

## OREGON COUNTRY FAIR FEEDBACK REPORT – 2008

### AAAA

My humble suggestion is to have designated handicap seating (non-wheelchair) near stages. Without this, I frequently cannot access listening to music.

### ADMISSIONS

- We think you should sell your tickets through “Brown Paper Tickets”, not TicketsWest. It is a much better match for the fair.
- Maybe smaller limits should be set for each day. I come and always have to support the artists by spending hard-earned/saved \$\$ all year and stay 2-3 days. Entertainment on 2<sup>nd</sup> day, 3rd day exploring. But, when the paths become immovable a peaks and people aren't even stopping at things because of the old “cattle herd syndrome” I feel frustrated for those artists selling and those of us trying to shop and visit and learn by the masses floating around nowhere/everywhere...food for thought. Also on the virtual size of the fair, I overheard conversations last year among staff and the infrastructure is so huge now it's gotten political, frustrating, and some of the joy of the fair is drowning these days too. It's sad what growth can do,
- I like your faire, always have. I'll keep coming for sure. However, getting tickets on TicketsWest on the Internet mostly sucked. I, for one, had a slightly complicated ticket order, 4 parking passes, etc. And the site would go off after five minutes. So, it was a race against time... I had to practice and train to get my slightly complicated order and, this just shouldn't be.
- The (three-day) bracelets are uncomfortable and sweat at night. I never knew I would be tagged and treated like a dog. I understand many try to sneak in, but three-day bracelets are excessive. I will not return until they are abolished.

### AFTER HOURS AMPLIFICATION

- Too much f\*\*\*ing noise at Ray's. We need to sleep.
- A curfew, or shut down, of live music is a good idea. I was at Reefer listening to a band on Sunday and they stopped playing about 3am as a courtesy to the neighborhood. As I had been kept up til 4:30a.m. the night before by a band show I was not attending, I thought this was very considerate. You may want to consider a standard and time for late night amplification.
- STOP IT!!! Why the hell do you have to play Techno music till the wee (sic) hours of the morning. Techno SUCKS! You have so many very talented musicians playing all day for 3 days, and you have to ruin the night with Techno. Certainly isn't the OCF vibe I know and love. What happened, have you lost your minds?
- I thought the travelling rave was pretty cool.
- A rant about the rave. No. No. No. This isn't art! It isn't the Fair! It's a debased, urban, form of 'music' that shouldn't be here at all! It has driven out the beautiful acoustic music more every year, and driven many people to give up sleeping here in their booths altogether. Yes, I know the young people like it mostly. My own son and young booth crew does. Yes, I know we shouldn't want to fossilize the Fair and never allow new forms of expression. But I don't think we should be driven out by the musical version of Tobacco smoke, either.
- Possible solutions: Put the rave and other loud dance music out in the parking lot like the fire dancing show. And/or limit the hours and volume. Make an effort to support and encourage the Fair music that is dying out – Acoustic areas or stages after hours that would make it easier to find, also.
- Please consider this issue. Technology drowns out everything gentle and natural nearly everywhere else. Does it have to that here as well? Is that what we believe in here?
- •There has been a “silent rave” going on in front of my booth for the last two years that is Not Silent. The Caravan Café puts it on. They are there all night being loud; smoking cigarettes and leaving butts all over the path in front of my booth. They tore down my front curtain. If they want to do it until midnight or 1am it would be tolerable, but not all night long. We have to work 15 hours a day here. In the past, we had enjoyable, live, acoustic music deep into the night that was pleasant to sleep by. We are not “Burning Man” We are at the Oregon Country Fair with so much magic and creativity, sweetness and kindness. Magic is fragile. We need to protect it. Some of our kids don't come anymore because they don't enjoy the noise all night long. We love the fair. We don't mind partying and the music, just not all night in our peaceful neighborhood. It's gotten smoky, loud, and obnoxious. We need balance. With love.
- We need to ramp back sound amplification at night. It's already having significant environmental, health, and cultural impacts.
- No electric music in Craft Lot into late p.m./early a.m. hours. Totally inconsiderate to others who wish and need to sleep.

### ARTISANS

- While I respect most of the crafters, there are clearly a few who are just using their status as long-time crafters as a way to get a pass. They are taking up spaces that should go to new crafters instead. Let some new folks in who are actually

trying to earn a living with their hands. For example, **one booth** brings almost no product, doesn't engage with the public walking by, and occupies a large booth space in prime territory. It's sad. I think there should be some way to curb abuses of the system.

### **ATMs**

- Have been coming here since 1970. Really disappointed this year. 1 hour waits at the only working ATM. Overflowing smelly garbage and recycling depots. I left without buying a thing (because I couldn't get to any money) wishing I could get a refund for the tickets. I heard this sentiment echoed by many that left the ATM line. You advertise this prominently as an amenity. I was surprised by the surly response from a staffer at an info booth about how the smart people brought their money.
- \*Need more ATM machines! Lines were 45 minutes long and then the machines went down. I came with money but seems prices are up so ran out of \$\$\$. Watched hundreds turn away from Main Stage. It's got to be bad for business.
- \*Either get rid of ATMs or make them more reliable.
- \*Don't advertise them. Long lines. Disappointed people

### **BUSES**

- We rode with friends to the fair this year and the last bus back to town on Sunday. The bus was packed! We rode with Steven (a wonderfully alter abled man). When we arrived at the Eugene station we found that there were no other buses.....hmmm. So we spent 12.75 for a taxi. We could have driven for that amount. Not sure what happened to everyone else. I wouldn't mind doing the bus again, parking at VRC or Downtown. I'm just wondering if it would be profitable and courteous to extend LTD hrs the weekend of the fair. Would they consider it? Even if it was only half the scheduled routes or the EMX (which was all we needed to get close enough to home to walk).
- Worker OCF bus this year leaves only from VRC at 7:15am, Fri-Sun. There is no worker bus from the downtown Eugene station. On Saturday and Sunday, there is also no way to get to Valley River by public transportation in time to catch the worker bus. Great idea to support public transport, but not fully effective. Suggestion: Perhaps next year have worker bus leave from downtown and/or downtown and VRC? Or have a later one leave from VRC that allows for Sat/Sun a.m. LTD connection.

### **CARTOGRAPHY**

- Please enlarge numbers on OCF map. Seniors can't read them; they're too small.
- More posted maps.

**CHELA MELA** needs showers and a small White Bird outpost.

### **CIGARETTE SMOKE**

- This year (2008 fair) was the worst I can imagine for breathing cigarette smoke. The designated smoking areas are causing more problems than they solve and are definitely going to alienate the long time fairgoers. My partner Rose is very allergic to smoke and we kept running into it fairly often. The smokers do not adhere to their boundaries. And even if they do on occasion - the smoke does not. We were in Chez Rays and the smoke was wafting over a couple hundred feet in that non-smoking area. If you are worried about fire danger or whatever - legitimizing smoking at multiple spots strewn throughout the fair is not a good solution.
- No Smoking! You are waste free -- go smoke free! Please.
- Please move smoking area from Chela Mela, especially by the shady tree. We need to hang out there with babies and kids. (We do every year.)
- I have been coming to Country Fair since 1981. This year, 2008, I noticed there is more tobacco smoke in the air than I ever remembered. I really don't like it. It ruins or diminishes the beauty of the fair.
- Some smoking areas are too close to stages and force smoke on captive audiences, e.g. Kelsey Stage in Energy Park. That area tends to overflow onto benches separating it from audience area. I question the wisdom of locating a smoking area within Energy Park because (a) it's too small (b) its stage features intimate performances (people don't move around within the audience) and (c) it's inconsistent with the environmentalist messages of EP
- SOLUTION: Smoking stations in EP and elsewhere requiring smokers to exhale into large glass jars or tubes filled with cotton. This will keep the air clean and provide an educational visual tool indicating smoking's impact on human bodies and air quality fore all. (Maybe it will make smokers feel kinda stupid and help them decide to quit.) We could even provide hookahs, for tobacco only, of course.

### **COMMEMORATIVE SALES**

- How to deal with paper plates? OCF produces a bowl with 2009 logo on it, which becomes a collector's item. Limited edition? Or a plate with no date, maybe both? Have an area for public to rinse their dish, maybe a sack to put it in? Have a fair person oversee the 'dishwashing' area. End of problem? Fair person can carry bowl around fair, include in green ticket?

- Produce a canvas bag with logo on it for purchases. Have screen print of logo on side. Produce a cup with logo (maybe sell at cost?) to encourage folks to stop using paper cups. Have a fork disposal area close to food vendor – too far away is frustrating!
- I wanted to purchase posters. They offered to mail them, but the sign-up list required name, address, phone & visa card #. I saw 20 other names with their corresponding visa #s. This is not appropriate – checks should be taken or offered on-line. I was unable to purchase from the store as I don't give out that info to the public and neither should the Fair encourage that. Thanks.

### **COMMUNITY VILLAGE**

- OCF history in CV says letter about name "Renaissance Fair" was 1975. Not true. Letter was 1969 and preceded name change.
- I miss the OM Circle on Sunday morning.

### **CRAFT INVENTORY**

- The craft inventory books are great, but should have tabs for each section so that we can more easily flip to the index that will help the most. And once again the list of food vendors was woefully incomplete. It would also be great to have an addendum of where the one year booths got placed since that is decided several weeks before fair begins.

### **ELDER**

- As an elder now, I reduced the amount of my craft. So to contribute back I volunteered to help Reg crew with my daughter. I enjoyed that very much.

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

- Thanks for having EOTO at the fair - they were awesome. I actually wasn't going to drive down this year due to gas prices but when I found out EOTO was playing I had to come. It was fun having people who hadn't heard them ask, "who are these guys- they're great" Can you bring them back next year? How about EOTO and New Monsoon? The entire fair was wonderful actually -thank you!
- A venue for couple dancing (e.g.: Zydeco, swing, salsa, etc...) would be great.
- Moon Alice sounds great.
- Friday Hoarse Chorale – too f\*\*\*ing loud.
- Carpenter crew could make 'little mini stages for wandering musicians' (like the one in Community Village) with wood back and seat and bench (for musicians who need to sit) and a sign up sheet for every 1/2 hour or 40 minutes. Very few good places like this exist now!
- The entertainment (other than the yearly regulars, which I love,) was very flat this year. No real standouts. Heard many comments on that at Fair and in Portland. Some people in Portland skipped fair altogether because of lack of a bigger name draw over the weekend.
- I think we should discourage performers from bragging about how great the midnite show was in front of our guests.

### **AMBIANCE**

- The new "path art" every year is exceptional.
- \*Loved the new wicker dragon, lovely.
- I really liked the giant wicker dragon space, and I've always loved the giant chess set.
- The Fair was Awesome this year!!!! Loved the gnomes at the end!!!! OMG they were so cute.
- I noticed all the buskers were strictly acoustic, and I applaud that. I don't know if you have a rule prohibiting amplification for buskers, but if not, you should.
- As you know, it's sometimes hard for an ambience musician to find an appropriate place to perform. There's a lot of competition for good spots. I don't know if you have considered limiting busking by unauthorized guests, or if I'm stepping on a cherished tradition. It's something to consider. Overall, my experience was great.
- As an ambience musician at this year's fair, I had a wonderful experience. If there is one thing I would change about the fair, it would be to lower the volume level on some of the stages within the fair. Busking space is at a great premium, and some of the stages have a large acoustic footprint, well beyond the audience area of that stage. I know the smaller stages used to be acoustic and you started amplifying them in order to accommodate larger audiences, but I regret that and wish they were still acoustic. If that's not possible, then at least the volume should be turned down.

### **MIDNIGHT SHOW**

- It is a sad state of affairs when a mediocre Dead cover band in the Craft lot is clearly better than the midnight show. My informal poll of 20 crewmembers indicated that the midnight show was universally found to be lame, lame, lame. We beg you No! No! No! No more shows that bad please! Other than that, excellent work!

- Had a great time at the fair as I always have for the past 18 fairs. BUT that was the worst midnight show I have ever seen. Please retire everyone who participated in creating that abysmal horror, that train wreck of sadness, that pathetic and miserable attempt at entertainment. A couple in their 20's sitting beside me said "I think they need to ask all of the people over 50 not to work on the midnight show anymore"
- \*\*\*\* \*My only complaint is about the midnight show which have always had their ups and downs. But, this year's show was extraordinarily bad. It started off great, but as soon as the two other emcees came on stage, the show immediately went downhill. Their idea of humor was utterly stupid and completely disengaging. It left me astonished that the Fair would allow such an idiotic act on stage. However, I thoroughly enjoyed Sam Williams, and hope he will continue to emcee in the future. Rhys Thomas and Charlie Brown, who emceed in '07 are also great.

## FIRE

- Thanks and praise to the OCF Fire Crew for their efficiency, expediency and all around expert fire containment by our Upper River Loop info booth. I feel well protected.
- Hey I just want to commend the absolute fantastic quick and effective response to a tree fire that could have been a total disaster on abbey rode behind papa don's toy booth which is about three booths down from our booth the faire ladies. I can't say enough praises to this event, I know there were some pretty large propane tanks just a couple booths over and it is just amazing that this fire was extinguished and dealt with so quickly. And effectively.
- YOU GUYS ROCK! A million thanks of Love and Gratitude to all whom reported and responded to the fire in our fair neighborhood.
- I was also very aware of the fire at River Loop this year, as my daughter, also an info crew member) was the first responder to call fair central while she was covering the last hour of my shift at river loop so that I could see the show at main stage. Thoughts resulting from this episode: Fire hoses should be on reels like the water crew hoses, and already attached and ready to open hydrants. Unfolding them and attaching them after a fire has begun is a waste of very precious moments when fighting fire in a crowded tinderbox.
- I also recall maybe 5 years ago; there was mandatory fire and evacuation training for all info and security because it was an especially dry year. Watching that blaze take off yesterday showed me that that should be mandatory every year. Although I went years ago, I can't say that I could remember exactly where the fire hook up is at each booth, nor proper evacuation procedures. Fire training should be as important or more so than crisis intervention.

Hooray for our crafter crews! Hooray for the Fire Crew! Realizing the craft and food vendors will probably always be the first responders to any emergency situation many of us have asked what can we do to make the OCF safer. I do believe that with plans we can be better prepared and do everything possible to protect the public, our Fair family and our reputation as a safe, fun and magical event. I would like to share some ideas:

- All the committees, and just about everyone, would work with the Fire Crew, to make an emergency response plan and this should become a special part of our guidelines.
- We have been told there is supposed to be a 'white' hose at every info booth that can be hooked up to a main water line at the water fountains. What if those hoses were coiled in the back of the water fountains, hooked up with a valve ... easily turned on... and tagged "FOR EMERGENCY ONLY", and that these hoses stretched halfway to the next water fountain.
- What if the booth rep from several craft and food booths near the water fountains, would agree to try and help in an emergency, were shown where and how to use this hose.
- What if there was a Fire Crew member at every info booth during the public hours, so they would be there, ready to use the official hose and organize those with fire extinguishers, wt gunny sacks, etc. who are prepared to help.
- What if diesel powered industrial fire hoses were hooked up at several places along the Long Tom, tested on Thursday, with the fire crew ready to head to them in a fire.
- What if we considered evacuation? How could this be accomplished? Perhaps experts in crowd control need to be consulted with...that they help us develop a workable plan.
- What if there was a public announcement system in the trees, maybe solar activated.
- A very 'OCF suggestion are towers, 4 or 5 located around the 8 and the Left Bank, with flags and totems, used to watch for smoke, and, if water were piped to these towers, they could be used for immediate fire suppression across the tree canopy.
- What if the towers were maintained at night so we could sleep knowing someone's eyes were on the forest?
- What if we eliminated brush piles, by chipping them during the spring? (Antybody who has seen a brush pile on fire knows it is nearly impossible to put one out fast!)
- What if we pulled the moss out of the lower parts of the trees in spring?
- These are just a few ideas some of the craft crews and other family members have been kicking around. It is time to get serious. I believe the OCF must have been considering fire and other emergencies. I will have to admit many crafters were not. As a member of the Craft Committee I can tell you that responding to emergencies has never been on any agenda I've attended. It is now!

- We brought shovels, gunnysacks in buckets that we filled with water, and fire extinguishers, as per the guidelines. Most of us were probably thinking in terms of a fire in our booth or camping area, not a woodland fire. Again, we were so lucky that the response was immediate and went well. We should not take this for granted... we need a plan in our head ready to take action. We have less than one year to make this plan. Let's do it!

*(Note: Emergency evacuation plans already exist to be implemented by OCF staff and management.)*

## **FAIR AREA RAPID TRANSIT (FART)**

- On Monday, please start shuttle at 7am. We that have to go to the off-site parking lot have to wait 'til 9am. This would ease the pressure on folks all leaving at the same time. We have a 7-hour drive ahead of us and like to get on the road early.

## **FOOD**

- Have vendors pour from their container (like a milk shake container or other re-usable substitute) into our container. There would be no cross-contamination. We used 10 plastic cups in a 6-hour period. Even compostable don't create a no-waste situation.
- We must all meet the same standards. One booth in a commercial pop-up with skanky cardboard 'bricks' is an insult to everyone that spends thousands of \$\$ to build unique booths. If they use plastic bags that will be an insult to those that spend extra for recyclable plates. We are all equal in the eyes of God – we should be all equal at Fair.

## **HOSPITALITY**

- Hospitality is wonderful. I've really come to appreciate all they do, being involved there.
- I had a wonderful time working in the kitchen and met lots of new people.
- Long food lines at Main Camp... How about two to four serving lines instead of one? It is totally possible to move hundreds of people through food service quickly, if it is set up in an efficient way. As it was, I couldn't access food there most times I tried this year because I would have been late for shifts if I waited 20-30 minutes on line. I also wish the hours were longer both at Main Camp (how about 12-8pm) and at evening hospitality (say, until midnight)?

## **ICE**

- Campers need block ice! If you need to charge more than the normal markup, Fine. It fits in our coolers and works much better. Less plastic bags. If this ice company refuses then charge companies. Do not let their greed affect efficiency, etc.

## **INFO**

- This was my 30th fair and I've been on info crew for approximately 8 years. This was the hardest year I have experienced on crew with difficult situations arising. There should be another info booth in the meadow itself. Although our circus booth is available and used, I watched Heather at Kettle Corn giving directions to 9 out of 10 people that stopped there. That shows me that we need another very visible booth out there to free our vendors from the task.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Vendor delivery to parking for a fee?
- I'd love to see an attitude of making infrastructure and service better
- Laser pointers. These things can cause permanent eye damage, i.e., blindness, if pointed in someone's eye. At night, I've seen a lot of these things being used in a very random manner, and it was a bit frightening. I noticed this year we had Braille and raised maps in the info booths for blind people, and found myself wondering if in fact we are creating blind people by tolerating this particular hazard. I spoke to one person Sunday night who was using his (with multiple beams) to illuminate the leaves at Shady Grove. He said he would not shine it in anybody's eyes. But he's just one person, and not everybody is going to be careful...
- The mosquitoes sucked really bad.
- Drummers (tween Mickey's and Blazing Salads) pushing it to the limit as far as the rules ~ 20 minutes and then move on. Spoke with one ~ belligerent.

## **PATH PLANNING**

- I've owned a 16-acre, about a half-mile of Long Tom riverfront just upstream from the Fair for a couple of decades. This year's mosquitoes at the Fair and at my place are obnoxious. So, I'm wondering if an "industrial scale" bat barn might interest the Fair? Might interest the City of Veneta? Would several hundreds or thousands of little furry flyers make life better? Please advise? Fair neighbor (forwarded to Site and Assistant Managers)
- I have gone to the fair since 1976. For over more than the last decade, the fair has become crowded, dusty and somewhat stressful. I quit coming in the late 80s for these reasons, but resumed attendance when I married a man who relocated from Minnesota, is a photographer, and had never been to the Fair. But for the last 10+ years, I realize that I cannot relax and saunter along at my own pace and easily get from one booth to another. It is impossible to easily enjoy the ambience of the Fair. The movement of the jammed crowded aisles along with the ridiculous dust makes shopping a pain in the ass. And the vendors are always predictably the same. It appears the fair committee has gotten greedy over the years and quality has been superceded by quantity. I suggest an additional day but not additional tickets, and more paths across the large loop so there is escape! And it would be great to have more quality and different vendors than the same Saturday Market folks. On a positive note, you are to be so commended on your successful Eco approach and the true professional organization by which the fair is run. Thank you.

- Could someone bring extra sand around to all the misty areas? People are slipping in the mud by the end of the day. We aren't supposed to use hay, but we had to on Saturday afternoon this year. Thanks!
- A lot more space in the Gypsy Performance Audience area.
- Is there someone on the amazing "parachute shade" crew who could create a covering for the Shady Grove smoking area? We are experiencing issues with folks seeking shade in the (dry) grassy wooded area when the sun is shining in Shady Grove. P.S. Thanks for our shade parachute!

### **PEACH PIT**

- List performers by name down one side (left) with stages and times to the right so we don't have to hunt.
- Hippo Handcrafted Products, Star Lane Gallery, L-04. I'm hoping to get listed in the Peach Pit next year in '09. Thanks!
- I know there has been a 'changing of the guards' taking place and this year there was a noticeable 'feel' again. The Peach Pit felt more 'commercial/glitzy' can be good or bad.
- I read in the recent FFN about women's' urinals at the fair. I did not know that they exist and I'm writing to encourage the locations of these be more publicized and that there be more located throughout the fair.

### **RACISM**

- As fairgoers to OCF since 1989, my husband and I were stunned by the last performance by the Royal Famille du Carniveaux on Sunday, July 12, 2008. Since when did anyone with a conscience think it's funny to portray a black male as a gorilla? It's fine to poke fun at fairgoers (i.e., ourselves) but portraying black men as apes is as old a racist laugh as slavery in this country. The Royal Famille might say that the person in question wasn't necessarily black, but most Oregonians would equate a hip-hopper wearing a tracksuit and a giant gold necklace as such. It's especially offensive considering Oregon's long history of racism and the predominantly white OCF population. It's just wrong to make fun of black people, especially behind their backs.

### **RECYCLING**

- Save compostable plastic.
- Can you put trash, "waste" cans near all portapotties? It is a hassle to dispose of feminine hygiene products responsibly when there is the "paper towels" only trashcans. There are several toilets outside the fair that don't have waste cans. As someone who wants to respect the Fair's recycling efforts and the people who maintain the toilets, I'd appreciate not having to hunt for trash.
- Recycling needs to be better addressed. If using compostable plastic, it must be marked so it can go into the proper place. Also, agri-plas will accept all other plastic – such as straws, lids, etc. that is not compostable.
- I like the re-useable silverware. Unfortunately, a few came home in my camping gear. I'll bring them back next year with a few more to donate to the cause.
- A great Fair. Big thing was too much recorded music again. And the recycling crew should pay attention to this too and not have truck radios blaring recorded, amplified music when going through camps early in the morning; not very considerate of those who work late.

### **REGISTRATION**

- Please moves registration to the big dragon on Sunday. People do not want to walk that far in the heat.

### **SANITATION**

- More bathrooms
- We need more of the women squat style toilets. The one at Main Stage is terrific. I suggest one in Energy Park! Crafters on this side of the loop have to go to main Stage or the 6-pack or portapotties past Odyssey. It is too far a distance, especially as we age more.
- The same bathroom stall at Shady Grove has been lacking a lock for years. It has now been joined by more there and elsewhere, too. How about a round of maintenance checks on all bathroom locks? Shady Grove bathrooms are also just generally too few. Frequent long lines make it difficult to be a responsible crewmember, i.e., keeping breaks short. Especially when the entire women's urinal went out of commission all day Friday! (It's hard to imagine a bird keeping its nest amid the crowds anyway.)
- How about places to wash my re-usable dish that I travel with?
- Every fair, the soap at the washstands is gone by Saturday afternoon, never to be replaced. Perhaps the soap is placed there by a booth for marketing purposes and not by the fair, but it is time the fair took responsibility for keeping soap available. With so many people visiting and living on site, it is really irresponsible to allow the soap to run out. I was going to write you on this subject even before I spent a week with diarrhea.
- Thanks so much for the work you did on the privy between Shady Grove and Community Village. The odor was much less after the work you did in our camp!

- I am vertically challenged, basically the height of your average 8 yr. old. I find the lack of reachable toilets and sinks very difficult to deal with. With thousands of children as part of the
- family out here I believe that there should be kid size (lower) toilets at each bank of toilets and a step at all sinks so kids can reach without help.
- More toilet paper in Honey Buckets, please. Some stalls in loop out by 1pm.
- Provide a place to rinse dishes that Fair family bring themselves.

## **SECURITY**

- I loved most of the fair, but the security was oppressive. When I tried to show my tag; the security guard felt I did not show enough and firmly restrained my arm to check my (three-day) bracelet.

## **SIGNS & BANNERS**

- More signs with arrows for easier to find bathrooms and garbage cans.
- Fabulous Fair! Only thing needing improvement is directional signage at intersections. Simple wayfarer signs would help:

## **SITE/TREE CREW**

- Dangerous tree by Booth 41. Employee tripped on roots, hit grill with arm and got burned. Large limb hanging from oak tree up about 40 feet looks like it could fall on the tents below. (Ritta's Burritos)

## **24/7**

- Dealing with after hours' issues for staff also became a big issue for me this year. I witnessed many fair staff having pass issues that were not addressed at all or in a less than helpful manor. To have someone lose a pass and not be able to get out to their camp to sleep makes no sense. Nor does someone needing to spend the night in the parking lot because outside forces such as traffic make them miss wristband booth hours by just minutes. I feel there should be members of registration or troubleshooting available around the clock also. With so many volunteers that are there round the clock and other crews working round the clock, we should be able to provide solutions round the clock for them. It is the only way to say thank you and show respect for the part that each of us plays.

## **SPOKEN WORD Suggestion ~~ Dan Savage (Seattle-based)**

## **TRAFFIC/AAAA**

- We spent 4 hours getting an alter abled pass for our car with a vehicle pass and asked Traffic if we were in the proper alter-abled space and they said yes. But we were towed in the morning. (We parked Saturday p.m. and were towed on Sunday a.m.) This was a car for the World Council of Elders who we were honored to have come here to spoken word and CV and are not here making \$\$/ We were trying to get the elders to the airport and it has taken hours to resolve this issue
- Consider having 4A crew issue 4A stickers for parking, rather than Traffic. Or have a 4A liaison to Traffic. The new standard that one must have a state issued alter-abled placard to receive a 4A parking sticker seemed a bit strict. It does not allow for elders who may not be offically alter-abled, but have diminished ability. It does not allow for the person who just broke their leg or was recently injured and does not qualify for a state placard.

## **TRAFFIC/SIGNS & BANNERS**

- The signage for parking coming from the west is not very visible. We went by it before we could read it, then had to drive into Veneta to turn around.

## **WATER**

- Construct vertical water piping for filling water bottles – faster, less waste.
- Wishing for a few more water fountains and a little higher water pressure in them.
- More spots for water.

## **WEBSITE ~~ FULL DISCLOSURE?**

- When looking for information about the State, I came across your fair's website. It looked like such a fun and family-friendly event that we decided to change our travel plans to accommodate the fair. The idea of good music, good food, costumes, parades, and artisans' booths was something all of us looked forward to. That part of the fair WAS fantastic...however, your site was VERY MISLEADING in that it fails to mention you are also very likely to encounter several topless women, some wearing nothing more than string bikini bottoms and red tape in an "X" over their nipples. There was also the man who had his entire body painted with green and yellow paint, donning only a cloth bag over his genitals. What about the older heavy-set fellow who wore only a fanny pack covering his penis and a super hero cape? Does this sound like a "family-friendly" atmosphere? The rest of this well-organized and entertaining fair was totally

overshadowed by the number of tasteless and crude people wandering around. Why is this unnecessary aspect of the fair allowed? Costumes are one thing, but this was ridiculous. We are not pruders and our children, ages 12 and 15, are not sheltered from the real world, but they ended up feeling uncomfortable to the point of asking to leave. Needless to say, it was extremely disappointing, not only because we felt cheated out of nearly \$100, but also mostly because it was a day out of our precious vacation time we could have spent doing something that really was family oriented. I truly believe you should be obligated to have a disclaimer on your website which makes it quite clear about the nudity to expect at the fair, and then people can make an informed decision as to whether or not they want to attend, especially with children.

- For several years I have wanted to come to the Eugene Country Fair. This year while my daughter and grandchildren were visiting from out-of-state, I thought it would be a fun, cultural event where there would be costumes and "country fair" style exhibits and booths, etc. We looked at the website, perused the newspaper articles and ads, and then decided it was worth the gas, money, and time. Imagine my shock when within 5 minutes of entering we were "treated" to several incidences of partial R-rated nudity! One glass of orange juice later, we left. Having not ventured further than a new bench in the shade. I was absolutely shocked at what we were seeing: stoned people, drunks stumbling, and partial nudity. We didn't see any type of notice or disclaimer that we should anticipate R-rated nudity, drunks, or stoned people at 2:00 on a Friday afternoon. Even at the movies we would have been warned about the nudity and adult content by the movie rating. I went to the customer service booth to comment and find out if this was a theme throughout the park. I was told "it's just body parts" and then the young lady walked away from me. Yes, while it is true that what we were offended by are "just body parts", this fair is open to the general public and I think it was both falsely and fraudulently advertised.

#### **WHITEBIRD**

- I think the fair should definitely have another White Bird out post in the meadow. It is too far in an emergency to get quickly from Main Stage or Odyssey, especially during public hours.
- Re First Aid boxes for Info Booths. In order to find what you are looking for you have to empty most of the contents of the bucket on a dusty bench and paw through the items in the bottom. Then, the item may be missing. How about plastic tackle boxes or small toolboxes with labeled compartments for commonly used items. Easier to maintain, easier to use.

#### **WRISTBANDS**

- Insure that the numbers on the wristbands stay on rather than smudge off with insect repellent.

#### **APPRECIATION**

- It was great working with the people at Admissions and TicketsWest.
- The staff in the parking areas was as always so fantastic.... amazing in that heat.
- All the Teen Crew Coordinators were very nice.
- I would like to commend Mambo of QM crew (or Security?). We had a raccoon in a tree in the back of our booth – the QM folks we reported this to told us they could do nothing – with a poor attitude. Mambo was terrific even though there wasn't much to be done. Attitude is very important! QM needs to discover fair joy, helpfulness & positive attitude. I have been at this fair for 30+ years and positive attitude is what is keeping things going; creating the magic & love of OCF.
- Sonia and I have been fair attendees for about 20+ years and while we are fairly quiet and shy we really enjoy the fair goings on. I felt the need to write to you because this year my lovely wife had not one but three migraine headaches while at the fair. Now we have a system of getting through these that uses head, neck and back rubs and lots of relaxation for her. Not once but twice I noticed fair workers watching us, and they gently and quietly came over and asked if there was anything they could do to help. I explained our routine and backed off and let me know there was help if she needed it. Thank you for your excellent training of your staff and the kindness they showed us.
- The 2008 Oregon Country Fair was the first time I had been. It was AMAZING. Thanks so much for putting on such an awesome show. The whole time I was there I had a feeling that I was in a movie.
- Thank you so much for once again going out of your way to create a sustainable, welcoming, inspirational environment. This was my second year at the fair and the people and practices made me feel that I truly was "coming home". I can't wait for next year and to hopefully participate in activities in the years to come. Once again, I have returned to Portland with a new found yearning to live amidst a community focused on good will and love of nature.
- This was my 1st yr. my son went last year with aunt & uncle. I was only going to go for 1 day got there on Thursday. I didn't leave until Monday. It was an awesome event; almost life changing. I'm already saving and planing next year's trip.
- The Fair is great, as always.
- I just like the whole fair. I've never seen a fair like it.
- My complaints are minor as compared with the overall wonderfulness of the Fair experience.
- Consistently one of the best parties ever.

- Great way to spend 3 days with my child who sees everything as magical! The food is great, the entertainment fantastic, and people very helpful.
- We love the fair. Can't wait to be back next year.
- First time fair attendee, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience. I really like what is happening at the Fair. The staff was friendly and helpful, and the overall fair atmosphere was amazing.
- Thank you for another magical event. The logistics went very smoothly and staff was very friendly and helpful.
- As always, I enjoyed the fair immensely. It is by far the high point of my year and I wish that it could continue all summer, or at least for another week.
- I love the fair and hope my thoughts help to contribute to making it a safer and better event.
- ***I love the fair! If I lived in Eugene I would help out. It truly is, as Artis says, an essential event***