Cat Greene:A new face at the Siskiyou Field Institute

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"Honey, pack your bags, we're moving to Selma," Cat Greene's husband said when she answered his phone call in 2008. Green started working part-time in the office at the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) in the office in February 2016. There she processes class registrations, lodge reservations, maintains the database and answers the phones. Greene is also the part-time housekeeper. As such, she is responsible for clean and sanitary facilities for the guests. "I had really no idea where Selma was located but now I believe I won't ever leave this beautiful place," Greene said. "I had been keeping my eyes open for a position here at SFI for some time and was thrilled when I saw the job advertisement. I believe in our mission and am excited to have the opportunity to be part of this organization."

Greene was born in the Bay Area, California and her family moved to Oregon in 1970. As they crossed the Oregon border, they saw the words "Don't Californicate Oregon" spray painted across the road. Greene has called Oregon home ever since. Her family spent two and a half years living outside of Walterville across from the McKenzie River and later moved to Phoenix, Oregon, then to Ashland where she rode horses and attended school.

Greene and her husband moved here after looking at properties around the Rogue Valley. "I have enjoyed discovering the Illinois Valley through mushroom hunting, snorkeling, swimming in the Illinois River, and taking my dogs for hikes," Greene said. Her husband passed away in 2012, after five years together. Her daughter Erika, husband Aaron, and their three daughters live in Wasilla, Alaska. Greene enjoys visiting them in Alaska every year and getting care packages from them filled with moose sausage, moose jerky and moose pepperoni sticks.

"My favorite part of my job is arriving at work every day and knowing that this is a great place for kids and adults to learn and experience the Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion. This is accomplished through our educational classes, scientific research and public engagement," Greene said. "The SFI is a hidden gem. It would be great if the community became more involved in supporting our mission through volunteering, donating money, becoming a member, attending an adult or youth education program, or just visiting and spreading the good word to their friends."

(Photo by Dan Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Cat Greene on the front porch of the Kendeda House at SFI

Valley to hold many Earth Day events

April 22 has been observed as Earth Day annually in the U.S. since 1970. In recognition of the 45th anniversary of this international celebration, three fun, free and family friendly Earth Week events take place over the new few days.

Rogue Community College (RCC) will host "Sustainapalooza!" an annual Earth Day celebration April 21. A range of activities is set for this free event, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the RCC Redwood Campus, 3345 Redwood Hwy.

Activities will be held in the student center/cafeteria and central areas of the campus. Sponsored by the RCC Environmental Sustainability Club and Redwood Campus student government, the carnival style celebration spotlights sustainable vendors, businesses and organizations.

"Our goal is to promote environmental awareness and education, celebrate all the earth has to offer, and show people how thinking sustainably can be fun and interesting," said recycling coordinator Britta Beckstead. "This is a chance to support local green businesses and organizations. Bring your kids, friends, and students and enjoy the beautiful spring weather."

Two events will take place in the Illinois Valley April 23. Volunteers for the annual SOLVE spring cleanup will meet at the I.V. Visitor Center, 201 Caves Hwy. between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. then caravan to three of the key recreation sites in the Illinois Valley: Page Mountain Snow and Bike Park, Hogue Meadow and the Illinois River Corridor.

Participants will work on trash clean up, trail maintenance and invasive weed removal. Activities will include: invasive plant removal, litter cleanup, and riparian maintenance and monitoring.

Volunteers are asked to wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring gloves, sun protection and be prepared to encounter poison oak. The minimum age for this activity is 8 years old.

SOLVE is a nonprofit organization that brings together individuals, business groups, and service and conservation groups through volunteering and education to restore natural spaces since 1969. SOLVE facilitates Oregonians coming together to volunteer, focusing on beach and illegal dump cleanup, planting native trees, removing invasive plants and other environmental maintenance projects. SOLVE annually creates an average of 40,000 volunteer opportunities in 170 Oregon communities.

The organization originally called S.O.L.V. (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) was created by Governor Tom McCall and other community leaders to address the need for community action. SOLVE works to build on that original vision with a strategic plan to guide work to improve the environment and build a legacy of stewardship.

For further information, please contact coordinator Kenny Houck at 541-956-7275.

For a less strenuous Earth Week activity, participants are encouraged to drop into the Southern Oregon Guild Gallery for an upcycled art show titled "Earth Day + One," a free exhibit and family friendly activity day April 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the RCC Kerby campus.

In addition to the show of upcycled art, those interested can learn how to creatively repurpose everything from wine bottles and milk cartons to jeans and suitcases.

An Earth Day + One press release states: "The useless old piece of "junk" can be upcycled into a fun piece of art. Creative expression doesn't need to take special equipment or a lot of money."

Guild president Joyce Abrams said, "We plan to have some small projects available for folks to do when they come to the show, so, come and bring your friends – kids are welcome."

For further information visit http://www.southernoregonguild.org or call 541-592-5019, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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