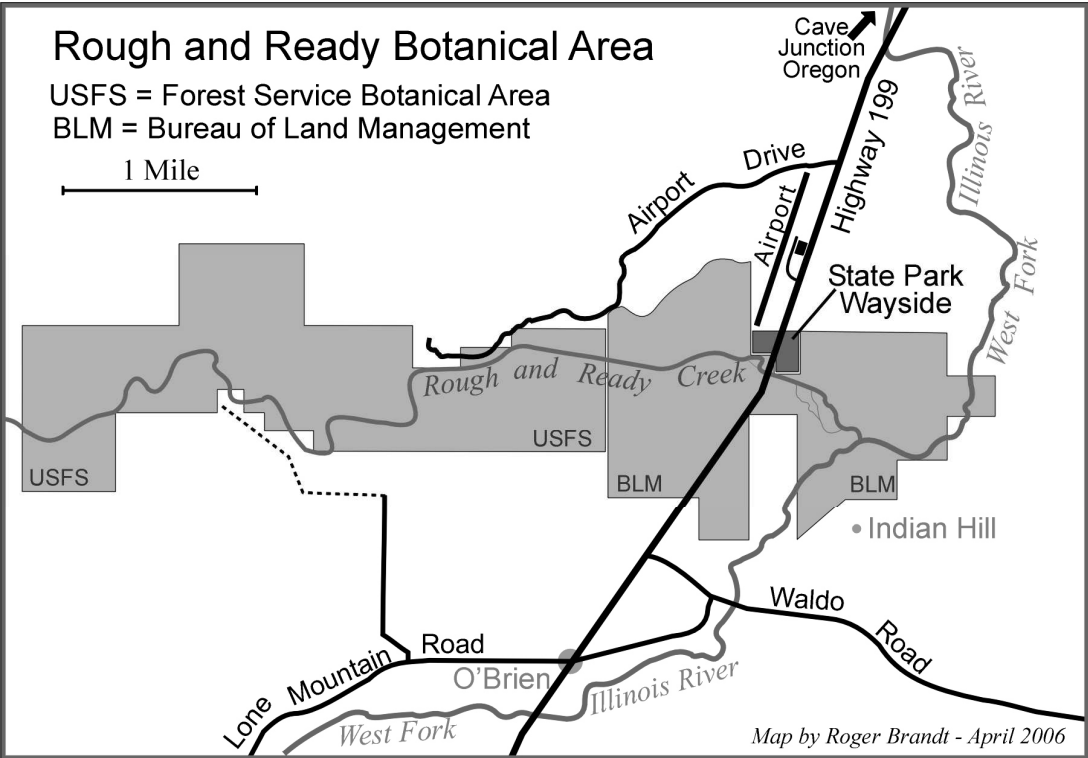




I.V. Garden Club has significant role in Rough & Ready Botanical Wayside

By ROGER BRANDT
For IVN

One of the most unique botanical areas in Oregon might not exist today if not for the efforts of a small group of women who met in spring 1927 to form Illinois Valley Garden Club.

They had a common interest in horticulture, a desire to work together to improve the community, and no idea that within 10 years they would become leaders in a preservation movement that continues today.

During the first years of the club’s history, membership fees were used to purchase dozens of books for the valley library, organize community beautification projects, and develop a schedule of monthly programs to improve member skills in horticulture.

These self-improvement programs included exploring the uses of wildflowers in landscaping. And, as they learned more about native plants in the valley, they began to realize that there was something unique about the botanical landscape near Rough and Ready Creek, the area that would later become the focus of their preservation drive.

In the early 1930s, the incidence of collectors taking plants from the R&R area for commercial sale began to escalate. Many rare plants were collected, sometimes being hauled away by the truckload.

The Garden Club realized that one of the valley’s unique features was being

destroyed, and began a campaign to convince the Oregon State Park system to do something to preserve the site. In 1938, the Garden Club achieved its objective with establishment of the 11-acre Rough and Ready Creek Forest Wayside, which today continues to be a unit of the Oregon State Park system.

Time would prove that the women of the Garden Club were right about this strange botanical landscape. In recent years, the R&R area has been identified as an Area of Global Botanical Significance, one of seven such sites in North America.

Others have followed in the footsteps of the club and established their own special management areas. This includes the U.S. Forest Service’s Rough and Ready Flats Botanical Area, and the Bureau of Land Management’s Rough and Ready Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

The Nature Conservancy recently added another 70 acres near the mouth of the Rough and Ready Creek canyon.

Together, all these lands, including the original R&R wayside, comprise a special management area approximately 5 miles long and half a mile wide.

In 1988 the 11-acre Rough and Ready Forest Wayside was designated an Oregon Natural Heritage Site.

It is a fitting tribute to the accomplishments of the small group of women who

formed a club to improve themselves and, in doing so, were able to take steps that improved Oregon.

The historic Rough and Ready Forest Wayside is located 5 miles south of Cave Junction at Hwy. 199’s milepost 34. Parking is a small, fence-lined area on the west side of the road.

A gravel-surfaced, wheelchair accessible trail departs from the parking area and goes for about a quarter of a mile to a vista of Illinois River. The work to make the parking area wheelchair-accessible was not completed at the time this article was written and, until completed, visitors in wheelchairs should be prepared to negotiate several feet of uneven ground from where they park to the trail-head.

A wild flower walk will be conducted at Rough and Ready botanical wayside by Kathy Lombardo of the garden club on Saturday, May 20 at 9 a.m. Participants should meet at the parking area.

Fund-raiser Set At Bridgeview Winery

A benefit fund-raiser for the Friends of the Oregon Caves Chateau -- with a garden tour that will end at Bridgeview Vineyard & Winery for wine-tasting, a raffle, and live music -- is being sponsored by Illinois Valley Garden Club.

The tour will be on Saturday, June 3 beginning at 9 a.m. Phone (800) 521-1821 for more information including ticket sales.

lowed to dwindle as it was sold off.

Inventory remaining in the CJ store will be transferred to the Selma site.

It is currently unknown whether the Martins have a tenant for CJ.

Merchants ...

(Continued from page 3)

wants to coordinate efforts for group advertising discounts, and extend the advertising reach of I.V. businesses.

“In our opinion,” said the letter-writers, “the efforts of IVMA are best positioned within the scope of the chamber, as is typical of many chamber-merchant associations nationwide. The goal of both of our organizations entails the support of the merchants in our area.”

IVMA is applying for membership in the I.V. Chamber.

The new group further notes that it will “consider, and has incorporated in its services chart, that businesses approaching it for membership should join the chamber,” which it will accept as membership in IVMA (according to the fee schedule).

“There would be no cost for the chamber to participate, and IVMA will not ask to draw on any funding from the chamber. We expect to deliver enough ‘product’ to IVMA members that we can self support through membership contributions and volunteer efforts.

“We would like to assist you in expanding and enhancing your hands-on support of the business community, and look forward to working with you for the good of the Illinois Valley.” said IVMA.

A special ‘Thank You’ reception for all Josephine County volunteers will be hosted by the Board of Commissioners Friday, April 28 from 2-4 p.m. at Anne Basker Auditorium

City delays med plan

(Continued from page 1)

planned development, add that the proposed facility “is not a state-licensed assisted-living facility, and there is no evidence that it will gain such licensing.”

Osborn, and Todd Woolard, CEO of Medford-based of Woolard Ipsen Management, both stated that the project will not be an assisted-living facility.

Osborn stressed that no construction would begin until the state permits for a private health-care facility are obtained. He and Woolard also cited the need in Illinois Valley for such a project.

Regarding objections, Toler and Fosmore continued that the proposed use “conflicts with the EG-LI purpose to encourage family wage employment.”

Fosmore and Toler first appealed the planned unit development application in August 2005. On March 7 this year, the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) ruled for a remand based on the city’s motion for a voluntary remand.

Fosmore noted, “In that final order, LUBA states, ‘We generally grant a motion for voluntary remand, even over the objections of a petitioner, where the local government assures LUBA that it will consider all the assignments of error’.”

She called the city’s decision to “abandon that application and start a new one a very unfortunate one.

“By doing so, you have abandoned your assurance to LUBA and to us, that you would address the assignments of error you were committed to address when you motioned for a volun-

tary remand.

“Your decision to attempt this end-around will in the end cost taxpayers and the developer valuable time and resources that could have been prevented.”

She and Merlin resident Holger T. Sommer, who also addressed the council at length in opposition, both hinted strongly that another appeal to LUBA could be forthcoming. Sommer said that he simply wants the rules to be followed.

Osborn noted that he has spent approximately \$1 million on infrastructure in connection with the project. He added later that he finds it “amazing” that those who most oppose the development will “never invest one thin dime in the city of Cave Junction.”

Sommer stood and voiced his objection, saying it is not germane. Later, Osborn apologized to him.

Osborn said several times that he will agree to meet the necessary conditions under the approvals granted by the council.

He reiterated that the council is headed in the right direction and that it already had legal guidance from the city attorney regarding the zoning.

However, Ehrman near the conclusion of Monday’s discussions on the topic said that he simply wants to be sure that because of points raised by Fosmore and Sommer that what the city is doing is legal, and that all questions and technicalities are met.

“I think it (the project) would be good for the city,” he said, while noting the need for legal clarification from the city attorney.

Clubs & Organizations

Forestry Action Committee

Spring is in the air, and the Forestry Action Committee (FAC) Weed Program is in full swing.

The weed crew has started the season by working on public land in the Althouse Creek area, as well as Illinois Valley Visitor Center, Laurel Cemetery and Illinois River “Forks” State Park.

Meanwhile the weed program coordinator is putting together various fun volunteer weeding projects for this spring and summer. Anyone who would like to participate can phone Suzanne Vautier at the FAC office. FAC also has weed tools available for loan, such as the weed wrench that is great for pulling up Scotch Broom.

Phone the FAC office at

592-4098 or stop at the forest service lower compound in Cave Junction to sign out for the tools “so you can improve your own property.”

FAC will meet at 1 Thursday, May 4 at the lower compound of the forest service’s Illinois Valley Ranger District, 26568 Redwood Hwy.

Paul Martin, from the Oregon Employment Development Dept., will speak about the differences between contractors and em-

ployees.

Anyone can attend. For more information, phone 592-4098.

Social Justice Alliance

“Oregon Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride,” telling the story of 47 freedom riders who ride a bus from Oregon to New York City, will be shown Tuesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at the Community Media & Education Center, upstairs at 140C Redwood Hwy. in Cave Junction.



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