

Green Team Report—Annual Meeting 2017 --Jackie Lanum

The Green Team has been very busy this year and many of you have been a part of it. Whether you come to committee meetings or not, everyone involved in recycling is a part of our team. So would everyone who empties bins, collects recycling to take to the recycling center, all of you who are involved in our efforts in any way, **stand up**. (About 2/3rds of the people in the room stood up!)

This incredibly well organized effort only took off a year ago and all of you make this run smoothly today. In that year and we have recycled tons and tons of garbage—both saving the park money and making it a better planet.

I especially want to thank **Mary Harrison** for her coordination.

In this meeting a year ago, **C J Stevens**, made a power point presentation where she went through **how** we were going to do this. I'd like to invite CJ to join me up here for a moment but unfortunately she isn't in the room. I'd like to remind all of us, myself included, how important words of appreciation are. I'd like to present this **Certificate of Appreciation** to CJ in absentia.

--Begin slides (3 of our park)

I marvel that we have such a benign ecosystem here with no poisonous snakes, few ticks, and bats and swallows to control our insect population. Our environment is as important in making us feel at home as our park models and RVs. Our land and trees are purifying our water, giving us clean air and oxygen, even detoxifying our sewage. But as much as we depend on other species, we are the keystone species here, and have the most power to change the environment. With that power - as with all power - comes responsibility.

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Last summer DBR sponsored 4 of us, Mary Harrison, Becky Stinson, Dave Ivatts and myself, to attend a Family Forestry Field Day developed by WSU. We each tried to choose different workshops to learn as much as possible. We have put together a notebook with the brochures and our notes; it will be in the office lounge so you can look it over. Tell us what you'd like to know more about, and we can make an expanded presentation and bring in some of the local experts we heard from at the workshop. Here we will give you a few of the highlights.

Becky, our WSU Master Gardner, added to her knowledge by attending some very practical workshops about recognizing diseases and insect problems; also how selective thinning and pruning could increase the forest health: information she will gladly share on nature walks and individually. She also collected a lot of information that has been incorporated in our notebook. (At this point you stand up and wave our very large notebook!) So go with Becky for a walk in the woods on our nature trail Sunday at 1 pm and pick her brain.

Mary Harrison FAMILY FORESTRY FIELD DAY 2016

I attended a class called **Introduction to Forest Ownership**. By far, the people in the class were interested, as we are, in the health and sustainability of our forests. My takeaway was that a forest owner should first decide what they want to do with their forest –THEN research how to manage it to that end: join organizations, get information, and make use of government programs. Overall, that was my takeaway for ALL of the classes I attended; the 45 minute classes were designed to be a glimpse of what information and help is available to us, and how to pursue that AFTER we decide what we want to do with our forests.

I DID get immediately helpful information from the class on **Protecting Your Home and Forest from Wildfire**: It is best to avoid mulch and junipers in the first 5 feet away from your house –in general, choose fire resistant plants. Also, if we have a level 1 fire notification –which means NO EVACUATION YET –we should connect and lay out our hoses –leave the water turned on, with spray nozzles attached –and make sure our gates are open –we have the Main gate at the top, and the meadow gate can be used in emergencies.

In the **Thinning and Pruning** class I learned that we should NEVER prune more than 1/3 of the branches –but we should prune, to prevent a “fuel ladder” –the branches low to the ground can allow the fire to quickly travel up the tree to the crown, increasing tree death. Pruning increases the amount of light reaching the forest floor, which allows for more diverse plant and wildlife populations.

Finally, I attended a **Forestry Taxes** class. I honestly have no idea what this man talked about, from start to finish –but I do have a printout of his Powerpoint presentation and his handouts, in case any of you would like to give it a go.

Jackie Lanum...

From the class on **Using and selling Non-timber Products from Your Forest**, I learned that secondary forest products can have a bigger market than timber and can benefit the forest at the same time. For example, there are 5000 species of mushrooms on record at WSU. Many are marketable, and some have wonderful medicinal value. Mushrooms improve the soil, take nourishment from the soil to the trees, and allow communication between trees so they can actually feed each other.

On the negative side, I learned from the **Forest and Range Safety and Security** class that some landowners experience dumping, theft of trees, meth labs, mushroom hunters, and the like. It was suggested that owners keep a close watch on their land and plan to prevent - or certainly not escalate - a situation. In the **Noxious Weeds** class, I learned that some plants we need to control by law, and some we should control for the health and balance of the property. Again I refer to Becky's expertise.

On the positive side, I loved the **Tree and Shrub identification** class. And the Green Team, specifically Judith Wright, took as one of our projects this summer, the identification of some things on our nature trail which she will talk about in a moment.

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Lastly, in the **Wildlife and Habitat** class, I was reminded that if we accept the responsibility we have as a keystone species, we will look at DBR with new eyes. A pile of brush becomes a habitat pile - and if we don't have any we can make some (instructions provided)

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A hollow, dead tree is a great place for woodpeckers, squirrels, and owls.

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And we have instructions for various types of bird nesting boxes that will make wonderful shop projects. Thea we've been waiting for you.

The prefix "eco" comes from the Greek meaning "home". Please look at our notebook, let us know what you want to know more about, and join us in having fun as we develop our "eco".

Now **Judith Wright** will introduce us to the guide she developed for individual use as you enjoy the Nature trail.

There is a notebook at each entrance to the Nature Trail with photos and information about 10 plants and 1 bird. The pages are in alphabetical order and correspond to stakes in the appropriate locations along the walk.

A few plants have more than one stake. There is, after all, a great deal of difference between a 2 foot tall Sitka spruce and an 80 foot tall Sitka spruce.

To the extent possible, we tried to put the stakes in front of plants that overhang the trail itself, whose branches you can reach, whose leaves or cones you can handle and examine. The big exception is Stinging Nettle. It's right on the trail, but please don't touch it!

We are working on a downloadable version of the guide, and as soon as we have that completed, it will be posted on the DBR website. And I hope to add more plants next year.

I think that the more we know about our environment, the more we appreciate it, and the more we can be good stewards to the plants and creatures in our neighborhood. Our forest is rich in diversity, in challenges, and in beauty.

I hope you enjoy using the notebooks and that they deepen your pleasure in the Nature Trail. Please return the notebooks to their container - put them back where you got them, at the point where you started the trail.

This concludes the Green Team's presentation. Thank you for your attention.