



# The High Prairie

"All the news that's print to fit."

Volume Nine, Number Three

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September, 2009



Community center / firehall takes shape. Photo: Cal Edwards, Aug. 8 2009

## EXTRA CARE NEEDED TO AVOID WILDFIRES

Gwen Berry

Preventing damage from wildfires is a topic of continuing interest here on High Prairie, as in other rural areas, but the recent wildfire just east of Mosier has really brought home its importance.

Experts estimate that up to 90% of wildfires are caused by human activity (although that percentage is lower in the West, where lightning accounts for more of the fires). As the number of people living, working, and playing in high fire-risk areas has grown, so has the number of human-caused fires.

Common causes include outdoor burning, gas-powered equipment use, campfires, fireworks, off-road vehicle use, and smoking. It's crucial to practice fire safety to avoid starting wildfires. And even though the summer is ending, the fire danger hasn't lessened. In the fall, summer growth is at its most mature and in its driest condition. That's why Klickitat County's ban on outdoor burning continues through September. No outdoor fires are allowed until October 1st.

According to a brochure published by the Keep Oregon Green Association, "The careless use of power equipment in and around forests is the second leading human cause of Oregon wildfires. Power equipment brings sources of heat, like sparks and friction, fuels like gasoline, and electrical arcing in close proximity to forest fuels." Here are some examples of things to watch out for:

- Hot exhaust (sparks) or exhaust pipes, even from hand power equipment such as chain saws
- Trail bikes, cars, ATVs, motorcycles, trucks, and farm vehicles all have the potential to ignite dry fuel.
- Mowing or cutting weeds that have dried out. If a gas-powered mower or weed whacker hits a rock and causes a spark, the dry grass or weeds will ignite, causing a wildfire.
- Fuels such as gasoline or oil for these kinds of equipment, if not properly stored and handled, can also increase the risk of wildfires.
- Electric wiring, such as an electric fence, can short out, start a fire in grasses, and brush as well.

## NOTICES

**Fire Volunteers** meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall for equipment maintenance and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday for training.

**Fire Commissioners** meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall.

**High Prairie Community Council** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Taylor's church building, 876 Centerville Highway.

**Lyle School Board** meets the next to last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Boardroom, Lyle High School.

**High Prairie Book Club** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Lozetta Doll for location and book recommendations, 365-0010.

**High Prairie Needlers** meet every Monday at 10:30 a.m. to work on projects and crafts, swap ideas and "network" over a sack lunch. Contact Judi Strait: 365-5288 or Lozetta Doll: 365-0010.

**When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911**



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## UPCOMING BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Lozetta Doll

The High Prairie Book Club meets the fourth Monday of each month at homes of the members. Everyone with a love of books is welcome to join. It is not necessary to read the book chosen. Our August book will be *Brothers* by Da Chen and the meeting will be at Martha Hamil's at 7:00 p.m. on August 24. The September book is *The Loveliest Woman in America* by Bibi Gaston and we will meet at Karron Buchanon's at 7:00 p.m. on September 28. The October book is *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson.



### The High Prairian

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## HIGH PRAIRIAN IN YOUR MAIL BOX


Doug Taylor

If you would wish to have *The High Prairian* sent electronically as a PDF, I would be glad to put your name on our email list for mailings and send it right to your computer. If you wish to discontinue your receiving this paper, please contact me and I will take your name off the mailing list. My email address is [highprairie@gorge.net](mailto:highprairie@gorge.net).



**NOVEMBER 20** is the  
deadline for articles to be included in the  
December edition

Do you have a STORY to tell?

Or NEWS  of interest to denizens of  
HIGH PRAIRIE?

How about a POEM, a RECIPE  or a  
GARDENING TIP  to share?

Or just want to see your NAME in print?



If so, submit your offerings for  
PUBLICATION in

**THE HIGH PRAIRIAN**



Contact Doug Taylor:  
**[highprairie@gorge.net](mailto:highprairie@gorge.net)**

or

**365-3242**

*All the news that's print to fit.*



Community singers, Sharon Aleckson, Gwen Berry and Dona Taylor at the Community picnic. Photo: Doug Taylor

## JANE KIRKPATRICK

Audrey Bentz

JANE KIRKPATRICK, internationally famous author who writes great historical fiction mostly based in this area of the Northwest, will be the guest lecturer and discussion leader at Morning Song Acres on Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31. Jane was recently interviewed on National Public Radio, and will be focusing much on her most recent novel *The Flickering Light*. One topic of interest to all of us will be “do talented people do things that sabotage their gifts?”

High Prairie residents are invited to join us for Saturday discussions (6 Oda Knight Road) and a \$20 fee will cover three meals as well as time to personally interact with Jane and other readers of Jane’s books. If interested, contact Audrey Bentz at [amsong@gorge.net](mailto:amsong@gorge.net) or call 365-3600.

## DREAMS DO COME TRUE

Doug Taylor

We have been leasing the land presently occupied by Firehall Number One with the hope of purchasing the land one day. With many years still remaining on the lease, we recently received great news.

Former resident Pat Petroff and husband Joe now residing in Oregon have decided to become our neighbors and build a new house on the property on Centerville Highway.

They have decided rather than lease to us they would donate the property to the community fire district.

We owe the Petroffs a great dept of gratitude for their generosity. We will welcome them as wonderful neighbors when they get situated.

High Prairie is having a great year with many wonderful accomplishments coming our way.

## HOME FLOOD CATASTROPHE

Bev Edwards

Our daughter and her husband have a beach house at Chinook, Wash. and we were invited to a big 4th of July barbeque. We left on Friday, July 3, and returned on Sunday, July 5. When we walked in the door from our garage the water came up over our feet. A line going into the toilet had broken and water was spewing all over the main bathroom floor. Bob turned the water off and began trying to mop all the water into buckets. In the meantime I called our insurance company and they told me who to call for immediate help, etc.

Serv Pro came with all their equipment within 3 hours and began tearing all the floor coverings up. Every room in the house had water damage except the master bath. They set heater fans and dehumidifiers throughout the house and the temperature rose to 103 degrees. They also pumped several 45-gallon tanks of water from the crawl space under the house and removed several bags of insulation. The next day they brought a diesel furnace to pump hot air into the crawl space. This dry-out period lasted for three days.

We spent a very uncomfortable first night in our motor home as it wasn’t ready for occupation. The next day I called Dona Taylor who let Audrey Bentz know what had happened. Audrey called and so graciously offered us a cabin they are maintaining. We stayed there for four nights. Ben Parrish stopped by and offered their home to come to so we could relax away from here.

Now, six weeks later, we are finally almost put back together with new flooring throughout the house and only missing a few items that are “somewhere” out in the garage where we stored everything before they began installing the flooring.

We would like to thank all of the people who were so willing to help us, especially Doug and Dona Taylor, Audrey and Myrin Bentz, and Ben and Barb Parrish.

And as a reminder to everyone—might be a good idea to turn your water off if you are going to be gone for a few days.

## TIP

Penny Rutledge

Take a sprig of mint and place it on your out door table that will keep the yellow jackets at bay—sounds good—worth a try.



Douglas Taylor

## HARTLAND CEMETERY—Short take

Much of this information can be found in the September 2006 issue of the *High Prairian* [http://www.highprairie.us/high\\_prairian/](http://www.highprairie.us/high_prairian/) (website developed and maintained by Cindy Henschell).

The Hartland Cemetery Association also known as The Lone Pine was being used in early 1880, with several burials listed in the Cemetery records. The first quit claim deed was recorded by the grantors N. B. Brooks, his wife Rosa A. Brooks and Josie Hinnell on the 12th day of April 1901 with 40 local subscribers.

The Membership of the Hartland Cemetery Association is made up of all persons who have subscribed or purchased burial lots or gravesites in the Lone Pine Cemetery.

There are no dues, the work of maintaining the cemetery grounds; handling of its business affairs is done entirely on a voluntary basis.

Someone once said, "If you wish to learn about community, first visit its cemetery." This is true as you walk among the gravesites of many early pioneers of this region—farmers, cattlemen, workers, children, etc. buried in oldest sections of the cemetery.

Much information can be gleaned from the many obituaries. Many residents, youths and very young adults were buried here before the Cemetery was officially established.

Present cemetery requirements are:

- That all future graves be lined. (Liners may be purchased from the Association. We also rent greens and lowering device.)
- Care of your lot or grave is your responsibility, and we ask that you keep it neat and clean. There is no water to maintain lawns.
- This is a community cemetery for local use.

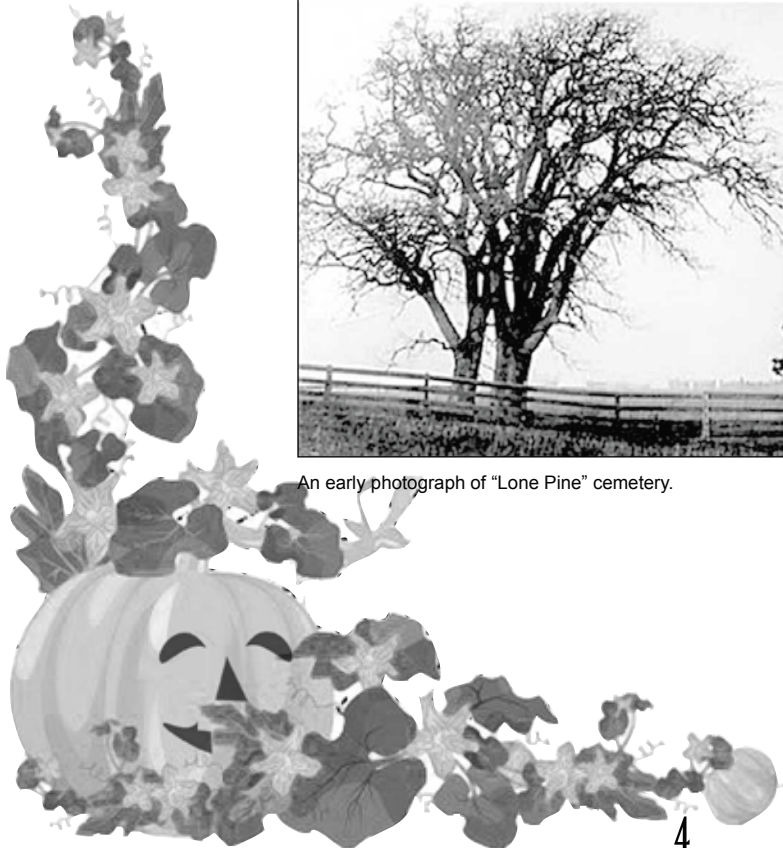
The board of directors wishes to thank you for your cooperation.

You may find considerable information about burials, obituaries, and much information about Klickitat County history at the web site, below. I would recommend that you check it out. It has been prepared by Jeffery Elmer formerly of Trout Lake, now living in Portland.

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~westklic/>



An early photograph of "Lone Pine" cemetery.



## TRIPLE CELEBRATION

Dona Taylor

Fifty golden bells are ringing out on High Prairie for three special couples, who are celebrating 50 years of marriage:

Tom and Lozetta Doll were married in Portland on August 21st 1959.

Ted and Myrt McKercher were married in Portland also on September 12th 1959

Bud and Becky Jester was married in Delaware also on September 12th 1959

Our hardest congratulations!



(l-r) Sharon Alecson presenting gifts, Tom and Lozetta Doll, Bud and Becky Jester and Myrt and Ted McKercher. Photo: Doug Taylor

## 150 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

We want to thank all the community for the wonderful surprise anniversary party at the picnic on August 16. What a nice way to celebrate 50 years of marriage. The food, the singing, the cakes, and the camaraderie were just great and so much appreciated.

The Dolls – Tom and Lozetta

The Jesters – Bud and Becky

The McKerchers – Ted and Myrt

# Halloween

## THE BEAR

Barbara Parrish

While traveling over hill and dale  
To Martha's house we go  
Myrt and me in Ben's big Ford truck  
After the 13 mile sale

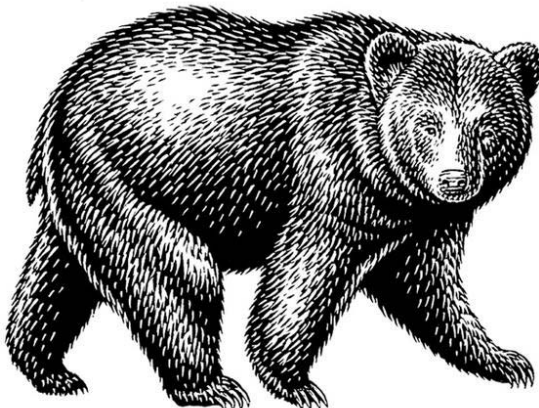
On a mission  
Not paying attention  
To deliver back home  
Tables and things  
That Martha had previously loaned

Chatting away  
We were quite surprised  
When something large  
Appeared before our eyes

Stopping the truck in it's tracks  
And beginning to stare  
We both exclaimed at once  
"Hey!, That was a bear!"

A large brown bear  
Ran in front of the truck  
And off into the woods  
We were blessed with luck  
And sorta dumb-struck  
To see this beautiful creature  
Up close and so near

It was kinda exciting  
And also quite frightening  
But after we calmed down  
It made us so glad  
That we were safe  
Inside the truck's cab



## AROUND THE PRAIRIE

Doug Taylor

Alfalfa haying was late in the spring due to rains and cold weather, but there was more tonnage per acre.

Our firefighters were observed gearing up for expected greater wildfire activity this summer.

State and government agencies including DNR, State Parks and the Fire chiefs from Centerville and High Prairie toured the Swale Canyon area to consider improving communications.

The Fire Hall/Community Center project advanced and is starting to look great. A lot of time was spent by dedicated volunteer project managers and is very much appreciated.

Lots of neighbors observed helping neighbors. When the needs arise all are volunteers.

This is a great place to live. I step out my door to a little bit of heaven every day.

Can you believe neighbors importing rocks? Not gravel but truckloads of big "rocks".

Sightings of bear, cougars, coyotes and bobcats are still being reported.

Vegetable gardens are flourishing with much produce.

I thought about purchasing a paper-folding machine, but using neighbors is lots more fun.

Has anyone lost little striped kitties with big bushy tails? I've got lots of them.

Raccoons still like chicken if one forgets to close the chicken house door.

## RIPPLES

Tom Doll

It has happened that the simplest of all words - "I"  
Can make a difference.

"I" am alone but my influence of silence and trust  
Will not be put to shame.

For "I" rejoiced in those who listened,  
Political officials and office holders,  
And those who light the flame.

The gestures of kindness and support  
Of those whose pebbles dropped into the pond  
Affected the ripples of the good that can be done.

"I" am grateful for their deeds and shall enjoy  
The fruits of their striving.

While life changes, as "I" age,  
Precious was the pebble on the lonely beach  
Glistening in the sun.





## MULTI-USER GARDENS

Doug Taylor

Several residents are combining efforts to raise vegetables in gardens established in a convenient area of the neighborhood. It has been a beneficial effort with lots of work, but many rewards, least of which the health benefit of exercise and vitamins.

After one garden was planted this year and the weeding began, someone mentioned the GARDEN OF WEEDIN and so became its name.

One particular garden located at the Taylor corral was started last year under the direction of Rob Taylor with support from his wife, Madelon and Myrt McKercher and her husband, Ted. They did such a fantastic job that new members were acquired. Ben and Barb Parrish, Tom and Lozetta Doll, Bud and Becky Jester, Bob and Bev Edwards.

Although Rob Taylor and Madelon stayed on with Rob incorporating an improved water system and expanding the garden area. He also keeping an eye on the plants, watering when necessary, making sure the water boy is keeping up his end of the bargain. Tom Doll and Bud Jester did a fantastic job of preparing the fencing to keep the wild critters on the opposite side of the fence. Of course one needs to mention the persistent vigilance of everyone especially Lozetta, Barbara and Ben and Rob of trying to keep ahead of the weeds and planting more seeds, bulbs and sets.

We were fortunate that the Edwards have a greenhouse that was used to start many of the vegetables; everyone bought some of their special seeds or plants to share with others.

This year Myrt and Ted are working closer to home at Sharon and Arlen Aleckson's garden. We have missed them and are hoping they join us again. I understand there are other gardens where people share space, plus the several individual ones.

Checking local vegetable prices in the grocery store, one can see where our efforts are paying dividends. The garden has been very productive though everyone's efforts and cooperating weather.

Thanks to the thoughtful ladies, in the GARDEN OF WEEDIN, there is a long row of beautiful flowers to greet entering workers.

## DATE BRAN MUFFINS

### From the Zucchini Cookbook

By Paula Simmons

All-Bran cereal, 1 cup	Baking powder, 3 teaspoons
Milk, 5 tablespoons	Salt, 1/8 teaspoon
Eggs, 2	Sugar, 4 tablespoons
Cooking oil, 1/2 cup	Cinnamon, 1/8 teaspoon
Zucchini, 2 cups shredded	Dates, 3/4 cup chopped
Flour, 11/2 cups	

Combine cereal and milk; let stand 15 minutes to soften. Add eggs, oil and zucchini; mix well. Mix dry ingredients and stir in until just moistened. Stir in dates. Fill muffin tins 1/2 full. Bake about 20 minutes at 400 degrees. Makes 18 large muffins.



## GRAND CHAMPION

Dona Taylor

Tom and Gail Amery and Doug and Dona Taylor's granddaughter, Tatiana, recently completed her summer swine show season. Tatiana's 280-pound yorkshire/hampshire/duroc crossbreed barrow named Eucalyptus (Uki) was sold for nearly \$3.00 per pound to Hood River Juice company. Tatiana and Uki started by winning a belt buckle for Grand Champion intermediate showman at the Mid-Columbia Junior Livestock Show in Tygh Valley, Oregon. Next stop was at Prineville Oregon where Tatiana placed third in a competitive class of intermediate showman. Finally, at the Hood River County Fair, Uki placed first in his heavy-weight class and Tatiana again was in top form earning a trophy for Grand Champion Swine Showman and a chance at All-Around Showman showing three classes of goats, a horse, a llama and the traditional beef, sheep, and swine. Tatiana also won high point in the livestock judging contest and judges choice for her public presentation.



Tatiana and Uki show off their trophies. Photo: Martin Taylor

## COUNTY FAIR REPORT — 2009

Martha M. Hamil

The Klickitat County Fair has come and gone for 2009. Several High Prairians entered and did well; some entered for their first time. First time entries were Gwen Berry, Jake Jakabowski, and Keiko Thornton. Respectively, they garnered a blue ribbon (Gwen for a wall quilt), a blue and a red (Jake for chestnuts and hardy kiwi), and 1 blue, 3 reds, and 2 whites (Keiko for a marigold spray, apricot bread, a single marigold, Japanese eggplants, okra, and dill).

Judi Strait won a blue ribbon and a Superintendent's Choice award for her only entry, a baby quilt. Terry Chabbert tried for the Homemaker of the Year award, which requires 3 entries in 3 of 5 different departments for a total of 9 entries. Terry entered 20 items and came away with 15 blues and 5 reds plus the Wheaties Award (in case of ties, it's not just the 9 entries that count but all others; most participants enter a bunch). Next year, Terry!

Martha Hamil tried for Queen of the Kitchen which requires 3 entries in Baking and/or Food Preservation. She had 5 entries in both departments that took 4 blues, 1 red, and a Judges Choice award for her Rustic Rhubarb Tart. Unfortunately, her competitor had a Judges Choice award among 35 blues. All the competitor's entries were in Food Preservation. (My take on this competition is that to be a Queen of the Kitchen, one should demonstrate competence in both departments. For example, my mother could can beautifully; you were lucky to survive her baking which is why I took over cooking when I was 10 years old. Queen of the Kitchen she wasn't.) By the way guys, there is also a King of the Kitchen award that has the same rules. TRY FOR IT!

Loretta Lindsay entered 4 goats and came away with 4 blue ribbons and Top Cashmere Goat. Her grandson, Jeremy Kyle, showed the Grand Champion Market goat and Top of Class mgd weight market goat. Jeremy also starred as Champion Novice Showman in goats and Llama Halter class. Desirae Kyle won Top of Class in Junior Full-Blood meat goat and went Reserve Champion in the Llama Halter Class. These youngsters deserve a big hand for their dedication and determination. And, an even bigger hand goes to their grandmother for insisting on their abiding by the rules. Our youngsters are what we make of them.

Goldendale and its environs takes most of the awards in the Still Life Building which includes everything not having to do with livestock. High Prairians can you keep letting this be a runaway event for Goldendale? Enter your favorite hobby, craft, art, hay, crops, etc. next year and show High Prairie's pride.

## 6 CLEVER CAMERA TRICKS

From an article by Dave Johnson, PC World\*

Submitted by Gwen Berry

Photography can be a lot of things. For many people, it's just fun to take and share snapshots, and to do silly things with them; but your digital camera or camera phone can be of practical value, too. It can help you inventory your belongings, remember where you parked the car and other things you might not have thought of. Here's a list of unexpected, unconventional and perhaps clever ways to use your camera when you're not busy photographing insects, weddings and alien encounters.

**1. Insurance inventory** – Remember how you're supposed to have a thorough inventory of all the valuables in your house for insurance purposes? Photograph them. In the old days, that would have been a big undertaking, but not with a digital camera. You can even store all the photos on a memory card and throw it in your safe or lockbox.

**2. Memory aid** – How many times have you gotten lost in an unfamiliar place? I'm talking about forgetting your hotel room number or where you left your car in a big parking lot. This, my friends, is what the camera phone was invented for. Take a picture of the room number on your door. Photograph the parking lot marker post. You can refer to the picture when you return and zero in on your destination.

**3. Shopping assistant** – Have you ever sent your kids or spouse to the store and they returned with the wrong item? You can write down the name of the product, or you could snap a picture of it with their camera phone and send them off with a visual reference.

**4. Portable scanner** – You need someone's class notes, perhaps, or need to make a copy of an important document -- but you don't have access to a flatbed scanner. No problem, just photograph it with your camera. With a utility like Snapter, you can even straighten and correct the document so it looks like it was scanned professionally.

**5. Document a problem** – My wife and I went to a concert last year and discovered that one of our assigned seats was broken — so broken, in fact, it was barely possible to sit in it. There was no staff to help us, so I photographed the chair disaster and contacted management the next day. We ended up getting a full refund for the show. Apply this basic idea to fender benders, damaged merchandise and any other glitch that comes your way.

**6. Keep track of the little ones** – I'm a bit uncomfortable including this one, but a friend suggested it. I have to admit it's a good idea, though. When you take your young ones to a public event, snap a photo with your camera phone before you leave the house. If you get separated during the day, you have an exact record of what they look like and what they're wearing.



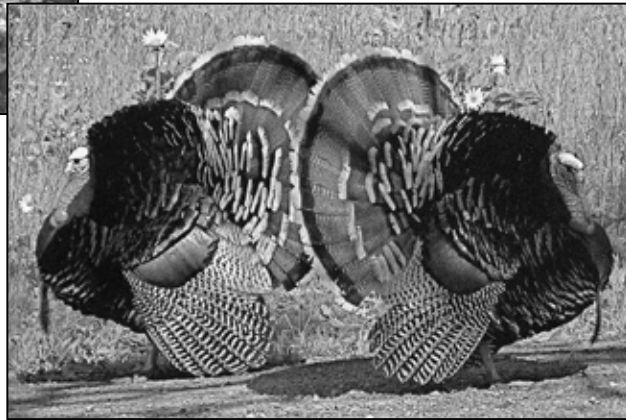
## Autumn on the Prairie



Rob Taylor felling trees on the Taylor ranch. Photo: Doug Taylor



Cameron cattle drive. Photo: Bev Edwards



A pair of toms. Photo: Bud Jester

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

## INTERNET

Doug Taylor

### IN MEMORIUM

Compiled by Dona Taylor

Our sympathy goes to Barbara Parrish on the loss of her father RALPH KEITH on June 25, 2009

### GET WELL

Compiled by Dona Taylor

Get well wishes to a couple of great guys:  
BRUCE BUCHANAN and JACK BRUCKNER

Some are now really using the Web to find information and toys of a lifetime.

Many things are advertized and if you are thinking of something special, all one needs to do is type it in and it does a search. Time was, when one heard of something special at a very good price, one might call and find it had already been sold. Now one may even bid on a special item and have it delivered in a short time.

It seems most all information is available online now. Even if you always wondered what a certain tree or animal looks like, all one needs to do is type in the name and search images.

I hear so many good stories of folks finding more uses and doing more searches on their computer. Keep it up and enjoy, learning by our mistakes. We all make them.

## SALVOS FROM A MIDWEST BIOPHILE ON A RECENT VISIT TO HIGH PRAIRIE...

Jeffrey Piacitelli

I am no stranger to the Northwest. I had the pleasure of calling the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon home for several years. And perhaps like many of you, I had little reason to do much traveling around the Northwest while living there; everything I needed and loved was just around the corner! So on a recent visit to the Gorge, though excited to catch up with a good friend, I was not anticipating anything beyond the standard and abundant jaw-dropping beauty typically found in the Northwest.

However, as I wound around the steepish curves of Centerville Highway and crossed into High Prairie, I was struck with certainty that this place was not only a place of great beauty, but a place that carried with it a uniqueness and fecundity that I had not expected, nor had I witnessed anywhere else during this trip. Upon entering his property, I was treated to the glances and waving branches of lichen and moss-strewn oaks that comprised the edge of much of the land. After intersecting a small, seasonal creek, I proceeded up a hill where the oaks gave way to open grasslands and what appeared to be a balsam root farm, if ever such a thing existed. Acres of yellow flowers and lush, large green leaves draped the countryside in a haphazard (yet deliberate?) attempt to reclaim what appeared to be former grazing or growing land. Once I parked the rental and embraced my buddy with the Mars-colored hair, we set off almost immediately like two boys barely home from school to explore the acres that sprawled themselves out roughshod in front of us.

Following the small, scarcely-pressed trail past the solar shower, we came to an open section of mixed grasses and wild lupine which introduced, without adieu, a strong, lush emerging stand of pine. My friend mentioned a wealth of owls in this particular area punctuated by the profusion of owl pellets he has found on the edge of the tree line. After pacing silently for many moments taking in the whispers of Gorge-winds, we proceeded ahead, uphill. I was intoxicated, literally inebriated with the green, the flowers, the potential hiding spots of fungi, the imaginations of large owl-eyes looking down upon us.

We plodded again uphill, my legs heavy from the long car ride, making our way into the oaks. Usnea lichen hung in vertical mustaches from the limbs, one of the most potent anti-fungal herbs, I tell my partner. I had never observed medicine in such large amounts, so casually strewn about. I was in biophile overload (or maybe just thirsty?), a kid in a proverbial candy store, so stunned and surprised at the place my friend calls home.

We began heading downhill and I noticed a crisp crunching underfoot which caused a bit of guilt. The crackles appeared to be coming from mashing fragile

cryptograms, the scabs of the earth (don't bust the crust!), in their very sufficient attempt to hold soil and moisture in place to promote biovirility. I tried my best to step around them and trod lightly until we delved once again in to thicker grasses. I could see ahead of us the thin-slicing glimmer of a small stream (the one I crossed on the way in) and the pocket of green that formed around this temporary oasis appeared neon against its drier surroundings. We also noticed a wider and altogether different variety of flowers growing here. . . a type of feral garlic or chive, a pale-pink forget-me-not, and the dainty thinness of the camas flower among grass blades wan and ample. The flow of the runoff water seemed to be nearing its end for the season and yet the larger pools were chock full of rusty-brown, odd-looking vegetation, schools and schools of tadpoles and the occasional water-strider. We followed the creek for many paces, noticing the blooming shrubs and emerging fir on the edge of the oak wood. A single solitary California Lilac (or a look-alike cousin in the Ceanothus family) was pushing out blooms all on its own, only to be witnessed by the two of us, perhaps a passing turkey, and other botanical non-family members. Again I wondered, how did it get there? How is it able thrive there? Are the soil conditions just right? The mychorrizal count? What is their formula? I wonder if this plant ever contemplates its existence, its efficiency, its mode of travel (though I confess, I probably do enough for the both of us. . .)? We continue, salty-skinned, almost to the end of our walk as my buddy shares with me a secluded waterfall where the water meets a cool and perilous plunge into a large and inviting pool below. We have now reconnected (with the driveway, with each other, and with the botanical splendor of his property) and begin to make our way back up to the yurt. We sneak a lucky glimpse of some Indian Paintbrush splashed sparingly against the Balsam and Lupine and greener grasses. A photograph I cannot pass up. Once back at the yurt I grab some water, rest in the shade and express gratitude for my visit and for the existence of such a bountiful place in the Gorge. Perhaps there will be more gems unearthed on what remains of my trip around the Northwest? In this very moment, however, as a finch sings effortlessly in the tree above, as the wind pushes gently against my body, and a good buddy swings in a nearby hammock seemingly without a care in the world, I have my doubts. High Prairie just seems to be one of a kind.

Jeffrey Piacitelli is a reluctantly-enthusiastic writer and self-proclaimed biophile currently living in Jacksonville, OR [wileyhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:wileyhouse@yahoo.com)

## SAFETY TIP

Jim Rutledge

Read this and make a copy for your files in case you need to refer to it someday. Maybe we should all take some of his advice! A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED'.

2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the 'For' line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards.

5. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.

6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

7. Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security Fraud Line number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, if it has been stolen:

- \*1.) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
- \*2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
- \*3.) Trans Union : 1-800-680 7289
- \*4.) Social Security Administration (fraud line):  
1-800-269-0271

## Avoiding Wildfire

*continued from page 1*

When you're planning outdoor recreation, find out ahead of time about restrictions on fires and equipment operation in the area you'll be in, and then abide by those restrictions. Put out cigarettes properly in your ashtray or with water, or by grinding them in the dirt where there's nothing flammable in a 3' circle. Don't bring fireworks. Attend your campfire (if one is allowed) and make sure it's completely out before going anywhere. Be careful with charcoal or propane grills. Use spark arrestors on any gas-powered equipment or vehicles. Don't operate vehicles in closed areas.

When outdoor burning is allowed, do it safely. Klickitat County regulations limit the size of your burn to 4' by 4' by 3', and you can only burn one at a time. Burn only unprocessed natural vegetation. Don't burn within 50' of a building. Have hand tools and water nearby. Don't burn during periods of high wind. Make sure there's a sizable area around your pile that's clear of flammable material. Burn barrels are illegal.

What it comes down to is using common sense. When you're aware of the potential for dry fuel to mix with the source of ignition that you are handling to become a wildfire, you'll be extra careful in all your outdoor activities.

Be extra careful when you are working with or handling a source of ignition. Be aware of the potential for other dry fuels to ignite and become a wildfire.



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