



Newsletter

JANUARY 2009

President's Message, Winter 2009

Dear NCA Members,

Happy New Year and I do hope that it is a happy one for you and yours. As you read this newsletter it will be closer to Valentine's Day and I will be lounging on a beach in Bucerias, Mexico. Based on the snow in December and rain in January, I think that wintering in the hot sun is a great idea!

I was not sure what to expect when I became President of the NCA, but I must say I did not expect to get calls asking me what to do about a dead cow on the beach. In the next newsletter I will be sure to let you know if any other interesting situations come to my attention...

As you will see from the "Dates to Remember" in this issue, the NCA Board is sticking with our traditional events. I do hope that all of you will participate in some way or another as one of the things that the NCA does well is to bring family, friends, and neighbors together for special events.

Our association tries to give back to our extended community as much as possible. So far this year we have donated to the Holiday Baskets of South Tillamook County, the Nestucca Valley Elementary School, and the Neskowin Valley School. Our recent contributions were much appreciated as you can see by the letters of thanks in this issue.

Best Regards,
Christi Clark

Ice, Winds, Roads, and Water

By Pam Rowland

In December and January, Mother Nature did her usual test on the preparedness of the Neskowin community. After a moderate fall, the weather changed just as the crabbers set their pots.

The first test was by ice. The cold came and stayed for a week. Several homes were seen to be leaking water in all the wrong places. If you didn't drain your pipes or leave a bit of heat on, you may have had the opportunity to support the local economy in several ways. In our gardens, all the nasturtiums and the geraniums (which easily survived these past few years) are now quite dead. Be sure to read in this issue what Nancy Nagel has to say about winter damage in your garden.

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*Winter in
Neskowin*

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The second was by wind. Did you know when telephone cell and landlines go out our local fire hall is manned to relay calls for help? During the recent winter storm, this emergency system was utilized when a section of North Lincoln, part of Yamhill, and most of Tillamook counties had no 911...or any type of phone communication in service.

While snow did not linger on the coast, all routes to the valley from Highway 18 North were closed before Christmas. Most people had to travel to Newport to find a "clear route".

The final test was a double-whammy of wind and water. With all the snow in the mountains melting due to the warm, 60mph winds, Neskowin was lucky to get fewer inches of flood than the north section of Tillamook County. Residents and visitors to Neskowin north were surprised, then challenged, by deep water on the road north of the golf course. It took over a week for the water to recede.

Unlike last year's outage, the power only flickered occasionally. The riprap on the shore is intact as the wind and water phase occurred when the tides were moderate, saving the shore from a heavier assault.

Finally, the weather calmed and the crabbers returned to work. We can now return to a favorite winter pastime; watching the bobbing lights from the boats offshore which appear at sunset.

Perhaps the worst of the winter weather is past!

Winter Cold in the Garden

By Nancy Nagel

December's wintery blast brought significantly colder than normal weather to our coastal community. While there was not much snow at sea level, the temperature dipped into the low 20's for a period of about a week. And when it "warmed", it was only into the 30's for another week...the cause of many broken water pipes and perhaps the death of many plants in our gardens.

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*Patience:
Spring Will
be Here Soon*

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Root function slows in cold weather and stops all together when soil is frozen. As a result, plants can lose more moisture than they can absorb. On top of that, we had many days with strong winds which increased transpiration, or moisture loss from the leaf surface. Wind, combined with frozen soil and low temperatures, can have dramatic effects where above-ground plant tissues can dry and die. And in some cases you'll notice plant damage on one side of a shrub, the side exposed directly to strong winds.

But don't pull out the machete or shovel just yet! It's difficult to tell right now what is dead and what is not, so with the exception of broken branches, don't prune until spring when new growth will reveal those still alive branches. And since we still have plenty of cold weather ahead, any currently damaged wood can offer some protection against further winter damage. And those shrubs that are leafless and totally brown? They may still have live root systems which will produce new growth in the spring; so be patient!

How about those hellebores? With all the freezing weather, they have seemingly come through with little effect. As winter is their normal time to thrive their leaves should remain a healthy green and the flowers abundant. Mine have shown little slow down from the exceptional cold.

Another plant that has done well in my garden, despite the cold, is grevillea. It usually spends September through November developing its flowers, then starts blooming in December. It's a little behind in its blooming cycle, but there are some small red flowers beginning to open now.

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*NCA Board
Needs You*

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Bottom line after the bitter winter of 2008: Wait for warmer weather...things will look better then.

NCA Board Officers and Members

Christi Clark, President cclark@oregoncoast.com
Nancy Nagel, Vice President nancy@nwpalate.com
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Meri McLeod, Secretary scottmcleod164@msn.com
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Craig Healy, Board Member cdhealy@comcast.net
Jeff Walton, Board Member jwalton814@msn.com

Special thanks to Cameron Nagel for copy-editing our newsletter.

Special thanks to Jeff Linman, NCA Webmaster.

Presently we have 4 openings on the NCA Board

Are YOU interested? The expectations for a Board Members are:

- Attend a monthly board meeting (March through October)
- Attend 2 community meetings (Memorial Weekend and Labor Day Weekend)
- Participate and/or lead one (or more) NCA events

The commitment is minimal and you would be so appreciated!!! If interested, contact President Christi Clark, cclark@oregoncoast.com 503-392-3937.

Next NCA Board Meetings is: Saturday, March 7, 2009
10:30 AM to 12 noon at Christi Clark's home: 4455 Silverton Avenue, Neskowin.

Websites of Note

Neskowin Community Association:

www.neskowincommunity.org Password: fish

Tillamook County Emergency Management:

<http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/EMGMGNT/>

Oregon Department of Transportation Trip Check:

<http://www.tripcheck.com>

Neskowin Citizen Planning Advisory Committee:

<http://www.neskowincpac.org/>

Hawk Creek Development Report

by Doug MacCourt

At the Tillamook County Planning Commission meeting on the Hawk Creek subdivision proposal in August of 2008, Neskowin Community Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) officers, community members, and others testified against the proposed Hawk Creek golf course development. After the hearing, the developers notified the County that they would be modifying their application. In October, the developers returned to the CPAC and announced that they would be combining the zone change and conditional use request in one application. A long Q&A session with the developers and the community took place at the October CPAC meeting, where density, environmental and community impacts remained the primary concerns of the Neskowin community. Despite these concerns, the developers stated that they would stay within their original concept and seek to create 108 lots (either through a

Plan Development Overlay or a “cluster subdivision”) and would not follow the Neskowin Community Plan.

Following that October CPAC meeting, there was virtually no news on the proposed development until late January, when the County notified the CPAC that the developers were indeed intending on submitting a cluster subdivision proposal. When asked to give a short presentation at the February CPAC meeting, the developers declined and instead told the CPAC that they would deliver the application before the April CPAC meeting, and would attend that April meeting to answer questions.

Through the generosity of the NCA and the Neskowin North Homeowners Association, the CPAC presented a great case against the Hawk Creek development based on the community input and votes on the development proposals at CPAC and NCA meetings. With this assistance, the CPAC was just able to cover the costs of evaluating the development proposal, assessing impacts, preparing testimony and presenting the objections of the community at the August 2008 hearing (including costs for a land use expert, a transportation impact analysis, and legal counsel). Despite the fact that the bank account is back to zero, the community is more unified than ever in responding to the Hawk Creek development proposal.

To help rebuild the fund, a new account was established at Bank of America in Tillamook (the “Hawk Creek Preservation Fund”) where donations can be made (and are needed) for evaluating and responding to the cluster subdivision proposal that will be submitted to Tillamook County in the near future. Stay tuned!

NCA Treasurer’s Report

January through December 2008

Income	
Contribution	165.00
Cottage Walk	1,083.00
Golf Scramble	8,803.00
Income	
Bake Sale	950.30
Burn Pile	408.00
Directories	46.00
Dumpster	926.00
Fireworks Donation	2,625.41
General Donation	555.00
Sign Painting	170.00
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>5,680.71</i>
July 4th Activities	-5,500.00
Membership	9,555.00
Savings Interest	6,341.24
U.S. Bank	25,000.00
Uncategorized Income	1,327.56
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>52,455.51</u>
Expense	
Federal Tax	
Penalty	1,307.40
Federal Tax - Other	84.31

<i>Total Federal Tax</i>	1,391.71
Golf Scramble 2	3,621.23
Newsletter	
Postage	956.74
Printing Expense	1,337.19
Production	2,445.75
<i>Total Newsletter</i>	<i>4,739.68</i>
Operations	
Annual Fee	60.00
Board Expense	17.80
Donations	3,500.00
Dumpster Rental/Memorial Day	376.55
Grants	6,500.00
Insurance Payment	59.00
Light Poles	171.30
PO Box Rental	106.00
Road Sign Painting	500.00
US Bank	50.45
Operations - Other	826.00
<i>Total Operations</i>	<i>12,167.10</i>
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-29.01
Uncategorized Expenses	25,000.00
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>46,890.71</u>
<u>Net Income</u>	<u>5,564.80</u>

Squirrels

By Loren Krebs

They’re not really squirrels you know. My friend Ron Forrest identified them to me as Gray Diggers when we were both 11 years old. We soon determined that our Red Ryder 200-shot Carbine Action BB-guns were totally useless in our attempted efforts to eliminate them from Planet Earth. We were tired of chasing them and went back to eliminating beer cans that didn’t move. Our failure to eradicate and save the world from Gray Diggers has come back to haunt me many years later. I was shocked to look out my Neskowin window our first summer here and discover that several of these ratty looking rodents resided in my backyard. What bothers me about these loathsome critters is their penchant for digging—I suppose that is why they are called Gray Diggers. They dig holes under logs, they dig holes under decks, and they dig holes under foundations. They dig and burrow incessantly unless they are eating or gathering food to stash in their network of interconnected tunnels. When they aren’t digging they are stealing food from the bird feeder and I can tell you, the birds don’t like them either because they refuse to dine with them.

Those Darn Squirrels

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I watched these rats with bushy tails for several weeks while their population continued to increase. When it reached nine, I could take no more. I may have failed to save Planet Earth from this scourge in my youth, but maybe I could get rid of the ones inhabiting my backyard. The Red Ryder BB-gun is long gone, but I now have a Remington Model 870, 12-gauge shotgun. Properly armed I headed for the front door.

“Where do you think you are going with that?” asked my wife.

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Water
Tips

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*“I am going to save the planet.” I answered.
“You will do no such thing,” she said, “put that gun away.”*

She was right of course. A shotgun blast in Neskowin North would have created quite a neighborhood flap—what was I thinking? And besides, I feel pretty bad squashing bugs in the house...dispatching a squirrel with a shotgun would be very distasteful. But, I thought, there is another way: I could build a trap that would catch them alive, and then I could move them! I went to my garage and constructed a box trap from a piece of 1x10 pine. After testing it several times I moved it to the back yard, tied a shelled filbert to the trigger mechanism and set the trap. Within 30 minutes I heard the snap of the trigger and a loud *SLAM!* as the trap’s door closed on one of the unsuspecting squirrels. And so began my Neskowin North squirrel relocation program.

I trapped and relocated 15 squirrels that year and have relocated several a year each year since. It has occurred to me, of course, that there is probably a law against moving squirrels from one place to another, so now I live in constant fear of the day Fish & Wildlife comes to get me. In fact, I have this recurring dream: I am in a room with bright lights shining down on me. Two big guys are beating me with a rubber hose and screaming the same question over and over.

“Once more, did you relocate the squirrels?” And finally, I break. *“Yes! Yes! I did relocate the squirrels!”*

I am handcuffed as they lead me to the holding cell. The huge gray door is buzzed open and they push me onto the cold dank floor. I am aware that I am not alone and as my eyes adjust to the darkness I see several other prisoners sitting on concrete benches warily looking down upon me.

“What are you in for fella?” asks a long haired old man with tattoos on his knuckles and forehead.
“Relocating squirrels,” I said, *“how about you?”*

Dear Neskowin Community,

You have probably heard this before, but let me say it again; “We live in the most amazing, caring, and giving community.”

The South Tillamook County Christmas Basket program was another great success, despite the weather trying to put a stop to everything!

We were able to get food and gifts out to 136 families this past Christmas, thanks to all the good people that helped in any way they could. It takes many hands to put these deliveries together and once again it was accomplished despite many people risking their own lives and safety to provide a Christmas to others in need.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you. I think we put a lot of smiles on faces and good feelings in many hearts. God bless you all and we wish you a happy and safe 2009.

Jeanette and Bruce Hagerty
South Tillamook County Christmas Baskets

Cold weather water tips from the Neskowin Regional Water District

All Neskowin homes should have a shut off valve between the water meter near the street and the house. This valve can be used to shut off water to a house when unused for the winter. After closing the water meter valve, it is imperative to then shut off power to your water heater in order to avoid damage by overheating. Homeowners should then drain any water in the house plumbing by opening an outside faucet closest to ground level and another faucet in the highest sink in the house. This will drain enough water from your pipes so as to avoid freeze damage.

That’s the ideal procedure and a few homes in town actually have it set up that way!

Important steps to winterize your home include:

- Turn the water off to the house
- Switch off power to your water heater
- Open faucets and hose bibs to drain water
- Put protective covers on outside faucets after removing hoses
- Leave cabinet doors under sinks open to keep pipes from freezing
- Flush toilets once to drain tank and bowl of water

For more detailed steps to fully winterize your house visit:

http://www.wsscwater.com/info/winterize_tips.cfm

(Sara Sifford, Member of the Neskowin Regional Sanitary District Board, suggests that we note the following advice printed in The Oregonian on January 9, 2009)

Green Tip: That (not so) Flushable Headache By Shelly Wood

Wipes—kitchen wipes, baby wipes—are so convenient. Wipe the mess, toss the wipe.

Just keep them out of the toilet.

No matter if the label says “disposable,” wipes should not be flushed. They can clog pipes in your home and damage equipment at regional pump stations, costing all of us money and impeding flow to sewage treatment centers.

Clean Water Services, the public utility in Washington County, says workers pull 1,000 gallons of wipes out of pump stations each month. Every other day, they must shut down a pump station just to clean wipe clogs.

The rule—the toilet is not a trash can—also applies to other so-called “disposable” personal and household cleaning items: Swiffer mop refills, tossable toilet bowl wands, paper towels, dental floss, and the like.

Plumbers make it simple: If the product doesn't dissolve as fast as toilet paper, it's not flushable. And not even close to green.

NCA Grant to Nestucca Valley Elementary School

It was very exciting to receive the generous grant from the Neskowin Community Association here at Nestucca Valley Elementary School (NVES). Our school, the largest in South Tillamook County, has 226 children (kindergarten through 5th grade) and 32 staff members. We serve families from all of our district's communities including Hemlock, Sandlake, Beaver, Blaine, Hebo, Cloverdale, Pacific City-Woods, and Neskowin.

The \$3000 grant from the NCA will focus on three areas: our Positive Behavior Support program, supplementing field trip expenditures, and helping with medical exams.

The **Positive Behavior Support** program has been a real success. Our children learn the three “Wildcat Ways”: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe. They earn Wildcat Ways tickets when they demonstrate these behaviors. The tickets can be used to purchase small items, are used in drawings for appropriate toys and, twice a year, in a drawing for three bicycles. The NCA grant will be used to obtain these items. The children are very motivated by the prizes they can earn while they learn about being good citizens.

Field trips are an important enhancement to our school program. With higher costs for fuel and longer distances to travel, the NCA grant will help fund these trips. We strongly prefer field trips that have a link to the children's curriculum and this grant will help make these experiences possible. In the recent past, our children have visited places that they would not otherwise be able to go including the Tillamook Forest Center, Ft. Clatsop, the Oregon Zoo, and the Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Washington County (a hidden treasure!).

We have a few sources of funds to help selected parents with costs for basic **health services** such as dental check-ups or vision exams. The NCA grant will be used if no other funds are available.

As many people in our community know, the Nestucca Valley School District is having financial difficulties. The NCA grant has been a wonderful gift to our children this year, especially to help offset our limited budget. Our staff, parents, and our children very much appreciate this gift.

Annual Grant Report

By Randall Koch, Neskowin Valley School

Neskowin Valley School greatly appreciates the support of the NCA. Your grants have made a significant, positive impact on educational opportunities at NVS.

This year grant funds are being used to develop the music program at the school. Together with our Monday start-of-the-week sing-along with Eric Simpson's accompaniment, the school has also engaged Eric for a full day each week to work with each class group to teach them new songs, create arrangements, do music appreciation, and travel into the community presenting to groups of senior citizens.

The school has purchased a music player so that specific music for Music Appreciation classes can be shared in the Center at the school. NCA funds also enabled Eric to purchase arrangements of choral music to teach to the children.

Support for art and drama will help provide materials for the spring play, paper supplies, fresh paints, and new brushes!

The library budget had taken a hit in the past year, but through the NCA grant we will be able to direct \$450 back to the library in order to restore it to the level we feel is healthy for the school.

Neskowin Valley School has created within its operations a “Friday Community School” to address the needs of students in the Nestucca Valley School District who now do not have school on Fridays due to their recent budget cuts. (Attached please find a program of events.) We have dedicated \$250 of NCA grant funds to support two student scholarships at \$125 each.

Recap of \$3000 NCA Grant:

\$1300	Eric Simpson for 20 weeks (1 day per week @\$65 day)
\$ 200	Choral Arrangements
\$ 200	Field trips to venues in the community
\$ 400	Sound System for music appreciation
\$ 200	Drama and Art materials
\$ 250	Two scholarships for Friday Community School
\$ 450	Library materials and expenses

Please let me know if you would like more information about the programs and purchases made possible by the NCA's generosity.

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Neskowin
Valley School
Update

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Neskowin Community Association

PO Box 820
Neskowin, OR 97149

NCA Meetings
May 24, 2009 4:00 PM
September 6, 2009 4:00 PM

Web: www.neskowincommunity.org
Password: fish

NCA 2009 Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 23

Sign Painting at Fire Hall
Swap Meet & Dumpster
Bake Sale
Burn Pile
Food Drive

Sunday, May 24

NCA Community Meeting at the Fire Hall, 4:00 PM

Saturday, July 4

Nesko Club Book & Bake Sale
Parade, 10:00 AM (Line up at 9:30)
Flag Raising and Sing-along
Castles and Kites

Sunday, July 5

Clean-up, begins at 9:00 AM

Weekend of August 28, 29, 30

NCA Golf Scramble

Sunday, September 6

NCA Community Meeting at the Fire Hall, 4:00 PM

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2009
Dates to
Remember

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Exploding Costs of Fireworks Display

by Nancy Nagel, NCA Board Vice President

In the last newsletter (Fall/2008 and on behalf of the board) I asked NCA members to weigh in on whether the 4th of July fireworks should be held in 2009 and if so, whether the NCA should cover the cost. The issue is that the cost of the display has jumped from \$3,500 in 2007 to \$5,500 in 2008, and will likely be the same or more this year.

Since the mailing of the last newsletter at the end of October, Board President Christi Clark and myself have received only 10 responses, with four in favor of continuing fireworks, four against, and two uncertain.

Based on some lively discussions at many general meetings, we know this issue is more important to the community than is reflected in the low response number. ***So here is your second chance to let us know what you think!*** The first board meeting of the year is in March, at which time we will vote on whether to pay for fireworks in 2009, or not. Please let us hear from you.

Submit your comments to Nancy Nagel:
nancy@nwpalate.com or to Christi Clark:
cclark@oregoncoast.com