



Weekender

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July 1, 2010

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GRANT MURRELL AND TEAM PARTICIPATE IN THE LANCE ARMSTRONG BIKE RIDE FUND RAISER

The team went to Seattle. (Myself, Mary, Kevin, Lindsay (Kevin's wife), Nicholas (grandson) and Presley (granddaughter). Mary had an injury so only Kevin and I rode. We made the 73 mile course in 5 hrs, 45 min. Mary, Lindsay and the kids did the 3K walk and then waited at the finish for Kevin and me. It rained all the way but it was a great way to spend fathers day. We raised just short of \$9000. Despite the rain it was a great day and a great event. We didn't take hardly any pictures because we just wanted to get it over and out of the rain. I will try to get some pictures for a later week-ender. My thanks to all the board and staff who donated. Without you it wouldn't have been possible to raise as much as we did.
Grant

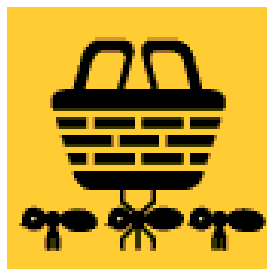


Be sure and visit our web site
at
<http://www.surfsideonline.org/>

ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

**ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2010
10:00 AM
OCEAN PARK SCHOOL**

**ANNUAL PICNIC
1:00 PM
AT THE SURFSIDE BUSINESS OFFICE
YOU MAY DROP OFF YOUR DESSERT AT THE
COMMUNITY ROOM PRIOR TO THE MEETING
OR BRING IT TO THE PICNIC WITH YOU!**



ANNUAL FLUSHING TO RESUME

Starting June 14th the water department will resume the annual flushing. If you notice water running in your street try to refrain from using water. If you notice discoloration of your water after the flushing, run your sprinklers for about fifteen minutes.

We apologize for any inconvenience

BEACH CLEAN UP

The Grass Roots Garbage Gang organizes a beach clean up for the 28 miles of beach on the Long Beach Peninsula. Hundreds of locals & visitors come out to clean the beach. Anyone interested in helping out is welcome to join any of the three events. Free chowder included!

Surfside Homeowners Association is sponsoring the Oysterville Dumpster!



BEARS USED TO BEING FED BY HUMANS PUT TO DEATH

OLYMPIA—Washington state wildlife officials say five black bears that were being fed by people on the Long Beach Peninsula had to be euthanized because they were too used to people.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife said Tuesday that agency officers and biologists relocated five other bears to Mount Rainier National Park. Meat from the euthanized bears was donated to an area food program.

Officials say most of the feeding was done at one house in Oysterville, where the resident told officers about spending \$4,000.00 a year on dog food to feed the bears.

Neighbors called for help when increasingly more bears showed up looking for food.

Officials say that bears that are too habituated to people are potentially dangerous and cannot be relocated. *The Associated Press*

Please heed this article and remember that feeding the wildlife is not doing them any favors!

Gorse



The spiny competitor

Gorse is a spiny shrub from the Mediterranean region of western Europe. This shrub has been introduced to other countries where it competes very successfully with native vegetation. Gorse is suited to mild maritime climates like those of southwestern B. C. It readily competes for well-drained areas where the soils have been excessively disturbed or are naturally poor. Gorse has become increasingly prevalent on roadsides, newly harvested and other disturbed sites in south coastal areas. There is concern that gorse is spreading and could pose a greater threat to forests and other resources.



Gorse originates in the Mediterranean region of western Europe

What is gorse?

Gorse is a dense, spiny, dull grayish-green shrub that typically grows to about three meters in the Pacific Northwest. It has small leaves that are generally shorter than its conspicuous spines. From early spring, yellow pea-like flowers develop in clusters on the ends of its branches becoming hairy black seed pods by late summer. A typical shrub produces about 8000 seeds annually. Gorse seed can lay dormant in the soil for up to 40 years and still germinate. Soil disturbance during road building and tree harvesting present opportunities for the successful germination of seed.

Gorse Continued



Gorse typically grows to a height of about three meters in southwestern B.C.

Like many introduced plants, gorse is well adapted to survive in a number of environments. The deep roots and small leaf area allow gorse to establish in dry areas. As gorse tolerates moderate shading, it can thrive under a partial tree canopy or in the open. Unlike many plant species, it is able to 'fix' or remove nitrogen from the air. This adaptation allows it to grow in poor soils.

When established, gorse produces large amounts of litter. Litter can accumulate and acidify the soil, excluding plants that do not tolerate acid conditions.

Gorse is also well known for its longevity. In New Zealand, gorse can live up to 30 years, reaching heights up to seven meters. Stump diameters of the older shrubs range between two and 10 centimeters with occasional older stems greater than 20 centimeters. It is not uncommon for gorse to become top heavy and topple when around 12 to 15 years old.

Origin and spread of gorse

Gorse originates in western Europe. It was introduced into New Zealand by settlers and sold by seed merchants and nurseries for private cultivation until the 1890s. Since then it has spread to cover more than three per cent of the total land area in New Zealand, including significant agricultural areas and forest plantations.

In North America, gorse was first introduced in south coastal Oregon. It has spread as far south as San Diego County and north through Washington State into coastal British Columbia. It is thought that it arrived in B.C. 20 to 40 years ago.

Today, gorse is found in B.C. at lower elevations on sites with mild maritime climates and seasonal, but not terribly severe, summer droughts. A significant area along the B.C. coast including Southern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the Queen Charlotte Islands, is climatically suited to gorse. There is concern that further expansion of its range along the coast may be possible.

Is gorse a problem?



With its aggressive colonization and spiny nature, gorse can make a site virtually inaccessible. It also excludes most native plants from the sites it inhabits

Gorse is a very aggressive colonizer and appears to be well suited to B.C. coastal climatic conditions far beyond its present known range. Due to its spiny nature, it has the potential to make a site virtually inaccessible to everyone. In its native habitat, there are insects adapted to diminishing the amount of seed reaching maturity. In B.C., however, there are no natural enemies to control it.

Gorse Continued

Gorse contains a high concentration of oil in its branches. As a result it can be a fire hazard where it is abundant on dry sites. Many areas of coastal B.C. with gorse thickets are potential sites for wildfires that could cause property damage.



Gorse may be a fire hazard where it occurs in dense thickets on dry sites

This shrub also threatens the biodiversity of areas where it establishes. It tends to exclude native vegetation by establishing itself quickly with a carpet of individual plants. Once established, gorse can successfully occupy a site indefinitely. As it is hardier than many of our native plants and establishes easily on dry sites and poor soils, gorse has probably not reached the limits of its range in our province.

How is gorse spread?

Gorse seed can scatter to adjacent areas when its pods burst and eject the seeds. The seeds can also be spread by animals, water and machinery. It is likely that seeds are dispersed by vehicles that pick them up in mud and gravel along roadsides and distribute them along roads adjacent to forest land. Seeds are also readily transported by water as the hard seed coat provides protection from abrading gravels in streambeds. Gorse can quickly become established on disturbed sites within its range where a lack of moisture and nutrients limits the rapid establishment of native vegetation. As gorse has not become well established throughout its potential range in B.C., the most effective control is to prevent it from spreading further.



Flowers of a typical gorse plant Gorse can produce about 8000 seeds per year. In its native territory local insects eat the seed, reducing the threat of gorse spreading. In B.C. there are no natural controlling agents

How can the spread of gorse be prevented?

- Early detection and prompt control of gorse in newly infested areas.
- Sites prone to gorse infestation should be planted with preferred vegetation immediately following disturbance.
- Do not plant gorse. Be aware of its methods of spreading.
- On removal of gorse from a location, plant alternate vegetation immediately, fertilize and water if necessary to help new vegetation become established. Use native or less aggressive vegetation adapted to the site conditions.
- Inform others about the danger that gorse poses to the plant diversity of our forests .

Gorse Continued

How is existing gorse controlled?

Gorse is not killed by cutting or burning the top growth. Gorse is difficult to eradicate and, in most instances, requires a combination of treatments to remove it from a site. Control methods include:

- Burning followed by herbicide treatment of the new sprouts. Gorse burns well, but tends to resprout from the burned stumps within one month. Treatment with a herbicide may control the new sprouts. However, after a fire, conditions are ideal for banked seed to germinate, which may necessitate further herbicide treatments or grazing.
- Cutting or chopping followed by fire, grazing or herbicides. The gorse is cut manually or with mechanical implements such as bulldozers. It is then burned to remove the mature vegetation and to encourage sprouting. The resprouts can be grazed by goats within three months, or treated with herbicides.
- Cutting followed by seeding. The gorse is cut to ground level and the site is seeded to a cover crop such as grass. The site is monitored periodically for gorse sprouts, which are removed.
- Grazing. Although sheep and goats have low preferences for gorse, they have been used to control it successfully in New Zealand.
- Herbicides. Several herbicides have proven effective in controlling gorse. For detailed information on chemical control, contact the local Forest Service office or a certified weed control specialist.



Once gorse becomes established it can be very difficult to control. Gorse is best controlled by not providing it with an opportunity to become established control specialist.

READER RESPONSE TO SNOWY PLOVER ARTICLE

Last week's article about Snowy Plovers prompted me to send these two photos from a couple months ago. My wife and I were walking on the beach watching a flock of plovers scurrying about on the shore as they do when suddenly a falcon swooped down from above and snatched one of them right in front of us. The poor little plover didn't have a chance. The falcon picked it up and flew about 100 feet towards the grass and landed on the sand. With the plover on its back under the falcon's talons the falcon started eating it. I snapped these two photos. Later I went back to check what was left. The only remains of the plover were scattered feathers.

I've seen eagles catch fish before but this was the first time I had ever seen a bird catch another bird.

One more comment when people drive too fast on the beach they kill the plover.

Rob Miller



DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS PROHIBITED !

In light of the upcoming 4th of July holiday, members are reminded that Section 2.12 of the Surfside Restrictive Covenants state that “FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED” within the boundaries of Surfside Estates Development.

Given our sensitive setting of dry dune grass and pine trees located throughout the entire Surfside development area, it is very important that the covenant restrictions prohibiting discharge of fireworks be observed by all members/owners. We need the help of all members and owners in Surfside to ensure the safety of our property and buildings.

There will be two public fireworks displays this year on Saturday, July 3rd. At the Port of Ilwaco. Sunday July 4th Long Beach off the Boardwalk. Both displays should be fun and exciting.

Shooting of fireworks is allowed on the beach, however all aerial fireworks shall be aimed in a westerly direction toward the ocean and no closer than 150 feet west of the dune grass line – ***NO EXCEPTIONS***. Care shall be taken if vehicles are present.

As a reminder, bonfires are allowed on the beach and shall be no closer than 100 feet west of the dune grass line and limited in size to 4' x 4' x 3', again ***NO EXCEPTIONS***.

Boating on the Canal and Lakes

Enjoy your lakes and canal with non powered water vehicles. No motor powered boats allowed in the canal or lakes with the exception of maintenance service.

FINDING OSO

By Margaret Perreault

Memorial Day weekend had come and gone. It was June 1, 2010 and we were getting the house tidied up for some friends who were spending the night and then going sturgeon fishing. It occurred to me by late morning that I hadn't seen our cat, Oso, at all that day. By noontime, my husband assisted me in going from room to room in the house to look into every nook and cranny. He was definitely nowhere to be seen and by this time, the rain decided to return. And rain it did— well into the following day with rather blustery winds to boot.

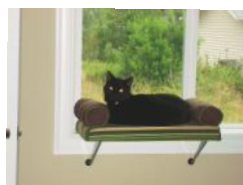
I should provide some information about Oso: he is five years old, half Manx and half Persian, a solid black cat with a truncated tail. He was officially an indoor cat, although he had supervised outings in my yard in Portland which has high backyard fences. There have been occasional times when he succeeded in slipping out a door; one time he was out for an entire night, but he had never been exposed to as many potential dangers as at our beach house in Surfside Estates. We have a nesting pair of bald eagles across the street. There are coyotes, raccoons, large dogs and a few feral cats that I have seen over the years. Let's just say that if any of these critters invited Oso over to dinner, he was going to be the main course. Speaking of dinner, he was friendly and affectionate with our family of two legged and four legged folks, but he usually chooses to have nothing to do with strangers. I feared that he would spend most of this time hiding from people and would be reluctant to approach anyone, even if he was hungry.

Because of commitments I had back in the Portland area, we reluctantly packed up our two dogs and other cat into the car and returned home. This was on June 5th. By this time, flyers had been posted around the town of Ocean Park; the Humane Society and only vet on the peninsula had also both been notified. Since it wasn't raining on the day we left, I made one final attempt to have our Australian Shepherd track down his missing feline friend. At the command "go find Oso", the dog pulled me along a row of rhododendrons near a fence on my neighbors property. This made total sense to me since the house in Portland has both fences and rhodies. I met the neighbor whose property was on the other side of the fence and he confirmed that he had seen a black cat, so at least I left the area buoyant with the fact that someone had actually seen my cat. By this time, he had been missing for four days.

One of the locations that graciously accepted our missing cat flyer was the Surfside recycling and trash compactor facility. Calls and emails began to arrive from other residents in the area that had seen him. One delightful lady told me that she had placed a little bed for him under her deck and that her neighbor was leaving out dishes of goose liver—No wonder he didn't respond when I walked through the streets shaking his cat kibble container!

On Friday, June 11th we picked up a live trap from the Humane Society and returned to our house. We no sooner pulled into the driveway and turned off the car engine that the cries of a cat were heard coming from the area where our Aussie had tracked him. The trap wasn't need because Oso came out of the bushes rather hesitantly and then made a bee-line right to me. He had been gone for over ten days. Needless to say, he was very happy to see all of us. I found no injuries on hi, he wasn't even dirty except for a bit of pin pitch stuck on a back leg. He had a good appetite and slept a good portion of that weekend. Sunday afternoon he walked back over to the front door and looked over at me; it was clear that he expected me to let him back outside. What he received instead was water from a spray bottle.

This is a missing pet story with a happy ending. I'm glad to say that Oso has been found safe and healthy. My husband and I wished there had been a "critter-cam" attached to him to see what he had been doing the whole time he was gone. Obviously he ain't talking! I'm a firm believer in "things happening for a reason" and this mishap did provide me with the opportunity to meet a lot of the wonderful people who make the Surfside Estates their home. I want to especially thank Nancy, Dee, Rex, Mary and Scott for all their help in finding Oso. Oso will visit his vet in Portland this week for a general checkup, a distemper booster and oh yes, a micro chip!





4th of JULY PARADE FLOAT

We are still signing up Veterans to participate in the parade in Ocean Park on Sunday, July 4th. We hope you will join us in an ongoing tribute to our veterans, and service personnel. For more information, please contact Valerie Harrison vbearhome@yahoo.com or Sara in the office sara@surfsideonline.org

OTHER NEWS

1. Annual Membership Meeting coming up July 10, 2010—10:00 AM at the Ocean Park School.
2. Annual Membership Picnic following annual meeting July 10th at approximately 1:00 PM at the Surfside Business Office. **Please plan on attending and bring a dessert to share.**
3. **Remember the office will be closed Monday, July 5th in observance of the Independence Day!**

WATER DEPARTMENT SERVICE REQUESTS AND CHARGES.

Please call ahead when you have work scheduled that will require the Water/Field Services Department to come to your property to shut off water service. You do not need to call them to do a shut off if you know where to turn off the water service.

The following fees and charges may apply:

1. Owner request for water shut off (per request) \$ 25.00
2. Upgrade of existing water service \$ 335.00
3. Repair costs of damage to water facilities caused by contractor, owner or others **Time and materials**
4. Water service removal or relocation **Time and materials**

July 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2: Staff Safety Meeting 8:00 AM	3
4 	5 	6 Architectural Meeting 9:00AM	7 RV Committee Meeting 9:00 AM	8	9 Set up for Annual Picnic 1:00 PM	10 Annual Meeting 10:00 AM Ocean Park School Annual Picnic 1:00 PM Business Office 
11	12	13 Architectural Meeting 9:00AM Bunco 6:30 PM	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Architectural Meeting 9:00AM	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Architectural Meeting 9:00AM	28	29	30	31