

# Ponderosa Press

## Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

October 2014 Edition



Hoot 'n' Howl



### PEHOA News:

Meetings have been moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm at Jeff and Aimee's house.

**Meet your new officers as of September 15, 2014**

#### DIRECTORS

Brad Doll, President

Denise Jason, Vice President

Jeff Wilkins, Treasurer

Angela Mandernach, Secretary

Dave Wheeler, Three Year

Joel Taylor, Two Year

Lauren Choi, One Year

Business discussed at September's meeting:

**Repair fence by wetlands:** The fence by the wetlands needs to be repaired. This will be tabled until after the New Year.

**House on Lapaloma:** There is some concern about a house on Lapaloma as to whether it should be empty or occupied. Brad will be following up with the neighbor on this subject.

**Northwest Trek October 24 - October 25 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

Don your best costume and bring your brood to Northwest Trek for the spookiest event of the year. Navigate through the park to search for animals in the dark on a special nighttime tram tour. Revelers young and young-at-heart can play games, win prizes, and eat treats during this wild weekend!



#### **Special Activities**

Venture to the Free-Roaming Area on a special nighttime tram tour. Spot Roosevelt elk, bighorn sheep and other animals under the stars.

Trick-or-treat and pick up goodies throughout the park. Make spooktacular crafts to take home.

Explore the Mad Candy Lab and find out what happens when candy meets science.

Try your hand at carnival-style games and a special miniature golf course.

### Fort Nisqually Foundation's "Bonfires, Beaver Pelts & Bogeymen" Halloween



**Storytelling fundraiser** Fort Nisqually invites you to celebrate Halloween in the style of past centuries with ghost stories told around a roaring bonfire in the meadow outside the Fort's walls. Follow a trail of glowing jack-o'-lanterns to a blazing bonfire where storytellers from the past will send shivers down your spine as their words bring forth the spirits of the fur trade. The storytelling begins with "gentler" tales; and after a break for complimentary cider and cookies, the stories get increasingly scarier! 7 to 9 pm Oct. 24-25. Cost: \$6 to \$8. Point Defiance Park Tacoma

**Thursday, October 23, 2014**

Photographing the Pacific Northwest

Sumner 6:00 PM

Event audience: Adult

Meet author and photographer Alan Bauer, who specializes in Pacific Northwest natural and local history. His work has appeared in hiking guidebooks, magazines and other Publications. Books will be available for purchase and signing. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Libraries



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**Saturday, October 25, 2014**

**Pumpkin Painting Fun**

**Bonney Lake** 2:00 PM

Ages 6 and up



Paint a pumpkin, watch "Hotel Transylvania" while your pumpkin dries, take a picture with Bella the Pumpkin Dog and listen to a safety talk from the Bonney Lake Police Department.

Costumes encouraged but not required.

**\* This event requires registration.** This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library

Current Availability: 25

**Monday, October 13, 2014**

**Earthquake Retrofit**

**Buckley** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Take steps to reduce the earthquake hazard to your home with Rick Hopkins, Pierce County building official and Tom Shimko, professional retrofit specialist.

Learn about:

- Home evaluation
- Permit process
- Bolt and plate installation
- Safety and engineering solutions

More information at

[piercecountywa.org/PREPARE](http://piercecountywa.org/PREPARE)



### Zoo Boo

Put on your best costume and join us for a fun, fall-themed weekend at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Come watch our animals enjoy special pumpkin enrichments and see how creative our keepers are at designing their jack-o-lanterns! **Saturday and Sunday, October 18 - October 19 10:00 am - 4:00 pm** and is appropriate for all ages.

Festivities are free with zoo admission and everyone in costume will receive a \$3 discount off the general zoo admission rate. The popular event features indoor and outdoor activities, as well as treats, photos and more.



### Horrorgami

**Summer** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Ages 6 and up

Event audience: Children, Tweens (ages 9-12), Teen/Young Adult, Family

Scare your friends and spook yourself silly with some ghoulish origami projects!

This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library

### Boo Bash

**Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 12-5pm at the Children's Museum in Olympia, cost \$8, members, \$10, non-members**  
**Pre-registration is strongly recommended.**

Don't miss out on our annual costume party!

Don your favorite costume and enjoy educational activities and treats. We are planning a dozen fun fall-inspired activities including: Face painting; Dissecting owl pellets; Creepy, crawly insects; Carnival games; Scavenger hunt; Glow-in-the-dark silk screen printing; Mad science lab; Franken-animals; Paper bats and launchers; Airways maze ghosts!

**Save Time! Buy Tickets Here!**

Call us for more information or to register! 360-956-0818



**Saturday, October 18, 2014**

**Milotte Wildlife Film Festival at Bonney Lake Justice & Municipal Center**

11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Adult, Family

**Free event takes place at Bonney Lake Justice & Municipal Center 9002 Main St. E., Bonney Lake**

Featured films:

11:30 a.m. Water Birds

12:30 p.m. Chimpanzee

Featured speaker: Bill Wallauer, Jane Goodall Institute



Create your own nature/wildlife documentary movie! 3 min. max • Submit by Oct. 1, 2014

More information: 253-863-6275 or

[www.mwlff.org](http://www.mwlff.org)

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### Winterize Your Car and Avoid Problems Later

You can avoid many dangerous weather problems by planning ahead. Plan long trips carefully, listening to the radio or television for the latest weather forecasts and road conditions. If bad weather is forecast, drive only if absolutely necessary. **Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:**

**Keep your gas tank full** - in case evacuation is needed. **Do not drive through a flooded area** - Six inches of water can cause a vehicle to lose control and possibly stall. A foot of water will float many cars. **Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded** - Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.

**If a power line** falls on your car you are at risk of electrical shock, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire. **Antifreeze levels** - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing. **Battery and ignition system** - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean. **Brakes** - check for wear and fluid levels. **Exhaust system** - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning. **Fuel and air filters** - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing. **Heater and defroster** - ensure they work properly. **Lights and flashing hazard lights** - check for serviceability. **Oil** - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well. **Thermostat** - ensure it works properly. **Windshield wiper equipment** - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level. **Install good winter tires** - Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs. If there is an explosion or other factor that makes it difficult to control the vehicle, pull over, stop the car and set the parking brake. If the emergency could impact the physical stability of the roadway, avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards.

### Be Prepared-Make an Emergency Kit for Your Car

In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car including

**Jumper cables:** might want to include flares or reflective triangle

**Flashlights:** with extra batteries

**First Aid Kit:** remember any necessary medications, baby formula and diapers if you have a small child

**Food:** non-perishable food such as canned food, and protein rich foods like nuts and energy bars

**Manual can opener**

**Water:** at least 1 gallon of water per person a day for at least 3 days

**Basic toolkit:** pliers, wrench, screwdriver

**Pet supplies:** food and water

**Radio:** battery or hand cranked

**Cat litter or sand:** for better tire traction

**Shovel**

**Ice scraper**

**Clothes:** warm clothes, gloves, hat, sturdy boots, jacket and an extra change of clothes for the cold

**Blankets** or sleeping bags

**Charged Cell Phone:** and car charger



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### Places to find free firewood for your fireplace or woodstove



Winter has a way of sneaking up on us each year, as do the monthly heating bills. You may already have a fireplace or wood burning stove. lucky you. If not, you may decide to purchase a woodstove, for under \$1000 plus the cost of professional installation, when you learn how simple it is to scavenge for **free firewood** near your home.

Crunch the numbers; you may find that supplementing your home heat with wood burning may pay for itself in only a few years. Follow the guidelines of your homeowner's insurance carrier when installing a woodstove. And for under \$60, you can purchase an easy-to-use electric chain saw that might become your best friend when you get serious about scavenging for wood.

Folks living in the country already know how plentiful firewood is, but whether you live in a large city or small town, **free firewood** for burning is all around. You just have to look for it. So where is all this **free firewood** where you live?



#### 1. Look right in your own backyard

Most municipalities have public works or arbor departments and park districts that keep trees on city property trimmed to maintain their proper shape and from growing unwieldy. Learn where trimming will occur in your area. For trees on private property, arborists are hired by homeowners. Let it be known that you're in the market for free firewood. After a heavy windstorm, often large branches have fallen; people will happily give you the wood. Whether you walk, bike or drive the car, take different routes to scout out free wood. As you become experienced at collecting firewood, you'll learn which woods are considered hardwoods and burn the hottest, such as oak, and which are soft woods, such as birch. Some people avoid burning pine, as they claim it leaves sap in the chimney, which turns into dangerous flammable creosote.

#### 2. Help empty the landfill

Many communities have a landscape reclamation center where yard waste, including firewood, is dropped off. Find out if your landfill offers **free firewood**. Depending on the size of the wood chunks, you may not even need a truck, but can safely deliver it home in your small car trunk. Always keep work gloves in your car, and also a towel, blanket or old bed sheet to line the bottom of your trunk to prevent chips of wood from making your trunk dirty.

#### 3. Become a lumber Jack or lumber Jill



Home remodeling projects often leave scrap wood; don't let that wood end up in the dumpster. Leftover untreated lumber from neighbors' decks, fences, porches, roofing and carpentry jobs makes perfect wood for your fire. Another place to get scrap wood to burn is from your high school woodshop class. Talk to the shop teacher; they'll gladly save the wood for you. Avoid wood that contains glue or adhesives, such as plywood or pressed board. Dangerous fumes are emitted when these woods are burned. It's not worth pumping pollutants into the air to save money! And, always avoid burning anything with plastic. Ashes from burned wood can be disposed of in the garden; this adds valuable nutrients to your soil. If you burn lumber that has hardware attached such as metal hinges, nails, and screws, be sure to sift those out before pouring dead ash onto the compost. Make sure you're current on your tetanus shot!

#### 4. Scavenging for wood can be palatable

Pallets, also known as skids, are useful for storing wood on top of them in your yard to keep the wood from rotting. Additionally, they can be cut to fit into your fireplace or wood stove. Newspaper circulation centers, stores, malls, and factories often have broken pallets that are no longer useful to them; they want the public to remove them. All you need to do is ask.



#### 5. Log in for logs

Use the Internet buy-sell sites and check out the "free" section; search for ads giving away firewood or scrap lumber. You'll be surprised how often you find wood. Sometimes the person is so eager to get rid of it that they'll deliver it to you. Supplementing your furnace with wood burning may be a smart choice for your home. Be resourceful and your fireplace or woodstove can provide much family pleasure while saving you money. you'll feel like you stepped out of a Norman Rockwell painting as the teakettle whistles atop the woodstove while you're popping corn over the fire. And "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" can be more than just a holiday song; you can roast your own chestnuts as you gather in the cozy wood-heated family room. Family members of all ages can enjoy finding free firewood near your home.

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### 7 Lessons from Grandma



My grandmother, Esther, who lived through the Great Depression, passed away recently. In the past few weeks, I have been thinking about the lessons of frugality that she taught me.

#### **Lesson 1: Make Do with as Little as Possible**

While it may not seem cool in this society to go without, my grandmother made do. She lived in the country with my grandfather and made almost all her meals from scratch, using food from their garden. My grandfather hunted and brought home wild turkey and deer. She reused scraps of paper to write lists and notes, and conserved water and electricity. She did not shop for fun or accumulate knick-knacks and frivolous items. She wore her clothes until they wore out.

#### **Lesson 2: Learn to Cook, Sew, Decorate**

My grandmother was an expert seamstress, which was how she paid for her college tuition in the 1940s. She made many clothes for her children and grandchildren, knitted blankets, pieced together patchwork quilts, decorated her home and cooked meals everyday for years. They rarely went out to eat or had pizza delivered. Someone else preparing meals was a luxury.

#### **Lesson 3: Pick Up Frugal Hobbies and Entertainment**

Some hobbies, like renting movies or shopping, can really cost a lot. Others, like stamp collecting, don't cost as much. My grandmother loved reading books and magazines she got from the library, taking walks outside, visiting family and friends, and listening to music. She rarely watched TV.

#### **Lesson 4: Appreciate What You Have**

It can be hard to want what you have, without wanting more. My grandmother never seemed to want more than she had. She was content with her home, her belongings, and her family. She had mastered the art of contentment.

#### **Lesson 5: Never Get in Debt and Save Up for a Rainy Day**

My grandmother's generation didn't believe in debt, and therefore, she never got in debt or even had her own credit card. For whatever she needed, she paid cash. She saved her change and dollar bills and only bought things when she had the money. She saved her money for what was important to her.

#### **Lesson 6: Creatively Solve Problems**

Whenever a problem came up, she always had the solution. She was very practical about how to solve problems, without resorting to spending money. For example, when I was moving into my first apartment, she helped me come up with a list of stuff I'd need and meals I could make that wouldn't cost a lot. She also gave me necessities for my new home.

#### **Lesson 7: Focus on the Big Picture**

One snowy night, not too long ago, my grandmother died peacefully in her sleep. The most important lesson she taught me was to focus on living a good life, loving your family and not focus on money or things.

With these lessons, she lived a wonderful life. I hope these lessons inspire you too.



Diane Schmidt is owner of Savingsmania.com, [savingsmania.com](http://savingsmania.com), your guide to savings, deals and more!

