

## CHURCHILL AREA NEIGHBORS

# CHURCHILL NEWS

### STEP INTO THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

By Windy Hovey

Of all the Eugene Neighborhood Associations, The Churchill Area Neighbors, and the Active Bethel Citizens most easily and most frequently enjoy the natural open space of the West Eugene Wetlands. Whether it involves a leisurely weekend bike ride along the Fern Ridge Path, bird watching, attending nature walks, or hearing your child share about a field trip in the wetlands, this area of your neighborhood is bound to have reached your lives.

There are now more than 3,000 acres of protected wetland open space here, embracing half of the last remaining one percent of the rare Willamette Valley habitat, once an immense pattern of wetlands linked to the Willamette River. Wetlands are an intrinsic part of the water cycle, filtering toxins out of the water and storing flood waters. They serve as essential habitat for many mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians, and both migrating and year round birds. They also harbor endangered

species, such as the Fender's Blue Butterfly, and its host plant, Kincaid's lupine, so often mentioned together with the West Eugene Wetlands.

The West Eugene Wetlands Partnership (WEWP) is a nationally recognized partnership that has collaborated since 1994 to achieve substantial wetlands protection and sound urban development in Oregon's third largest metropolitan area. The Partnership has uniquely implemented many cooperative projects related to enhancement and restoration of key habitats, recreation facilities development, environmental education, and scientific research. The WEWP includes eight members, representing local government, state government, federal government, and nonprofit organizations:

[City of Eugene](#), [U.S. Bureau of Land Management](#), [The Nature Conservancy](#), [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), [Oregon Youth Conservation Corps](#), [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), [McKenzie River Trust](#), and the [Willamette Resources and Educational Network](#) (WREN).

### CHURCHILL FEBRUARY MEETING

Churchill Area Neighbors will be holding a General Meeting on Wednesday, February 28th.

Meetings are held at Churchill Estates, 1919 Bailey Hill Rd.

Terri Harding, a Senior Planner with the City of Eugene will be attending to talk about "Opportunity Siting and Infill Compatibility Standards".

This is an election meeting, and we welcome all eligible Churchill Neighbors to at-

tend and vote.

We have several openings on the Churchill Board. Neighborhood Representative and other volunteer positions are also available.

Come and find ways Churchill Area Neighbors can get involved!

WINTER 2007

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

- March 28, 2007
- April 25, 2007
- May 23, 2007
- June 27, 2007

*Churchill Area Neighbors generally meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month.*

*Meetings are held at Churchill Estates, 1919 Bailey Hill Rd.*

*We welcome the participation of every one of our neighbors.*

*Mark your calendars now and make this year a great year!*

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## HISTORY OF THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

Historically, the native Kalapuya people of the Willamette Valley would set fires to much of the valley to keep the prairie open during late summer. These early inhabitants depended on wild plants that grew in open prairie. In the 1900s, the rivers and wetlands were reshaped to accommodate modern agriculture and urban development. As the community grew, the wetlands were subjected to a human controlled

cycle of draining and filling. In the early 1990's, industrial usage in west Eugene peaked, while concurrently, wetland habitat was discovered in this same area. In response to a potentially difficult situation for our community, the WEW Partners established the West Eugene Wetlands Plan, and have spent countless hours of hard work and collaboration with community [volunteers](#), scientists, government agencies, and environ-

mental organizations. In doing so, WEW Partners has secured these urban wetland and upland habitats, while allowing for industrial growth and economic development for our city.

Today, the West Eugene Wetlands Plan is the foundation of an effort to balance economic and industrial growth while preserving the wetlands for future generations.

## HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED IN THE WEW?

By Windy Hovey

Environmental Education Specialist Liz Myers at 683-6483.

WREN is also the leader in building the West Eugene Wetlands Education Center, a world class center for exploration and science for the whole community. The first phase will include a field science laboratory for all ages and a public information center. The education center will be the future home of the Rachel Carson Natural Resource Center, currently housed at Churchill High School.

For those who prefer unstructured and independent exploration, the variety of trails, interpretive signs, and mapped points of interest in the West Eugene Wetlands are perfect.

View maps of the wetlands and find out more about all scheduled events WREN offers in the wetlands and the education center at [www.wewetlands.org](http://www.wewetlands.org).

The Nature Conservancy hosts work parties February through November from 9:30 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of each month. Activities include native seed collection, invasive plant removal, native plantings and general land stewardship. For more information, contact Matt Benotsch at [mbe-notsch@tnc.org](mailto:mbe-notsch@tnc.org) or 915-7459.

FOR THOSE WHO PREFER UNSTRUCTURED AND INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION, THE VARIETY OF TRAILS, INTERPRETIVE SIGNS, AND MAPPED POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS ARE PERFECT.

Volunteer opportunities and events in the West Eugene Wetlands are offered by two of the partners: The Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

WREN leads the education program in the West Eugene Wetlands, providing field trips and classroom presentations to elementary and middle school students, and also community programs for explorers of all ages in the evenings and on weekends. If you are interested in teaching young minds about environmental education, leading hands on activities, meeting new people and learning about nature, contact WREN

## AUTUMN REMINDS US OF THE OCF'S RENAISSANCE ROOTS

by Suzi Prozanski

The Oregon Country Fair can trace its roots to the Oregon Renaissance Faire held on Nov. 1 & 2, 1969, at a small farm off Hawkins Lane in west Eugene.

The Faire organizers, mostly members of a cooperative free-style Children's School, chose a Renaissance theme patterned after the fair in Marin County, Calif., to raise funds for the school. They wanted to showcase hand-crafted items as a viable alternative to mass-produced goods and showcase an old-fashioned, Renaissance way of life, says Robin Ulrich Kinkley, who helped spearhead the event with her then-husband, Ron Ulrich.

Organizers helped build rustic wooden booths along a straw-strewn path that looped

through a pasture, continued down a slope through scrub oak and maples to a fir tree grove and then looped up near the barn back to the pasture.

Scrub oak and gnarled apple trees dotted the pasture area, while oaks and Doug fir fringed the perimeter of the 14-acre property. Among the fir trees at the bottom of the hill, a tarot-reader built a geodesic dome and covered it with a tie-dyed parachute. In all, about 50 crafters and food vendors set up shop.

Around 2,000 people attended the Faire for two gloriously sunny days in the Oregon autumn. While not as many people dressed up as organizers had hoped, quite a few women and girls wore velvet dresses or simple shifts; some of the men wore buckskin jackets or chain mail and a few even came dressed

as jesters.

Several dozen crafters – some in the makeshift booths and others on blankets – offered jewelry, pottery, leather goods and lots of candles. The sun sparkled on the surface of glazed, hand-thrown pottery. Minstrels wandered the grounds playing dulcimers, recorders and guitars as golden leaves filtered down through the trees.

Hungry fair-goers could choose among food booths selling roasted corn on the cob, apple cider, sourdough pancakes, homemade bread and beef stew. Children watched Punch & Judy puppet shows. Dogs ran and barked in the meadows.

"It was just really exciting, I think because it was so new and it was so unpolished," says Robyn Milich Ingram,

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## CHURCHILL HISTORIANS WANTED

Have fond memories of the Churchill Area?

Remember when the hills were nothing but trees and wildlife?

Buy the first house in the first development?

Share your remembrances with your neighbors.

If you'd like to write a story,

anecdote, or even a local legend, we'd love to publish it.

We'd also like to see any photographs of the Churchill Area you might have.

Reminisce about the neighborhood and help new residents learn about the area.

Contact the newsletter at our website:

[churchillareaneighbors.org](http://churchillareaneighbors.org)

Or

Churchill Area Neighbors

99 W. 10th Avenue  
Eugene, Oregon 97401

## ROOTS OF THE OCF START IN CHURCHILL

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## CITIZEN CORPS: UNITING COMMUNITIES, PREPARING THE NATION

How prepared is your household for an emergency?

How much water and food should be stored per person for each day in the event of an emergency which leaves your family without electricity and water for days?

Although food may seem like the most important thing in the event of such a disaster, a

supply of water should be top priority.

In your home, some safe ‘hidden’ water sources do exist; water held in your hot-water tank or even the ice cubes in your freezer can be utilized in cases of emergency, while water from radiators, waterbeds, swimming pools and spas and toi-

lets is not a safe, secure source of water.

For more information, please review the FEMA booklet entitled “Food and Water in an Emergency” This pdf is located with other disaster preparedness information on the Citizen Corps website:

([www.citizencorps.gov/ready/cc\\_pubs.shtm](http://www.citizencorps.gov/ready/cc_pubs.shtm))

## OCF CONTINUED

who was one of the school's teachers and lived on the farm where the event was held.

"Everyone was just having a blast because everybody who came felt the same way. It was like being in — I don't know what a medieval village is — but it was like definitely being in a village, where you could just walk around. Everybody would be kind to you, give you things, you were happy. It was really fun," she says.

At night, the event was especially magical for the crafters who came, Robyn says.

"This gigantic bonfire evolved, sort of in the bottom of one of these little vales, not far from the barn. And so there was this firelight dancing really high, casting all these shadows. And there were people dancing around this firelight. And there was all this music," she says. "It was really a magical thing. Everyone was really happy just to be sort of in paradise for a little while."

Colleen Bauman, who baked pumpkin bread and a sweet bread called Sally Lunn loaf for her sister's booth, also found the evening to be special. "I can remember walking around and seeing people

carrying candles where the wax had dripped all over their hands. ... We were in Renaissance-type costumes. It was beautiful," she says.

As the Faire's main organizers, Robin Ulrich was in charge of lining up the crafters and handling advertising; Ron Ulrich handled permits, sanitation and other logistics; John Milich helped crafters build their booths from old boards found on the property, in some cases dismantling unused sheds. Robyn Milich made beef Bourguinonne stew to sell.

All four helped staff the pasture gate near the chicken coop; with a \$1 donation requested. Children under 12 got in free. The address for the 1969 Faire was 2410 Hawkins Lane, but the farm has given way to a subdivision, and the farmhouse and outbuildings are long gone. Across the street, Hawkins Heights Park preserves landscape that was typical of the area at the time.

The Children's School for which the Faire raised funds had a Summerhill approach to teaching, according to Sherry Hamilton Teasdale Lundall, who taught there with Robyn.

"Let kids be free and they

will blossom," Sherry says. "It wasn't really academically based. It was more community based. ... We had like maybe 12 kids. ... And the school was located in this old farmhouse in an abandoned peach orchard on Coburg Road."

Sherry says the Fair later adopted a peach as its logo to honor the school, the Faire's first beneficiary.

*Suzi Prozanski is writing a book about the history of the Oregon Country Fair. She can be reached at 541-342-2447 or [suzipro@efn.org](mailto:suzipro@efn.org).*

*This article was compiled from newspaper reports and interviews with some of the people who were there: Robyn Milich Ingram, Robin Ulrich Kinkley, Sherry Hamilton Teasdale Lundall (Route 66 food booth at the OCF), Colleen Bauman (Dana's Cheesecake booth), Jim Sahr (Booth 192 Shenanigans), Nancy Albro, Dick Stewart (OCF Recycling) and Wally Jones (OCF Recycling).*

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CHURCHILL AREA  
NEIGHBORS

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Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

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VISIT US:

[CHURCHILLAREANEIGHBORS.ORG](http://CHURCHILLAREANEIGHBORS.ORG)

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## 2007 TREE PLANTING PROJECTS

### EUGENE TREE FOUNDATION

Note: Projects are in partnership with the City of Eugene's NeighborWoods program.

All projects are scheduled to begin at 9:00am on the designated Saturday mornings, rain or shine.

Look for the ETF/ NeighborWoods canopy shelter at the designated project locations listed below.

### HILYARD STREET

February 10

Meet near East 17th Ave. and Hilyard St.

(15-20 New Street Trees)

### CAMPUS RE-LEAF

February 24

Meet near East 19th and Emerald St.

(24 New Street Trees)

### REPLACEMENT TREE PLANTING

March 10

Meet at City of Eugene Public Works, 1820 Roosevelt Blvd.

Transportation provided for a limited number of volunteers. Will depart at 9:00am.

(15-25) Replacement Street Trees, locations to be determined)

### MIDTOWN April 7 (Arbor Day)

Trees for Concrete Project

Meet near East 16th Ave. and Willamette St.

(15-20 New Street Trees)