

Prep your property for wildfire season



Gardening
Carol Savonen
Guest columnist

Last week, when I wrote about Douglas firs dying, I touched on wildfire danger. Since we are in the height of summer, here are some steps to take to prepare your property, suburban or rural, for wildfire season.

Wildfires are commonly thought of as a rural problem and more of a problem in the eastern part of the state. But the Willamette Valley is infamous for its mild, wet winters. Our summer drought leaves the valley as vulnerable to wildfires as drier areas of the state. In Corvallis, we learned the hard way about fire a few summers ago with a large wildfire near and within densely populated city perimeters.

Fire is a scary to think about, but prepare we must. There are many wildfire prevention resources available online and at your local OSU county extension office, Department of Forestry, fire department, or other natural resource agency. I mention a few locally appropriate publications below.

Clean up your yard. Examine the outside perimeter of your house and out buildings. Optimally, the first 30 feet extending from the outermost part of the structure, including detached garages and sheds should be free of flammable material.

Rake leaves and debris, mow grass, prune trees six to 10 feet up from the ground, and keep plants well-watered to prevent a surface fire from climbing into the tree crowns and carrying flames to



Karen Mueller and her husband, Fred, survey the damage from a 150-acre blaze in Corvallis in 2014. Wildfire season has officially begun. ASHLEY SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL

the house. This is sometimes impossible to do completely, but at least reduce the fuel for the fire. Spaces free of fuel, such as driveways, gravel walkways and green lawns can halt the advance of a fire.

Clean off the roof. Roofs are the most fire-vulnerable part of your home. Be sure to regularly clear leaves and needles from the roof and gutters, and cut back any tree limbs that overhang the roof.

Consider planting fire-resistant landscaping. OSU Extension has developed a new publication/app: Fire-resistant Landscape Plants for the Willamette Valley, which can be accessed on-

line, downloaded and printed for no charge, or utilized as an app for your iPhone or Android at: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9103>. It highlights fire-resistant plants that thrive in Willamette Valley growing conditions. It provides a diverse list of plants by category: groundcovers, perennials, woody shrubs and vines, and trees.

Plants are considered to be fire-resistant if they are high in moisture with supple leaves; if they don't produce woody tissue, which is fuel for fire; if they have watery, not aromatic or resinous sap. But no plant is fireproof.

In general, the best approach is to

plant low-growing, fire-resistant plants spaced carefully apart so as not to provide fuel close to a structure. Avoid highly flammable species, such as pine, juniper, and invasive like European hawthorn, Himalayan blackberry, Scot's broom, English holly and English ivy.

Another great resource to learn more about how to create a fire-resistant home landscape, is: Fire-Resistant Plants for Oregon Home Landscapes <http://www.firefree.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Fire-Resistant-Plants.pdf>. This publication has many good illustrations and instructions on how to make your yard more safe from fire.

IN BRIEF

Silverton music fest, market set for July 21

Silverton's second annual Fisher Mill Music Fest is set for Saturday, July 21, at Old Mill Park Amphitheater.

The grassy amphitheater along Silver Creek is part of the city park behind the Silver Falls Library parking lot on South Water Street.

The festival features a lineup of bluegrass, rock and folk bands. The day's music runs 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Currently scheduled are the Crying Eyes, Filthy Skilleets, SoundStream Music's Rock Band Academy, Prineville, Reckoned With, Beggars Canyon and Goshwood.

All ages are welcome. A \$5 donation is suggested. Food, beer, wine and soft

drinks will be available from local vendors.

Attendees can bring their own lawn chairs, blankets and picnics.

At the same location, vendors at the one-day Garden Zen Market Place will be selling art, garden supplies and more from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Potential vendors should email thewhiteoakgallery@gmail.com.

For more information about the festival, log on to www.fischersmillmusicfest.com/.

— Christena Brooks

Live history at Silver Falls on July 14, 15

This weekend is a chance to see what

life was like in the years before Silver Falls became a state park in 1933.

On Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15, Historic Silver Falls Days will highlight the area's past with events at the South Falls Day Use Area.

From Native Americans to loggers to homesteaders, Silver Falls has a rich and vibrant history that preceded its establishment as Oregon's largest state park.

On display will be demonstrations of antique logging, horse-drawn wagons, antique cars, crafts and artifacts.

There will even be a mini-canoe race honoring Al Faussett's plunge over South Falls in 1928.

Events run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and come free with the park's \$5-per-vehicle entrance fee. Silver Falls State Park and Friends of Silver Falls are hosting the weekend.

For more information, log on to www.friendsofsilverfalls.net.

— Christena Brooks

OBITUARIES

Carolyn Rose Radford

Oct. 6, 1920 — June 30, 2018

Carolyn Rose Radford, 97, passed away in her home in Salem.

She was born in Palms, California, on Oct. 6, 1920. Carolyn graduated from Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, California, and also attended Metropolitan Graduate School.

She married Leo Carl Radford on Oct. 19, 1940. Together, they raised three children. They lived in Torrance, California, and moved to the Mulino and Silverton area before moving in 2000 to Capital Manor Retirement Community in Salem.

Carolyn enjoyed traveling the United States in their RV and tours aboard. She made scrapbooks of all their adventures. Silverton United Methodist Church activities were very important to her. Carolyn also enjoyed flower arranging, embroidery and playing the pi-

ano.

Carolyn is survived by son Gregg (Gerry) Radford of Stevensville, Montana; daughters Lynn Radford (Fred Cicero) of Sneads Ferry, North Carolina, and Lora (William H.) Rhodes of Gearhart; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leo, in 2008; her parents, Henry and Ella Kidson; and her brother, Henry Kidson Jr.

Observing Carolyn's wishes for privacy, no services will be held. Remembrances can be made to Silverton United Methodist Church or the Capital Manor Foundation.

Thoughts from Carolyn: "Those we hold most dear never truly leave us — they live on in the kindness they shared and the love they bring into our lives."

Arrangements were made with Unger Funeral Chapel in Silverton.



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