



What's Inside

No Foolingp. 2
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I Pledge allegiance to
 the earth, for she is sacred.
 I Pledge allegiance to the
 flora, fauna and human life that
 she supports. One Planet, indivisible,
 with safe air, shelter, water, soil,
 love, equal rights, economic justice
 and cooperation for all.



Fair Family Calendar

April

- 26 Elders Meeting, 7 pm, OCF office
- 28 Wildflower Walk, 1 pm
- 29 Highway Pickup, 10 am, Meet at Ware Barn area

May

- 1 Deadline to return booth registration packet
- 5 SPRING FLING!
- 7 Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, EWEB Training Room
- 7 FAIR FAMILY NEWS DEADLINE
- 9 Craft Committee, 6 pm, OCF office
- 21 Community Center Meeting, 6 pm, OCF office
- 22 Fair Family News mailing work party, 6 pm, OCF office

June

- 1 Deadline to submit articles to Peach Pit
- 1 Community Center Meeting, 6 pm, OCF office
- 2 Main Camp opens
- 4 Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, EWEB Training Room
- 4 FAIR FAMILY NEWS DEADLINE
- 11 Mandatory Food Booth Meeting, 6:30 pm, Harris Hall, Eugene
- 19 Fair Family News mailing work party, 6 pm, OCF office

July

- 1 Board of Directors meeting, OCF site
- 11 First day to pick up wristbands
- 13, 14, 15 THE BIG ONE!!**
- 26 Community Center Meeting, 6 pm, OCF office

Room for Kids Crafts

Hey there crafty Fair Family kids: Want to sell your handmade crafts at the youth Crafters Booth? Open to all Fair Family kids up to age 17, the Youth Crafters Booth has space for you to display and sell your handmade crafts. For more information, contact: Sandy Brown, Booth Rep. wogs2000@hotmail.com or Sharon Selove, 541-344-1869.



FFN Earth Spirits

- Michael "Pan" Ottenhausen
- Dan "Danu" Cohn
- Kim "Ninhursag" Griggs
- Mary "Pachamama" Doyon
- norma "gaia" sax
- Niki "Nintu" Harris
- Suzi "Kai" Prozanski
- Brad "Green Man" Lerch
- Cyndi "Earth Mother" Leathers

Happy Birthday to Our Fair Family Taurus

- A. J. Persinger Quartermaster
- Abigail DeYoung Recycling
- Adrienne Brouchard Pre-post Security
- Adrienne Day External Security
- Amanda LeBlank Registration
- Amy Unthank Fire
- Aris Hamilton Community Village
- Arrow Anders Traffic
- Barbara Edmonds Hundred Munchy
- Brian Alexander Limbo Graphics Booth
- Cedar Geiger Security
- Cedar Grey White Bird
- Chris Cassidy Fire Crew
- Deb Trist Entertainment
- Diane McWhorter Crafter
- Eben Sprinck Vaudeville
- Genevieve Paull Sno-cone Cart
- Harris Dubin Lot Crew
- Jacquie Warren Main Camp Security
- James "Loadstone"
Lauderdale Path Rove
- Jan Tritten Lemonade Booth
- Jasmine Rich Lot Crew
- Jeff Haigerty Security
- Jeff Harrison Craft Inventory
- Jennifer James-Long External Security
- Jeremiah Guske Recycling
- Jesse Palmer Pre-Post Security
- John Labor Elder
- Jon Pincus Elder
- Judy Horner Fire
- Linda Clark Lot Crew
- Linda Dievendorf Solar Stages
- Mannie Soto Traffic
- Meadow Dornes Lot Crew
- Melanie Pratt Lot Crew
- Merrill Levine Wristbands
- Michael Burke Lot Crew
- Michael Castagnola Fire
- Michael Clark Water
- Mike Jarschke Lot Crew
- Morgan Harryman Registration
- Nancy Courtright Green Thumb
- Rich Locus Elder
- Robert DeSpain Spoken Word
- Robert Gillespie Registration
- Russell Poppe Main Camp
- Sean Patten Lot Crew
- Stephen Cole OCF Navy
- Stu Sugarman Security
- Susan Bryan VegManECs
- Susan Stamp Registration
- Tami Stone Quartermaster
- Thomas Bruvold Fire Crew
- Tina Schubert Recycling
- Tom Alexander Nearly Normal Booth
- Troy Courtright Green Thumb Flowers



Wildflower Walk

Join our annual Wildflower Walk at the Fair on Saturday, April 28 at 1 pm, starting at The Hub. Charlene Simpson of the Native Plant Society will co-lead with Bob Nisbet. Glenn Johnson will be on the walk to point out any birds we find. If the flooding continues people can bring a wet suit and snorkel.

Keep In Touch

Oregon Country Fair
442 Lawrence St.
Eugene, OR. 97401
(541) 343-4298, fax: 343-6554
FFN@OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG
OFFICE@OREGONCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG
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Attention Booth Representatives:

When sending mail to the Booth Registration Crew, please address your envelope to their attention. Send mail to: OCF Booth Registration, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, OR 97401.

Help Save Trees

Help us save trees and paper. Get the Fair Family News online. Ask the office to be taken off the print list and added to the FFN online alert list. Email office@oregoncountryfair.org.



Get on the FFN and/or Voting Membership List

Some of you may still not be on the lists of your choice, namely, the mailing list that will get you this newsletter every month and/or the membership list so you can vote!!! So, check some of the following and mail to: OCF, Membership/Mailing, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, 97401.

I am not receiving the Fair Family News. Please put me on the mailing list.

I do not know if I am on the membership list. Please verify my name and send me a membership application if I am NOT on the list.

I am with (Crew or Booth):

Crew/Booth #:
Crew Leader/Booth Rep:

Who can verify my participation:

My name:

Email address:

Mailing address:

This is a new mailing address.



Recently Unclassified Material

We accept UnClassifieds up to 30 words for \$5 each, per issue. Send listing with \$5 to O.C.F.-F.F.N. 442 Lawrence St. Eugene, OR 97401. For info. about display underwriting, or to submit an unclassified or a photo ready 3.5x2" ad Email: bradlerch@aol.com or call Brad @ 541-485-8265 (UnClassifieds not paid for by layout won't run)

Local company with fair family affiliations hiring for DPSST and OLCC licensed positions. Applicants must be customer service oriented. We will train qualified and selected individuals for events. Please send inquiries to chewieburgess@yahoo.com.

Security Horse Patrol is looking for future riders (with their own horse). Should have a strong interest to be on this crew as we spend long hours in full sun, and be willing to be put on a standby list for now. Need calm, patient & pleasant attitude, common sense, & problem solving ability, crisis intervention/security experience is helpful. Prefer experienced riders. Contact Harris: 541-912-5960

Country Living for \$400 + a share of utilities. I have: a sunny room in a sweet, solid 1925 farmhouse on 4+ acres with 100 y/o oaks, dependable well and sunny meadow. Dry red barn w/ electricity, studio/storage space. Covered area w/ access to meadow for herbivores. 3.2 miles to OCF entrance. Three spayed female cats. You have: Dependable monthly income, open-hearted creative approach to life. A love for animals, yet no current house pets. A desire to participate in small farm community - gather eggs, feed the fire & garden together. Kate E 541-935-4103

Juried Silkscreen Artist seeks space to sell for this year's fair! Let me know if you have space avail. Samonberry@yahoo.com 541.912.8072

Juried in '09. Volunteer since '88. I make hand dyed multi-pocket hemp bags. Looking for a fair home. Don't need camping. Please call Sue 541-688-6679 or theolass@efn.org Thank you!!!

Seeking booth space. I do watercolor paintings of ancient forest, so looking for a booth with walls. Please call Venka at 509-637-5109 www.woeldart.com venkapayne@yahoo.com

Share the love, and the booth space... mellow, tidy, friendly blacksmith looking for booth space to display garden tools. My set up is compact and my vibe is good. Call or Email Tuli at (406)522-9443 info@fisherblacksmithing.com



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 4/27 Alcyon Massive / Afro Omega
 4/28 Lafa Taylor / Bass Science
 5/2 Devin the Dude Seriously Tripping
 5/4 Curtis Salgado C D Release Concert
 5/5 OCF Spring Fling w/ Medium Troy
 5/13 David Nelson Band / Moonalice
 5/15 CCPA Annual Membership Meeting
 5/17 Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers

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Lets Discuss Issues with Respect



Family Letters

This newsletter is directed to the Oregon Country Fair Family and all material is volunteered from the membership.

Opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Fair or the FFN.

Letters must be limited to 300 words. They will be edited for length and clarity. Please include name, Fair Affiliation and a method of communication (i.e. phone number or e-mail).

Dear Fair Family,

I was disturbed and surprised by a couple of things that I observed at March's BoD meeting.

The first was the level of genuine disagreement over a fairly straight-forward concept, that a member of the BoD should be able to get their pass through their work on the BoD. That a member of the BoD needs to have access to all aspects of the Fair at any time, seems pretty obvious! They are legally and financially responsible for the Fair, and we should give them any tool available to help them to do this difficult job! If a member of a crew is serving on the BoD, being the actual boss of that crew's supervisor, there is an obvious contradiction and conflict of interest. Likewise, if a member of a booth is held to the restrictions of working at the booth while also serving on the BoD, there is an obvious potential conflict of interest, as well as an impediment to doing the fullest possible job as a member of the BoD. That some people could interpret access to the Fair as a form

of remuneration, is a genuine and legitimate topic for discussion.

But, what was most disturbing at this last BoD meeting, was the level of meanness and nastiness shown by some BoD members. I have seen our excellent and hard-working BoD members deal with some truly difficult issues. To my observation, they have always treated each other with respect. When the discussion went to BoD members, those who disagreed with the motion stated or implied it was "unethical." The implied charge of "unethical" is a lot of nonsense, and the Fair membership needs to look closely at BoD members who start throwing such words at one another in a public meeting. This meeting did not show the tone of respect that the OCF should want as we conduct our business.

Robert Jacobs
Elder



Endowment Fund Serves Youth

This year the Oregon Country Fair Endowment Fund has awarded a total of \$13,500 to support youth-oriented nonprofit organizations in the Fair's neighboring communities. The OCF Endowment Fund annually makes grants to nonprofit organizations in Veneta, Elmira and Fern Ridge. The grants tangibly represent the Fair's deep appreciation of our home community and present opportunities to further develop the Fair's relationship with our neighbors. These groups each received grants of \$2,700:

Applegate Regional Theater received the annual Leslie Scott Imagine Grant Award. The theater will use the grant for its Teen 2 Teen project, which centers on both art and social justice, culminating in an anti-bullying play written, produced and acted by local teens. The play will be performed at local schools and other venues, and involve collaborations with local schools, the city of Veneta and others. (The annual Leslie Scott Imagine Grant Award recognizes former General Manager Leslie Scott's 17 years of leadership in advancing the

spirit of the Oregon Country Fair. Her legacy involves providing opportunities for youth, reaching out to our neighbors, nurturing the creative spirit, working for peace and justice, and creating community. The award is given to a grantee representing these qualities.)

Applegate Art Guild will fund its Imagination Zone summer arts project, involving up to 60 elementary and middle school-age youth. The project will offer a variety of performing, literary and visual arts. High school students will provide classroom support to art instructors, and the program will collaborate with the city of Veneta and the Fern Ridge Library to offer art instruction.

Culture Jam will use its grant for its eight-day youth camp held each summer at the Fair site. CJ brings together about 50 youths from a mix of backgrounds and ethnicities to focus on the creative arts, social justice, community building, relationship building, and youth leadership. This grant will support Fern Ridge area and Latino youth scholarships, a Fern Ridge excursion, and environmental art

activities.

Elmira Elementary School will create Cirque de Elmira, a performance of music, song, and movement coordinated by a resident artist who is also a certified music teacher. The project will culminate in an all-school performance for parents and the community, with students employing materials such as jump ropes, pinwheels, scarves and streamers to create a visual and auditory medley.

Veneta Elementary School will use the award for a school-wide art exhibit and "museum wall" created by students. An artist-in-residence will teach art concepts and techniques in a range of media. Based on their study of basic drawing, principles of design and key figures in art history, students will create an art piece of their choice and serve as curators and docents for their pieces during a public art night. Selected student pieces will be framed and hung on a "museum wall," a permanent new feature at the school.

Spring

Fling

May 5th

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m



WOW Hall

8th and Lincoln, Eugene

Music By



Fundraising Raffle

for **CULTURE JAM!**

THE OCF's WILDLY SUCCESSFUL ART CAMP FOR TEENS.

Can't be at the Spring Fling? Don't miss out on the fun - you can buy raffle tickets through the mail. Send a check (\$5 per pack of 3 tickets) by May 2 to OCF Spring Fling, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, OR 97401. Please make check out to OCF. We'll mail your prize(s) if you win. Raffle

tickets will also be available at Sue Theolass' candle booth (#321), near the stage at Eugene Saturday Market starting April 7. Please contact norma by May 1 (office@oregoncountryfair.org or 541-343-4298) to donate an item for the raffle.

Mediator Retreat on the Fair Site

Come join other trained mediators at the first Mediator Retreat on Saturday, June 30 at noon at Alice's Wonderland. Bring a potluck dish. The main discussion starts at noon while we eat lunch.

What else will we do there? Meet and network with other Fair family who are mediators. Discuss possible futures at the Fair and how mediation and other appropriate responses to conflict could be applied around the Fair.

We could share histories of past mediation trainings and programs at the Fair if someone attends who knows those histories. We might participate in continuing education if someone volunteers to lead a short educational piece.

Bring your spouse and/or family. Enjoy the Fair site and each other's families.

Please RSVP Kat Kirkpatrick at grievance@oregoncountryfair.org

Fair Thee Well: David The Minstrel



The Love of his Life *by Kay MacKeand*

David was born on May 24, 1954, in Toronto, Canada. He passed away on April 2, 2012 at 1:30 am at the Foothills Medical Center in Calgary, Alberta in Canada.

David and I met a few times through the years. About in the mid-1990s we ran into each other again at the Tiny Tavern, but we both were dating other people and David was still drinking heavily. After that gig ended I didn't see him again for a couple of years, until I ran into him at the Hemp Fest out at Condi's. He was working security and I was working at an activist booth. When we saw each other, we hugged like old friends do — but there was something in that kiss. I had my tipi set up and David walked around it the whole night, waiting for me to wake up. We hung out the next day and this is what he told me then.

He said that in the couple of years we didn't see each other he had stopped drinking, because he had decided at the Tiny Tavern that I was the one, and that he had been looking for a woman who didn't drink but still knew how to have a good time. He had matching "Tree of Life" amulets on, and gave me one. He told me he had been saving it for me and said he loved me.

From that day on we were never apart. We were on a trip to Phoenix in some coffee shop we had stopped at along the way when he asked me to marry him. I damn near fell out of the booth we were sitting in. Six months later, there we were — getting married on Feb 7th, 1999. A few years later

he went to Canada to visit his daughter, and was denied entry back into the States; 9-11 had happened by then and things got weird at the border. He had an old friend in Creston, British Columbia and that's where he went. I started going back and forth between Springfield, Oregon and Canada.

I noticed there were no coffee drive-throughs in Creston. David got a grant and started the "Conspiracy Cafe," a self-contained, mobile espresso trailer in 2009. He started working the newly formed Creston Saturday Farmers Market and quickly became a fixture there. One of the cards he got from the Market while he was in the hospital said, "thanks for the 25 cent cup of coffee and the \$3.00 worth of leftist politics."

He also started doing some local fairs and events, selling coffee and playing music. Of course, everybody in town loved him and his weird and wonderful wisdom, and the great tunes he would play at the Café, and on stage.

On January 29th of this year I got a call from friends that David had been found on the floor and was in the Creston hospital. I got on the first plane and never left except to get my van to camp out in the hospital parking lot. I am so grateful for the "angels" who helped me out with funds to stay close him. David put up a really amazing fight against what ever it was he had. We still don't know what happened, but he died of spinal meningitis. How he got it and what exactly he had still has not been discovered. It is being investigated.

The world has lost a true, pure spirit, a great intellect and talent.

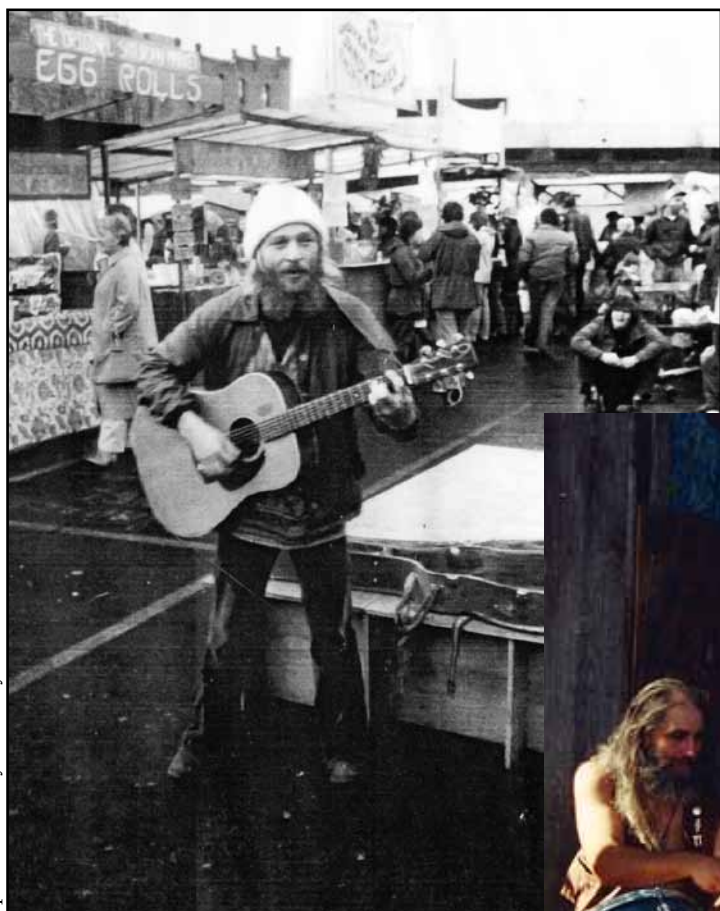


From Santa Cruz to Seattle *by Artis*

David T Minstrel. We met in Santa Cruz 1976. I heard him playing in a store alcove. We clicked immediately. All the years tumble into one brief set, from 1976 to 2003 or 4, from Seattle to Santa Cruz — frenetic head and strum. Laugh'n!! "... got a black magic marker, and I don't even give a shit at all."

I never knew David to flinch. He suffered shame and regret on his sleeve and he had damn little of it. A more honest rascal I've never known. David's delight was contagious.

Right on, Brother. Bless your loving heart. Thanx.



Above: David plays at Eugene's Saturday Market in the mid-1970s. Right: David at a more recent show.

On The Road with the Bubble Guy *by Tom Noddy*

Artis the Spoonman has just forwarded an email informing me that our friend, David the Minstrel, has died. He was a longtime OCF regular and a good friend to any party.

In 1978, David the Minstrel and I partnered up and for the next several years we shared everything as we scoured the ground from California's Monterey Bay to Canada's Kootenay Mountains looking for large or small groups of people who might sit still for our performance of music, bubbles and puppet satire.

He would hammer out a wall of sweet sound from that guitar and we'd play as opening act for bigger-named performers or we would play the bars and cafes for tips. We would play the street corners, college campuses and parks during the day and then the cafes and restaurants in the evening and bars at night. Fueled by caffeine, we would leave the bars when they closed and look for all-night doughnut shops or anywhere else that we'd find two or more people willing to see and listen to our evolving act. If we gained enough money for coffee and gas and the new parts that old Econoline constantly needed then we'd be good and we'd be on our way. Food and sleep weren't priorities but venues and the company of strangers and new friends were constant goals.

We came to Eugene in 1979 in time for the Oregon Country Fair and played the trailsides and rudimentary stages on offer, filling our days with performance. When the Fair ended we became regulars at the Saturday Market and Mama's Homefried Truckstop. We made events happen or added ourselves to other events happening at the WOW Hall and then moved on to Portland and Seattle. Together we "played for the troops" at the occupation of the new Trojan Nuclear Power Plant

and we sought out communes and counterculture gatherings and then joined with other performers and saw ourselves as pioneering what we hoped to be the future route of a New Vaudeville circuit.

Finding a partner who was so willing to perform so often made us both much better performers. I just know that I will, sometimes, absentmindedly look to my right while performing to see his head bobbing and his remarkable hands living their own life on that guitar's fret board.

If those who knew David see me at the Fair this year, please stop to mention his name ... that kind of thing feels like it brings the spirit of the person around and ... David the Minstrel loved the Fair.



FAIR LUMINARIES

Robert DeSpain: Helping the Fair Make a Great Landing

© 2012, Suzi Prozanski
Fair Family News Volunteer

Editor's Note: Almost 30 years ago, on July 8, 1982, the Oregon Country Fair made its first down-payment on the land it now owns. Thirteen years after the first Fair, hundreds of people had worked many months to help manifest the dream of buying the land along the Long Tom. But land ownership abruptly changed the Fair from a temporary annual event into an annual event with a permanent home. Ironically, the person who rose to lead the Fair into its new role as landowner was a newcomer to the scene, Robert DeSpain, who sort of snuck in for his first Fair.

Robert DeSpain first attended the Oregon Country Fair in 1979, when a friend in Community Village invited him as a guest (what would be known now as a Significant Other pass). Robert had planned to meet his friend at the Fair, but she had his pass inside. "I couldn't get in," Robert recalls, "so I had to sneak in." Actually, he talked his way in, starting at the Aero Road Security checkpoint and continuing until he made his way all the way in to Community Village.

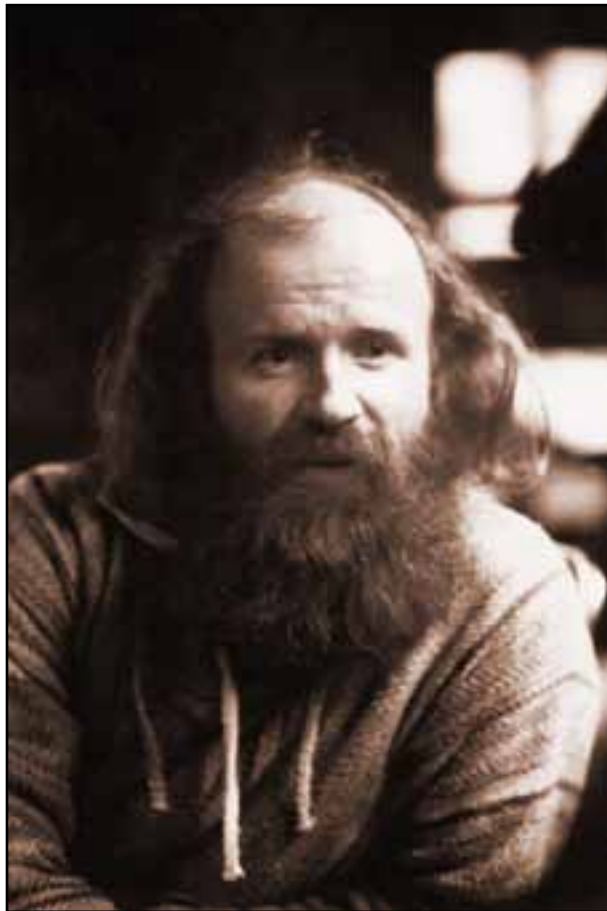
Robert loved the Fair and started attending Village meetings that winter. "I went to these meetings and because I didn't know anything, I took minutes," Robert says. "Marshall (Landman) was teaching group decision-making process and consensus process — and this was what really captured me! So I was hooked, from that fall in 1979 on. I just thought that this has got to be the most important thing that I can do in my life — learn how to work with communities like Marshall does. And to develop community, teach people how to be considerate and learn the processes so we can make decisions in large groups."

Inspired by Marshall's example, Robert rocketed into responsible leadership roles. In 1980, in addition to becoming Community Village secretary, Robert joined the Community Village Coordinating Council. In 1981, Robert became Village Treasurer and liaison to the Fair Board, on top of his job as Village scribe and member of the Coordinating Council. In March 1981, he was also elected to the Fair's Board of Directors. In January 1982, Robert became Fair Secretary, taking the Minutes there as well as for the Community Village Coordinating Council.

Backhoe Bob's Big Toys

Meanwhile, Main Camp volunteers discovered that Robert was a heavy equipment operator, and they turned to him to help get the land ready for the Fair.

"They didn't have a backhoe or a dump truck or anything they could actually work with and change things out there," Robert says. "So I developed working relationships with Ron (Chase), Sandra (Bauer), Nancy (Albro), Terry (Patrick), and Michael Kilgallon. I was doing things like cleaning out Indian Creek or helping to replace a bridge. ... So we built roads and installed culverts to replace those wooden bridges because those wooden bridges floated away constantly. Every year they'd float off into the brush and then those guys would



In the early 1980s, Robert DeSpain was also known at the Fair as Robert the Red and Backhoe Bob.

photo courtesy Robert DeSpain

have to drag them back and try to place them with a pickup. They didn't have anything else. So they were thrilled to have big toys."

In 1981 the Main Camp folks asked Robert to help clear out some brush from the Main Stage area. "I showed up and in the Main Stage meadow, they had cut about 100 or so feet back into the forest where the stage sits right now. It was all brush. ... It was a total mess, with brush piled 15 feet high." Even though he didn't have the right equipment for that particular job, Robert loaded up the brush & hauled it all away before the Fair.

The Land Committee

Robert also got involved with the Fair's search for a permanent site. He represented the Village, along with Craig Patterson, on the Fair's land search committee. Other Land Committee members were Sandra Bauer, Michael Kilgallon, Amy Daykin and Barb Stern.

Through the autumn of 1980, the Fair's Land Committee investigated, among other options, a long-term lease on federal BLM land or parkland. Robert toured and reported on other possible sites. But the floodplain and fields along the Long Tom River near Veneta, where the Fair had been held for a decade, emerged as the clear favorite.

In the autumn of 1981, the landowners — Western Aerial Contractors — notified the Fair that the land was for sale. They wanted a \$100,000 down payment. At that point, the Fair's savings stood at \$24,000, less than a fourth of what was needed.

In September 1981, Community Village and the Fair Board held a joint meeting to discuss fund-raising to buy the land. Fair Treasurer Ron Chase chaired a committee that came up with the idea of selling Charter Memberships. In October 1981, a special Fair-wide membership meeting was called expressly to discuss buying the property. There, members approved the Charter Membership drive, as well as other fund-raisers such as selling special T-shirts, and holding bake sales. Those efforts eventually would raise \$36,000.

In February 1982, fund-raising efforts got a huge boost when a lawsuit filed by the Fair against Lane County, based on the principals of freedom of assembly, was settled in the Fair's favor. Thanks to the diligent efforts of the Fair attorney then, Jill Heiman, the win added \$19,000 to the Fair's coffers. And in August 1982, a Grateful Dead concert held in the Fair's parking lot netted \$25,000 in rental fees.

On July 8, 1982, Fair Treasurer Ron Chase signed the promissory note to buy 240 acres of land along the Long Tom River for \$250,000, and made the first \$50,000 down payment. The note called for second \$50,000 down payment by Dec. 31, 1982, and 10 annual payments of \$26,370, due each Sept. 1. Revenues from the Grateful Dead concert and Charter Memberships helped the Fair meet the second down payment. And revenues from the event made each annual payment possible thereafter.

With the purchase of the land, Ron Chase and other leaders of the



Malcolm Ware (left) and Robert Despain walk the Fair paths in the mid-1980s.

photo © 1983 Patti Lomont



photo © 1990 Michael Connelly

Many Community Village Coordinator Council members from the 1970s and 1980s, plus a friend, reunited for a photo at the 1990 Fair (from left): Michael Connelly, norma sax, friend Dick Stewart, Percy Hilo; Marshall Landman; Skeeter Duke; Diane Albino; Cheryl Jones; Darlene Colburn; Michael Mooney; Craig Patterson; Jean-Marie Arnaugue-DeSpain; Robert DeSpain

early Main Camp group decided it was time to open up the Fair's leadership to facilitate the new transitions. In September 1982, Ron stepped down from his post as Fair Treasurer and the Board named Robert DeSpain and Sandra Bauer co-treasurers.

Changing of the Guard, Village-style

"The old methods of governance weren't going to work and in fact shouldn't work," Ron Chase says. "That needed to be expanded and it needed to be a much more broad-based government structure. I resigned and a couple of other people resigned, at least their formal roles as board members. That opened it up to elections and to bring other people into it. Robert DeSpain kind of took my place as the money person. His roots were in Community Village, which was a much more democratic and open group than Main Camp ever was. He brought that ethic into the organization as well, along with a lot of other people."

During the autumn of 1982 other longtime Main Campers who stepped down included Nancy Albro, Mary Cay Liebig, Michael Kilgallon, Amy Daycon, Connie Epstein, and Sandra Bauer. "The core group began to disperse at the time that a lot of other new people arrived on the scene," Mary Cay recalls.

Sandra adds: "They wanted to open the Fair up more. ... It started morphing with Robert (DeSpain)."

At the December 1982 Board meeting, Robert was named Fair treasurer. Kay C Renfro, wife of Traffic Co-coordinator Walter Renfro, became the new secretary.

At the March 1983 Annual Meeting, Robert was re-elected to the Fair Board, along with Ron Chase, Lucy (Kingsley) Parker, Santos Narvaez, Robert Thompson and alternate Frank Sharpy. Also serving on the Board were Palmer Parker, Jon Silvermoon, Wally Slocum, Mary Wagner, Moz Wright and alternate Dave Durant.

For the first time ever, only two people from early Main Camp — Ron and Wally — remained on the Board. The announcements at the March 1983 Annual Meeting clearly indicated the extent of change. Main Camp kitchen needed a new cook. Main Camp needed a yurt and a coordinator. Construction Crew also lacked a coordinator.

It was a major transition for the Fair's organization. When longtime Fair co-coordinators Bill and Cindy Wooten left in the late 1970s, Main Camp members had taken the lead, functioning as the board and management all in one. Now that the Fair owned the land, most of the old Main Camp group stepped away from that responsibility. (The Fair did not hire a paid General Manager until 1989.)

In early April the Board and crew coordinators held a retreat, at Robert's suggestion, to pull together a plan on how to get ready for the Fair that year.

"I was really scared," Robert recalls, "because I had no experience with that kind of leadership position. ... We held a retreat in the spring of '83, and I opened up the topics of current operations and the longterm future of the Country Fair and how were we going to approach all of it."

The retreat was a huge success, with participants forming a close bond as they crafted solutions to the problems they faced.

After the retreat, the Board elected Robert president of the Fair. Anya Montgomery was elected treasurer and Ron Chase agreed to join the budget committee. Robert continued the coordinator potluck meetings and included coordinators in planning even more than before.

"It evolved toward a Community Village style or character of management structure," recalls Robert Thompson, who was serving on the Board then. "When Robert DeSpain became the president, it became more structured and more cooperative."

Robert DeSpain says he relied heavily on the crew coordinators. "I started giving back to the coordinators the authority for the responsibilities that they already had," he says. "We'd always done potlucks, but the change was that at these potlucks people were coming and reporting back as to

what they'd accomplished rather than waiting for direction. Because I didn't know what to tell them to do! But all of those coordinators had already done it for years, or a couple years at least. ... There was always this line of experience. ...

"So I didn't have to worry about them being able to pull off their tasks. I just needed to be concerned about the coordinating of the communications and all of the contract services, like toilets and recycling and everything else that we had to provide for, the reefer (refrigeration) trucks, all those services that the General Manager does now."

Robert continued to bring his big rig equipment to the property for even bigger projects now that the Fair owned the land. To eliminate the need for a pumper truck to come into the center of the Fair, Robert helped design and build

the six-pack toilets near Community Village, along with Bob Dorste and Henry Kynowski. Ed Moye and Ted Campbell built the second six-pack near Main Camp using those same plans. Later in 1984, Robert brought out his backhoe to help put in three large holding tanks in the area that became Politics Park near Main Stage, again ending the need to bring pumper trucks into the center of the Fair.

Paradoxically, Robert's actions as Fair president also guaranteed that such massive earth-moving would eventually be prohibited. Robert, along with Fair volunteers John Stamp, Jim Guthrie and Jon Silvermoon, played key roles in preventing Highway 126 from passing through Fair property. The state highway department's final decision was mostly based on John Stamp identifying ancient camas ovens used by the Kalapuya Tribe in summer camps along the banks of the Long Tom. Those finds were confirmed by archaeologists from the University of Oregon. To protect the precious archaeology sites, digging even post holes now on the Fair's property takes special permission.

New Traditions for a New Age

Robert DeSpain's three-year stint as Fair president had other major impacts on the Fair today. In June 1983, the first crew-wide Crisis Intervention Training was presented by White Bird counselors Zachariah Schwartz and Douglas Parker. Those crew trainings continue today. Now called Human Intervention Training, the programs are still presented by Zak Schwartz and other cohorts he has trained in this unique, respectful system of crowd and group management.

In August 1983 for the first time, an all-Fair volunteer picnic was held at the Fair site. That year it was hosted at Traffic Camp, where the tradition of a post-Fair picnic and softball game with Security Crews had already been established. In August 1984, the all-Fair picnic moved to the Main Stage meadow, where it has been held ever since. Now it's officially known as the Wally Slocum Memorial Teddy Bears' Picnic, in honor of a longtime Fair volunteer whose prodigious garage-sale-hunting skills contributed immensely to the picnic's success.

At the May 1984 board and coordinators retreat, a plan emerged to create a management team to help run the Fair during the event. Many of the details of what was expected of this new team were hammered out at the retreat. The first year, the Operational Management "OM" Team had three members: Robert DeSpain, Sallie Edmunds and Moz Wright; and three trainees: Patti Lomont, Douglas Parker and Wally Slocum. Different people have volunteered for the team over the years, with membership ranging from three to a dozen people. In 1990, the team was renamed Back Up Managers, or BUMs. For almost three decades now, the Fair's management team has helped to keep the Fair running smoothly.

Also on Robert's watch in 1985, the Board voted to change the Annual Meeting from March to September, to facilitate a better timeline to get ready for each year's Fair. So that year there were two Annual Meetings. Thereafter, the Fair's Annual Meeting has always been held in the fall.

By the time Robert stepped down as president in September 1985, he was able to report that the highway dispute with the state of Oregon had been successfully resolved. The Fair's property would remain intact. It's also clear that Robert's leadership during those critical years helped shape the Fair's organization in many ways.

Robert has continued to serve the Fair ever since. He remained on the Fair Board through 1987, and served as a BUM from 1992-96. In 2002 Robert and his partner Laura Stuart started co-coordinating the Fair's new Spoken Word series, which will celebrate 10 years this year.

(Facts in this story came from interviews and from Oregon Country Fair records, including the Minutes of the Fair and Community Village. Author Suzi Prozanski, who wrote "Fruit of the Sixties: The Founding of the Oregon Country Fair," volunteers for Fair Family News.)

Challenge Ourselves to Become a Year-Round Venue?

by Craig Patterson, Carts Coordinator

The discussion and controversy over the Barter Fair* may provide an opportunity for the Oregon Country Fair to reflect back on its roots, which were significantly influenced by founding member Bill Wooten. Bill was a historian and visionary; a rare combination of insight and action. His ability to weave meaning and context both historical and contemporary was spellbinding at times. He often made sense out of the nonsense.

Bill was ahead of his time in understanding both historical precedents and solutions. He created the Lane Economic Development Council (LEDC) in the late 1970s as an alternative response to job creation needs of society. Denny Guehler and I both knew Bill and participated in his work with LEDC, Denny from within and I from a parallel CETA program. The comments we offer are in hopes of providing insight and context to the roots of this Fair.

Bill understood the underbelly of capitalism and saw the causalities long before most. Alternative economics was part of Bill's vision, as he knew going off the gold standard would have deep effects. He had vision understanding the past and applying it to the future in creative manifestations. Enter the Oregon Country Fair.

Today, the Fair has grown exponentially over the last four generations. We have watched our kids grow up and we have had grandkids. Our population and popularity have put strains on all our support systems,

often affecting the quality of our Fair. The long waiting list for crafters remains long and slow. Culture Jam is overflowing as well. We have not done a good job accommodating our growth or our needs as a larger society. It is said the Fair creates psycho-spiritual rejuvenation. Are we fulfilling Bill's vision? Could we do better?

If this resonates with other Fair family members, let's take the plunge. Perhaps the discussion regarding the community center can provide context to taking these thoughts deeper.

As the dominant paradigm crumbles, it becomes more important we fill the voids with meaningful alternatives. Short term profiteers, Wall Street and big corporations have cannibalized our environment and undermined future generations. The Oregon Country Fair is one vehicle to illuminate a different vision. This is precisely why Bill's vision and insights should remain central to our Fair mission. Job creation was and is central to that.

Instead of throwing the baby out with the bath water by stopping the Barter Fair, why don't we collectively take inventory against our mission? Does a three day event – four with Barter Fair – make sense in these times?

The advent of advance ticket sales will help the Fair weather (pun intended) the possibility of low attendance due to bad weather or other natural calamities. Given the million dollars it takes to put on this Fair every year,

it is easy to see how potentially vulnerable we could be if there was a major drop in attendance for any reason.

Imagine for a moment if Disneyland were open for only one weekend a year. Certainly it would have collapsed under the weight of all the capital infrastructure and not be a glimmer of what it is now. This is not an argument to become like Disneyland; however, what if we became a greater transitional agent of cultural creatives and alternative sustenance? What if we build a world in the image of the Fair all year long? How can we build on our success exploring economics as if family mattered?

We believe it is time to rethink our event and impacts in our alternative communities for ourselves, our children and grandchildren. Yes, there are obstacles and we need new creative ideas to move beyond those.

However, if we challenge ourselves to become a year-round venue of both alternative economic intention and explore our ability to become cultural creatives we will quickly see the "flash in the pan" three-day event isn't enough. What if the Fair demonstrates how creating an alternative future in support of jobs and creative lifestyles can weather these significantly hard times? In the spirit of Bill Wooten, we challenge the Fair to seek ways to increase economic opportunities rather than curtail them.

If this resonates with other Fair family members, let's take the plunge. Perhaps the discussion regarding the community center can provide context to taking these thoughts deeper.

* Changes to the Guidelines, noted in the January Board minutes, say the Barter Fair will be discontinued after 2012 and moved to another location. At the January Board meeting, a formal motion discontinuing the Barter Fair and providing for its replacement was tabled, with much discussion in the room.

In February the Board passed the motion: "That the Barter Fair is discontinued in South Miss Piggy's in 2013, and the BoD, in collaboration with management, will explore implementing a Monday Market for the Monday following the 2013 Fair with a report back to the BoD at the February 2013 Board meeting." Please see the January and February Board minutes for the full discussion.

Barter Fair as Economic Development Strategy

by Denny Guehler, Elder

My friend Craig Patterson of the Carts Crew asked me to write this as an addendum to his article regarding the Barter Fair. Bill always said that you can't change society or politics unless you change the culture. By founding the Oregon Country Fair, a new alternative culture was created in the Pacific Northwest.

We also believed the larger capitalist system would implode. We figured a logical strategy to employ would be to foster the growth of alternative economic entities, i.e. small businesses, small farms and co-ops that could endure any such collapse.

It is my belief that a major criterion for evaluating the Barter Fair should be this: Does it promote the growth, the networking and the proliferation of such enterprises? I realize there are other issues at play in this drama, but the aforementioned criterion must be considered as well. There are currently scores of crafts people and artists who are juried by the Fair but can't get in.

Their only recourse is to sell or trade their products at the Barter Fair. There are probably others who participate who aren't even juried by the Fair, but that provides for expansion of larger markets and networking among like-minded people.

I strongly urge the Fair family, Board of Directors and staff to continue the Barter Fair as an important economic development strategy.



photo © 2009 R. Dennis Wiancko

My Foolish Baby Doll

A Community Center for the OCF Community

by Charlie Ruff, General Manager, and the Community Center Committee

Hello Fair Family. By now it is likely that you have heard about the creation of the OCF Community Center Committee, which has been asked to take the lead in exploring this important project. Many of you probably know very little about the whole matter. As the discussion about the OCF building a “community center” has evolved, there have been a lot of questions and a bit of misunderstanding, primarily due to the fact that we have not yet clearly defined the project. We, on the committee, believe that things have developed enough that we would like to introduce ourselves and share some information about the project with you.

First and foremost, “community center” starts as a technical term, in land use law, that allows us to build a certain type of facility. For years now, some within the Fair Family have used and prefer the term “lodge.” Perhaps it better fits our perception of ourselves as a community but that term specifically limits the size and nature of the facility we can build and in many ways limits how broadly our community might be defined. We believe, in the language of permitting and zoning, that a project termed a “community center” more adequately reflects our needs than does a “lodge.” However, it may not fit as well in the emotional language of our Fair Family. Internally we are free to call it whatever we like. But let us focus on what we are really talking about building, regardless of which label you put on it.

The project, at its core, is being driven by a need to have a facility that can adequately help us put our event together each summer season, and accommodate the year-round growth of all aspects of our community and organization. Each year as we have grown and continue to grow, it takes more of us, over a longer period of time, to make the Fair happen. For many years, temporary facilities in the flood plain were sufficient to meet the needs of the time, at least during Main Camp, but that is no longer the case. We need to develop a permanent commercial kitchen, out of the

flood plain, that can more efficiently serve us, not just during the summer main camp season, but the rest of the year as well.

The other key element of the project is adequate gathering space for the year-round needs of the Fair. On the most basic level this is currently being conceived of in two parts or phases. First is an outdoor area where folks can gather, eat and meet. The second part of this is an indoor multi-use space where we could also gather, meet and eat but do so out of the elements in any season. The desire for such a space has grown dramatically as we have evolved as an organization. There are many current demands for this from within the Fair Family — for example board, committee and crew meetings, trainings and a location that could house online meeting facilities — that we simply cannot provide for with our current structures. As it stands now, we cannot have a medium-to-large meeting on site in anything but an outdoor setting, yet the demand grows.

A simple and thoughtful structure can certainly serve the needs, both immediate and long term, of the Fair Family and our event, but it will also allow us to gather as a community year-round in ways we currently cannot. It is in those gatherings, in a home of our creation, that belonging, interdependence and greater connection can happen. In the end, it is far more than just a dry place to get together, it is our place to gather, on the land we care for so deeply, and to continue to expand how we define our community.

As this project moves forward we will do our best to keep you informed and included. We will make sure that all of our work sessions, design charrettes and other events of note are in the FFN and other OCF calendars and we hope you will participate. If you would like to give us feedback or have questions for the committee please e-mail us at ccc@oregoncountryfair.org.



The Crowning of Queen McWho

by Suzi Prozanski, Fair Family News

On April Fool’s Eve at the Jell-O Art Show & Tacky Food Buffet held at Maude Kerns Art Center in Eugene, the Radar Angels crowned longtime Jell-O artist Diane McWhorter as “Jell-O Queen for a Day.” On April Fools’ Day, Radar Angel and Old Slug Queen Scarlet O’Slimer pronounced Queen McWho “Jell-O Queen Forever!”

Queen McWho, a Fair crafter (silkscreen artist) and Saturday Marketeer, has shown her artwork in the Jell-O Art Show since it began 24 years ago. Queen McWho’s gelatinous art has become more sophisticated as she mastered the tricks of Jell-O art – though no actual Jell-O is harmed in her creations. Instead, she purchases gelatin in bulk, mixing it with a scant amount of water. Queen McWho’s dry concoction allows her to spin out gossamer wings, flowers and masks in bright rainbow gel colors. For this year’s Art Show, she fashioned an ephemeral “book” out of screenprinted gelatin pages.

The Radar Angels, renowned path performers at the Oregon Country Fair, had been secretly planning the crowning for a year. Their plan got complicated when it looked like McWho wouldn’t make the show. In February, she fell from her roof and broke her foot, becoming temporarily disabled. Even so, the enterprising McWho would not miss the annual shindig! She not only completed her artwork, she also (with a little help from her friends) silkscreened shirts for the event. Because of her poor foot, she got a rare,

front-row seat for the Radar Angels’ pageant.

Her Highness was successfully surprised and delighted by the honor of being chosen over the four featured pageant contestants: a whiny clone of Newt’s wife; a pushy Tea Partier who apparently didn’t hear



Above: Jello Art Queen McWho is crowned by the Radar Angels. Right: A colorful mask of dried gelatin created by Jello Artist and Queen Diane McWhorter.



photo courtesy Diane McWhorter; photo far left ©2012 Julie Sannes

this was a Jell-O Party; a singing ukelele-player (need we say more?); and “Paula Lean,” who swore she lost weight on a deep-fried Jell-O diet.

Queen McWho, afterward fondly recalling all of the revelry of the evening’s peak experience, proclaimed that her “heart was so full, it was flying around the room sprinkling glitter and flakes of gelatin everywhere.”



Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors' Meeting
April 02, 2012, 7:00pm at EWEB

Directors present: Diane Albino, John 'Chewie' Burgess (facilitator), Saman Harnsongkram, Paxton Hoag, Lucy Kingsley (alternate), Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow, Anna Scott (alternate voting for Indigo), Jon Silvermoon, Lawrence 'LT' Taylor, Bear Wilner-Nugent. **not present:** Indigo Ronlov. **Peach Gallery present:** 22 members and guests, 5 staff (Charlie, Robin, Steve, Andy, Tony), and 3 officers (Hilary, Grumpy, Bill).

Agenda review

Old business: Secretary's report and April donations consent calendar; Radio loans (Chewie); Treasurer's report; Approval of March minutes (Chewie); Logo jurying; Bylaws revisions (LT); Peach Power capital projects (Anna); Create OCF Archive (Deane); Create OCF Archivist position (Deane)

Tabled business: Sponsor Good Works Film Festival (Chewie); Front of the Fair task force (Bear)

New business: Eugene Celebration donation request (Jon); Lane County Network Immigrant Integration statement (Jack); Crafts Lot changes for 2014 (Indigo)

Announcements

The WOW Hall annual membership meeting and Board of Directors election will be held on May 15th. Thirty days of membership before the meeting are required to participate in the election. Jon P

The new Community Village restaurant has been selected and will be called Mama Mundo's Village Café; they will be bringing mycelium culture to the Fair. The OCF Food Committee assisted in the selection process and their help is appreciated. Jen-Lin

About 250 craft applications have been received, roughly 180 new and 70 returning. About 20 will probably be accepted. Jeff H

The application deadlines for the 2012 Fair entertainment, craft sales and food sales have passed; Teen Crew deadline is April 15th. Robin

Culture Jam registrations have begun. Returning youth must call the Fair office (541-465-2230) between April 1-April 15th and new youth must call between April 15th and May 1. Robin

2012 OCF Guidelines are ready. Thanks to norma sax and Lynn Marx for kicking out yet another fun and factual guidelines booklet. The Guidelines are available on the oregoncountryfair.net website now. You can pick up a printed copy from Quartermaster or Registration during Main Camp. Robin

The annual Oregon Country Fair kick-off party (aka the Spring Fling) at the WOW Hall is on May 5th starting at 6:30pm. The event is free but you can buy tickets for the Spring Fling raffle! The raffle will benefit Culture Jam's scholarship fund again for the second year. Please contact norma at the OCF office to donate an item or service. Thank you everyone who has donated (artwork, fair booth gift certificates and more) to the raffle. Raffle tickets are available at the Eugene Saturday Market at Sue Theolass' booth (beeswax candles #341 near the entertainment stage) and will be sold at the Spring Fling as well. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Robin

OCF is partnering with City of Eugene Recreation on another 1-day youth event, Be The Change, on May 19th from 10am-4pm. Teens 14-18 will come together with a staff of artists, youth workers and activists to explore how they can make positive changes in their lives, their community and the world at large. The event is free but registration is required. Call me at the Fair office to sign-up (541) 465-2230. Robin

The annual Booth Registration packet has gone out to all Food and Craft Booths. The deadline for returning packets is May 1. Robin

Tickets to the Fair went on sale April 1 at 10am, a couple of weeks earlier than in the past. Log on to the TicketsWest website to find them. Tony

People can use Facebook to share the news and links about the on-line ticket sales. Sara

The 10th annual Sasquatch Brew Festival, benefiting the Northwest Legends Foundation and featuring blues music, is on May 12th at the Hilton in Eugene. See me if you want to volunteer. Chewie

We sadly note the passing, last Saturday, of a long time Fair vendor Joe Cotter. He is known for the art at various McMenamin's establishments. Chewie

Member Input

Dance for a Reason representatives expressed their deep appreciation to the Board and Fair Family for the recent Board donation. They gave us roses and a card.

Chris Browne read the following letter: *"The active participants at the recent Council of Elders meeting discussed at length the deportment that took place during the processing of a specific motion at last month's board meeting. An agreement was reached by all parties present that the following letter be read into the minutes of this board meeting. "We are an association of equals. Each and every member of our community is entitled to respectful and equitable treatment by all other participants. The Guidelines apply whenever and wherever we gather for OCF activities. The OCF is unlike any organization in the world, intentionally maintaining a spirit of love, and honest respect for each other, not as a cute rhetorical bumper sticker, but as a core value we all bring to the organization as a basic tenant of our lives. Furthermore, it is that value that we are not only committed to as individuals, but also as the most valuable thing that we hope to share with our membership, our community and the broader world. The recent public discussions of you folks, our dear board, were not in keeping with those values and beliefs. We are not addressing the specific issues that were being discussed (in this instance board passes, we can address that in another forum), but rather are addressing a slippage in the spirit of the fair that has caused us, as your elders, much concern. We do not pretend to have all the answers, but are bringing this concern to you now in the hope that in our collective wisdom, we will again remember who we are and what has brought us together in this wonderful group of loving, creative people who share so much. The Council attendee's request that each OCF board member and officer attend Zak's humanistic intervention class, for the full session and really pay attention to it. We expect our board members and officers to treat each other respectfully, whether it's resolving problems or just having fun."*

The subject of ethics was raised at the last meeting; the most ethical arrangement regarding passes for Board members is to decouple the Board members from dependence for access on anybody they supervise. Jon P

I will attend Zak's intervention class and will and sit up front so I can hear. Deane

The Peach Power project to utilize mycelium for remediation and ecological functioning on the Fair site is going well. I really appreciate the opportunity to use my training at the Fair site and I hope the Fair will keep options open for people to practice their craft. Jeffrey

Please support the motions for the Archive project and for a person to oversee it. Licia

Speaking as a relic myself, I too support the Archives project proposals. Hal

Board Donations

Secretary's report: The Board has donated \$2500 so far this year. Three donation requests totaling \$1500 are on new business for next month: Bring Back the Bow (\$500, LT sponsors), Lane Peace Center (\$500, Chewie sponsors), and Veneta Community Dinner (\$500, Jon sponsors).

Donation requests totaling \$1500 are on tonight's consent calendar: CALC Peace Scholarship (\$500, Diane sponsors), Earth Day Committee (\$500, Diane sponsors), and Rural Art Center (\$500, Chewie sponsors). The donations calendar passed 10-0.

Chewie moved, Paxton seconded, to loan Fair radios to the Oregon Supported Living Program for use at their May 12 bike event and to loan four radios to Habitat for Humanity for use at a July 22 fundraiser. Charlie checked with Ichabod and confirmed the radios will be available on those days. The motion passed 9-0-1 (Jon abstains)

Approve Minutes

Chewie moved, Bear seconded, to approve the min-

utes from the March 05, 2012 Board meeting. Tony said his comment about "no take-backs" was followed by an explanation point in the minutes and it should have been followed by a question mark. Anna asked for a friendly amendment to amend the explanation point to a question mark. **The minutes, as amended, were approved 8-0-2 (Saman and LT abstained).**

Old Business

Treasurer's report: Hilary said the bookkeeping errors on the balance sheet, due to the Quick Books update, have been corrected.

Logo Jurying: Jeff Harrison said the Board votes were counted with the assistance of Steve and the results are ready to be announced. He said this year's process change where the Board considers just new items and past items are grandfathered is much easier. All of the four new items received enough positive votes to be accepted: a canvas pack-9; a Fair game-8; an embroidered peach patch-8; and a silk screened peach-9.

Bylaws changes: LT said there are five changes and they will be considered in separate motions.

LT moved, Bear seconded, that the bylaws of the Oregon Country Fair be amended so that the following section will provide as follows: Article IX, Section 6, Vice President. The Vice President shall perform such duties of the President as the President may delegate to the Vice President. In the event of the death of the President, the Vice President shall become President for the unexpired portion of the President's term. The Vice President shall have all the authority and powers of the President during any period of time that the Board determines the President is incapacitated. After discussion, the motion passed 10-0. Peach Gallery: Grumpy asked about the vote required to pass (2/3rd's) and if a by-law change should be posted before adoption. Bear and LT indicated the only requirement is to provide notice of the intent to amend. Jon P noted bylaws are the rules of the road and need careful attention, especially if there is a change. Joseph said it would make good sense to publicize amendments before adopting. **Board:** LT said only the first sentence in this amendment is new and the rest was already in the bylaw; the Board's intention to amend the bylaws has been on the agenda for at least 2 months.

LT moved, Paxton seconded, that the bylaws of the Oregon Country Fair be amended so that the following section will provide as follows: Article IX, Section 2, Election/Term. The officers are to be elected by the Board of Directors at its annual Board meeting or in the event that an office becomes vacant at any other time of year. There shall be no requirement that an officer be a director. Each officer shall serve until the next annual Board meeting or until their death, resignation, or removal from office. After discussion, the motion passed 10-0. Peach Gallery: Grumpy noted the change is the added phrase "or removal from office" and asked how that would be carried out (Bear said it is provided for in another section). Hilary noted that officers are selected at the Board retreat. Chewie said that is the time of the Board's annual meeting.

LT moved, Chewie seconded, that the bylaws of the Oregon Country Fair be amended so that the following section will provide as follows: Article IX, Section 9, Vacancies. Except as provided in section 6 of this Article, any vacancy in an office may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the Board. The motion passed 10-0. (The amendment brings this bylaw into alignment with the Section 6 vice-president provisions.)

LT moved, Paxton seconded, that the bylaws of the Oregon Country Fair be amended so that the following section will provide as follows: Article IX, Section 3, Secretary. The responsibilities of the Secretary shall be as follows: to keep a current book of records containing the minutes of all meetings of the Fair, a copy of the Certificate and Articles of Incorporation, a copy of the bylaws, the names and addresses of the Board of Directors, and a roll of the members; to make such book of records accessible to the members upon reasonable notice; to act as a proxy for members electing to appoint a proxy in accordance with Article VI, Section 7, to select a date

for the Director's meeting and to give notice for all meetings as required by the bylaws; to be responsible for the recording of minutes and to provide each Director with a copy thereof; and to work with the registration coordinator prior to each Fair in order to assure accurate membership records. The powers of the Secretary shall be such as are consistent with the duties enumerated above. The motion passed 9-0-1 (Jon abstained). (The requirement to maintain a current Post Office Box in the name of the Fair was removed.)

LT moved, Deane seconded, that the bylaws of the Oregon Country Fair be amended so that the title to Article VI, Section 1 shall read: Annual Meeting. The motion passed 10-0. (The "s" was removed from "Annual Meetings".)

Anna moved, Chewie seconded, that the Board approve Peach Power capital funding for six projects: two for solar electric work, one for energy efficiency, two for composting technology and one for transportation. After discussion, the motion passed 10-0. **Peach Gallery:** Hilary said these are good projects and necessary but we should clarify the process; it has worked out well this year but was not conducted as originally envisioned. Steve offered his enthusiastic support, saying these are all good improvements and investments; this funding takes pressure off the regular capital project process. Jon P asked for an explanation of the transportation item. Charlie said the funding process needs a way to consider the possible staff ramifications. **Board:** LT thanked Anna for her efforts. Anna described each of the projects: 1) expansion of the grid tied solar array by 3.9 kilowatts; 2) maintenance of the Solar Roller; 3) collaboration with Crew Services to improve LED lantern lighting; 4) funds for the next phase of lab work for the compost remediation work; 5) set up of three, non-event related, composting toilets; and 6) installation of metal bike racks for public and volunteer use during the event. Paxton said the composting toilets are 35 year old technology dating back to use in the Village. Hilary said the process needs wider discussion so all issues, such as the need for permits for these toilets, are considered. Chewie expressed his appreciation for this funding system and for Anna's and the Peach Power Committee's work. Jon said permits need to be resolved prior to any spending. Charlie said there will be oversight regarding the permits.

Deane moved, LT seconded, that the Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors officially create the Oregon Country Fair Archives and adopt the OCF Archives Vision Statement in support thereof: *"The OCF Archives seeks to support the vision of the Fair by preserving its history and cultural heritage manifest in the official records of both the organization and the annual event (correspondence, memoranda, meeting minutes, founding documents, publications, artifacts, ephemera and all other documentary sources). The purpose of the Oregon Country Fair Archives is to collect, organize, preserve and make these records available for use by the Oregon Country Fair Board, staff and Fair Family, and for research by community scholars and other interested parties. Stewardship of the Oregon Country Fair via the archives attends to both authenticity of record and history as well as accountability to community and Fair Family members."* After discussion, the motion passed 10-0. **Peach Gallery:** Charlie said this motion is a formal step in the process and this official act is needed to enable the plans; materials have been collected in recent years and it's time to make the move forward. Jerry Joffe said he has been working on this project for two years and he introduced a guest, Terry Baxter, who is a Multnomah County archivist and a member of the National Society of American Archivists. He said Terry has been attending recent Fairs and is excited to help this project. Terry said archives are for the broader society, now and in the future; local community and culture are exposed by preserving the archives of the time; archiving is a passion and is a way to speak for the dead. Charlie thanked Terry for coming down and for his comments and help; this means we can capture our history, legacy and identity; we need this project so we can comfortably go forward with change while knowing we have preserved our past. Grumpy said archives are incredibly important

but we need to be cautious; this work could become very expensive and the funding should be done through regular Budget process; we are a volunteer organization and expenditures should not get to the point of paying people or to the point of paying for things. Charlie said the spending so far has been for restoration. He said there are grants available for this type of work and there are partners in the community, such as U of O, Lane County Historical Society, Folklife, Oregon Cultural Trust, who open up possibilities and associations. Chris said the OCF Elders Committee supports this project and he read a statement: *"The Oregon Country Fair Elder Committee enthusiastically endorses and supports the establishment of an official Oregon Country Fair Archives as presented to the OCF Board of Directors by Jerry Joffe and Charlie Ruff. As Country Fair Elders, we realize that among our responsibilities is the preservation of our unique and culturally significant history for future generations. We understand the need for an all encompassing and consistent process to accomplish such an archival project utilizing the organization, security and preservation such a professionally facilitated project would guarantee. A program such as this will encourage the donation of precious memorabilia currently residing in personal collections and put it to best use in preserving our long and unparalleled history."*

Jeff H asked that we recognize and honor the life's work and habits of our friend Wally Slocum who would have been paying close attention to this idea. Jon P said the Board should pass the motions for this project because it is important for fulfilling our educational goals. Joseph said after 35 or 40 years that efforts should be made to recover a complete collection of the original newsletters of the organization. Steve pointed out preservation of the photos of this January's major flood, which are scrolling on Grumpy's pc tonight, will be valued someday. Jen-Lin spoke to the importance of cheap art being made available to the masses. Jerry said there are no intentions to buy archive materials; a "deed of gift" can be issued to record each donation. **Board:** Deane noted this motion has the full support, in the form of two letters, of the History Crew and of Archaeology; Archeology has asked to have a representative on the committee. Jon said a major expense could be the establishment of a climate controlled facility at some point in the future and there will probably be an overlap of the archives with the Archaeological records which also require a climate controlled environment. Anna noted this is a motion to start the project and other decisions will follow about facilities and about when and how as we continue down the path. Paxton said we need a good process to avoid instances similar to the time he loaned a 1969 poster to the History Booth and it was subsequently lost. Chewie said he supports this for the community cultural significance and the need to preserve artifacts; he has a first year photo ID and he has a number sign "no. 9" from a booth that was used the Crow Road site that he will donate. Diane said she is happy with this motion and she noted that what was on display last year at the museum was only about 10% of their collection; displays would be nice. LT said he is delighted to see the merging of his two passions, OCF and history, and in looking forward to the 100th Fair, we probably won't be here but will have told the history about our little biosphere and plot of land. Saman said it is important to capture the stories that the people tell about their times at the Fair. Jerry said there are already archival efforts going on at the Fair and this could help draw them all together. The motion passed.

Deane moved, Paxton seconded, that the Oregon Country Fair Board of Directors direct Operations staff and the OCF Bylaws Committee to research and explore the creation of an officer position of OCF Archivist, and to return to the Board a detailed recommendation of the expected roles, responsibilities and job description for such a position. After discussion, the motion passed 10-0. **Peach Gallery:** Hilary said the position should be a volunteer position but wondered if it should be an officer of the corporation. Charlie said the motion is to explore and recommend, the concept may or may not come into being but we should do the legwork with the Bylaws Committee to get to a good decision; we should start with a volunteer. Terry Baxter said its right to start with a volunteer because things build slowly and incrementally with collection, preservation, organizing and material availability; when the project is fully functioning, the position might become a job. Charlie said one reason to explore this position is to empower someone who can sign off on deeds of gift and who can act on

behalf of the Fair with some credentials; having some position status has was advised by other organizations. Hilary said she understands the duties, doesn't understand the officer position, and agrees that it may become a staff position someday. Jon P said we need a key person but is not sure about needing an officer. Joseph said creating an officer is unprecedented; the GM already has special volunteer positions who report to staff. Chris said this motion is only to explore and not to make the decision tonight. Bill W said these motions are good. **Board:** Anna wondered if we need a motion in order to just explore possibilities and bring back ideas. Jack said this motion directs the Bylaws Committee to work with Operations. Chewie asked for a friendly amendment to remove the officer part. Charlie said the question is to determine if we should make this an officer position. Paxton said the only reason to direct this to the Bylaws Committee is if it's about an officer; we could appoint a volunteer to start the process now but we would need to reword the motion and we could table it for now. Jon said he supports exploration of an officer position and would expect to hear back if it's a good option, or not a good option, or is one of a number of options. Diane said she is not sure about an officer but is sure we need this discussion and should include other groups. Bear said he doesn't like the officer idea because the confidentiality of Board activities doesn't seem important to the position. Jack said we need an archivist and it needs to be elevated to Bylaws; a "non-executive officer" or some other creative idea could help nail this down; we are not quick to change so some time for a person to become comfortable in the role is important, time that would avoid the uncertainty of a Board election each year, we should give it the respect of the Bylaws, and in the interim we have mechanisms and can delegate responsibilities to move ahead while we work to get this set up the right way. LT said, as the third Board member and Bylaws Committee member to speak to this tonight, the Bylaws Committee and a group of persons could hammer out details of the need and of a recommendation; the results will be good if they come from collective wisdom. Paxton said the Bylaws Committee might slow it down; we should just appoint a volunteer Archivist. Chewie said he will support the notion and the motion, we should get going and the Bylaws are the right place to get it rolling so be creative and go forward. The motion passed.

Staff Reports

General Manager (Charlie R): *As I write this I can see the water rising and I am hoping that it will stop raining soon so we can dry out a little bit. Between the recent snow event and the ongoing flooding we can't even really assess what damage has occurred much less gauge what it will take to put things back in order. It is safe to assume there will be much to do to get our site ready for the upcoming season as well as the event. I hope that folks who might be directly affected by the impacts will engage as early in the season as they can, so there will be fewer last minute surprises left to deal with. Even though we don't yet fully know what we are up against, I know that our amazing volunteers and the entire Fair Family will pull together and put on our best show yet.*

Last month I told you about our push to get our tickets on sale earlier than ever this year. In that spirit I am thrilled to say that our 2012 Online Pre-Sale is underway and tickets are now available. This is a full month earlier than our on sale date for many years and is two weeks earlier than previous Pre-Sales. It's a great incentive for friends and family, who know they are coming to the Fair, to purchase early and get some fantastically artful Fair commemorative goods for doing so. It also gets us in the landscape of summer festival and music event as people are making their purchase decision earlier than ever before. The Pre-Sale lasts through April 16th at which point our tickets will be available through all the usual outlets, online and by phone. So far, since 10:00AM yesterday we have sold nearly \$6,000 in tickets, most of which is comprised by 76 3-day tickets. By comparison we brought in \$16,000 for the entire two week window last year, so we are off to a fine start.

We are working on a partnership event for the afternoon of Sunday, the 16th with Travel Lane County. Their new

Adventure Center at Gateway is a TicketsWest outlet and we are planning an outlet kickoff event there that would bring visitors and attention to both the visitor center and the Fair.

Our posters are going to press and will hopefully be in release in time to support the TLC event and the full ticket on sale date of the 16th. Thanks to James Bateman for working hard to help us get the poster and many other of our marketing materials together and in place for this earlier time line. Additionally, we just finalized the translated text and will doing a first ever Spanish language poster this year.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the March Coordinator Potluck at the LCC Longhouse, which you may recall the OCF helped fund. It was a great meeting in a great space. It was very useful to imagine what our own version of such a space might look like out on site. Several members of the Community Center committee were in attendance and we talked about the powerful effect such a gathering space can have in defining and building community. A special thanks goes to Dean Middleton for facilitating the even with the folks at LCC for us.

I would like to give you update on our shuttle bus service for 2012 and let you know that we may well be able to do the service the same way we did it last year. I believe that we have been able to get the remaining private providers to allow us to work with LTD to provide the service from the Downtown Station. We don't have it all finalized contractually quite yet but we have paper and verbal agreements in place that should make it possible. LTD's fully allocated rate for 2012 was scheduled to take a dramatic hike this year to \$163 per bus hour, however we were able to successfully make the case with them that a Non Profit's like the OCF and others should not incur the fully allocated rate and their board agreed to hold our rate to \$142 per bus hour. We are looking forward to another great year of mass transit to the Fair.

We have finished our insurance review for 2012 and our policies have now all been renewed as of April 1st. We were able to make some significant improvements to our coverage's and even after adding the new Territorial property our rates have gone up only \$500 for the year. We will have a new volunteer injury provider with much better coverage and have resolved a long standing issue around coverage for volunteer firefighters and I am very pleased with where this puts us in these regards. We managed to negotiate the removal of several other exclusions and I feel we have the best coverage package I can remember as we go into the season.

I want to let you know that the COLA amount for 2012 came in at 2.85%. We have adjusted the payroll to reflect this for the staff members that are not currently on a step table or have reached the top of their step table. We projected our 2012 salary budget numbers based on a placeholder figure of 2.6%. This will result in an increase of about \$300 dollars above our overall projection.

I am happy to report, that at the Path Planning meeting in March, the committee passed a motion of recommendation to the board that was included in your packet. The recommendation is for a 2014 time line for implementing Craft Lot as public space. This is the outcome of a lot of work by the committee and I thank them for their efforts. There will be a motion added to new business to adopt the recommendation and I urge you support this important part of our event and our future.

Also in your BOD packet is a request for an organizational pledge of support for the Lane County Network for Immigrant Integration's Statement of Principles. There is no funding attached to this they are only looking for our affirmation. This will be added to new business so please review the statement and hopefully you will want to lend our support to this effort that so clearly aligns with several of our OCF Goals, particularly that of diversity.

I want to remind everyone to join us at the WOW hall for the Spring Fling, this year on Saturday May 5th. The band will be Medium Troy and we will of course have the best raffle ever, so come out and kick up your heels as we get the season started.

Site Manager (Steve W): March was a very eventful month with two more floods, a snowstorm, a lot of tree damage, more bank and path erosion and Andy's birthday. The site is flooded right now (April 2). I want to give an early thanks to the Tree Crew, Veg-ManECs and Site Crew for the workload that is coming our way. We will need all of April and May and

more to make the site safe and to recover from the five flood events this winter. Our volunteer mechanics are geared up and repairs on the Fair fleet of trucks and tractors are underway. The spring Wildflower Walk is April 28th, starting at 1pm at the Hub. The next Highway pickup is April 29th, gather at 10am at the Warehouse or catch up a Maple Gate shortly after 10am. Anyone visiting the site should be looking up and watching overhead for hanging limbs or damaged trees that might yet fall in windy conditions. Anyone that wants to come out, pitch in and help with site cleanup should meet up with site staff on Saturdays or Sundays. The first trillium of the spring has been spotted and it's a time of rebirth.

Caretaker (Andy S): David Hoffman is a timeless volunteer who almost never misses a weekend and he deserves some special recognition. He and I have been turning and working the compost for several years and he always gets me and gets the work started. We took the temperature last week and discovered we are ahead of schedule so we will start screening soon and have it ready for the Recycling Crew. David is tenacious about getting the work done, is the best volunteer the Fair could have, and he deserves our thanks.

Office Assistant (Robin B): The office has been like an on-ramp as the application deadlines pass. It's exciting to see people coming in and calling and thinking ahead to the event. The Be the Change event will have the benefit of our lead facilitator Alan Wong and is an act of philanthropy; we give this to the young people. We ask "How can we make a positive difference in our own lives, the lives of others, and the world at large? Unleash your powerful potential. Come together with a diverse group of teens from across the city, express yourself on issues you care about, and take part in creative workshops with inspiring local artists and activists. The world needs your ideas and imagination, so come join us at Be the Change and let your voice be heard!" It means a lot to help our youth.

Assistant Manager (Tony C): There is tons going on right now and last weekend included many long hours working on the website. All that could be happening is happening. It's exciting, buy tickets!

Committee Reports

The Path Planning Committee: Dennis Todd (former co-chair) spoke: We recognize that the Fair needs more public space. We advocate that the Fair open the entire Crafts Lot to the public in 2014. We have developed a plan called the maximum flexibility plan, which will minimize the permanent structures, and, if permitted, allow for a 2nd weekend event in the summer if possible. The Board is asked to authorize this plan. Anna asked where we can find the plan. Dennis said the graphic is still being prepared and the plan will be on the "ocfpathplanning.org" website soon. Indigo will make the motion next month.

The Committee met on March 18th at Alice's with twenty six people in attendance. The minutes from the February meeting along with two small corrections were approved and posted on the Path Planning web site. Several members of a dance group expressed their thoughts and desires for a stage presence in the Crafts Lot development. They are looking for a possible world music and dance stage area. Committee members made a presentation of the Path Planning processes over the last six years of developing new areas for public access to improve the overall quality and quantity of the fair experience. This was a good revue for the committee members and board members that were present for this meeting. Up to date there have been three proposal maps of ways to develop the Crafts Lot for public access and these are all available on the PP web site. A fourth design concept map was presented at this meeting and discussed at great lengths. This design concept takes into consideration many of the ideas and suggestions from interested fair family members. This map will also be posted on the PP website under Maps. The Committee worked on putting together a recommendation to the Board of Directors to open the Crafts Lot to the public starting in 2014. After lengthy discussion a written recommendation was approved and will be submitted to the Board. The recommendation reads as follows: The Path Planning Committee recommends that the Crafts Lot be opened to the public in 2014 following the principle of maximum flexibility exemplified by Map #4 and incorporating fair family feedback. The Committee worked on the Path Planning work plan thru the 2012 fair year. This includes what we need to do and when it needs to be done. A very educational discussion was conducted about the heritage trees on the fair site. Where are they located and how can we educate the people about helping to preserve them. These trees were on site long

before we got there and with our help, they will still be there long after we have moved on. The next regular Path Planning meeting will be on April 15th with the location to be determined by the weather at the time; either Alice's if very cold and wet or the Hub if the weather is nicer.

The Elders Committee: The Committee met in the town office at 7 pm on March 22nd with fifteen people in attendance, including one committee member via Skype. The minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed and approved for posting as written. They are available on the OCF.net web site. The Committee reviewed at length the proposed letter of support to the board pertaining to the motion to create an archival process to preserve the fair's history. The Elders are very much in favor of seeing some system of preservation established and will do whatever they can to aid in this endeavor. This letter is included in the board information packet and will be read into the record from the gallery when the motion is presented. The Committee reviewed and approved twenty three new applications for Elders status. This brings the total number of active Elders to six hundred and fifty seven for the 2012 year's fair. There have been a total of seventy three people approved this year. The Elders held their spring retreat at Alice's over the past weekend. The meetings commenced at 10 am on Saturday morning and concluded at 6 pm. A very nice dinner was provided and some live entertainment occurred to make the evening enjoyable. Sunday's meetings commenced at 10 am and a summary was conducted at 1 pm. Some of the subjects discussed were the activities planned for the Still Living Room this year and a permanent location within the fair area to one day have an Elder's craft booth among other things. Also camping mapping and work details were under discussion. Ways to improve fair family participation in the voting process were discussed as well. The Council of Elders held a meeting at 2 pm after the retreat had concluded with the subject being ways to focus on Elders helping Elders all year long and not just during the fair. These discussions as usual are rather lively and also very informative. The next regular Elders Committee meeting will be held in the town office on Thursday, April 26th at 7 pm.

President's Peace

The river is really raging. I was sitting on a bench and the water was running, it helped me think about us and Crafts Lot. Some of our main entertainment is situated in the lowest spots on the property and are somewhat confined so people just walk past and the audiences are limited to 200 or so. We hope all will embrace the expansion and this maximum flexibility concept; and we hope everyone will recognize the sacrifices of those who will be affected. The plan will enable more people to see the performers, much like the spaces at Chela Mela where entertainers can be seen by many.

Elders Committee, I heard what was said and want to say that Boards can get carried away at times, and we can reflect on these last two Board meetings and our limits, but let's not take the passion out of the Board, and remember that we all love each other. Thank you, Chris.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm. The next regular meeting is May 7th at 7pm at EWEB.

Tentative agenda for May:

Secretary's Report and Donations Consent Calendar (Bring Back the Bow; Lane Peace Center; Veneta Community Dinner)

Treasurer's Report and Budget

Approve minutes from the April 2 Board meeting (Indigo)

Good Works Film Festival sponsorship (Chewie)

Front of the Fair task force (Bear)

Eugene Celebration donation request (Jon)

Lane County Network Immigrant Integration (Jack)

Crafts Lot motion (Indigo): "I move to adopt the Path Planning Committee's recommendation to open the Craft's Lot to the public in 2014, following the principles of maximum flexibility as exemplified in map #4, as well as incorporating Family feedback."