

# Applegater

Photo by Teya Jacobi

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**SPRING 2011**  
*Volume 4, No. 2*

*Applegate Valley Community Newspaper*  
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Photography provided by Alana Starkweather

## Bear sightings on the rise: What you need to know

BY TAMARA ROUSSO

Last summer, returning from a long day in town doing errands, my mind running through the things I needed to get done once home, a large black object ran in front of my vehicle a short distance from the gate leading to my property. It took my mind a few seconds to comprehend that it was a bear. Just as I was contemplating that bears must be smaller than I thought, I noticed a small black figure zipping down the neighbor's plum tree. A cub! And as I was congratulating myself on the good luck to have seen a mama and cub I became aware of cub #2 trying to get down from the tree and join his family. In desperation he flung himself from a branch a good ten feet off the ground, picked himself up, and scurried off to join his family.

As I started recounting my story (of what I considered a Wild Animal Kingdom moment) to others it became apparent that lots of folks saw bears last year. Some considered it good fortune also, but others were not as amused. I heard stories of bears being hit by vehicles, and bears raiding barns. What was going on?

It turns out the number of bear sightings did indeed increase in 2010 from years past. In 2010 the Rogue Watershed office (Central Point, OR) had received 477 bear complaints, as compared to an average of 203 complaints per year over the course of the last seven years—over a two-fold increase! Also in 2010, 43 bears



Photo by Teri Young.

were killed on damage, 6 on safety, and 5 on nuisance issues in the Rogue Watershed (Jackson and Josephine Counties), considerably more than in past years. In 2009, 23 bears were killed on damage, 2 on safety, and 1 on nuisance. In 2008 5 bears were killed on damage, 4 on safety, and 2 on nuisance. Prior to 2008, numbers were even lower, but formal records were not kept (Information provided by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife [ODFW]).

So why was 2010 such a bad year for bears? According to Rosemary Stussy of ODFW the strange weather was a big factor. Bears came out of their hibernation late. Bears in southwestern Oregon don't hibernate in the classic sense of the word, but they do sleep and rest a lot in winter and very few complaints are received in cold

See BEAR, page 20

## The Pacific Fisher

BY DAVID CLAYTON



The Pacific Fisher is a rare forest carnivore native to our neck of the woods here in the Applegate. It is a mammal, in the family *mustelidea*, related to the weasel, marten, and wolverine. Fisher are sleek animals up to three feet long with luxurious pelts. Males can weigh up to 12 pounds in our area and females about half that. The Pacific Fisher was recently petitioned for listing

under the Endangered Species Act, it is currently listed as a sensitive species in California and Oregon, as well as by Forest Service and BLM. The fisher was once widely distributed in North America and Canada, but now due to trapping and habitat loss it is only found in northern California and extreme southern Oregon, primarily the Applegate, Ashland, Illinois and Chetco Valleys as well as a reintroduced population in the Southern Oregon Cascades. This Cascade population was reintroduced in the hopes that fisher, widely known for

hunting porcupines, would control that species, which at the time was damaging young conifer plantations.

Fisher are associated with older, complex forests with snags, large down wood, cavities or platforms for denning and rest sites. Fisher have large home ranges, up to four square miles for females and twice that for males. They are generalist predators, eating small mammals, birds, porcupines and whatever they can catch and eat.

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has recently been monitoring fisher in the Ashland watershed adjacent to the Applegate watershed in association with the Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR)

See FISHER, page 12



USFS biologist Greg Colligan and a female fisher. Photo by Kelli Van Norman.

### **MEET THE NATIVES**

**Siskiyou Mountains Salamander—page 13**

**The Snakefly—page 9**

### **WEB EXCLUSIVE**

The Postman column, "Can you go gridless for 30 days? Part 2, Food off the grid" by Dr. Richard Alan Miller and Yvonne-Marie Zancanaro can be found on the Applegater website: [www.applegater.org](http://www.applegater.org).





## Applegate River Ranch Lodge & Restaurant

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## Wanted: Volunteer Proof Readers

The *Applegater* is looking for a few good men and/or women with an **eye for detail and good spelling and grammar.**

For more information call J.D. Rogers at 541-846-7736 or send an email to [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

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## Applegater now online!

The *Applegater* is now publishing a web site that is a companion and expansion of the content and services that the printed *Applegater* newspaper provides.

Highlights of what this website will offer include:

- **Index and viewable/downloadable issues** of the *Applegater* starting from March 2008.
- **Expansion of content and pictures** of selected articles that appear in the printed paper.
- **Community calendar** which nonprofit organizations and Gater advertisers can post special events on (sorry, no classes) by contacting our webmaster via email.
- **Community services directory** with contacts, current activities and bulletins for all our major community services such as police, fire, library, BLM, etc.
- **Directory of local businesses.**
- **Listing of web sites** that pertain to the Applegate Valley.
- **Changing collection of images** of scenery and activities within our beautiful valley.

We encourage you to log on to [www.Applegater.org](http://www.Applegater.org).

Be sure to add the Gater web site to your favorites!

Joe Lavine, Webmaster  
[joelavine@hotmail.com](mailto:joelavine@hotmail.com)

## Spring masthead photo credit

Teya Jacobi took this issue's masthead photo of Shooting Star flowers on her property near Ruch.

## Applegater

ISSUE	DEADLINE
Summer	July 1
Fall	October 1
Winter	January 1
Spring	April 1

## Advertisers!

We can help you reach your market. The *Applegater* is the **only** newspaper covering the entire Applegate Valley.

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**For more information call**

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541-646-8418**

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**or send email to:  
[ads@applegater.org](mailto:ads@applegater.org)**

Next deadline is July 1.

## WHO WE ARE

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newspaper, which we feel reflects the heart and soul of our community. Make your contributions to either the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. or to the *Applegater*.

### Our Mission

The nonprofit Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., (AVCN) provides the many rural and diverse communities of the Applegate Watershed with a communications vehicle, the *Applegater* newspaper, free of charge to all watershed residents. Our quarterly paper presents constructive, relevant, educational and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects such as:

- natural resource issues
- ecology and other science information
- historical and current events
- community news and opinions

AVCN encourages and publishes differing viewpoints and, through the *Applegater* newspaper, acts as a clearinghouse for this diverse community. We are dedicated to working together with community members to maintain and enhance the quality of life that is unique to the Applegate Watershed.

### Acknowledgements

The *Applegater* is published quarterly by the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. and is funded by donations from our loyal readers and advertisements for local businesses.

Special thanks to Carole Moskovita for layout; Margaret Della Sanitina, Sue Maesen, Joan Peterson, Chris Allen and Paul Tipton for editing; P. R. Kellogg and Kaye Clayton for proofing; Susan Bondesen and Patsy King for transcription and Lisa Crean for book-keeping.

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### PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

The *Applegater* requires that any and all materials submitted for publication be the intellectual property of the author unless otherwise credited.

Letters to the Editor cannot be more than 450 words. Opinion pieces and unsolicited articles cannot exceed 600 words. Community calendar submissions must be brief. All submissions must be received either at the address or email below by July 1 for our next issue.

*The Applegater*  
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Community Newspaper, Inc.  
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Jacksonville, OR 97530

Email: [gater@Applegater.org](mailto:gater@Applegater.org)  
Website: [www.Applegater.org](http://www.Applegater.org)



# Community Calendar

**Applegate Valley Garden Club** meets at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month from September through May. For meeting locations and programs, call Sandra King at 541-899-9027 or Betty Lou Smith at 541-846-6817.

**Applegate 4-H Swine Club** meets on Tuesday following the third Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. For more information contact Charles Elmore at 541-846-6528 or Barbara Niedermeyer at 541-846-7635.

**Applegate Christian Fellowship.** For service times, call 541-899-8732, 24 hours/day.

**Applegate Friends of Fire District #9** meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station—1095 Upper Applegate Road—at 6:00 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

**T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** meets every Monday morning at Applegate Church, 18960 North Applegate Road (at the corner of Hwy. 238 and N. Applegate Road). Weigh-in starts at 8:30 am; the meeting starts at 9:00 am. Come join us!

**Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

**Applegate Valley Community Forum (AVCF)** meets the third Thursday of each month, location alternating between Applegate and Ruch. For more information, call Pat Gordon at 541-899-7655.

**American Association of University Women (AAUW)** Grants Pass Branch meets monthly from September through June. Days, times, and locations vary. All those who hold an associate of arts, a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university are welcome to join. Contact Sylvia Rose at snrjose2@charter.net or 541-479-0277 or Georgia Applegate at gkapple@apbb.net or 541-787-7175.

**AA Meeting** There is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous every Wednesday at 7:00 AM at the Williams Community Church Fellowship Hall on East Fork Road in Williams. This meeting is open to those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking, and also to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from drinking.

**Applegate Library Hours**  
Sunday ..... closed  
Monday ..... closed  
Tuesday ..... 2 pm - 6 pm  
Wednesday ..... closed  
Thursday ..... closed  
Friday ..... 2 pm - 6 pm  
Saturday ..... 10 am - 2 pm  
(Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 2:30 pm.)

**Ruch Branch Library Hours**  
Sunday ..... closed  
Monday ..... closed  
Tuesday ..... 11 am - 5 pm  
Wednesday ..... closed  
Thursday ..... 1 pm - 7 pm  
Friday ..... closed  
Saturday ..... 12 pm - 4 pm  
(Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 11 am.)

**Friends of Ruch Library Board of Directors** meets monthly. Check with the Ruch Library for schedule. 541-899-7438.

**Food & Friends** Senior Nutrition Program invites local 60+ seniors to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal served at 11:30 am Monday through Friday at the Jacksonville IOOF Hall located at the corner of Main and Oregon Streets. A donation is suggested and appreciated. Volunteers help serve meals or deliver meals to homebound seniors. For information about volunteering (it takes 40 volunteers to keep the Jacksonville program going) or receiving meals, call Food & Friends at 541-664-6674, x246 or x208.

**Wonder Neighborhood Watch Meetings:** second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, Wonder Bible Chapel.

**Josephine County Farm Bureau.** For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

**Williams Library Hours**  
Sunday ..... closed  
Monday ..... closed  
Tuesday ..... 1:30 pm - 4 pm  
Wednesday ..... 1:30 pm - 4 pm  
Thursday ..... closed  
Friday ..... closed  
Saturday ..... 12 pm - 4 pm

**Upper Applegate Grange #239** Business meetings: second Thursday at 7:30 pm. Potluck/Social meetings: fourth Friday at 7:30 pm, open to the public. Join us for informative meetings, fun and involvement in community service. Sponsors of Cub Scout Pack Troop #18. Call 541- 899-6987.

**Williams Rural Fire Protection District Meetings:** fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Fire Department.

**Williams Creek Watershed Council Meetings:** fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Creek Fire Station. The Public is welcome. For more information, call 541-846-9175.

**Williams Grange Pancake Breakfast,** second Sunday of each month, 8:30 to 11:00, followed by the Bluegrass Jam, 11:00 to 1:00. Closed July and August. 20100 Williams Hwy, near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

**Williams Grange #399** Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. 20100 Williams Hwy, near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

**Applegate Fire District Board of Directors** meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Station 1 – 18489 N. Applegate Rd. at 7:30 pm. Except for the months of March, April and May, which are held at Headquarters – 1095 Upper Applegate Rd. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

**Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN)** meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Ruch Library. All interested persons are welcome to attend. ANN is a community organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring the Applegate watershed. For more information about ANN, call Duane Bowman, 541-899-7264.

**Women Helping Other Women (WHOW)** meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10036 Hwy 238 (Gyda Lane) at 6:30 pm for a potluck meeting to plan work parties at each other's homes. New members are welcome. For more information, call Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8741 or Sioux Rogers at 541-846-7736.

**Applegate Lake Cub Scouts Pack #18** (Ruch Region) Outdoor activity (fishing, rafting, hikes, etc.) the first Friday of each month; regular meeting the third Friday of each month. Upper Applegate Grange from 10 am to 1 pm. All boys in grades first through fifth including homeschoolers, Ruch students, and non-Ruch students are welcome. For more information, contact Cub Leader Vic Agnifili at 541-899-1717.

**Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council** meets the 4th Thursday of the month at the Applegate Library. For more information call 541-899-9982.

**The Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association** meet the first Monday of each month, 7:30 pm, at the OSU extension. For more information, please contact sobeekeepers@gmail.com

**Sanctuary One** is open to the public for farm tours every Wednesday and Saturday at 11am. Recommended donation is \$5. Please check out our website for details: www.SanctuaryOne.org and call to reserve a spot. 541-899-8627.

**Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at Applegate Fire District Station 1 on North Applegate Road. For more information, call 541-245-4741 or go to www.gacdc.org.

**Ladies Spring Luncheon at Applegate Community Church,** April 30 at 10:00 A.M. All ladies invited to come and enjoy special music, speaker and salad luncheon. Any questions contact: 846-6100.

Email calendar information to  
gater@applegater.org.

# Understanding the Middle Applegate Pilot

BY JOHN GERRITSMA

The birth of the Middle Applegate Pilot is the culmination of community, political, and scientific interests wanting to find a more ecologically and socially acceptable forest management approach. To that end, the Secretary of Agriculture embraced the ecological restoration approach for the dry forests of

the Applegate developed by forest scientists Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson and designated a Pilot to demonstrate those principles. With long-standing community partners in the Applegate Partnership and the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative, the Medford District BLM has embarked on a collaborative process to implement this Pilot. It is the Secretary's hope that a forest management approach that restores forest structure and processes will also produce a substantive amount of timber as an important byproduct. In addition, the Pilot may provide information to the Secretary about a future 20-year forest management plan for the BLM lands in southern Oregon.

The Pilot is about forest ecology. The Pilot seeks to reduce the uncharacteristically dense and homogenous forest conditions abundantly present. All trees over 150 years of age will be retained, with an emphasis to provide those old veterans of the forest less competitive access to nutrients and water. Part of the treatment includes restoring the "gaps" where sun-loving species such as the black and white oaks, the ponderosa pine and the sugar pine can thrive. Gaps will allow the herbaceous layers on the forest floor to become more diverse and robust. Equally important is to provide dense patches of forest for those species whose survival depends on such habitat, including the Northern Spotted Owl. In the end, the Pilot's approach will result in a less uniform and more diverse forest benefitting all species. Forest trees' resistance to insects, disease, wildfire, and other natural disturbances is increased, providing a better balance between life and death in the forest. And through all of this, tree stem reduction will result in the production of timber that sustains the industry necessary to implement restoration projects. This also provides much needed jobs in southern Oregon, thereby benefiting both rural Oregon and the State. And of course, an important benefit of reducing tree density is a reduced threat of catastrophic wildfire to our Applegate communities.

This Pilot needs collaboration to be successful. At the heart of the long-running debate over forest management are people's core values. The forest management debate is a social question about the proper balance between our environment and the use of resources it provides. There is such an extraordinary collaborative capacity in and around the Applegate that it would be foolish to ignore such a powerful force in shaping the future of our forests. In fact, the Applegate Partnership and the Collabor-



Pilot Project meeting on March 2 at the Upper Applegate Grange Hall

ative were actively seeking an ecological landscape approach for the Applegate well before the Secretary announced the Pilot. In addition, numerous Rogue Valley partners, along with the BLM and the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forests, were involved in the effort that resulted in last October's *Solutions for Forest Conference*, a precursor to the Pilot. Collaboration means the BLM is partnering with interested stakeholders in the development of a solution. This includes cooperative development of criteria to select stands for restoration, the treatment priority of those stands, within-stand application of skips and gaps, and monitoring of both the collaborative process and the effectiveness of the project design. The Pilot is a demonstration of an ecological restoration approach using the collaborative vehicle to fuel its success.

The Pilot is about achieving results. The first Pilot project will occur on an estimated 300-800 acres as early as September of 2011. An assessment of the restoration needs for these acres will occur by the end of March, sufficient to develop this first Pilot project. It is imperative that the principles of the Pilot be visually displayed on the ground, so that we can all see what it means. Learning from what we see, later this year a detailed assessment will cover about 5,000 more acres to determine restoration needs for subsequent projects in 2012 and beyond. And, at some point in the near future, an assessment of restoration needs for the entire Middle Applegate Watershed will be undertaken; however, there will be no Pilot project in roadless areas.

Some things have not changed. The Pilot project will follow the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. The Pilot will meet the Endangered Species Act, including meeting any stipulations in the Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl. The Pilot will follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that requires public review of decisions made about Pilot projects. The Pilot will follow the Secretary's recent Order for managing wildlands. Additional information on the Pilot is available on the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and the Medford District BLM websites.

John Gerritsma • 541-618-2438  
Field Manager, Ashland Resource Area  
Medford District BLM  
John\_Gerritsma@blm.gov  
http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/forestrypilot/



# Compost happens

BY DELLA MERRILL

Did you know it takes thousands of years for the earth to create an inch of rich topsoil? And every time we pull a carrot out of the ground or harvest a tomato or pick a weed, we are taking with them precious dirt. You can only do that so often until your soil becomes depleted. Composting is a perfect solution for replenishing the dirt because it not only addresses the soil's need for more nutrients, it keeps otherwise discarded materials out of the landfills and it reduces our reliance on fossil fuel fertilizers.

Compost happens, but not without some attention to details. It takes just the right amount of carbon and nitrogen, consistent amounts of oxygen and water, and you have the recipe for a really HOT party. So hot it would hard-boil an egg!

Now most people have heard of composting and many even practice cold composting. Simply put, cold composting is piling all your yard clippings in a pile and forgetting about it. Sure it takes less effort than hot composting, but it also takes much longer for the material to decompose; say one to three years longer.

Hot composting, on the other hand, is truly an art form much like very good cooking. In fact being a conscientious composter takes some of the same skills as being a master chef; ability to follow a recipe, the courage to change it up when necessary and the wisdom to know when to do what. You'll also need to recall some of those math and science basics you learned some time ago, but believe me the effort is worth it! A hot compost pile, properly created, will decompose the materials much faster, as in two to six months (as opposed to years the cold way), and heat up to temperatures of 145

degrees and beyond.

In the case of hot composting, size really does matter. You'll want to create a pile that is at least 3'x3'x3'. And bigger here, is often better. As far as compost bins go, it's my opinion that a free form pile not only does the job just right, but it's free. No need to purchase "compost bins" sold at local nurseries unless you're really cramped for room.

Believe me, there is nothing like visiting your compost pile for the first time and inserting the thermometer and watching the needle as it approaches the 150-degree mark. It's quite magical. And just think, what's creating that heat is millions of microorganisms having a party; munching, digesting, and expelling all the stuff in your pile.

You might wonder what supplies or equipment is needed. Actually it's quite simple. In addition to the materials you'll use for composting, such as old hay, weeds, manure, and vegetable scraps, you'll need

a wheelbarrow, pitchfork, water, and compost thermometer.

Now don't forget, not all compost piles are created equally and some need a little more attention to detail, especially if things start to stink. If you've created the correct mix of carbon to nitrogen, it shouldn't stink. But here again, pay attention, your nose will know the truth if your pile needs tending. The odor is impossible to ignore. Usually it's a case of too much water or too much nitrogen that causes the really bad smells. But other issues can also slow down the decomposition process such as lack of water or a pile that's too small.

So if you have yard clippings, weeds, leaves, and garden waste you have what it takes to heat up your compost piles. If you have farm animals, horses, goats, chickens,



you are in an even better position to make great compost. And there's no reason to wait. You can take Sanctuary One's composting class, Compost Happens, and learn the dos and don'ts, and go for it. With a little education, practice and attention to the details, you'll be cooking up your own hardboiled eggs on no time, not to mention enriching your soil!

If hot composting doesn't inspire you, then you might consider some of the other techniques for turning materials into usable soil enriching compost; vermiculture (worm composting), hugelkultur (uses wood scraps for composting), and making compost tea. Whatever method you try, just go for it and have fun.

As a care farm, Sanctuary One cares deeply about the earth. One of the essentials to caring for the earth is creating healthy soil using materials that would otherwise be turned into waste. So we compost and want to teach others how to do so as well. We offer composting classes Thursday and Saturdays, from April through October. For more information, please visit us on the Web at [www.SanctuaryOne.org](http://www.SanctuaryOne.org), or give us a call at 541-899-8627.

Della Merrill • 541-858-3304

*Photo far left: A hot compost pile.*

*Near left: Rich soil made from compost.*

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8:30 to 11:00**

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## Hurrah, Bravo and Bully for Buncom!



That was the reaction of one of the members of the Buncom Historical Society upon hearing that we're back in action and have a just-as-good-as-ever **Buncom Day planned for Saturday, May 28.** We also are gearing up a newsletter and new articles for the website, [www.buncom.org](http://www.buncom.org). Be patient with us, but check it out.

Buncom is the last standing ghost town in Southern Oregon, a real treasure located six miles southeast of Ruch, where Sterling Creek Road meets Little Applegate. There are just three buildings left, but a whole lot of spirit that comes alive on Buncom Day. You'll find a bunch more about Buncom and Buncom Day at [www.buncom.org](http://www.buncom.org).

If you were a member of the Buncom Historical Society, we hope you will continue to participate. If you would like to be a member, we hope you'll join us. There are *no membership fees* (at least for 2011). However, in order to bring Buncom into the 21st century, we would like to communicate with you via the new-fangled (for Buncom) thing called email. Just send a message to [info@buncom.org](mailto:info@buncom.org) and ask that your email address be added to our growing list. If you have already heard from us by email, we'll continue to use the email address we have unless you tell us otherwise.

If we didn't have an email address for one of our members, we sent a postcard to the last address we had on file. Many have been returned without forwarding addresses. Several emails were also returned as being undeliverable. If you were a member and haven't yet heard from us, please let us hear from you.

If you don't have email, call one of us—or send a note to Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate, Jacksonville, OR 97530 and we'll figure something out.

We're eager to hear from you and to see you on May 28th.

Your Buncom Board:

Connie Fowler -541-899-7805  
Carolyn Roberts  
Steve & Priscilla Weaver  
Lyn Hennion-541-899-7656  
Frank & Sue Maesen

## DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

# Letting go of perfect

BY SIOUX ROGERS

What is perfect? Well, certainly not my fingernails, toenails or my dry worn out hair-do. So go figure, why am I so neurotic about having a perfect garden? Oh, I know... it's my husband's fault! Now that this is clear and out of the way, what really is a neurotic garden or rather a psychotic gardener? Do you think never ever have a bare piece of earth showing is a bit over the edge? Maybe hourly dead-heading each and every single spent flower head on a hot thirsty sunny day is crazy? Or maybe it is my garden partner-in-crime, i.e. hubby, being unable to walk from here to there without kneeling down and picking invisible weeds! I seem unable to accept compliments when anyone is referring to the uninhibited rambling beauty of our garden. A disclaimer such as, "Yabit" (a shortened version of "yes but") is always my first response.

I think it is time for me to re-evaluate my interpretation of "perfect." My garden will never be perfect as she is a highly contagious reflection of myself. Dandelions grow profusely, but this is good, as you may remember—dandelions are good to eat. Dandelions bring up minerals from deep down in the garden soil, like an elevator shipping cargo from a secret cave up to the surface. Weeds happen! Weeds are great reasons for my husband to stretch and bend over. Weeds are generally just a value judgment. "A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows." (Doug Larson). Weeds are good too. A long time ago, our old, old, old farmer friends ate purslane, dandelion, lambs quarters, miner's lettuce, yellow dock, chickweed, land cress and sorrel. Settle down now, as I know many of us still do forage for edible weeds. I am actually planting a European variety of dandelions this year. Hubby is politely not giving his opinion or advice for once.

Do you realize, speaking of weeds, that some weeds planted around the pe-

riphery of a garden function as "trap crops" for evil insects? For instance, if you have leaf miners destroying your spinach, plant lamb's quarters nearby. On the other hand, in order to invite some beneficial insects into your garden, allow the Queen Anne's lace, evening primrose, wild mustard, dandelion, and goldenrods to grow.

Another thing about weeds is they actually give you an idea of the condition of your soil. Without getting too fancy, here is a short list, without Latin names. These plants like wet soil: Cattail, horsetail, joe-pye weed, silvery cinquefoil, mosses, tall buttercup, creeping buttercup, May apple, sheep sorrel, thyme-leaved speedwell, Canadian goldenrod, lance-leaved goldenrod, meadow pink, jewel-

**Weeds are great reasons for my husband to stretch and bend over. Weeds are generally just a value judgment. "A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows." (Doug Larson).**

weed, coltsfoot, marsh mallow and sweet flag. If you see any of these growing and don't want them, dry out your soil. Other weeds, not to be mentioned at this time, are indicators of acid, alkaline, sandy, dry, or heavy low humus soil.

As Christopher Lloyd observed in *The Well-Tempered Garden* (1973), "Many gardeners will agree that hand-weeding is not the terrible drudgery that it is often made out to be. Some people find in it a kind of soothing monotony. It leaves their minds free to develop the plot for their next novel or to perfect the brilliant repartee with which they should have encountered a relative's latest example of unreasonableness."

Now back to "neurotic." It is very difficult to step back from this sulky and time-wasting attitude. Best I can say or do



Sioux Rogers—And the beet goes on.

now is to appreciate the fact that I have a very sore back and this might be the garden gods telling me to let the garden fairies do their own magic. Here are a few simple new "rules." Remove the plants, whatever they may be, that are a hassle and too demanding of your time. Plant only what you love to look at or love to eat. Cement walkways may just be the option you have been looking for. (OMG, I can't believe I said that...but just maybe. On second thought, I can just let the hubby be neurotic and continue plucking his invisible weeds. For me, I am going down the easy path, that is container planting so I need not worry about gophers; Then excessively plant some vegetables so I won't realize I had a scanty crop. And repeat, "I will not plant fussy small annuals." The area I hate to mow will become a patio, made of broken cement. It will be wonderful!

So how does this tie together as even a small worthwhile read? This is mostly a philosophical moment. I have so often reflected on the garden as being intertwined in my life, my values, and my standards. Being so tough on myself or my garden or on anyone for that matter, is wasted heartbeats. Both life and my garden have the good, the bad and the beautiful. Each is OK. And that is not perfect, but okay. Let it go and just enjoy the butterflies, the weeds and the bounty of a messy garden. All is good.

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## APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

## World War III

BY BOB FISCHER



Let it be known throughout the Applegate Valley (at least on my property) that the common gopher and mole have been added to the endangered species list. My peaceful 13 acres has become a battlefield. It is man versus gopher and mole. Human intelligence pitted against animal instinct, modern technology against primitive rodent behavior.

I shall overcome. I shall adapt and claim victory in the end! This whole conflict started last November. The gophers were partying in our south pasture. The moles were sucking on worms in the garden. Then it happened: the moles pushed up mounds of earth in my front yard. The gophers did the same, but tossed in a few rocks for good measure. Little did I know that ignoring them was a big mistake—they were digging bunkers. Mashing the mounds with my boots, leveling the earth and raking only brought on more enemy trenches. The defiling work of those subterranean diggers erupted almost daily.

This gentleman's war turned ugly. I resolved to gain the upper hand in the conflict. First, I purchased traps in assorted sizes. I modified a push lawnmower by putting a long metal tube into the exhaust; I bought gopher bombs and highway flares. I had an enormous amount of gear and red-painted stakes to help locate the bunkers in the high grass.

I outfitted my lawn tractor (my tank) and trailer to haul the stuff. The wife

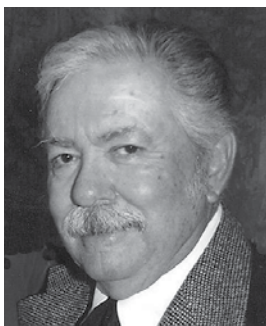
swore I went off the deep end when I put my camouflage hunting clothes, complete with side arm. General Patton would have been proud. I had to dig enormous holes to set the traps but the moles simply tunneled around them showing their contempt with fresh dirt piles. I tried poison but they tossed it out like three-week-old bread.

My next mode of attack was gas. I brought my sputtering old mower into the battle. I pumped the exhaust into as many holes as I could find. The area took on the appearance of a geothermal tourist attraction with wisps of caustic fumes belching forth from the earth. Earthworms writhed to the surface in panic.

It was a thorough routing. The enemy fled in panic from the field. For a time that is. A week later they returned while I was in a therapy session for Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome and resumed their work. I envisioned them wearing little ear plugs and gas masks to mock me with fresh mole turnpikes zigzagging across my patchy grass.

Winter has set in; all is quiet on the western front. Traps are put away. My tank is in the barn. Camey's are hung. The score is.....17 gophers and 6 moles. The moles and gophers and I will fight again, I am sure. Maybe by June I will have enough fur to make the wife a coat—her birthday is coming!

Bob Fischer • 541-846-6218



Bob Fischer

## Disaster Preparedness Area Workshops Planned

If a wildfire strikes in the Applegate Valley do you know what you will do with your livestock? Where will you take them and how will you get them there? What about your pets? Have you thought about the landscape around your home and what you can do to minimize the damage from a wildfire? These are important questions and information to assist you in preparing to protect your homes, your pets, your livestock and yourselves is coming to you!

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Applegate Animal Disaster Preparedness Committee are hosting free community workshops this spring to discuss the issues surrounding disaster preparedness.

The first workshop was held last month at Pacifica in Williams and involved ODF, Oregon State University Extension staff, Williams Fire Department volunteers and members from the Animal Disaster Preparedness Committee. Topics covered were burning and fuels reduction, grant opportunities, the Applegate Fire Plan, noxious weeds and large and small animal evacuation.

Other community workshops will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Applegate Lodge on April 7, Schmidt Winery on April 20 and another at the McKee Bridge Restaurant in May (date to be determined). Food and beverages will be available. Invitations will be mailed to you for the workshop specific to your area.

These workshops are designed to not only be informative but also useful in promoting local discussion among neighbors about action we can take now, before we smell the smoke. Let's find out how we can work together to protect what we all value.

For more information please contact Michele Brown-Riding, 541-846-1460 or email at michele@apbb.net.

Logtown Cemetery Cleanup  
April 30 starts at 10 am

Volunteer help is always welcome.

Please call Janeen Sathre 541-899-1443

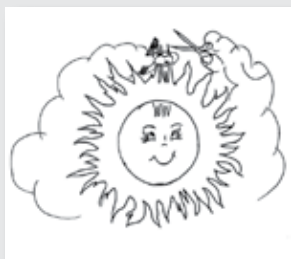
Logtown Cemetery is a non-profit historical cemetery

**Public Announcement:**

Annual Board Meeting of the Logtown Cemetery Association

May 15, 1:00 pm at the Jacksonville Library.

Members of the Association includes anyone who owns a plot at Logtown or has a family member buried there; all members are welcomed at the meeting.



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## THE STARRY SIDE

## Starry spring sky

BY GREELEY WELLS

During spring we're standing on the Milky Way! It's all around our horizon line, going below our feet and out of sight. So there's a paucity of stars in large parts of the sky. But two huge constellations (and a handful of smaller ones) thrill us this season.

The first is the Big Dipper, which is at its highest in the north. If you follow the 'pointer stars' down from the outer edge of the Big Dipper, you'll find Polaris (the North Star, which is the end of the Little Dipper's handle). Go farther down, and you'll see Cassiopeia. The Big Dipper, whose formal name is really Ursa (bear) Major, is our first large spring constellation.

Now to find our second large constellation, look in the other direction: overhead. Find those same 'pointer stars' at the outside edge of the Big Dipper and this time follow them upwards. That large

That's the "foot" of Bootes, a kite-like shape going towards the north. (By the way, that's bright Saturn below and Spica to the left.) Between Leo and Arcturus is a very faint fuzzy area, but we Applegaters should have a dark enough sky to see it. That fuzzy area is Coma Berenices (the hair of queen Bernice). It wasn't always called this; it used to be the fuzzy end of the long tail of Leo until some priests, who needed to impress their king to get out of trouble, renamed the tail in honor of the queen, who was famous for her hair. Now continue looking in the same direction past Arcturus, and you'll see another faint but beautiful constellation come into view: Corona Borealis. It's a semicircle, or a backwards "C" or "U" depending on your orientation to it. Corona means crown in Latin, making it the northern crown. The Cheyenne nation called it the "Camp

Borealis at the other. Binoculars or a telescope are a treat with this group.

Now, what's going on in the rest of the sky? The whole southern sky is pretty dim in spring, except for the planet Saturn to the upper-right of Spica and about equally bright. As I mentioned, in the west the winter constellations are disappearing: Orion and the group we discussed last season, including the very bright Sirius, are setting in the southwest. The Gemini twins will be the last to leave in May, and Leo will continue to get lower in the west. June 20th marks the solstice: the end of spring and the beginning of summer. And high in the east, our Milky Way galaxy rises once again. Welcome back!

## THE PLANETS

JUPITER is in the sun by April 6; our wonderful companion of the southern sky is done with his show. He rises up in the dawn in the second half of May with many other planets. On April 21 Jupiter, Venus and Mercury meet Mars in a diagonal

line very close to the horizon, rising to the upper right. That day they are closest but they play together all month, getting higher in June's dawn. Watch Jupiter speed by every one of them! Even the Pleiades get in the act in June, and a crescent moon joins in the fun June 25-29.

SATURN is the only planet that is far from the sun, and Saturn now takes the place Jupiter had all last season: high in the south, and up all night in the spring night sky. Rising around sunset and up all night, it is the brightest it's been in several years—almost as bright as Arcturus to the upper right and about equal to Spica to the lower left. They all rise in the sky together in May and by the end of June they've passed overhead and are moving towards the west. On April 17

the full moon is in the neighborhood to the lower right. There's an excellent pairing (just 1/2 a degree of separation) of Saturn with Porrima (also called Gamma Virginis), a double star in Virgo. They'll be closest on June 9, but they can be seen together with the moon all month! They should all three fit within a binocular or small telescope field. Of course, this sight would include Saturn's rings, which have been on edge (like looking at a plate with your eye next to the table top) and are now widening (imagine slowly standing up to see the plate from above).

MERCURY spends these spring months hobnobbing with the gang of four planets in the dawn. The big finale is in June, when Mercury is very bright and very low on the dawn horizon just before sunrise. Next in the gang of four are Venus, Mars, and the fast-moving Jupiter heading farther above and to the right, along the ecliptic line. (The ecliptic is the band across the sky where all the planets, moon and sun travel with assorted other stars as a backdrop.) By late June Mercury has fallen into the

sun. And by the very end of June Mercury rises in the evening after sunset, forming a straight line with Caster and Pollux.

VENUS and Jupiter are the brightest of the dawn planet party. Venus spends the spring sinking slowly toward the sun in her bright glory. And by the end of June she is also gone from view, disappearing into the sun. By the way, that's Aldebaran nearby.

MARS and Jupiter are side by side in the dawn at the end of April and beginning of May, along with Mercury and Venus who are close together and above right. Mars spends the spring together with the other three planets in the dawn, DANCING!

## OF SPECIAL NOTE

All four planets will adorn the dawn sky especially tightly together in a gathering of a lifetime in May. They start off all very low in the sunrise glow of April. But they rise to dance and play with one another in various interesting ways throughout spring. Even for dawn-doubters it might be worth getting up early for the show; if you watch for several nights you'll see the changes of partners. On April 30 and May 1, come out and see Jupiter, Mars, Mercury and Venus in their show, with a tiny crescent moon coming to the dance. Another crescent and a different planet configuration will occur on May 29-31, with the Pleiades joining the show. In June Aldebaran joins the party too, just below the widening line of the three planets that are left in the sky: Venus, Mars and Jupiter (with the Pleiades above Mars and Aldebaran below it).

The full moons of spring start with The Egg, Grass, Easter or Paschal Moon on April 18. May's full moon is on the 17; it is called The Milk or Planting Moon. June's full moon slides to the 15 and is known as The Flower, Rose or Strawberry Moon. These traditional names come from Native American and Old English names.

The Eta Aquarids meteor should be favorable this year on May 6, with very little moonlight to interfere. To best view this show, lie down warmly and comfortably so you can see as much of the night sky as possible. Then just wait and enjoy.

Astronomy Day is May 7! For more information check out [www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org).

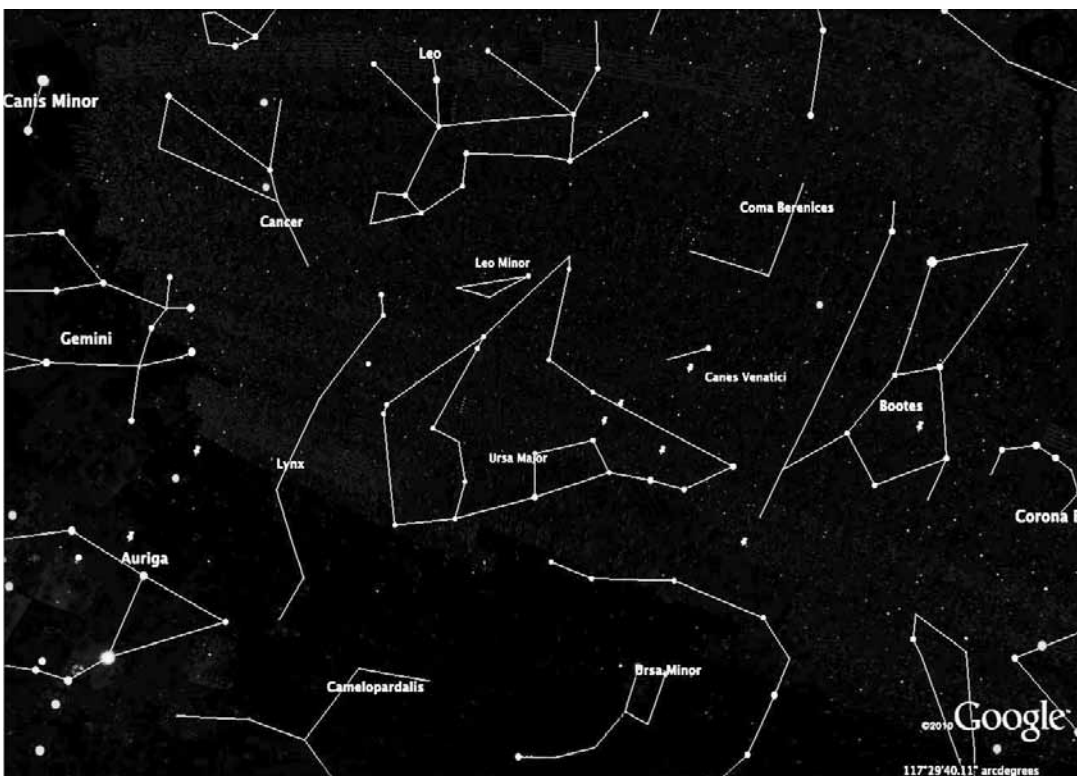
This year's only Friday the 13th occurs in May. Iranian women stay indoors on this day to avoid bad luck. Actually, the 13th falls on a Friday more often than any other day, usually once or twice a year. Interestingly, the 1st falls more commonly on a Sunday. Go figure.

Don't forget the Summer Solstice on June 21: the longest day and the shortest night, approximately, of the year.

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constellation they point to is Leo the lion, but he's upside down. So swing around to see him right-side up. That backwards question-mark is his mane. That bright star at the bottom is Regulus, the point of the question mark and the heart of the lion. (Please note that my map is oriented to get you started finding the North Star and Big Dipper. You'll need to turn the map around at this point so Leo is right-side up.)

The zenith (the actual "top" of the sky) is right between Leo and the Big Dipper, the two big constellations that begin to make spring interesting. Each night during Spring these two constellations swing a bit farther down into the west. In fact, each season the sky moves 1/4 the way around Polaris, until we end up next year at this time with the same configuration.

Now let's look a little deeper into space. On either side of Leo are two very subtle but beautiful constellations: Bootes and Coma Berenices. Find Leo's mane on the right, and a triangle of stars that make up his rump on the left. Keep going left and you'll come to the very bright Arcturus.

Circle" after the way they arranged their camps.

Now that you've located those three constellation—Bootes, Coma Berenices, and Corona Borealis—to the east (left) of Leo, let's add two to the west (right): Gemini and Cancer. Return to the backwards question-mark, which is sometimes called "The Sickle" though it really is Leo's mane. You'll notice that Leo is looking at two of our setting winter stars: Castor and Pollux, the Gemini brothers. They're setting with Orion and the whole gang of winter constellations we know and love. Finally, I want to point out to you another subtle beauty: Cancer. Cancer is on the same arc between Leo and the Gemini twins. It's a smudge just like Coma Bernenices, but a little brighter and even more beautiful. It's often called the "Bee Hive" and it does seem like a swarm of bees, very intense in the middle and fewer towards the edges.

Congratulations! You have now found a curved sweep of six constellations leading one to the other, with Leo at the center, Gemini at one end, and Corona

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## How Much Well Water Is Enough?

with Bob Quinn

Dear Bob Quinn:

*We've just purchased some land on which we plan to build the retirement house of our dreams. The adjacent landowner tells me that we shouldn't consider a well that will deliver less than 10 gallons of water a minute. Is this a hard and fast rule?*

The 10 gallon per minute is far from a hard & fast rule, but it is the common misconception. I'm looking at a printout from our computer for the Redwood Avenue area of Grants Pass that includes the flow rate for 25 properties in the area. The range is from 6 gal./minute to 60 gal./minute.

The average household of four could be expected to use approximately 400 gallons of water per day. A 5-gallon per minute flow rate would yield more than 7,200 gallons per day, 2 GPM would provide 2880 GPD. Anything more would be a bonus for an outside shower or similar use.

If the 5-gallon per minute flow rate is of concern to a homeowner, there is always the alternative of establishing a holding tank. This works as added insurance against a possible season of severe drought that might reduce the flow rate somewhat.



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## TRENDS AND OBSERVATIONS

# Five-dollar oil?

BY RAUNO PERTTU

As I write this column, events on the other side of the world are making the news. Although these events are far from the Applegate, we may feel the fallout. Libya's long-time dictator Gaddafi, still holds out in Tripoli, but his rule may likely have ended before this *Applegater* is published. Egyptian President Mubarak has been removed by the military. Protests, unrest and local violence have exploded across the countries of North Africa and the Middle East. How many long-term dictatorships will fall over the coming months is uncertain, but more authoritarian governments are likely to fall. Those that don't fall will scramble to make changes that might allow them to retain power, for now. These are historic changes.

A friend who owns businesses in Africa told me that a change of government in Algeria, like Libya, was likely to be bloody. As we discussed the future of a half dozen regional dictatorships, it was clear that these events sweeping the region could profoundly impact us. Which countries have an overturn of government and who replaces those governments will be important to us, even here in the Applegate.

The first concern is who will replace these dictatorial governments. To us, it seems obvious that the protesters want a democratic voice in their new government. If you assume that a new government will be friendly to us, remember the adage of ESPN's football commentators, "Not so fast, my friend!"

The United States has not historically supported movements to oust these authoritarian governments, and has actually supported several dictatorships in the name of regional stability. We should not expect an automatic warm reception from the new leaders.

We should likewise not be surprised if new authoritarian regimes replace those that are deposed. Modern history is filled with examples of dictatorships being replaced by new, possibly worse, dictatorships. The obvious fear is that an extreme anti-western religious group will assume control, as happened in Iran. Although possible, an extremist theocracy appears unlikely in a country like Egypt, which

has a history of tolerance and secularism. However, in a few key countries, notably Saudi Arabia, this fear may have some basis.

The events in Libya have triggered crude oil price climbs that are being reflected in our gasoline prices despite the fact that Libya only produces about two percent of the world's oil supply, and Saudi Arabia has compensated for any temporary production decline in Libya. In contrast, Saudi Arabia produces about fifteen percent of the world's oil supply. An uprising against the government in Saudi Arabia, and to a lesser extent, an uprising in the region's other oil producing countries, including Iran, would send oil prices soaring to new highs from fear and speculation. Real oil shortages could develop from hoarding, or from actual reduced production. Five-dollar-per-gallon gasoline at your pump could happen in a heart-beat. The economic consequences

**The events in Libya have triggered crude oil price climbs that are being reflected in our gasoline prices despite the fact that Libya only produces about two percent of the world's oil supply, and Saudi Arabia has compensated for any temporary production decline in Libya.**

could plunge us into another, even deeper recession. Higher oil prices would quickly mean higher prices for many goods, including food, which is already inflating. A new recession coupled with spiraling inflation is not a happy thought, when we haven't fully recovered from our recent downturn.

On a positive note, this new oil-price-driven recession, should it occur, should also be short-lived. Oil sales form the core of many economies in the Middle East, and it is unlikely that any new oil-revenue-dependent government would allow oil flow to slow for very long. The new government would need the oil sales cash flow.

There could be another longer-term positive to a crisis-driven oil price spike. Politicians have talked for a long time about advancing alternative sources of energy. After years of agreement that the country needs to develop alternatives to oil, little real progress has been made. A serious oil scare could accomplish more in speeding up the development of alternative energy sources than all the politicking of the past two decades. When people have to pay a large part of their living wage to keep the car running, they will initially demand lower oil prices. When they realize demanding lower oil prices doesn't make it

so, they may be ready to seriously support energy alternatives.

The danger, of course, would be that as soon as oil prices start to decline again, the new alternative energy programs that spring from the crisis could go back onto the shelf. This happened with oil shale in Colorado and Utah years ago. Public opposition to or support of oil shale development had little to do with the eventual outcome. The reason oil shale almost became a reality, then quickly died was that the price of oil first spiked, making development of oil shale economic, then dropped again to make it unattractive. Rumors floated that the oil price drop was in part a move by OPEC producers to keep oil shale from being developed, but these, again, were rumors. I had a bit of an inside seat to some of those events at the time and I didn't completely dismiss the rumors.

Recent history offers hope that if this new alternative energy scenario develops, it will not so quickly fade. Recent crude oil price rises were reflected in major jumps in gasoline prices at the pump. When crude oil prices subsequently declined, the price at the pump didn't appear to correct downward nearly as far. This means, if we have a new crude oil price spike and gas goes to five dollars or more per gallon, we should not expect those gas prices to decline to match subsequent future crude oil price declines. Furthermore it means that the economic incentive for continuing development of energy alternatives would remain, both from an economic basis and hopefully from public demand. Of course, until those alternative energy sources are available, we will remain the victims of this "What goes up doesn't necessarily have to come down" game.

These unfolding events in North Africa and the Middle East can have an impact on your planned driving vacation next summer, and even more importantly, on our economic recovery. Any new oil price spike that results from this turmoil can also be the driver that finally sparks us to serious alternative energy development.

As you are watching these developments on the other side of the world, remember you're also a player, whether you like it or not. The Applegate is part of this increasingly intertwined world. If your trip to town suddenly costs more, you can also blame these events when you curse your oil company.

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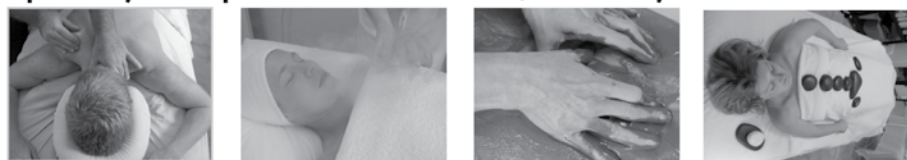
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## Williams Fire Department Support Group Annual Yard Sale/Fundraiser June 10-11

We have planned our sale for June 10 and 11 and will begin accepting donations Tuesday, April 5 and each following Saturday and Tuesday until June 7. Time for drop off is 10:00 am to 2:00 pm next to the fire station. Please do not leave items unattended.

We are **not** accepting: Large appliances, computers, organs, pianos, TVs, holiday items, soiled mattresses, broken or not-working items. We can do special pickups for large items, if necessary!

Your support is greatly appreciated.

For more information contact:

Nancy Minetti at 541-846-6857 WFDSG or Liz at 541-846-0239.



## Notes from a Rogue Entomologist:

## The Snakefly—an Oregon native

BY RICHARD J. HILTON

Our native insect fauna is nothing short of remarkable, but it seems like the insect invaders and exotic pests get all the press. While it is certainly understandable that a new or re-emerging pest will get a lot of ink, the media does have a tendency to go overboard. For instance, the resurgence of the bed bug, while an important story has, in my opinion, been blown out of proportion; “if it bleeds, it leads” as the old press adage goes. I do not mean to suggest that the media should not be reporting on blood sucking parasites, however, I wish they would have spent at least half as much time exposing the Wall Street con artists as they devoted to the bugs hiding under our mattresses. But I digress. The bed bug will have to wait while I introduce one of our native insects, the snakefly.

First, the snakefly is not a true fly. True flies are a large group of insects that only have two wings, like the mosquito or house fly, while most other adult insects have four. Snakeflies are a rather small group of insects related to lacewings. The wings fold over the body like a tent when the insect is at rest and have a netlike venation. Some of our local snakefly species can get fairly large, with an overall body length of almost an inch and if you happen to see a female with her long slender ovipositor, the total length can approach one and a half inches. You may see a snakefly alighting on your window or screen as things warm up in the spring and early summer. They are not uncommon, particularly if you live near wooded areas.

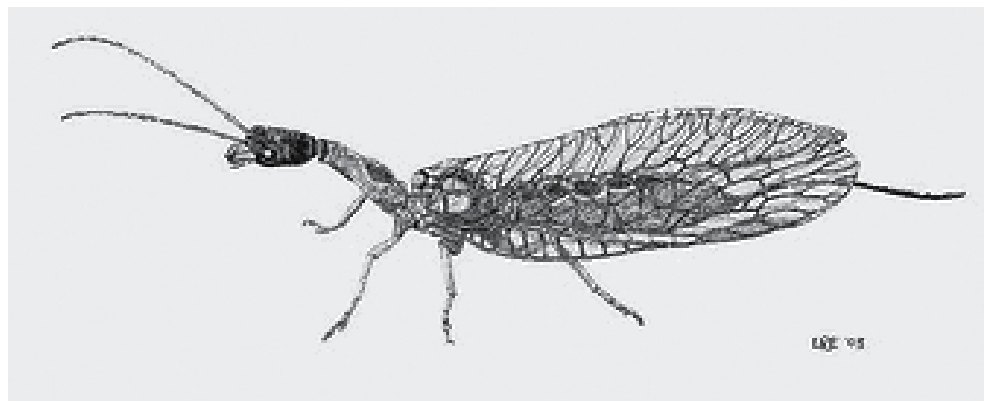
They get the name ‘snakefly’ due to the fact that their prothorax, the segment right behind the head, is quite elongated which allows them to raise their head well above their body giving them a decidedly longneck or snakelike appearance. Snakeflies are voracious predators in both the adult and larval stages and are considered to be beneficial insects in our local orchards. The larvae also get quite large and have a long slithering body that with not too much imagination can

resemble a snake. I found a report stating that snakefly larvae were one of only two insects that could move as fast backwards as forwards but I do not know how much actual research went into that determination. The larvae often inhabit bark and can live for as long as two to three years, which is unusual as few insects live for over a year. On more than one occasion I have had large snakefly larvae brought into the office and the first question is usually “What the heck is this thing?” followed by “Is it dangerous?”

While snakeflies can look scary, they are essentially harmless. The long ovipositor of the female can be mistaken for a stinger (and the stinger in bees and wasps was originally derived from an ovipositor) but snakeflies do not sting. They do have some substantial mandibles so they might be able to deliver a bite if handled too roughly but that has not happened to me, at least not yet. Once when I was sampling pear orchards with a

beating tray, which is a low tech method consisting of beating a tree limb and catching what falls off on a flat piece of white cloth, I made an interesting discovery regarding the snakefly. I was collecting all the beneficial insects in vials to take back to the lab and determine the species but when I found a snakefly that had fallen on the tray all the vials were already occupied so I put the snakefly in with a syrphid or hover fly that I had collected. Hover flies are true flies and their larvae are very good predators of aphids and other soft bodied insects. As you might guess, when I returned to the lab, the vial which had the snakefly and hover fly now contained only the snakefly and the two wings of the hover fly. Apparently snakeflies do not like the taste of hover fly wings.

In the US, snakeflies are only found west of the Rockies, but they are also found in Europe and northern Asia and are considered to be relict species or living fossils, as the species still alive appear to be remnants of an earlier and more widely distributed group. The oldest snakefly fos-



sils date back to the Jurassic period over 100 million years ago and it seems that many snakefly species went extinct as a result of the same asteroid impact that brought about the demise of the dinosaurs. An entomologist should probably not have a favorite insect but I do have a soft spot for the snakefly. I was a little dismayed to see that the snakefly had won Arizona’s “ugly bug” contest in 2009. The snakefly may be odd looking, a little weird perhaps, but to my eye the snakefly’s unusual appearance is one of its more endearing features. So the snakefly does not live back east but is an Oregon native that thrives here, one of the

good guys that eats other insects—what’s not to like?

Richard J. Hilton  
541-772-5165 ext. 227  
Senior Research Assistant / Entomologist  
Oregon State University--  
Southern Oregon Research and  
Extension Center

PICTURE ABOVE: Snakefly adult—line drawing  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7519633@N08/4344599919/>

PICTURE LEFT: Snakefly larva—line drawing  
[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/\\_sdr4EyRWQ94/TFzYdjTl61I/](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_sdr4EyRWQ94/TFzYdjTl61I/)

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Rehearsals began on March 30 and will take place through June 15 every Wednesday evening at the Applegate Library at 7 pm. A concert will be held on June 19 at 3 pm in a location to be posted soon.

For more information call Kathy Escott at 541-846-6844.

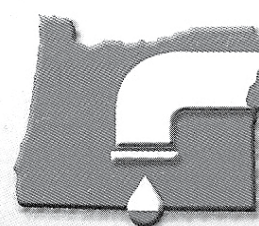
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## JACKSON COUNTY Library Services

### Applegate Library

The Jackson County Library Services are offering adult computer training classes beginning the end of April. The Basic II Computer Classes will be held at the Jacksonville Library on three different Wednesdays:

**April 27 from 2-4 pm,  
Session One: Word processing.**

**May 4 from 2-4 pm,  
Session Two: Photo Editing.**

**May 11 from 2-4 pm,  
Session Three: File Management.**

**May 18 from 2-4 pm,  
Session Four: Review and Practice.**

Now is your chance to catch up with those younger members of our community and learn some computer skills.

The Applegate Library has a new volunteer teenager, Makena Grigsby, who is helping at our library every Friday afternoon from 2-6 pm. She is there to help you with questions and is doing some of the work that our librarians love to share.

The March display case has been decked out with work from the Southern

Oregon Stitchers. The Southern Oregon Stitchers is a chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America whose mission is to stimulate the appreciation for embroidery. Their chapter puts up monthly displays at local libraries and they share their embroidery at Hanley Farm during the summer. They meet on the third Saturday of each month, usually at the Presbyterian Church in Central Point.

Our library has presented several programs this winter and spring, among them "Music, Music, Music" with the Accidentals, and the Applegate Valley Cats and a visit from Chelsea Rose who is part of the Southern Oregon Historical Society's "Windows in Time." Chelsea's program is: "On and Onwards: Finding and Mapping the Applegate Trail." Chelsea is an Applegate resident and is an archeologist with SOU.

We are looking forward to the reading and book signing by Gay Bradshaw on April 17 at 3:00 pm. when she talks about her latest publication, *Elephants on the Edge*. Be sure to join us for this event. We'll provide the refreshments!

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

### Ruch Library

#### Friends of Ruch Library Annual Meeting Saturday April 16, 2:00 pm

Library friends, one and all, please join us for the Friends of Ruch Library's (FORL) Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 16, 2:00 pm, in the library's Community Meeting Room. Short (45 minutes), but sweet. We'll report on 2010 accomplishments (2010 Saturday hours, yea!), share 2011 plans, and elect Board Members and Officers. You'll be able to meet our new branch manager, too!

If you donated to support our 2011 Saturday hours, you are eligible to vote for the Friends' Board Members, so come cast your vote, too. And if you want to increase your support for our library by becoming a Board Member, speak up now! Call Kaye Clayton, 541-899-1044, or Pat Gordon, 541-899-7655, to learn more. After the biz, Janeen Sathre will help us plan our next hike.....

### Hiking the Applegate with Janeen Sathre

**Saturday April 16, 2:45 pm  
at Ruch Library**

The Applegate area has a great selection of trails from easy to very difficult. From dry oak forest to alpine meadows. You can have spring flowers from April to August. You can see the Pacific Ocean and Mt. Shasta from the same mountain peak. We have our own little Wilderness area with some of the most spectacular forest, water, or views any hiker wanting to get away from it all could ask for. All of these trails are on public land, waiting for you to enjoy.

Come and learn which trails are well maintained and great for the once-in-a-while hiker and learn about some hidden gems for serious hikers, too. Plus, discover some terrific library resources to guide your next hiking adventures!

Presenter Janeen Sathre is a fifth generation native of the Applegate. She walks many of the same trails her grandfather walked in the early nineteen hundreds when he worked for the U.S. Forest Ser-



Janeen Sathre

vice and manned the Fire Lookouts. Some of the trails whisper stories her father told of trail cleaning and fire fighting here in the Applegate. Her favorite trails have flowers and water and spectacular views.

No charge; donations for the library appreciated!

Pat Gordon (541-899-7655)

*"We don't stop hiking because we grow old, we grow old  
because we stop hiking."*  
—Finis Mitchel

### Elephants on the Edge:

## Local author to speak at the Applegate Library on April 17



Gay Bradshaw, a local Applegate resident, holds doctorates in both ecology and psychology and is the director of the Kerulos Center. She has recently published a groundbreaking book of research entitled *Elephants on the Edge*. It is not a happy book, but one that will hold your mind and emotions for days, maybe even years. It is a story about the relationship between humans and elephants, but goes beyond that with insight into our relationships with all of the natural world.

Each chapter begins with a scene that sets the mood for the intrigue of reality to follow.

"Dawn comes slowly on the veldt. With the touch of morning light, each still-life character wakens into slow motion. But there is nothing measured in the young bull elephant racing toward the feeding rhinoceros." And the reality of the chapter begins.... "What possible connection could there be between a murderous elephant and a murderous human separated by thousands of miles? Humans may kill with disturbing frequency, but historically, inter- or intra-species violence is uncommon among elephants."

As we read on through the chapters, Bradshaw points out "science's new appreciation of species' mental and emotional overlap, and in particular, how much people and elephants share, down to the very level how we each become who we are.... Science has rendered species differences on the level of cultural differences rather than biological ones."

Bradshaw goes through case after case of abuse of elephants by humans and how these abuses lead to the disintegration of the species both by psychological damage as well as physical elimination through culling and hunting.

Most of us have discovered elephants in zoos and circuses, but Bradshaw points out in her chapter entitled "Where Does the Soul Go?" that "Captivity in zoos and circuses is unsafe and fails to preserve essential ingredients for a species: physical, social, psychological, cultural, emotional or genetic characteristics. The notion that captivity allows species to thrive is also belied by low fertility, infanticide, and transgenerational stress effects." So our zoo and circus experiences are not experiences of "elephant reality." In fact, by our participation in their attractions, we are also participating in animal abuse.

Bradshaw points out that work is being done to restore elephants' souls in many parts of the world. One example is Elke Reisterer, a massage therapist, who makes twice-monthly pilgrimages from her home in Santa Cruz, California, to tend to elephants, tortoises, giraffes, snakes and emus at the Oakland Zoo. Elke even travels to Kenya, Thailand and India to treat ailing Asian and African elephants using her "listening hands."

Bradshaw concludes her book with this message that "To save elephants, we must let go of the very things that have protected us from being treated like them: our self-appointed dominion and privilege." She says that, "what befalls the elephants befalls humanity. If we lose the elephants, we lose ourselves."

This is a difficult book to read, not because the language or the science is inaccessible, but because it tells us so much about ourselves, and not all of it is easy to hear.

In the Appendix on page 253, Bradshaw lists "Ten Things You Can Do to Help Elephants." All of these suggestions can be taken to heart. #10 is "Buying Choices."

She recommends, when giving a gift to a friend, family member or associate, send a donation in his or her name to a nonprofit organization that supports wildlife protection.

We can all be participants in saving elephants on the edge (as well as ourselves).

A reading and book signing by Gay Bradshaw takes place on April 17 at 3 pm at the Applegate Library. Refreshments will be served.

Joan Peterson • 541-846-6988

Gay Bradshaw and friend.





**"Tick Talk" by Julie Wheeler****Saturday, May 7, 2:00 pm****Ruch Library**

It's that amazing time of the year in the Applegate! And our local ticks know it, too. Can we interest you in learning what precautions you can take to keep from getting ticks? How about the correct methods for removing ticks? Presenter Julie Wheeler can tell you those things and plenty more including getting your ticks identified and tested for the Lyme spirochete and recognizing Lyme symptoms. Her talk will include the DVD, "Under our Skin." There'll also be time for questions and answers. Have we got you itching and looking yet?

Julie Wheeler, Applegate Valley

born and raised, is currently an Occupational Health and Safety Manager for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and has a small business teaching First Aid classes. You're in good hands!

This is another excellent program presented by your Friends of the Ruch Library - it's yet another way we're celebrating Saturdays at the library! No charge, but donations to support the library are always appreciated.

Pat Gordon • 541-899-7655

**Benefit Performance for Ruch Library****Music from Islands Real and Imaginary with Mark Kailana Nelson****Saturday, May 14, 7:00 pm, Ruch Library**

Mark's story: his career started well before he could drive. In the 1970s, he created a whole new vocabulary for Appalachian dulcimer and guitar. His first place win at the National Dulcimer Championships in Kansas, 1979, led to appearances at festivals, colleges, and coffeehouses across North America and Europe, and a recording career that continues. When not on the road, he calls the Applegate Valley home.

He is one of the first non-Hawaiian musicians to master the Ki Ho 'alu, or slack key guitar. His playing honors those who came before, and his teaching passes it on to the next generation.

Mark weaves stories and humor with his music. He's performed from Barrow to Boston; Sligo to San Diego, sharing the stage with performers as diverse as Grover Washington, Jr., Keola Beamer, Norton Buffalo, Phoebe Snow, Doc Watson, and George Winston. He once worked as a banjo-playing gorilla in Dublin, but that's another story...

Mark's performance is sponsored by the Friends of Ruch Library.

Suggested donation—\$10. Contribute more if you can since all the money raised will benefit our Ruch branch library. The Friends have no administrative overhead.

Special thanks to Mark for his generosity!

For more information call the library at 541-899-7438.

Pat Gordon • 541-899-7655

**Jackson County Library Services'****Summer Reading Program**

"One World—Many Stories" is the theme this summer at the Jackson County Library and children are invited to visit the library and explore the world through books, activities and storytelling.

Registration for the program begins as soon as school is out in June. Children age 3-12 are invited to sign up at their local branch library, read or listen to ten books, and earn reading incentives such as a free meal coupon from HomeTown Buffet.

Parents of infants and toddlers 0-36 months can read to their children and receive a gift book, a signed certificate, and a bookmark.

Teens can participate in the "You Are Here" reading program, attend activities, write reviews and earn the chance to win a Flip Mino video camera.



Everyone is invited to special summer reading activities and performances at branch libraries around Jackson County.

For more information, contact your local branch library or visit our Web site at [www.jcls.org](http://www.jcls.org).

*Photo above: Applegate Branch 2010 Summer Program winner displays his Barnes & Noble gift certificate. In 2010 over 5700 children, teens, and adults participated in the Summer Reading Program at Jackson County Libraries and read over 50,000 books.*

**Woodland Charter School Supporters Forge Ahead**

*Despite an initial "no" vote, Waldorf-methods Charter School developers seek means to open in Fall 2011*

On February 7, the Three Rivers School District Board of Education voted down a proposal to sponsor the first rural Waldorf-methods charter school in the state of Oregon. The school is proposed for the Applegate Valley, an area with a strong history of residents seeking alternative educational options for their children. Nearly two years of work by dedicated community members and parents were threatened by the "no" vote, but the organizers of the Woodland Charter School have regrouped and are forging ahead. They plan to take their request for sponsorship to the State Department of Education if needed.

At issue is the potential financial impact of the Woodland Charter School on the Three Rivers School District. With a proposed maximum student population of 85 children, it will require \$404,700 in ADMw (Average Daily Membership weighted) funds to operate the school in the first year (2011-2012). In a year when TRSD has had to cut 15 days from the school year to make budget, this amount sounds like a hard pill to swallow. But, as usual, the funding issues are complex and nuanced. While TRSD is claiming that the \$404,700 will come out of their pockets to start Woodland Charter School, they're not giving the public the whole story.

Here's a basic primer on ADMw funding for charter schools:

- The state of Oregon awards approximately \$6000 per enrolled student via the State School Fund.
- Those funds for the students at the charter school are delivered to the sponsoring district.
- The district retains a percentage of those funds (anywhere from 10-20%), and then passes the money through to the charter school.
- The charter school uses the 80-90% remaining to cover its operating expenses, including facilities rental/purchase, salaries and benefits, supplies, materials, professional services, and utilities.

In the case of Woodland Charter School, homeschool families and students who are being educated outside of TRSD make up the core proposed student population (86%). These students, who will be new to TRSD, will provide a new revenue source to the cash-strapped district. At the proposed rate of 85% pass-through, TRSD stands to gain \$69,300 from Woodland

students in the first year of operation.

But TRSD fiscal managers have their eyes on that \$404,700 in "start-up" costs. They believe this to be their "loss" in the first year of operation. What they are not explaining to the general public is that the \$404,700 needed to operate Woodland would not be subtracted from the ADMw award that the state gives for each of the existing TRSD students (which totals approximately \$29 million), but instead it would be subtracted from the extended ADMw award.

The state of Oregon allows school districts like TRSD that are experiencing declining enrollment to request a special extended ADMw award to help cushion their budgets. Here's how the extended ADMw comes into play with the Woodland Charter School:

- TRSD overestimates the number of students that will attend district schools in 2011-2012 by approx. 150 students.
- Oregon DOE awards 150 "ghost" students worth of extended ADMw (approx. \$900,000).
- Woodland Charter School's real students require \$404,700 of that \$900,000 for their education.

This "ghost student" funding is the crux of the financial dilemma regarding Woodland Charter School's sponsorship approval. TRSD is within their legal rights to request the extended ADMw, but in denying Woodland Charter School students because they will cut into the "ghost student" funding, TRSD is simultaneously arguing for state assistance because of declining enrollment and denying the possibility of Woodland Charter School to students who would help increase district enrollment. This doesn't make sense.

The developers of the Woodland Charter School have submitted a revised proposal to the TRSD Board of Education and it will be voted upon Monday, March 7 at the Three Rivers School District offices in Murphy. (*Editor note: this was subsequently voted down.*) Should the TRSD Board deny the proposal, there is a process for mediation. Woodland developers will ask for an immediate move to state board sponsorship, and can do so if both parties waive mediation.

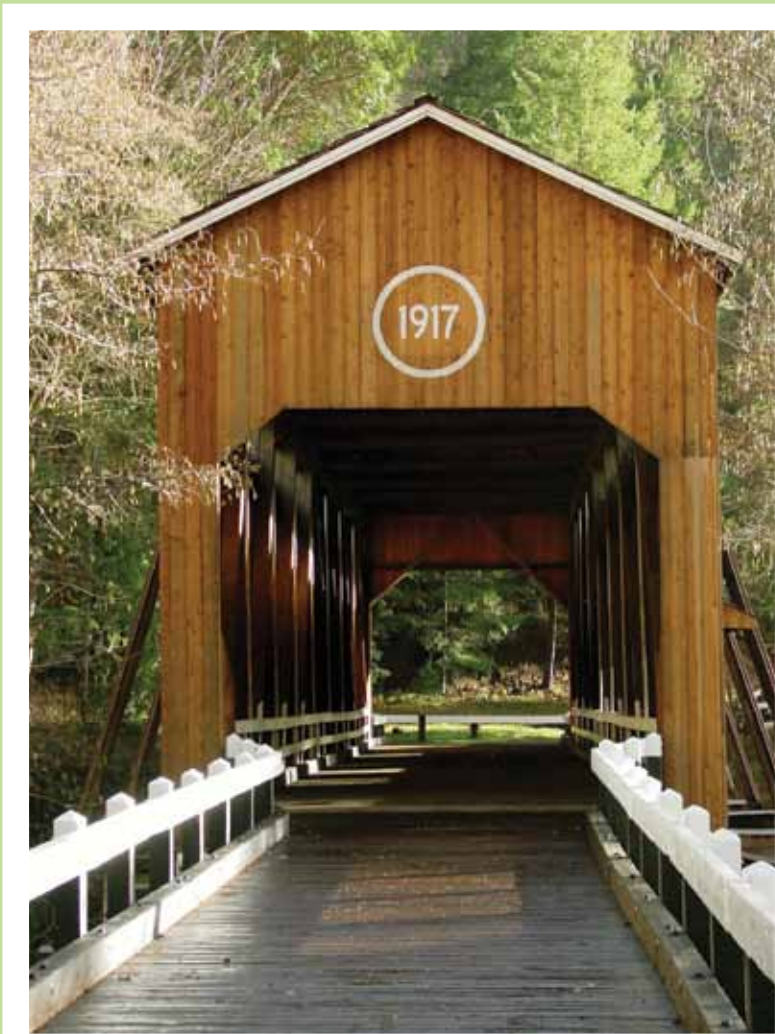
Contact info: [info@woodlandcharterschool.org](mailto:info@woodlandcharterschool.org); [www.woodlandcharterschool.org](http://www.woodlandcharterschool.org) and 541.846.4246

Contact: Stacey Denton, Woodland Charter School Project Coordinator

**Celebrate National Library Week  
April 10-16, 2011**

**And remember—in Jackson County your Library is available 24-7 @ [www.jcls.org](http://www.jcls.org)**





## McKee Bridge Day Saturday, June 11 • 10 am-4 pm

Come to McKee Bridge Day, Saturday, June 11, 2011, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Help the McKee Bridge Historical Society celebrate and raise funds for the continued existence of the McKee Bridge. Enjoy tri-tip BBQ by the Applegate Lions, Bake sale, Local produce & crafts, Games, Raffles, and Story telling by Janis Mohr Tipton.

For more information and/or vendor space call 541-899-2927.

A special history walk through the Gin Lin Mining area will showcase hydraulic mining done in 1881 along the Applegate River. A one-mile hike of easy trail with leader Janeen Sathre, 5th generation native, whose family homesteaded in the same area, will begin at the McKee Bridge at 10:00 am. Donation required.

More information contact Janeen at 541-899-1443

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## FISHER

FROM PAGE 1

Project, a landscape-scale fuels-reduction project. We want to study the response of fisher to proposed treatments, such as ground, ladder-fuel, and canopy reduction and the potential alteration or loss of denning and resting habitat. We have been trapping now for one year, and are in our fourth trapping session this month. When we capture animals they are fitted with a radio telemetry collar that also has a built in GPS device that we can download data remotely. This allows us to follow animals in real time and also to remotely track their movements over several months. To date, we have captured and collared six females and four males in the Ashland watershed. We have collected an amazing amount of data that show the size of their individual

home ranges, as well as the various habitats they use during foraging and resting. We now have critical baseline information on home range, habitat use, and the size of the local population of fisher in the Ashland watershed. Our fisher will be recaptured and re-collared throughout the project in order to help us determine how they respond to our treatments. The research will assist us in designing other fuels-reduction treatment in southwest Oregon that will both maintain fisher habitat and reduce fire risk.

David Clayton • 541-618-2054

Photo below: Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest forester Katie Schubert and KSWilds' Joseph Vaile and "Cricket" a female fisher. Photo by David Clayton.



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# The Siskiyou Mountains Salamander

BY DAVID CLAYTON AND ERIN HALCOMB

In the spring of 1963, Dr. Robert “Doc” Storm, herpetology professor of Oregon State University and his herpetology class were in the upper Applegate Valley on their annual collecting trip when they discovered several salamanders very near the little town of Copper, under what is now Applegate Reservoir. They collected some individuals, assuming that they were Del Norte Salamanders a species known for more coastal areas. But by 1965, these animals were described as a new species and named the Siskiyou Mountains Salamander, *Plethodon stormi*, after “Doc” Storm. With this began a new chapter in northwest herpetology that would focus on the Applegate Valley and this new species.

The Siskiyou Mountains Salamander is a member of the family Plethodontidae, the Lungless Salamanders and the genus *Plethodon*, the Woodland Salamanders. These animals respire entirely through

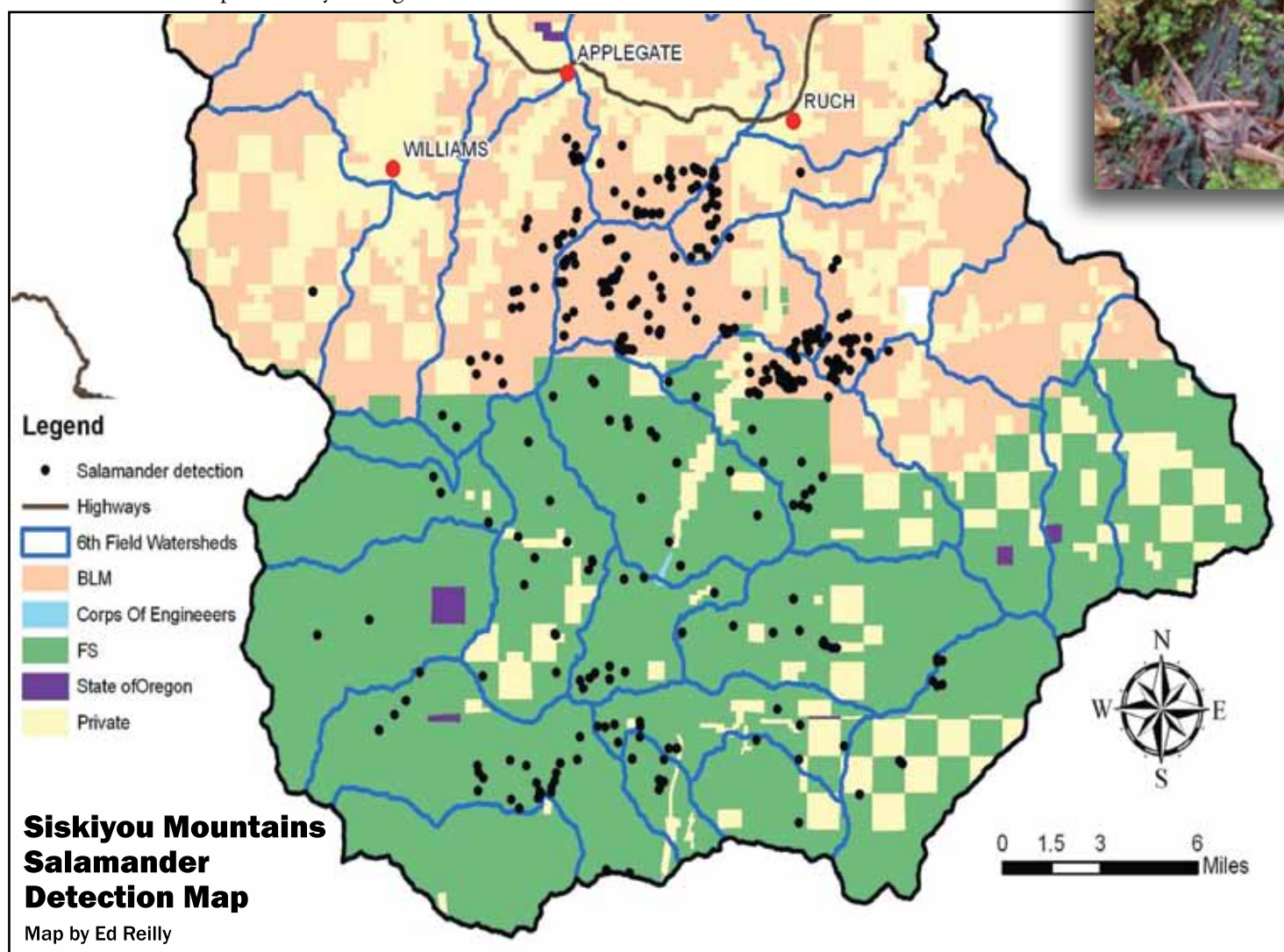
der rocks on the forest floor during wet weather. Siskiyou Mountains Salamanders are active on or near the surface primarily at night when it is cool and moist and peak active periods occur during the wet season. These animals prey on a variety of small invertebrates, including spiders, mites, ants, collembolans, and beetles. These salamanders are entirely terrestrial and do not require standing or flowing water at any stage of their life cycle. Eggs are thought to be laid in nests below the ground, deep in rocky substrate. Courtship probably occurs during the spring rainy season on the talus surface.

Potential threats to this rare species include habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation. Activities that pose threats are those that disturb the surface microhabitats and/or microclimate conditions. Typically these involve actions that remove canopy and/or disturb the substrate. Removal of

Welsh from the Redwood Sciences Lab at Humboldt State University who had been studying the habitat associations of other amphibians, most notably the Del Norte Salamander, a species closely related to the Siskiyou Mountains Salamander. We then began to investigate the habitat associations of this animal by installing and sampling over 350 plots across the Applegate within all potential habitats for the salamander. Ultimately, we found that Siskiyou Mountains Salamanders were found in higher densities in older forest with higher canopies, confirming that they were dependent on late-successional forest here in the Applegate.

At the same

knew that it was time to develop a comprehensive conservation strategy for the salamander and in August of 2007 the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Medford District Bureau of Land Management, and US Fish and Wildlife Service jointly signed a conservation agreement and strategy giving us direction for the conservation and management of the Siskiyou Mountains Salamander. This strategy identifies over 110 known salamander sites across the Applegate Valley where the Forest Service



and BLM will manage for the species over the long term.

One of two management strategies is recommended for each of these high-priority sites. The first strategy focuses on maintaining habitat conditions for this species at the high-priority site by minimizing activities that may have effects on substrate, ground cover, and microclimate. The second strategy for sites that are within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) allows for more latitude in activities at the high-priority site by recommending activities that reduce fuels and the potential for fire to the site. The two-tiered approach integrates the fire ecology of the area, current stand conditions, fuel loads and proximity to populated areas while providing for the long-term persistence of these populations. You can read the strategy at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/planning-documents/strategies.shtml>

So, from a chance discovery in 1963 by northwest herpetology icon Doc Storm and his students, to the 1990s and the Survey and Manage provision, we have learned a tremendous amount about this little salamander with no lungs that lives in the Applegate. Under this new strategy, the Siskiyou Mountains Salamander and its habitat within our Applegate Valley will continue to persist for generations to come.

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Photo above: The Siskiyou Mountains Salamander (*Plethodon stormi*) by Bill Leonard

their skin, complete their entire life cycle in terrestrial environments and are found on the forest floor in moist microhabitats. Like other *Plethodon* they are slim and long with relatively short legs. Siskiyou Mountains Salamanders are slim and long bodied (approximately 2-5 inches in length), and are chocolate brown to purplish brown on the back, with varying amounts of light flecking on the head, sides, and limbs. Adults may have a faint lighter brown dorsal stripe, and the belly color is grayish-purple. Juveniles tend to be black or very dark brown with flecking, and often have a light brown or tan dorsal stripe, and are gray on the belly.

The Siskiyou Mountains salamander lives only in an approximately 370,000 acre area in southwestern Oregon and northwestern California, primarily in the Applegate Valley. To date, there are approximately 380 localities known for the species.

Siskiyou Mountains Salamanders are typically found in forested habitats with deep rocky soils or talus and rocky outcrops. They also can be found under bark, logs, or other debris but always in association with rocky soils. Individuals are most often found by searching un-

canopy overstory may cause desiccation of the rocky substrates and loss of the mossy ground cover, a microhabitat feature of Siskiyou Mountain Salamander sites. Examples of the types of activities that may cause impacts include: certain types of timber harvest such as regeneration harvest with associated road construction and ground-based harvest systems.

In 1990, as a recent graduate of Southern Oregon University just out of herpetology class and with a good eye for salamanders, I was hired by the Applegate Ranger District to survey for Siskiyou Mountains Salamander. At the time this animal was only known from about 40 locations in the lower reaches of Carberry, Elliot, and the Squaw Creek drainages as well as three or four sites in the Seiad Creek drainage south of the Siskiyou Crest.

Over the next three years we surveyed for salamanders throughout the Applegate; we documented many new sites, and expanded the known range. I began to use a rudimentary habitat model that consisted of soil maps that showed rocky soils and vegetation maps identifying older forest and high canopy closures; these seemed to work well at predicting salamander habitat. Then in 1993, I met Dr. Hart

time, the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) was introduced to Federal lands in the Pacific Northwest in an attempt to break the stalemate over the northern Spotted Owl. One of the provisions of the NWFP was the Survey and Manage guidelines which identified over 500 species that were thought at the time to not be adequately provided for in the NWFP system of Late-successional Reserves. The Siskiyou Mountains Salamander was one of these species and surveys for all proposed activities and protection of all known locations were required under these new Survey and Manage guidelines. This provision was also instrumental in providing personnel to investigate the distribution, habitats, and genetics of this animal. Over the next ten years, our Amphibian Taxa Team, consisting of researchers, managers, and field biologists studied all aspects of the biology and ecology of the Siskiyou Mountains Salamander. We expanded the range significantly and developed new habitat models that allowed us to predict with 80 percent accuracy where suitable habitat and new sites could be found.

With all of the new information we had collected on the Siskiyou Mountains Salamander the Amphibian Taxa Team

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## Tall Tales from the Editor

# The beast or Upright and mobile

I had been at the south end of our Heritage apple orchard for about 15 minutes, pruning one of two four-year-old Red Rebel apple trees. This is an apple that originated around 1850, on a farm in Virginia—hence the name “Rebel.” In 1988, this apple was thought to be extinct. That same year one was discovered in Alabama that had been planted in 1930. Scion wood was taken from the Red Rebel that spring and some new trees were grafted up. It was quite lucky that this Red Rebel apple tree was rediscovered and new trees grafted from it because it died the very next year. Hopefully our Red Rebels will bear fruit this year so we can sample its rumored high dessert quality and exquisite flavor.

Our border collie, Barney McGee, a.k.a. Monster Boy, had already raced five cars (Thompson Creek Road rush hour) from one end of the orchard to the other in that same 15 minutes I was pruning. Barney McGee believes he is a Gold Olympic runner. His mission: be sure he crosses the finish line (either end of the orchard) ahead of his chosen opponent. Then he bristles his fur all up, prances around with an expression that says “It takes more than six cylinders to beat me!” Then he waits for his next race. Utah, our other border collie, has no interest in this sort of child’s play. Since he’s around 15 years old, following the sun from place to place is all the excitement he needs other than food. If I had half of McGee’s energy I could prune 100 apple trees a day. While I’m not as old or as slow as Utah, I do feel as if I might be older than dirt; decomposed granite anyone?

I had just finished up radiation treatment for prostate cancer and found myself extremely energy-challenged. Something like five years ago I had my prostate removed because of cancer. For three years I thought I had kicked the beast’s butt. Then my PSA (blood test) numbers started to climb. Turned out that the surgery eviction notice didn’t mean much to the beast. He just returned in the dark of night, settled back in and the squatter made himself at home. I then had to bring in a wrecking ball which consisted of 34 radiation treatments to terminate the beast once and for all.

Before I could start the radiation treatments, I had to have three small gold

markers placed in the area that once housed my beloved prostate. The markers showed the radiation tech where to radiate me. I can tell you that the placement of the gold markers was not a pleasant experience. I never would have guessed I could curl my toes back to my heels while lying in a compromising position on a medical table in the doctor’s office. I was unable to watch the procedure on the monitor due to my eyes being tightly squeezed shut from the agony I was experiencing during the marker placement. If I had felt anything remotely as painful as that outside the doctor’s office I would have called 9-1-1.

Now I wonder, with full body scans at the airport will these gold markers show up? Will I then be escorted to a small padded room that’s brightly lit, with a table for further probing? Will Homeland Security think I’m smuggling gold? What if I get mugged in San Francisco? Luckily the radiation treatments themselves were painless, Thank God!

First thing the radiation tech did was make a mold from my butt to my feet. That way I’d lie in the same position for all 34 treatments. Five days a week for over seven weeks, excluding holidays, I would lay on an x-ray table in my personalized mold. They’d shoot two sets of x-rays lining my gold mine or markers up with what I called “the master x-ray” or the one they took before I started treatments. Once the gold markers were lined up—bombs away—I’d get radiated from seven different angles, one at a time. I would spend around 20 minutes on the x-ray table for each treatment.

As I was being nuked I would watch a red light on the wall that flickered during my treatment. It read “Beam On.” Each day the flickering red light made me think of a laboratory scene in a really bad B Sci-Fi movie from 1950. Actually the whole ordeal felt like a bad movie, but I don’t recall ever auditioning for a lead role or for any role for that matter. Let me say right here that everyone at Providence Hospital was more than kind, caring and helpful. I haven’t received any portion of the bill yet; I hope that when I do that doesn’t mean I’ll get to know the cardiac department also.

Luckily the cancer itself has never made me sick or given me any pain. I didn’t

lose any hair on my head but the area that was radiated went bald. Towards the end of my treatments, I started suffering with ongoing horrendous migraine headaches from the stress of the ordeal and some very nasty pain in my bladder. By the way, did I say I’d recently had bladder cancer also and the two beasts are supposedly not related? The only relationship between the cancers could be that I had worked in the uranium mines in southeast Utah, but that’s a story for another day.

Speaking of bladder, I learned where every restroom was between Medford and Applegate because when it was time to go, that meant NOW! I had a fear of there being no restroom available. “Yes, officer, I know this is a parking lot. I know it’s disgusting, but my butt’s been radiated.” Would I get tasered, cuffed and hauled to the drunk tank? What about the back seat of the squad car—not a pretty picture.

Having cancer as well as other diseases can leave you with little or no dignity. Yet cancer isn’t something we wish to talk about. It’s too messy, it won’t happen to me or it’s just too plumb scary. Well, it’s all of the above and more. You can lose control of your bladder, your

bowels, your manhood, your sanity, your purpose in life and a lot more. It basically just sucks! Though there is always someone who is a lot worse off. I saw these people every day when I went in for treatments and I’d think I was lucky. I could be them.

I always wanted my luck to be platinum records hanging on my walls, a book on the New York Times best seller list or to hit it big with a lottery Power Ball ticket. Turns out luck is being alive, having a loving family, loving bride and life-long friends and living in the beautiful Applegate. Luck is all around us every day but we usually don’t see it because we’re too busy with the mundane. Luck—well I’m still upright and mobile and like my Red Rebel apple trees we are not going to be on the extinction list for a very long time!

*“It’s not the load that breaks you down, it’s the way you carry it.”*

—Lena Horne



The Editor, J.D. Rogers  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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7386 Highway 238 • PMB 308  
Jacksonville, OR 97530  
Email: gater@Applegater.org

### Inspirational article

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading Greeley Wells' "Polio, An awakening: Personal Story." Very inspirational! Should be required reading for all who feel sorry for themselves.

My godmother (my mom's sister) is about 80 or 82 now. She had polio in her early 20s. She recovered enough to go on and have seven kids. Then, in her late 60s she had a recurrence of the polio. She gradually went from crutches to a

wheelchair. She always remained in good spirits though, a good influence on friends and family.

Ed Snyder

*Editor note: To view the article referred to above, visit our online paper [www.applegater.org](http://www.applegater.org) Go to the Winter 2011 issue and find the article "Polio, An Awakening: A personal Story" by Greeley Wells. This article appears only in the online Applegater.*

### Hydroelectric power not "green"

Dear Editor:

There is nothing "green" about hydroelectric power generated from large dams such as Applegate Dam. Dams are massive atrocities which wreck havoc on the healthy functioning of rivers. How can people be satisfied by the fact that high-power transmission lines won't be constructed for the proposed Applegate Dam hydroelectric project, while wild salmon and steelhead remain blocked from

their best spawning habitat above the dam?

I am a resident of the Upper Applegate and I am vehemently opposed to this project; they won't even construct a fish ladder. I am appalled that the main discussion around the hydro project has been that of transmission lines and not the environmental impacts of the dam itself.

Suzanne Savoie, Jacksonville, OR

### Applegate Dam "payback"

Dear Editor:

Concern about the environmental impact of both the Applegate Dam and the impending hydroelectric project is understandable. However, let's not confuse the existing dam with the proposed hydroelectric project.

It is true that the dam has significant negative environmental impacts (such as preventing fish from reaching their natural spawning habitat). While the proposed hydroelectric power plant will not remove the inherently negative impacts of the dam, it also will not increase the dam's negative impact. In fact, by using the existing dam to produce electric power without burning fossil fuels, the dam will "pay back" a bit of its debt to the environment. Had the new high-voltage transmission lines been installed overhead, however, the increased negative impact on the environment would have been significant. As it grew increas-

ingly clear that the dam would receive final approval from the State Water Board, many people were concerned that whereas environmental impacts had been addressed in detail, residents' concerns about the safety and aesthetics of adding high-voltage transmission lines (that would have extended the existing power poles upwards by 15 feet), had not been addressed. This is why many people were thrilled with Symbiotics' decision to bury the high-voltage transmission lines for the entire 15 miles between the dam and the Ruch sub-station.

While the hydroelectric project will not "fix" the negative environmental impact of the existing dam, it will make the dam more environmentally responsible, and will not further intrude on the environment with taller transmission poles.

Margaret della Santina, Ruch, OR

### Fire Department to the rescue

Dear Editor:

On October 21, 2010, we had a chimney fire that quickly spread to the attic. The Applegate fire department responded to my call in less than twenty minutes, sending one truck from the Applegate Fire station. The two "firemen" on that first truck were a man and a young woman who both got the hoses out to attack the fire. Some ten minutes later, two more fire trucks arrived and attacked the fire. As it turned out, we lost the roof but saved the rest of the house and no furnishings were damaged. I feel sure that given another twenty minutes, we would have lost everything. After the fire was "out," we had to call 911 one more time as burning embers continued to drop from the

roof into the second story of the house. The fire chief, Brett Fillis came to the house for that call and had a fireman extinguish any lingering burning coals. He then arranged for another fire woman to visit twice more during the night to confirm that the fire was indeed out.

We are extremely grateful to the firemen and women who came to assist us in this scary event. The fire chief exhibited the utmost professionalism and deserves our sincere gratitude. We are indeed fortunate to have him as the chief and the volunteer staff who worked so hard on our behalf. Thank you all!

Paul Hamilton, Applegate, OR

### Blister rust control

Dear Editor:

Thank you for a very informative and interesting newspaper. I have lived here 17 years and a short time back you had an article about Blister Rust Control. When I was 16 years old (1943) my best friend and I traveled from Los Angeles to Chico to do Blister Rust Control work.

I talked my friend into taking the train because I had never ridden on a train. We took the train from Los Angeles to Sacramento. Got off and had breakfast. We took another train to Marysville. This was World War II era. North of Sacramento were many army camps. The train to Marysville had a lot of soldiers. Before my friend and I left home we had purchased khaki colored pants and shirts to wear for our work. When M.P.'s came through the train asking the soldiers for their papers they saw our khaki outfits and asked us for our papers. So without a word I handed him my employment papers. He read, reread and finally threw them at me saying "You guys are not in the army!"

When the train arrived in Marysville we needed to take a bus to Chico. Our luggage was put in the bus but when the bus was too full we were told to get off and get a refund on our tickets. We were told to go see the sheriff and explain our situation. He recommended that we hitchhike to Chico and told us where to go to get a ride. After waiting just a couple of minutes we got a ride to our destination. Several trucks picked up our group of 40 boys and took us to a camp just below Ragdump. We lived all summer in large tents with wood floors. Six to eight boys shared a tent.

Monday through Friday trucks took us to our wilderness work sites. We worked in groups of three between strings

30 feet apart and a mile long. We dug out gooseberries and currants as they carried a disease that killed White Pine trees.

When needed we were sent to work on forest fires. The first fire we were sent to was northeast of Paradise and there were Conscientious Objectors operating the kitchen for the firefighters. Another fire we were sent to was near Nevada and some of the men working on the fire lines were Italian Prisoners of War that were captured in North Africa. They were a happy bunch as no one was shooting at them. We learned an Italian swear word. They raised their fists up in the air as they said it.

In our regular camp we had several ladies that cooked for us and lived in a separate tent. One of the cooks, an elderly lady was from Corning. When she went home on the weekends she would invite one of us boys to go with her. I was invited to drive home with her once and she got a flat tire. Tires were very poor during the war so I guess that's why she invited us to go so that she would have a strong kid to change the tire if necessary.

About once a month trucks took half of us to Chico and would turn us loose for half the day. Occasionally on Saturdays a truck would take us to a swimming hole that had a nice waterfall. This was a great place to swim.

Several boys were sent home due to misbehavior but for 40 boys there was very little trouble. All good things end so eventually my friend and I took the Greyhound bus home and we are still good friends after knowing each other since kindergarten and sharing our Blister Rust Control experience.

William Crooks, Grants Pass, OR

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## OPINION

# Response to "Time to tone down the rhetoric"

BY ED KUPILLAS

Laurel Sutherlin's opinion piece in the Winter 2010 issue of the *Applegater* was totally off base. And while decrying violent rhetoric, also uses some.

Actions speak louder than words (rhetoric), everyone needs to be reminded of numerous "actions" perpetrated by some members of the so-called environmental community over many years. Some have been violent and resulted in damage and destruction to private property. Some people have been injured. Remember tree spiking? Other actions have been "legal," but have resulted in harm to the livelihoods of good people.

In the category of damage to private property, we have the incendiary destruction of the U. S. Forest Industries office on Whittle Avenue in Medford. The same action occurred against Superior Lumber Company's office in Glendale. These are just two examples. There are many others. The one on Whittle Ave. is particularly poignant for me, because I retired shortly before the fire and what had been my office

was burned up.

In the "legal" category are the constant protests and lawsuits that many "environmental" organizations bring against mostly government agencies. These result in harm to people who rely on the utilization of natural resources for their livelihoods. "Environmental" groups also propose restrictions on natural resource use by supporting things like the Northwest Forest Plan which has set aside about 80% of the 24,500,000 acres in the Plan from timber management, ostensibly to keep the spotted owl from going extinct. Spotted Owl numbers are still declining after 15 years and so are the forest products companies. Environmental groups propose large increases in wilderness areas and new monuments where timber harvest and cattle grazing don't occur.

In Arizona the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) does lawsuits on steroids.

A few years back they libeled a rancher when they tried to kick him off his range allotment. He sued the CBD and won \$600,000 in actual and punitive damages. The rancher included some of the perpetrators of the libel as well as the organization in the libel suit. One of them is now working for a local "environmental" group. The jury said CBD's press release contained "false statements" and "misleading photographs" and CBD had published it "with an evil mind." (Information supplied by Range Magazine).

Then there are the land grabs. The federal government owns about 1/3 of all the land in the U.S. In the western states it's around 67%. Yet our merry band of "environmental" groups wants the government to own even more.

Here cometh the proposed Siskiyou Crest National Monument. With what

I have chronicled above (space does not permit a full display of outrages), is it any wonder that people affected by this have now had it "up to here"?

We are advised by Laurel Sutherlin "to take a deep breath." Many of us have been breathing deeply for decades and have always come up short. Now more people not directly affected before, are finally coming to the realization that extreme "environmental" organizations are not their friends. So, when one frustrated person at a recent meeting shouted a passionate statement, Laurel wrote "This kind of bombastic overstatement would be humorous if there were not a long history of violent threats from these same elements of our community." What? The long history, some little of which I have chronicled above, is not from whence Laurel alleges, it's the "environmental" community that has the long history of actual violence.

Come on folks, let's drive a stake through the heart of this monument proposal. Uh, oh, bombastic language.

Ed Kupillas, Forester/Rancher  
541-865-4342

## Bigleaf tapping

BY LAIRD FUNK

There's syrup in them thar trees!! Well, actually there's sap in those trees, the Bigleaf Maples which are our biggest west coast native maple. Besides providing wood for lumber and firewood, and pollen and nectar for spring bees our Bigleaf Maples provide another gift the sap to make real maple syrup!

Like east coast syrup, our syrup is made by boiling off most of the water in the sap, which has about 2% sugar, until the sugar level is 66.5%. A rough average of the amount of sap one needs to boil off to make syrup is 43:1 so a lot of sap is needed. Fortunately it is easy to get.

The process of tapping the trees is the same as for Sugar maples. While most are familiar with the old metal spile (spout) and bucket system for sap gathering, the modern tapper most often uses a plastic one and tubing to channel the sap to a sealed collection jug, keeping the sap clean and bug free. Using a portable drill a 7/16" hole is drilled 2.5" deep, slanted slightly upward to assist sap flow. The spile is inserted and tapped lightly into the hole and the tubing connected and routed to the jug. Sap will almost immediately flow out the hole into the jug. I had 18 taps which averaged 1/2 gallon during the afternoon flow periods. For

the sap to flow temperatures need to vary between freezing in the morning to warm in the afternoon (January and February). Without the freeze nothing happens.

I used a turkey roasting pan on an outdoor propane stove as an evaporator and boiled the sap down each day to just a couple gallons, adding it to the sap from the day before. There is a tremendous amount of steam so the process should be done outdoors (it has been known to peel wallpaper off kitchen walls!) The steam immediately has a maple odor which strengthens as the sugar increases and the color begins to change to yellow then dark gold to the final amber hue.

The method is not complex, but it takes time to reduce the sap properly. Happily it doesn't need a lot of company so other things can get done at the same time as long as one checks in often enough to keep the evaporator topped off. On the other hand, some folks are happy to just sit and watch steam all day. It's best to add sap at the rate it evaporates so that the temperature does not rise and fall.

A device called a hydrometer is used to check the sugar level although a refractometer makes the testing faster. As the sugar increases to 60%, calcium, magnesium and potassium in the sap coagulate

and precipitate out as "sugar sand" or niter, which clouds the syrup as it forms. It is easily filtered out using common milk filters, and then the syrup can be finished off over a lower heat and checked often so that the sugar does exceed the desired 66.5%. Above that level sugar crystals form and precipitate to the bottom of the bottle.

The result of all this is a classically sweet, dark amber liquid with a stronger maple flavor than Sugar Maple syrup. It is wonderful on your waffles and pancakes and a little drizzled over vanilla ice cream really allows the flavor of the syrup to come through.

While all this seems experimental here, on Vancouver Island, British Columbia an entire cottage industry has been growing for a couple decades and now has become a genuine source of added income for the owners of the woodlots and managed forests on the island. The value added to those forests by syrup making is a welcome addition to the traditional income from lumber and firewood and of course everyone loves the syrup! There is even a Bigleaf Maple Syrup festival in February!



For those interested, there is wealth of information available on the internet including a very useful book written by Gary Backlund and his daughter Katherine. "Bigleaf Sugaring, Tapping the Western Maple," covers the entire subject of Bigleaf syrup making based on their experience operating a 76 acre managed forest in Ladysmith, British Columbia. I recommend it for a crash course in syrup making and a good source of info about where one gets sugaring equipment. Contact Gary at blmaple@telus.net.

I will be traveling to British Columbia to visit Gary this June and will buy a good supply of spiles, tubing and other things needed for tapping and will have it available at cost for people to get started tapping. In the meantime, go count your maple trees!

Laird Funk • 541-846-6759

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## MY OPINION FROM BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

## It's all the rage

BY CHRIS BRATT

Conflicting views over environmental issues and proposals are nothing new in Southern Oregon. When our family arrived here in the mid 70s, there was a big fight going on about whether to build the Applegate and other local dams.

The extensive road building and clearcutting for "rapid liquidation" of commercial size timber from public and private timber lands has been in dispute for half a century. Recently, gravel mining proposals in the Applegate River have pitted neighbor against neighbor. Pressure from new residents, new economic realities, new federal laws, and a new environmental awareness nationwide, continues to cause troublesome conflicts among neighbors with differing viewpoints.

At the moment, there is some local, heated opposition focused on a proposed Siskiyou Crest National Monument. This monument proposal consists of further protecting 600,000 acres of higher elevation public lands (US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) that cover the mountain crest between the Oregon Caves National Monument and the Siskiyou Summit above Ashland. A large portion of the public lands in the south-central part of the Applegate Watershed are proposed to be included in the monument including the Red Buttes Wilderness Area.

I felt a strong feeling of hostility toward the monument proposal and environmentalists when a flyer was attached to our paper box with the heading: "No Siskiyou Monument." I felt more rancor when I attended a meeting called by monument opponents at the Applegate Community Church. This group of individuals (some are my neighbors) call themselves the "Stop The Land Grab Coalition" ([www.stoplandgrab.org](http://www.stoplandgrab.org)). These folks have attracted other discontented people who want to put a stopper on any and all efforts to establish a Siskiyou Crest National Monument.

Having driven and hiked through much of the area over the past 35 years, I've seen and know the stunning qualities and resources within the proposed monument boundaries first-hand. My personal point of view is that a monument designation would not "lock up" anything and will further protect this amazing landscape. In fact, it's not a "land grab,"

(the land already belongs to all Americans) and rather than "locking it up," the land most likely will draw more people to use the area and create more jobs as well. The monument proposal has built a significant amount of grassroots support, and as you can tell, it has my endorsement.

I could go further in my describing many of the attributes, values and quality features that will make this place a worthwhile monument. But many scientific and conservation leaders have devoted decades of research into the biological, recreational and economic values of the Siskiyou Crest area. For more information on the monument, everyone should see, "The Wild American Forest," a film about the Klamath-Siskiyou eco-region. See the web site: [www.AWILDAMERICANFOREST.ORG](http://www.AWILDAMERICANFOREST.ORG). (It premiered in Jan/Feb. on Southern Oregon Public T.V.) Also, "The Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Proposal For Future Management of the Siskiyou Crest" can be viewed at: [www.siskiyoucrest.org](http://www.siskiyoucrest.org).

**Presently, emotions are running high over the monument issue, especially with opponents who seem incapable of compromise. The challenge for a positive outcome of any get-together will rest on putting forth moderate, coherent ideas with calm, wise voices without extreme views or language.**

Sadly, many opponents are using the monument proposal as a focal point for venting their fears and frustrations over issues like the loss of local timber, mining and grazing operations on public lands. They have attracted off-road vehicle users and hunters by making the misleading claim that travel routes and hunting will be done away with within the monument boundaries.

Though not connected directly to the monument issue, these fearful opponents are lamenting the loss of older historic western traditions and culture. They are longing for the bygone days and ways of life that came and went with the reduction of family farms, ranching and logging opportunities. These values are being used to raise opposition to the proposed monument.

Short of dropping the monument proposal (which isn't going to happen),

I believe there is no way to satisfy the ultraconservative members within this opposition group or have them compromise on the other issues they keep raising. These are extreme take-no-prisoner folks who ignore our changing community and world. They fear that every progressive proposal is some form of surrender to socialism and fan the flames with angry responses like "Stop Them Here," "Enough is Enough," and "Stand Up and Fight." They are not interested in listening or engaging in meaningful dialogue and have a loose connection with the facts.

My modest proposal is to have both proponents and opponents interested in engaging in meaningful dialogue begin a conversation about what should happen in this back country area. They should invite the federal agencies (BLM and Forest Service) who will be in charge of planning and managing any approved monument. I'm sure the proponents would be willing to meet. If people can cooperate, listen and compromise, agreements can be worked out rather than continue with uncontrolled debating and railing.

Presently, emotions are running high over the monument issue, especially with opponents who seem incapable of compromise. The challenge for a positive outcome of any get-together will rest on putting forth moderate, coherent ideas with calm, wise voices without extreme views or language.

My experience with these larger divisive issues is that if we can't come up with local solutions to our problems, the remedies will continue to come from far away political bureaucrats or the courts. If local people can find agreement by reducing polarization and animosity, and being respectful of people who think differently, working together can become our new "traditional value," along with the golden rule. The proposed Siskiyou Crest National Monument is a unique opportunity to find some common ground, become better neighbors and protect the area's world renowned treasures. What do you think?

Chris Bratt • 541-846-6988



Chris Bratt



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*There is a fee of \$10.00 per Saturday class and a \$5.00 per Weekday class (unless indicated otherwise). Master Gardeners wearing their badges are admitted free (materials fees still apply). The classes are held at the OSU Extension Center located at 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Oregon. For questions and/or registration please call 541-776-7371.*

*To learn more about J.C.M.G.A. go to: <http://extension.orst.edu/sorec/gardening>*

*The Master Gardener Program educates local gardeners on the art and science of growing and caring for plants. Trained Master Gardener volunteers extend sustainable gardening information to their communities through educational outreach programs.*

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# Cantrall-Buckley— your community park

BY TOM CARSTENS AND DAVID LAANANEN

The Applegate Valley is blessed to have a truly unique resource: our very own community park on the banks of the Applegate River. Cantrall Buckley Park is a real gem in that it gives us a place for groups and families to enjoy picnicking, swimming, and camping, with full recreational access to our river.

Have you ever looked at the park's entrance sign? It says: "Managed by your Neighbors." A lot of folks think that it's operated like other Jackson County parks. Until three years ago, the County did provide some money to help with major maintenance. Now, the park receives some money from the state tax on RVs; last year that covered about 40 percent of park operations. The rest is funded entirely by user fees. That means WE fund the park. How did this arrangement come about?

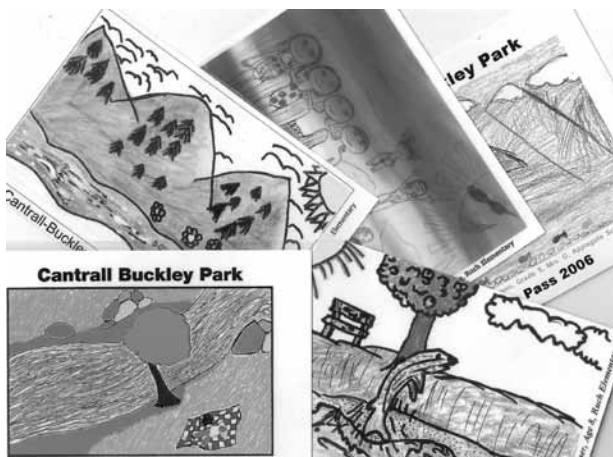
Well, back in the summer of 1996, the county closed the park because of funding issues (sound familiar?). The plan was to sell off the land. That would have left us without a park and without river access. A small group of concerned citizens came together to save the 88-acre park. Throughout that summer, these dedicated volunteers kept the lawns mowed and performed minor maintenance to keep the park in usable shape. The next year these folks formed a non-profit organization that formally took over management of the park. This group eventually became the nucleus of the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC). A committee of the GACDC consisting of five Applegate residents has been running the park ever since. From user fees, the park hires a full-time resident caretaker, Rick Barclay. Rick is assisted in the summer months by a part-time maintenance man and by a paid campground host.

From time to time, the park receives assistance from grant monies that are chased down by the park committee. This is how major improvements to the park are funded. Recent successes have been the state-of-the-art natural wastewater treatment system, brand new campground restrooms and improved water lines. These improvements were made with support from Oregon Parks and Recreation, the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, and of course, Jackson County. Last year a grant from the Four Way Community Foundation allowed the park to buy new picnic table frames. The table tops were made by Rick and his crew. The committee is currently trying to find a way to fund RV hookups for a much-needed campground expansion that would improve cash flow and attract tourist spending in the valley.

But there are a lot of other very mundane projects that are begging for funds. As examples, the park's road system is deteriorating, BBQ grills need replacement, playground equipment must be brought up to standard, pavilion roofs require repairs, and the picnic area restrooms require remodeling.

All of this costs money. Right now, the park takes in barely enough to stay viable. Last year, Rick trimmed expenses for operating the park as much as possible,

down to about \$70,000 compared with \$77,000 the year before. Park user fees taken in over the year added up to a little less than \$42,000. When added to the RV money from the state, there wasn't much left over to keep things running for the winter. As you can see, there's not a lot of leeway there. As Rick says, "The only reason we're still open is because nothing drastic has occurred."



Okay, you ask, "So how can I help?" It's really very simple: PLEASE USE THE PARK! The park committee tries to keep the user fees as low as possible.

A day pass costs \$4.00

per vehicle. The park is open all year.

A season pass costs just \$20.00, or \$10.00 for seniors over 65, and is good for the entire year. These passes go on sale the first of May. Previous passes are shown in the accompanying photo. The fun design is the winning entry from an annual contest held in art classes at the Applegate and Ruch Schools.

The park has four reservable areas that are ideal for weddings, family reunions, or organization picnics. These areas come complete with picnic tables and barbeque grills. There are also horseshoe pits, volleyball nets, and one area has a covered pavilion. Reservations are made through Jackson County Parks, but the reservation

money goes straight to our park. Call 541-774-8183.

A campground site costs only \$12 per night. The group campground can be rented for \$65 for the first night and \$50 per night after that. The campground is open from May 1st to the end of September.

Of course, tax-deductible donations would also be very much appreciated. If you'd like to contribute, give one of us a call or send a check to the following address:

GACDC, P.O. Box 3107, Applegate OR 97530. We'll mail you a proper receipt.

You might be able to help in other ways. Would you be interested in lending a hand with the park? The GACDC would love to have additional volunteer help. We'll be sponsoring community park clean-up events this summer. The first will occur after the 4th of July weekend on Wednesday, July 6. We'll meet at the park gates at 9:00 am.

And, if you'd like to participate with ideas, you're welcome to attend our park committee meetings. If you'd like to help or comment in any way, or if you'd like information about the meetings, just give either of us a call at home or leave a message at 541-245-4741. Someone will get back to you.

We're especially interested in your ideas about how we can raise extra funds to complete major repair projects. If you have some ideas on how to better run the park, let us know that too. Let us hear from you! To make it easier we've included a short form that you can fill out on line or mail or to us.

THANK YOU!

Tom Carstens 541-846-1025  
David Laananen 541-846-0500

**Help us with ideas to raise funds and be entered in a drawing for two FREE annual passes to Cantrall Buckley Park:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**To email ideas go to [www.gacdc.org](http://www.gacdc.org) and click on contact us.  
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# Coppice?

BY SANDY SHAFFER, APPLGATE FIRE PLAN

**Coppice:** from late Middle English, 1375-1425 “copies” – cutover area overgrown with brush, from “colpare,” to cut (Late Latin). Noun: 1) a thicket, grove or growth of small trees. 2) a forest originating mainly from shoots or root suckers rather than seed. Syn: Copse.

I think I first *read* the word *copse* in *Winnie the Pooh*, so many, many years ago (my hubby says I should have added in even one more “many”!) I first started using *coppice* as a vegetation management tool a dozen years ago, but at the time I had no idea that I was *coppicing*! We had thinned the trees on our homesite and were building our retirement home. I saw the copious numbers of oak and madrone shoots that grew back from the stumps that we’d cut the year before, and wondered what to do with them. The Fire Chief definitely wouldn’t approve of all those ladder fuels so near the homesite! So, I cut all of the shoots down except the straightest and tallest, and let those saplings grow. Over the years I had to continue to cut out the re-occurring

shoots each spring, but I observed that the madrone and the black oak stopped re-sprouting within a few years— if I had let one sapling remain. (If I didn’t, they re-sprouted for upwards of a decade before running out of steam.) The white oaks, however, are still sending up a load of shoots each spring.

My most successful example of *coppice* has been with some black oaks. After twelve years, we have three beautifully shaped young oaks that stand at least 20 feet tall alongside the driveway, and the colors each fall are spectacular. I must have chosen exactly the best sprouts (see Steve’s graphic, below), as other black oaks I’ve *coppiced* have not developed as quickly.

I have not used this *coppice* technique strictly for firewood production, as Steve’s article below discusses. However, as trees mature and fill out and I find that my stands aren’t quite as open as I’d like (for fire resilience), I know that I can remove a good-sized madrone or oak and use it for firewood, and have another tree

back in a few years. And, I’ve lately taken to managing our southern exposure oak woodlands using *coppice* as well. They were thinned of brush (almost all— we left a few wildlife habitat islands) ten years ago, but some of the suppressed trees still have not released and started growing. So, I’m removing them to let the more dominant trees bloom, again knowing that I’ll have some choices to make in the coming years.

Some folks might grumble about the maintenance involved in cutting trees that will re-sprout each spring, and that’s valid. (I’ve pointed this out in past articles on maintaining a defensible space.) I am fortunate to be able to keep up with the work. A pair of 30” long-handled loppers makes it easy for me to cover my defensible space circle annually, and I rotate through the rest of the acres every few years, doing a lop-and-scatter. For me, *coppice* has been a management tool that allows a lot of flexibility and creativity.

Sandy Shaffer 541-899-9541

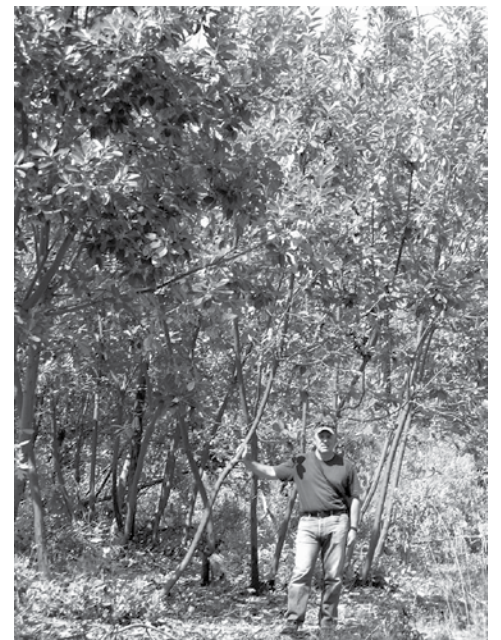


Figure 1. Coppice of Pacific madrone in Southwest Oregon. The parent trees were topkilled by wildfire. The landowner thinned the sprouts. The remaining sprouts will be allowed to grow and then harvested for firewood.

## Coppice this!

BY STEPHEN FITZGERALD, OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Coppice is the culturing of stump sprouts that develop on hardwood stumps (and some conifers) after cutting. Coppice management of hardwoods is a silvicultural system that is seldom used by family forest owners, but it has great potential for those interested in promoting hardwoods in their forest for diversity or to use for firewood (see Figure 1) or sawtimber, depending on species and its marketability. Coppice is one of the oldest methods for regenerating forests. Species that coppice well include aspen, bigleaf maple, alder, oaks, myrtle, cottonwood and Pacific madrone. Redwood is an important commercial conifer that coppices well. In fact, most of the second-growth redwood trees that are harvested today developed from sprouts from the old-growth stumps.

Once hardwoods are cut, the stump erupts with a profusion of sprouts that arise from dormant buds on the top, side and root collar of the stump. The sprouts grow rapidly because they have the advantage of using the parent root system and carbohydrate stores. The benefits of culturing trees from sprouts is that you don’t have to spend money planting them, and sprout growth is often faster than the same species planted as a bare-root or plug seedling.

Typically, hardwoods are killed to favor more desirable conifers, such as Douglas-fir. However, you may want to consider promoting hardwoods in areas lacking conifers or in areas not capable of supporting conifers.

### How to cultivate and manage sprouts

If you are already conducting a timber harvest in an area, here is a rundown of how to coppice (propagate) hardwood trees from stump sprouts:

- Cut down hardwood tree, creating a low stump.
- Let stump sprout. Hundreds of sprouts will erupt depending on tree species and size of stump. Let the sprouts compete with each other for several years (five years or so). Most hardwoods need this kind of “training” to help produce straight stems. Let them compete and grow tall enough so that you get at least an 18- to 20-foot straight stem on the best sprouts within the clump.
- After five years or when they reach 18 to 20 feet, select one to three of the straightest stems to leave and flag them. Cut away all the other sprouts. Sprouts to leave should be selected from the lower portion of the stump or from sprouts that originate from roots (Figure 2). The reason for this is that if you select sprouts from the top of the stump, the stump eventually rots and the sprout can break out as they mature.
- The one to three remaining sprouts can be thinned again, if needed, a few years later, leaving the best sprout. The remaining sprouts can be pruned to produce clear wood (Figure 3).
- Allow sprouts to grow to the desired diameter, then cut, harvest and start over.

Stephen Fitzgerald  
stephen.fitzgerald@oregonstate.edu

Stephen Fitzgerald is the eastern Oregon silviculture & wildland fire education specialist for the Oregon State University Extension Service. [stephen.fitzgerald@oregonstate.edu](mailto:stephen.fitzgerald@oregonstate.edu)

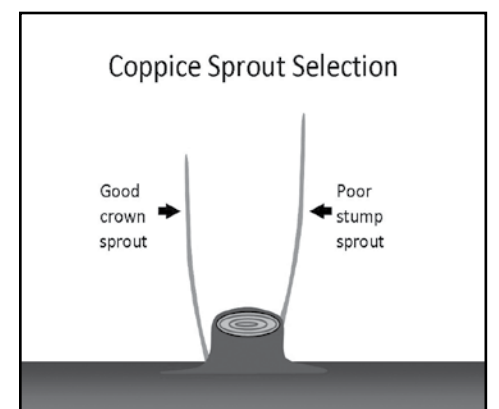


Figure 2. Select sprouts from the lower portion of the stump or from sprouts originating from roots.



Figure 3. This bigleaf maple tree originated from a center sprout. The other sprouts helped train this residual sprout and then they were cut away. This tree could now be pruned up further (to the fork) to produce clear, high-value sawtimber.

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## BEAR

FROM PAGE 1



Young black bear by Steve Maslowski, USFWS

months. Weather starts to warm usually in early March, and the bears wake and begin raiding trashcans. 2010 was a strange weather year, and the bears did not get really active until May, so they slept longer, and awoke hungrier. By mid to late summer, the problem bears usually back off and go eat blackberries. But in 2010, the local blackberry crops were small, and the problem bears did not relent. Fall of 2010 saw small acorn crops as well, and without alternative natural foods, the bears remained near people where food could be obtained.

Understanding bear behavior is key to avoiding unwanted encounters. Bears are ALL about food—every waking minute. Average adult females weigh between 125 and 150 pounds, and males usually weigh about 180 pounds, but can get as big as 300 or more pounds. All that bear takes a lot of food! Thankfully, we're not on the menu. They are not looking to eat people. But they are opportunist omnivores, which means they eat almost anything. If a person, or any other animal on the face of the earth considers something food, a bear will likely agree and eat even more! Favorite foods are berries, nuts, grasses, carrion, and insect larvae. Being opportunistic, though, means that if food is easier to get at your house they are happy to be your guest.

#### Prevention: take steps to avoid contact

Bears can smell food from a much greater distance than a human. The nasal mucosa on a bear is reported to be about 100 times larger than a human. Just because you don't smell it doesn't mean a bear won't. Take the following steps to reduce the odds of an unwelcome encounter:

- **TRASH:** Keep your trash can clean,

washing with ammonia or bleach, and keep the can out of sight in an outbuilding or under a tarp. Bears know what trashcans look like.

- **BIRD FEEDERS:** Taking a bird feeder down for the evening may help if it has attracted a bear previously. Consider using a cloth under the feeder to catch falling seeds. It will be easy to collect the seeds and throw them away nightly.
- **PET/LIVESTOCK FOOD:** Store food in secured outbuildings or barn, preferably in a sealed container. This may require chaining or locking barn doors.
- **FRUIT TREES:** Hot-wire fencing is an option. If you only have a few trees, it may be sufficient to simply pick fruit ASAP and don't let fruit ferment on the ground.
- **AROUND THE FARM:** Delectable smells can come from many sources, such as compost piles, chicken coops, or beehives. Avoid adding to compost piles when bears are around and make sure coops and pens are sturdy. Hot wire is an option.
- **AROUND THE HOUSE:** Clean outdoor cooking areas and keep your BBQ in an outbuilding or under a tarp. Don't put refrigerators, freezers, or other food appliances outside.
- **SCARE TACTICS:** Bears will generally avoid areas with one or more of the following: large barking dogs, lights that come on and off with a motion detector, a sprinkler with a motion detector, or a radio set on a timer.

#### What to do if you see a bear

Spotting a bear can be exciting or frightening depending on the circumstances. Black bears have color vision along with that keen sense of smell mentioned earlier. They are good tree climbers and swimmers, are very intelligent and curious, and can run up to 35 mph! Most injuries occur when people treat wild bears as pets by leaving food out for them (inadvertently or not), trying to get pictures, or otherwise interacting.

Bears are typically shy and easily frightened unless they have become habituated to humans. If you know the bear is around, just say NO! At night, leave more lights on. Be especially observant, and make loud noise when outside, especially when going around a blind corner. Frequently, loud noise will scare away a bear—bang pots and pans, set off your car alarm, safely shoot a gun. Let him know you are not pleased!

If you come face to face with a bear, avoid eye contact and back away. Do NOT scream and run like a prey animal! Yogi may

be cute, but bears need to be treated with respect. Educate kids. Keep kids close and avoid outdoor play at dawn and dusk. If your child tries to run at the sight of a bear pick your child up and speak calmly. Back away slowly and do not block the bear's escape route. Remember the bear is scared too. The bear may stand up to sniff or get a better view. Remain calm and continue to back slowly away avoiding eye contact. It's also a good idea to alert neighbors about a bear sighting. You should also report sightings and encounters to your local ODFW office.

If you find a bear helping itself to the sunflower seeds you put in a metal can for bird feeding, or the oats for the horses, or the overripe produce you failed to discard, do not attempt to chase the bear off. It may protect its food source. Instead, make a loud noise as described above and try to scare the bear away. Then take action to remove food sources.

#### Typical bear encounters and the law

There have been no reports of unprovoked black bear attacks in Oregon. But if a bear exhibits unusually aggressive or persistent behavior, safety issues may be addressed through lethal means. Jackson County has a USDA Wildlife Services agent to assist people with bear removal, but Josephine County does not. Relocation is not an option. Relocated problem bears usually return from great distance to where they were captured, and if they don't, they invariably find the nearest campground or home and continue their problem behavior.

Most bear complaints are "nuisance" complaints. These problems can usually be solved non-lethally, through preventative action. But if bears aren't stopped at the nuisance level, they typically progress to damage-level problems. Damage is defined in the Oregon statute as "loss of or harm inflicted on land, livestock, or agricultural or forest crops." Damage may legally be addressed through lethal means, but bear damage may also be addressed through preventative/protective means.

Bears that come into frequent contact with people may become human safety threats. Threat to human safety is defined in statute as

"A) Aggressive actions directed towards a person or persons, including, but not limited to, charging, false charging, growling, teeth popping, and snarling.

B) Breaking into, or attempting to break into a residence.

C) Attacking a pet or domestic animal as defined in ORS 167.310. And

D) Loss of wariness of humans, displayed through repeated sightings of the animal during the day near a permanent structure, permanent corral, or mobile dwelling used by humans at an agricultural, ranching, or construction site."

Nothing in the wildlife laws is intended to prevent any person (or their agent) from taking a bear that is causing damage or posing a human safety threat. (ORS 498.012). A tag is not required to take the animal, day or night, on the property where the damage or safety issue occurred, but the following rules apply:

1) immediately after taking the bear, Oregon State Police must be notified (this is what separates you from a poacher).

2) Bear meat is considered edible for human consumption, just like a deer or elk, and cannot be wasted. So field dressing the bear is required, and depending on the circumstances, the landowner may or may not be allowed to keep the bear. Landowners may give their bear to anyone they choose, or ODFW will see that it goes to charity. Wasting bear meat is illegal. 3) The head of the bear must be brought to an ODFW office for data collection and tooth extraction. All bear hunters are required by law to bring their bear heads to ODFW for data collection and tooth extraction. You can contact Rosemary Stussy of ODFW at 541-826-8774 to report problem bears.

#### Ecosystem role

Whether you enjoy seeing the occasional bear or wish you didn't live among them, they do fill a role in the ecosystem. According to the website of the National Park Service ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)) the black bear is at the top of the food chain and as such influences prey populations by culling the unhealthy in the herd/flock. Foraging activities aid decomposition of the forest as they tear apart logs in search of insect larvae. Insects become less numerous as the larvae is eaten. Seeds of various plants are distributed in a greater area as the bears consume berries, other fruits, acorns and grass seed along with various other plants.

It benefits the forest and the prey populations to keep a healthy bear population. You can do your part to keep nature in balance by following the suggestions in this article to keep the bears in the forest. Getting to see a bear and her cubs cross the road in front of you is exciting. Coming out in the morning to find a bear has broken into the trashcan and strewn trash about can make for a cranky way to start the day.

Tamara Rousso  
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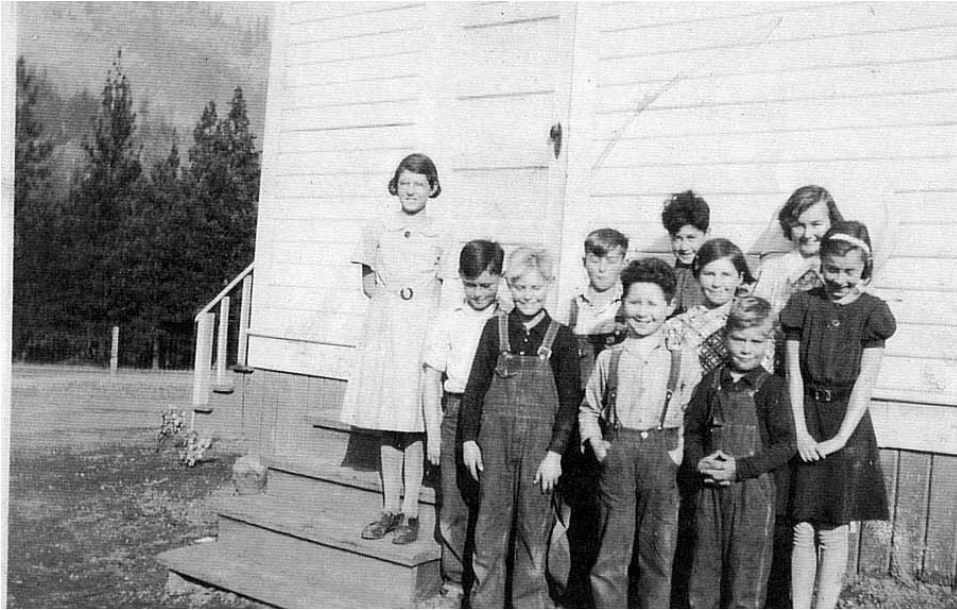
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## BACK IN TIME

## A special grade-school friend

BY EVELYN BYRNE WILLIAMS WITH JANEEN SATHRE



**W**hen I started grade school at Beaver Creek School, my cousin Douglas McKee and a distant cousin of ours, Marcene McKee where the only first graders. Marcene and her family moved to Jacksonville before I was in second grade and when a Walter Offenbacher started school he and Douglas got along right well. I missed having a girl friend in my class. When the boys started bringing toy trucks to school and making roadways on the school's hillside I felt very left out, it looked to be so much fun.

My mother surprised me one day with a little toy pick-up she had bought when she was shopping in Medford. It was bright red with white wheels. (It is the only toy I remember her buying) I was so happy to take it to school and show everyone, but chose to make my own roads on the hillside because I figured the boys didn't want me in their territory. I don't remember any other girls joining me.

Elsie Dietrick was her name and the toy car bit was over by the time Elsie joined us in the fourth grade. Her family came here in 1934 during the Depression and moved nearby, into a small log cabin, on the first mining claim up Palmer Creek. She had two brothers, Loren, older than her and Harry Jr., the youngest. This was the first family with children during that time to live on Palmer Creek. There were

quite a few other miners up there but I only remember two who had wives; the rest were bachelors.

It is interesting how well Elsie and I got along. We never had any disagreement as most children do some times. We liked doing the same things and our teacher would let us study together away from the other students if we had finished our homework. We could go into the library room or the girls coat room, our favorite place, where we would go into a small closet and sit on the top shelf to look out the small high window.

It didn't take long for Elsie's family to get acquainted with mine. Her parents, Harry and Hilda, liked to play a card game, called Pedro, with my folks. The family would walk down some evenings before dark to have some enjoyable card games. The adults played in the living room with the door closed and we kids played cards and other games at the kitchen table. We were cautioned to not "rough house" because kerosene lamps were to be protected as well as the rest of the kitchen. We had so much fun and the time seemed to go too fast before they had to leave for home.

Often times, Elsie was asked to stay all night with me, like a Friday after school. One Friday is quite memorable! I decided we needed a special treat after the mile walk home from school. A hunger for some candy resulted in us making our own.

Some powdered sugar and butter blended together with some red food coloring to get a luscious pink candy. Even though it was before the evening meal, we ate all we could hold. Sometime in the middle of the night, I became very ill and was unable to keep from throwing up over the side of the bed. Of course, this woke Elsie up and I was so embarrassed to find Elsie's shoes the target of my distress. My mother had to clean everything up so no one got much sleep that night. To this day I cannot stand the sight of any kind of pink candy or frosting.

I don't know how Elsie was able to forgive me or if her shoes were ever the same, however, she did invite me to stay all night with her which pleased me. I so enjoyed being in the one-room log cabin as it was the first time I had ever been inside one. It seemed so cozy with that nice family. I prayed that I would not eat something to cause another nighttime episode. Of course it was difficult for Elsie and I to go to sleep and not disturb her family with our giggles. I don't recall how all the beds were arranged in such a small area. In those times one had to make do.

My uncle, Ernest McKee, got word to us that his family was moving from Klamath Falls to Cottage Grove, Oregon. They had a player piano they did not want to take with them and he said my folks could have it for \$50.00. During the Depression, that was a lot of money but my dad thought it would be especially nice for my sister and I to learn to play. I don't know how he was able to get that much money but since he was known as "honest John" I am sure he didn't steal it. Anyway, dad contacted Mr. Dietrick, who had a fairly new pick-up and they went to Klamath Falls for that wonderful piano. It had some piano rolls with it so our house was constantly being filled with the roller music or our own terrible playing. (Mom still has this piano and the rolls which I remember playing as I was growing up. J.S.)

It didn't take long for our closest neighbor, miner Bill Oats, to hear about our musical addition. He was English and we thought his name was Mr. Bloats when

he first introduced himself. It took some time before we found out it wasn't Bloats. He had built a cabin at the far end of our field which belonged to my grandfather, Amos McKee, who let the miners build on his properties in return for a percentage of gold they may find and also to help him during haying season. One day he came to see our piano and sat down and started to play. To our amazement he played classical and other songs we knew. How I wish we had asked him about his background as it was obvious that he had some formal training. In those days it wasn't proper to pry.

Elsie was here for three more years, finishing the seventh grade at Beaver Creek School. The family moved to Ruch, probably for her older brother to ride the bus into Jacksonville for high school. They lived in the old dance hall that Cap Ruch had built in 1900. Elsie finished the eighth grade there at Ruch and graduated from Jacksonville High, while I graduated from Medford High. Her folks eventually moved to Dunsmuir, California and communication with Elsie got less and less. We both married and were kept busy with household duties and raising our children. However, we never forgot each other.

When Elsie was living in Eugene, Oregon, and her mother, Hilda, was living in Shady Cove, Oregon they came to see me. It was a wonderful surprise which brought back such wonderful memories. At Christmas time, we share our love for each other along with our happenings during the past year. Sometimes there is much happiness and sometimes much sorrow to write in our letters, but I have always felt so fortunate in having this classmate friend for so many years.

Evelyn Byrne Williams  
with Janeen Sathre  
541-899-1443

1933-34 School Picture Left to right:

**Front Row:** Orden Phillips, Harry Dietrick, Dean Phillips

**Middle Row:** Douglas McKee, Walter Offenbacher, Elsie Dietrick\*\*, Evelyn Byrne\*\*

**Back Row:** Clara Faye McKee, Lorne Dietrick, Rosella Offenbacher

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**BIRDMAN**

# Tiny travelers return

BY TED A. GLOVER

Here it is April and the annual Great Spring Migration is underway with literally millions of birds on the wing heading north toward their summer breeding grounds. By keeping your eyes and ears open you can see and hear many of these tiny travelers as they make their incredible journey right here in the Applegate Valley.

Researchers tell us that migratory birds inherit this urge to head north. They travel to their ancestral summer breeding grounds by using the sun in the daytime and the stars by night. There is also a belief that the earth's magnetic field could play a role in the migration as well.

We should begin seeing a lot of familiar birds. In fact, some are already re-appearing. In our area the Tree Swallows are among the first, finding the wooden nesting boxes scattered around the valley or finding tree cavities in open fields or over water. These birds are seen usually in large flocks soaring overhead or sitting on wires. The Tree Swallow has a glossy blue-green back

and flashy white under parts. Of course other swallows make their appearance as spring progresses toward summer; these include the colorful Cliff Swallows, Violet-Green Swallows and Barn Swallows, with their exaggerated forked-tail. Also appearing soon are the Northern Rough-winged Swallows, who are broad-winged and short-tailed like the Tree Swallows, but are brown over-all.

By mid-April the Rufous Hummingbirds are back followed closely by the Black-headed Grosbeaks. The male grosbeak has a deep orange breast, sides and rump with an all black head and white patches in the wings. They also have huge bills that help them eat pine and other seeds.

Keep your eyes and ears alert for all the birds that come our way. Some stay for the season and some just pass through, but all are fun to watch and hear.

Ted A. Glover • 541-846-0681



Photos clockwise from top left:

**Barn Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*) by Dave Menke, USFWS. Easily identified from other swallows, the barn swallow has a long forked tail and a buffy-orange colored chest.

**Tree Swallow** (*Tachycineta bicolor*) by Dr. Thomas Barnes, USFWS. The Tree Swallow winters farther north than any other American swallow, and it returns to its nesting grounds long before other swallows come back.

**Female Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) by Dave Menke, USFWS. The male and female black-headed grosbeak differ greatly in their plumage, with the male being a flashy black, white, and cinnamon, and the female a drab buff and brown with white stripes on her head.

**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*) by George Gentry, USFS. The feistiest hummingbird in North America. The brilliant orange male and the green-and-orange female Rufous Hummingbird are relentless attackers at flowers and feeders.

## Woodland Stewardship

# How to get the most out of your forested property

Do you own a tract of forest land or some woods around your home? Would you like to learn how to take care of it, restore it, or improve it? Are you concerned about maintaining the health of your trees and reducing wildfire risks? Would you like to improve your property values, or habitat for wildlife? Do you want to utilize forest products for sale or personal use? If the answer to any or all of these questions is yes, this class is for you!

“Woodland Stewardship-How to Get the Most Out of Your Forested Property” is a six class series that provides an overview of concepts and practices of forest stewardship for woodland properties, from 5 to 50 (or more) acres. It is designed for owners who are just getting started with woodland management as well as more experienced owners who are looking for new ideas and approaches.

**ABOUT THE CLASS:** This is a very practical, field based class; we will be outside, rain or shine. Field activities will take place on woodland properties around the area. You will see what other landowners are doing and learn from them. Bring comfortable shoes or boots, raingear, sun/rain protection, and water. Although the class will not be physically demanding, we will be making short walks through the woods.

**GRANTS PASS classes:** Friday mornings, 9 am–Noon, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6.

**CENTRAL POINT classes:** Friday afternoons, 1:30–4:30 pm, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6.

**COST:** \$50 for all six classes or \$10 per individual class. Feel free to attend individual sessions. Fee covers instruction, handouts, & other materials. The series is offered in both Grants Pass and Central Point. Register for either (see registration form below).

**INSTRUCTORS:** Max Bennett, Forestry Agent, OSU Extension Service, Master Woodland Managers, and guest instructors.

### Session #1: Getting Started: Sustainable Woods Management (April 1)

Owning forest land presents both opportunities and challenges, some that are obvious and many that are not so obvious. This class will cover the basic list of “things to know about your forest” ranging from tree ID to property taxes to locating property boundaries. And, it will help you formulate a vision for your own forest, as you see examples of well-managed local woodland properties and get an overview of woodland management practices including thinning and stand improvement, road development, fire protection, timber harvesting, and more.

### Session #2: Maintaining a Healthy Forest & Stand Improvement (April 8)

A vigorous forest is a healthy forest, but many stands in southern Oregon are overly dense and have low tree vigor, making them susceptible to insect attack as well as wildfire. Learn how to thin and improve stands based on species, vigor, form, spacing, and other considerations. Slash disposal, utilization of byproducts, equipment needs, potential markets, and other practical considerations will be covered. We'll also discuss some of the most common insect and disease problems of native trees.

### Session #3: Protecting Your Home and Property from Wildfire (April 15)

Wildfire is the #1 concern for many forest landowners in southern Oregon, and for good reason: this is one of the most fire-prone environments in the state. Learn what it takes to protect your home and property from wildfire. Discover how to make your woods more resistant to fire and how this can improve forest health and vigor at the same time.

### Session #4: Tree Planting & Establishment, Long Term Tree Care (April 22)

What does it take to establish new forest trees that will survive our hot, dry summers? See examples of site reforestation and care of young trees. We'll cover planting techniques, selecting the right species for your site, planting tools and techniques, weed control, pruning, and more.

### Session #5: Wildlife, Water, & Weeds (April 29)

This session will help you make your property more attractive to wildlife by outlining ways to provide the essential habitat for the species of your interest. You'll also learn how to make your property less attractive to noxious weeds, and what you can do about existing weed problems. We'll also look at ways to develop a trail system on your property. Finally, we'll cover practices you can use to protect water quality and streamside areas.

### Session #6: Putting it All Together (May 6)

You've seen some great examples, now how do you put it all together on your own land? Learn about management planning, working with contractors, tools and equipment, and sources of technical and financial assistance that can help you accomplish projects. Get acquainted with your responsibilities as a woodland owner by learning about Forest Practices Rules and fire liability.

Registration for Grants Pass session call 541-476-6613 or stop by 215 Ringuette St, Grants Pass. For Central Point session call 541-776-7371 or stop by 569 Hanley Rd., Central Point. Preregistration is required.

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## SOMETHING TO CEREBRATE

# Are genetically modified organisms killing the bees?

BY KATE MORSE, CCH, HMC

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is the name given to the annual die-off of 20- to 40 percent of honeybee colonies in the United States and Europe. Recent research into the mysterious phenomenon, which has frightening consequences for agricultural crops that depend on bee pollination, blames a specific viral and fungal duo for CCD: *insect iridescent virus* (first found in India 20 years ago) and *Nosema ceranae*, a fungal spore the bees ingest.

The research, conducted by the University of Montana and Montana State University, in collaboration with the US Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, was published October, 2010, in a scientific journal online at <http://www.plosone.org>. The team discovered these viral/fungal killers in every colony they studied. While neither pathogen alone is lethal, the research suggests they add up to a one-two punch that definitely kills bees.

### POLLINATION BY BEES

	Crop Value in Billions (2006)	% Pollinated by Bees
Soybeans	\$19.7	5
Cotton	5.2	16
Grapes	3.2	1
Almonds	2.2	100
Apples	2.1	90
Oranges	1.8	27
Strawberries	1.5	2
Peanuts	0.6	2
Peaches	0.5	45
Blueberries	0.5	90

Source: USDA

Still, questions abound as to why bees are suddenly such disease-prone weaklings. The prevailing viewpoint is that a combination of factors—pathogens, as well as pollutants, pesticides, global climate changes, mites, and maybe cell-phone radiation—are to blame.

David Mendes, the president of the American Beekeeping Federation, states, "There might be something that affects the bees' immune system in the first place that then allows these pathogens to infect them more easily." (<http://gmo-journal.com>) One of the newest "somethings" under consideration is genetically modified organisms, or GMOs.

Gmo-journal.com says GMOs cause CCD when they function as so-

called "terminator seeds." Terminator seeds, which give rise to plants that don't produce cultivatable seeds (necessitating that farmers keep purchasing seeds), or only reproduce with concomitant use of the producers' pesticides and fertilizers, are brutally hard on bees' digestion. Monsanto has patented "terminator seeds" for several varieties of corn.

Www.Globalresearch.com, a Canadian website that puts most of the blame on Monsanto, says: "The genetic modification of the plant leads to the concurrent genetic modification of the flower pollen. When the flower pollen becomes genetically modified or sterile, the bees will potentially go malnourished and die of illness due to the lack of nutrients and the interruption of the digestive capacity of what they feed on through the summer and over the winter hibernation process."

Gmo-journal.com echoes a much-held concern that GMOs also lead to CCD when they incorporate pesticides. The biggest suspected offender is *Bacillus thuringiensis*—a.k.a. Bt, a soil bacteria. More than a decade ago, scientists at Monsanto figured out how to insert the DNA of Bt into crop plants, so that every molecule of the plant contains it. Bt is insecticidal: bugs eat it and it kills them. Indiscriminantly, shout the critics. Only a few targeted species, the agrichemists shout back. www.Monssanto.com has more than five pages of press releases praising Bt-engineered crops, including the statement that it has "revolutionized corn production." [http://www.bt.ucsd.edu/bt\\_crop.html](http://www.bt.ucsd.edu/bt_crop.html) has a balanced comparison of risks and benefits of Bt.

Www.energygrid.com argues that Bt in the corn pollen "causes an immune system response in the bees, similar to if they had eaten the BT directly, and also causes holes and porosity in the gut. During the summer, the bees have enough protein to tolerate the immune response" and (use pollen proteins as neurochemicals for learning navigation to and from the hive).

However, in winter, when protein (pollen) is in short supply, things can change: If a bee's immune system is threatened, the protein normally invested in learning and remembering complex navigation has gone into immune reaction. Sick bees, therefore, get lost trying to return to the hive. Nature formalized this operation to preserve the hive, because it prevents infected bees from contaminating the entire hive, but it can get out of

balance. The "Bt-as-immune-devastator" theory accounts for several characteristics of CCD, according to [energygrid.com](http://energygrid.com):

1. "It was originally called 'Fall Dwindle Disease,' because bee disappearance is almost always worst just as winter sets in.

2. It explains why the few dead bees that are found have the same blackened and porous guts as bees responding directly to Bt.

3. It also explains why the global bee die-off generally followed the spread of GMO corn, and did not reach Brazil until just after they let in Monsanto's GMO corn."

More about Bt and GMOs

At [www.naturalnews.com](http://www.naturalnews.com), John McDonald, a beekeeper with a background in biology, agrees that crops genetically modified with Bt could play a role in CCD. "The primary toxin is a protein called Cry1Ab. In the case of field corn, the targeted insects are stem and root-borers and butterfly larvae. Although scientists assure us that bees are not affected, there are Bt variants available that target beetles, flies and mosquitoes, as well as proof that Cry1Ab is present in beehives. Beekeepers spray Bt under hive lids to control the wax moth because the larvae cause messy webs on the honey. Canadian beekeepers have noted the disappearance of this moth even in untreated hives, apparently the result of bees ingesting Cry1Ab while foraging in GM canola plants. Bees forage heavily on corn flowers to obtain pollen for the rearing of young bees." McDonald believes it may be possible that while Cry1Ab isn't fatal to young bees, it might suppress immunity and act as a "slow killer."

All this attention to what goes on in a bee's gut may be just what's needed. But there is scant research examining the GMO/CCD link. A couple of studies have found enough evidence to support further research. One study conducted by Penn State University and published in the *Public Library of Science* found "remarkably high" level of pesticide and other toxicant contamination that *could* be from GMOs.

According to [www.spiegel.de.international.com](http://www.spiegel.de.international.com), the electronic version of the German newspaper Spiegel, research conducted at the University of Jena from 2001 to 2004 examining the effects of pollen from a Bt-modified corn on bees found no evidence of a "toxic effect of Bt corn on healthy honeybee populations. But when the bees used in the experiments

## How much Bt is out there?

Insect-resistant crops containing the gene from the soil bacterium Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) have been available for corn and cotton since 1996. Plantings of Bt corn grew from about 8 percent of U.S. corn acreage in 1997 to 26 percent in 1999...then climbed to 63 percent in 2010. Plantings of Bt cotton expanded more rapidly, from 15 percent of U.S. cotton acreage in 1997 to 37 percent in 2001 and 73 percent in 2010.

These figures include adoption of "stacked" varieties of cotton and corn, which have both HT (herbicide tolerant) and Bt traits. Adoption of stacked varieties has accelerated. Stacked cotton reached 58 percent of cotton plantings in 2010. Plantings of stacked corn made up 47 percent of corn acres in 2010.

Adoption of all genetically engineered cotton, taking into account the acreage with either or both HT and Bt, reached 93 percent in 2010, versus 93 percent for soybeans (soybeans have only HT varieties). Adoption of all biotech corn was 86 percent in 2010.

From USDA Economic Research Services: [www.ers.usda.gov/data/biotechcrops/adoption.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/biotechcrops/adoption.htm)

were infested with a parasite, a significantly stronger decline in the number of bees occurred among the insects that had been fed a highly concentrated Bt poison."

Hans-Hinrich Kaatz, director of the study, believes "the bacterial toxin in the genetically modified corn may have altered the surface of the bee's intestines, sufficiently weakening the bees to allow the parasites to gain entry—or perhaps it was the other way around. We don't know."

According to the Spiegel.com, Kaatz wanted to continue studying the phenomenon but lacked the necessary funding. "Those who have the money are not interested in this sort of research," says the professor, "and those who are interested don't have the money."

Should home gardeners purchase Bt insecticides, or avoid them until a definitive answer on the Bt/CCD link comes to light?

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Kate Morse is a Certified Classical Homeopath in the Applegate at [www.southernoregonhomeopathy.com](http://www.southernoregonhomeopathy.com). In an earlier career, she wrote press materials about *Bacillus thuriensis* for Monsanto.

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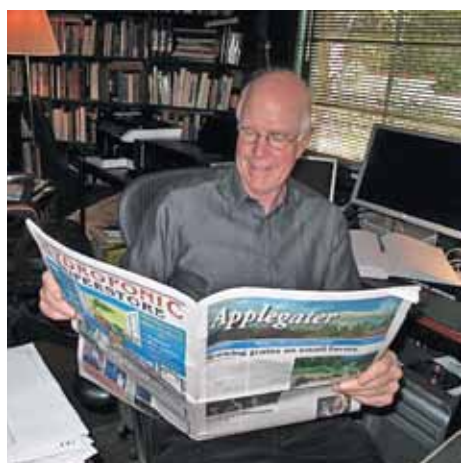
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Photos: Clockwise from top left:

- Famous movie producer, Dick Pearce, reading the Applegater at his home office in Bel Aire, California. Latest movie FOOD INC.
- Paula Rissler in Wilsonville, Alabama.
- Steve Bird, Ucluelet, British Columbia harbor master admiring Ms. Applegater.
- Annette Parsons reading the Gater in downtown Bakersfield, California.
- Lavendar and Indigo Applegate read the Gater along with Disney characters, Alladin and Jasmine, in Disneyland, California.
- Meghan and Teri Auker Becker at Lake Winnepesaukee, Meredith, New Hampshire.
- Megan and Windy Weber with Jan and John Woods in Lakeside, Montana.
- Myrna Dubin reads the Gater in Ranthambhore, India while visiting a tiger reserve.
- Applegater Girls in Vegas. From Left: Rona Jones, Nancy Fleischman, Toree Wilkening, Cathy Dunlap, and Paula Rissler.



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