

Historic tree: Students graft the Klootchky Giant to revive it

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"The tree will now die," Paul Reis of the Oregon Department of Forestry in the *zine New West*.

"His thoughts on the historic demise may have been said accurately, however, due to the invention of Clackamas' own horticulture department, it was still attached to the tree,"

said Horticulture Department Chair Elizabeth Howley.

While on a trip to the coast, Howley took cuttings of the grand tree to be used as grafts in Bruce Nelson's Horticulture 133 practicum course. The class was about to learn about the very subject of tree grafting on Jan. 23.

"Many of our students in this class carried out grafting to see if we can get some viable trees from the historic Sitka Spruce," Nelson said.

Grafting is a process of plant propagation in which a healthy, live and rooted yearling plant of a certain species has a section cut away, and then a plant of another species has a similar cutting done in the same angle as the first. The two plants are ultimately joined together.

This is done with the hope that the two plants will bond in the cut area and form a new connection that will stand without the aid of bonding material such as twine and grafting tape.

"I always stopped [to see the Sitka Spruce] when I was in town," said student Lisa Gunion-Rinker.

Gunion-Rinker and other horticulture students used the grafting technique

known as "veneer method" to connect the Sitka Spruce to a Norwegian Spruce. To cover the cut between the two trees, they used sawdust and other media to help close the exposed area.

"We did 20 or 30 of that particular plant," Gunion-Rinker said.

The next step in the Sitka's rebirth is now a waiting game. Spending time in the campus greenhouse, students will watch the plants' water level, humidity and other factors that are crucial to the plants' chances of survival.

"We probably won't know if the graft takes for a month, month and a half," student Bev Ashenden said.

When spring rolls around, the grafts that took will be planted just like any other tree. The portion of the Sitka Spruce will be 100 percent DNA-related to its fallen brother in Seaside.



Kyle Steele Clackamas Print

ABOVE: Horticulture 133 prepares to go outside and collect cuttings for class. BELOW: Instructor Bruce Nelson displays the Sitka grafts done by his students.



Emily Walters Clackamas Print

A close-up of the grafts shows the different trees joined together.



Emily Walters Clackamas Print

Be aware of United States' deadliest killer: heart disease

February hosts a month dedicated to the protection of the muscle that has made Valentine's Day important: the heart

Andrea Simpson

The Clackamas Print

Most people take for granted the gentle thump that our heart beating in and out every day of our lives.

For the majority, that beat is steady, strong and sure. But for Americans living with heart disease, it is not always so dependable.

In 1963 Congress first declared February American Heart Month. The goal of American Heart Month is to distribute information about heart disease and stroke, and raise funds for further research and education. Heart disease is the num-

ber one killer of both men and women in the United States. It can trigger a number of conditions, including stroke, arrhythmia, heart failure, heart attacks and congenital heart disease. The most common form of heart disease in America is coronary heart disease, which often appears as a heart attack.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "In 2008, an estimated 770,000 Americans will have a new coronary attack, and about 430,000 will have a recurrent attack. About every 26 seconds, an American will have a coronary event, and about one every minute will die from one."

Todd Mosetter, the media liaison for the Portland branch of the American Heart Association (AHA), told OregonLive.com,

"In 2008, an estimated 770,000 Americans will have a new coronary attack."

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"Every year, heart disease and stroke takes the lives of more than 450,000 mothers, sisters, daughters, friends and wives every year. Here in Oregon, heart disease and stroke claim the lives of more than 4,600 women every year."

Even though the

disease affects men and women from all walks of life, black men and women are at a higher risk. February is Black History Month, and in addition to being a time to look back in history, it is also a good time to focus on one of the greatest threats facing black men and women today: stroke.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death among African Americans.

"African Americans are at a particularly higher risk for stroke because of their increased risk for hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes," said Clinical Neurologist Emil Matarese, M.D., on the AHA Web site.

Many corporations are doing their part to contribute to the cause.

The Yankee Candle

Company will donate \$1 to the Go Red for Women movement with the purchase of each limited edition "Go Red" candle or any red candle.

This year, in partnership with Campbell Soup, designer Lisa Perry designed three dresses, one of which singer and heart disease survivor Toni Braxton wore at the Women's Day Red Dress Awards to kick off Heart Month.

The Campbell Soup Company is donating \$1 to Go Red for Women each time someone clicks on the winning dress at www.gored-withcampbells.com. To learn more about various forms of heart disease, and how to get a check-up and help prevent the disease, go to www.americanheart.org.

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