranchstables.com, 23421 NW Skyline Blvd (Moreland + Skyline) 503.704.8970 □

There's more online at
www.srnpx.org

Phoenix Farm Riding School. English horse riding lessons for the whole family. All ages and ability levels are welcome! Day-off-school camps. Summer camps. Parties and special events. Located on the corner of Skyline Blvd. & Rock Creek Rd. Call/text 503.621.3823, email 13phoenixfarm13@gmail.com.

Owen West Electric. Our specialty is service and panel changes, kitchen and bath remodels, security, and yard lighting. 30 years of experience. CCB #29492. 503.297.6375 Office, 503.880.9512 Cell.

Borrow tool to eliminate Scotch broom, holly and other woody shrubs, sapling trees easily. SRN will lend 3 sizes of Weed Wrench. Contact Sen 503.621.3331 for large and medium size (Skyline near mile marker 15). Contact Laura 503.407.7175 for small size (McNamee Rd.).

Rent the Skyline Grange. Reservations accepted for dates in 2022, Covid-19 permitting. Rental details at www.skylinegrange894.org.



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Community Calendar

Jan. 9, 7:30 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

Jan. 12, 6:30 pm: SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the link.

Feb. 1, 5:00 pm: Deadline for pre-orders of native tree seedlings from the Grange. Contact skylinegrange894@msn.com for a pre-order form. Pick-up dates are on Friday-Saturday, March 3-4.

Feb. 9, 6:30 pm: SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the link.

Feb. 13, 7 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

Feb. 16, 7 pm: "Building Forest Resiliency in a Time of Climate Change." Presentation by Kirk Hanson of NW Natural Resource Group at the Skyline Grange.

Feb. 19, 9:30 - 11:30 am: Pancakes, Etc. Brunch at the Grange. serving from 9:30-11:30 a.m. We cook; you enjoy.

Mar. 9, 6:30 pm: SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the link.

gmail.com) to get the link.

Mar. 13, 7 pm: Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email SkylineGrange894@msn.com.

Mar. 17-18: Spring Garage Sale at the Skyline Grange. Much more than "Everything But the Kitchen Sink."

Mar. 29, 7 pm: "Skyline Elk." Presentation by Ben Cate, ODFW Biologist, at the Skyline Grange.

Apr. 7-8: 18th annual Tree & Native Plant Sale at the Grange. All plants are from licensed local nurseries. Expect both quality and quantity at good prices.

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