



# Newsletter

APRIL 2006

## MEMORIAL DAY FOLLOWS WINTER

By Wally Ogdahl

Well, here it is early March as we hopefully “scratched” our way through another Winter in Neskowin; it seemed to have been a little quieter than usual.

You may be surprised at some of the changes when you return: The rip rap that previously extended north to The Breakers is now quickly approaching Corvallis Street and the inlet that runs right up to the Walton house. The beachfront homeowners just north of The Breakers were in serious risk of losing their homes before they could get their permits. The County determined that they were, in fact, entitled to rip rap permits.

The property owners along Hawk Creek between Salem Avenue and Yamhill Avenue feel certain that they saw every log or large piece of wood that was in the Pacific Ocean surge up Hawk Creek and land on Hawk Drive. Many of those logs blocked Salem Avenue or were deposited in the yards of the houses of that two block stretch. The homeowners, assisted by volunteers like Tom Clark, worked to clear the logs. The County also showed up with a crew, and for the rest of the day helped clear the logs off the road and out of the neighbor's yards.

When you looked at Hawk Creek, you saw many of the logs in the creek. In fact, there were areas where you could pretty much walk over the top of the logs because they were so dense. [Removal of those logs is detailed in the article “The Creekwalkers” in this issue!]

In any event, that's enough on the Winter of '05-'06. On a brighter note, here are the events for the upcoming Memorial Weekend:

1. **THE BURN PILE:** For yard debris, the burn pile will be spearheaded through the “savvy experience” of Don Graber at the Sewer Board burn pile that is just south of the bridge over Slab Creek on Highway 101. Once over the bridge, take an immediate right (west) and drive about another 1½ blocks. The place will be smokin' from about 11am to 4pm on Saturday, May 27th. Donations accepted.

2. **THE 2nd ANNUAL BAKE SALE:** This year's sale will enjoy the “brilliant” leadership of Sarah Coit. Fresh and

homemade baked goods contributed by community members will be on sale with the proceeds to benefit the Neskowin Community Association. The bake sale will be located in front of the Neskowin Store. [Bakers: please bring your wrapped and priced goods to the parking lot at 9am.]

3. **THE SWAP MEET:** The Swap Meet and HUGE dumpster will run from about 11am to 4pm and will be at the north end of the parking lot in front of the Neskowin Store. For a reasonable donation you can dump stuff into the dumpster, or if it catches Bill Blake's (head operator) “seasoned” eye, he'll pull the items out to be sold as part of the Swap Meet.

4. **YARD DEBRIS PICKUP:** Available through “Bro's and Hoe's” at (503)398-5586. “Bro's and Hoe's” can be contacted directly for yard debris hauling prior to or during Memorial Weekend. Homeowners can make arrangements for pick up, load up, or chip and disposal of your yard debris from your front yard. Their standard charges for that service will apply. “Bro's and Hoe's” will do the loading and this is a good alternative if you don't have a pickup, are too old, or just too tired to haul your natural yard debris to the burn pile for burning.

5. **SIGN PAINTING:** The sign painting will take place from 11am-2pm Saturday, May 27th at the Fire Hall, Bring your innovative ideas to slow down the traffic in Neskowin. Repaint an old sign or make a new one, this, is all available through the help and good graces of the Shields family. A good activity for the kids or grandkids which will also make them more aware of the traffic risks in Neskowin and everywhere.

6. **MEMBERSHIP TABLE:** There will also be a Neskowin Community Association Membership Table in the parking lot of the Neskowin Store. Pay your annual dues (\$25) at this convenient location.

7. **COMMUNITY MEETING:** Sunday at 3pm in the Fire Hall on Highway 101.

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*memorial  
weekend  
events*  
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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Pam Rowland

“  
...abiding love for  
our community

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By spending a winter in Neskowin one can experience the four seasons in just three months...you really never know what kind of weather to expect. Snow fell on the 10th of March, we swam in the creek on the 5th of March, waded through floodwaters to the post office in February, and generally had a great time! (I also learned that frost does not deter slugs nor does it decimate your garden.)

As I prepared to write my first “official” President’s letter, I perused the files to see what past leaders had written. Some things never change: new homes, old friends, the crazy weather patterns, keeping the night sky by turning off exterior lights, urging slow speeds, cleaning-up the creek, along with celebrations of births, deaths, and daily life. All of which focuses on our abiding love for our little community.

So my message is this: Spring is really waving and inviting you to return to our lovely spot in Oregon. Welcome those new and old faces, clean your garden, and take time to savor the simple life! Remember, “the cure for everything is salt: sweat, tears, or the sea”.

## ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATES

By Carol Bickford

“  
...becoming  
involved

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**Tsunami Preparedness**  
In conjunction with the Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District and Tom Manning (Tillamook County Emergency Management,) Neil Marquis will be teaching classes to train people for Emergency Response Teams (CPR, first aid, chainsaw instruction, search and rescue techniques.) He hopes to start classes this spring, so watch for more information!

Tsunami Evacuation Route signs have been ordered to place along Highway 101 and at strategic locations throughout Neskowin. We are hoping that the County and State will be able to supply most of the signs. Flyers with evacuation information and colored evacuation route maps should be available by Memorial Day. Also in the works: the placement of a siren that can be heard in South Neskowin. The siren and pole need to be moved from Tillamook, installed and wired for phone triggering of tsunami alerts.

Neskowin Community Planning Advisory Committee  
*Basics:* Throughout Tillamook County, the Department of Community Development is working with individual communities to form committees interested in land use issues. These committees will meet regularly to make recommendations on local community and county issues and to refine Community Plans. The first step begins with the Steering Committee, which establishes the procedures and organization of the CPAC. The Neskowin CPAC Steering Committee discussed the mission statement on March 11<sup>th</sup> and will meet again on April 8<sup>th</sup> to finalize it and discuss NCPAC by-laws.

## WELCOME NEW STORE OWNERS

Dennis and Shirely Dunnigan have purchased the store in the Neskowin Market Place. Residents of the coast for several years, they currently live in Lincoln City.

They have cleaned-up the store, restocked and are open from 7am-7pm seven days a week! Summer hours will be 7am-9pm daily. There are new clothing items and an area of antiques. Stop in and welcome the new owners!

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) PROGRAM

What better way to help your community than to get involved and become a member of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

The CERT program trains and prepares citizens to assist with needed emergency help if a disaster should strike. When emergencies occur, CERT members give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.

CERT training sessions cover disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, and team operations. The CERT course is provided free of charge and taught in your community by a trained team of first responders. The program is sponsored by the Tillamook County Department of Emergency Management and your local fire district.

If you are interested in helping your community in the time of need, please get involved. Become a CERT member. Talk to your family members, friends and neighbors about also becoming involved. The training takes four hours and will be conducted at the Neskowin Fire Hall.

For more information on becoming a member of your local CERT team, contact the administration office of Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District at (503) 392-3313.

## OVER THE FENCE

By Nancy Briggs Nagel

The weather of the 2005/2006 winter proved challenging to all gardeners in our coastal community. There were the record rains in December and January, followed by the multiple days of sub-freezing cold in February. And just when we thought it was spring, we had a surprise snow storm in March! Our usually temperate climate turned into one of raging, wind-driven storms throughout the winter that blew over trees, jammed the creek with limbs and debris, and froze some of our favorite garden plants. But before you start digging up those dead-looking plants and throwing them in the compost pile, give them a little time. Sure, they may not have any leaves on dried out branches, but they may yet show signs of life.

The hardest hit plants in my yard were the hardy fuchsias, hebes, roses, butterfly bush, jasmine, and cistus. Some will survive, but some will not. I'm going to use the opportunity to do some extra pruning. The fuchsias, roses and butterfly bush can all use a hard pruning. Without any leaves on those plants, I'll be able to thin out some branches to give them better shape. The hebes like a little gentler touch, just prune to shape and to remove any dead branches. Time will tell with the jasmine and cistus. At this point, they don't appear to be alive, but when the weather warms a bit, they may just leaf out!

Now what about those plants outside your garden fence? I noticed recently a pile of yard debris dumped creek-side. This is not kind to either the creek or to your neighbors. We have been battling invasive plants along the creek in recent years and intend to continue this work. Ivy, blackberries, bamboo, some buddleia, and honeysuckle are all classified as invasive plants, and many of them proliferate along the creek as a result of discarded yard debris. Once established, they are very difficult to destroy.

According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, just a little over 30 years ago the only noxious plant on their radar was ragweed. Oregon now has more than 100 plants on its noxious weeds list, due in part to the growth of fast global commerce and international trade. It is now illegal to propagate or plant Himalayan blackberry, a plant which is now choking the banks of our creek in some areas. And we all know what a nightmare Boston ivy has proven to be, since it spreads rapidly and kills trees.

It takes a community effort to clean up the creek banks and keep them clear of invasive plants. Please help avoid further introduction of unwanted plants by either obtaining a burning permit and burning yard debris in a burn barrel, or bagging it up and taking it to a yard debris recycling center. And don't forget the community clean-up on Memorial Day weekend when you will be able to arrange yard debris pick up or take it to the burn pile overseen by the fire department.

## SPRING GARDENING

by Veronica Johnson

When the weather warms a bit and the rain lets up a little, thoughts of gardening become almost obsessive. We imagine our borders filled with vibrant colorful flowers, our shrubs lush and vigorous. We can see ourselves enjoying all this while sipping a cup of tea, or enjoying a glass of wine with friends and admiring our handy work.

But wait! The word "work". Let's face it, spring gardening is spring cleaning by any other name! Spring is the time for elbow grease and strong backs and now is the time to rake up all that garden debris that accumulated over the winter.

Pruning comes next. There are certain summer-flowering shrubs that benefit from a good pruning in spring, like the common lavatera and buddleia. And while this is not a good time to prune spring-blooming shrubs, it is the perfect time to clean up evergreen shrubs because they will begin to grow and fill out nicely in the coming months.

And remember that adding compost is the best thing you can do for your garden, and don't be stingy! Use good quality compost and lots of it, two to three inches of rich compost is not too much to use. Whether you have sand or clay soil, adding compost will improve growing conditions. You will also find that your improved soil will hold water better, allowing you to water less. It is a good idea to lay a soaker hose and wind it around your shrubs and position it so you can access it easily to attach your garden hose, for periodic deep, slow watering. Compost is KING in my garden!

Finally, consider an irrigation system. A rarity in most gardens, well-designed, programmable irrigation systems can conserve water usage and ensure a successful landscape ...especially if you have applied lots of compost over the years.

Enjoy the fresh spring air, and have fun!

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*happy  
gardening!*  
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## EIGHT HOUSEHOLD CONSERVATION TIPS

By Megan Sheeler

- 1) Recycle
- 2) Check for Plumbing Leaks
- 3) Use Water Efficient Landscape
- 4) Install Low Flow Fixtures
- 5) Install Efficient Light Bulbs and Appliances
- 6) Check for Leaky Ductwork
- 7) Build and/or repair with "Green" Materials
- 8) Install Insulation



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## **NESKOWIN HISTORY**

By Jeff Walton, Jr.

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*chinese junk  
in Neskowin?*

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Did you know that around 1915 a Chinese Junk ran aground at Neskowin approximately where the creek splits North South in front of the hotel? A Chinese coin has been claimed to have been found in the area. Believe it or not!



## **NESKO WOMEN'S CLUB**

By Carol Doyle

Nesko Women's Club is in its 81st year of service to the South Tillamook County Good Neighbor Program and other community projects needing assistance and support. We meet every third Friday, September through May, at the Pacific Coast Bible Church in Pacific City next to the Post Office. We assemble at 11:45 for a social period followed by a catered lunch. Membership is open to women who reside in South Tillamook County.

Nesko's main fundraiser is our Annual Fourth of July Book and Bake Sale held on the lawn at the Neskowin Marketplace.

## THE CREEK WALKERS OF NESKOWIN

By Mary Blake

If you grew up in Neskowin, or spent any amount of time here as a child, then you certainly know the legend of the Creek Walker.

Originated in the 50's by a group of young Neskowin boys, the now legendary story goes something like this: Late at night while the sky is full of stars and the moon is bright, the Creek Walker comes out looking for his prey. He preys on the young and the old alike who might be walking along the dark banks of Hawk Creek!

I for one, walk with a sense of urgency when passing along the banks of Hawk Creek at night. So the next time you find yourself out at night, walk quickly and silently and see if you can spot the Creek Walker.

Although the above is nothing but a myth, a few real Creek Walkers were seen on Sunday the 5th of March, not at night but during the light of day.

It was a crisp, bright sunny day in the middle of winter in Neskowin. Yamhill Street was quiet and painfully void of the usual buzz of activity of summertime. I was standing on the street innocently talking to a passer-by when Pam and Lyle Rowland came strolling up the street, closely followed by Al and Sara Sifford. They were all out taking advantage of the dry day, something Neskowin hadn't experienced in quite a few weeks. Then suddenly, I witnessed a glimpse of the summertime fever beginning to return as an impromptu activity was taking shape, and the next thing I knew I had donned a pair of hip waders and joined Pam, who was already in the creek. Lyle and Al followed us into the water a short time later.

The Mission: To clear the creek of nature's pick-up sticks deposited during the many storms of winter and to get the creek flowing again.

It was mere moments before we found ourselves wincing as we stepped into a hole deeper than our boots and quickly found ourselves up to our waist in the cold, winter waters of Hawk Creek. But just as when you were a child, "you get used to it".

A great deal of time was spent disassembling the Rubik's cube Mother Nature had created during her winter fury. When a log had to be moved, it was of course under another log that had to be moved before the first one could be budged. Lyle and I stayed up-stream picking through the debris and moving it down stream where Al and Pam moved the debris back toward the ocean from whence it came.

The bank enforcements (Bill Blake, Sara Sifford, Nancy Nagel, Uncle Don Graber, John and Kathy Klump) were there to offer a bird's eye view and to give advice as to which log to move next.

After four hours of hard work the creek was again flowing freely ... as were the hot water showers at three homes in Neskowin! While standing under the hot water I smiled, knowing that once again the summer fun, friends, and many impromptu activities were soon to be upon us all, and that a little bit of community involvement can indeed move a mountain of a log jam.

Thank you to Neskowin's second generation of Creek Walkers – you done good and the creek looks great!

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*second generation  
creek walkers*  
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*Before*



*After*

## NRSA NEWS

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*down the drain*

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The Neskowin Regional Sanitary Authority (NRSA) is seeking an Operations Manager-Wastewater/Collections Operator, Grade II. The NRSA facilities consist of a septic tank effluent collection system, seven pump stations, and a secondary treatment facility with surface water outfall to Neskowin Creek. Send resume and cover letter to NRSA, PO Box 383, Neskowin, OR 97149. Call 503.392.3404 or email [nrsa@harborside.com](mailto:nrsa@harborside.com) for job description. The NRSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Please, if you know any qualified candidates, pass this information along.

In other news, the NRSA currently has 21 applications for residential sewer connections. Each of these project applications are in various stages of construction. The NRSA also anticipates receiving requests for annexation to the sewer authority and requests for approval of partitioning lots already within the service boundaries of the sewer system. The NRSA is required to determine if sewer capacity is available in both instances.

The NRSA's engineering firm, Westech Engineering, Inc. recently gave the board of directors an education about what should NOT go down the drain. Garbage disposal or not, these things should not go into the system: egg shells, coffee grounds, grease, mop heads, rags, and disposable toilet cleaner heads. Egg shells are mineral and do not biodegrade. Coffee grounds stay in your pipes eventually clogging them. Grease hardens up and causes major problems for NRSA's pumps. Instead, freeze your grease and then put it in the garbage. Mop heads, rags and disposable toilet bowl cleaners just clog up sewer lines and can cause expensive, time consuming repairs. Finally, consider switching from powdered laundry detergent to liquid detergent. The powdered detergent tends to calcify in the pipes.

## NESKOWIN REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT NEWS

The NRWD is installing a new state-of-the art membrane filtration plant. As a result we are asking customers to reduce any unnecessary water usage this spring while construction occurs. The goal is to have the new system operational by Memorial Day, 2006.

For the long term, the District is preparing a Water Management & Conservation Plan for adoption later this year. We welcome your input. The plan will describe the water system and its needs, identifies system sources of water, and explains how we will manage and conserve those resources to meet present and future needs. Another goal is to develop procedures to manage water resources during a drought or any event that limits the water supply. Expect to see more information on steps you can take to use water efficiently.

## NCA NEWSLETTER

Editor - Pam Rowland  
Publisher - Susan Linman  
*With special thanks to Cameron Nagel.*

If you have information you would like included in the NCA Newsletter contact Pam Rowland: call 503.392.3000 or send email to [prowland9502@oregoncoast.com](mailto:prowland9502@oregoncoast.com)

An archive of previous newsletters can be found on the Neskowin Community Association Website.  
<http://www.neskowincommunity.org>  
Password: fish

## THANK YOU, JANN!

A key member of the Neskowin Community moved out of town in early September. Her absence will be keenly felt by all who stood in front of her aster-purple house; gazed at her spectacular garden; gathered in her living room for cocktails; fed "cookies" to her troop of dogs; and enjoyed her lavish holiday décor, including multi-sensory Halloweens and (almost) two-story high Christmas trees. Jann served on the NCA Board for close to 20 years and was famous for organizing Neskowin's July 4<sup>th</sup> events. Thanks, Jann, for your numerous contributions to the Community! (Jann, Mick and the animals are happily fixing up a house in North Carolina, where she is about to plant a large garden.)

And, **Thanks and Goodbye to Bob Graber**, who is moving to his permanent residence in Vancouver. Bob served the community as NCA President and volunteer member of the Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District.