

# Skyline Ridge Runner

July 2023

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

Vol. 35, No. 3

Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

## Join in for the Fun at the Summer Gathering, July 22

By Suzanne Perra, SRN President

Let's gather as a neighborhood on Saturday, July 22 at the Plumper Pumpkin Patch and Tree Farm, 11435 NW Old Cornelius Pass Road, and celebrate summer with food, music, kid's activities and good company.

Last year we had record numbers at the Summer Gathering (approximately 300 neighbors). We also had a record number of people at our SRN Spring Meeting and SOLVE events in April. Neighborhood connections and communication are so important, and this is what we are all about. A big THANK YOU to our hosts the Kessinger Family for providing our Gathering venue once again in 2023.

Again this year, we will start in the early evening. It will be a potluck, so bring your favorite side dish to share.

### Schedule

Enjoy your day with what you love, be it kid's sports, bike riding or gardening and then head over to Plumper Pumpkin for an evening of great food, music and neighbors.

- 4:00 - 9:00 Summer Gathering
- 4:00 - 6:30 Children's Activities
- 4:00 - 7:30 Silent Auction (closings at 6:30 & 7:30)
- 5:00 - 9:30 Live Music
- 5:00 - 7:30 Dinner is Served
- 6:45 - 7:15 Oral Auction
- 9:00 Event Ends

### It's a Potluck

Thank you so much to The Meating Place for providing us with their delicious pulled pork and buns. Skyline Grange members will provide some side dishes along with water, lemonade, plates, silverware and glasses. Please bring a dish to share with your neighbors. If you prefer beer or wine, please bring your own (and include glasses

to minimize late evening cleanup).

### Bring the Kids

Laura Watts and Casselle LaTourette are our Children's Event Coordinators this year and they have all kinds of fun activities planned for the kids. There will also be farm animals to visit and outside play structures. Both Laura and Casselle have children and have previously led the Children's activities. Don't forget to bring your teens. This is a family event.



*Come join your neighbors for a fun evening at the 2023 Summer Gathering, hosted by the Plumper Pumpkin Patch (Photo: M. Merwin)*

### It's a Fundraiser

New this year is an online catalog of the auction items that will be on offer at the Gathering. Access it here - <https://www.srnpx.org/auction-2023.html> - and check back frequently as new items are added.

The Summer Gathering Auction is our primary annual fundraiser. Over 80% of our revenue comes from this event. SRN depends

entirely on support from the neighborhood to publish the Ridge Runner and Newline, and to organize community events such as the SOLVE clean-up. We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization so your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consider donating your time or an item for the silent or oral auctions, making a cash donation or purchasing some of the wonderful auction items. A successful auction needs donors and bidders.

Business donors will get a thank-you mention in the October Skyline Ridge Runner, a mention on the SRN Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SRNPDx>) and - new this year - will be featured on the online auction catalog. Please support local businesses this year by purchasing an item or gift certificate from them & donating it to the auction. Consider asking your contractors such as window washers, painters, weeders, HVAC maintenance, landscapers, etc., if they would like to contribute gift

**Summer Gathering, p. 5➤**

# Skyline Ridge Runner

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Send comments, articles, opinions and advertising requests to the Ridge Runner, 17050 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland, OR 97231, or email to [ridgerunner@srnpdx.org](mailto:ridgerunner@srnpdx.org). 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.

## SRN Board of Directors

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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](http://www.srnpdx.org). Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at [newslines@srnpdx.org](mailto:newslines@srnpdx.org) or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication.

## SRN Website

Visit [www.srnpdx.org](http://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](mailto: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:

~ Arthur Marx III

~ Roger & Karen Cummings

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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# Black Bear Seen in our Neighborhood: How to Avoid Conflicts

By Sen Speroff

Seldom do local residents sight a bear here, but may occasionally see scat or tree markings. Black bears are normally wary of people, making encounters rare. But since May, a black bear has been making a nuisance of himself along Skyline Ridge from NW Thompson to Logie Trail Roads. The bear has gotten into garbage, beehives, and chicken coops. These delicious food sources can be very appealing to bears and certainly less work. Benjamin Cate, ODFW Wildlife Biologist, asks for your help to prevent easy access to food. Each time this happens, the bear may become more habituated to human presence inviting conflict.

### Please follow these tips:

- Secure food, garbage, and recycling. Bears have a keen sense of smell and remember locations of food sources. Ensure trash and dumpsters are secure. Take trash out just before pick-up. At a minimum, keep compost as odor-free as possible by frequently turning it, adding grass clippings to hasten decomposition, and not putting meats, oil, dairy or grease into the compost pile.
- Manage bird feeders in the summer months. Since birds have plenty of naturally available food sources, consider removing your feeders during the summer. If you keep a feeder, install it away from your house and out of reach of bears. Use sunflower hearts instead of whole seeds. Avoid millet seeds.
- Never leave pet food outdoors. Pet food attracts

bears and other wildlife, putting your pets and wildlife at risk. And clean and store grills after each use.

- Protect beehives, gardens, and chickens. Consider an electric fence with foil strips with smeared peanut butter attached.

### If you meet a Black Bear:

- Remain still, but stand your ground. Pick up small children immediately. Slowly wave your arms. Do not run. Do not play dead. Do not make any loud noises or screams. A standing bear is usually curious, not threatening.
- If the bear is stationary, move away slowly and sideways.
- If attacked, fight back using any object available. Concentrate your kicks and blows on the bear's face and muzzle. (Bear attacks are rare.)

### If you experience nuisance bear activity:

Report this to Ben Cate at 503.621.3488 ext. 5 or [Benjamin.r.cate@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:Benjamin.r.cate@odfw.oregon.gov).

As part of Skyline Grange's Skyline Living Series, Ben Cate gave a presentation on Skyline Elk this past March and plans to present on Black Bears next spring when they come out of hibernation.

### Sources:

- Humane Society Bear Factsheet ([https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/Black\\_Bear\\_Factsheet.pdf](https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/Black_Bear_Factsheet.pdf))
- Black Bears ([https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living\\_with/docs/BlkBearBroch.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/docs/BlkBearBroch.pdf))
- Bearwise (<https://bearwise.org/>) □

# New Guide Details Ways to Improve Bird Habitat in Oregon Forests

By Maura Olivos, Forest Stewards Guild

After three years, with funding from Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Community Foundation, and the assistance of a dedicated advisory committee comprised of local agencies, the Forest Stewards Guild has developed and published *Forestry for the Birds: Western Oregon – A guide to enhancing forest habitat for birds and humans* (<https://foreststewardsguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ForestryfortheBirdsWesternOregonGuide.pdf>). This benchmarking effort was made possible with the technical assistance and support of the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State University, Portland Audubon, Trout Mountain Forestry, Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The purpose of the *Guide* is to act as a communication tool for natural resource service providers and forest landowners to support healthy forests with birds in mind. The *Guide* focuses on forest structure, habitat characteristics specific to 12 focal birds across eight forest types, and long-term management at any stage

or condition of a forest. The Guild will be distributing 1,000 copies throughout the year to partners, forestry professionals, and landowners. Additional workshop resources are also in development and will be supplied, free to all, on the Guild website once completed, including an easy access and printable online version of the *Guide*.

### Flight from East to West

*Forestry for the Birds* was originally developed with Audubon Vermont and Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation in response to declining forest bird populations. It was recognized across the northeast and nation, that many of our forest and woodland tracks are on private lands. This provided a focus for the program on the engagement of woodland owners. With an eye and ear on songbirds, some of the most charismatic woodland occupants, the success of the program is within the integration of silviculture and songbird habitat enhancement. The program supports foresters with tools for effectively communicating with landowners and managers about the benefits

**Improving Bird Habitat, p. 9►**

## Emerald Ash Borer is on our Doorstep

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

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is considered the most destructive forest pest in North America. It is a very small, yet extremely harmful non-native insect that kills all species of ash trees. Emerald ash borer (EAB) has decimated millions of ash trees since it was discovered in Michigan in 2002. Biologists have been tracking its inevitable spread across the country, and it was finally discovered in the Forest Grove, Oregon area in 2022. In the greater Portland area and throughout the Willamette Valley, we are especially concerned about the devastating effects this insect will have on Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). This tree is critically important for forested wetlands and riparian areas. See the regions in Oregon most at risk (<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Documents/eab-risk-map.pdf>). For some of our ash-dominated wetlands, there is no native canopy-forming tree that grows in the same conditions.

Oregon is the 36<sup>th</sup> state to be affected, and the borer has already started killing ash here. The beetles lay their eggs inside the tree, where the larvae later feed on the tissue below the bark, slowly killing the tree. It can take 4 to 6 years for an infested tree to die, and the harm may not be noticed for the first few years. Larvae pupate into adult beetles inside the tree and bore their way out through the bark; they then feed on the leaves of host trees. While most females lay their eggs on trees close to where they emerge (within 100 yards), a few will disperse up to 2–3 miles. Any ash trees within 30 miles of an infestation are, therefore, considered at risk. West Multnomah's conservation district is within 30 miles of the Forest Grove infestation.

### What can you do?

**Prevent new introductions:** If you use firewood, buy and use firewood locally (within 10 miles of harvest location) and transport only firewood that has been heat-treated and certified as pest-free. Transport of firewood and nursery stock are the major pathways for the spread of this destructive beetle.

**Slow the Spread:** Learn to recognize ash trees (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gallery/recognizing-ash-trees-oregon-washington-northern-california>) and look for signs of poor tree health and emerald ash borer infestation. Map any ash trees you find on iNaturalist ([\[ralist.org/projects/oregon-ash-survey-oregon\]\(https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/oregon-ash-survey-oregon\)\). Look for the following signs and symptoms in ash trees:](https://www.inatu-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

- Dead or dying ash trees or branches, particularly high up in the canopy, where the adult beetles typically start their feeding and laying of eggs. Tree die-back can be subtle at first, so it's important to look closely.
- Epicormic branching — branches that grow out of the trunk or straight up out of the base of larger branches. This is the tree's last gasp at life.
  - Splits along the bark and S-shaped tunnels under the bark
  - Patches of lighter wood where woodpeckers have pecked to get to insects. Use binoculars to look high in the canopy. Also look lower down on the trunk.
  - Very small D-shaped holes in the bark of the tree. Adult beetle exit holes are 3 mm in diameter — less than the size of a pencil eraser.

These are hard to see!

- Small and slender, metallic green adult beetles about 1/3 to 1/2" long and 1/15" wide, which are active around June to July. Adult beetles are typically found after trees are already heavily infested and damaged. See what EAB looks like compared to similar looking insects ([https://tualatinswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FactsheetE-ABLookAlikes\\_ODA.pdf](https://tualatinswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FactsheetE-ABLookAlikes_ODA.pdf)).

### What are we doing?

West Multnomah SWCD is partnering with state and federal invasive insect pest managers to detect signs of EAB in our district and **SLOW its spread** in Oregon. Specifically, we are:

- Monitoring ash trees on project sites where we know we have native Oregon ash.
- Setting out traps where we know ash trees are growing. We began this step in 2021 to help find any newly arrived beetles in natural areas and urban settings. We are working closely with our federal partner on this effort, U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).
- Assisting partners, such as Oregon Department of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service, to map Oregon ash statewide.
- Utilizing Oregon Department of Agriculture sur-



Adult borers are 0.3 to 0.5 inches long, slender, and metallic olive to emerald green (Photo: J. Spokowsky, Indiana Dept of Natural Resources via [bugwood.org](https://bugwood.org))

## Are You Ready for Wildfire Season?

By Miles Merwin

Hot dry weather will soon be upon us, bringing with it the chance for wildfire. There is lots of online information available to help you prepare your home and your surroundings to make them more resistant and defensible. Here are three resources worth exploring.

### OSU Extension Fire Program

The Fire Program at OSU Extension (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program>) was formed to help landowners and communities increase their resilience to wildfire. On their website you will find the program's current activities, a list of staff available for questions and consultation, and upcoming events. Also available are a webinar series to view and a resource packet to download.

### Build Your Own Fire Fighting Equipment

The Washington Co. Small Woodland Assoc. (<https://wcswa.com/>) has published a 17-page manual for forest

landowners that describes examples of mobile firefighting equipment that can be built from locally available tanks, pumps, hoses and fittings. They are mainly intended for the initial attack of runaway burn piles, lighting strikes, etc. before professional help arrives. Material costs range from \$500 on up. Access the PDF manual here: <https://wcswa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Don-Sohler-Fire-Equipment-for-Woodland-Owners.pdf>

### Elemental: Reimagine Wildfire

This documentary film takes viewers on a journey with the top experts in the nation to better understand fire. The film follows the harrowing escape from Paradise, California as the town ignited from wind-driven embers and burned within a few hours of the fire's start. It then continues to the even more recent fires of the last two years, when Oregon, California and Colorado suffered their worst wildfires in recorded history. View it online here: <https://www.elementalfilm.com/>. □

### ► Summer Gathering (continued from p. 1)

certificates. The auction catalog will be updated with new items weekly leading up to the event: <https://www.srnpx.org/auction-2023.html>

### Join the Team

The Gathering will be coordinated this year by Brad Graff and Tracey Larvenz. Stay tuned for details on the 2023 Gathering musical entertainment. Thank you to the following neighbors for leading the main Summer Gathering activities. We couldn't do it without you: Auction – Nicole Anderson, John Chen and the entire SRN Board; Music – Brad Graff; Children's Games – Laura Watts and Casselle LaTourette; Food – Sen Speroff; Greeters, Registration and Sign out – Rachael Brake; Table Setup and Cleanup – George Sowder; Flowers – Lisa Graff; and Community Relations – Alex Rose.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue will attend if their duties do not pull them away. There will be information specific to our neighborhood, including the Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) and the Firewise Program. You will have the opportunity to talk about your latest neighborhood interests, be it traffic, Skyline internet, Firewise, or just introduce yourself and get to know those who serve our community.

Please contact Brad Graff at [bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com) or 503.292.1614, or Tracey Larvenz at [srngathering@gmail.com](mailto:srngathering@gmail.com) or 971.373.7714 to volunteer for the Gathering. You can volunteer some time to help prepare for the event, during the event or for cleanup. There are some slots that require just an hour of your time. It's a great way to make new friends. We'd also love to have some teens involved!

Contact Nicole Anderson at [srn.auction@gmail.com](mailto:srn.auction@gmail.com)

or 614.975.9942 to make donations for the silent and oral auctions. Cash donations are welcome as well. To make a cash donation, please make checks payable to SRN and mail to Rachael Brake, SRN Treasurer, 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. Online donations to SRN can be made using Venmo ("@Rachael-Brake" or <https://account.venmo.com/u/Rachael-Brake>). Please be sure to indicate it is a donation to SRN. Donations received that surpass essential Ridge Runner funding help SRN provide educational and safety programming for our entire community.

### Summer Gathering Updates

Please sign up for the SRN Newline emails at [srnpx.org](https://www.srnpx.org) to keep track of any changes to the Summer Gathering. Also, please "Like" Skyline Ridge Neighbors on Facebook and check out the Summer Gathering web page periodically for updates and for our auction catalog: <https://www.srnpx.org/summer-gathering.html>. □



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## The Mighty Elk in Our Midst

By Alex Rose

What's your reaction when you suddenly come upon a herd of elk crossing the road in front of you or when you drive past the herd of elk grazing in the "swale" pasture on Cornelius Pass Road? Most of us are awestruck at the sight of these magnificent creatures.

You might be one of the lucky ones in our community, who have elk criss-crossing your property on a regular basis, which allows you to recognize familiar elk faces and witness the wonder of newborn calves in the herd. Whatever is your situation, the sight of the elk brings on amazement, wonder and gratitude to be living in the Skyline community.

Or, you might be one of the neighbors for whom the elk are "pesky critters," damaging crops, gardens, lawns, and yards, and which can be quite frightening when a many-pointed bull refuses to give ground as you wave your wildlife harassment permit wildly but unsuccessfully when attempting to move nuisance animal(s) off your crops.

As a fairly recent transplant from Los Angeles and settling into a Skyline property dubbed by community "elders" as "the old King place," I was fascinated by the elk herds that routinely travel through our meadow. Waking up our first morning, we looked out the window onto the front yard, and 20 elk were sleeping like soldiers all in a "perfect" row in front of our house – the "perfect" welcome to our new digs. Intrigued by these majestic animals and seeking out information on our community elk, a great deal of interesting information came to light.

From an historical perspective, elk had pretty much been hunted so heavily before the turn of the twentieth century, they had all but disappeared from the Oregon landscape. In the early 1900's, the citizenry were eager to bring elk back for their tasty meat and the people's desire to hunt. In response, the ODFW as early as the 1930's inaugurated a plan to build up the elk herds through careful management of forests, strict policies on issuing hunting licenses, and transplanting elk from the Coastal elk herds, particularly when they were damaging farmers' crops and fields. Ben Cate, District Wildlife Biologist, in the Sauvie Island Office, searched through records of elk transportation and found that significant numbers, usually

8 to 10 at a time were moved in the 1970's and 1980's from coastal areas and released in the Scappoose Wildlife Management Unit near Gunner's Lake in our area.

45-year Skyline resident, Ras Sauer, remembers sitting on the porch of what is now McMenamins Rock Creek Tavern in 1985 and looking across the road and seeing, for the first time, a substantial herd of elk. While elk importations had

been taking place for 10 to 15 years, it took some time for numbers to build up enough to where the elk would leave their preferred habitat in ravines and steep forested hills with dense cover and move comfortably to more open terrain with enough grazing acreage to feed the burgeoning herd. Ras continues, "We began to see sightings that were a constant source of conversation. It was so wonderful to see elk again; all the neighbors loved seeing them, and we all began counting elk every year. Lines of cars, attracted by the novelty, would stop to view the elk herd that

populates the "swale" pasture on Cornelius Pass Road." (By the way, one still sees cars parking there today when the elk herd is grazing.)

Our neighborhood elk are the Roosevelt elk, named after Theodore Roosevelt and are also known as Olympic elk and Roosevelt's wapiti. As the largest of all the elk species in the US, they are certainly one of the largest mammals on the continent - mature bulls often weighing as much as 1,100 pounds. In the wild, they live to about 10 – 12 years, while in captivity, they live as long as 17 years. Their range of movement is actually quite small, often ranging only a few miles. Their preferred diet consists of native meadow grasses and clovers, but it easily expands to homeowners' garden-flower delights, with orchard apples and pears also being huge hits.

The Rocky Mountain elk which resides in the Eastern parts of the Western states boast substantially larger antlers than the Roosevelt elk. But they mature into noticeably smaller-bodied adults than the "Rosies," which are often a slightly darker color than their Rocky Mountain counterparts and with darker-colored antlers.

Breeding patterns are interesting. The cow's estrus cycle is very short – one to two days, and they are covered steadily by the bull during the entire period. Hence, we can see how exhausted a mature bull would be during the month of September, the optimal "rut" month when▶



*Roosevelt elk are frequently seen grazing open pastures in our neighborhood (Photo: A. Rose)*

bulls are not only vying for cows to fill their harems, and having to successfully impregnate them; they're also defending their cows from pilferage brought on by younger males trying to collect their own harems.

In issuing hunting licenses, the ODFW carefully measures the population numbers of herds in the area usually by plane or helicopter, monitoring numbers of both genders, so the number of elk tags issued will keep the herds at a safe number for optimal interaction with both the human population and the native plant environment or "habitat carrying capacity." In the year 2000, the ODFW estimated that 65,000 Roosevelt elk resided in Oregon, 2,200 of which were in the Scappoose unit. Currently, Wikipedia reports approximately 71,000 elk in the entire state; and in 2023, the ODFW counted 1039 elk in the Scappoose Unit and about 64 in the Skyline unit - estimating both population units to number at least 2,200. According to Ben Cate, there are probably more; and zeroing in on our specific area, there are probably about 60 to 100 elk - the numbers remaining quite stable over the past 23 years.

The ODFW monitors herds to keep at least one mature male in a grouping of 10 cows; and there is benefit to this being a mature bull. This assures that all the cows will be quickly bred close together which results in a synchronized calf drop in the spring. The testosterone levels in the younger bulls don't guarantee as successful an impregnation rate. Also, synching the calving as much as possible in the spring increases the survival rate of calves because the cows protectively "band" the youngsters together, creating a stronger group protection. Calves born too late or too early run the risk of becoming food for coyotes, bobcats, cougars, and bears. Also, interesting to note, newborn calves can't be smelled and detected by predators for the first few days after birth which provides them the opportunity to develop running muscles for keeping up with the herd, which offers greater safety from ever-hungry coyotes.

It's saddening for us to watch some individuals in the herds painfully limping - these bulls still mate, and the cows drop calves despite their handicap. This is evidence of TAHD, Treponeme Associated Hoof Disease, "a bacterial-associated syndrome, which causes severe lameness in elk" - also called Elk Hoof Disease. This malady was first noticed in Washington a number of years ago; and very recently a WSU research team discovered that TAHD is spread in the soil and infects elk that tread upon bacteria-infested soil. It can be cured in cattle because their hooves can be disinfected and the individuals sequestered. The ODFW is monitoring the incidence of the disease but can do little else until an antibacterial is found, and there is no evidence that culling will decrease the incidence of TAHD because it's spread through soil.

While 500 elk are killed every year by licensed hunters in the Scappoose unit, there is much less hunting in areas where elk and humans reside in close proximity. Hence, overpopulation of elk seems to be occurring in the Coastal

towns of Gearhart and Warrenton in Clatsop County. This is how too many elk can quickly overwhelm a community and become a frustrating nuisance, according to Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman. Warrenton encompasses around 18 square miles, and hunting poses a safety hazard for citizens within the city. Fort Stevens State Park, right next door, is huge; and hunting there is prohibited. There's also the military base, Camp Rilea nearby - another huge area where hunting is not allowed. However, elk can breed, multiply, and thrive in these areas; and the herd can take forays into the towns for tempting garden treats. On the plus side, the elk in these areas are enormous tourist attractions and help bring revenue to the towns.

In the Skyline neighborhood where overpopulation has not angered residents, a philosophical understanding of how elk operate seems to be thematic. For example,

Skyline resident Julie Karnstein remembers the day an extremely impressive, many-pointed bull wandered into her yard. She called upstairs to her son and his friend to look out the back window to see the huge beast. Hearing nothing from the kids, she looked out the window to see if the bull was still there and saw the two 5-year-olds chasing the bull and shooting it with Nerf Balls. Terrified that the bull might attack the kids, she raced outside screaming, "No...no!" By this time, the bull had turned and was facing the boys - both parties now at a stand-off. Finally, the bull - probably prodded by Julie's frantic entreaties - decided to retreat and skedaddled, trotting off into the trees.

Longtime community resident, Carol Wilkerson chuckles, "They ate most of my garden last year, leaving us a few tomatoes after pulling every other plant out by the roots, eating some of the vegetables but mostly trampling them. No, I don't want to shoot them; they crack me up. Roses are a favorite for the deer, so I grow enough for all of us to share."

"Welcome to my world," adds Ben Cate, who explains that the statutory goal of the ODFW is to assist property owners mitigate any damage caused by elk to their property, crops, orchards, nurseries, etc. and help us successfully maintain the delicate balance between human functioning and elk imperatives.

Elk can be dangerous! In the fall - primarily the month of September - bulls are in rut, which means their hard-wired natural imperative is to breed and protect their harems, which could lead to an attack on a human perceived as invasive. In the Spring - calving season - the cows can be fierce in guarding an unseen calf sleeping in the bushes; again, this could lead to an attack. These are hard-wired imperatives, and human interaction is not included as an option.

Here are a few elk protocol guidelines published by various organizations:

**ENJOY WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE.** Keep your pets on a leash at all times. (Not to mention, yourself, tempted to score a "selfie!") Try not to disturb the elk with

***The Mighty Elk, p. 9►***

# Are You Prepared for Summer Power Outages?

By Sen Speroff

We are used to, and hopefully prepared for, the occasional prolonged power outage during winter storms. Now we need to be prepared for power outages during the summer. In an effort to reduce wildfire risk, utility companies may need to implement preventative blackouts, cutting power to customers in affected areas when we are experiencing high winds, high temperatures, low humidity and tinder dry vegetation. Power grids can become overburdened during periods of prolonged high temperatures which can also cause power outages.

In September 2022, Portland General Electric sent out a public alert that it was monitoring dangerous, high-risk fire conditions and that power may be turned off in specific locations. Our area was one of these locations. This Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) was intended to help reduce the risk of the electrical system becoming a source of ignition for a wildfire.

PSPS is used as a last resort, but is an important tool to help protect people, property, and the environment. A PSPS can last for days. Even after conditions stabilize, PGE cannot just flip the power switch back on, but must visually inspect its equipment and make necessary repairs in order to safely re-energize power lines. PGE communicates directly with its potentially affected customers and through news media, on [www.portlandgeneral.com/psps](http://www.portlandgeneral.com/psps) and on social media. Be aware that PGE is not the only power company that may utilize PSPS during high-risk conditions.

Summer power outages bring a new set of challenges. They could occur when customers are also in the midst of potential evacuation, when extreme temperatures or detrimental air quality threaten health. The stress of these challenges can be lessened with advanced preparation.

## Create a Summer Outage Kit

This kit is in addition to your Go Bag which should contain the essential items you would need when evacuating your home in a hurry (<https://www.ready.gov/kit>). PGE's Summer Outage Kit includes items and planning you will need to stay cool, fed, and hydrated. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdvzesz3>.

## Resources

- Prepare your home for power outages (<https://portlandgeneral.com/outages-safety/be-prepared/prepare-your-home>)
- Warning Signs and Symptoms of Heat-Related Illness (<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extreme-heat/warning.html>)
- Keep Your Cool in Hot Weather | Environmental Health Features (<https://www.cdc.gov/ncch/ features/extremeheat/index.html>)

- Out of Control: The Impact of Wildfires on our Power Sector and the Environment (<https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/publications/out-control-impact-wildfires-our-power-sector-and-environment>)

## Become a NET team member!

Did you know that 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, and 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 you to join us as "Affiliated" team volunteers (ATVs). We would appreciate your aid, expertise and skills in a disaster. You are welcome to attend our monthly meetings usually on the first Tuesday of the month at the Grange at 7 p.m.

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 NET Amateur Radio Resources (<https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams/crtradio>) or contact Rachael Brake.

## Contact Us

NETs are here to support the community. Questions? Email Skyline Ridge NET at [SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com](mailto:SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com) or contact Rachael Brake, Team Leader, at 503.621.3423.



## ► **The Mighty Elk** (continued from p. 7)

sudden movement or loud noises or taking “selfies.” They are large animals and can pose a danger to themselves and others when startled.

**BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS** to avoid surprising a herd of elk by walking into the middle of them. Elk are most active at dawn and dusk and most aggressive during breeding and calving seasons. Watch out for them at dawn and dusk along roadways and migration routes. Stay away and keep pets away at all times but especially during the breeding season (September/October) and

calving season (May/June) when elk become more territorial.

**NEVER PICK UP AN ELK CALF OR ANY OTHER YOUNG WILDLIFE.** It’s against the law and bad for the animal. If you encounter a young animal alone, leave it be, or if it is in distress or you are concerned, call the police or nearest ODFW office.

**NON-NATIVE VEGETATION ATTRACTS ELK,** especially in the winter when other food sources are scarce. To move a herd off your property, calmly approach the herd, making your presence obvious. Avoid surprising or being aggressive toward any wildlife. □

## ► **Emerald Ash Borer** (continued from p. 4)

vey tools to map healthy and stressed ash trees.

- Continuously training ourselves about the best response to the arrival of “EAB” in our area.
- Considering the use of “trap trees.” A trap tree is an uninfested ash tree that is deliberately girdled / slowly killed to attract emerald ash borer to it and spare nearby trees. EAB are especially attracted to stressed ash trees. The trap tree is later cut down if infested and the pest larvae die.
- Learning more about the use of insecticides to kill Emerald ash borer in select trees, as well as the use of parasitoids—native predators of EAB in its home range in Asia—which has proved at least partially successful on the East Coast.
- Advising landowners. Please let us know if you have questions or want to help!

### **Learn more:**

- OSU Extension Fact Sheet <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9160.pdf>
- Report any suspected emerald ash borer insects or signs of infestation to: [www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org](http://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org) or call 1-866-INVADER

- Take the free and fun Oregon Forest Pest Detectors Online Course to be a better detector (<https://workspace.oregonstate.edu/course/oregon-forest-pest-detector>)
- USDA info brochure ([https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/emerald\\_ash\\_b/downloads/What-is-the-EmeraldAshBorer.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/downloads/What-is-the-EmeraldAshBorer.pdf))
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/IPPM/SurveyTreatment/Pages/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx>)
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/emerald-ash-borer>)
- Oregon Department of Forestry (<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Pages/foresthealth.aspx>)
- City of Portland (<https://www.portland.gov/parks/news/2022/7/25/ppr-prepares-manage-invasive-destructive-pest-emerald-ash-borer-found-metro>)
- Xerces Society (<https://xerces.org/blog/how-to-spot-and-slow-emerald-ash-borers-in-your-community>) □

## ► **Improving Bird Habitat** (continued from p. 3)

of managing forests with bird habitat in mind. As practices are implemented to support songbird habitat, reciprocally the presence of certain bird species indicates the presence of specific forest structure elements and forest health conditions. Now the program exists in various forms (*Forestry for the Birds* or *Bird-Friendly Forestry*) within the Southeast, Midwest, and now Pacific northwest, and soon to be within the Intermountain west.

### **About the Guide**

*Forestry for the Birds: Western Oregon* uses the science behind birds, forestry practices, and community engagement to offer a guide for greater forest health across the Western Oregon landscape. The *Guide* breaks down Western Oregon by the most common forest types within each ecoregion: Klamath mountains, Willamette Valley, Western Cascades, and the Coast Range. The focal bird species chosen are common birds that range across the Western Or-

egon landscape yet have specific habitat associations with the forest types highlighted in the *Guide*. With a focus on forest structure from the ground to the canopy, the *Guide* walks practitioners, landowners, and other forest stewards through a process to identify birds, forests, and forestry associations in developing a unique approach to goal setting and forest management.

It is well known that songbirds are incredible indicators of environmental conditions, as the canary in the mine wistfully comes to mind. With rapidly changing forest landscapes, birds continue to play a role as indicator species and the *Guide* honors this role by applying it to forestry. With birds in mind and in response to a changing forested landscape, this *Guide* purposely focuses on common bird species with the goal of *keeping common birds common*, and *forests forested*, across the Western Oregon landscape. If you are interested in bringing a *Forestry for the Birds* workshop to your community within Western Oregon, contact Maura Olivos, [maura@foreststewards.org](mailto:maura@foreststewards.org). □

## It's Been a Busy Year So Far for Skyline Grange

By Sen Speroff



**Skyline Grange #894 – Since 1940**  
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It's been a very busy winter/spring with two plant sales, our spring garage sale, our annual community brunch, the second annual flea market, a new educational event consisting of three Japanese cooking classes, a fascinating educational presentation on the local history of indigenous peoples, and an informative presentation on our Skyline elk. In addition, we've been a venue for Skyline School PTA's Pop-Up Sale and an 8th grade school dance, for monthly Skyline Ridge NET meetings, and for Dexter Bacon's celebration of life. Our tables were used by the Washington County Master Gardeners for their sale. Rentals included a baby shower and monthly Isha Satsang workshops.

We have recently adopted a logo and tagline, printed here, that we think well-represents Skyline Grange by combining concepts of land stewardship and connecting people. We hope to start using our new logo soon.

### Upcoming Activities

Traditionally during the summer, we take a breather to give members a break to tend to their own gardens. Monthly and one-time rentals will continue, if you need a place to hold a party.

**Yoga at the Grange:** Due to a family emergency, yoga classes have been canceled until September.

**Potluck at SRN's Summer Gathering:** Skyline Grange will organize and staff the potluck at SRN's Summer Gathering. We enjoy feeding people. We will provide some generous side dishes and greet you as you bring your potluck dish to share. Coordinating the potluck is our way to give back a little to SRN who has helped the Grange with improvements and distributes notices about events at the Grange. Thank you, SRN.

**Fall Garage Sale:** Fall Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, October 6-7. As time approaches, donation drop-off dates will be announced on our website and on SRN's Newsline. Please respect our donation dates as we need to keep the building ready for other uses.

**Fall Soup Supper:** Our popular and delicious Community Soup Supper is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2023.

**Artisan Holiday Fair:** The Artisan Holiday Fair is scheduled for Saturday-Sunday, November 18-19, 2023.

**Skyline Living Series:** Our Education Committee is preparing the next round of talks in its Skyline Living Series. The biennial offering of a CPR/First Aid course is

being planned to take place this fall. Stay tuned.

### Capital Improvement Update

Our application for building permits was submitted to the City of Portland in April. Due to escalated costs, we have reduced the scope of work in this phase of our overall capital improvement plan. Our request for permits includes the installation of an ADA restroom on the main level, the installation of a second emergency exit with access ramp, stabilization/strengthening of the front wall foundation, solutions to drainage issues, installation of an up to code front stairwell and front door, and upgrades to our electrical system. These projects will be financed through the generosity of many community donors, a CS-FRF grant, and our fundraising events. Scheduling of this work will be weather and activity dependent.

### Fundraising

We are investigating whether there is any chance that donations for capital improvement can be tax deductible. It's complicated since we are a 501(c)10 organization. We are trying to get a definitive answer by consulting with a non-profit attorney who thought this might be possible but referred us onto a non-profit CPA. We may need to get a decision from the IRS. We just want to make sure the information we give donors is accurate.

To make a monetary donation, send a check to "Skyline Grange", c/o Rachael Brake, 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd, Portland 97231; or you can use Venmo (@Rachael-Brake), or you can use a credit card by making arrangements with Treasurer Rachael at 503.621.3423.

### 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.

You can learn more about the Grange and contact us regarding rentals and general questions as follows: [www.SkylineGrange894.org](http://www.SkylineGrange894.org); [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com); [www.facebook.com/SkylineGrange-894-169559023662398/](https://www.facebook.com/SkylineGrange-894-169559023662398/); Physical Address: 11275 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97231; Mailing Address: 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. □

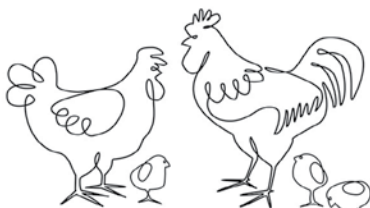
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**Phoenix Farm Riding School.** English horse riding lessons for the whole family. All ages and ability levels are welcome! Day-off-school camps. Summer camps. Parties and special events. Located on the corner of Skyline Blvd. & Rock Creek Rd. Call/text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

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**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 this year, Covid-19 permitting. Rental details at [www.skylinegrange894.org](http://www.skylinegrange894.org).





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## Community Calendar

**July 10, 7 pm:** Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com).

**July 13, 6:30 pm:** SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff ([bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com)) to get the link.

**July 22, 4 - 9 pm:** SRN Summer Gathering at the Plumper Pumpkin Patch. See full details in this issue and on the SRN website at <https://www.srnpx.org/summer-gathering.html>.

**August 10, 6:30 pm:** SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff ([bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com)) to get the link.

**August 14, 7 pm:** Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com).

**Sept. 11, 7 pm:** Skyline Grange monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com).

**Sept. 14, 6:30 pm:** SRN Board online meeting via Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff ([bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com)) to get the link.

**Oct. 6-7:** Fall Garage Sale at Skyline Grange. Further details forthcoming in the Newsliner.



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**Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>**  
9am to 5:30pm

**Christmas Trees: Fri, Sat, & Sun**  
Starting Friday after Thanksgiving