



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
in Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 13 May 2006



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

Landscaping Committee Oversees Greenery Galore...

Our 6.8 acre CoHo site (see red outline on the photo at right) is nestled in south Corvallis, about 1.5 miles from downtown. The site is bordered on the south and west by residential streets, on the east by Crystal Lake (a billabong of the Willamette River), and on the north by historic Crystal Lake cemetery (buffered by open green space). To the east and south of our site you'll find Willamette Park (287 acres) which includes the Crystal Lake Sports Fields, a Frisbee golf course, trails, wildflower meadows and a riparian forest along the Willamette River.



The built-out area (buildings, parking, sidewalks, etc.) will cover the upper 45% of the site. The oversight of the remainder of our shared space is the challenge of our Landscaping Committee (a subcommittee of our Design and Development Committee).

Committee members have been coordinating landscaping plans with our landscape architect, Ann Baker. Projects to be done by landscaping professionals and by community members have been identified. Over the next year the first wave of landscaping will unfold. After move-in, more work will need to be done to complete the basic plan.



Recent Landscaping Committee agendas have included: cutting and chipping trees and brush, training a "tree champion," hiring contractors for landscaping, irrigation installation and site clearing, managing water on-site, and controlling non-native invasive plants in the wildlife area.

Our community garden, targeted for the open space in the southeast section of the site, will also need lots of green (and brown) thumbs. The garden bounty will appear at community meals in the Common House and will fill part of our ample pantry space off the kitchen.

Camas Harvest



The wetlands area in the southwest corner of CoHo's site is in bloom with camas, a lily-like plant with showy blue flowers and an edible bulb. Camas is also known as wild hyacinth.

A portion of the camas field was to be destroyed during construction, so Native American groups from Oregon State University were invited to harvest camas from that designated area for their annual salmon bake held on campus. They shared helpful tips on camas propagation and preparation.

Traditionally, camas bulbs were harvested while the flowers were in bloom in spring or early summer to avoid digging up the bulbs of the deadly Death Camas by mistake.

The camas bulb is the shape and consistency of an onion, but the taste is milder, somewhat like a baked pear. Camas can be boiled, roasted, or slow-cooked for hours in a fire pit, then ground into a meal. Because they can be stored for long periods of time without spoiling, they were a staple in the diets of the plateau tribes.



Eagles soared overhead while the camas was being harvested



CoHo Goes to Farmers Market



Corvallis Farmers Markets (Saturdays downtown and Wednesdays at the Fairgrounds) are great for buying fresh locally-grown veggies or flowers, playing in the fountain, enjoying entertainment (including jugglers, unicyclists, musicians and Corvallis High School street performers), eating good food, and visiting with friends (feathered and otherwise). Look for CoHo members either at our own booth or the market information booth. We'll have displays, flyers, and information on living in community.

Photos: Steve playing harmonica at CoHo booth
Steve and Judy spinning buttons with a visitor



Member Close-Up - Dennis (aka Denny)

Denny (and spouse Juva) first considered cohousing when looking ahead to lifestyle changes after their three kids were up and out. For Denny, people were the most important factor. After meeting CoHo folks in 2002, he gave cohousing a "thumbs up" and hasn't had one doubt since. Denny and Juva moved to Corvallis in 2004 and found they thrived on the small-town atmosphere (Eugene had grown beyond their comfort zone in the 27 years they'd lived there).



In CoHo, Denny has served as the treasurer and a meeting facilitator. He is currently on P&P (Policies and Procedures Committee) and is presenting a 5-minute "consensus corner" at each community meeting to keep us grounded in our basic practices, a role he really enjoys.

Denny is looking forward to both peaceful surroundings in CoHo and lots of tempting activities.

More, More, More About Corvallis

Our webmaster has compiled lots and lots of information on Corvallis and posted it on our [website](#). Find out which Nobel prize winner was born in Corvallis, how many students are enrolled at Oregon State University, and when to see the kinetic sculpture race. Learn why CoHoers love their city.



Photo: Statue at [public library](#)

Canine Greetings



Desi

I came to live with [Brenda and Den](#) 3 years ago. I am a 7 year old Briard (French sheep dog). I weigh 70 pounds which makes me the perfect "lap dog." My favorite place is with my people and my favorite activity is anything they happen to be doing. I especially love to play tug (you can see my favorite tug toy in my photo). I also love barking ferociously at bicycles--a habit that Brenda and Den predict will disappear after my first bad case of laryngitis once we've moved to CoHo.

Welcome Weekend:

Saturday, June 3rd and Sunday, June 4th

Out-of-town and local visitors are welcome to join us for any or all Welcome Weekend activities. Please RSVP so we'll know how many to expect and can let you know of last-minute changes to our presentation/overview, vegetarian potluck, brunch, land walk, and community meeting. We can also arrange local housing and transportation. Check our [website calendar](#).



At May 6th potluck, Bruce and Amy serenaded us on the accordion and mandolin.



Is it time to make your dream of living in community come true?

The clock is striking 9, marking the time that 9 homes are still available in CoHo!

This clock is on the Benton County Courthouse in downtown Corvallis. Built in 1889, it is the oldest active courthouse in the state of Oregon.

To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

Website: <http://www.cohousing-corvallis.com/index.shtml>

Email: info@cohousing-corvallis.com (answered by Mike Volpe) →

Phone: Juva DuBoise @ 541-908-5882 →

Susan Hyne @ 541-753-4453 →

Juva and Susan
at the
camas harvest.



Mike at
April 18th
groundbreaking
ceremony booth.

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