

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April

- 1-3**—Portland Auto Swap Meet, Portland Expo Center.
2—Ponderosa Park Owners Association, 9 a.m., Klickitat PUD meeting room, Goldendale.
4—Wishram Community Council, 5 p.m., School Community Building, Wishram.
6-9—Northwest Cherry Festival, The Dalles.
9—Birding event and plant identification with Klickitat Trail Conservancy, Harms Road Trailhead, www.klickitat-trail.org/events.htm.
10—Hats and handbags auction with English high tea, Maryhill Museum of Art, www.maryhillmuseum.org
12—KPUD Commission meeting, 2 p.m.
14—Dallesport Town Council, 7 p.m., Community Center, Dallesport.
15-17—Goldendale Regional Home and Garden Show, Klickitat County Fairgrounds.
16—Portland's Largest Garage Sale, Portland Expo Center.
16—Klickitat to Pitt, flower hunt and litter patrol with Klickitat Trail Conservancy, along the Klickitat River, www.klickitat-trail.org/events.htm.
16-17—Blossom Craft Show and Festival, Hood River County Fairgrounds.
19—Glenwood Community Council, 7 p.m., the Grange, Glenwood.
22—Beadmaking workshop with Carol Heath Stabile, Maryhill Museum of Art, www.maryhillmuseum.org.
26—KPUD Commission meeting, 2 p.m.
28—Bickleton Community Council, 6:30 p.m., Bickleton Café.

May

- 3**—Snowden Community Council, 7 p.m., Cherry Lane Fire Station, Husum.

To have an event listed in the Community Calendar, call Kathy at (509) 773-7606.



Power Pole Roost Attracts Osprey

By Lori Froehlich

It's that time of year when the winged residents of the Columbia and Klickitat rivers make their summer homes. This occurs from late March through September every year.

Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the fish-eating osprey also are known as seahawks—the inspiration for the Seattle football mascot.

Osprey pairs mate for life and generally return to the same nest every year to hatch and raise their young before their annual southern migration in the fall.

If there is an abundant supply of fish nearby, osprey will build their nest on any tall structure appropriate enough. This includes Klickitat PUD power poles, channel markers and cell towers close to the water.

The large stick nests often are built atop a double cross-armed PUD power pole. This can pose a fire hazard or an outage when the sticks from the nest interfere with the electrical equipment.

Rain and snow compound the risk when the nests become wet. A danger exists for osprey as well. They could be electrocuted if their nearly 5-foot wingspan completes either the circuit between closely spaced energized equipment or between one energized wire and

one neutral or ground wire.

KPUD had seen an increase in osprey building their nests on power poles, especially near Lyle and Klickitat. In 2007, KPUD crews had to remove part of an osprey's large stick-built nest to restore power, while leaving enough for the birds to use for the rest of the nesting season. After the migratory birds left the area in September, plans were made for KPUD crews to install a newly constructed nesting platform.

Working with students at Goldendale High School and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, KPUD's construction crew installed a nesting platform several feet above the power lines, offering protection to the birds and the city's power supply. Students built two more platforms to replace osprey nests on other power poles in the area that were a fire and reliability hazard and to prevent future contact between the birds and power equipment.

The displaced ospreys have accepted their alternate nesting platforms. Each spring, all of the platforms have been occupied.

KPUD appreciates all those who were involved in the cooperative efforts to provide safe, reliable power, while at the same time preventing hazardous bird interactions with power equipment. This helps us to maintain a successful coexistence between people and wildlife. ■