

Community news

Gardening ... with Gary Carter

All three of my sons graduated high school during the Vietnam conflict. As a former Marine I urged them to join the service and help protect our country. My wife, Nancy, had different ideas. A peaceful and mellow female most of the time she told me, in no uncertain terms, if I pushed the boys into joining the Marines she would leave me. As a woman who always did what she said I backed down and, as things turned out with that war, have been forever grateful she stuck to her guns. She was an award winning painter and photographer and a pacifist from the word go. Also an avid gardener and staunch protector of all animal life. If you so much as stepped on a butterfly or swatted a bee you were on her list. She absolutely loved wildlife and cherished deer, one of the most eloquent and graceful of God's creations in her opinion.

Until we moved to Port Orford, anyway. After months of meticulously laying out her garden at our new home and then planting it, only to rise one sunny morning and see Anne Goetzman's herd of deer destroying everything, her tune changed. Never one to condone firearms she demanded to be shown how to fire my rifle. She would show those critters. She quickly learned about the dilemma all south coast Gardner's face sooner or later: What to do about deer in your garden?

First off a deer fence is in order. It must be sturdy to withstand our high winds, and it must be high, seven to eight feet is recommended. Deer, under duress, have been known to leap eight foot fences when built on level ground, and can bound over a five-to-six foot fence standing still. It's not likely a deer in your neighborhood is going to be chased by a cougar but you might want to be prepared. They can also crawl under a fence that is one foot, or less, off the ground. I'm a first-hand witness to that occurrence, so build as close to the ground as you can. Even with these precautions deer can manage to find their way into your garden on occasion. Always have an open gate that they can exit should you decide to chase them from your yard. Deer are extremely strong animals and, when cornered, have been know to charge humans causing severe damage and, in extreme cases, even death. It has also been shown that deer fencing reduces your chance of contracting Lyme diseases, carried by ticks on deer, by 83-97 percent. But what if you don't want, or can't afford, a fence?

Next in line is a dog. People I know who have them say they are never bothered it deer. But what if you're not a big fan of dogs? Or have no place to keep one? There are a multitude of deer repelling sprays on the market you can try. Some popular name brands are: Deer Chaser, Deer Off, Deer No No, Hinder Deer and Not Tonight Deer, to name a few. If you're into wildlife scents coyote, wolf or human urine are professed to work. Blood meal hanging in a sock or scattered around has been successful, as well as that old standby Dial soap. You need to hang a bar by each plant you favor, however. This can be done by drilling a hole in the middle and hanging with fishing

line. This method is professed to last up to a year but in our rainy climate I'd give it about six months. Even less if you happen to have a family of gnomes or fairy's residing in the nearby woods that need a bath.

A product called "Pathways" is a post that, by smell, attracts deer and when they touch it emits an electric shock that is supposed to keep deer away. However, as with an electric fence, this is not the most recommended method by deer experts.

I have a fenced area where I grow my vegetables and plants that the deer like to eat. Since I have limited space there I also grow some of my nursery plants along the driveway out front. Here I use my favorite deer chaser, "Not Tonight Deer", and I highly recommend it. Not only does it work it is safe for fruits and vegetables, using an egg and hot pepper mix to keep

Human hair hanging in a pouch is also supposed to work, but since I don't have a lot (of hair) I have not been able to verify this method. Sorry.

the deer away. Make sure when you buy deer scents that you check the label to make sure they are safe for your produce. Many are not. The ones that work best, and are safest, emit sulfurous odors, such as blood meal and those that use eggs in their mix.

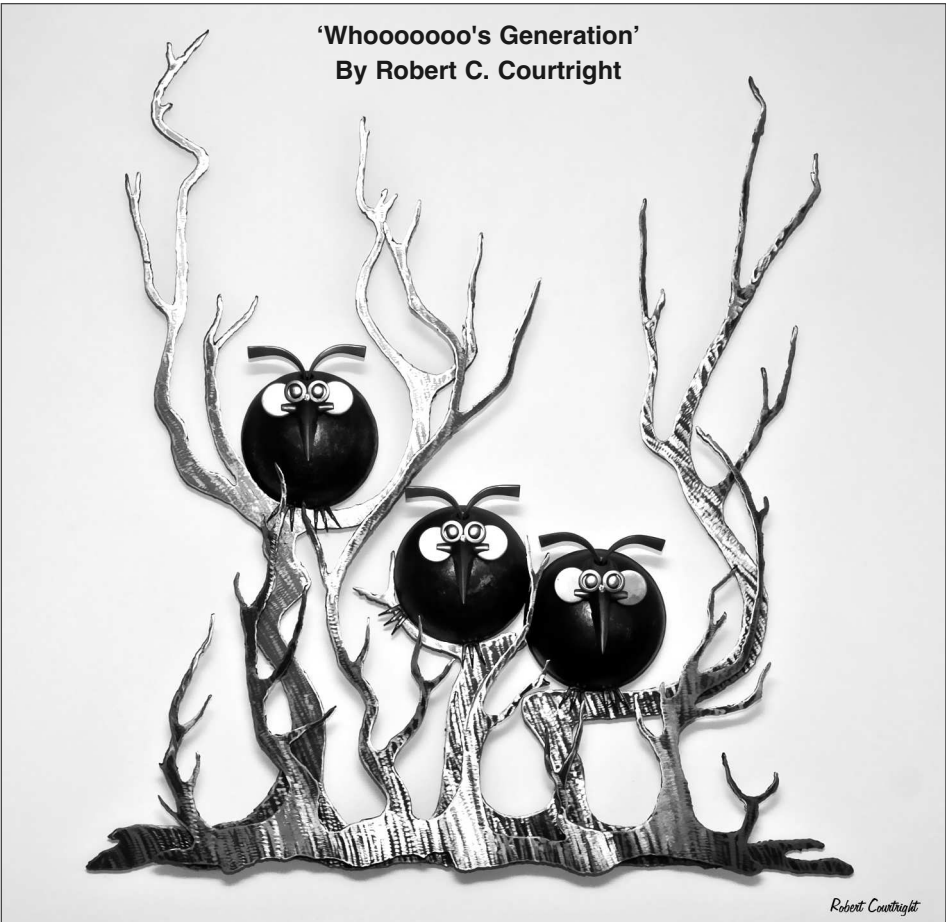
My wife never did shoot a deer. First of all she hadn't the heart, and second it is illegal in the city and county unless it's deer hunting season, and then only in designated areas. However, according to Steve Mazur at the ODFW Office in Gold Beach, you can apply for a "Damage Tag" if deer are presenting you with an overwhelming problem. Good luck with that.

Not one to be easily daunted Nancy investigated which plants she could grow outside the fence line that the deer wouldn't like. The list is long and varied. First understand that deer will eat just about anything, when they are hungry enough, just like humans. If the herd becomes too large for their habitat to sustain them, or their natural browse is somehow deficient, say by loss in a fire or whatever, they can, and will, eat anything. That said I have had great success growing all varieties of herbs and members of the chrysanthemum family (marguerites, Euryops daisies, feverfew, etc.) outside the fence without any damage (so far). It seems deer avoid plants that emit strong odors, which these plants do for the most part. For a very complete and comprehensive list of which plants deer do, and don't, prefer, log onto www.njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/.com. There you will find out which plant families you don't normally have to grow behind a fence.

Human hair hanging in a pouch is also supposed to work, but since I don't have a lot (of hair) I have not been able to verify this method. Sorry.

Last but not least, if you are so inclined and have the time, you can make your own deer repellent. Go to www.deerdeparted.com/deer-repellent-recipes.html for 1001 + homemade recipes.

That's it for now. Next month we'll look at some other pesky garden critters, including snails and slugs, and what to do about them. See you then.



Art off the wall: Robert C. Courtright

By Wendy Thomas
For the Port Orford News

Robert C. Courtright is a Multi-media Artist, Biologist, Chemist, Design Engineer and Catch & Release Tournament Bass Angler. He's also our neighbor. Bob and Vicki Courtright are the former owners of the Art Hatchery, a gallery that was located in the building that is now the Fun Zone. They also owned an ocean front gallery for many years in Depoe Bay.

After taking a tour of Courtright's workshops, studios and home, it's apparent we are in the presence of a true Renaissance Man. As I followed him from one location to another it was clear to me that his artistic energy is stymied only by the physiological need to sleep and eat.

Courtright holds degrees in Marine Biology, Polymer Chemistry, design Engineering and Art. He was the Director of the Oregon State University Marine research Laboratory in Port Orford (did you know there was a marine research facility at the CG cove at one time?) while he was engaged in his doctoral research program. He was appointed Judge to the Third District Court in Curry County, Oregon, by Governor Tom McCall. He served in that position until a permanent Judge was appointed.

These days Courtright prefers the arts and spends most of his time on this endeavor.

He has been the featured artist in many galleries and has received national attention with his polyester casts and sculptures of fish and marine life. He is well versed in painting with oil, tempera, polyacrylics and other conventional media

but he prefers to do three dimensional works in steel, wood, stoneware and the newer thermosetting resins. Since the advent of computers Courtright has logged thousands of hours working with most all major graphic applications. He perfected the Transluminated Lithography technique.

As Robert explains, "When you combine a photograph with art it transforms it into a work of fine Art. Using the computer to achieve this is, simply put, a "new brush" for the artist. Many of my works, not all, are Digital Transitions. It takes years of computer experience and weeks of painting with a graphic tablet and pen to create this form of Fine Art. I write my own programs and procedures which translate into thousands of hours but the end result is worth the effort."

Courtright's varied career accomplishments also include fishing tackle designer for the Worth Co. as well as the famous angler Bill Dance of television fame and many national companies.

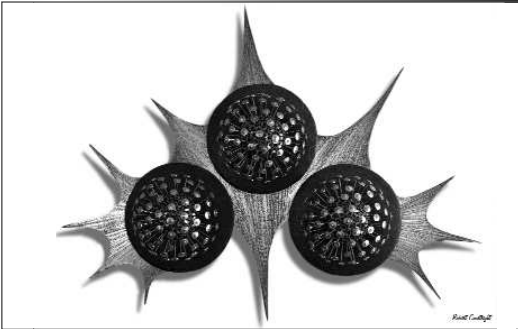
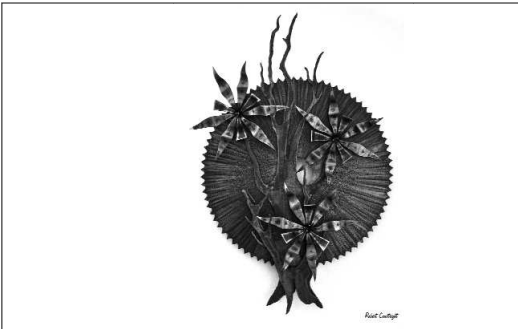
It's important to mention that Courtright is a serious animal rights advocate. Many of his artistic subjects are his beloved bird and animal friends which he photographs daily.

Some of Courtright's work can be found locally at the Paradise Café and the Johnson Gallery.

If you have a computer I urge the reader to take a few minutes, relax with your favorite beverage, strap in, keep your hands inside the bar and log on to Robert's website at

www.arthatchery.com. For a ride through "So Much More than Art!" land.

Robert Courtright will be teaching Pottery Classes starting this fall. Call 3324011.



Innominata Garden show winners

The big winner at this years Flower Show was the public. Again the Innominata Garden Club put together a fabulously interesting display because of all those who brought in their horticulture specimens and those who used their creativity in the many diverse designs. The "Peoples Choice" winner in horticulture was the deep purple bearded iris submitted by June Collins, and for design the award went to Joan Cooper for her all dried plant material angular design 'Battle Rock'. Kirk Johnson's design was a very close second for his fresh and or dry synergistic 'Patterson Bridge'.

Those submitting design had fun with this year's theme, "Pioneer Fun" celebrating Oregon's sesquicentennial celebration with categories like Rainy Falls, Blossom Bar, Black Bar and Agate Beach. The top ribbon winners for design were Joan Cooper with three 1st, five 2nd and two 3rd place ribbons. Sue Deal received five 1st, three 2nd and one 3rd place ribbons. Kirk Johnson received two 1st, three 2nd and four 3rd place ribbons. Others receiving ribbons in design



Contributed photo

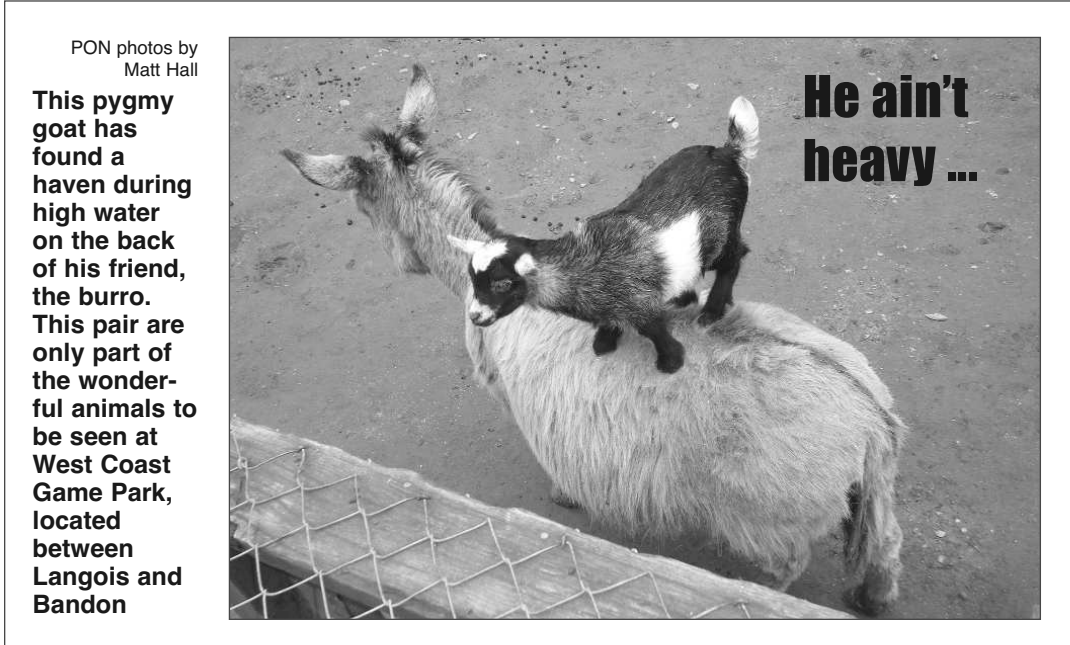
"Patterson Bridge," by Kirk Johnson won a second place award.

were Audre' Nowlin, Bob Cooper, June Collins, Kathy Roseberry, Linda Stokes and Nancy Schwarz.

There was a wonderful display of horticulture, everything from cut flowers to potted plants. Awards of Merit went to Joan Cooper for her Verbascum, Bob Cooper for his white Polygonatum Biflorum, Rose Walker for her Goldenchain Tree, Linda Tarwater for her Spearmint, Sue Deal for her yellow Orchid, and Chuck Stokes for his Topiary Boxwood. June Collins received the coveted Award of Horticultural Excellence with her purple

bearded iris. The Arboreal Award was awarded to the Goldenchain Tree submitted by Rose Walker. And finally the Sweepstakes Award for the largest number of ribbons was Bob Cooper for receiving seven 1st, nine 2nd and one 3rd place ribbons. Norma Lippert, Lonnie Munson and Walt Schroeder all came close to beating Bob for this award.

The Garden Club hopes everyone enjoyed the displays and hope more will join in next year. The club meets every second Tuesday of the month usually at the Bethany Lutheran Church except for special field trip meetings.



Chef David Smith
Homemade Desserts

The Port & Starboard Restaurant
Orders to go ♦ Open until 9 p.m., 7 days a week

The Best Clam Chowder in Curry County
Port Orford's family restaurant

460 Madrona Ave. & Highway 101 ♦ 541-332-4515
Salads, pizza, pasta, steaks, fresh fish