

2011 OCF FEEDBACK REPORT

APPRECIATIONS

It's good to note that many people included an appreciation for the Fair in addition to their notes for improvements and complaints.

- Great, as always!
- Great Fair this year! The cool weather kept everyone mellow.
- Thanks for a fabulous fair!
- One of the best run fairs I have been to in a long time. Great mix of fun and control so it doesn't get out of control Wonderful Job All!
- The staff was uniformly polite & pleasant & fun
- Thank you so much for such a wonderful fair! We love you very much.
- Thanks to everyone for an overall terrific Fair!
- Wonderful fair, great weather, good sales.
- As usual, the fair was marvelous. The weather was exceptionally nice, cool and dry. Vibes were superb.

AAAA

My autistic son did teen crew every year he was eligible. Is there a place at the fair for disabled adults? His father (my husband) is a crafter. Can he still be part of the Fair family? He is 20 and has never missed a fair. I volunteer to help. Thank you.

ADMISSIONS

A 3-day senior ticket (*purchased*) at the Hult Center costs \$51.75 – no senior discount

ART BARN

If the Art Barn is going to be considered an OCF crew, that somebody be in charge/coordinator of it who is a) experienced with working with the Fair and its' processes (I.T. training and the manner of treating everybody as a valid person as put forth in the training), resources (mediation, structure of communication/interaction, loving each other support available,...) ; b) willing to make use of them, willing to work with others in a Fair-friendly manner and c) experienced in creating and maintaining the idea of teamwork in a group. Also, of course, who is willing to communicate with the crew as to what the function of the crew is as a whole and individually, and update them entire crew as to changes in those functions as these take place.

Security measures on the Chicken Farm and the Art Barn in specific be stronger, more communication available (e.g. between the Art Barn itself and the security posted at the road).

ATMs

I can't believe you guys charge so much to get money at an ATM. I should not have to pay \$6.00 for \$500.00. Are you kidding me.

More ATMs & better servicing. On Sunday, only the ones by the entry were working...

\$200 limit at an ATM? I had to pay \$3.00 twice just to get \$300. Money grubbing is no good. Please do not charge so much for the ATM or at least up the limit.

CARTS/EVENT CARTS

Cart central is located in an unviable place for main stage and FarSide campers to use. We need carts, but it is too big of a hassle to get and return them. We need a sub-station like before the Fair. Preferably at Main Stage, Water Gate, or FarSide lot. Thanks

CARTOGRAPHY

Map issues!!! Lack of orientation – crowding at trail-posted maps with consternation by many, many!
Suggestion → put arrows adjacent to maps on trail with signage.

Please plot custom maps for your map boards that are oriented to the way the visitor is facing rather than all North up. A simple black & white map oriented correctly would be much more useful than a colorful map that reads opposite of the way the viewer is facing. Thanx

Also, please include designated smoking areas on the maps. The one in the Fair Guidelines has the legend symbol, but not one symbol appears on the map. People will be much more likely to use the areas if they can find them.

The ugly- The map - mom and I both smoke and the map had no smoking places marked/designated leaving us both guessing and wandering aimlessly; my mom has OMMP and there was no designated location for her to smoke her medicine safely (which as she said sort of defeats the purpose for a disabled person w/that medicine); and, the map had lots of places that when you got there the seemingly obvious left turns out to have more than one left available. - All and all and despite and sometimes as a result of the crowd we had a great time.

CHELA MELA

- Solovox at the Monkey Tent in Chela Mela on Friday night was incredible! Let's do that again please :)
- Solovox in Chela Mela Friday night was seriously one of the GREATEST things I experienced at the fair! Please, let's do it again in 2012!

Dear Fair powers that be. I had the best time at fair ever! This was my 9th fair working on the upper reefer crew and the music this year was amazing. I loved that you guys had dj music. Solovox in the meadow was awesome and Saturday, the youth stage was rocking it with the pedal powered dj and then trash can Joe. Props to you guys for evolving with the people and amplifying music into the night. It was so appreciated. I hope next year brings more of the same. Thank you

Why is Chela Mela neighborhood lucky enough to have to endure disco crap on Thursday night, then Friday night, all-night techno-garbage til the wee hours in morning. I was laying in my tent listening to good music (the Bridge?) over at Gritz Stage, then all of the sudden, the loud thumping of DJ jerk music roared to life. When does recorded crap blow out good live music? Thanks for letting me vent. I love the OCF!

In Chela Mela this year, they have put a game box in the middle of the open space (actually to the side!) Since this is the only open space on the grounds, I think it is nicer to leave it open. The game box can easily be moved 30 feet towards Hoarse Corral and still leave it as an open space for Frisbee, juggling, and just crazy running around. I also think it's not a good precedent to start putting things in spaces that seem open. Especially in Chela Mela.

COMMEMORATIVE SALES

We could sell a bunch of posters at the Poster Gallery. People want to buy them on the way out and are reluctant to go back to commemorative sales. Also, a notebook of Fair maps over time would be sweet

Hey guys, enjoyed the faire this year as always (I've been going since the first one, when I was six years old). One thing I've noticed the past few years--the official faire T-shirts are really junky--lightweight, cheap shirts with the poster art in black and white. I'm wearing my 2004 spaghetti-strap tank with the poster art in beautiful color, and I really miss being able to get good quality like that. I used to buy one every year, but have skipped it the last couple due to poor quality and selection. The art is so beautiful--honor it with a nice color print on a good quality shirt, and I promise to buy one every year, even if it costs a bit more. Thanks for all your work keeping the faire such a great community over the years. Have a great year--see you in July, 2012.

I have been selling Fair merchandise (*at the General Store #297*) for several years. And for most of those years we have been turning customers away because we do not have *enough* inventory of some products. (Patches, books, bandanas and water bottles this year) Also, we often sell out of shirt sizes or styles before the other two booths.

Unfortunately the procedure for us to obtain more stock is also murky. The History Booth was expecting us to pick up some of their stock for ourselves, but our booth manager (Beth) had no idea about this arrangement. I hope we can get this solved. I would love to be able to make some money for the Fair. Thanks.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

103 That there be a person whose main job at the fair is to -actively- deal with and help resolve interactive and/or personal issues that come up within the staff, to help keep the 'wheels' functioning as effectively as possible. This person should be trained in (hopefully also experienced with) resolution of interpersonal issues and in dealing with emotional trauma, not just being a passive 'sounding board'. This person should be known about and accessible to any of those whose position makes them able to see when an issue is getting in the way of functionality- e.g. crew coords, WhiteBird counselors, B.U.M.s, Q.M.... and should take it upon themselves to make these people aware that their advice in deciding if a situation is important enough to get assistance with. The crew coordinators are overwhelmed (sometimes) without the additional duty of being a counselor in their time off, and needing to judge situations.

CONSTRUCTION

We would love a shorter water hand washing station at River Loop potties. It is a huge problem for 5 year olds and under.

Please, please, please – make some toilets shorter! I have received so many complaints about accessibility for children & shorter people to be able to access toilets. They are too tall!

Construction -- Herinals

- Yes, we love the female urinals. Please make more. No lines. Very friendly and kind. Thank you. Signed by 7 women.
- Hooray for the women's latrine near shady grove. More of them everywhere would be massively great addition to OCF. Thanks for a good fair
- Love the women's urinals! This year was the first year that there were consistently (shorter) lines for the urinals. We need more urinals and better signage, directing women to this option.

Please build more women's urinals! They are fabulous!!! I used to pee by my campsite in the middle of the day to avoid crowds; and more & more of my friends, day visitors, would also squat by my tent to avoid lines.

Yuck!!! The urinal has changed all that. This year was the first year there was a short line for the urinal most times I went. Time to build more!

CRAFT INVENTORY

Please update vendor list at Info Booths. Looked for Circle Creations and it was not in the vendor index. Yet they are in a booth

We have had a friend jury three different years only to not be accepted to show. We are willing to take them on in our booth. They are the people we shared the booth with 20 years ago, who went on to open a gallery in Alaska and are now back in Oregon. Their work is first class and OCF-worthy. They have a place to show with us, would not be placed on the wait/share list, but no-go. They were Charter Members. What gives?

CRAFT LOT

The land rush for the 'craft lot' is absolutely ridiculous – by the time the crafters are graciously allowed to enter, the lot is half full of who? – no one knows who is already there, we talk about this in the land rush line EVERY SINGLE YEAR.

We have to get in the car line 2 days early in hopes I can get the spot I have held for 9 or more years – then we have to rush in risking getting run over by runners behind us, twisting an ankle, etc. That is a bad position to be in just to get our usual spot. It is EXTREMELY stressful.

While we are in the running line there are a lot of people going in and out – some voice their sympathy & some make really dumb-ass comments like mooing like a cow. The people making these comments are the 'beautiful people' who have the luxury of having their tents pitched & camp set up, we assume they are staff & volunteers, who I am thankful for, but who don't pay anything. I am a crafter – I pay over \$700 to be a vendor. I shouldn't have to go through this.

We have heard for years that the craft lot will be moving. Great, that will be even further I will have to cart my stuff back & forth.

It's sad, but I think that crafters are the very lowest on the totem pole, but we pay a lot of money to the fair so I don't get it.

CREW SERVICES

During both my Wed. and Sun. shift four of us were neglected from crew services. We were near cart central. Somehow we still get missed. We were teased by other crew lunch deliveries, seeing them get these sweet BLTs and then coming back to dragon to find meat on salad was disappointing

ENTERTAINMENT

We need a tumbling & acro lesson area. I'm your gal! I've got the plan!

More music than I could possibly get to see. WC Fields was impossible to even get into due to the crowds such as when Nanda was there.

Entertainment - Ambiance

Everyone - thank you for a wonderful fair this year (2011). I would love to have the foam tubs back again next year - they were fabulous. I do believe that they should charge a fee to pay for labor and materials (I would gladly pay!!) See you all in 2012.

Things that I see for improvement include light along the back pathways (Strawberry Lane) in the form of lanterns, light continues to be welcome – bringing the crowds off E 13th to the lesser travelled areas – making it homey.

It seemed like the ambiance crew has given up. The same old giant puppets, the same signs - nothing much seemed to be new or had any effort put into making the Fair an enjoyable experience for those of us who attend every day.

I first off want to express my gratitude. So much is enlivened every year at fair, it is a tremendous experience and I am extremely grateful to be part of it. I love seeing the new puppets every year, and large scale art installations where I have to toot ambiance's horn and say yay! The richness of culture is evident every time I go.

Entertainment – Electronic Music

- And electric music, Yo!
- Fair's great! But I wish there was more electronic music. Maybe you find some bands like that!
- Wouldn't some techno music out in the lot on Saturday night be kinda fun? We should do that...
- Hip Hop needs its own stage far from everything else
- The youth of the Fair want to be represented through the music that we want having a venue in our Fair community. Please.

The youth of the country fair want to be represented! Show us that we have a place in this community by inviting hip hop and electronic music to our fair. This music deserves a venue here, because we want it, because it moves us, inspires us, makes us Dance

Please add a stage for hip hop and electronic music! I have come to the Fair every year of my life, but I feel that the policy against pre-recorded music has shut out our generation's culture. I know many older people don't like our music, so maybe a stage out in the lot would work. As times change I feel it is important to represent the cultures of all of Fair family. The lack of a venue for these types of music seems like it is passing a judgment on our culture and that's not fair. Much love.

Entertainment – Vaudeville

I'd prefer that the act Banunkey Fun Force not be invited to OCF. Part of their act involved placing a tube up a performer's nose & having a volunteer suck liquid from the tube. Many folks, including me, were grossed out and walked out. Whether this was real or a trick, it was a very bad message. Aside from that the act was completely unoriginal and not funny.

Please put Nanda on a bigger stage! They're so good and so many people want to see them. And there's always quite a messy bottleneck at the entrance to WC Fields when they're performing.

I love Mildred Hodiddle, and anything she says or does would please me to no end. Her show, however, really did not contain much (little little) of her material. It was a guy who did not match the billing (not the crazy uncle). It was poorly rehearsed, offensive to many, and was not so hot. Bring Mildred back on her own!

FARSIDE

I would like to give some feedback about this year's Far Side policies.

It has become more and more difficult for those of us who camp in the Far Side to get our gear in and out of our camping sites.

When I went in on Wednesday to unload, I was both grateful (because I wasn't towed) and upset that towing was happening so early and without any grace time. The tow trucks were like vultures coming in for their feed.

When I wanted to go in on Sunday to pick up my camping gear, I was informed that the gates closed at 6:00 and I WAS NEVER INFORMED OF THIS CHANGE. This was the first year, to my knowledge, that this has been the policy. I had a wonderful fair only to come out of it and have to deal with this which took me several hours (car, cart, hauling, etc).

I feel that those of you who are making policy changes should notify all of us involved of changes that relate to us. Telling the crew boss has not been an effective way. I suggest that emails be sent to those who are affected.

Anyway, not to be passive/aggressive, I want to thank you for all that you do and the Fair is still a magical event

FOOD

Continued attention to growing food for Fair is welcome. Sweet Leaf Restaurant does a tremendous job of providing nutritious, delicious fair food that is primarily locally grown. It would be nice to trim the branches around their sign to increase the visibility of their booth.

The food I bought there (I brought most of my own) was very low quality - it was like the vendors didn't even care about serving good food, they were just there to be there.

Wow, food prices are going sky high. Food vouchers no longer buy food for the day while the gate price has barely gone up. Quite the deal for the public, but not so for the working fair family.

Please consider prohibiting charcoal brick burning. The air quality in the region is noxious. As a physician, I am concerned for those Fair family living in the vicinity, especially children.

Peace Seeds has been in Ag Alley in Energy Park for decades. This year for the first time, we had problems with smoke from a meat smoker during the afternoons of Friday and Saturday. The smoke which polluted the air of Ag Alley came from a meat smoker that was used by a food vendor. We talked to the folks who own the booth and they said that next year they would put up a higher wall between their cooking operation, Peace Seeds, and Ag Alley. The fan they use to blow the smoke away was 15 feet from the smoker (totally ineffectual, too far away as well). They have never used the smoker during fair hours before. We suggested that they not smoke their meat during the fair hours or put it on their high deck which would let the smoke drift over the crowd rather than into it. Another option is to smoke the meat away from the fair 8 and at another time.

Since Peace Seeds has many people who come to sit, talk, and discuss life, the smoke from their meat preparation chased most everyone away from us and from Ag Alley. Since second hand smoke is toxic, carcinogenic, and unpleasant to many people, the Fair needs to deal with this issue. Thank you

GMO-FREE / ORGANIC

I would love to see all of the potatoes eaten at Fair be grown on a fair farm nearby grown by fair loving kin. Perhaps I am dreaming now, but a farm in conjunction with Fair would be great. Alice's is wonderful and I am grateful for all the crew does to grow food for the main kitchen. Continuing to provide an abundance of passes to that crew makes total sense so that they can grow in scope and provide to more parts of fair.

Dear OCF Family and Board

It is time to consider the issue of GMO's being used at OCF. We need to investigate and distribute the information about the effects of genetically engineered crops, particularly soybeans, canola, beets, and corn on human health. There is considerable evidence concerning the toxicity and endangerment of our health from the continual consumption of these minimally tested crops and their products. Read Genetic Roulette by Jeffrey Smith. How about an educational program and then a referendum on this issue. Consider that Europe has rejected most GMO's on their lands and in their food.

We are misled by the notion that local is more important than organic grown somewhere else. Local synthetic fertilizers and biocides contaminate our local air, water, soil, food and lives.

We can stand up and take a stance; make a GMO-free festival, from the food all the way to the plates and cups, no more GMO "compostable" waste. Working with our kitchen and all our food booths at OCF, we can be setting up contracts with local organic farmers, to grown local organic food to make a truly amazing festival. Let us support all of what has made up what we are,

The first step is requiring that all of the products using controversial GMO crops are removed and replaced with non-GMO or organic alternatives. We recognize that there will be resistance, but his isn't about likes and dislikes, none of us like that our food system, our water and the earth are systematically being poisoned. If we want to continue supporting the healthy alternative, this is our opportunity. This is an important first step. Let's clean up our act, make a GMO-free OCF.

Step two, take a stand against poisoning our earth. Make an Organic OCF!!!

GREEN FAIR

We are encouraged to bring our own utensils, but there are few places to properly wash them, even in Main Camp kitchen. Most of the hand wash stands have signs saying the water is non-potable or otherwise discourage plate & utensil washing. Can we try some consistency?

I would really love to see more bike-powered events/shows at your wonderful fair

The number of powered carts is increasing along with the smell of diesel. Can we get them to be electric charged or better yet figure out a solar solution??

The biodiesel Peach Bus rocks my freakin' world. Love it! More biodiesel!

GROWTH

Fair Growth: My earliest memory of the OCF was back in the early 80's as a child. I remember the Grateful Dead being there and it was somewhat crowded. Today my concern for the Fair is capacity. For 30+ years now I have seen a steady increase in attendance and after the last two fairs have had issues with moving around the paths freely. How many people can these grounds really support in one weekend? or one month? Who will be allowed and who will not? What will help and what will hurt? Less advertisement? Fewer ticket sales? Expand the grounds further? I am unsure of the answer yet I think the question should be acknowledged by the Fair Elders. I love the fair and would do whatever it took to make it as wonderful a place as it was when I started attending in utero in 1974. Thanks for listening.

Fair's too crowded: I went to the Fair this year optimistic as always. I was stunned at how lifeless it felt - like a skipping record. Maybe the sheer volume of attendees is the main focus for the crews, but the Fair itself did not seem to be geared towards enjoyment.

GUIDELINES

Last year, I bought a glass jar of healing hands salve. It was in my bag when I came back the next day and they took it from me at the gate. When I went to leave it was gone from the bag checkers station. I understand the rule about no glass, but I think an exception should be made for purchases made at the Fair. That was \$23 I lost. Thank you for your consideration.

Youth and newer Fair family need much more education around "policy" and "policy violations".

Photography Guidelines

I would like to share with you my personal experience and suggest a solution that might help everyone have a better time at OCF.

At OCF this year, like all other years, I walked around topless. The one thing I've noticed is a seemingly steady decline in the number of other people also walking around topless or with their chests painted, over the years. I've also noticed a rise of the amount of people who put off a creepy vibe with their cameras. Most attempting to be discrete, snapping pictures and turning as I walk by, others more obvious as they walk backwards in front of me to get an extra shot in and then those courteous enough to actually ask if they can take a picture. I had one guy follow me around for about 10 minutes trying to get a shot, as I kept hiding myself from view of his camera. He would make his way through the crowd in front of me and wait for me to cross, then make his way up the path again and do it again. Finally the guy gave up on this and just asked if he could take a picture and even asked me to pose a particular way for him. I declined. I don't attend fair to feel like I'm being put on stage or stalked by paparazzi.

I feel uneasy with these people as they have no accountability to be respectful or loose their future privileges to take pictures at fair. I've also noticed most of these photographers tend to have similar characteristics that put off a creepy vibe? I'm half tempted to next year bring a camera of my own and take pictures of all these men and have their images ran across a sex offender data base as many of them give off that sort of an impression to be in such a data base. It would be interesting to find out how many photographers attending fair are on such a list. I wouldn't be the least surprised to learn a large percentage of them are based on their actions.

What I would rather see is that the OCF ban the commercial grade cameras unless registered with a permit with the OCF. And for anyone being "creepy" to be stopped by "security" and/or made known and easily reported to security by anyone for someone to take care of the person making people feel uncomfortable.

So what is creepy? Stalking, tracking down topless woman and insisting on a photograph, trying to hide while taking pictures, etc. Not asking permission of an individual when taking a picture of an individual.

The reason I enjoy the fair in part is my ability to be topless without fear of how that might show up in my life outside of fair. With all of the commercial grade cameras and use of the internet, these pictures are not only possible to end up on the internet, but likely to be found there.

My sister-in-law ended up having one of her friends find her topless fair picture on a porn site. Of course it's hard for the OCF to control this, however it is reasonable for the fair to help put some safeguards in place that might help minimize this sort of thing, and definitely help people to enjoy their fair experience by reducing the number of photo poachers.

Here is a possible solution: To require people to be registered and approved to take pictures targeted at topless woman and be required to follow rules of not being creepy, etc., more people would likely feel comfortable to enjoy themselves at the fair. Also limiting the number of people allowed to have these sort of cameras and all of these people required to be respectful. I did have one person who claimed to be taking

pictures for the OCF and was respectful and asked permission before taking my picture. He made me feel most comfortable of all the people who took my picture.

Another idea is having a part of the fair which is a camera free zone. Anyone wishing the freedom from cameras can feel safe to enjoy themselves on a particular trail of the fair.

Unfortunately this is something that has become bothersome enough I feel the need to warn the public via the internet of the issue at the fair. I feel it's only right to share my concerns with the OCF first to see if anyone cares enough to take action for future fairs. I personally will no longer be attending the fair topless if the OCF does not help resolve this issue and I can only imagine how many other people feel the same way.

The following responses were sent directly to the respondent above:

i could not agree more...we already do our best to support no pictures of individuals without their permission and a general ban on creepiness. We train our security people to be sensitive and help to serve and protect...camera free path good idea perhaps.... Zak Schwartz, BUM

Someone may have already responded to you, but I felt compelled to write to let you know we heard your issue and ideas. I am sorry you had any negative experiences at the fair in regards to your desire to go topless. We understand the need for everyone to feel free to express themselves safely and comfortably at the event. Many people come to the event to do exactly that, which is to express themselves in an outlet that they cannot the other 362 days of the year. The many forms of expression like costuming, makeup, performance, artistic, musical, dance and more, are what make our event unique and enjoyable. All of these forms of expression draw spectators, and inevitably, photographers. In a time when almost every person has a camera on their phone, it is likely that anyone expressing themselves in any form are bound to be photographed. While that may be impossible to restrict and may be likely, it is not ok for anyone to be exploited, or be made to feel uncomfortable in any way. Our code of conduct and guidelines clearly define every participant's right to respectful treatment. Although the fair works hard to prevent problems, inappropriate behaviors sometimes occur. It should be known that our security crews and management take this very seriously. It is inevitable that in a community of our size that we do receive complaints about individuals taking advantage of our open and expressive nature. Our security crews and management always respond immediately to these complaints. We remove people from the property, if necessary, for not respecting the rights of other participants to have a safe and respected experience at the event. We are committed to providing a safe environment and work hard to maintain one. The policy is in place to help us maintain this safe environment already, and relies on individual's like yourself to report any problems that we may not have witnessed or been aware of so we can address it in a timely fashion to allow everyone to continue to have a safe and wonderful experience at the Country Fair.

Thank you for taking the time to send us your concerns. We will discuss your concerns to see if there is any way we can do our jobs better to help prevent a negative experience like yours from occurring. Tony Clementi, Assistant Manager

HOSPITALITY

Too many entertainers. They tend to be obnoxious, self-important, & rude. Example: having one member of group hold a place in the hospitality line. Then when that one person nears the serving area the rest of the group all crowd in (10 or 12). Really not cool

INFORMATION

Information station in need of map for outside entertainment for day/night

Info Crew t-shirts should say "INFO You Are Here Now" on the back or INFO MANIAC

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER!

- I would like to be a fair volunteer
- Want to volunteer next year 2012. How do I get on this now? Please advise.

MAIN CAMP KITCHEN

Pre-Fair Kitchen Rocks. Why was the Half & Half non-organic this year Last year it was OG (organic)??? We need to make it possible for them to provide more and more organic food. We need to feed our staff the best. The best food makes the best work. Strive for 100% GMO free and 100% organic soon.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Seattle Events runs Hempfest and I'm with them. My idea is to add a "Medical Marijuana Designated Medicating Area." This area would be totally enclosed and no medicine would be bought or sold. Just a community sharing. We have a great lawyer, Douglass Hiatt. This would accommodate all the medical patients. To get into the area, all patients would bring Oregon State Medical cards, then come in. Anyway, I want to volunteer for that booth. Thanks.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Drum Tower would like lights (LEDs) for night time
- The Politics Park hand wash station needs some sort of lighting even if just for the midnight show. It is hard to see, most people miss it and I don't want us getting sick.
- Please hold the fair 3, 4, or 5 times a year!!!
- No dangling wristbands; it's unsanitary. Food cross-contamination concerns.
- found several liquor containers at the Fair
- More bicycle racks please – a wonderful problem to have and even more wonderful to solve.

It seems odd that there is no mention of the Board on the .org website. It would be useful if there was one email address which forwarded to the whole board, rather than having to type in each board member's email address (once those can be found -- not easy).

Web site is very bad, hard to figure out the entertainment schedule. Vendors listed by individual name not business name with no link to websites.

Please consider limiting/disallowing cell phones. Know they are handy-dandy and it would be hard to monitor. But people are videoing (digital is against Fair rules) AND seeing/overhearing myriads of people using them disturbs me, the ambiance... Why not 'puters with movies next!

We had several things stolen this year. Not anyone's fault necessarily but still we lost more this fair than in the previous 16 years as dedicated volunteers.

The Fair family needs a barter fair in fall (October) sometime in the parking lot. We could set it up a lot like the Okanogan family faire. Fair family needs a fall trading gathering. How can we make this happen? I would love to be part of this! Let's make an OCF family barter fair so we can all trade the things we have for the things we need for the winter. If you all need more thoughts on these issues, be in touch.

Dylana c/o peaceseedlings@yahoo.com

NO SMOKING

- It would be nice to have Fair 'No Smoking Areas' gone. Why encourage a habit that does impact others. Happy Fair Thoughts
- Too much smoking on the paths, at the stages, at the booths, everywhere. Tobacco is the big problem (especially the inconsiderate people who use it.)
- more unchallenged smokers walking around
- How about moving the cigarette smoking location out of Energy Park?'
- Bad fair for smokers! Everywhere, lit cigs at child level, especially their smoke. Security path rove ignoring.

First, thank you for another great year. Amazing volunteers and organization. Now...it is time to clamp down on cigarette smoking at the Fair. It was impossible to avoid secondhand smoke this year, and many smokers were not even in the smoking areas. But even the designated areas aren't working. It is impossible to walk by them without breathing clouds of smoke. Allowing this practice goes against everything the OCF stands for. It is time, folks, to have ONE designated smoking area ONLY, out in front of the main entrance, and have your staff enforce the smoking ban everywhere else. Let all the gentle people breathe free! Let the smokers go kill themselves in their own sequestered area. It's time. Follow the lead of NYC and SF. Follow the science. Follow your hearts. Ban smoking at the OCF.

The smoking area in Energy Park is very problematic. It is too close to the stage- so people who do not smoke are exposed to large quantities while dancing or listening to our speakers. It is next to our path to camping, making it difficult to monitor people going into the camping area because of the large consolidation of smokers in the pathway. The path trolls are exposed to smoke, so members of our staff refuse to be path trolls while the smoking area is there. The smoking area needs to be moved out of Energy Park. Smoking is not a practice in harmony with our philosophy of cultivating a lifestyle of sustainability

My husband and I have been coming to the fair for 28 years, so we are used to the changes that are made every year. There was a change this year that we did not like and that is the addition of the smoking areas. We stood in line for 15 minutes to get a frisco sandwich and a I asked if there was a place to sit to eat. The person in the booth directed us to the alcove just down the path. I couldn't believe all of the people smoking until I saw the smoking area sign. There were several other times that we stopped to listen to music or other things and there was another smoking area and more smoking. And yet, finding a spot to sit and eat was harder to find. Second hand smoke-why can't the fair be a smoke free area? And please add more areas to sit and rest or eat

Day & night, people tend to smoke wherever they want despite efforts to limit to designated smoking areas. Especially a problem in the off hours. Several great pathside jam sessions were clouded by smoke. Nearly impossible to find a truly smoke-free area in the off hours. Well, the sauna, but that costs \$\$.

PATH PLANNING

I had a lot of fun visiting the main attraction but I felt like cattle being forced to constantly be pushed forward with no time to stop at booths and visit vendors.

I had a difficult time getting ANYWHERE because of all the strollers and children walking around. I think the Fair would be more fun for both children and partiers if there were two distinct and loosely enforced boundaries - the top of the Fair (main stage, ritz, etc) could be "those of you who want to party will have a better time up here". The bottom part, near the bus entrance and Chela Mela could be "those of you with kids and strollers will have a better time down here".

I longed for a quiet, restful corner where I could go to sit comfortably to decompress from all the noise and crowds. What's wrong with sitting still? Why do fairgoers have to feel pressured to walk around a crowded confusing path all day? The whole world is too busy - we could really benefit from more sitting, communing and relaxing rather than walking around all day to look at expensive wares. There's no room at the fair to be relaxed and laid back anymore.

Large food booths on main paths make traffic jams. We could set up new paths to have more space in front of popular food booths. Or make the food booth step back from the path 10-20 feet to make room for a functional path. Examples: Rising Moon never really blocks the path with their line because they are set back off the path. Whereas Liberty Coffee and Cart deFrisco are always clogging the paths and since they are right across from each other, that spot is always a traffic jam. Things to consider when making better traffic flows...

PEACH PIT

- Make a maps & stage/happenings schedule as a separate handout/supplement to the Peach Pit.
- Please put schedules & map separate from the paper. Many people just want a map or just want a schedule and then waste the rest of the paper
- I just want to suggest an idea for conserving paper. If page 18 was the map, I would only use one sheet of paper for events and map. So maybe the events calendar and map were the center page or a separate handout; that would be fabulous.

Please publish the hours of operation in the Peach Pit

Smoking at music venues and pathways. I have no recommendation other than an educational message in the Peach Pit.

Several customers approached me to ask where food booths were listed in the directory. These really should be highlighted or given their own page? Large type? Fairgoers should have an easier guide to their experience, and not be expected to be as familiar with the Fair as Fair family. Again I would recommend a page dedicated to a listing of food booths and locations.

Also, listing crafts only by booth rep name is very confusing for people looking for a booth by business name. Can't both the rep and business name be listed? Only booth rep if there is no business name, of course.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

I was driving out today listening to KDUK (104.7 FM). The DJ said "Anyone needing a drug test in the next week or so needs to stay away from Eugene. The Country Fair is in town and people in Eugene are going to get a contact high as far as downtown!" I've already called Val who is in charge of the DJs. But it was highly inappropriate and not what fair is about. I'm here with my 11-week-old.

REGISTRATION

My first two years as a vendor I came in on Wednesday and stood on those hours long lines. There was festivity in the air and lots of stress. A bummer of a way for a lot of folks to start fair. This year I did not get on site until Thursday (I had to keep sewing to the last minute because my fabric arrived late). There were no lines, no wait, no confusion, no stress and a lot more real smiles. I may never come in on Wednesday again.

This may be a silly question since I know registration cannot be like that on Wednesday...do people realize how much easier Thursday is? Can we encourage people to take advantage of this?

On Wednesday, when I go out to get my wristband, leaving all my stuff & camp completely "unprotected." (I'm single and by myself until Thursday eve) I'd so love a line at Registration for efficient people like me who are

fully paid up, etc. so I wouldn't have to wait behind swelling groups of food booths, etc. in line for a 5-minute piece of business. Thanks

The booth fee for a craft booth and food booth are the same. Food booths are allowed more passes which I understand & I know that we all pay the same for any extra passes. But, my point is food booths make a lot more money than most crafters. They also are allowed daily truck deliveries while I have to cart my stuff in & out. Food booth fees should be 3-4 times more than craft booth fees. It only makes sense.

I noticed that in the crafters' overflow lot, about half of the lot is for handicapped. Please change this back to crafters, so we have a place to park. Crafters need that lot to park in. Thanks for listening

One Year Only Booths

After repeated attempts I was juried in 2009. (I became an elder in 2008). The first two years I was with friends who had 1 y o booths, I knew the process was stressful but did not know how much until this year. I was lucky enough to get a 1 y o space. Very happy. Got first set of available booth photos. Oops, wrong list, it was no big deal. Got the right set, was familiar with some of the spaces and started working on which ones would be servicable for my booth mate and myself. Knowing which day was 'pick day' we planned to go out and see all the spaces. oops again, our picks had to be in by Wednesday even though this info was not in the packet. We were told to list our 1st, 2nd, 3rd picks. I knew several folks who were picking their 1 y o space and most of us were looking at the same spaces so I sent a 4th pick as well. We got our fourth pick on Saturday, 'pick day'.

After fair, once I came up for air, I looked again at the guidelines. After reading through everything for booth reps I noticed none of their dates/deadlines had anything to do with 1 y o deadlines. I think there is the flexibility to get to the 1 y o space selection much earlier, maybe even early enough so that 1 y o can be listed in the peach pit with a booth number.

The reasons I would like to have this change are many: fairness; sanity -- in knowing where you will be and having more time to fix up the space; a chance to reduce some of the tension I sometimes see between long time vendors and those who are 'new', having fewer than 12 years as an OCF vendor. I know this probably means I have to join the committee(s) and push for this yet I remain hopeful this may be possible simply by making the date change. Thanks for your consideration.

SANITATION

We found at another festival that putting lights in the porta-potties helped reduce the amount of litter and general yuck factor.

I tell you this every year, and it's so simple & cheap, yet it never happens. Put 3 signs inside every toilet, whether portapotty or six-pack, asking people nicely to lower the seat cover after use to improve air quality for everybody. How hard is this really? The signs could be laminated & push-pin fastened in the six-packs and duct-taped in the portapotties. It's too bad people have to be told, but they do.

I know we are working on it, but... We need more restrooms during Fair for workers & everyone.

[Outhouses near Upper River Loop Info](#) Thank you for rebuilding the outhouses across from the library! Because they were under construction even on Thursday, a portapotty was brought in to accommodate the Family Wednesday/Thursday. This reduced impact on the outhouse. It did not begin to smell bad until Sunday! In previous years, it sometimes stank even by Friday morning. Might you consider limiting use of the non-portapotty outhouses in the future as a matter of policy? Opening them on Thursday night or Friday? Even with the limited use imposed by the construction, they were literally inches from being full Monday morning.

The bad- the port o'potties which were mostly out of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and reeked (mostly, to be expected)

Sanitation – Women's Urinals

- Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! So much for listening (*last year*) and having no urinal cakes in the Shady Grove women's urinal.
- These are the greatest!!! All the women and I who used them delighted about their utility--there were these long lines much of the weekend and we simply breezed past them every time.
- Have more!!! I never dreamed I'd be so happy over such a simple thing. THANK YOU for those that thought about a women's urinal and those who installed it. It really helps when our older bladder are screaming NOW.
- Better education to public about women's urinals – it would help a lot
- If we build more urinals we need more education/normalization. Many women thought urinals would not have toilet paper. Education matches our goals for teaching outside the box.

SECURITY

Tail Tugging – I camp in such a place that I have to go through many gates to get into the Fair 8. This year with the new wristbands, it was extreme. And my thought is it isn't healthy/safe... one person touching everyone's bands. We don't need to be spreading more germs. Maybe an eyes-only rule for everyone's health? How many more people do we find sneaking in? Is it really worth acting like police?

Sunday, Phun Gate 2-7pm

I'm new to this, first time working Fair, and my shift was the pits. I'm generally hard to bring down, but I cannot believe I actually paid to get treated so badly for those 6 hours (my previous shift guarding camp was fine)

- 1) 15-20 minutes after being introduced to someone as "being with security" we got a lecture for not checking that person. It was apparent the unhappy transmitter of news had been treated just as we were by a higher-up and it sucked. I get they wanted to tighten up security, but that was a lousy set up. If we had been recorded, you actually would have heard, "Did you get that badge, she had it tucked in (flagging next person). Amanda—"she was just introduced to us at Dragon as with Security." Kevin – "Yep, she's cool; we just met her." Brandon heads her off and taps her shoulder, stopping her anyway. How this would deserve a stern talking to, I do not know.
- 2) All weekend, our shift was 2-7. At 7 our shift was suddenly until 8. I don't know whose oversight that was, but it sucked.
- 3) About 5%-10% of the people who had to be checked were upset to hostile about us touching the badge and/or bracelet. I was yelled at, demeaned, called a Nazi, worse, TSA, and given sneers and snide remarks intermittently for six hours. I paid to be here! No vouchers! That sucks.

I think he would have thrown a hissie fit visible from space if I had gotten his name or badge number, but for me, the worst was not the people who were just plain mean, but a guy who was a bigwig. He had an all-access pass. I asked to see the back and he asked me very rudely if I could read pointing to ALL ACCESS. I proffered my hand and said, "I'm sorry, but we need to check the back. An all access pass would be the most tempting to copy. He pulled it further from me and was snide for a while. ("What's your problem? I'm obviously supposed to be here if I have this pass....etc.") Finally shows me the back and walks off in a big huff. ALL ACCESS does not mean right to be RUDE.

Security - Backpack Check

Last year, I bought a glass jar of healing hands salve. It was in my bag when I came back the next day and they took it from me at the gate. When I went to leave it was gone from the bag checkers station. I understand the

rule about no glass, but I think an exception should be made for purchases made at the Fair. That was \$23 I lost. Thank you for your consideration

SIDECAR BIKES

Thanks for getting the sidecar bikes for those with needs. i know it made one ladies day

The fair was wonderful, and some of the reason why was the sidecar bike people who drove me from the "alter-abled" parking lot to the fair entrance. Walking is an issue for me now, (I'm 68), and not having to walk that 2-3 blocks gave me that much more time to enjoy the fair before my feet gave out. Like everyone at the fair the drivers were very helpful and courteous. I hope you make use of them again next year. Again, a wonderful event like nothing I have attended since the late 60's. Keep up the great work

Thank YOU SOOO much for including the bike sidecar taxi's. We were able to bring an old time fairgoer this year, who we were stressing about her being able to walk in from the parking lot, as she has terminal Cancer. What a blessing. She wasn't exhausted before she even made it to the gate and was able to even dance a little. Thank you again and hope you will be including the sidecar bike taxi service always

The Side care Bike service for me was awesome! I walk with a cane and need assistance for distances and rough terrain. They were fast and got me to and from the parking lot. I tried to tip each driver and they wouldn't take anything! I appreciate this service very much

2011 Fair was fun. To start out w/the good- My mother is alter-abled so she made use of the ever ready (thankfully) bicycle side carts that were very helpful and much appreciated. The parking lot assistance (also) was really on top of everything from Friday - Sunday despite the heavy traffic and flocks of unruly fair goers.

Thanks so much for providing the sidecar bike services at the Oregon Country Fair. I walk with a cane and have problems walking long distances. The bike riders who took me to and from the car were really great. They didn't have a bit of a problem taking me either way. I was really surprised how smooth the ride was. The day was so much more pleasant due to these services and I appreciate them. Thanks, thanks, thanks

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the services White Bird Clinic and Gene of sidecar bikes gave me today at the fair. I overestimated my stamina and wound up exhausted and in a lot of pain after too much walking. I stopped in at White Bird clinic asking if there was any service that could help me and my niece back to my car. Within 10 minutes they had me wheeled out to Gene who then proceeded to bike us back to the car in one of the most unusual bikes I have ever seen. What could have been a disaster for me turned into a wonderful experience. When I tried to pay Gene for his service he refused and just asked that I write the fair to let you know how much it meant to me. Without his help I would probably still be trying to crawl back to my car. Thanks to him my overall experience was great and I hope to return (better prepared) next year.

SIGNS & BANNERS

The sign at Shady Grove "women's urinal" was not visible to folks as they headed to Shady Grove. Many folks I directed there did not see it. The sign was hard to see and directed to traffic headed to Village only. The prominent sign was "4A bathroom," looking to the path. I suggest more signage at Main Stage for the urinal as well. Hardly anyone knew there were solo urinals there.

Put a better sign up so that when someone comes from community village to the toilet area, you can see the urinal sign sooner. If you don't know that it is there, you won't know til you have waited thru the long line. Right now, what you see is a sign about the toilet for the disabled folks.

Re: Bathrooms for disabled folks. Please put some signage up asking moms with kids not to use them; that the bathrooms are for disabled folks only.

Politics Park needs signage in women's urinal . Sign at each station saying, "Please put toilet paper down tube (chute?), NOT into urinal. Thank You

The 'non-potable water' sign over the wash-up sink at the River Loop bathrooms is invisible at night. It needs an LED (very small would be ok). It could be a brighter sign during the day, too...

I tell you this every year, and it's so simple & cheap, yet it never happens. Put 3 signs inside every toilet, whether portapotty or six-pack, asking people nicely to lower the seat cover after use to improve air quality for everybody. How hard is this really? The signs could be laminated & push-pin fastened in the six-packs and duct-taped in the portapotties. It's too bad people have to be told, but they do.

SITE/TREE CREW

Out of Mapleton is a county run source of indigenous plants, bushes, trees (free?) My idea – to plant trees in the parking lot.

SOUND & LIGHT POLLUTION

- We live at Wooten Way. Thursday & Friday, the recorded music was way too loud! Friday until 2am. Loud we can handle; recorded DJ/Disco we cannot.
- The music on Main Stage Thursday night was way too loud, especially given lack of other ambient noise at the fair on Thursday night.
- Music on Main Stage Thursday night Way too loud, especially given lack of other ambient noise at the fair on Thursday night.
- I support the 2am cut-off time for amplified music
- Folly to complain about noise in the 8 at night, late. Amplified drums, Friday at 1am Main Stage? A little extra loud
- Too much amplified sound and electricity!! Bright, non-reusable light. It wasn't very Fair-like ☹️. Needs to be more Fair family influence.

Less issues with unwanted loud recorded music in camp and on the paths than last year. Disturbing to see increasingly heavy drinking and laser lights at night - I fear for my eyesight! Wish there was a quiet loop with acoustic music, poetry, gathering and the wild electric stuff somewhere else. If I wanted to go to burning man I would. Preserve our hand crafted funky woods fest feeling!

I've nothing against live music, but: Friday night at the horse stage past Chela Mela meadow from 11:00-2pm! they were playing very loud, very repetitious Techno music, my ear plugs didn't do much. Is it possible to schedule loud, computer based music before midnight. Anything after midnight should be soothing, harmonic and live music. Something to relax and wind down with and sleep! Not very loud repetitious computer music.

Thursday night, Main Stage volume was way too high. Drove us all away from our booths as we couldn't even talk without shouting. Very disappointed not to have a peaceful Thursday. Please no amplified on Thursday! Sunday night is so lovely, all the acoustic options. Can we have designated non-electronic evenings? Suggest Thursday/Sunday for "power off" evenings.

TEEN TRANSITIONS

Transitioning our teens continues to be a huge challenge for us. We have had 5 teens to move through the system, add in the multiples of their peers who call our camp "home base" and I think we are pretty keyed into this demographic. We are losing very experienced crew who are already vested in the property because there is no requirement for crews to articulate teens let alone any recourse spot is not found. We know three individuals who are now a year out of being away with little chance of getting back to the family. I thought of a Teen Draft issue in the FFN, complete with scouting report. This way the teens could highlight their experience and family history. Might be fun and I would take on the project if others thought the idea has merit

TRAFFIC

So we had an emergency. Had to leave on the 9th and came back the same night. Got parked by Security on our way back to OuttaSite where we came from. We were told we couldn't park back there. I have an All Vehicle car pass so I didn't think anything of it. I thought he knew what he was doing. Guess not. I missed work on Monday, the 11th, because of this and then had to pay \$80 to get it out of towing. I don't think this is right. I pushed all my stuff all around the Fair trying to figure stuff out. I am pissed. I really don't like how this stuff works. It would be better if parking people knew what they are doing.

Senior Parking: The parking for Seniors has been near the main entry for several years, a very much appreciated benefit. Today we were directed to park in the second lot back from the main entrance, Row 207. The extra 1 to 2 blocks of walking created a laborious strain for my 77 year old body. I made it. If the parking procedure changed, please reflect this in future websites and publicity. If the same parking procedures apply, volunteers may need additional guidance. It was a great fair.

If the parking lot attendants were not "stoned", people would easily find a parking space. More communication filling up one row at a time using "alert" people would solve a lot of problems there.

Hey thanks to the Parking lot Angels. I went Friday. All excited, I hopped out of my truck and did not get an exact read on where I parked. Late afternoon, I was lost in the lost. 3 of your angels [2 guys and a gal] in a green car spotted me and gave aid. They shared a container of water that I desperately needed and then drove me around till we found my truck. I am usually rescuing others, was wonderful to be cared for and helped. Thank my angels for me. You guys and ODOT and Lane Co Sheriffs did a fantastic job controlling traffic. Nicely done

I noticed that in the crafters' overflow lot, about half of the lot is for handicapped. Please change this back to crafters, so we have a place to park. Crafters need that lot to park in. Thanks for listening

The Monday packing up/leaving traffic was terrible. It took me over 2 ½ hours go go from the Dead Lot to get to my booth at Chela Mela. Having traffic coming, going & leaving on the same road really bottles things up.

It was a nightmare leaving. What happened to one road in and one road out? The mess started at 9am and we left around 3pm and it was still a mess.

Some of the one year only booths on Wooten Way, brought their vehicles in blocking access to my booth. Then lock them up and went to the Barter Fair which thoroughly pissed me off. I was understood to think you are supposed to enter, do your business, then leave promptly.

Traffic -- Towing

On Sunday, July 10, 2011, my son went to his car only to find out it was gone. He drove it out of the figure 8 on Wed night, July 6, 2011. He tried to park in the same crafters overflow lot as me, but they wouldn't

let him. They said it was full. I saved him a spot, but they wouldn't listen to him. He told them he needed a permanent spot, as he wasn't leaving the fair again until Sunday.

To add insult to injury, they informed him at Registration Booth, he couldn't get his car back without paying an \$80 towing fee. When he told them he didn't have \$80, he was told to go back inside the fair and find \$80. This was Sunday morning at 10am. There were 2 women at the booth, I think it was the Solutions part; it was the far right corner as you face registration.

By the time I joined the mix (I am the booth rep). My son has been coming to the fair all his life, but this is only the second time he drove. He knew what he was supposed to do, but was prevented from doing so, then he was flagged into a spot, and told everyone he needed permanent parking. I was told the woman at the booth had no authority to release the vehicle without payment and so we had to wait for the coordinator to arrive. This took an hour and a half. At first he was insisting that my son pay the \$80, even after hearing his story of what had happened. I then took over. First of all, I can see the need to move people's cars, especially people who parked with no regard for rules. This was not the case here. My son attempted in every way possible to be directed to the correct place. I also understand that you have volunteers helping. But, if we can't get good answers to simple questions, then I believe fair family should not be charged for towing.

Eventually, the BUM released the car to us. The entire event took over 3 hours. An incredible waste of time on Sunday morning, when we all needed to be at the booth. We missed our work shifts and had to scramble to get others to cover for us.

We weren't the only ones there. There was also a young kid, whose mom's car had been towed and they had no record of it. He had been searching for 2 days, and now was on the third day. They had sent him all over creation. He looked in OuttaSite parking for hours and hours. They said it wasn't in the tow lot because they would have had a record of it. So they sent him on a wild goose chase for almost 3 days. They kept promising him that he would find the car. But no one with a vehicle helped him and he hoofed it all over the place. The parking coordinator showed up and took him into the tow lot while I was waiting for the coordinator, and sure enough, it was there, just 100 yards away from the registration booth. And guess what, now he was supposed to pay the \$80 tow fee. He said that they promised him he wouldn't be charged because of no records, but now they changed their minds.

This was all quite appalling to me. One of the parking crew who came from Veneta was telling us all she didn't park overnight and went home instead because she had asked at least 5 different people and never got the same story twice. There were many, many cars in the tow parking lot. I am going to guess that it was between 500 and 1000. That a lot of \$80 fees. There has to be a better way. This isn't the public that you are hassling. It is the crafts people. We are busy working our butts off, so that you have a fair to coordinate for. Please do not think that charging us an extra \$80 fee, after we pay for our booth fee, our extra passes fees, our extra parking fees, etc. etc is an acceptable solution to your not having properly trained volunteers.

My son had a parking sticker on his vehicle. If we are family, then treat us like family. If we are not in the right place, you have a numbered sticker that can tell you what booth that vehicle is with. We all have cell phones now, and a simple phone call to the booth rep can solve this. You make the phone call and I bet we can solve it faster than 3 hours.

Don't like that solution, I bet with a bit of brainstorming, we can all come up with at least 10 other solutions. Please don't let the parking problem slide another year.

WHITE BIRD

I think you need a dentist to volunteer at WhiteBird or other first aid stations. You have MDs, why not DMDs? I dropped a molar filling and Eugene is a ways! Your staff at WhiteBird was wonderful & efficient. Thanks

WhiteBird outlet by Odyssey Info needs to have ice.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the services White Bird Clinic and Gene of sidecarbikes gave me today at the fair. I overestimated my stamina and wound up exhausted and in a lot of pain after too much walking. I stopped in at White Bird clinic asking if there was any service that could help me and my niece back to my car. Within 10 minutes they had me wheeled out to Gene who then proceeded to bike us back to the car in one of the most unusual bikes I have ever seen. What could have been a disaster for me turned into a wonderful experience. When I tried to pay Gene for his service he refused and just asked that I write the fair to let you know how much it meant to me. Without his help I would probably still be trying to crawl back to my car. Thanks to him my overall experience was great and I hope to return (better prepared) next year

THANK YOU'S & WHOO HOOS.

I get up early, the whole grounds are completely trashed (& I literally mean trashed). There is garbage all over, bottles & cans all over, & strangely enough – undies here & there, sadly this is mostly in part due to our fair family. By the time the gates open the grounds are sparkling, shiny & clean thanks to our 'picker uppers'!!!! They get up early & they do an amazing job so a gigantic thank you to them!!!!

Whoo-hoo to the Honey Bucket crew. I know it's their job & they get paid for it, but what a shitty job (haha) & I wouldn't want to do it so I am glad they are there!

I always look forward to my daily visit from the Craft Committee. I have had the same gal for many years, (her helper sometimes changes) I don't know her name, but she is so nice & pleasant, my booth is on the same road as Liberty Coffee & White Bird

This last year was my first Oregon Country Fair and I will be returning with my family every year! I purchased camping at Darling Reunion and that is what really made the trip.

I had a lot of fun visiting the main attraction but I felt like cattle being forced to constantly be pushed forward with no time to stop at booths and visit vendors.

I love everything that the fair stands for and will be making every effort to volunteer so that I can be a part next year!

My general feedback: (Qualified this was my first time and I lack any institutional depth to my participation and understanding.)

The singular highlight of the fair for me was a presentation by Patch Adams. He was engaging, insightful, provocative and entertaining. While this was not the best part of the fair as the best part is clearly the holistic experience, when I look back to the bands, art and other aspects, I think Patch Adams was the best singular event.

From my perspective, the fair is about people, art, music and ideas. The educational and inspirational aspects are some of the most important. I liked Patch Adams.

With respect to the fair and suggestions for improvement, I am far from qualified. But I am thinking. When you open up for submissions, I have some ideas on how I might be able to contribute.

I had a great fair. I run 3 other venues in Oregon and have designed a number of operations for other venues across the NW. I have modeled much of what my company does based on my experiences at the OCF

Another miracle! :-) What was *way* better this year:

More abundant benches and seating (thank you!) more abundant maps "You Are Here" (as if...!) damper pathways (spritizers were SO welcome!) and as always meticulous details well taken care of.

Thank you for another miracle of art, joy, happiness, peaceful gatherings, happiness, love, music, brilliant surprises around every turn... oh did I mention happiness? At 87, I kinda think I know what true happiness feels

like... and my friends, it is certainly to be found there in the magic created on those pathways along the stream under the trees. Namaste,

This was my 27th Fair, as a Fairgoer and Crew Volunteer, and maybe was my "best Fair ever". I work on the 10am-4pm Lot Crew, riding my bicycle up and down Chassem Road and Miss Piggy's Lot. The weather was perfect, the crowds enthusiastic and beautiful, and my part of the Big Creature was almost negativity-free. I had only two irate Fairgoers to help with, and aided in a dog rescue and a fire lane clearance. All in all, I think we're beginning to get the hang of running this thing. My interactions with other crew folk, mostly Traffic, Security, and 4A, were almost all way better than pleasant. I met one extremely upset and violent tempered Traffic guy Wednesday on my way in to register, who threatened me with banishment from the Fair because I didn't respond to his summons (sorry, buddy, I was listening to the Who turned up kinda loud), but he was the only nasty Volunteer I dealt with all weekend, lucky me. Aside from him, I wanted to commend the 2 Traffic and 2 4A's Volunteers who endured the abuse of that pissed-off religious fanatic who was frustrated of his desire to go in and pass out tracts- those guys did just what they were supposed to do, stayed calm and non-threatening. None of the four crew people had taken the Non-violent Crisis Intervention Training, which I recommended to them highly. Some of the newer members of my Crew haven't had it, either. I'll see what I can do about that for next year. I think I've sat thru more than a dozen sessions over the years. My whole Crew really liked the Dr. Bronner's foam shower out in the parking lot, great show, and Miss Piggy never smelled so good on a Sunday. The water station half way between Cabal Crossing and Dragon Gate on Chassem Road was very much appreciated by Volunteers and Fairgoers alike, and was well-used. I had a great time, and can't wait to try it again. Thanks for everything

Salute to all the kind, seasoned vendors who greeted me at my One-Year-Only Booth; you made me feel special and welcomed. Salute to the Ritz; when I was feeling tired and dusty, a trip to that free-spirited, open shower building made me a new person. Salute to the Whiskey Chasers; that band played on the side of the path in the dark of night to anyone who cared to stop and listen. -Even a baby in a carriage was completely captivated by their jamming Hill-Billy songs. I was part of a gathering group who couldn't help but stomp and bounce to their rousing tunes. Salute to the clan of children wearing the black robes, who slinked around my group of wandering laughing friends; they subtly appeared and hovered along with us as we walked in the darkness. Silently leading, flanking, and following our aimless stroll, and then suddenly disappearing into the night. Salute to every artist who put up lights and art and shows at night along the dark wooded paths. It was something I couldn't have dreamed of before I became a booth vendor. During my five night stay, I was amazed and inspired by the beauty and intrigue of what would unfold before me as I walked the fair. I never made it to bed before 3AM because of the irresistible luring to stay out wandering those pathways. My first Oregon Country Fair was delightful, mysterious, challenging, hilarious, crazy fun! My face and stomach hurt from all the laughter. I didn't want it to end. I didn't want to cut my bracelet off. I had a dream the next night of floating along those paths in the dark with glow lights on me and lights moving all around me. I was a deep ocean luminescent fish swimming among my species; swimming with my tribe; happy and free in a place I know I was meant to be.