

Rogue Native Plant Partnership collects seeds for fire recovery

MEDFORD, OR – As homeowners and businesses rebuild after the devastating 2020 fire season, the Rogue Native Plant Partnership is doubling down on efforts to restore native plant communities. A series of volunteer events this summer allows the public to take part.

The Rogue Native Plant Partnership (RNPP) is a coalition of local habitat restoration practitioners, government agencies and individuals interested in native plants, for everything from pollinator gardens to indigenous cultural practices.

"After the Alameda fire, we had dozens of people come to us asking, where can we get native plants?" says Tuula Rebhahn, who helps to coordinate the Partnership through the

non-profit organization The Understory Initiative. "Unfortunately, it takes years to grow some of these plants, and the supply chain will take some time to catch up."

RNPP is jump-starting that process by wild harvesting seeds from native plants that are adapted to thrive in burned areas. The seeds will then be grown out on farms to increase the supply available for direct sowing, or grown as plugs or containerized plants that can be planted over the next several years.

Wild-collecting seeds takes time and energy, which is why volunteers are crucial. RNPP is holding several volunteer "seed blitzes" this summer.

"Seed blitzes are a really fun, laid-back

way to learn about the local ecology and assist with habitat restoration efforts," says Alison Leonard, an RNPP volunteer.

Volunteers spend 2-3 hours harvesting seed from local meadows and oak woodlands.

"It's appealing to people because they get to see intact native ecosystems in really special areas, like the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, that aren't accessible by trail," says Rebhahn. The workday wraps up with a picnic lunch in a scenic spot.

Interested parties can find a list of upcoming Seed Blitz events at the Rogue Native Plant Partnership website: www.roguenativeplants.org.



RESTRICTIONS ... Continued from A-1

• Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame is prohibited.

The use of propane or liquid fuel-powered commercial stoves is

still permitted.

Visitors to the Forest are encouraged to continue to be hyper-vigilant with fire while in the woods. Forest officials remind recreationists to never abandon a campfire, always ensuring that an extinguished campfire is cool to the

touch. So far, in 2021, the RRSNF has responded to and extinguished 10 small human-caused fires, mostly attributed to abandoned campfires. Our partner agencies also respond to abandoned campfires regularly. Recognizing that there is a strong tradition of having a campfire while

outdoors in the summer, the RRSNF would encourage people to consider alternative, safe ways of celebrating those traditions. For example, to roast marshmallows over a fire, consider instead using charcoal briquettes in approved, designated fire rings to reduce the risk of flying embers and

making extinguishing your fire easier.

Visit the RRSNF website more information and to see the full text of the Forest Order, including a list of designated recreation sites where campfires and the operation of internal combustion engines are permitted.

ALUMNI ... Continued from A-1

City of Cave Junction Parks & Recreation Commission members John Miles and Roger Brandt were in attendance along with Mayor Meadow Martell and Councilor Tina Casey Jones. According to Brandt, "The city recently received funding from the Local Government Grant Program to help change the way that the Jubilee Park Pavilion is used by the public ... The goal of the pavilion upgrade is to create storage where folding tables with rollers, similar to those found in a school cafeteria, could be easily moved into the storage room to clear the floor for recreational activities or brought out for special events."

The official red ribbon was held by Edna Metcalf, Kerby Union's Class of 1947 and by Clara Gavlik, 13, representing the youth from I.V. Fire Explorers while Martell and Brandt did the celebration cutting.

Other parties held were the Class of 1956 at Marty Cook's House with a Frank Cooke's Celebration of Life, Class of '86 and '85 at Sherri Lamb's house and the Class of 2006 partied at Bridgeview Vineyard.

In JoAnna Gavlik's address to the community she wrote, "Thank all of you selfless givers that help us

continue giving out the IVHS Senior Scholarship ... Due to that generosity we have once again been able to give out \$12,000 in scholarships."

If you would like read more about the reunion you can go to ivalumni.com or see photos at facebook.com/IVHSAlumni/.



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Culver brothers Chris (left), Dusty and Casey Taylor enjoy a laugh Saturday, July 3 at the IVCC Golf Tournament.

Celebration of Frank Cooke



(Photo by Daniel J. Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

IVHS Alumni Franc Cooke smiles as he tells the "axe story" about his father, Frances "Frank" Cooke, during a celebration of life held Sunday, July 4 at the I.V. Lions Den in Cave Junction.

It's The Berries!

Saturday, August 21, 2021 ~ 8 am - 4 pm

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Vendors must bring your own tables
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RCC Kerby Campus, IV Learning Center / Belt Building
24353 Redwood Highway, Kerby, OR

Reservation Deadline is August 15, 2021
Last day for refunds is August 17, 2021
Contact Hazel Griffith — 541-592-6433
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