

**TOUR:** Garden club has historically used event funds to award grants

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which have helped beautify our town while enhancing our natural surroundings and educating our children about the importance of the natural world.

The garden tour was the brainchild of Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show founder Jean Wells Keenan in 1998, when she approached the garden club about offering garden tours to the participants enrolled in her Quilters' Affair classes during Quilt Show Week. Thus, was born the original Annual Quilt Show Garden Tour. That initial effort raised \$4,000 for the garden club which promptly returned it to the community.

From that day to this, the money raised by the tour has gone to support fulfilling grant requests from local nonprofits and schools that are focused on gardening and the natural world. Money has been given in support of the Sisters Elementary School Garden Club and greenhouse, middle and high school greenhouses and garden programs, Sisters Community Garden, Sisters Library landscaping, City parks, Deschutes Land Trust, Camp Caldera, Sisters Rotary Club, Upper Deschutes

Watershed Council for work with Sisters students, Barclay Memorial Park, Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, and Seed-to-Table.

The tour provides a diversion from classes and an opportunity for visitors and locals alike to experience the homes and gardens in the Sisters area, while admiring more quilts belonging to the garden club members and the homeowners. Wells Keenan was made a Lifetime Member of the garden club in appreciation of her help and encouragement with the tour. Her own garden has been part of the tour several times.

Homes were added to the tour starting in 2000. Since then, other features have been incorporated such as raffles for quilts and the sale of yard art by local artists. An additional stop on the tour has been at the Sisters Community Garden where lunches prepared by garden members have been available for purchase to help fundraising for the garden. A three-salad lunch has included homemade bread or rolls and desserts. Visitors are invited to eat in the garden while enjoying the view of the mountains and the quilts hanging on the garden fence. Last year, 195 lunches were gone in an hour-and-a-half.

With no garden tour this year, the community garden will not be offering their lunch.

# Doctor seeks dog from biting incident

By **Jim Cornelius**  
Editor in Chief

The doctor treating the man who was bitten by a loose dog on the Peterson Ridge Trail at the south end of Sisters on March 25, is hoping the owner of the dog comes forward.

Without knowing the history of the dog, the victim is left with worries about possible disease.

Dr. Eric Wattenburg told *The Nugget* last weekend that, while the possibility of rabies is remote, it is a looming concern as long as the status of the dog involved remains in question.

Dr. Wattenburg said that in cases where a dog who has bitten a person is identified, it can be quarantined for a period of 10 days and its behavior observed to warn of any sign of rabies.

"Or," he said, "if you have evidence that the dog's been vaccinated, it's pretty much case closed."

With the dog's identity and status unknown, the bite victim is faced with a decision whether to pursue treatment on a preventative basis. And that treatment is unpleasant and expensive.

"It's thousands of dollars, risky injections," Dr. Wattenburg said. "It's

multiple injections over many different weeks."

Dr. Wattenburg noted that rabies can lie dormant in a person for weeks, months or even years, and once it is established, it's fatal.

"This is very serious and it can be life-threatening," he said.

The Sisters man was reportedly running on the trail when a medium-sized black dog ran past him and bit him on the calf. According to an account provided by a friend of the runner, the man fell to the ground and threw rocks at the dog to scare it off.

Two women described as being in their 50s to 60s approached and according to Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Sgt. William Bailey, "were not cooperative with providing information" to the victim. One woman was wearing a dark coat, the other a white coat. The runner did not have a mobile phone with which to take photos.

The victim reported that he was bitten a second time as he turned to run back down the trail.

Bailey told *The Nugget* that, according to the victim's report, "There was a verbal confrontation between them and the dog bite victim. One of the women (pulled) out a

taser-type device and pointed it at him and told him he needed to 'get the (expletive) out of here'."

“ This is very serious and it can be life-threatening. — Dr. Eric Wattenburg ”

The runner contacted the sheriff's office and deputies responded to investigate. Bailey said that deputies confirmed that the runner exhibited two dog bites, one of which broke the skin.

Sheriff's deputies are investigating the identity of the women and the dog involved.

Dr. Wattenburg hopes that the dog owner will come forward so that the question of the dog's health status can be resolved and the bite victim's health concerns can either be addressed or put to rest.

As of Monday, April 13, the dog owner had not yet been identified.

Anyone with information who can help deputies located and contact the women involved is asked to call the non-emergency dispatch line at 541-693-6911.

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appearing in the April 22, 2020 issue of *The Nugget Newspaper*.

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