



# Skyline Ridge Runner

April 2020

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

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A Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

## Save the Date for an Awesome Evening Summer Gathering, Aug. 15

By Suzanne Perra

The annual Skyline Ridge Neighbors (SRN) Gathering and Auction is coming up on August 15<sup>th</sup> starting late afternoon. It will be at the Plumper Pumpkin Patch and Tree Farm again this year at 11435 NW Old Cornelius Pass Road, Portland OR 97231. We will have a potluck, music, children and adult games, silent and oral auctions and a raffle of a handmade quilt by Tracy Waters and Cindi Cramer. We will have garden produce and fresh garden flowers available by the stem. Skyline gardeners should start thinking about what interesting vegetables and flowers to plant now to be available to donate on August 15.



*Come join your friends and neighbors for an evening potluck at the 2020 Summer Gathering (Photo: J. Eskew)*

### New Time This Year

**Please note the time change to start in late afternoon for a dinner**

**potluck.** We have decided to have a fun early evening event this year for families and friends. The evening temperature will be cooler during the hot days of August. Event times and full details will be announced in the July *Ridge Runner*.

Come meet with neighbors (new and old), support your community and the SRN Organization. This is our only fundraiser all year, so we rely on your support. SRN spends approximately \$5000 a year to support the *Skyline Ridge Runner*, SRNPDX.ORG website and the SRN Newline email updates. Also, money is spent to support neighborhood activities that keep us connected and informed of community, school and government events and activities within SRN boundaries as well as surrounding communities.

### What We Need

SRN is a nonprofit 501c3, 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. Consider putting together a themed gift basket (specialty foods, pickles and jams, honey, soaps), hosting a dinner party or donating a service for the auction.

Business donors get a thank you mention in the October *Skyline Ridge Runner*. Also, businesses that donate item(s) over a \$300 value are offered a table area at the gathering to display their products and talk to neighbors. Feel free to donate an item or gift certificate for your business or contact your contractors such as window washers, painters, weeders, HVAC maintenance, landscapers, etc. to ask if they will contribute gift certificates.

### It's a Team Effort

The Gathering will be coordinated this year by Suzanne Perra and Brad Graff. Cindy Lou Banks and her band Brooks Hill will entertain us again this year. Thank you to the following neighbors for leading major Summer Gathering activities. We couldn't do this without you: Auction – Suzanne Perra, Music – Brad Graff, Children's Games – Laura Watts, Food – Sen Speroff and Valerie Driscoll, Greeters, Registration and Sign out – Rachael Brake, Table Setup and Cleanup – George Sowder, Flowers – Lisa Graff, and Community Relations & Vendor Coordinator – Alex Rose.

Please contact Brad Graff at [bradgraff@gmail.com](mailto:bradgraff@gmail.com) or 503.292.1614 or Suzanne Perra at [suzanne@perrafamiy.com](mailto:suzanne@perrafamiy.com) or 503.866.9289 to volunteer for the Gathering. You can volunteer some time to 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.

Contact Suzanne Perra to make donations for the silent and oral auctions. To make cash donations, please make checks payable to SRN and send them to Rachael Brake, SRN Treasurer, 15109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. ☐

# Skyline Ridge Runner

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→ *Deadline for the next issue is June 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.srnpx.org](http://www.srnpx.org). Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at [newslines@srnpx.org](mailto:newslines@srnpx.org) or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication

## SRN Website

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

## Treasurer's Report

By Rachael Brake

### SRN Income & Expenses 2019

BEGINNING BALANCE 12/31/2018 \$24,316

#### INCOME

Advertising	1,090
Donations	1,774
Quilt Raffle	385
Summer Gathering	5,896
Interest	46

TOTAL INCOME 9,191

#### EXPENSES

Administration	274
Website	274
Community Outreach	1,706
Ridge Runner	4,045
Summer Gathering	1,552

TOTAL EXPENSES 7,851

NET INCOME/EXPENSE 1,340

ENDING BALANCE 12/31/19 \$25,656

## Thanks for Your Donations!

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

~ Jean Nixon  
~ Patrick and Susan Ahern

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.

## Take the 14-Day Water Storage Challenge by June 15

By Rachael Brake

Last summer and fall, Skyline Ridge NET Team encouraged Skyline residents to store at least 14 gallons of drinkable water for each person in a household. We had the goal of 300 local households meeting this goal. With only a handful of households reporting completion of the challenge, we were unable to meet that goal.

Now that we know people are capable of emptying stores of all bleach, isopropyl alcohol, toilet paper and hand wipes because of the COVID-19 virus threat, we think now is the time to put that practice into water storage.

We can live without food for days, but our bodies require water. During a disaster, people are often left desperate for clean, safe water. Because of our basic need for water, Skyline Ridge NET Team challenges local residents to collect and store at least 14 days of water necessary for their household. The goal is to have at least 300 households meet this goal by June 15, 2020. This means storing at least 14 gallons of water for each person in your household and 14 days of water for your pets and livestock. If you are a family of 4 and without pets, you would have in storage at least 56 gallons of water.

When you have reached your goal, report this to Skyline Ridge NET at [skylineridgenet@gmail.com](mailto:skylineridgenet@gmail.com). We will report the result in the next Ridge Runner. And thanks for doing your part in ensuring that our community will be better prepared for an emergency.

### How to take the 14-Day Challenge

1. Figure out the minimum amount of water you should store by
  - a. Multiplying # of people in house x 14 gallons = \_\_\_\_\_ gallons
  - b. Multiplying gallons of water needed by animals per day x 14 = \_\_\_\_\_ gallons
  - c. Adding the number of gallons in a and b to get total gallons needed: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Decide location(s) to store containers, ideally in cool, dark places.
3. Start collecting water.
  - a. If you use your own food-grade plastic containers and caps, they will need to be washed and sanitized before using. For details about how to safely store water in

your own containers, refer to <https://www.regionalh2o.org/sites/default/files/water-storage-script-web.pdf>.

- b. Start buying bottled water in food-grade containers every time you go to the store.
4. Reach your goal by June 15 and report it to Skyline Ridge NET. Provide the following info: number of people in the household, gallons of stored drinkable water, gallons of stored non-potable water, pets/livestock.

For more information about water storage, use of hot water heater's supply, and water information, go to Regional Waters Providers Consortium's website at <https://www.regionalh2o.org/emergency-preparedness>.


### What is NET?

Skyline Ridge NET is an active group of local residents who have been trained by Portland Bureau of Emergency Management

and Portland Fire & Rescue to provide emergency disaster assistance within our community. We meet at the Skyline Grange the first Monday of every other month at 7pm. Anyone interested in what we are doing for the community is welcome to attend. Feel free to contact Team Leader Rachael Brake for more information about our local team at [skylineridgenet@gmail.com](mailto:skylineridgenet@gmail.com). For more information about the larger NET organization or about becoming a NET member, log onto the City of Portland website: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/58587>. □



Members of the Skyline Ridge NET gather at the Grange (Photo: G. Rolette)



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## April Fools Joke Contest

The *Ridge Runner* issued a challenge to the neighborhood to send in their best, funniest jokes they played on April Fool's day. Thanks to the following author for providing a bit of much-needed humor.

### Garden Space Available

By Laurel Harroun

In 1984 or '85, during Mayor Frank Ivancie's term, I had an idea while walking around the Portland State Campus. Back then, there was still quite a bit of open space—whole blocks of just dirt and weeds. I'm pretty sure the block was Broadway and Lincoln. SO...I painted a sign on plywood—about 2'X3' that advertised "GARDEN SPACE AVAILABLE Call Frank, 503-823-4120" (the Mayor's phone number). I nailed on some stakes and planted it in the middle of that block in the dark of night. I doubted I would ever know if the mayor received any calls until a few days later when I picked up the PSU school newspaper, *The Vanguard*, and lo and behold there was a small story with the headline "A FOOL'S GARDEN?". It detailed my caper and stated the Mayor's office did receive several inquiries concerning garden space.

As a side note, when I told my partner I was going to send in my story, she remembered that an old photographer

friend had taken a picture of the sign. She dug through some OLD photos and sure enough, here is the 8X10 glossy for proof!! We had another good laugh. ☐



*How an enterprising student played a practical joke on the Mayor (Photo: L. Harroun)*

## Take Action to Prevent Fall Injuries

By Christina Lent, TVF&R

As people grow older, the consequences of a fall grow more serious. Unintentional falls are the leading cause of injury deaths for adults ages 65 and older, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries and account for more than 95 percent of hip fractures. In addition, fractures from falls are a leading cause of disability and often result in entering a nursing home. Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue crews responded to 6,274 reports of falls within the district's service area in 2019. "Ground-level falls are one of the most concerning types of medical calls our firefighter paramedics respond to because we know many of our elders struggle to recover from them," said Cassandra Ulven with TVF&R. "Most falls happen in the home and can be avoided. Factors such as poor lighting, narrow stairs, and slippery surfaces can increase the chances of a fall. In addition, problems with glare, depth perception, tiredness, or dizziness from prescription medications contribute to falls." Research conducted by Yale University showed that older adults are also most at risk of falling when they fail to use handrails on stairs, reach for objects overhead, and climb on chairs or ladders. TVF&R reminds seniors and children of older adults to take the following precautions to help prevent

a fall injury: Take care of yourself! Get regular medical check-ups and talk to your doctor to ensure appropriate levels and types of medication. Have your vision checked and replace eyeglasses as needed. Have your healthcare provider also check your feet to ensure you can walk comfortably. Exercise regularly to improve your balance and strength, and eat nutritious meals to fuel your body. Remove existing hazards! Fasten throw rugs to the floor with double-backed tape to keep them from slipping or remove them all together. Keep cords out of pathways, and clean up spills as soon as they happen. Also, arrange furniture to minimize obstructions, and clear clutter from your living areas. Fix loose or uneven steps. Make sure that carpet is firmly attached to every step, or remove the carpet and attach non-slip rubber treads to the stairs. In the kitchen, keep items you use often in cabinets you can reach easily without using a step stool. More Recommendations: Wear well-fitting shoes with good support and non-skid soles. Turn on lights when walking through dark rooms or hallways. Use nightlights in all rooms. Install grab bars in the bathtub, shower, and toilet areas, and add handrails on stairways. Place phones in multiple rooms or keep a cellphone with you in case you need to call for emergency assistance. For more life safety information, visit [www.tvfr.com](http://www.tvfr.com). ☐

## Rock Creek Road Repair Nearing Completion

By Mike Pullen, Multnomah Co.

Replacement of a failed culvert that carries a creek under NW Rock Creek Road is in progress. Here is an update on construction:

- Contractor MEI Group began work on February 28. The contractor has excavated the top 20 feet of depth above the culvert. A steel shoring box was then installed as the contractor excavated the final ten feet of depth to remove the failed culvert.
- A steady stream of dump trucks hauled the excavated material to a county storage yard several miles away.
- With the shoring box installed, the contractor



Repair of the failed culvert on upper Rock Creek Rd. required digging a VERY big hole (Photo: Mult. Co.)

is able to install new sections of the four foot diameter pipe. The new pipe is made of a more durable material that should last much longer than the original corrugated steel culvert.

- The contractor is making good progress. They will continue installing sections of culvert pipe next week. They will bring in truck loads of gravel to backfill the trench as the new culvert is installed. The backfill work should be complete by March 23.

• The contractor has not needed to work weekends, but county staff are onsite to monitor pumps that are needed to pass creek flows around the work zone.

Weather permitting, the road should be able to reopen in early April. For more information: visit the project website: [http://multo.us/roads/webform/rock-creek-road-](http://multo.us/roads/webform/rock-creek-road-culvert-replacement/)

culvert-replacement/. □

## Four Hands Make a New Quilt for Summer Gathering Auction

By Tracy Waters

It was from my Dad's mother & her two daughters that I inherited the Fabric Gene. My Dad taught both my brothers how to build a house from the ground up, but I inherited the sewing machine with no instructions. Thankfully both my Aunties took time with me when I wanted to learn to sew. It's only recently I've been quilting and this neighborhood has generously supported my efforts for a few years now. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Years ago, at a Garage Sale elsewhere than our hillside, I snagged less than a yard of the vintage Disney Babies who are the stars of this year's Raffle Quilt for the Skyline Ridge Neighbors Summer Gathering on Aug. 15. It's a 45" x 43" one starring the vintage Disney Babies in a diverse collection of mixed primary colored blocks, each with a different center.



This beautiful quilt will be raffled to benefit SRN (Photo: T. Waters)

Cindi Cramer has so generously and beautifully quilted this one. She has really dolled it up!

Its texture up close is deep & splendid. Cindi has donated her time, thread, and texture talent too. These

pieces can languish in drawers for a long time before inspiration strikes to find friendly fabric for partnering. I couldn't be more pleased with the partnering of the quilters either! We hope for plenty of interest. Raffle tickets will be available soon from our community members; mostly SRN Board folks. All funds raised support the work of the Skyline Ridge Neighbors who orchestrate the communication methods we rely upon, especially in these troubled times. Attendance at the Gathering isn't required to win, but buying tickets is! Stay healthy this Spring so we can raise some money this summer! □

## Spring Forest Maintenance in the Tualatin Mountains

By Michael Ahr, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring inevitably brings on the urge to get outside and work the land. Our forest and habitat restoration work often encompasses invasive species control, planting of native trees and shrubs, and control of any competing vegetation that might threaten our desired plants. This spring, we encourage you to get outside and here are some tips for making your projects a success.

### Invasive Weeds and Competing Vegetation

You may encounter invasive weeds recurring in your planting areas, or invading new areas of your property. The first step is to identify them and then determine the best time of year to tackle what you have.

- Spring is an ideal time to treat many weeds and grasses before they go to seed and disperse into other areas. Controlling grasses around new plantings at this time of year allows the spring rains to benefit the new plants rather than weeds and competing plants.
- Don't apply herbicides if the weather is cold. Temperatures should be above 45F and ideally the temperature would get above 50F later in the day. A hard frost is not conducive to herbicide uptake, nor the consistency of herbicide in the tank.
- Always follow the guidelines and restrictions on herbicide labels and wear personal protective equipment.
- If you find any new weeds that you cannot identify, please contact the Multnomah County Master Gardeners ([multnomahmastergardeners.org/ask-an-mg](http://multnomahmastergardeners.org/ask-an-mg)).
- In the spring, we have less fire risk than in the summer. However, it is still a good idea to check Oregon Dept. of Forestry regulations at [gisapps.odf.oregon.gov/firerestrictions/ifpl.html](http://gisapps.odf.oregon.gov/firerestrictions/ifpl.html) before beginning work.
- Birds are beginning to nest, and you should be careful when performing any vegetation management during the spring and early summer. We are currently in the early nesting season (Feb 1 – April 15). Late nesting season is from April 15-July 31



Spring is a good time to control regrowing Himalayan blackberry (Photo: WMSWCD)

and disturbance should be avoided if possible, with steps taken to minimize impacts when appropriate. Find more guidance on protecting nesting bird at [portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/322164](http://portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/322164).

**Grasses and forbs:** Grasses and various weeds can steal moisture from your newly planted trees and shrubs. You can control this competition by hand pulling, mowing or cutting. Adding mulch or wood chips can help as well. Another option is herbicide treatment within about

3' of each plant. Different herbicides are formulated for various kinds of vegetation. Contact us for guidance on herbicide selection and best practices.

**High priority weeds - Garlic Mustard, spurge laurel, and other weeds that are new to our region:**

Certain weeds are a very high priority to control because of the rate at which they can spread or their toxicity to people or other native plants (or other reasons). Contact us if you have Garlic mustard, spurge laurel, Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Orange hawkweed,

American pokeweed, or False brome. We can help control many of these weeds at no cost to you, and we want to know where these weeds are growing.

**Himalayan (Armenian) & Cutleaf (Evergreen) Blackberries:** Although fall is often the best time to control invasive blackberry, there is some work you can do in the spring as well.

- Dig up small patches when soil is moist and easier to work, particularly in areas where digging won't lead to erosion or jeopardize slope stability. Once the main rootwad has been extracted, the blackberry cane should not return.
- For larger patches, following a fall cutting, herbicide is an option for treating new spring growth. If you wait until the fall to treat this growth, you'll undo much of the benefit of the cutting. Contact us for guidance on herbicide selection and best practices. Utilize only aquatic formulations when spraying near waterways. Plan to treat when no rain is forecast for at least 24 hours.

**Scotch broom:** This can be treated similarly to blackberry. Don't mow it in the spring or it will sprout vigorously and you might stir up the seed bed. Disturbance can lead to a great deal of new growth from seed.

**English & Irish Ivy:** Focus efforts on vines that are climbing up trees to prevent the spread of mature fruits ►

which typically only form when the vines reach sunlight. Sever vines from the roots by carefully cutting an 18" section out of each vine at about chest height. Pull back the rooted vines to at least 6' from the base of the tree, uprooting them if possible, to create a "life saver" ring around each tree. For more ivy removal techniques, see the Best Management Practice Guide ([4countycwma.org/aweeds/best-management-practices/invasive-ivy/](http://4countycwma.org/aweeds/best-management-practices/invasive-ivy/)). Alternatively, apply 50% triclopyr, (e.g. Garlon 3a or Vastlan), or 50% glyphosate immediately to the freshly cut rooted vine.

**Shiny Geranium and herb-robert:** These two plants are actively growing right now. Keep an eye out for new patches and handpull small areas. Large infestations can be treated in the spring before flowering.

**Thistle, teasel, poison hemlock, and tansy ragwort:** Every spring and summer we get questions about these weeds and they could be encroaching on your property, especially in cleared areas. In general, a 1-2% mix of triclopyr can work well on these weeds before they flower, or just as they're beginning to flower. This timing is also good if you're planning to cut the weeds rather than use herbicides.

### Tree Cutting

If you have hazard trees that may be at risk of damaging property, falling into a road, or hurting desirable vegetation, I recommend that you deal with these as soon as you identify the risk and can remove them safely. Often times this means hiring a trained arborist to assess the risk or remove the trees.

Otherwise, I would encourage you to focus on tree cutting in the fall. Two main reasons for this:

1. Many species including Douglas-fir are more sensitive and more prone to damage in the spring while they are actively growing. Summer can be too hot and risky for tree cutting. Oregon Department of Forestry or your local rural fire department may have restrictions on using power driven machinery during this time when wildfire risk is high.
2. Much of the tree cutting occurring in the West Hills is restoration based. This can often mean that a landowner is cutting hardwoods to provide space for conifers. It is best to cut trees in fall when they are less likely to sprout from the stump and surrounding roots.

**But wait, a logger just told me that we should do our logging job in the summer?!?!** Smaller scale tree cutting described above is best for fall, however if you're hauling logs away, summer can be a good time. In the Tualatin Mountains, we often don't have adequate forest roads for log trucks to perform winter hauling, so we have to work in the summer when the ground is dry.

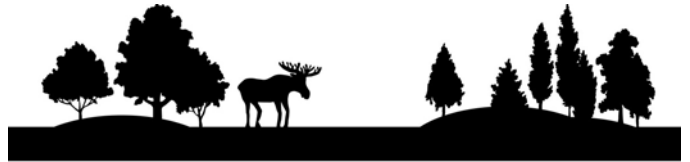
### Caring for New Native Tree and Shrub Plantings

If you've recently planted new trees and shrubs, wa-

tering can be very helpful. If you can get a hose or a sprinkler to a planting, go for it. You only need to do this a few times over the summer when temperatures have become hot and we're not getting rainfall. When you water, give the plants a thorough dousing where the ground around the plants is visibly wet. If you aren't able to water don't worry too much. Many of our restoration sites with native plantings are not near a water source.

In all situations, weed control around new plants is very important, even if you're able to water. The watering is helpful for the first couple years, and then you should back off and let the plants grow on their own so they can establish root systems that are adapted to the natural moisture available on site.

Contact us for help or guidance! Good luck with your spring forest work! I'm available to answer any of your questions. Call me at 503.238.4775 extension 109 or email me at [michael@wmswcd.org](mailto:michael@wmswcd.org). ☐





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**Like SRN on Facebook!**

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

## Citizen Science and the Nature of Your World

By Ed Styskel

*(Editor's Note: the author provides many excellent suggestions for us to remain useful, occupied and engaged while following the current WHO and CDC guidelines to stay home in order to avoid COVID-19.)*

It's always a rewarding adventure when I hike my forest. I imagine the mysteries of life that play out there with or without my knowledge. Which birds wing about during the abundance of summer or the scarcity of winter? How many kinds of insects are quietly coming and going? What influences the seasonal progress of plant growth? Will there be enough precipitation for thirsty plants and animals? Has alien life gained a foothold in my woods?

So many questions!

A person doesn't need to be a trained scientist to have a curiosity for evidence-based facts. It's common knowledge that science, when derived from the scientific process of research, is the most reliable system of gaining new information about our world. What may be less understood is that everyday people can help highly trained scientists research such subjects. Citizen science projects are valuable learning or social tools for public or home schooling, conservation organizations, community groups and individuals.

Citizen science—also called community science, crowd science, participatory science or community-based monitoring—is a form of open scientific collaboration in which individuals or organizations participate voluntarily with scientists to complete the scientific process.

That process usually begins with a question from society or science experts: for example, how does cloud cover affect local weather? Researchers then review existing knowledge about the subject, form a hypothesis, design a test experiment, collect data, analyze it and derive a conclusion.

Why do everyday citizens volunteer time, effort and resources to conduct citizen science? Social research reports that “contributing to science” is the most common motivation. Other reasons include the satisfaction of doing something about a problem, learning about or interacting with nature, intellectual challenge or curiosity, and/or entertainment and social interaction.

Data collected by citizen scientists has been used in research publications on earthquakes, animal population trends, lake water clarity, lichens as air quality bio-indicators, and myriad other subjects. Society benefits when science awareness influences policy and management or raises concerns about problems unknown or overlooked by government.

Citizen science projects have varying requirements for your personal availability, physical fitness, transportation, skills and equipment. A specific protocol usually standardizes the way data must be collected and reported for credibility. Free smartphone apps and online data forms are often available to automate data entry. Projects that require object identification may even include online images as help.

Citizen science can be conducted at home or almost anywhere else. In Pacific Northwest states, there are hundreds of interesting projects to be found at online hubs.

### Citizen Science Project-Finders

SciStarter is a detailed listing of approximately 1,500 citizen science projects conducted outdoors or indoors. Its unique feature is the ability to search for projects by a specific word, phrase, location, activity, topic, age group or required skill.

Zooniverse lists more than 100 projects where anyone can use their own computer and convenience indoors to study objects of interest collected by professional researchers. This process is a version of ‘wisdom of the crowd’, in that many individuals looking at the same object are more likely to see patterns or anomalies than just one person.

CitizenScience.gov is an official government online catalog of approximately 450 federally supported citizen science projects, searchable by federal agency or field of science.

A variety of examples are described below.

**Oregon Season Tracker.** Oregon Season Tracker (OST) is a project of Oregon State University that aims to link natural resource managers, educators, researchers and others in the community to the science they use through collaborative citizen science. As a citizen scientist volunteer you will gather scientific data on precipitation and seasonal plant changes (phenology) at your home, woodland, farm, ranch or school to share with other observers and research partners statewide.

**Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS).** Two of my retiree friends—he's a forester, she's a teacher—join volunteer observers of all ages and backgrounds to measure and map precipitation in their communities. Supplying data on the amount of rain and snow water content every day is especially relevant information for agricultural forecasts.

**eButterfly.** One of my teen-aged granddaughters has fun chasing butterflies with a hand-held capture net. Her prize in 2019 was the first Pend Oreille County record for a Mourning Cloak in the iNaturalist and eButterfly databases. She's learned the gentle way to capture, identify, photograph and release butterflies back to the wild unharmed.

**TreeSnap.** This project seeks to understand what allows some individual trees to survive invasive diseases and pests. Volunteers search for and tag healthy individuals of Pacific madrone or tan oak for follow-up study by Washington State University or Oregon State University scientists.

**GLOBE Clouds.** Volunteers photograph clouds from the ground so that weather scientists can compare that view to one from a NASA space satellite. More accurate weather forecasts result.

**American Kestrel Partnership.** This is a national network of nest box monitoring volunteers who generate kestrel nesting data about phenology (seasonal timing of nest initiation), occupancy (percent of nest boxes occupied by kestrels), productivity (number of nestlings in the nest) and survival (number of nestlings fledged from the nest). These nesting performance measures can be ►



related to environmental factors such as land uses, climate, soil conditions and polluting contaminants. Information on nest box construction, installation and monitoring protocols are provided to volunteers. If volunteer monitors do not remove an egg or touch a bird, no governmental permit is required.

**Digital Earth Watch (DEW) Picture Post Network.**

This is a citizen science opportunity to observe and measure changes in places that are important to you. You can take and share repeat digital photographs from a picture post platform that you install and maintain. Photo observations are used to monitor and measure changes in a local landscape in response to climate. Such changes might be so subtle as to be inconspicuous without technology. Each picture post captures the view of nine compass orientations and should be repeated over a year or several years to see the change. You collect your own data, measure environmental change, make documentation comments and share the evidence on the Picture Post website. DEW has created a software bundle, learning guides and help videos about color, light and pixilation to use in image analysis.

**Biochar Soil Aging.** Volunteers examine how biochar—wood, herbaceous vegetation, and manure heated under low-oxygen conditions—provides an opportunity to observe and measure carbon sequestration within soil. Biochar is thought to mitigate climate change, enhance soil health through nutrient and water availability and provide other environmental benefits. Volunteers bury litter bags of a randomly selected type of biochar, along with a soil temperature data logger, for a specified period of time (e.g., 3, 6 or 12 months) and depth (e.g., 10 centimeters or 5 inches). After the specified time has expired, the volunteer will exhume and mail in the bags (plus associated soil sample) for analysis. Project materials and postage are provided free, and the analysis will be accessible to the volunteer.

**Migratory Dragonfly Partnership.** You can join a growing community of citizen scientists who volunteer to increase knowledge about five of the most common dragonfly species that migrate. Some dragonfly populations do not migrate and can overlap an area with the migrants. Spring migrants moving north appear at breeding ponds

in March but peak in April and May. Depending on location, fall migrants might be observed from late-July through mid-October. Two monitoring options are offered. Pond Watch volunteers visit the same pond or wetland regularly throughout the year and document the presence, emergence and behavior of the five migratory species. Migration Monitoring volunteers observe the timing, duration and direction of travel for migrating dragonflies. These monitors also record additional behaviors such as feeding or mating. Instructional aids are available for species identification and the monitoring protocol.

**Silent Earth.** This NASA project maps the quietest outdoor locations in your town, rural setting or travels. As a volunteer, you would download a specified smartphone app, calibrate it in a place with no sound, then repeat twice or more the calibration process at a favorite quiet spot to measure and record the background sound level there. Upload your data to the specified website to plot its position on the map feature. On the date of this writing, Oregon has only one measured location, Washington has three, Idaho has none and Montana has nine. This process might also work to measure noisy spots for comparison.

**Smithsonian Transcription Center.** Volunteers transcribe historical documents and collection records about science, history, art and culture online.

Whether your purpose is enjoyment, knowledge, social ties or protecting Mother Earth, there is at least one science adventure awaiting your participation. You might even discover a new science-driven hobby. □

*This story originally appeared in Northwest Woodlands, Winter 2020, Oregon Society of American Foresters. Reprinted by permission.*





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## What's Happening at the Skyline Grange

By Rachael Brake & Sen Speroff

We've had a successful Community Brunch, Garage Sale, and five presentations in our Skyline Living Series since the last Ridge Runner and before the advent of all the social concerns caused by the COVID-19 virus. By this publication, hopefully our Tree & Native Plant Sale was also fruitful. As usual, after the flurry of winter activities, Skyline Grange slows down as summer approaches so its members can tend to their own gardens and take a breather. We will continue to offer free presentations on topics relevant to the Skyline community. Stay informed of Grange activities by requesting occasional email notifications, reading SRN's weekly Newslines and future Skyline Ridge Runners.

### Skyline Grange Turns 80

On April 22, 1940, Skyline Grange was organized by thirty-two chartered members at Skyline School. A week later, with great fanfare in the Grange tradition, officers were installed with a large audience of friends, family, and community as witnesses. In a song sung by the Pitchfork Chorus of Sauvie Island Grange, the name of "Skyline" was suggested for this fledgling Grange. Skyline was later adopted by unanimous vote. Our first Master was Lawrence R. Mack.

In July 1947, members put a down payment in order to purchase a 4.2-acre parcel on Skyline Boulevard from Clarence and Bertha Pauly. A military building from Swan Island was purchased, torn down, and its parts moved to Skyline, becoming the major materials for the original Skyline Grange hall. In 1951 members held its first meeting in the hall still under construction, and finally in 1955, the hall was dedicated by Elmer McClure, Oregon State Grange Master.

From reviewing 80 years of minutes, it appears some things never change. Often there was concern about the safety at road intersections, a plea for volunteers, a real sense of dedication to the community, and a Grange with a cadre of hardworking members.

### Join Skyline Grange

Do you want to be more engaged in and connected to your Skyline community? Would you like opportunities to work with neighbors on projects? Do you have ideas for the community? Then consider joining the Grange. This is why local residents are Grange members and why many more neighbors volunteer during our events. Join Skyline Grange and become a part of what makes our Skyline community a great place to live.

Grange is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-profit, and a totally volunteer-driven organization. We are a diverse group of people with the common belief 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 and gathering place. Our impact, activities, and accomplishments depend upon our members and community volunteers.

Learn more about Skyline Grange by attending an upcoming event or attend a monthly meeting usually on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. You can contact the Grange at [SkylineGrange894@msn.com](mailto:SkylineGrange894@msn.com) and for rental inquiries at [skylinegrange894@gmail.com](mailto:skylinegrange894@gmail.com). Skyline Grange is located at 11275 NW Skyline Boulevard. □



### 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@srxnpdx.org](mailto:srn@srxnpdx.org) or 503.621.9867.



**Are you an Amazon Shopper?**

**Log onto <https://smile.amazon.com>, designate Skyline Ridge Neighbors as your charity, and Amazon will donate a portion of every purchase to SRN.**

**Dog Boarding.** Experienced, Loving Care For Your Dog. Home all day, large fenced yard. 30+ years experience, Pet First Aid and CPR certified. Senior and special needs dog experience. I will provide excellent care for your dog. For more info, pictures and to contact, go to: <https://www.rover.com/sit/jang58326>.

**Bird Art Classes.** Learn how to identify and paint local birds in watercolor with Ronna Fujisawa! Classes offered at the Skyline Grange for all ages (children and adults). Cost of 2.5 hour class is \$35 including all art materials and snacks. Please contact Ronna for updated schedule and registration: [ronnafujisawa@me.com](mailto:ronnafujisawa@me.com) 503.488.9229.

**Phoenix Farm Riding School.** English horse riding lessons for the whole family. All ages and ability levels welcome! Day-off-school camps. Summer camps. Parties and special events. Located on the corner of Skyline Blvd. & Rock Creek Rd. Call/text 541.914.4254, email [13phoenixfarm13@gmail.com](mailto:13phoenixfarm13@gmail.com).

**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.

**Hydraulic Woodsplitting.** Haul behind splitter rolls to your site. Chainsaw work, cut up downed trees, brush & sapling removal. Blackberry Removal. Stihl FS-250 gets in tight spaces: fence lines, foundations, through narrow gates, on hillsides where brush hogs can't go. Joel 503.553.9429.

**Rent the Skyline Grange.** Planning an event? The Grange may be the perfect spot. Visit <http://www.srnpdx.org/grange.html> and contact [skylinegrange894@gmail.com](mailto:skylinegrange894@gmail.com).

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



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## Community Calendar

**Friday-Saturday, Apr. 3-4:** Skyline Grange's Tree & Native Plant Sale, 11275 NW Skyline Boulevard. Huge variety of native plants, fruit and ornamental trees available. Contact [skylinegrange894@msn.com](mailto:skylinegrange894@msn.com) for info.

**Monday Thursday, April 13 - 16:** PTA Used Book Sale at Skyline School. We will accept book and game donations the week prior, April 6-10.

**Sunday, April 26, 6PM:** Ellen Whyte & Albert Reda. Oregon Hall of Fame & Grammy nominated vocalist Ellen Whyte & Cascade Blues Association Hall of Fame recipient Albert Reda. The Last Sunday Concerts at The Church. \$15 Admission. 503.629.9700. <https://www.facebook.com/brookshillchurch/>.

**Saturday, May 9:** Skyline School Auction. We look forward to seeing you on May 9th at the annual Skyline School Auction, the School's biggest fundraiser of the year! The money raised goes directly to support YOUR CHILD'S education! Details at <https://skylineauction.schoolauction.net/auction2020>.

**Saturday, Aug. 15:** Save the Date! SRN Summer Gathering with Potluck Dinner at Plumper Pumpkin Patch and Tree Farm.

**ABC University Preschool**  
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