



KUHS MEMORIAL - A plaque at Kerby Union High School Memorial Park was dedicated Saturday, July 2, as part of Reunionmania 2005. Besides reminiscing, a brief history of KUHS was outlined by Jack Owen, whose wife, Marcheta, was chairman of the event. Jack noted that the first KUHS graduating class consisted of one girl.

(Reunion Photos by Dale Sandberg)



National Wild Turkey Federation dinner July 30 to gauge community interest

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is planning its first banquet in Illinois Valley on July 30 at Art's Red Garter Steakhouse in Cave Junction.

NWTF said that it is a half-million member non-profit organization supporting scientific wildlife management on public, private and corporate land; wild turkey conservation, and wild turkey hunting as a traditional American sport.

According to Cave Junction resident and banquet Chairman Dan McCarty, "This is an excellent opportunity to gauge the support for a new chapter for residents of the valley." The Grants Pass Longspurs Chapter is sponsoring the banquet to get the new chap-

ter started.

Phone McCarty at 592-3975 for tickets or further information.

Support from businesses by donating an auction item or raffle prize will be appreciated, he said.

"Money is raised during a banquet through ticket sales, silent auctions, live auctions and a variety of high-energy prize raffles," said McCarty. "Anyone wanting to have a good time in the name of conservation can attend our Wild Turkey Super Fund Banquet."

When NWTF was established in 1973 there were only 1.3 million turkeys throughout North America. Since then, the number of wild turkeys has increased fourfold and now stands at

more than 6.4 million birds thanks to the NWTF, its members, partners, and state federal and provincial wildlife agencies, the group said.

"Jakes, Juniors Acquiring Ethics and Sportsmanship" is NWTF's program dedicated to informing, education and involving youth in the wildlife conservation and the wise stewardship of our natural resources for members 17 and younger.

WITO, Women In The Outdoors, dedicated to providing interactive educational opportunities for women, has 41,000 members nationwide. Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF is dedicated to providing all disabled people the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors through chapter events.

OSU tree book rooted in state botany

Since its release in black and white more than 50 years ago, "Trees to Know in Oregon" has become the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service's most-requested publication.

A new revised edition is now available in full color.

The expanded, 152-page "Trees to Know in Oregon" provides a generation of youth, hikers, gardeners and foresters text that combines identification and anecdotes with maps and color photos.

Edward C. Jensen, an OSU forestry professor, is the primary author and principal photographer of the new edition of the book. But he is quick to recognize the contributions of others, especially the book's original author, retired OSU Extension forestry specialist Charles R. Ross.

The edition has updated sections on ornamental

trees, Oregon's forests and record-breaking big trees.

According to the book, Oregon is home to more than 50 national champion trees listed in the American Forestry Association's National Register of Big Trees. They include the nation's largest black cottonwood (370 feet), black walnut (278 feet), and garden plum (a 47-foot giant more than 10 feet around).

Of the truly giant Douglas firs, the authors describe a tree in Coos County that is taller than a 28-story building with a circumference "larger than two compact cars parked side by side. Its canopy, at high noon, casts a shadow the size of a swimming pool."

The soft-cover book is full of tidbits to help you get to know Oregon trees. For example, the authors point out that lodge pole pine was first named by Lewis and Clark. They describe how

white bark pine and birds called Clark's nutcrackers are highly dependent on each other for survival.

And they note that, although more than 1,000 varieties of pears have been named, only a half-dozen varieties are grown commercially.

Far more than just a field guide, "Trees to Know in Oregon" will be a good companion on the trail or on the nightstand, Jensen said.

The book costs \$12 per copy and is available from many county offices of OSU Extension Service.

Or copies may be ordered for an additional \$4 shipping and handling fee. To order, send your request for EC 1450 with a check or money order for \$16 to: Publication Orders, Extension and Experiment Station Communications, Oregon State University, 422 Kerr Administration, Corvallis OR 97331-2119.

County works to deter wildfire threats

Following the Biscuit Fire in 2002, Josephine County officials launched a multi-pronged effort to reduce wildland/urban interface fuels and educate landowners about making their properties less vulnerable to wildfire.

"The county put its money where its mouth is," said Rick Dryer, the Oregon Dept. of Forestry's (ODF) Grants Pass Unit forester. "It has put more than \$1 million toward keeping crews working on fuel reduction projects on county-owned land."

Most of the money has been distributed through Title II & III grants, much of which has funded ODF fire protection staff to conduct fuel reduction work in the fall, winter and spring.

Crews thin trees and brush, and remove low-hanging branches -- dubbed ladder fuels because they transfer fire into tree crowns in the fuel-reduction project areas. Most of the debris is burned as weather and smoke management conditions allow.

Fuel-reduction projects on county lands include an 80-acre parcel in the Sunny Valley area, and a 150-foot-wide fuel break adjacent to Cathedral Hills subdivision south of Grants Pass -- an area where hundreds of homes are to be built within the next few years.

Another 140 acres of county land are being treated or are scheduled for treatment soon. The lands been treated are either county forest lands or

county parks and recreation lands.

The crews also have completed a 4-acre fuel reduction project around a county elementary school and a 5-acre fuel reduction project at an historical cemetery. ODF crews also are working on fuel-reduction projects on BLM land adjacent to wildland/urban interface areas.

Besides these projects, ODF personnel at the Grants Pass Unit have made cost-share assistance grants available to Josephine County wildland/urban interface residential property owners.

The grants help property owners establish defensible-space zones around their homes and along driveways.

ODF forest officers develop a fuel reduction plan for property, and after work is completed, the property owner is paid. The cost-share monies come from National Fire Plan grants for fuel-reduction in the county's wildland/urban interface areas.

"There's more to the story than just fuel-reduction treatments," said Dryer. "Following inspections on residential properties, many property owners took the advice of our folks and did the fuel-reduction work on their own."

Since November 2001, the Grants Pass Unit conducted 3,165 residential property fuel-reduction inspections. Of these, 775 properties already had adequate fuel breaks, and

2,390 property owners elected to establish fuel breaks.

To further assist property owners with fuel reduction projects, ODF has been a key player in the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan, which has sponsored public meetings to educate people about defensible space, and assisted property owners with getting rid of woody debris.

Community meetings were held this spring throughout the county.

Several hundred attendees learned about defensible space guidelines, ODF's cost-share assistance grant program, and the county's Integrated Fire Plan, the Josephine County Planning Dept., ODF's Grants Pass Unit, Rural/Metro Fire Dept., the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

A woody debris disposal day was held at several locations in Jackson and Josephine counties on April 16.

Wildland/urban interface residents were able to bring pickup and trailer loads of tree cuttings, brush, needles and leaves to designated sites for free disposal.

ODF's Grants Pass Unit has also assisted with community fire plans in the Sunny Valley-Wolf Creek areas and Illinois Valley, and has provided advice and support on the county effort to revise Article 76, its wildfire and safety standards code for new and rebuilt structures.