

# Soap Creek Schoolhouse Foundation

Annual Newsletter

June 2017

Hello to all the neighbors, friends, and former students of the Soap Creek Schoolhouse.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

### ***GARAGE SALE***

**Donations: Drop  
Off Stuff**  
at schoolhouse

Saturday  
July 8th,  
9am-4pm

**Garage  
Sale**  
at schoolhouse

Saturday  
July 15th,  
9am-4pm

Please no TVs or big appliances.  
If you'd like to help with pricing or with  
the sale, please contact Nancy Hyde.

### ***NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC***

Sunday, August 6th  
2:00-5:00 pm

#### LOCATION:

Adair County Park picnic shelter,  
front section "A".

Bring a salad, dessert, or side dish, and  
any beer or wine you desire.

All else is provided!

Nice playground!

Frisbee golf course is on site.

Everyone is welcome;  
foundation membership not required.

Sponsored by the Soap Creek Schoolhouse Foundation.

The shady and pleasant Adair County Park picnic shelter and playground





## MT. VIEW STUDENTS VISIT THE SCHOOLHOUSE

It has become a tradition for third grade students of nearby Mt. View Elementary school to celebrate the end of the school year with a visit to the Soap Creek Schoolhouse for “Pioneer Day” in June. Around 60 students arrive on a school bus and take part with teachers and volunteers in spelling bees, nature walks, and hands-on demonstrations in pioneer-style carpentry. The students are encouraged to dress in pioneer clothing and to bring pioneer-style lunches. Whether the weather is damp or dry, the kids think it’s perfect for eating lunch outside and playing games in the tall grass.

(Article continued, next page.)





(Mt. View Students, cont.)

This year, neighbor and volunteer Doug Pollock brought a very special project in addition to his antique woodworking tools: specially-milled, planed, and dovetailed “beams” cut from a neighbor’s salvaged dead tree. The beams could be assembled on-site to build a miniature log cabin big enough for the kids to play in, and to imagine a life built with one’s own hands. It was a huge success, as was the whole day.

In Doug’s words, “Before this year's event, I was debating whether I should tell the teachers I'm all done volunteering. Then, one of the mothers came up and told me how her daughter had been there a couple of years ago. She said it was her daughter's favorite thing she ever did at school, how she still has her cedar shingle in her room, how much she enjoyed using the boring machine, etc. At that moment, I thought to myself, ‘Great - now I can never quit!’”



Building  
a  
Cabin !

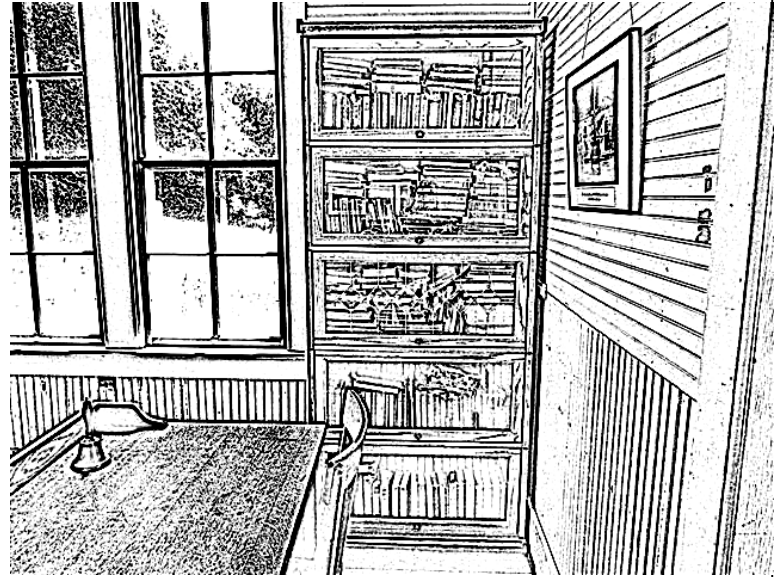


(Most photos by Doug Pollock)



## ANTIQUE SCHOOLBOOKS

Our large barrister's bookcase is chock-full of the over 400 books owned by the Soap Creek Schoolhouse Foundation. Many of these books are original textbooks and readers used at the schoolhouse. Others were donated by collectors, or by students at nearby schools of the same timeframe. The books are available to be used under the supervision of a Foundation Board member, for research or entertainment. Copies of the modern Bob Zybach oral history books may be checked out, with a \$50 security deposit.



## HISTORY BUFFS LOOK HERE!

Historian Bob Zybach has provided us with links to his fascinating oral histories and research of the Soap Creek area, and to his very interesting tour book of the valley: [http://nwmapsc.com/ZybachB/Oral\\_Histories/Soap\\_Creek\\_Valley/index.html](http://nwmapsc.com/ZybachB/Oral_Histories/Soap_Creek_Valley/index.html)

Thanks so much, Bob! We are all indebted to you for recording the history of our area, and for making these books **free to read online in pdf format**.

Physical copies of Bob Zybach's Soap Creek histories are available to check out from the Soap Creek Schoolhouse with a \$50 security deposit to ensure return.

Also, the schoolhouses's website, [www.SoapCreekSchoolhouse.org](http://www.SoapCreekSchoolhouse.org), contains sections with lots of historical information and photographs.

## GOT SCHOOLHOUSE STUFF?

The Soap Creek Schoolhouse has a small collection of original report cards, photographs, student souvenirs, etc. donated by former students. If you have any such materials you'd like to donate, contact Nancy Hyde. Please, only materials from Soap Creek School students. Original documents are preferred, but photocopies are also welcome. Thank you!

## **BIRDS AND BIRDHOUSES**

The Audubon Society of Corvallis donated 10 new bluebird boxes to the Soap Creek neighborhood in 2017, to replace several old ones earlier built by neighbor Barry Glassman that had started disintegrating. The boxes are being monitored by Audubon volunteers, who report almost half and half swallows and bluebirds, with also a few wrens and a chickadee building nests.

How to tell the difference by looking at the nests? In general, tree swallows build with feathers, bluebirds with dry grasses, wrens with dry sticks sometimes filling the entire birdhouse, and chickadees with dry moss, which makes the absolutely softest nest.

In the course of the nesting season, though, bullying, villainy and even murder between species are rampant, resulting in mixed-looking nests, eggs removed and destroyed by competitors, and tragedies happening to parent birds. A successful “fledging” of young birds is truly something to celebrate!

## **SCHOOLHOUSE BUILDING RENTAL**

The Soap Creek Schoolhouse is available for use throughout the year for small meetings of local interest. Please obtain permission and a key by contacting Nancy Hyde.

A \$20 key deposit is required. Rental fees: schools and community groups, no charge. Small private groups, \$20. Profit-making groups, \$20-100, to be negotiated in advance. Ongoing classes: \$5 per day. All groups must leave the premises tidy.

No running water is available. A permanent modern outhouse facility is on-site. Lights, electricity (2 outlets) and heat are available.

Please note: the Schoolhouse Foundation does not endorse any political or religious group but does allow its facilities to be used by such groups.

## **SAVE PAPER and POSTAGE**

If you're receiving this annual Schoolhouse Newsletter on paper, that means we don't have an email address for you. To receive future Schoolhouse Newsletters via email or to sign up for more frequent “Neighborhood News” emails, contact [NHyde@peak.org](mailto:NHyde@peak.org)

## **CONTACTS / FOUNDATION OFFICERS**

Tom Hewes, Chairman, 541-602-2423 or [TomHewes@iinet.com](mailto:TomHewes@iinet.com)  
Cat Newsheller, Vice-Chairman, 541-745-2080 or [CNewsheller@gmail.com](mailto:CNewsheller@gmail.com)  
Nancy Hyde, Secretary / Treasurer, 541-745-7470 or [NHyde@peak.org](mailto:NHyde@peak.org)  
Members-At-Large: Janet Ohmann, Bart Spiller, Peter Idema

WEBSITE: [www.SoapCreekSchoolhouse.ORG](http://www.SoapCreekSchoolhouse.ORG)

## FINANCES

**Your Dues and Donations received in 2016 = \$1725, plus  
Garage Sale Income = \$1144 more. THANK YOU!**

This year we're expecting an enthusiastic turnout for the July 15th garage sale (drop off items on July 8th). We'd also like to ask everyone who simply enjoys the presence of the Schoolhouse to send in **\$10 for membership dues**. Anyone can be a member, no matter your location! See the donation form below. THANKS!

What did we spend your money on, last year?

\$500 Insurance

304 Electricity

60 State Corporation fees

66 Forest Fire Protection fees

\$279 Neighborhood Picnic

99 Newsletter Printing/mailing

100 Website Hosting

**\$1,408 Total**

(Leftover funds are accumulated for major repairs.)

Please provide your email address to reduce printing and mailing costs,  
and to receive the neighborhood newsletter. Thanks!



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES and DONATIONS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 Annual Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Any Additional Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks to "Soap Creek Schoolhouse" and mail to:  
Nancy Hyde, Treasurer, 37845 Soap Creek Road, Corvallis, OR 97330  
All contributions are tax-deductible, and a receipt will be sent to you.

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**