

# COLESTIN VALLEY BUZZ

## Jan/Feb 2006

### Fire Resistant Building Materials

Thanks to John Ames

For District residents building new outbuildings or homes, the websites below offer a summary of the fire resistance of several modern building materials. One site discusses tests of exterior siding, here's the background:

The wall tests were designed to evaluate relative performance of exterior siding in a simulated urban-wildland interface (UWI) fire exposure. A range of commercially available siding materials was tested, including solid wood shingles and lap siding, hardboard and oriented strandboard, and wood fiber-cement products. Two kinds of test were done: siding only (no sheathing) tested until failure (flame penetration); and siding over sheathing, tested with a 10-minute flame exposure.

[http://nature.berkeley.edu/~fbeall/Fire\\_Tests/Walls.html](http://nature.berkeley.edu/~fbeall/Fire_Tests/Walls.html)

The address below discusses the tests of roofing materials, here's the background:

Six commercially-available roof coverings (asphalt composition, fire-retardant-treated wood shakes, fiber-cement, concrete tile, aluminum, and fiberglass-reinforced resin) were purchased from retail outlets, made into test roof decks, and subjected to fire performance testing. All materials had a "Class A" fire rating, although in most cases the rating referred to the entire assembly (covering, underlying fire barrier, and sheathing).

The roof coverings were built into roof deck assemblies according to manufacturers' specifications. Where fire barrier and sheathing were not precisely specified by a manufacturer, we made a variety of test decks with components in common use.

The test protocol involved placement of a burning "Class A" brand on the test roof deck and exposing it to a 12 mph wind source. The test was terminated when glowing combustion

or smoldering stopped, or when the test deck failed due to flame penetration to the underside of the roof deck.

[http://nature.berkeley.edu/~fbeall/Blue\\_Tests/RoofSum.htm](http://nature.berkeley.edu/~fbeall/Blue_Tests/RoofSum.htm)

### A Different Kind of Garden

I recently read Noah's Garden – Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards by Sara Stein and found it to be thought provoking and inspirational. If you are a gardener already highly engaged with our local landscape, or wishing to become more so, this book offers a fascinating look at a journey that can inform any gardener with an eye towards ecological balance. The book is available through the library. Here's the synopsis from the book jacket:

America's landscape style of neat yards and gardens has devastated suburban ecology. With their mowers, shears, and misguided choice of plants, gardeners are wiping out animal species by destroying their habitats and food supplies. Entire communities of plants and insects - the once well-stocked pantry of our native countryside - have been wiped bare.

After a decade of intensive gardening, Sara Stein and her husband felt they had created their personal Eden. And then they realized the full extent of what their efforts had wrought - they had banished the animals from their paradise.

Thus began the author's "re-education of a gardener." Gardeners see moles as a nuisance, snakes as scary, aphids as the enemy. Ecology sees all species as connected. We cannot decide who gets to stay aboard the ark: if we spray the caterpillars we lose the butterflies.

This book interweaves Stein's efforts to build a garden that welcomes all creatures (humans, too) with her explorations into the

ecology of a garden. As with her critically acclaimed My Weeds, Sara Stein takes the reader along on an adventure that will make every gardener look at the land with a new and thoughtful eye.

## **Protecting Private Land in the Monument**

By Diane Garcia, Executive Director of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Not many communities can boast having a National Monument right in their backyard. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument adds to the many features that make Southern Oregon a wonderful place to live. We are blessed with working farms and ranches, scenic vistas, unspoiled forests—all of which contribute to the natural wealth and beauty of our region. Add to that a 53,000 acre national monument, the first in our country to be designated solely on the basis of ecological diversity, and you realize how incredibly special our area is. With that realization comes a responsibility to make sure that these irreplaceable natural areas are cared for and passed on to future generations.

Many local groups (including the Friends of the CSNM, the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, World Wildlife Fund, Friends of the Greensprings, and others) have been actively seeking positive, proactive ways to protect and preserve lands in the Monument. One local nonprofit organization you may not be familiar with is the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy.

The Land Conservancy was formed in 1978 when a group of local citizens were concerned about the loss of rural lands. It was the very first regional land trust to form in Oregon. Nearly thirty years later, the Land Conservancy is still working to balance the impacts of growth and development with protecting lands that reflect community values. We've worked collaboratively with private landowners and communities to conserve nearly 2,500 acres of land in Southern Oregon by responding to the needs of landowners and also by identifying priority areas that have particular significance.

One area we've identified for private land conservation is the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Within the Monument boundary are

roughly 33,000 acres of privately owned land. These lands are of great importance and, if conserved, can help preserve the biological diversity and extend the wildlife corridor within the Monument.

With support from the Ashland Food Co-op and the Carpenter Foundation, we are co-hosting small gatherings in the Monument to introduce private landowners to our organization and the tools we use to conserve land. Several of these are occurring in homes and gathering spots throughout the Monument this spring. Our hope is that you will join us for some coffee, cake and good conversation to hear our land conservation goals and share your vision. If you'd like to attend one of these small, informal gatherings, please give us a call, and if you'd like to host one, we'd also love to hear from you (we'll supply the refreshments)!

To learn more about the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy you can log on to our website at [landconserve.org](http://landconserve.org) or contact us at 482-3069 or by email at [info@landconserve.org](mailto:info@landconserve.org).

**A truly happy person is one who can  
enjoy the scenery on a detour.**

## **Fire District Signs Project Nears Completion**

Teri Thomas

Thank you to the community for their overwhelming support of the sign project! And also many thanks to Lisa Buttrey and Brian Dwyer for their countless hours of hard work. Winter weather set in just before we could complete the project, so the remaining households will be signed later this spring. Questions or suggestions can be directed to Lisa Buttrey, 821-5479.

I signed up for this project at the Community Wildfire Protection Plan meeting because my home is difficult to find and the access has nothing to do with the official street address. It worried me that if my daughter had to call for help, she would not be able to give directions.

Although many Fire Department volunteers are long time residents, not all are familiar with every the road and driveway in the District. Responding to an emergency at night when time is critical can be very difficult. The committee strove for uniform height and use of reflective materials in order to make it easier for responders to see the signs.

We have had a lot of positive response from the Forest Service and Ashland Fire & Rescue, especially the Ambulance drivers. These outside agencies have expressed great enthusiasm and increased confidence in their ability to respond in our area. I hope we never have to make those calls, but if we do, and the minutes matter, I'm glad we could make that job easier.

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## Wanted

House keeper for 4-6 hours a week. Please call (530) 475-0314 for more information.

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## For Sale

- 2 horse bumper pull trailer for \$600.
- Schrader wood stove for \$100
- 8 foot wide garage door for \$100

Please call 530-475-0314 for more information on these exciting offers!

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## Upcoming Events

Lomakatsi Restoration Project (LRP) is sponsoring a community-based, tree-planting and revegetation event on Saturday March 4th here in the Colestin Valley. Come and join community members and LRP's Earth Restoration Task Force in pro-actively supporting the recovery of our local Cottonwood Creek ecosystem, while learning:

- Native plant identification, care, and propagation
- Vegetation maintenance and monitoring
- Streamside restoration techniques
- Wildlife and salmon habitat enhancement
- Lomakatsi's Ecological Principles for Restoration and much more!

Set aside approximately 3 hours on Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> to work on Cottonwood Creek revegetation. Call Lomakatsi at (541) 488-0208 for meeting time and place. Thanks for your participation! Helen Yost, Outreach Coordinator, Lomakatsi Restoration Project

# **Colestin Valley Buzz**

**Lisa Buttrey  
1211 Colestin Rd  
Ashland, OR 97520**

Next BUZZ  
Deadline  
Mar 15, 2006



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