

# Giant Hogweed a Problem for People and our Environment

By Gayle Rich-Boxman

Recently a resident at Fishhawk Lake was telling me about an environmental hazard that we have growing in our community. It is a noxious plant, called Giant Hogweed that looks very similar to Queen Anne's Lace. It is the kind of plant that has been eradicated in many areas because it can cause humans to have serious blistering on their skin as well as severe eye irritation.

This resident told me that she had it growing around her home in Portland and that the county arranged to have it removed at no cost to her. I looked this up, and you can also call the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

This was what was written in one article about what to do:

If you suspect you've found hogweed, call either the City of Portland or contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Both Portland and ODA have programs in place to manage this species for you and at no cost. ODA also REQUIRES landowners to report the presence or suspicion of target species like giant hogweed.

Here is a link to the full article: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/432900>.

As it states in the article giant hogweed is "capable of creating significant ecological damage".

Both Columbia and Clatsop counties have contacts for owners, please visit this website: [http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/pages/county\\_contacts.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/pages/county_contacts.aspx)

I see a great deal of this located on and around Greasy Spoon Road and had no idea that it wasn't the lovely Queen Anne's Lace that I recall enjoying as a child. (If you are hiking up the logging roads all along Greasy Spoon Road or in the woods or running, be sure and wear appropriate clothing).

If you choose to remove it, be sure to fully cover your body, wear gloves and don't touch your face at all while working with this plant. According to a dermatologist the plant and its sap destroys all UV protection qualities in the skin which causes it to burn easily.

Depending on where you live, there may be local programs that mandate the control of noxious weeds on private property. Homeowner associations can direct weed control to their members. Some local



government entities have codes or regulations that mandate weed control. Also, some areas have Noxious Weed Control Districts or Weed Management Areas that can help your neighbors control their weeds either by education and outreach, land management strategies, and/or funding. Nonetheless, weed control is everybody's business.



## Spring Sports Update *continued from page 15*

facilities," said Brown. "For that matter, the same applies pretty much to all the events we compete in. It is great to be able to end the season at Hayward Field where so many world class athletes have and will continue to compete. It's great motivation for our kids to get there."

**Softball-** The Vernonia Lady Loggers had a great season, clinching first place in the Northwest League and earning an automatic berth in the State Playoffs. Unfortunately the Lady Loggers fell to Prospect 7-2 in the first round.

The Lady Loggers finished their

season with a 17-4 record over all and a 13-2 record in league play. Head Coach Mike Fetch is only losing two seniors from his young team which saw three sophomores, Kassidy Fetch at pitcher, Sara Smith at catcher, and Paige Smith at first base, along with freshman Payton Wolf at second base, receive First Team All League recognition. Several other Lady Loggers were named Second Team All League including freshman Pearl Cook at short stop, Junior Taylor Titus at third base and Senior Jerrian Pond in the outfield. Freshman outfielder Cassidy Whitton received Honorable Mention.



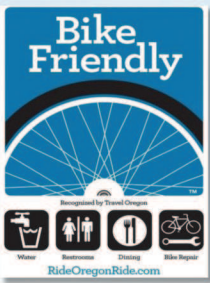
Lady Loggers: Taylor Titus, Pearl Cook, Kassidy Fetch, Payton Wolf and Paige Smith

**Baseball-** First year coach Joe Walters was able to get his team qualified for the League Playoffs where the Loggers were eliminated in the first round, losing

to Faith Bible 12-1. The Loggers ended their season with a 9-12 league record and were 10-16 over all on the season.

Senior pitcher Tim Jennings was named First Team All League. Senior center fielder Adonis Hopkins was named Second Team All League, as was freshman Brett Elliot. Seniors Ronnie Maldonado and Bo Clark received Honorable Mention.

### Bike Friendly Business Workshops



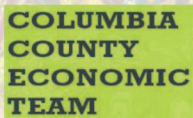
Want the growing number of cyclists visiting Vernonia and Banks to know you value their business?

Drew Barbier of the Columbia County Economic Team will facilitate a Bike Friendly Business workshop. Laptops will be available, as well as individual assistance, to help you complete the Bike Friendly application.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 10, 6:00pm

**WHERE:** Blue House Cafe, 919 Bridge Street, Vernonia

Travel Oregon's Bike Friendly Business Program aims to help businesses understand the bike-tourism industry and provide you with simple tips to welcome cyclists and truly be Bike Friendly. Once recognized, your business receives enhanced marketing exposure through Travel Oregon's websites. Come to this workshop and find out if you already qualify as Bike Friendly, or what you need to get there!



Contact Drew Barbier to sign up to attend.  
[drewbarbier.columbiacountyoregon@outlook.com](mailto:drewbarbier.columbiacountyoregon@outlook.com)  
or call 309-712-6629

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