



Rogue Walker

Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake and Curry Counties

Laying Out a Red Carpet for Rapeseed

At the end of a recent Josephine County commissioners meeting, two locally prominent farmers discussed a new government program to introduce non-indigenous crops, canola and camelina, to Southern Oregon. Although adamantly opposed by County Commissioner Sandi Cassanelli, the remaining members of the Josephine County Board decided to back the plan with \$85,000 in economic development funds.

Canola and camelina are classified by the ODA Plant Division as “rapeseed.” Planting is outlawed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture in other parts of the state – and there’s a question about whether we’re opening ourselves up to an invasion.

“Anything you plant will spread,” admits Wayne McKy. His comments are *vital*, as he is the prime local farmer in the program being pushed by Northwest Seed Crushers, Inc. of Eugene.

Lyle Woodcock is equally well-known, yet has a penchant for questioning government policies. “It’s a part of the mustard family,” he worries, “and that is a terrible, terrible seed.”

“I guess,” says McKy. “But I want to hear what’s wrong with it, so I’ll know what to do. Because it’s putting me on the spot here. I didn’t know any of this stuff when I planted it.”

There are a few other things the promoters may not have told him. There is some doubt that the commissioners in Josephine County did due diligence in researching the issue – or whether any real research was done by them at all.

It’s not that rapeseed is automatically a villain, or that we have all the right answers. It’s simply that we don’t have answers to many questions prior to taking a big risk. Why was \$85,000 spent in promoting a non-native crop which is plagued by so many ques-

Mark Your Calendars Now!

**2009 ANNUAL ROGUE GROUP
BACKPACKING PROGRAM**

Sunday March 22 and Monday March 23

RGSC presents an informative program featuring the 2008 backpacking adventures to Towhead Lake and Mountain Lakes. See some amazing examples of the biodiversity our area has to offer. Join Al Collinet, Overnight Hike Leader, and Darin Banner, Outings Chair, for this beautiful multimedia slide show. Bring your backpacking questions, suggestions and ideas of where you would like to go. Al and Darin will discuss and show the “how to’s” of a successful backpacking trip, including gear, equipment and how to go “ultra-light.” Family friendly /public invited (you do not need to be a member to attend). Call Kristin Biechler 840-7236 or email kbiechler@wave.net for more info.

Sunday March 22—Talent

Location: Talent Public Library, 101 Home St (2 blocks north of Tark’s Market, corner of Home and Market Sts.)
Social 7 pm, Program 7:30-9 pm. Light refreshments.

Monday March 23—Grants Pass

Location: Marie Hill Room, 510 N.W. 4th St (in the old Washington School bldg, behind the Courthouse)
Social 7 pm, Program 7:30-9 pm. Light refreshments.

Rapeseed (Continued on page 2)

Voice Support for the LNG Public Protection Act

Within the next month, the LNG Public Protection Act will be introduced in Oregon’s legislature. The proposed bill would protect Oregon communities from proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import terminals by using the clear authority that the state has over the issuance of permits for state-owned resources, such as water and land, as well as federally recognized state permitting authority under the Clean Water and Coastal Zone Management Acts. This bill would work to protect public safety and natural resources for the state of Oregon.

The bill does not ban LNG in the state, but strengthens the state’s existing authority in permitting LNG facilities. The LNG Public Protection Act has four components:

1. Ensures there is a need for LNG before giving away state resources.
2. Ensures that LNG facilities are consistent with Oregon’s strategies for addressing climate change.
3. Ensures that natural resources are protected by not allowing

LNG (Continued on page 5)

A Breathable Future: Health Effects of Air Pollution

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility presents its new program free of charge, and the public is enthusiastically invited to attend!

Monday, March 9th, 7 - 8:30 pm
Medford Public Library,
205 South Central Ave, Medford
For more information, go to
www.oregonpsr.org.

Rapeseed (Continued from page 1)

tions? There is an unsettling feeling that we are being subject to a heavy-handed promotional scheme.

Rapeseed is called that for a reason. The promoters call it a "hardy" plant, though "aggressive" may be more accurate. You can plant it in the middle of winter, you don't need to water or fertilize it, bee pollination is *not* necessary, and it will take over and kill native plants in its territory. The question is: how do you stop it?

Josephine County Commissioner Dave Toler and the seed crushers insist that the public should not refer to canola as rapeseed, though the Oregon Administrative Rules are quite clear. Rapeseed *does* include the varieties commonly known as canola (OAR 603-052-0860).

Here are more state rules regarding rapeseed that can be viewed at http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/canola_rapeseed.shtml:

- Jackson and Josephine counties are

In Memoriam

Beth Hoffman

Beth Hoffman, a longtime friend of the Rogue Group Sierra Club, died peacefully in her home last January.

She was the co-director of the Ashland Massage Institute from 1988-1994, and sole owner and Director from 1994-2003. Beth was an accomplished Nordic skier and member of the Crater Lake Ski Patrol. She was an outdoors woman, an avid gardener, a singer with

the Siskyou Singers, and a lover of old time music.

Donations can be made in her memory to the Sufi Order (www.sufiorder.org), JPR (www.jpr.org), the Sierra Club (www.sierraclub.org) or the Union of Concerned Scientists (www.ucsusa.org).

*Courtesy of Mail Tribune
Published 1/15/09*

referred to as "unprotected areas" and warned that rapeseed must be transported in enclosed bins or in containers lined and covered, similar to toxic waste (OAR 603-052-0880).

- Rapeseed must be isolated from crops susceptible to cross-pollination, including the food, industrial or seed market by a distance not less than three miles (OAR 603-052-0870 and 0880).
- To protect the public and established markets, the ODA Director has the authority to require destruction prior to bloom of any rapeseed production and can assess civil penalties up to \$10,000 (OAR 603-052-0880).

The Josephine County Commissioners decided on February 12 that insurance to indemnify potential losses derived from their decision to promote the growing of rapeseed in the area would be cost-prohibitive. Commissioner Sandi Cas-

sanelli fears the entire scheme is "dangerous and misguided." She warns that "the problems associated with introducing canola to our area" are "going to make us be sorry we ever did this."

If you would like Jackson and Josephine counties to be added to the list of Protected Areas, you may petition the ODA under the Administrative Procedures Act, ORS 183.390. The agency must either deny the petition or initiate rulemaking within 90 days of receiving ANY complaints and comments about the rule received from the public (OAR 603-052-0880). Contact:

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Plant Division
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532 USA
plant-info@oda.state.or.us
Phone: 503-986-4644
Fax: 503-986-4786

By Dale Matthews

ALLEN G. DRESCHER, P.C.

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The Rogue Group Sierra Club

The Rogue Group Sierra Club is one of 6 regional groups of the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club, originally formed by John Muir in 1892, now contains 52 Chapters nationwide. Its purpose: To restore the quality of the natural environment and to maintain the integrity of ecosystems; to educate the public to the need to understand and support the objectives, and to study, explore and enjoy the wildlands.

<http://www.oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/rogue/>

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Grants Pass Section

Joel Peterson 955-9224

Illinois Valley Section

Elaine Wood, Chair
 John Bricker, Chair

"The faint lisp of snowflakes as they alight is one of the smallest sounds a mortal can hear." -John Muir

RGSC MARCH OUTINGS

Sat March 7—Middle Fork of the Applegate River 12 Miles Strenuous
 Peter Grant 951-9139

Sat March 14—Mule Mountain / Mule Creek Loop 11 Miles Strenuous
 (Possible Off Trail) George Lescher 482-4477

Sat March 21—Ashland Trails 5 to 7 Miles Moderate Carol Walker 488-8517
 and Carol Ingelson 245-6380

General Ratings Definitions:

Easy – low elevation gain, well maintained trail, less than 5 miles

Moderate – low elevation gain, well maintained trail, between 5 and 10 miles

Difficult – moderate elevation gain, between 10 and 15 miles

Strenuous – greater than 4000 feet elevation gain, greater than 12 miles, some off trail possible

Very Strenuous – greater than 5000 feet elevation gain, greater than 15 miles, some off trail possible

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. Rogue Group Sierra Club does not charge for its trips.

Important Meetings for Timber Mountain/ John's Peak OHV Designation

Medford Red Lion—March 5; BLM/Medford—April 2

See RGSC website for more information:

www.oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/Rogue/newsletter/index.asp

Southern Oregon Nordic Club Outings

The following activities are not sponsored by the Sierra Club, but are listed as a service to our members.

Mar 04 - Novice Ski tour, Loc TBD Kellie 821-7147

Mar 07 - McDonald Peak, advanced Gene Robbins 482-0180

Mar 11 - Intermediate Ski tour, Mt Lakes Stefanie 776-3987

Mar 12 - General Meeting, D&S Motorcycles, Phoenix, 7 pm. Go to <http://southernonc.tripod.com/> for program

Mar 14 - Intermediate Ski tour, Loc TBD Kellie 821-7147

Mar 15 - Intermediate Ski tour, Mt Lakes Stefanie 776-3987

Mar 18 - Intermediate Ski tour, Back Country TBD Reese 482-0218

Mar 18 - Novice Ski tour, Loc TBD Kellie 821-7147

Mar 21 - Intermediate Ski tour, South Rye Kevin 261-3547

Mar 21-22 - All levels Ski Weekend, Bend Stefanie 776-3987

Mar 25 - Intermediate Ski tour, Mt Lakes Stefanie, 776-3987

Mar 28 - Annual Brown Mt Shelter Weenie Roast, all levels including snowshoes Kellie, 821-7147

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Illinois Valley Section Report

Land owner and activist, Jack Duggan, presented a program on Jacksonville land owners' problems with Off Highway Vehicles (OHV). He shared his eight year struggle with OHV riders and BLM's apparent unwillingness to police the as yet officially undesignated OHV areas of John's Peak. Jack indicated that the BLM has taken away the quiet of his land and endangered his water and safety. Please write Governor Kulongoski with your concerns about BLM's OHV designations in their Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR).

One member shared his recent experience with the local lumber mill clearcutting its land adjacent to his property this past summer and the company's imminent plans to spray the area with an herbicidal derivative of "agent orange" of Vietnam fame. He is very concerned about "drift," the herbicide's effect on his water

rights and the ecological effects on the soils and wildlife. Apparently, if one wants to be made aware of a private party's or government agency's plan to spray herbicide, one must pay \$50 for the privilege of notification. Many of these herbicides have already been banned in Europe. The lumber company has refused to change its choice of herbicide to a less destructive chemical. It's advisable to not inhale as you travel through the Illinois Valley....

The IV Section meets the third Tuesday of every month, alternating between Selma and Cave Junction. Social begins at 6:30, meeting from 7 to 9. Please call Elaine at 597-2880 for details.

*By Elaine Wood, Chair
Illinois Valley Section*

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER!! To order a Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar: Send your order form and check made out to the Sierra Club to: Kris Biechler, Treasurer 1100 Sterling Creek Rd. Jacksonville, OR 97530 Any Questions? Call Kris Biechler, 541-840-7236

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National Club Election This Spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Visit the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2009election>, which provides links to additional information about candidates and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

LNG (Continued from page 1)

the harm of beneficial uses such as recreational fishing and agriculture.

- Ensures that vulnerable citizens are protected by prohibiting facilities that have an identified fire-risk zone that overlaps with high sensitivity use, such as day care centers and hospitals.

Take action: Please contact your legislator and ask if they will sign on as a sponsor of the LNG Public Protection Act and support the bill when it comes up for a vote. Email or call their office and let them know you support the LNG Public Protection Act and you would like them to support it as well. You can locate contact information for your state legislator by visiting: www.leg.state.or.us or calling 1-800-332-2313.

Background on LNG in Southwest Oregon:

There are three proposed LNG import facilities in Oregon: two on the Columbia River and one in southwest Oregon. Any one of these projects would import twice the amount of natural gas than what Oregon currently consumes. The Jordan Cove/

RGSC Summer Hikes & Overnight Backpack Trips

May 16th Sunday Curry Section Sierra Club Sourdough Trail on Packsaddle Mountain

June 26, 27&28 Fri, Sat, and Sun RGSC Frog Pond Loop

July 24,25,26,27 Fri - Mon RGSC Marble Mountains

For more information email Al Collinet at dewbobal@verizon.net.

Pacific Connector LNG project would build an import facility in Coos Bay and a 230-mile pipeline to the California border near Klamath Falls. There are numerous concerns about LNG proposals in Oregon, ranging from environmental damage and property rights to national security and climate change.

The public comment period closed in December 2008 for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Jordan Cove project. The plan, which threatens water quality, endangered species and the safety of adjacent communities, has a DEIS that is riddled with inadequacies. Landowners, community members, scientists, state and federal agencies and Governor Kulongoski all expressed serious concerns with the DEIS.

The Jordan Cove proposal would impact Coos, Douglas, Jackson and Klamath counties to serve the California market. According to a 2008 report from the Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon's natural gas needs could be adequately met by North American sources. LNG costs more than natural gas and has a much larger carbon footprint. Rather than throw more public resources at finite fossil fuel infra-

structure that imports energy from countries that don't like the U.S. very much, it is time to fully invest in green energy. LNG is just a scheme for big corporations to get richer at the expense of our atmosphere and our communities.

For more information, email lesley@kswild.org, call KS Wild at 488-5789 or visit www.lngpollutes.org.

By Lesley Adams
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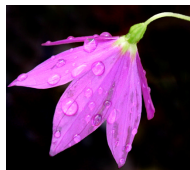


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<http://www.oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/rogue/index.asp>

place label here

Bulletin Board Notes

EXCOM MEETING

will be held on March 23
 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Headwaters Environmental Center,
 84 Fourth St., Ashland.
 Members are welcome.

DEADLINE

for articles for the next Walker is March 15

WEBSITE

for Rogue Group is:
<http://www.oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/rogue/>

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Non-members may receive the Walker for \$15 yearly.
 (no August issue)
 Send check to: Rogue Group Walker,
 RGSC Treasurer, Kris Biechler
 1100 Sterling Creek Rd., Jacksonville, OR 97530

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WALKER

Volunteers needed to print and assemble the Walker. Mark your calendars now and come have fun, 1-3 hours each month. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Assembly begins at 1 pm at the Sierra Club Office, 84 4th St. Ashland. Questions- contact Kris Biechler, 899-7699 or cell 840-7236

Next assembly date—March 26

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sierra Club Membership Services
 P.O. Box 52968
 Boulder, CO 80322-2968
 E-mail: address.changes@sierraclub.org
 Tel: 415-977-5649

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes! I want to join! I understand that my single dues payment makes me a member of the National Sierra Club, the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, and the local Rogue Group Sierra Club. I want to join with others in safeguarding our precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

New Member Name _____

Address _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES



	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT	
INTRODUCTORY	*	\$25	
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