

## New CZ Trail Signage

*continued from front page*

The CZ Trail in Vernonia now travels from Anderson Park, across Rock Creek, traveling behind the sewer lagoons along what Vernonians know as Webb Way, to Vernonia Lake.

The trail remains incomplete, with 0.7 miles between Vernonia Lake and the Holce Trailhead sharing the road to cross the Green Bridge, along Mist Drive/Highway 47, to Knott Street.



The Anderson Park Trailhead features a historical interpretive sign, along with a business directory and map to help visitors find local services.

The signage at the Holce and Anderson Park trailheads, along with street signs to help direct visitors to the parking areas, was installed by Columbia County workers and was funded through the Columbia Economic Team, Columbia County, the City of Vernonia, and Travel Oregon. Volunteer Dale Latham worked closely with the City of Vernonia to develop the signage at the Anderson Park Trailhead.

## New Carving at Spencer Park



The salmon that was carved into a large stump at Spencer Park, has finally been joined by a protagonist.

The City hired Carvin' Marvin Howard, a local accomplished wood carver, to add an angler to the remain-

ing stump at the park where it faces Bridge Street. In a creative twist, the new carving is a man with a fishing pole sitting on the stump with his dog and appears to have hooked the previously carved fish.

## Our Friend the Douglas-fir *continued from page 8*

The Douglas-fir has played an important part in American history and continues to be an economic driver, most notably in the timber industry. It makes up the largest share of the annual timber harvest in the United States, and makes excellent dimensional lumber due to its straight growth and grain, and lack of knots; as the trees grow taller in denser forest, they lose their lower branches so the foliage may not start until much higher off the ground. They make up over 50 percent of the Christmas trees sold each year in the United States.

In addition to its distinct place

in logging culture, the Douglas-fir provided railroad ties and telephone/telegraph poles, important resources during the early settling of the American West. It was used during World War II, with GI's footlockers constructed from its lumber.

It holds another significant distinction in American history – in 1925, when the naval ship the USS Constitution, known as “Old Ironsides,” was being restored Douglas-fir was used to construct the masts. Closer to home, in 2009 the ship was redecked with old growth Douglas-fir that had blown down on a tree farm near Scio and was



salvage harvested by Gwin & Sons Logging, a Vernonia based outfit.

Known as fast growing in both the diverse wet and dry climates that make up the Pacific Northwest region, the Douglas-fir is known as being somewhat drought tolerant, although that may be changing. According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study from 2015, the genetic differences in each individual Douglas-fir allow them to adapt to their local environment. Cur-

rent climate models are calling for the Pacific Northwest to experience longer and dryer summers, along with less winter snowpack over the next 50 years. Researchers in the study from the U.S. Forest Service studied 35 different populations of Douglas-fir and found, not surprisingly, that those already growing in warmer and drier climates were better adapted to withstand predicted climate changes in the region. Those populations will likely be more often selected as a seed source for their drought-tolerant properties by tree growers in the coming years.

There are many reasons to appreciate our neighbor, the Douglas-fir. It provides habitat and food for wildlife and it grows quickly and is a great resource with many uses when harvested. And its tall and straight bearing certainly give it a majestic appearance that can be appreciated all on its own. Time spent in a forest can be relaxing, rejuvenating, and reflective. Maybe we can just enjoy our Douglas-fir as we would with any other neighbor or friend, for the company they provide.

As famous naturalist John Muir once said, “Going to the woods is going home.”



*The crew from Gwin & Sons Logging salvage harvested an old growth Doug-fir that was used to redeck the USS Constitution in 2009.*



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