

VIOLIN FROM PAGE 8

After several carving projects, like gifts for family members, Michael suggested she make a tool box, which turned out to be “quite a nice tool box,” according to Michael. He then asked her to work on an instrument, which just may turn out to be her life’s work.

Student Jeffery Kaze, a Cottonwood, California, dentist whose family lives in Medford, travels to class every week. He became a student 14 months ago and is now working on his second violin. “A lot of hard work goes into making a violin,” admits Jeffery, but he is willing to do “whatever it takes.” Jeffery plays the violin, viola and cello, and played for the Rogue Community College orchestra some years ago, in high school orchestras and in church. Next up is a cello, but he is hoping to make violins for a living. First he must make six instruments in order to graduate from Michael’s school.

Forrest Vorce works full-time in a titanium factory in Redmond, Oregon, and commutes to class every weekend every other month. A “senior,” Forrest is working on his sixth and final instrument. He’s already made four violins and a cello. He plays the violin and has always wanted to make them. Knowing this, when his parents saw a 2001 newspaper article about Michael taking apprentices, they immediately enrolled him. Forrest figures that he will receive his gold certificate from Michael at the end of September.

Jill Brenkman, an Applegate resident, is working on her third violin as the second one dries in the outdoor sun. She met Michael when he and his wife, Janice, gave a talk at a local library. Jill carves ducks and songbirds, so she’s had some related experience. And, although Jill doesn’t play the violin, she does play the harp and flute. Michael is planning to close the school in 2010, so Jill doesn’t count on graduating. However, “it’s been one of the highlights of my life,” she said. “I have a huge respect for violin makers and players.”

Along with teaching, Michael still makes, repairs and sells violins—the latest instrument he made was for a champion fiddler. And he also makes his tools by hand and without nails, sometimes with the help of one of his apprentices. His handmade bow saw, treadle, grinding wheel, benches and vises are all critical to the trade.

Varnishes and colors also are made by Michael. For color, he soaks manzanita sawdust in alcohol, and sometimes uses dragster fuel.

Michael’s wife, Janice, is an essential part of this process. She restores fine bows, working with silver wire, horsehair, leather and sometimes lizard skin, which lasts longer. Professionals usually need their bows rehired once a year, sometimes more often.

If you’re inclined to order a musical instrument from Michael, some patience is required: the waiting list for new instruments is about 18 months.

Generations from now, you still will be able to appreciate the talents of Michael Klein through the instruments made not only by him, but by his almost 30 apprentices over the years.

If you want to know more about making violins, visit Michael’s website at www.kauffmanwood.com/gallery/klein or, better yet, give him a call at 541-862-2685.

Barbara Holiday
541-218-8606

Cantrall-Buckley Update

BY LAIRD FUNK

Greetings from the trenches at Cantrall-Buckley Park! Since our last article a great many changes have taken place with the Cantrall-Buckley Park improvement project, both on the ground and in the management of the project itself. Last time, I wrote that the project was funded by grants from the State Parks Department with some assistance from Jackson County Parks, and part of that is still true. It is still grant funded, but the participation by Jackson County has increased tremendously, from an initial \$25,000 pledge two years ago to over \$70,000 contributions pledged today, and that is not the least of it.

Seeing the importance of this project to the future of Cantrall-Buckley Park and recognizing that the Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) had done extraordinary work on the first phase of the project, but was in danger of overload as it worked to complete the sewer system and treatment wetlands, Jackson County Parks volunteered to take over the entire second grant and oversee the installation of the new restroom. The turning point seemed to be the appointment of a new Parks and Roads Director for Jackson County, John Vials, formerly with Oregon Department of Transportation. His new perspective on things allowed the County Parks to look at the project in a different light and find means to participate in a much larger, very welcome role. Thank you Jackson County Parks!

Meanwhile, back at the park, crews worked to complete the installation, plumbing and wiring of the new septic tanks in the day-use side of the park. All the new tanks are equipped with pumps to send the effluent over to the Treatment Wetlands and required significant wiring to connect the various control panels that run the pumps and the power supplies located in different buildings in the park. They are all working now with the pump discharges routed into the existing drain fields until the Treatment Wetlands are completed and put into service.

The Treatment Wetlands were started the first week of July and the excavation and forming was finished by July 14. The next step is to finish installing an equalization basin at the head end of the wetlands and a level adjust sump and pump station at the foot of the bed. After that, a six-inch bed of sand is spread over the inner surface of the wetland in preparation for unrolling the liner that makes it watertight. That job will take lots of human power to wrestle the 60’ x 140’ covering into position and make the watertight attachments for the inlet and outlet piping. Then it is filled with water to test for leaks and then pumped back out so that the next step, filling the wetland with round drain-field rock, can be done. After that, a six-inch layer of pea gravel is added and covered with a layer of compost into which are planted several varieties of wetland plants to use the nutrients.

While all this is going on, our electrician is busy getting power to our two new control buildings that serve as power distribution centers for the project, one near the wetlands and another near the group camp parking lot in the campground area. That building is served by a newly installed 600-amp main switchboard panel that will receive the new power feeds for the campground. Pacific Power & Light will be coming out soon to run their cables



Photos: Top—Treatment wetland excavation with equalization tank in foreground and control building in background; Middle—New main power panel in campground; and Bottom—“D” area restroom showing pump access for new septic tanks.

underground to our new switchboard. Then we can begin powering up the pumps and control panels for the campground restroom.

One other change took place and that was a decision by Jackson County Parks to postpone the installation of the newly designed potable water system until a future grant cycle due to diminishing funds. One of the challenges of this project has been that three years ago, when we approached local contractors and suppliers seeking their participation, almost all of them volunteered to donate their goods and services because of the economic boom at the time. Our grant requests were based upon such offers. After we got the grants, the economy soured and no one could afford to give anything away by the time we went to work. Everyone has been as generous as possible, but when you have to pay for things counted as free, a \$250,000 grant doesn’t seem quite as large as it did. So the short of it is, we can finish the sewer system and Jackson County can finish the restroom, but the park will operate on its existing water system for a time more.

Okay, back to work! More next time!

Laird Funk • 541-846-6759

#25
Can you get
water out of
a stone?

862-9355

For advertising
information call

Ruth Austin
541-899-7476

or Matthew Eldridge
541-941-6834