

Joy Creek Nursery Offers Free Classes

Joy Creek believes their classes are a good way for gardeners of all levels to improve their knowledge of plants and their gardening skills. The classes also offer an opportunity for gardeners to meet others who share a similar passion. Joy Creek hopes they give confidence to the beginner and inspiration to the long-time gardener.

1:00 Sunday, June 23

Hostas - with Thomas Johnson

Hostas are among the most popular of ornamental perennials because of the wide variety of leaf shape, size, texture, and variegation they offer to the gardener. Thomas Johnson discusses the cultural needs of hostas, how and when to make divisions, and their many uses in the garden. One of Thomas' interests is using hostas in decorative containers. He will feature some of his own artistry. And he will bring a selection of hostas from his nursery Sebright Gardens for sale.

1:00 Sunday, June 30

Basic Pruning: Pruning Spring Flowering Shrubs - Part 2 - with Mike Smith

Many spring flowering shrubs are best pruned just after they complete their flowering. Mike will include upsizing and downsizing Rhododendrons, lifting drooping canopies and some mid-season corrective pruning on plants such as Daphne odora 'Aureo-marginata'.

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Changes at Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD

Fire Chief Dave Crawford and Assistant Chief Mary Lou Busch have both retired as full time employees at Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD. The Board of Directors has accepted their retirements and has contracted both of them to return to work at less than half time as is allowed by PERS regulations.

Cutting back to less than half time has called for some changes in personnel assignment and a need for some more part-time personnel to help bear the load left behind. Those part time people have not yet been hired. Volunteer Captain Joe Kaczinski has accepted the role of Operations Chief and the administrative assistant hours have been increased to help during the transition period. The volunteers are also doing a great deal to lighten the load.

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

10 years of plant sale fundraisers have passed and our community continues to show their compassion for our seniors. Your generousities through your donations to our senior community are so very heartfelt, thank you!

It was a success, there are now more funds for meals, etc. A special thank you to our senior volunteers who volunteered their time, you know who you are.

A big thanks to our merchant donors, Bi - Mart, Jim Dandy Farm Market, Woodstock, Means and Portland and Glen Walters Nurseries. Those participating as vendors for the first year, "The Flower Lady" out of St. Helens, and locals Yvonne & Tim, thank you for supporting the seniors!

Jack Harvey
Vernonia Senior Center

Upper Nehalem Watershed Council



There will be a meeting of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Thursday, June 27th 6:30 to 8:30pm Vernonia Grange Hall (375 North St.) There will be a presentation by Dan Avery, (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) "Coast Coho Conservation - Implementation Plan"

To the Editor,

"Rate Design" is the title of Marc Farmer's article in the June 6th issue of Vernonia's Voice. He states a change will take place on October 1st. Marc also examines a classic dilemma: should members pay a low, fixed monthly service fee (Facility Charge) with a high KWH of use charge; or, alternatively, a high fixed monthly service fee with a low KWH charge?

What is more interesting are the first two sentences of Marc's column which state (1) the co-op needs income to cover its costs and (2) the co-op is "a not for profit cooperative."

That relates to the 2013 audit. I found the co-op (a non-profit corporation) owns a company called West Oregon Services, Inc. (WOSI) which in turn owns a "for profit" telecommunications company called Columbia Broadband, Inc. CBI supplies internet connection to rural communities (not yet including Vernonia). This was done by WOSI issuing \$15,000 in stock. WOSI then took \$10,000 of that money and created CBI. To make it all work, WOEC loaned \$1.2+million dollars to CBI which is still outstanding. CBI, nevertheless, has invested in LSN, Inc., a Portland based telecommunications company. These are for-profit companies. Isn't there a contradiction here? The opening sentence in the "Articles of Association" (Chapter VIII of Title XXV of the Oregon Code, 1930) states "the purpose is(sic) of forming a non-profit cooperative association." Article VII, Section 1 of the Bylaws states "...The Cooperative shall at all times be operated on a cooperative non-profit basis for the mutual benefit of its patrons." How is it our non-profit co-op owns for-profit companies? What has this done to our rates?

\$1.2 million dollars is a lot of money. Members of the co-op are responsible for it. What would have happened if, instead, the investment had been put into alternative, renewable energy, specifically solar, wind, micro-hydro and geo-thermal? Short term costs would have modified over the medium term to clean, renewable energy, extremely low carbon emissions and lower long term prices in contrast to fossil fuel prices, and pollution, which are now skyrocketing through the roof. BPA is limited, simply by plant size. It will not be able to keep up with total demand. Green energy can.

If you, the reader, think WOEC can make some needed changes and stabilize long term rates, become active. Join Pwr/1. Or run for the WOEC Board of Directors in Districts 2 (Mist, Birkenfeld) and 5 (Timber, Buxton). (see Nick Galaday's article in today's paper for details). Give us a call: 503 429-8089

Jack Phillips
Vernonia

HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please include your name, address and phone number, limit your letters to 300 words or less. Vernonia's Voice reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters space permitting. Deadline is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Vernonia Festivals 2013



Great American Bash

Parade: 6:00 pm
Concert: 7:30 pm
Nashville Recording Artist
"Jesse Cain"
Fireworks: Dusk
Food, Music & Fun!

July
4th

vernonia4thofjuly@googlegroups.com



Friendship Jamboree And Logging Show

Friday: Jamboree opens
Saturday: Parade @ 11am
Concert @ 2pm & 6pm

Aug.
2-4

VHS Give Back Bash w/
"Justin Shandor"
Sunday: Logging Show @ Noon
facebook.com/VernoniaJamboree



Salmon Festival @ Hawkins Park

Saturday: Scarecrow Building
Pumpkin Carving
Fish Pond
Food & Craft Vendors

Oct.
5th

facebook.com/VernoniaSalmonFestival



Spirit of Christmas Historic Downtown Vernonia

Saturday: Story-telling
Lighted Parade
Enter a Contest!
Chili, Cookie
Gingerbread House,
House Decorating

Dec.
7th

facebook.com/vernoniaspiritofchristmas

Vernonia Weather May 2013

	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	69	28	0
2	77	31	0
3	76	35	0
4	81	38	0
5	85	34	0
6	84	39	0
7	70	38	0
8	71	47	0
9	80	42	0
10	83	42	0
11	83	51	0
12	70	51	-
13	67	38	-
14	66	43	0
15	57	43	0.03
16	64	45	0.28
17	59	42	0.25
18	57	45	0.08
19	60	38	-
20	71	45	0.07
21	54	40	0.06
22	50	41	0.75
23	50	44	0.65
24	58	41	0.19
25	62	44	0.2
26	63	47	0.5
27	64	49	0.03
28	62	48	0.33
29	60	42	-
30	58	45	0.12
31	64	42	0
Ave/Tot	66.9	41.9	3.29

Weather data is collected at the U.S. Weather station at the Vernonia Water Plant