

Skyline Ridge Runner

July 2017

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 29, No. 3

A Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Please Come and Enjoy the SRN Summer Gathering, Aug. 26

By Rebecca Jenkins, SRN

We've set the date for what promises to be another great neighborhood gathering. The annual Skyline Ridge Neighbors Fundraising Summer Gathering will be held Saturday August 26th from noon to 5 pm. Thanks to our hosts, the Kessinger family, we will gather again at The Plumper Pumpkin Patch, 11435 NW Old Cornelius Pass Road (located near the intersection of Cornelius Pass and Skyline Blvd).

This popular annual gathering of neighbors continues to be a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family.

Live Music!

Our very own Cindy Lou Banks will play with her band. Enjoy country music at its best!

Family Friendly!

Kids will have lots to do with organized games, art tables, Plumper Pumpkin Patch farm animals to view, and a play structure to expend energy on.

Info Sharing!

Community information tables where you can learn more about what's happening in our neighborhood such as emergency preparedness efforts, Forest Park Conservancy, the Grange, TVFR, and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

It's a Potluck!

This down-home neighborhood gathering depends on you to bring a generous portion of your favorite potluck dish for all to share. What's considered generous? - 6 to 9 servings. Dishes, utensils, and glasses provided- no need to bring your own.

It's a Fundraiser!

With both silent and oral auctions, there is something for every budget and interest. There will be new auction items and more ways to donate this year. For example, we will have a Table of Wine, a Barrow of Beer, a Skyline

Produce Table, a weekend of tractor or excavator services provided by Pacific Tractor and Equipment, and a unit of bark dust provided by American Landscape.

If you are a "last minute" person just grab a bottle of wine worth at least \$15, one of Oregon's spectacular micro-brewed beers, purchase a few gift cards, or bring ripe, attractive, and ready to eat produce from your garden! Simple and easy ways to donate!

There will be a convenient local drop-off site again this year. See flyer in this Ridge Runner for donation form and dropoff times.

This event is SRN's only organized fundraiser of the year. We need you to contribute in order to make this event a success. SRN spends approximately \$5,000 a year to produce and mail this newsletter, maintain the srnpdx.org website, and support other neighborhood activities that keep us connected and informed of community and government events and activities within SRN as well

as surrounding communities.

We are asking that you attend the event and that you donate to the auction. As a nonprofit and charitable organization, your donations to the SRN auction are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donation ideas include contributing a bottle of wine or craft beers, donating a service, creating a themed basket, hosting a dinner party, offering tickets to an event, or time at a vacation home. If you are a business that donates, you will be listed in the October Ridge Runner.

Volunteers Needed

Like all other SRN activities, the Gathering is run entirely by volunteers. We can really use your help before, during and after with a variety of tasks. You can volunteer for just an hour or the whole day - it's up to you. And, it's an excellent community service opportunity for the young adults in your household. If you would like to help, contact Rebecca Jenkins at rebeccahtjenkins@gmail.com or 503.621.3392.

Please donate and volunteer, but most of all, come, connect with your neighbors, and enjoy the afternoon at our annual neighborhood get-together. ☐



Come One, Come All! It's almost time for the annual SRN Summer Gathering picnic and fundraiser at Plumper Pumpkin Patch. (Photo: M. Merwin)

Skyline Ridge Runner

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Send comments, articles, opinions and advertising requests to the Ridge Runner, 14416 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland, OR 97231, ridgerunner@srnpdx.org, or fax to 503.621.3450. Deadlines for all submissions are the 15th day of March, June, September, and December unless otherwise announced. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but must include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length.

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

SRN Website

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

~ Kennth Prier

~ Dustin Sauer

~ Roger & Karen Cummings

~ Kate & John Eskew

SRN relies on the financial support of the Skyline community to pursue its nonprofit, educational mission. We operate entirely on the volunteer efforts of neighbors like you. Donations are tax-deductible and always appreciated! Please make checks payable to SRN and send them to John Eskew, SRN Treasurer, 15604 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. You can also make a donation by credit card. Please visit the link <http://www.srnpdx.org/donate.html> to securely and easily make a donation using PayPal. Thank you.



Like SRN on Facebook!

Visit Skyline Ridge Neighbors' page to see the most current happenings in our neighborhood and add your news and comments.

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@srnpdx.org or 503.621.9867.

Be a Part of the Forest Park Conservation Initiative

By Michael Ahr, Forest Conservationist, West Multnomah SWCD

If you own property around Forest Park, we invite you to be part of the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative. For years we've worked with Forest Park Conservancy, Portland Parks & Recreation, and many other partners on an initiative to improve forest health and conserve habitat that connects Forest Park to the woodlands north of the park and eventually Oregon's Coast Range.

In 2016 we began working on a grant-funded project with Oregon Department of Forestry and Forest Park Conservancy that helps fund landowner projects to protect and enhance their woodland property. We're particularly focused on woodlands north of the park around Newberry, McNamee, Cornelius Pass, and Logie Trail Roads, or south of the park in the Balch Creek Watershed. We can assist with invasive species control, forest thinning in dense or overgrown areas, reducing wildfire

risk near your home, or enhancing wildlife habitat like installing native pollinator plantings.

For many years, WMSWCD offered 50% cost share on projects in these areas. But with this grant, we're able to offer 75% cost share which can make a big difference on your project. We'll have the funds for projects happening this summer and next, but please note that if you're interested, we need to start forming a plan this summer in order to provide funds next year (the final year of our grant).

See the attached map for a better visual of the focus area and please give us a call if you're interested. □



Greater Forest Park Initiative boundaries (Map courtesy WMSWCD)



Recipes for Growing a Diverse Forest

By Brad Withrow-Robinson and Amy Grotta, OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension

We often hear from landowners that they want a diverse, natural-looking forest. Their reasons vary. Some folks are aware of the many ecological benefits that diversity brings to a woodland property, while others may have been inspired by the beauty of an old growth forest.

Happily, a landowner has many ways to influence and encourage diversity in their woodlands. Even if you have just bought some recently cut-over land, it does not have to remain a simple timber plantation if you do not want it to be. You can grow a diverse forest. And it can be done within decades rather than centuries. No, it will not be old growth, but it may help reach many of the diversity-related objectives landowners commonly mention, including an attractive forest setting, better habitat for a variety of animals and a resilient forest.

Whatever your objectives, knowing what different parts of forest diversity look like is a key step towards getting it. There are several key parts to diversity: those things that grow and live in a forest, how those things are arranged and when those things happen. Each is shaped

or influenced by the physical environment (like soils or elevation) and natural processes (like competition, storms or fire). Many kinds of diversity can also be enriched by us.

Probably the first thing people think about as diversity is the number and types of plants and animals in the forest. Certainly, what is growing in the forest (the species composition) is an important part of diversity. A mix of trees which includes cedar and maple along with Douglas-fir is more diverse than monocrop of Douglas-fir alone in the forest canopy. You can think of the different kinds of plants as the building blocks of a forest, or maybe better, ingredients in a recipe. An oatmeal raisin cookie is more diverse than an oatmeal cookie. But not twice as much. There are many ingredients in cookies that go unobserved or unseen. While trees are the most obvious and the defining elements of the forest (like the oatmeal and raisins), understory plants, soil microorganisms, fungi, and other elements play less glamorous but essential roles (like the flour, sugar and baking powder) in making the cookie a cookie.

Another easily observed feature of diversity is the

Growing a Diverse Forest, p. 10 ►

Design Work Has Begun on Newberry Road Slide Repair

By Mike Pullen, Multnomah County Communications Office

On January 18, 2017, after a major snow storm and melt off, a large landslide undermined a section of NW Newberry Road between US Highway 30 and NW Skyline Blvd., closing the road to all through traffic. Multnomah County has jurisdiction for this road and will be leading the effort to repair and reopen the road. An early conceptual cost estimate for repairs is \$1.8 million.

The road closure is near 13342 NW Newberry Road, about 3/10 mile from US Highway 30.

The repair schedule is not determined. The landslide is large and may continue moving. The road is closed to all through traffic for safety. The road will remain closed until it can be repaired. Multnomah County plans to complete

design work and right-of-way acquisition in 2017 and start construction in late spring/early summer 2018.

The county is developing design options and conducting geotechnical studies needed for the design. We will be notifying the public and Newberry Road residents about the schedule once it is confirmed.

The county will need to coordinate the work to reopen Newberry Road with its project to make safety improvements to NW Cornelius Pass Road nearby. The improvements to NW Cornelius Pass Road will require the road to be closed at times. The county's goal is to reopen Newberry Road to traffic before Cornelius Pass Road is closed, so that Newberry Road can serve as a detour between US 30 and NW Skyline Blvd.

For information, visit <https://multco.us/newberry>. □

Thank You, Neighbors, for Help With SOLVE Clean-up

By Laurel Erhardt, SRN Board

Skyline Ridge Neighbors and friends had another successful SOLVE day in 2017. We had over 50 volunteers that helped with set up, working the registration table, organizing coffee and morning snacks, walking the streets picking up garbage, and driving the roads picking up those sacks of garbage and tires to haul to dumpsters.

A ton of litter, which included a disgusting dirty diaper dump on Logie Trail, and 50 plus tires are now gone from our streets and gullies. Skyline, Brooks, McNamee, Newberry, Beck, Johnson, Logie Trail, Rock Creek, Morgan Road and more all had crews picking up litter.

Extra kudos are due to some of the Logie Trail Crew, Pete and BJ Richards and Rich Edwards, for the extreme extra effort they put in pulling bags and bags of dirty diapers out of a gully on Logie Trail. The organized SOLVE project starts at 9 am. Litter roadside pick up is supposed to end by 1pm. This trio stayed on the job

until 8 pm working a dirty diaper dump. Very disgusting that someone would dump like that. They had to use ropes just to access the area, and tarps and pulleys to wrap and haul the load up the hill. We deeply appreciate those three for working until 8 pm on SOLVE Day to get that polluting mess out of the canyon.

To them and to those 50-plus other volunteers that were blessed every now and then with a break in the rain - Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. Our corner of the world is a better place because of you! □



Rich Edwards (left) and Pete Richards with only a fraction of the yucky mess they hauled out from below Logie Trail (Photo: L. Erhardt)



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Advice Offered on Dealing With Winter Storm Damage

By Michael Ahr, Forest Conservationist, West Multnomah SWCD

Thanks to all the neighbors who attended the Storm Damage Workshop on May 17 at the Skyline Grange. We learned a lot from each speaker. If you couldn't attend, here are some of the key points.

Amy Grotta from OSU Forestry Extension discussed tree health in larger forest stands. She reminded us that storm events are a common source of disturbance in local forests and pointed out that our woodlands are pretty resilient as long as trees are healthy. The way to achieve optimum tree health is by actively managing the stand to reduce competition so the remaining trees grow stronger. When trees fall, keep an eye out for Douglas-fir beetle which may bore into the dead tree and create a hole that will be noticeable by the frass, or sawdust-looking material, that accumulates around the hole. Unless you have 10 or more downed Douglas-fir with a diameter of 9" or larger, you probably don't need to worry too much as local staff from our Conservation District, Metro, and Oregon Department of Forestry are keeping an eye out for these signs and will update this newsletter if there's more cause for concern.



These trees, blown down last winter, were found after hiking into a local, 100+ acre property for about 20 minutes. (Photo: WMSWCD)

Terry Flanagan from Teragan & Associates Arboriculture taught us about assessing risk in trees near our home. It's nerve-wracking to hear about trees falling around the homes of our neighbors, but Terry says it's common for 99% of the trees in the area to survive a storm. There

are many steps an arborist can take to assess the risk of nearby trees, so it's a good idea to consult with an arborist if you're building a new structure around trees that you hope to maintain in the future.

We also appreciate the insight from Darca Glasgow at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Nate Agalzoff from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Remember that if you're harvesting some fallen trees that will be sold as sawlogs or firewood, you need to notify ODF of this work. If your storm damage is significant (such as a couple dozen damaged trees), notify Darca at darca.

glasgow@or.usda.gov or 503.472.1474, ext. 2. FSA has cost-share funding available for forest land restoration following natural disasters. Keep in mind that some storm damaged trees are easily seen from the road or out your back window, but in many cases you have to hike a good distance into the forest to find damage. ▢

Tansy Ragwort Update and a Bit of History

By Ras Sauer

Tansy Ragwort was introduced to the United States around the beginning of the 20th century (1900-1920). It was brought over from Europe on Trade ships. Because of Tansy's abundance in Europe, it was often used as supplemental ballast in the ship bilges to equalize the buoyancy of older vessels, then cast off in port to make room for items returning to Europe. Reaching North American shores, Tansy Ragwort backpacked its way to the West Coast. Everything was ideal for this new invader. The Pacific Northwest had the ideal climate and conditions for the plant to take root and establish its future.

Fast forward to the early '60's. Tansy Ragwort was identified as a toxic plant by the US Dept. of Agriculture and found responsible for the deaths of thousands of cattle and horses. (Remember, these are economic losses, so the

deaths of other grazing animals would not be a factor in this designation). Spraying and mechanical removal was eventually assisted by the introduction of three insects for biological control in heavily affected areas: Larvae of the Cinnabar Moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*) feed on flowers and foliage. It is the most beneficial of the three, stripping the plant of the necessary material to continue through a full cycle. However, during warmer and wetter winters, the plant will again flower and seed. Flea Beetle (*Longitarsus jacobaeae*) feeds on the plant's root system.

Seed Head Fly (*Botanophila seneciella*) is less effective and feeds on the seeds. However, a combination of fewer host plants and changing climate conditions have made the insects ineffective, and it is questionable as to whether they will breed fast enough to help in the control of the cur-

Tansy Ragwort, p. 8 ►

Rock Creek Road Neighbors Begin "Map Your Neighborhood"

By Rachael Brake

A group of Rock Creek Road neighbors got together in May for a potluck and a kickoff meeting for the Map Your Neighborhood effort. The food was great and the atmosphere energized!

It was agreed to split Rock Creek Road into four sections for mapping purposes. Each section was represented at the potluck and those representatives have agreed to document all of the residences in their section. It was agreed to include Elliot Road in the Upper Rock Creek mapping and to include 220th Avenue in mapping Lower Rock Creek.

Mapping will include information regarding the number in household, special needs of household, contact information and potential resources that residents would be willing to share with the community. Neighbors at this initial meeting/potluck have agreed to continue to meet on a regular basis, both to update others on mapping progress and to stay connected.

The next meeting will be held in July (exact date TBD) and will be a potluck as well. Other Rock Creek Road residents are welcome to join in this activity. Contact Rachael

Brake at 503-621-3423 or rcmbrake@hotmail.com to get added to the list.

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a program developed for use in widespread disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, etc. It has been implemented in a number of states, cities and communities. It is a tool used to meet the needs of the community and can be adapted for specific areas and needs such as ours here in the Skyline Ridge neighborhood.

The process inventories the skills, resources and equipment in your neighborhood (who has what, who knows what, and who can do what), creates a neighborhood map with homes and other features, identifies those who may need help and creates a phone/contact list. Neighborhoods that are prepared are better able to save lives and property.

Use of the information gathered will be limited to emergency situations and will not be shared with others outside of the neighborhood.

For more information about MYN, please use this link: http://www.preporegon.org/MYN_overview. □

Failing Septic System? Don't Despair!

By Kammy Kern-Korot, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

The Conservation District recently learned about a unique program, called the Clean Water Loan, available from non-profit lender Craft3, and we want to share information about this opportunity with our Skyline Ridge neighbors. The program started with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Washington State and later expanded to Oregon with a jump-start from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ jumped on board due to the negative impacts failing septic systems have on water quality and a desire to offer tools to landowners struggling to budget for repairs or new installation, which can be an expensive proposition.

The Clean Water Loan program is available throughout Oregon and makes replacing your septic system easy and affordable. Loans are offered at a 2%, 4% or 5% interest rate, depending on annual household income. Those with income under \$35,000-\$55,000 pay the least, and don't need a strong credit rating to qualify. Loans cover the complete cost of design and soil analysis, permitting (by the county), and installation by approved contractors. The failing septic system can even be upgraded to recycle "gray water." Another great advantage of the program is that \$2,000 is reserved to service septic systems once installed - critical to making sure they function over the long-term, and protecting the initial investment (Tanks should be in-

spected and pumped every 3-4 years).

The process for obtaining a loan and making payments is relatively painless. Applications can be submitted online at www.Craft3.org/CleanWater and pre-approval is received within 3 business days. To finalize the loan, documents can be signed electronically or by mail. You can even authorize the non-profit lender to pay your contractor directly once work is completed to your satisfaction and approved by local officials. And, loan payments can be made via automatic bank payments.

Loans are available for a range of properties, including rentals and primary residences, and even marinas, as a commercial loan. Properties do need to have an existing structure to qualify. The primary criteria for eligibility is that your septic system is either: 1) more than 25 years old; 2) under orders to be fixed by the local health authority; or 3) determined to be failing by a qualified contractor. If you see wet spots or water pooling in your drain field, it may be an indication that your system is failing and you should call a professional. Search DEQ's website for qualified installers and pumpers in Multnomah County: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/onsite/sdssearch.asp>. More information on the Clean Water Loan program is available at www.Craft3.org/CleanWater. □

Re-Wilding a Potato Field

By Laura O. Foster, McNamee Road

I used to love a trip to Joy Creek Nursery to buy shrubs and trees—the more unusual the better. But in recent years, I plant only native species, reparation of sorts for the earth-impacts I've benefited from during my years: all the roads, food crops, housing, etc. that create a comfortable American life.

The Willamette Valley and surrounding hills were once a wild mosaic of oak woodlands and savannas, wetlands, grass prairies and fir/cedar uplands. Since the 1840s, we've turned oak woodlands to vineyards; prairies to cropland, cities and roads; and forests to woodlots. Wetlands, one of the richest habitats of all, were thought to be wastelands; they were drained and put into cultivation.

Our 20-acre piece of this mosaic had been logged at least twice; level areas had hosted a horse stable and potato farm. Armenian blackberry, English holly and Scotch broom had made inroads, and on about 5 acres around our house, grasses predominated—a firebreak, yes, but perhaps bigger than we needed.

When my husband Kevin bought the land in the early 1990s he planted thousands of firs and other conifers in the recently-logged woods and on the perimeter of the old horse pasture, plus native snowberry, elderberry and other shrubs near the pond he dug. But around the house, it was a different story: he planted exotic conifers to harvest for wreath-making, *Zelkova serrata* for shade, hydrangeas for a touch of old Portland. Beautiful non-natives, they don't offer the food and shelter local insects and birds co-evolved with over millennia.

We want to see more birds and insects (except box elder beetles), so we're working to create more habitats for them.



Native shrubs were planted in this field between two Douglas-fir groves to attract more wildlife. (Photo: L. Foster)

The swimming pond Kevin dug has shown that even small changes are noticed by the wild ones. Freshwater clams, mayflies, dragonflies, newts, tree frogs, red-legged frogs, swallows, ducks, deer and elk live in or visit the pond. Willow, alder and cattail have colonized its edges; the snowberry Kevin planted has grown voluptuously.

With the pond calling in the wildlife, we decided to make more of the field and forest edges a wildlife home: adding shrubs and even Oregon white oak, which when mature is a veritable metropolis for birds, insects and small mammals. We found an ally in Michael Ahr of West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. He suggested a mass planting of shrubs to bridge two "islands" of fir and understory plantings in fir groves that are now 25 years old, where I'd been cutting out the slowly expiring blackberry. That happened in spring 2017; plants are doing well. Grants paid for a huge chunk of the material and labor.

Michael also obtained funding for crews to cut holly in our woods and paint the stumps, leaving more room for native understory plants to find their footing. We continue to cut the blackberry out of the maturing fir groves and spot-spray new growth to make space for sword fern, filbert and other understory plants. The land wants to return to its forest roots; we are happy to give it an assist, and hope more insects and birds take notice and find a home here too.

If you have projects in mind for your land, Michael Ahr is the man. Reach him at Michael@wmswcd.org or 503.238.4775, ext. 109. □



We help you conserve and protect soil & water resources for people, wildlife and the environment. Our technical advice is free! Contact us at 503.238.4775 or www.wmswcd.org.



► **Tansy Ragwort** (continued from p. 5)
rent plant explosion.

My First Brush With Tansy Ragwort

Fast forward again to 1978. I was passing through the Portland area for a second time, making some stops to see old friends, then on to Alaska, my destination. I was approached by a friend to partake in a "Tansy Pulling Party." Had not a clue what they were talking about. But music, food, and spirits were too hard to pass up on the road North. The address was 16340 NW Rock Creek Rd., the current site of Shady Springs Farm. It was then the residence of Mark Taggard (author of "Holistic Medicine"). The fields and pastures there were yellow with wildflowers, as was most of "The Hill." I was about to have my first experience with Tansy Ragwort.

From that point forward, I made "The Hill" my home, first at Rt.2, Box 330A. We raised livestock, and loved the elk, deer, our signature pygmy rabbits, and all of the other wild grazers. Tansy Ragwort became a target; not only to me, but to the entire community. Bob Benson, a local map maker and historian, distributed tens of thousands of Cinnabar caterpillars through many of us. They were distributed on both sides of the pass to Dixie Mt., on the worst fields. With the Cinnabars at work, and relentless pulling, digging, and in some cases spraying, the Hill was mostly cleared before almost any other areas I'd passed through. Nevertheless, two horses were lost, one on Elliot Rd. and one on lower Rock Creek Rd. Hopefully, we thought, it would not happen again.

Over the years, the stray plants I've pulled around the Hill on hiking paths, streams and rivers, and a variety of other locations, have been minimal.



Tansy Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea)



A sad horse in the danger zone among toxic tansy ragwort plants (Photo: L. Nelson)

A Recent Surge


Fast forward to the present. The "Yellow Wildflower" I have so scarcely seen is returning with a vengeance. The presence of it is everywhere. At first glance, one would believe that it is an unidentified plant. It is being nurtured in our public parks, in private and public flower gardens, restaurants, roadsides, and waterways. I'm in disbelief at its emerging abundance. And also of the thought that Tansy Ragwort is enjoying an ominous comeback to an uninformed public.

A Call To Action

Is this an appeal for action? I suppose the answer would be yes. To walkers: carry a bag and harvest the tops along roadsides, as cars will pass the seeds for miles. To property owners: clear it from your land. Please forward information to anyone you know who is uninformed about Tansy Ragwort's lethal properties.

Thank you, Neighbors.

For more info & photos, see <http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/tansy-ragwort.aspx>. □



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Got Fireworks? Keep it Legal. Keep it Safe!

By Christina, Lent, TVF&R

Oregon law bans fireworks that fly, explode, or travel on the ground more than six feet — this includes bottle rockets, roman candles, firecrackers and M80s.

To be legal, purchase all fireworks at a licensed Oregon fireworks stand. Fireworks purchased by mail order or in the state of Washington or at Native American reservations may be illegal in our state.

Under Oregon law, officials can seize illegal fireworks, and you can be fined up to \$500 per violation and/or arrested. You can be held civilly liable for damages resulting from improper use of any fireworks — legal or illegal. Oregon law also makes parents liable for damage caused by their children and allows fire departments to charge for the cost of suppressing fires caused by fireworks. Additionally, the use of illegal fireworks constitutes criminal activity, and your insurance policy may not cover you if you engage in a criminal act that results in damage.

Even legal fireworks are dangerous and have caused injuries and burns to users, especially unsupervised children. Also, during dry summer conditions, an errant firework can ignite vegetation, vehicles and even your roof.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue advises you to celebrate safely this year by following the following safety tips:

- Only adults should light or handle fireworks.
- Supervise children at all times when fireworks are

being used.

- Store fireworks, matches, and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Use fireworks outdoors on a paved surface — away from buildings, vehicles and vegetation.
- Never point or throw fireworks at people, pets or buildings.
- Never alter fireworks or make your own. Home-made explosives can be deadly!
- Have a hose or bucket of water nearby to douse misfired and spent fireworks and to extinguish potential fires.

The best and safest plan is to attend a professional fireworks display and eliminate the risk altogether.

For more safety tips, visit Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's website at www.tvfr.com. □





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Craig Anderson

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Ah, Summertime!

By Sen Speroff

After a winter and spring jammed full of Grange events and building improvements, members look forward to “summertime when the living is easy” ... or at least when we take a break to tend to our own land. Our summer Grange activities will be for the most part reduced to installing a new “garage-type” door on the lower level, mowing, occasional watering, and some building upkeep, but mostly rolling “out those crazy, lazy days of summer” at home before the Fall Grange events begin.

Fall Events Planned

Fall Garage Sale

Our 29th garage sale is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, October 6-7, 2017. Drop-off times for community donations will be announced on the Newline or you can email skylinegrange894@msn.com or call 503-708-1414 to arrange a time. Deadline for donation drop-off is Monday, October 2 at 3 p.m.

Community Soup Supper

Put Saturday, October 28 on your calendar for this popular meal. It comes at a time when the rains have re-

turned and the damp cold penetrates to the bones, so a good bowl of hearty homemade soup with neighbors really hits the spot.

Keep Up-to-Date on Grange Activities

You can keep up-to-date with happenings at the Grange by visiting www.srnpx.org, then click on Grange on the right. SRN has generously given us a section of its website for Grange news. This will provide detailed information about Skyline Grange and its activities. You can contact the Grange at SkylineGrange894@msn.com. Monthly meetings are held on most second Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. The Grange is located at 11275 NW Skyline Blvd.

Join Skyline Grange

If you are looking for a means to be connected and active in your community, consider joining Skyline Grange. We are an energetic group and dedicated to supporting our community and being a place that brings our community together. We have lots of projects and ideas limited only by manpower, and are open to new ideas that promote a vibrant Skyline community. Contact skylinegrange894@msn.com for more information. □

► **Growing a Diverse Forest** (continued from p. 3)
forest’s structure, or how things are arranged. Looking up and down you may see one or more layers of vegetation from the tree canopy to the leafy plants growing on the forest floor. Looking at these layers, you are looking at the vertical diversity. An Oreo cookie has more of it than our oatmeal cookie does. This structure affects how the woods look, but also how things work. Having more vertical diversity can be visually appealing. And because different animals use different parts of this vertical forest structure to forage, roost or nest, it may mean more types of animals using your woods too.

Likewise, looking side to side we can see the texture of the forest (its horizontal diversity). The woods may be quite uniform throughout, with little difference from place to place. Or the woods may be uneven, with groups or patches of different things scattered about. These could be areas with different ages, sizes or species of trees. To picture this horizontal diversity, let’s think about cookies with a similar variety of ingredients but different horizontal structure: chocolate and chocolate chip. Chocolate cookies are uniform throughout, but chocolate chip cookies are patchy, and more diverse. Like vertical structure, this horizontal structure provides different conditions that may be visually appealing or suit different animals.

Perhaps the least obvious part of woodland diversity is time, or perhaps better, processes that take time. It may

be cheating a bit to include time as part of diversity, but as an observer of nature and care-taker of a woodland, it is important for you to recognize its impact on the different parts of diversity. Some kinds of diversity can happen quickly, others just take time to develop. Cookie dough is great, but it is not a cookie until it has spent some time in the oven.

Imagine a riparian restoration plantation along a stream. You can quickly create species diversity by planting a mix of species, and horizontal diversity by planting patches of different trees or shrubs rather than blending them together. However, to get vertical diversity with layers including large trees (desired to shade more of the stream longer and/or have large logs to fall in the stream), you need decades, maybe even a century or more for that to fully develop.

As a landowner, you have many opportunities (such as planting, controlling invasives or thinning) to shape your woodland property. Each is a choice between paths that take you to different destinations, with different outcomes, depending on the recipe you pick. We hope this introduction will help you choose your path.

(Source: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics/2017/04/04/recipes-for-growing-a-diverse-forest>) □

Stables, indoor arena, tack room, lounge, office, heated wash area, washer dryer hook-up and turnout area for 14 to 18 horses for lease on the Skyline ridge. Interested parties can contact fergusmorrissey@yahoo.co.uk for additional details.

Indonesian Martial Arts Training. Poekoelan is a "soft" art, with emphasis on personal self-defense in real life situations. Terrific exercise for the entire family regardless of current fitness level. All ages are welcome. Tuesdays & Thursdays at Skyline Grange, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Suggested donation \$5/person/lesson. For more info, contact Bantoe Christina Traunweiser, 503.307.1913.

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Rent the Skyline Grange. Planning an event? The Grange may be the perfect spot. Visit www.srnpdx.org and click Skyline Grange or contact skylinegrange894@gmail.com.

You can eliminate Scotch broom, holly, and other woody shrubs and sapling trees easily with a weed wrench. SRN has three sizes (small, medium, and large) available at no charge. Contact Sen at 503.621.3331 for the large and medium weed wrenches located on Skyline near mile marker 15. Contact Laura at 503.407.7175 for the small weed wrench located on McNamee Rd.



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Community Calendar

Monday, July. 10, 7:30 p.m. Skyline Grange monthly meeting, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd.

Monday, Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m. Skyline Grange monthly meeting, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd.

Saturday, Aug. 26, Noon – 5 p.m. SRN Summer Gathering, Plumper Pumpkin Patch, 11435 NW Old Cornelius Pass Road. Everyone is welcome! See pg. 1 for more info.

Monday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m. Skyline Grange monthly meeting, 11275 NW Skyline Blvd.

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 6-7: Skyline Grange Garage Sale. Drop-off times for community donations will be announced on the Newslines. Deadline for donation drop-off is Monday, October 2 at 3 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 28: Skyline Grange Community Soup Supper. See the Newslines and next Ridge Runner for details.



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