

# Collaboration is the key to winning war on weeds

By Kathleen Ellyn  
Wallowa County Chieftain

When you climb up into the club cab with the weed warriors and head to Asotin, Wash., for the Multi-County Weed Tour your expectation is that by the end of the day you will know for sure how to kill weeds.

In fact, most years you will become so well educated that you'll come home with a Certified Pesticide Handler designation.

No certificate this year, but you can count on the education all the same.

You need it, whether you're a farmer, rancher or smallholder — because if the weeds get the upper hand it is literally the end of the world as we know it.

Weeds in the wilderness can limit appropriate feed for wildlife sufficient to drive the animals out of the area. Indigo Bush, for instance, colonizes on riverbanks and can out-compete willows, ruining bird habitat.

Weeds on the grazing lands not only ruin the value of the fodder, but can poison the livestock or injure humans. For instance, Myrtle Spurge has a milky sap that is so caustic children are burned and blistered by it every year.

Weeds on farmland can also out-compete crops. The number one evildoer in Wallowa County right now is Meadow Hawkweed.

"When you walk up on a mat of Meadow Hawkweed you know it," said Ashley Spaur, Wallowa County Vegetation Project coordinator. "It gets so thick it chokes out everything."

No wonder weed hunting is such a big deal. And Wallowa County is the front line in the war on weeds.

Every year Oregon State Weed Board hands out \$1 million in grants — and at least one-third of that goes to Wallowa County.

That money gets added to private funds (The Nature Conservancy, Wallowa Resources, private landowners) and by the end of the year Wallowa County will have spent somewhere north of \$1 million fighting weeds.

Some of that money goes to help ranchers and farmers fight weeds on their private ground.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

**Ashley Spaur, Wallowa County Vegetation Project coordinator, examines a very healthy, but single, Scotch Thistle that dodged the spray and outflanked the oversown wheat grass in the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area. Just two years earlier the entire field was Scotch Thistle of this size.**

"I've sent over 80 letters to landowners to tell them how to get their lands inventoried," Spaur said. Licensed inventory contractors then go out on the farmland and literally cover every foot of it, marking and mapping every weed.

Spaur then inputs that data and issues a map for the farmer or rancher and informs them of their options: hire a contractor or take care of the weeds themselves. Either way, the county vegetation department offers financial assistance through a cost-share program; up to \$500 per year. If the county has a specific grant the amount may be even more.

There is a law on the books that allows the county to take care of the weeds and assess a farmer or rancher for the cost, but most Wallowa County farmers and ranchers don't need the threat of fines to get serious about weeds. It's in their interest to work with the weed warriors — and they do, said Alan Schmetzky, vege-

tation manager for Wallowa County.

"(Rancher) Todd Nash took a picture of a weed and sent it directly to me on my phone," said Schmetzky. "This is so neat. I couldn't have imagined this a few years ago."

There are a lot of ways to kill weeds and experts agree that a combined effort, using herbicides, sowing cover crops, and introducing "biologicals" (beneficial bugs) is the best approach.

This year's tour went to a beautiful field of wheat grass in the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area. Wheat grass is non-native, and pure native is the way any state's Department of Fish and Wildlife wants to go. "It may not be what you want long-term," agrees David Woodall, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife assistant wildlife area manager. "But some of these lands have been so disturbed you can't get a native to grow. In a perfect world we have true

natives, but this is better than weeds. Sowing wheat grass may be a step along the way."

It's a good step for the field the tour group examined. Just two years earlier it was a field of thistles over six feet tall. Spraying was immediately effective in knocking down the thistle, but come the following spring the thistles would get a head start over the native grasses and choke them out; thistles win again.

By oversowing the field with fast-growing wheat grass, the weed warriors beat the thistle to the sun and turned the tables on the weed.

Before the wheat grass won, however, that entry point into a popular wilderness area was a public relations nightmare.

"When the public shows up they want to know what they're paying their fees for. If there are a lot of weeds it makes a bad impression," Woodall said.

Ironically, it is public usage that helps bring the weeds in. "We have endangered native plants by having access. Every access point is a vector point for weeds," Woodall explained. "Part of managing each site is a weed control effort."

Managing weeds will never get easy, the warriors say. It's labor-intensive. But one of the things the Weed Tour group learned last Saturday is that it doesn't have to be as dangerous as it has been in the past.

Spraying herbicides involves handling concentrated poisons. Those poisons are diluted for use, down to 3 ounces per acre in some cases. But the pesticide handler is still in danger when he or she mixes several herbicides into the position.

A bit of good news presented at this year's weed tour is that herbicide producers are working to make spray handling both safer and more precise.

Farmers and ranchers can now order a custom blend of herbicides premixed to kill the specific weeds you have, on the land you have, significantly lowering the danger to applicators.

Other applications can now be fast-shipped in 15-gallon returnable drums — meaning there is no need to store an inventory or rinse the drums.

## OBITUARIES

Linda Cool  
Feb. 15, 1947 – June 5, 2015



Linda Darlene Cool, a resident of Joseph, passed away Friday, June 5, 2015, in her home surrounded by her loved ones. She was 68 years old.

There will be a graveside service open to all friends and family at Prairie Creek Cemetery on June 19, 2015 at 1 p.m. The family would like anyone in attendance to join them afterward at the Cool residence on Liberty Road, for food and conversation, and to please bring a chair.

Linda was born on February 15, 1947 in Spokane, Wash., to Francis J. and Laura "Bunny" Gould. Her family resided in Joseph, Ore., where she attended elementary school until about the 5th grade. From there her family moved to Seaside and then to Portland. Linda graduated from Polytechnic High in 1965.

After graduation Linda attended Weaver Airline Personnel School in Kansas City, Mo., for ticket sales. She graduated August of 1965. She changed her mind not long after graduating and decided to pursue her passion for photography. Moving to North Carolina she started photography school. Linda finished her training and was hired by Pixie Pin-Ups and became a traveling child photographer.

In 1972 Linda's daughter Heidi was born, and in 1975 her daughter Shelli was born in St. Paul, Minn. Linda worked at different jobs while raising her girls, which included bookkeeping and even school bus driver.

In 1979 Linda moved back to her hometown of Joseph with her children to be closer to her family. She soon met and married the love of her life Dan Cool. Linda and Dan were married for 36 years this past November. In August of 1981 Linda's son Josh Daniel Cool was born. Linda was a homemaker much of the time her children were growing up. The Cools lived on the family ranch on lower Prairie Creek. In 1995 Linda and Dan suffered the sudden loss of their son Josh.

Linda worked for the U.S. Forest Service from 1988-2006 as a payroll/personnel clerk and later a purchasing agent, she then retired. She made many friends over the years, while bowling on Thursday Night Women's League and Sunday Night Mixed Doubles. Linda also enjoyed gardening her flowerbeds every spring and summer. Her favorite pet at the time of her death was Bobber, the cat, whom he rescued from underneath the Forest Service building while working there.

During her eight years of retirement she enjoyed spending time with her husband, children and their families. She went back to work in 2013, hired by Zacharias Logging as their bookkeeper. Her bosses Bob and Cheryl were like family to her. This brought her great joy in the last three years of her life.

Linda is survived by her husband Dan, daughter Heidi Meyer and husband Jim of Adrian, daughter Shelli Bronson and husband Billy of Aumsville; sister JoAnn Gould of Dayton, Ohio; brother Orlan Gould and wife Tonya of Umagine; brother Frank Gould and wife April of Pomeroy, Wash.; grandchildren: Austin, Will, Brooke, Kelsey, Cassie and Travis; nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Francis and Laura Gould, son Josh Cool, and nephew Adam.

## DEATH NOTICES

Hubert Allan "Al" Slinker

Hubert Allan "Al" Slinker, 87, of Enterprise, died June 11, 2015, at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. A Celebration of Life will be held July 18. A full obituary will appear at a later date.

## Newspaper upgrades online reading experience

The desktop versions of the Wallowa County Chieftain's e-Editions and NIE edition switched to responsive HTML5 versions, which provides a completely redesigned, sleek and easy-to-use interface.

Readers will enjoy the new toolset and enhanced navigation for an even better experience. This provides a seamless look between all devices. We will still provide apps for our readers who choose to keep reading our e-Editions that way.

The main changes are:

- The main navigation bar on top has been moved to the right to match the native app layouts.
- The drop-down menus that currently contain past editions, list of pages and index of sections have all been replaced with icons on the new right-hand side navigation bar. (The pages list can be found under the pages icon and the index under the index icon and all past editions are now nice and neatly placed under the calendar icon, labeled "Editions" menu.)
- Downloading of pages can be found under the pages icon.
- All actions related to managing their account and logout are also under the "options" menu which is the gears icon.
- The eNotify feature has also been moved from the top to the lower right-hand tool bar.
- The tools to print, email, share, translate, read aloud, increase or decrease text size, etc, are all in the same location as before — however, they are

now only shown when an article is being displayed in article view on the single page viewing mode and when in browse mode via the new share icon in the upper right corner of the UI.

- The help icon on the new navigation bar displays the general information related to the new icons in the navigation bar.
- If you have questions or experience any issues, please call our office at 541-426-4567.



Edward Daniel Tautfest  
9/22/1938 - 3/7/2015

Edward D. Tautfest, 76, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2015, at St Mary Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington. He was born September 22, 1938, in Cottonwood, Idaho to Ralph and Helen Tautfest.

The family moved numerous times due to his dad's work related transfers. Ed attended many different schools.

He completed the last year of elementary school and graduate high school in Kellogg, Idaho. Ed loved spending time on his grandparents farm where there was love, work, play, singing and driving an old jeep in the fields. He served a two year

LDS mission in the New England states for a brief time with the remainder of his mission served in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Ed married Evelyn Murl Fisher March 17, 1962. Their children Dan and Debbie filled their lives with much happiness. The family enjoyed times of outdoor recreation, and life on their two acre farm in Enterprise. Ed served in the US Army as a surveyor, and the US Air Force as a mechanic during the Vietnam war years. He spent his adult life in Wallowa County. He volunteered many years on the Enterprise Fire Department. He was active in the Boy Scout organization holding the position of Awards Director as well as other positions.

Evelyn passed away in 1985, after a lengthy fight with cancer. At that time, Dan was serving in the US Army and Debbie was a student at EOU in LaGrande. Losing their beloved young wife and mother was a deep sorrow for Ed and the children.

Ed's love for the automobile led him to a forty year career as an automotive mechanic/service manager. He was awarded countless achievement certificates, trophies, plaques.

Ed married Joyce Helen Lowry June 14, 1986. Their children Debi Lee, David, Dan, Debbie and Deena added much happiness to the family.

Prior to his disabling injury in 1999, Ed restored a 1960 Corvair. He and Joyce took many fun trips in that Corvair. It was always on display at Oregon Mountain Cruise until 2010. He was a member of Enterprise Christian Church. Ed began most days with prayer and Bible reading. He treasured his relationship with the Lord. He enjoyed many talents and interests. He was a seasoned carpenter; an inventor of many useful products; he had an interest in fly tying creating his own styles. He was an accomplished artist. At the time of his death he had created a beautiful sketch and was ready to begin painting.

The annual elk hunt camp-out with Joyce, David, Therese and the children was always a happy time for Ed. One year Dan was able to join in the hunt. Ed so enjoyed being a loving - fun to be with Grandpa, much like that of his own grandfather. Joyce survives him along with his five children; Sons: Dan (Lisa) Taut-

fest, David (Therese) Lowry; Daughters: Debbie (Joel) Scott; Debi Lee (Charlie) Moffitt; Deena (JD) Nobles; Eighteen grandchildren and Thirteen great-grandchildren. His mother, Helen Peterson; one sister: Janet (Dwayne) Peck, three brothers: Michael (Christy) Tautfest; Jim (Jeni) Tautfest; David (Elizabeth) Tautfest. Two aunts: Nora McKenney and Leona Hill. and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Ed is preceded in death by his father, Ralph Tautfest; Father-in-Law, Cecil Fisher, Mothers-in-Law Mildred Fisher and Helen Jennings; Grandfather and Grandmother Hill; Grandfather & Grandmother Tautfest; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

The Celebration of Life will be at Enterprise Christian Church on June 27th at 11:00 A.M. with dinner to follow at the VFW hall. Desserts or Side dishes are welcome but are not requested. Suggested memorial contributions may be made to Wallowa Memorial EMS, the VFW, Enterprise Christian Church building fund, or a charity of your choice.

## High and Low Temperatures

According to data sent to MesoWest: www.mesowest.utah.edu

Enterprise			Lostine		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
June 10	52	80	June 10	50	82
June 11	44	78	June 11	44	81
June 12	46	75	June 12	48	77
June 13	37	70	June 13	37	71
June 14	41	74	June 14	33	76
June 15	38	78	June 15	38	81
June 16	44	n/a	June 16	46	n/a

Joseph			Wallowa		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
June 10	54	79	June 10	n/a	n/a
June 11	48	79	June 11	n/a	n/a
June 12	45	75	June 12	n/a	n/a
June 13	39	68	June 13	n/a	n/a
June 14	41	72	June 14	n/a	n/a
June 15	41	79	June 15	n/a	n/a
June 16	46	n/a	June 16	n/a	n/a

Imnaha			Troy		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
June 10	62	92	June 10	57	93
June 11	56	90	June 11	55	92
June 12	46	75	June 12	46	75
June 13	50	79	June 13	46	77
June 14	48	82	June 14	45	81
June 15	49	87	June 15	46	88
June 16	59	n/a	June 16	52	n/a

## Six-day forecast

June 17 – June 22

Source: National Weather Service

June 17		H: 80 L: 47	Sunny
June 18		H: 78 L: 47	Sunny
June 19		H: 72 L: 41	Partly cloudy
June 20		H: 73 L: 44	Mostly Sunny
June 21		H: 81 L: 48	Mostly sunny
June 22		H: 79 L: n/a	Mostly sunny

## Phases of the moon

June 24	July 2	July 8	July 16
1st Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon