



FEEDBACK 2016

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR FEEDBACK – 2016

Feedback for the 2016 Fair received by the end of September is listed below. It is organized into a 'subjective' logical order for readability. Full copies are distributed to the management team and Board. Identifying names in the content have been omitted from the public copy, but included in the relevant sections distributed to management, coordinators and committees.

AAAA

I had to write to tell you that I was rescued today by your incredible volunteers. I use a walker and my husband, grandson, and I had a very long walk from our parking spot to the Fair entrance. I had to stop several times to sit down and rest. An angel in a golf cart drove up to me and asked me if I'd like a ride. She was with the amazing group that provides help for less-abled folks like me. A4? 4A? Her help made all the difference in making my Fair experience an exceptional one. And she showed me where to go (by the Dragon) to get a ride back to my car. I want to express my gratitude to the Oregon Country Fair for providing this wonderful service. And if there are funds needed for this service, I would be happy to contribute. Again, thank you so much!

I request that the BOD of the OCF immediately remedy the issue of mandatory compliance of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pertaining to accessible handicapped parking at the fairgrounds.

The Department of Justice guidelines concerning nonprofit ADA parking issues are as follows:

"US Department of Justice , Civil Rights Division, Americans With Disabilities Act, ADA Guide for Non Profit Organizations, page 4, Accessible Parking
When parking is provided for the public, designated accessible parking spaces must be provided, if doing so is readily achievable. An accessible parking space must have space for the vehicle and an additional space located either to the right or to the left of the space that serves as an access aisle. This aisle is needed to permit a person using a wheelchair, electric scooter, or other mobility device to get out of their car or van. A sign with the international symbol of accessibility must be located in front of the parking space and mounted high enough so it is not hidden by a vehicle parked in the space. "Accessible parking spaces should be the spaces closest to the accessible entrance and be located on level ground. If it is not readily achievable to locate accessible parking in the closest spaces due to sloped pavement or other existing conditions, then the closest level area should be selected. An accessible route must be provided between the access aisle and the accessible building entrance. This route must have no steps or steeply sloped surfaces and it must have a firm, stable, slip-resistant surface.

"Van accessible spaces must have an access aisle that is at least eight-feet wide and be designated by a sign with the international symbol and "van accessible." There should be a vertical clearance of at least 98 inches on the vehicular route to the space, at the parking space, and along the vehicular route to an exit."

The term "readily achievable" is proven by OCF history in which ADA parking was available in the front lines by Main Gate (near what is currently Cart Central).

While up front ADA parking is available to the General Public during the Event, it is denied to Fair Family (i.e. Crews, staff, vendors, etc.) This in itself is unlawful discrimination between DMV Placard holders and is de facto grounds for revocation of the Fair's non-profit status. This would seriously affect the Fair's financial status. I implore the BOD to remedy this immediately before someone files an ADA grievance with the Department of Justice. Non Profit status would be held in abeyance until the grievance is settled (current settlement dates reach months or years in the future.)

To waste further time discussing this issue would be irresponsible and potentially devastating to future Fairs. The BOD must act immediately.

Pain points: Unlighted wheelchair user racing down pitch dark East 13th with pedestrians (no horns, no signals, no shout outs), going way faster than any other vehicle we've ever seen.

Hi Gweneth, Brandi and others ~ I wanted to thank all of you again for your caring, concern and support of the "Alter-Abled" people that you helped in a variety of ways at the fair. Not only did your friendly staff provide my much needed wheelchair ride out of the fair and all the way to my car, but also some delicious fruit to snack on while I rested in your comfy booth... which was greatly appreciated. Your 4A (Alter-Abled Access Advocacy) is a much needed resource, and I was happy and relieved to accept the helpful service you provided when I was somewhat struggling to leave the fairgrounds after the end of a very long, and amazing day. Please also thank whoever is in charge of the OCF staff for allowing your group to be there to assist others in need. Thank you all soooo very much! You guys are GREAT!!!

ADMISSIONS

Attended the Oregon Country Fair last Friday. Your Will Call process was pretty horrendous... You had an entire back half of your will call tent completely empty. Could you not add a few more terminals so that people would not have to wait in line for an hour before being admitted to the fair. Some rope lines could be employed to keep folks lined up in rows and not crowding one another. This is about the cheapest option for improvement. On another note, just have folks at the gates with scanners that can scan tickets successfully to allow admittance. A more costly and more practical solution to your will call process. thank you

Make "Will Call" more efficient. It was a real bottleneck. It took a long time to get our tickets, and we totally missed Polka at the Dance Pavilion.

Did you know you cannot buy a 3-day pass and get the senior discount? Instead, you have to get three tickets and go through a day pass. Why is this happening? Please offer three-day senior discount and receive a wristband.

I tried to purchase tickets on-line and I wanted to get the three-day pass, but I could only get 3 one-day passes. So now we have to pay \$15 each day for parking and unable to get a bus from town. Having a bracelet would have made it so much easier for me since I'm disabled. At Will-Call, they were not helpful at all. They pretty much ignored my problem.

Should be able to pick up both Sunday and Friday tickets at Will Call on Friday

ADVERTISING

My concern is with OCF using this facsimile of my creation (the ent) in promotional materials and press releases. It diffuses my marketability and weakens my brand. The "ent" is a former employee of mine presenting my character and costume creation as if it were his. It's a curse to be original, but I'll be damned if I'll be a copy. Thank you.

AMBIANCE/ART

Build a "broken chair" sculpture of all of the cheap, broken \$10 folding chairs that have broken. Emphasize the inefficiency of cheap imports versus quality handmade and all the people and resources it affects.

BUDGET

I enjoyed eating in the Main Camp Kitchen during pre-fair setup, and enjoyed the great food and camaraderie, immensely. As fair approached and the number of volunteers grew, overwhelming the kitchen's capacity, we transitioned to the food voucher system.

If there's one thing that could make my fair even better, it would be a significant increase in the amount of the food vouchers. Maybe I'm mistaken and the food vouchers aren't really supposed to feed us during the fair, but as the price of food in the food booths has increased, the ability to eat three meals a day using food vouchers has (seriously) disappeared.

The volunteer's allotment now is enough to buy a nice lunch and a cup of coffee. As our camps just aren't set up for cooking fires, nor is there space to set up adequate camp cooking, dish-washing, dishwater dumping facilities, etc., we ultimately pay our own way, buying expensive (albeit really good) meals at the food booths.

I understand that money is needed to rent Honey Buckets and other infrastructure, as well as a million other expenditures but perhaps some priorities could be rearranged to supply this important need. An army of volunteers, after all, marches on its stomach. Please consider this as you plan next year's budget, and again, thank you for all you do.

I am a Fair member having been on Water Crew since 1993 and Energy Park in 1986. My primary Job was to drive the "HANK" & "Fillup" and fill the blue water barrels throughout the fair. You know essential stuff i.e. (without WATER there is NO FAIR) I have raised my sons as a single dad, at the fair and they continue to volunteer. I have devoted over 25 years to the fair and observed the Fair Board continue to be negative in the support of the crews. Whenever a board member is elected from and to represent crew members the board minimalizes their effect by conducting unannounced meetings and there by marginalizing the board member that does not "drink the coolaid".

The Board has decided, unilaterally to cut parking available for staff, yet does nothing to increase access to enable staff to get to the fair. Staff buses do not get members to OCF fair site in time for "Water Crew Shifts" at 7AM! or for members to go home after shift end after 11PM.

As crew members get older some of us cannot camp in the creek beds and uneven ground and so we cannot stay overnight. As a Disabled Vietnam Veteran with a 60% disability due to a back injury, I fall into that category. We are told that gators are available from Outtasite but try to get one. The person supposedly security for the "Outtasite Parking" does not even have a radio to call for the "Geezer Gator"

You have taken this action without asking for input or feedback from the people your actions effect. The board continues to attack the volunteers and rarely provides any incentive to continue volunteering. We are over encumbered by the costs related to volunteering, the outrageous SO fees, the sad Joke of parking fee, (pay for parking to have your vehicle towed) because no transportation to and from the "Outtasite parking".

Frankly I am disgusted by the boards' repeated attacks on volunteering by not giving us any support or assistance, all you do is raise the SO fees and reduce parking claiming it is "respect for the land" yet you rent it out to other groups that have no such restrictions.

For a supposed "Not for profit event" the board seems to make considerable money from the volunteers with fake parking permits and overpriced SO fees for crew members. I would love to see that number in the annual report, HOW MUCH MONEY was made from SO and parking fees???

BUS

Shuttle - great, but when we got within 50' of drop off, we sat for 20 minutes in cross traffic.

CALENDARS

The link to the "full calendar" on the .net page should actually include the full year calendar. At least, what is known. The full year calendar is listed in the Guidelines, why not the .net page? Today, July 29, the full calendar goes as far as 9/11/16, the Candidate's Forum. It does not list the September Board meeting on 9/12 or anything later....

CAMPING

Greetings, Hope you all had a great fair. I'm grateful to be a part of it, and to all the people who contribute hard work and good energy to make it happen.

However, the camping scene, even after all these years, remains infuriating, frustrating and disorganized. It's a hideous and stressful way to start off a beautiful event. There needs to be reliable, secure, and accessible camping for artists-craftspeople and musicians. They're the main reason the public comes to the event, so they shouldn't be treated as an afterthought.

I thought we were going to improve on the years of the land rush, but it still sucks. A few years ago, after we were moved even farther from our booth, when craft lot was converted to the new area, we came early to Ms. Piggy lot to try to get a camping spot that's not too far away. Ideally, we would be able to camp in the Far Side, as our booth is on Sallies Alley, but we have been told repeatedly that's not possible. In 2014 several people from camping crew visited us in Ms. Piggy lot, and wrote down how many people, tents and vehicles were in our group, (8 people is our booth crew) and we were told the next year that spot would be ours. Then in 2015, before the fair, I got a call from someone saying we had to come early to secure our spot because they were going to map it out so we'd have our spot into the future. (Which is what they said they were doing the year before!) So we came early last year to be mapped out, and were assured that we were done with the hassle that has happened every year previously. Then a week before the fair this year, I got calls from friends who were on site already, who said our camping spot was already filled, as was most of the lot. I emailed the camping crew coordinator, to ask what was going on, and he assured me that there was space for us; it was going to be fine. Well, it wasn't fine.

When we arrived on Weds afternoon, they wouldn't even let us into Ms. Piggy's. We were moved to SCOF Lot. Overflow!! Even farther than ever. We have been doing this fair for 30 years, with beautiful work, and good energy, and I feel like we are treated like crap. Overflow?! One of our members is going to be 79 years old next month, I have had foot issues for years, and the coordinator knows this. Our small posse doesn't take up that much room. It is insult to injury. I wanted to cry every time we had to walk back and forth to our van. We have a small booth that isn't big enough to camp in. Is it too much to ask, (especially after all these years!) to get a decent camp space, when we work so hard for and at the fair, and pay to have a booth?

I know we aren't the only ones who have a horrendous time dealing with camping. I've heard others say they think about quitting OCF just because of this.

The thing that makes it worse is going into Ms. Piggy's: one can see how piggy many people are with their space! Huge hangout areas, gigantic fancy rigs, (I doubt many are owned by craftspeople or musicians), and there even was a gigantic dining area, that looked the size of a city block. WTH?! And we're in overflow?!

We were told that this year they were GPSing Ms. Piggy's to make sure everyone has that spot next year. So what about us??!! I am very concerned about next year! I don't want this hassle, and to be so far away from our booth again. I am really upset.

Perhaps some of the crews who don't need to be there can be moved farther out. Perhaps the big rigs can be farther out, to let the rest of us have space. Perhaps each crew can be limited on how much hangout space they get.

It is a hardship to come early to the fair for many of us. Every day we are at the fair early is a day we're not working and another day our dog is in the kennel. It seems unreasonable to have to come before Weds, just to get a decent camp spot. Especially after all these years. We can do better, don't you think?

There is a bit more to the story that I would like to share. At the SCOF Lot, there was a chain locking the entrance at night. I asked the guy who was standing there if there was an emergency, could he open it, and he said he'd have to make some calls. That seems dangerous, if there was a fire or medical emergency. I would have dealt with it then somehow, but I scoped out the perimeter, and saw there was a hidden way out, (without any security) but if other people didn't know that, it could be bad. I appreciate security at the gates, but being locked in doesn't seem like a great plan.

Regarding the coordinator and the camping fiasco, I have been in email communication with him before and after the fair. He is now claiming that I "chose" to go to SCOF Lot, which is patently false, (and I have a lot of witnesses). He also said the fair will be going back to the land rush! After 47 years, I really think we can come up with a better plan. I am willing to help brainstorm, if anyone wishes me to be involved from afar. I would really love to see the start of the fair be less stressful and uncertain.

As I've mentioned, Far Side would be closer to our booth...but I hear that those camping spaces are permanent and filled. If those places are permanent, perhaps other crafters and their crews could get permanent spaces as well?

So, what can be done about camping? Due to actions by past booth owners, two booths, have been trying to fit two booths worth of staff into one booth's back space. A couple of years ago, two of our folks decided to go to a more distant camp, and have had nothing but trouble.

1) Can't get anything settled before day of in evening.

2) This year someone else parked in their space without clearance, but no one would move them. Perhaps, we should next year?

This year, there seems to be a loosening of sleeping in lofts, if railed in. We have talked and are totally willing to build a minimal ground-impacting loft that would hold all our staff on the two levels and leave the same space available for the other folk. I have both of their support.

Please help me to do whatever is necessary to be able to camp in South Miss Piggy lot next year, 2017. Thanks!

CAMPING – PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS

My email is to address an issue I've come across this year that now prevents me from going to OCF and I would like this issue to be addressed discussed and a resolution found.

Currently service animals are allowed within the faire but not on any of the family campgrounds that boarder the faire. Last year I was allowed to bring my service animal to a neighboring campground. This year I have been emailed saying that they now can no longer accept my service animal and subsequently me. No offense to anyone, but I don't understand why I'm being discriminated against.

I have a service animal because I am the survivor of a head on car accident which left me with 11 broken bones including breaking my back in 8 spots. I require a service dog to help me carry things and also keep track of things as I suffered a traumatic brain injury. Now this year just weeks before getting my tickets I am told that the campgrounds I was once welcomed at, I am no longer welcomed to just because I have a service dog with me. A dog that does not leave my side.

I understand that the laws with service animals are somewhat grey and anyone can bring them etc.... however I'd love to point out that this is not accepting of hippies. I am literally being hated against by a group of people I supported. That doesn't seem very reasonable. It's not fair. Your ousting a group of people based on being disabled and that is absolutely not ok.

Beyond this, I believe that if they are going to be charging admission to camp that they cannot then discriminate... yet they do. And you allow this. I'm no dummy. I'm aware there is a council and I know my voice can be heard and that is what I want. I would like a solution to this problem instead of having a group of people touting to be all loving but actually are not. I look forward to hearing from you guys in regards to this issue.

I had a whole bunch of friends who come out and have for over a decade now. I mean if the fair could figure out a place for us to camp too that would be amazing. Because otherwise we are discluded from something we enjoy and a culture that we follow. I really do hope something can be figured out because I'd love to come out next year. I just don't see it happening this year. You must understand that I was in a high speed head on. So I don't like cars much and walking. I do but I'm in pain every day. It would just be nice to be able to be accommodated somehow. Anyway, please let me know if anything can be figured out!

CHANGING THE FAIR DATES

I worked in the office 20+ years ago and was the first staff to start compiling the BoD rules into the computer. I remember that the OCF is to fall on the 2nd full Fri-Sat-Sun of July, not the 2nd weekend. I see conflicting info for the 2017 Fair dates. (I called this out the last time the Fair was the 7th, 8th & 9th and was told I'm right, but apparently that was forgotten) saying it is again the 7th, 8th & 9th for 2017. Mathematically, that can't happen if the rules are followed. Please do something to stop this from happening next year and in the future. It is extra hard when the fair is too close to the 4th! The actual dates for 2017 should be around the 15th-16th.

Need to accept that 4th of July would increase impact in addition to lack generally of portapotties.

Please! To maintain the magic & coolness of the Fair, extend the dates to include Monday through Thursday to reduce overcrowding so people may enjoy themselves and live in peace...

CHILDCARE

The mellow place could be improved to better the napping experience for our dear ones. If there were drapes creating separate cubbies or nooks. It would be easier to cut off the visual stimulation that makes it hard to get to sleep.

CIGARETTE SMOKING

Smoking on the path. I will not ask smokers to not smoke on the path anymore. It's pretty obvious the fair doesn't care to enforce this guideline. Smokers smoke wherever they want, including in camping areas where fire danger is a real thing. Make the fair non-smoking or stop it with the fake caring about people being in a smoking area. It's like it's a big joke. I picked up so many cigg butts on the paths, if smokers can't obey the guidelines, they shouldn't be allowed to smoke on the property - at all.

Please create a crew or at least some people to encourage/manage folks who are just smoking cigarettes anywhere. It is SO toxic and I saw it a lot but mostly at night. Thank You. I LOVE the OCF but the smoke really makes me sick!

The smoking area at the top of the loop near Daredevil was too close to the trail. It's basically alongside a narrow section of trail and forces people to walk through billowing smoke. The smoke was bad near the drinking fountains near Main Stage/ WOW Hall booth. I heard lots of complaints. Many say the Fair should be smoke free but not sure that's realistic. Perhaps we need fewer, larger, more segregated smoking areas. I worked at LCC for many (smoky) years and they are now down to just two smoking areas in the parking lots. I redirected lots of smokers from the (dry!) area at the west of the drinking fountains at Dragon Plaza over to the smoking area near Reefer Bridge.

Please separate smoking areas from drinking fountains,

I had left feedback last year about the amount of smoking on the paths and in the eight, and I am here to leave feedback again about the same topic. I was in Urgent Care on Monday because I was hardly able to breathe. The doctor said it was restricted airway disease caused by constant inhalation of second-hand smoke. It is expected to take 2-3 weeks of recovery time.

I am very sensitive to cigarette smoke and am generally able to avoid it in the "unfair" world, but on the path and in the eight (at night) it is nearly impossible. It may actually be the last public place or event where this is such a major issue, as most places are now smoke-free. I am not even suggesting banning cigarettes, but maybe having lit up smoking areas and asking path rovers to suggest to smokers to use those designated areas.

The cigarette smoking at the fair is intolerable. It just gets worse and worse, especially at night. Please let's protect our air and ban cigarette smoking at the fair. It's ironic that the most horrible air I breathe all year is at the Oregon Country Fair

With all respect & love I ask you, Please (insert a million 'pleases') Please stop the cigarette smoke here at OCF. My entire bio-family has had cancer. Some have died. I've had 3 kinds of cancer. Other OCF family members have had their own various health challenges. We all come here to reconnect, to be in our sacred wooded land with people we love. But we end up breathing cigarette smoke and that's so scary. The smoke doesn't stay in designated spaces - plus some of those places are next to resource areas that many people want to access. So please (X 1,000,000!) stop the cigs.

I am a friend of Walking Liberty moccasins. There is a smoking section right next to their booth that blows all day and all night into their booth. Since June, I have hung out there for an hour to assist her in her booth and was coughing and basically choked out. I am writing this comment for her because she needs a little assistance to try and make a change..... Maybe a taller wall between the path and the smoking area, or the smoking area moved entirely because they also have two grandchildren that will also have to breathe in the smoke. I wish the smoking areas were in more open areas or even better on a 'high' balcony so the children are protected. Please consider the children first.

Smoking areas - why near activity areas with kids and adults playing, or where people must pass through groups of smokers on the path?

People are smoking cigarettes on the path and at stages. Very annoying!

Please ban tobacco!

Please make this a no-smoking venue.

Please move the smoking section between booths 889 & 893 to a new location away from the water fountain.

COMMEMORATIVE SALES

We love buying Fare merch, but water bottles could be better, sturdier brand. Or go backwards and use something like Nalgene. Lids that work and bottles that don't easily dent!

I would LOVE to buy OCF t-shirts, but you don't have WOMEN'S t-shirts. Cut for women, slightly shorter sleeves, V-neck. We don't want to look blocky like men. Please don't discriminate against 50% of the population anymore - how about including us? The guy at the booth said they are "unisex". NO, they are not. They are for dudes. Also, you ran out of hoodies immediately on the first day. I go on Friday - I go right over to buy, and there is nothing there for me.

CONSTRUCTION

Please have more benches along the paths for older folks to sit and rest. Also please have more tables for people to eat their food. Since the Fair has grown over the years there really needs to be more places to sit and rest and sit and eat your food.

First of all, many thanks for having a vision for this space. We truly enjoyed sharing it. :) Tuesday, I arrived to set up my booth space to find our entire area strewn with long pieces of lumber, the ambulance fencing unfinished, and the space unusable. We were able to move our water tower in between the lumber on the ground, but during the course of this, I was bashed in the head as we attempted to maneuver it into place. Six weeks later, and I am still suffering the consequences. On Wednesday morning, much too early, I texted the coordinator, re: the state of the build. My understanding is that construction was overwhelmed, and the person working on the space originally had taken so much time with a couple of the benches, (which look awesome, by the way,) ran out of time to finish the fence panels and new seating for the area. I saw another coordinator at the site Wednesday mid-day, and he assured me that they were on it, and... we waited. Our space mate arrived, and he and his crew cleared the lumber from our collective area, and they began their set-up, and we were able to start our own. Later that afternoon, a few guys did come and throw up a couple of fence panels and a makeshift bench. They joked that they "avoided doing the job for longer than it took." It wasn't as funny to me, as now we were hours behind schedule. Here I ask, can construction make an effort to communicate these kinds of timeline mishaps to booth reps? extra stress = no bueno.

CRAFTS & CRAFT INVENTORY

My feedback is the same every year since my Mom died. Please reevaluate the rules around craft person booth succession and match them more closely to food booths. As much as a dish at a food booth is a recipe, many handmade crafts are skills passed down between generations. After my mom died I attempted to jury in to no avail. We successfully sold a craft that people loved (and that I see at least 10+ daily on the path during Fair) for 25+ years and now I'm told it's not good enough. The Guidelines need to change. I'm hopeful you'll be hearing from more than just me in the future... Thank you for thinking about this.

I would like to start off saying I had a great time at the Country Fair this year, although there was a problem. My friends were treated very poorly by a face painter. She cursed at one of them numerous times because she asked for dots. When my other friend went to get her face painted she told her how our friend was, "A f***ing idiot". I have been going to the country fair my entire life and never had I seen something so unprofessional. I'm sorry to inconvenience you, but I don't believe someone this rude should at an event that describes itself as a place to, "nourish the spirit, explore living artfully and authentically on earth, and transform culture in magical, joyous and healthy ways". Thank you,

Noticed that a booth is selling store-bought goods after replacing the tag with their tag, and selling as if hand-made, specifically bandeaus.

DIVERSITY

I work the fair every year and have always had great experiences. This year has got me thinking about a few subjects which have been brought up many times. Recently there was a pay in an OCF social media group asking people to please not wear native American style headdresses because it is offensive to natives. I am Native American and the responses to the thread by so many OCF family members were quite disappointing. Instead of understanding or having an ounce of empathy, the response was to make excuses of why is ok and telling natives how to feel. I then chimed in in hopes to educate (in a loving way) to give them a better understanding on the meaning of the headdress and the culture in general. I posted many articles and publications from tribes asking for people to discontinue the cultural appropriation. Instead of listening, people continued to make excuses and continued to tell natives we shouldn't be offended. I was even personally attacked at one point (someone posting a pic of me to lash out at). I am disturbed and sad to see this from fair family. I would like to ask the banning of native influenced headdresses at fair. I also would like to see a native cultural education section added, which I would be happy to help with. After all, fair is held on land which was once home for many indigenous people. I dance and do performances with a native dance group. We also hold workshops. I am tied into the community and practice and have many connections with unlimited possibilities. We have many great ideas for this and many great leaders willing to share knowledge. Either way, I would like to see change. Thank you for listening. I hope to speak further about ways to culture bridge.

Speaking of diversity: the Black Lives Matter sign hanging from the dancing tree was a more than welcome sight. Thank you for that to whoever hung it and whoever decided it could stay.

Our booth has been a bilingual booth since 1985

DRUM CIRCLE

The drum circle lacks the intense energy of a day not so long ago. Been at fair most of my life and I'm 45 very disappointed in drum circle over last couple years in past and traditionally drums pounded nonstop during entire fair 24 hours a day. Now it's like some old man with a failing heart sputtering and skipping beats. The drum circle is the heartbeat of the fair and its getting weak. Time for heart healthy plan before there is no pulse left and the beat of the fair is gone or just plain overlooked. Let's get back our loud all day all night drums that generate complaints that's when you know it's right. Cause if you follow all the rules you will miss all the fun

ENERGY PARK – ELECTRIC COMPANY

My friend has been pushing for blue light up water droplets above drinking fountains and bottle filling stations at night to encourage people to drink more water and to help people find water easily.

Out in Xavanadu there is a solar charging station...Yay. However, they closed at 5pm and locked the phones that had not been picked up in their station. We had several folks very worried about their phones and how they might retrieve them. I made a call and let Fair Central know about the issue. The gentlemen running the charging station returned around 7pm and I was able to chat with them about the issue. They were going to just take the phones to the Info Booth assuming that folks could retrieve them at some point. They assured me that everyone was told that the station was closing at 5 pm. As we all know, Fair time and watch time are not necessarily consistent. I recommended that they talk with their crew chief about in the future staying open until after sweep so that the public could retrieve their phones on the way out. Info crew is always happy when we can reunite people with their belongings however, as a plan for returning phones it is not the best idea. These days people depend on their phones for a multitude of reasons and I think a better plan needs to be devised.

ENTERTAINMENT

My very favorite new act: Llorona. They are so good. And bring a welcome dash of diversity as well.

More reggae X 1 million

The Dragon DJs were so good. I'm someone who really loves to dance and DJs are so good at getting people to move. Thank you to the moon and back for creating space for those DJs this year. I have never heard that type of electronic music at fair before and it was so nice. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I'm not trying to be greedy.... but having music like that each night at fair would be a dream. Please let the DJs come back next year! Hopefully, they will be able to play on more nights as well.

There is a fabulous dance troop - Diosas de Fuego - who needs a stage. They have performed on the path for the past 2 fairs across from "Yew Are Here" tree, by the mushroom park smoking area near upper river loop. It's a cramped space. They are of such quality and so unique, they deserve a stage!

The first performer I wanted to see has a starting time of 11am at Blue Moon stage. Since the Fair gates don't open until 11am - it may shorten her playing time. Please take this scheduling concern under advisement. Thank you!

Very upsetting to see live donkey on stage for Baby Gramps performance. Unnecessary! And he's not happy jammed onto a small stage. Came in with child on his back. Unsafe! They had difficulty turning him around due to space limitations. He could panic and hurt people by accident. No animals for performance please!

Just indicate that this is a "locals only" event. It was interesting to be allowed in on Friday night to perform in your fire show and then have Shawn from "Security" send me back off site, with no information or anything. Your website looks like it was designed by a volunteer who hasn't taken an HTML class since the 90's. Making it clear that it shuts down at 7pm and that you should have set everything up months in advance would be nice. On a scale of 1-100 with 1 being 'would recommend to a new person' and 100 being 'lamest festival ever' I would give you a 97.

FAIR AREA RAPID TRANSIT (FART)

It sure would be nice to have the FART running sometime during the Fair. We always manage to forget something or run out of stock, and there is quite a distance between "disabled" and being able to walk the 2 or 3 miles both ways to Outtasite. And whatever hours it runs should be listed in the handbook.

FAIR FAMILY NEWS

Two other things and both related to Fair Family News. Every issue of FFN contains a short list of people born that month...I'm counting about 60 in the latest issue. It is glaringly hypocritical for us as we try to be a zero waste event to use paper each month to say happy birthday to a small fraction of our family. It perpetuates the idea that the fair is a small clique and only some of us are invited to the party. Can't we use the space for something community- building or helpful? I wrote to FFN about this and got an almost auto reply sounding response about giving them my birthday and I can be listed, too! That response missed the point, let's use that space for advertising volunteer needs in the community, advertising needs within the family....used walkers, adaptable toilet seats, lonely folks in need of a visit, etc.....something more in line with our values.

I noticed a letter in the latest issue from an, Elder...who mentioned that FFN declined to print something from the Diversity Task Force so she is going to try to use the letter section to get those points across. After all the drama around the Story Pole this past year and rumblings about the zealously of the Diversity Task Force, I think it could be really wonderful to hear from the task force and understand their thinking. It also makes me wonder what else FFN news is declining to print and why? I keep reading we want to be more inclusive....we need communication to make that happen... let the DTF talk to us. Use the happy birthday space to print that kind of thing!

I appreciate all the effort it must take to produce FFN every month and am grateful to the folks making it happen. Thanks for listening

FAR SIDE

We camp at Far Side and have for many years...it has its benefits and challenges....every year we go through a several step process of having to be "let in" to fair. Our first experience is at the main car gate with outside security staff that is often rude and aggressive and not acting like fair family. We get through that and then stand in line often in the hot sun to prove again we belong there to get wrist banded with some special band that means we can't bring our friends back to our camp until Friday. Why a special band? What's the message....we aren't really part of fair? This isn't the yurt...we aren't guarding money or wristbands. I work out at Troubleshooting starting Wednesday morning...it takes two days before I can hang with friends who camp elsewhere. There is nowhere else at fair that I'm aware of that this happens. It's a lame way to start fair every year. Add the unbelievably nasty smell coming from the sewage that was spread around the field next to Far Side this year(we know this was a city of Veneta solution) and we felt like major second class citizens this year. We were overwhelmed with the smell many times in the weekend.

I would really like to see carts on the Far Side and shuttle from Outtasite to Far side. We've been out there 20 years and it's really time for at least carts. Thanks for listening

FOOD

2016 was my first year as a Booth Rep, and there were a few things that could have gone more smoothly. The theme? Clear Communication and taking our game to the next level~!

Food Committee and Booth Registration -- I have never been more frustrated by a seemingly simple process. Applying, being accepted for a tasting, and being accepted as a food vendor was a thoroughly confusing, and stress inducing process. There was encouragement to use email to ask questions, and we were told that "We're there to support you." But the reality of the situation was that emails were rarely responded to, and what should have been a simple process (like any application to serve food or drink at a festival or event-pretty straight forward stuff) became a nightmare. A detailed description and timeline of protocol and process should be available (who to talk to about what and when) and one person from the food committee should be assigned to work with a new food booth. In my opinion, the one who did respond seems a poor fit in his position on the food committee, as his presence seems to be a negative asset, his attitude toward me, was, after having been in a craft booth for 30 years, and now a new booth rep trying to navigate the process of becoming a food booth was, at one point (and he actually wrote this) "maybe fair is not for you"

My principal concern for OCF 2016 is regarding the food sold by vendors. I believe the Fair to be a very progressive organization that promotes and supports amazing causes. Additionally, the Fair's efforts towards sustainability, including the use of durables and the amazing efforts of Bubbles crew, lead a great example for all Fair-goers. However, these efforts are being countered by the dozens of food vendors that do not uphold these same standards and choose to use low-quality, unhealthy products laden with genetically-modified ingredients. GMOs support exploitative and polluting agricultural practices and put money in the hands of corrupt corporations. They have been shown to be high in pesticide residues and may be lower in nutritional value, and they promote mono-cropping and dangerous environmental practices, threatening ecological diversity and leaving our food system vulnerable to invasive species and environmental catastrophe. As a student pursuing a Master's of Science in Nutrition, I have studied the impacts that GMOs have on all aspects of their lifecycle, from production to consumption, and I know that any benefits they may be said to have are far outweighed by the negatives.

In the Fair's efforts to promote progressive practices and be a model of environmental stewardship, I believe that GMOs should be banned from all food vendors. This action would show that the Fair not only cares deeply for the health of the land on which we all gather each year to celebrate life, but also that we care about the greater global ecosystem and we realize that our actions have an impact that reaches far beyond the confines of Veneta, Oregon. Additionally, such a standard would promote more nutritious food from vendors and show that Fair truly cares about the health of all who visit. Although there may be many food vendors at Fair that would vehemently oppose such a standard, I whole-heartedly believe that this step would represent a major achievement in the progressive nature of Oregon Country Fair. I would welcome the opportunity to speak at a board meeting regarding this issue and I thank you for your consideration.

It would also be nice if the Fair opened earlier since there are vendors serving breakfast. To have to wait until 11 am since a little ridiculous. Those vendors are losing money by making the opening time 11am – that should change to 9am and if the other retail vendors don't like it they can open later.

One food cart was selling conventional food and advertising organic. The boxes they had were clearly conventional and they told me they were repacked organic. They were not telling the truth and to their credit, several hours later, they removed the organic sign. Just wanted to share that.

Wow, really loved the new food booth, Northwest Empanadas, in the area called Xavanadu.

Having just returned from fair yet again this year, there is something pressing I would like to comment upon in hopes that my voice is heard, and maybe, just maybe someday headed. I've been a devoted fair goer for the past decade. Every year I come, I bring my family, spend tons of \$ in support of local artisans, applaud the talented, and try as I might, I search and search for something organic and non-GMO to feed myself and my child. Every year it seems to come down to the same 3 options despite the fact that there are tons of food vendors. Tofu palace, the Tempe place in Chela Mela, or the hemp burger. Now don't get me wrong, all great options right? But seriously! This year I made a point to ask some of the "other" food stands if they were at least cooking their conventional food in non-GMO oil, and the response was always the same... NO. Seems to me OCF has grandfathered in a whole lot of food vendors who prefer to bank on selling cheap, conventional food to the masses and it is seriously BUMMING me out. The fair seems pretty hip, Pretty conscious... I mean nearly every booth wants to sell you an organic article of clothing for a couple hundred bucks or a handmade OCF mug for \$50. Everyone wants to dance,

and smile, and enjoy. Share the love and the good vibes all while primarily eating the lowest vibe food imaginable. I mean sure, every booth boasts organic coffee or tea, but that's pretty much where it ends. Organic coffee with conventional sugar and hormone injected cream to use at your leisure. Several organic treats and beverages for sure but Geez, when it comes to a meal... I just really, really yearn to see the food scene at OCF evolve. Too many old, unconscious grandfathers who missed the organic food movement altogether need to make way for the energy of a new generation who isn't there to simply bank 10 times over what their food is worth, and who obviously don't give a damn if their food quality sucks. In my opinion (and many people I spoke to at fair this year), agree that the food scene is in serious need of transfiguration and I pray that this will one day come to pass. And just maybe in the not so distant future, OCF will be able to boast a 100% organic and Non-GMO fair truly committed to peace, love, and creative expression as we all continue to evolve together. I mean if I wanted to eat Donald Trump food I'd skip the fair altogether and go to McDonalds. – your loyal fair goer

GROWTH

I say this at risk of alienating a dozen of my own friends, so I will stay anonymous. I think SO passes are given out too liberally. I support working SOs, Family members, and nannies. I support trade passes for services and supplies. But with our limited space and resources, I cringe every time someone is given an SO pass with no strings attached just to show up for the party.

HOSPITALITY

This year hospitality/kitchen made a nice assortment of gluten-free cookies. I loved it! Thanks to the hospitality staff for improving my enjoyment of the Fair!

All the hospitality cookies both glutinous and gluten-free were particularly delicious this year. My compliments.

ICE

For an organization that touts sustainability and energy consciousness, it blows me away that you do not offer BLOCKS OF ICE to campers to purchase instead of cubes. Blocks of ice last three times as long and keep your food safe. Crushed ice melts so fast. I've heard the stories about how it has to be preordered - why are we not offered the chance to do this? Why are only food booths given the opportunity to save energy? Figure it out. Offer blocks.

IT

Hey folks! First and foremost this was an excellent fair. I only have one gripe really and it had to do with Internet communications. I realize that a great amount of time was put into helping us, the seller, have a secure method of payment. Problem was that it simply didn't work. Lost connections, 0 access points and a lot of frustration behind the booth. We were able to get a majority of sales done over a bit of time. I completely understand the logistics behind the Wi-Fi access it's not lost on me or my wife the nature of the complexity. Is there a better way? How can we have a secure and fast way of completing transactions? Many of the new, younger customers do not use cash at all. How can we serve them better? Thank you so much for making another successful fair for our little business and I can't wait to be back next year!

Membership, registration, voting and all member, booth details and other basic monetary or input interactions should be computerized, sooner rather than later.

Technology -- Sigh... One of our weakest points as an organization and it doesn't have to be that way, WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY; we have the resources, the manpower, and the knowledge. So why are we so far behind the rest of the world? Hippies, I know. Still. My biggest issue is Wi-Fi. I don't know what the answer is, but something absolutely HAS to be done to address this. I was on Shady Lane, and there were no networks available to input the inconvenient little password (that I had to send someone up to registration to retrieve, because no one told me while I was there) I know there were many networks available in the other parts of the Fair, but Shady Lane is a Wi-Fi dead zone. Anyway, luckily hardly anyone needed to use their card, and the few that asked were heavily discouraged. I ran 2 cards and one took more than 2 hours to go through, and one only took about 20 minutes (I just kept trying it over and over to get it to go through) Not cool!

LONG RANGE PLANNING

This year was not a Fun fair for me. There was quite a lot of work that did not have to be done for the most part, because of miscommunication. There were major electrical issues that were never addressed that would have helped the Elders and 4A. The fair needs major Upgrade of the Electrical grid (More juice) and licensed electrical people who are Paid for their work. Transformers have blown in the past. And we haven't even looked at the hub or the 'battery shed' or any of the other facilities. We need a major upgrade of our fair. Putting \$\$\$ into the old girl and a Leader who will do this. At this time, I don't see one.

MAIN CAMP

I didn't enjoy all of the new pre-fair required checks/alerts/paperwork to get on-site and prep camp. It made it harder and more time consuming to do our prep work.

I earn my week end pass as a craft booth rep. I enjoy working with a recycling crew several days pre fair at Wood World directly across from where I Camp in the general vicinity of Alice's Reunion. In that I only put in around 3 or 4 days pre fair (16 to 24 hours) I don't qualify to earn a camping pass in that capacity and there is no need for me to do so.

However a potential glitch in the operation is: In that I am not a full time volunteer on the Caretaker's crew, I am not listed on the roster. So far no problems have arisen in that arrangement.

I feel that it would be in the best interest of me, the Caretaker, and Staff, if my name was officially listed on the roster as a part time volunteer. The advantage for me is that in arriving and setting up camp on Monday pre-fair, it would be officially noted that I do so, not as a booth rep camping out early but do as a volunteer in order to better utilize recycled materials, take a good share of load of labor at the height of demand and do so working with the crew to ensure that we all do so safely.

30 years in the timber industry. setting chokers and falling timber, as well as various jobs in heavy construction adds considerable value to my participation in the Wood World enterprise in so far as how to work safely and efficiently. The advantage to the Caretaker and Staff is that everyone is under the understanding that I am an official member of the crew, regardless of the fact I do not put in enough hours to earn my Camping Pass, and expected to participate responsibly according to all rules, regulations, and guide lines that apply. Don't know exactly how to go about that other than run it all past staff and see how it washes out.

I enjoy the work, I enjoy the end product of the work, but more than all of that I enjoy the camaraderie in the process.

OLD TIMER PERSPECTIVE

I am not sure why I have been The Complaint Department at the Fair for 25+ years. Perhaps this is because as a Folklorist I seek out and try to understand the different cultures at the Fair. In any event, this reflects the things that people who do not feel that they have a voice have said to me as much as my own sentiments. It seems like the concept of Old Timer at the Fair has been swept under the rug. Partly from confusion with Elders. At one time, someone in their 30's with 10 years of experience would have been considered an Old Timer at the Fair and would have had the expectation of Old Timer meetings and events, a higher level of responsibility and a higher level of access to Fair resources. Access to the site Pre-Fair, for example, was contingent upon being an old-timer and making yourself useful. If you were not working on something you would be put to work bucking hay. In my day we even dealt with people sneaking into the Fair during the day by giving them a trash bag to fill with litter and calling it good.

Informality, looking at people as individuals, and Fellowship has always been the backbone of the Fair. On Pre-Post we still stress that motto, Semper Gumby, always flexible. Some people have a plan that is counter to the main flow, and these plans should be honored and planned for. On Pre-Post we still stress that motto, Semper Gumby, always flexible. Some people have a plan that is counter to the main flow, and these plans should be honored and planned for. In the old days the people that were white collar and officious were provided an opportunity to stop harshing the mellow by being exposed to a different culture. Similarly, aggressive young people were often put on point so that the Old Timers could bad vibe them into mellowing out. Nowadays, except for a couple of hundred of the same people who participate in the Fair at all levels, work parties, board meetings, et cetera, there is little in the way of Old Timers smoothing out the wrinkles at the Fair.

Any shakeup of the Fair that involved the Fair regarding itself as a commercial entity or municipal entity, with crews as classified employees, would destroy the Fair. There are cultures within the Fair where I fear this has happened. This just creates a situation where people attempt to organize and create Unions of Volunteers, which I view as entirely counter-productive.

We need to restore the role of Old Timers at the Fair and recognize the tenure of people who have a long term relationship with the Fair. Particularly those folk that are not part of the white collar information flow. Some of the best Fair family members don't use the internet, Facebook, or even Smartphones. Many do not even have a permanent address. Rather than a Fellowship I see a situation developing where Blue Collar crews put White Collar crews in a bubble and avoid them like the plague.

The answer to this situation is finding ways to widen the circles at the Fair. This is always a dynamic. There will not ever be a formula. The bubble needs to be burst and the Fair needs to become a fellowship again. Creating subcultures at the Fair that operate in a bureaucracy outside of Fair Family Values is a recipe for disaster. Finding ways to reduce or mitigate this perception is a recipe for paradise.

PARKING

The need to set up camp and then have to either drive back to Eugene and reverse the process after the Fair, or pay out money to park way outside the fair is a real drag! I can't afford the extra fees, and all the extra driving is tiring. The Outtasite parking had solved the issue of insufficient parking passes for years, but now, with no parking without a pass, it's made it a problem again. Its more hassle and expense that many of us can little afford, and for an out of townner, even more of an issue. Really a bummer!

Our car was towed this weekend during Country Fair. This was our first fair parking a car overnight. When we pulled into the lot we asked the parking attendant where to park and told him that we were in for the duration. He pointed us down a row and we parked. There were other cars around us with parking stickers that were the same as ours. We didn't have a reason to believe we were in the wrong. We thought our parking pass validated our ability to park in that lot. This is what we were told after we were towed:

1. The people who had stickers on their cars like ours were only parked there temporarily while they got their passes or unpacked. Our parking pass was not valid in that lot.
2. People who are parking overnight are supposed to park in out of sight parking. (I had no idea where that was or what it was)
3. Traffic crew is different from parking crew. I guess traffic crew was directing people on the night we arrived. Apparently they do not always know where to send people, like our parking attendant.

I personally feel like my situation could have been avoided if we would have been given a map of where to park with our pass, our phone number attached to our pass so that we could have been called, or even if traffic crew could be given the appropriate information about parking so that they could direct people in the right way. We were not trying to abuse the parking lot or dismiss the rules; we really just didn't know and went with what we were told by the attendant.

We were allowed to take out our car on Saturday afternoon without pay, due to the fact that my 4 and 6 year old sons were with us and we needed their car seats. We were told to contact you with our story and ask for an appeal of our case and to hopefully dismiss our charges.

(This info was forwarded on immediately after Fair to the appropriate people.)

PATH PLANNING

A larger area for the audience at the Daredevil Stage would be good improvement as well.

I was sad to see the poor conditions at Main Stage. The tent on the left was set up to obstruct viewing...two side panels were parallel to the stage and blocked the view. Whitebird was extended into the public area....reducing the amount of space available to the public by hundreds of square feet. The new construction continues to give the impression that the priority is for their private viewing of mainstage. The watering continued, even as the weather predictions were all for rain. The ground was so saturated and wet before the rain started, that no rain could be absorbed, and mud resulted right away. PP I think we need to seriously rethink the use and/or management of this space as our premiere entertainment stage. We spend more money on this stage than any other, we use it to host the biggest names--and we don't take care of it as far as condition and capacity. I think we have outgrown it and could use the funds spent there to entertain more people, and sell more tickets, by either a radical reconfiguration, or a move.

Since the 2015 removal of the bridge in front of Daredevil, there's been a poorly designed pedestrian flow pattern at the library, where the Upper River Loop path meets the main path. Let's fix this before the next fair.

Enjoyed Daredevil, but it's getting so crowded.

PEACH PIT

Our booth was not listed in the Peach Pit again this year, it seems we are out of the loop somehow when these listings are prepared, kindly help us out with that, we have a lot of people looking for us and they cannot find us at our new location.

Please include more information about food booths in paper, such as whether they have foods for special diets such as gluten-free, vegan, dairy-free, etc. etc.

Please get the Peach Pit out earlier -- online is not sufficient.

Kids' yoga unmarked in Pit. Child activities marked? = yoga easier to find please.

CV tipi & yurt workshops should be included in the main listings of Fair events as separate stages: Community Village tipi and Community Village yurt

I love, love, love the single sheet schedule. I would suggest that the map on the sheet be more prominent. Maybe the schedule could be on one side and the map on the other. Many folks grabbing the Peach Pits just want the map and it might save some paper.

PRE-POST

The folks at the intersection at the top of the 8 on Pooh Corner this year were spectacular and really made a difference in coordinating all the traffic which sometimes turns into a gridlocked snarl. They were on top of their game and made it all go so smoothly.

RAIN

My biggest complaints are likely things OCF has little control over - the amount of mosquitoes, the honey pots not being serviced as regularly as most years (that could have been the rain) and quite a few of the honey pots didn't have TP for much of the time, some of the food vendors not opening when they usually do for crew to eat, and the dance pavilion not being able to be open and put on as many after hour shows due to the rain.

And lastly - thank you for the hay on the paths Sunday. I am in a muddy part of the fair and I can't tell you how happy it made me to see the fair prepared for a wet day. thank you thank you.

Thank you allowing the straw/hay in front of Odyssey. In 2009 this area became unsafe when it rained. I support the person who made this decision.

Monday, East 13th traffic jam making it impossible for carts to get through. This was caused by vehicles that were clearly too wide to fit past (each side had parked vehicles, then an F350 with a wide trailer parked right in the middle when the traffic was clearly jammed). We don't know how you can teach someone to have courtesy, but it's sorely needed. The jam still had not cleared after about 10 minutes when we left, though it looked like Traffic Control had arrived (and was probably perplexed what to do since it was jammed already).

My only concern had to do with the rain. While it is a rare occurrence, we seem to have had a mixed response to it. Several of the main pathways were well-seeded in straw, which helped considerably, but there were other areas where the mud created safety concerns. Outside the gates at the road, there was virtually no traction at all, and I watched two motorcycles go down trying to leave Fair. Pedestrians were also having difficulty navigating this, and while most kept to the grassy-ish area off to the side, folks with wagons also were struggling. Not sure what kind of help there would be for this section of road, but it should be considered if weather hits again in the future.

Good job on rain maintenance, straw was available and down. It was actually a great weather fair....lucky us!

Thank you for the straw on the paths.

The crew that lays down the straw did about as good a job as we could imagine around Main Stage. It really helped that Friday rains didn't turn to a mud pit on Saturday

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

I could really use having the recycling crew information on how each item should be handled and the approved buying guide on a webpage that I can easily access when I am away from my desk or so I can easily send to my food booth crew prior to Fair. (I send them the Guidelines on the .net page, but I'd like more details such as where stir sticks go, and tea foil wrappers, and if sandwich bags are OK to use. I Would also like to say that this year every person we met or worked with on the recycling crew were helpful, informative, and never mean or judgmental. They seemed to know we were trying our best and they were so helpful and always had great attitudes. Yay Recycling Crew...you rock! <3

I talked to someone this year about the possibility of using reusable cups at the food booths. I would just like to reiterate my feeling that it would both cut down on waste for the post fair people, as well as keep costs down in the long run. I love the idea, and hope to see it implemented in future years. <3

It was a great pleasure to volunteer at fair this year for the Bubbles Dish Project. It was so gratifying washing dishes for reuse over and over again. I also volunteered with recycling as a Master Recycler and helped fairgoers place their compostable into the proper receptacles. Not as sustainable, knowing all of the steps, that goes into the production, hauling, selling of, hauling again, of these items followed by sorting, hauling, composting, and hauling out of that end product. What a great model to show the fairgoers who may come to expect the same elsewhere. Thank you for the opportunity to help make OCF a little greener

It would be very helpful if the recycling signs were more specific, to aid in reducing what goes in the landfill and vice-versa; and help confused people like me who stand there sometimes wondering which barrel to use. For example: If I remember correctly... Paper is supposed to go into the compost. It would be helpful to say something like "All Paper" (if true). Not sure what to do with Peach Pits, white paper, cardboard. Plastic cups and containers. Are you excluding all other forms of plastic, even if it carries the recycled logo? I see people putting plastic bags in there sometimes too. What about aluminum foil? Can it go in with cans? I suggest a recycling guide for such items be included in the Peach Pit. Doesn't have to be a big deal. Thank you for all you do to make the Fair as waste-free as possible! love, love, love

Dishwashing stations and sanitation -- I would propose a series of dishwashing stations within the camping areas of the Fair and in the 8. A place to scrape and rinse, and a place to set up temp., personal dishwashing areas, maybe with multiple sinks, it could be a BYOS- bring your own soap, sponges, etc... Fair would provide the surfaces, the hot and cold water (instant hot water heater?), and the proper compost, garbage, drainage (hay bales?).

Durables -- Make it happen. We shouldn't be buying, selling and throwing away hundreds of thousands of plates, cups, etc. it is extraordinarily wasteful and we can do better!

REGISTRATION

It would be more convenient if we could pick up all we need at one place. Such as wrist bands, car pass, tent tags. Tent tags only if you plan to stay in same spot each year. It might save a lot of people from trying to track things down and lesson foot traffic the week prior to fair. Another possibility is to mail car pass as early as a month ahead of time. It goes on car so less chance of forgetting it. Thanks for all you do!

At long last, 18 years+, I have received a permanent spot. Special thanks to Justin & Travis and Kirk for clear, helpful & timely responses!

I had jewelry material (hand braided leather) in a cookie tin stolen before the Fair began. So thank you for the new procedure at Registration.

SANITATION

The TP situation was really bleak this year. First time in 20 years I had to save napkins to take to restroom to use.

SOAP! Hygiene and the liability that comes from the lack of it is NOT just an issue for the public! There are what, 10,000 of us on-site on the 2 days leading up Fair and a ton of us still packing out on Monday? We are all using the toilets but too many are not able to properly cleanse our hands because there is no soap provided at the non-port-a-potty stations. Food booths open upon Thursday at noon, and I would hope soap is in place by then, but in some places it was not. We simply MUST provide our fair family with the means for proper sanitation on at least Wednesday and Thursday (and MONDAY!!) by providing soap at the 6-pack and other sinks that don't have port-a-pot handwashing stations. I didn't see ANY soap at the toilets all weekend at the bathrooms near the library/Arc Park. Not good.

Please, I implore the Fair to take note of this very important provision and do whatever it takes to ensure that either

A) there are liquid/foaming soap dispensers hung and filled (the most resource efficient method),

B) that those dispensers are not empty from Wed thru Monday, and/or

C) that someone's job is to come through and place solid soaps at these sinks each morning and evening so that everyone can be clean, not spread germs, avoid getting sick and prevent Fair liability.

Thank you for opening the six-packs on Wednesday and keeping them clean and stocked with TP. Fabulous work, sanitation crew. You are so appreciated.

Not enough toilets. Especially in the public area. But also missed the one behind old hat new hat.....the state of the ones were there were not good, no toilet paper, filled up etc. This is a basic requirement for the fair, not a place to economize, esp. when the fourth is so close to fair (like next year again).

Thank you for the extra Porta potties in South woods this year. It made a big difference for me as they were right across the trail from our camp site on Ho road. With the rain this year I had much less slipping and sliding and the fear of falling.

Put a bathroom near the Elders Still Living Room for the Elders. (Perhaps beyond the Room of Mirrors)

Not enough portapotties! Terrible conditions. Public poorly served. Need more areas for portapotties.

I would like to see a place for mamas or daddies with kids. I have twins under 2 years old and am single so I was unable to bring them because I have no way to use the bathroom. I would like to see a place where a staff person is available to allow a mama to pee! Also, I saw other parents struggling to aid their toddlers in the porta-potties being in the potty-training age it would be wonderful to see their needs facilitated as well. Maybe an idea would be to make a mama-baby peepee spot.... or two.... a low-seated toilet/trench whatever. Somewhere I could do the doo with them. Much love to the family. I hope we find a resolution.

Composting toilets! No smell! Environmentally friendly!

The potties need signs inside all doors: Please close lid before leaving potty. This will vastly improve OCF air quality.

Wish we could have soap at the six packs as soon as they are open. Seems like a major health issue to do otherwise. At the six packs by the CV this has been an ongoing issue over the years. Thanks & blessings.

The wash stations outside of the restrooms are way smaller than past years. The water capacity is so low I have encountered them empty numerous times at all times of day or night, both inside the fair and camp spots. Handwashing is essential to keep us healthy. One of our friends got food poisoning yesterday (don't know what booth) but please find a way to keep our paws washed!! Thank you.

Sanitation -- Herinals

New herinals and urinals by youth stage were great

On a high note, the women's urinals being installed eventually everywhere is a wonderful addition and it is deeply appreciated by so many. I would like to ask Sign Crew to make little signs above each and every woman's trough that says "TP disposal up there" with an arrow. It's just too ingrained to drop the paper in and not everyone reads signs, making for clogged drains with flies a'buzzin.

Still love those herinals! I really missed the tongs we used to have in the ones by Shady Grove, for tidying up after first timers & spaced out gals who've forgotten where the TP goes. Or maybe we could have cool reminder signage like the ones between Main Camp & Youth Stage. Or both those things.

The woman's urinals near Main Camp are super cool and easy to use. I wholeheartedly support this change. However, on Saturday night a 60+ year old woman fell badly as she tried to navigate the two steps of the exit. I had to help her up and provide first aid. It was BLACK dark. Is there any way a little light could be on those steps?

Also, in the rain, the location of the TP was exposed and it became soaked and unusable. The Main Stage urinals have the paper up under a shelf; I think this design is better.

SAUNA

I don't appreciate all the fair resources that go into dealing with the Ritz. They behave as if they are a sovereign nation and not equal members of our community. They set a bad precedent regarding fair regulations (gravel, cement blocks, ignoring archaeology guidelines, bringing in heavy equipment, polluting local waterways. Their behavior reminds me of the behavior of the "too big to fail banks."

How about the fair establishing a sauna in Xavanadu, with all profits going toward some good cause.

SECURITY

Hey there! Just had a great two days at the fair with my kids, but wanted to pass along a situation that was pretty bothersome. My son (9) had gotten lost on his way to/from the bathrooms by the main stage, and while I wasn't super worried about his being lost, I had gone over to the bathrooms and was knocking on the doors to see if he was having some sort of a problem. I was peering in through the spaces by the door locks on the stalls where no one was answering, and I saw 2 different dudes – 2! – jammed in the corner of the stalls peeking through the cracks to watch the girls using the herinals. Not Cool At All!! I love the herinals and would love it if this situation could be mitigated, especially for the little girls :(Thanks and I look forward to seeing a solution!

It's a bit inconsistent to have a "no laser" policy when there's a laser display right in view of Fair Central. There was also no guidance about lasers during training (and we didn't ask either.)

Hand held lasers. Thank you for the ban on these very unsafe devices. Thank you for attempting to enforce it. Please continue to keep the fair family safe.

Security -- Sweep

I believe that all internal security and sweep crew need to know what all the different wrist bands are, and the difference between a 3-day band and staff bands. On Friday, some 3-day band holders were allowed to cross through the sweep line because the crew was uninformed. The day-glow ink on the bands is very helpful during the day, but not so much at night unless the security persons have UV flashlights. I propose that all security gate lights be converted to UV. This can be achieved by covering the lights with a stage lighting gel that mimics a black-light.

Overall this was a great fair! I work on Sweep for Pre Post and yet again the 3 day wristbands were very difficult to distinguish from staff wristbands. It's likely that people go through who weren't fair family because of these similarities. In the future it would be helpful if these wristbands were a completely different color. Thanks for your time!

Suggestion: On the SWEEP It would be courteous to break the chain for seniors and don't make um stoop down (at the end of the day) between two short sweepers holding hands.

I want to request that the sweep crew hold the line at the entrance to Xavanadu, rather than at the path that connects Blue Moon and Chela Mela (In other words, don't sweep Moon Path until the sweep comes down from Chela Mela). I spoke with some sweep leaders and there seems to be no reason not to do this, it takes the same amount of bodies, it just has to be agreed upon prior to the event. It would add valuable store hours over the course of the weekend, which is significant to us.

SHOWERS

I just want to put in a vote please for showers near Piggy earlier in the week. We are expected to begin working Sunday & we work very long days. We don't have much time to get to the Ritz & sometimes when we do have that time they are closed. More hand washing stations running for more days would be terrific too. Thanks very much!

SIGNS & BANNERS

More signs would be nice to help people find their way around. We got lost several times and missed performances.

We need more signs and a name for our "Lost Lane" pg 20-21 of Feedback Report 2015.

SITE

I was really disappointed that the paths didn't get reseeded with grass. I know that they get trodden down quite a bit by the time the public comes in, but it still makes a difference. By the time Main Camp was drawing to a close it was an awful dirty dust bowl in the Eight like it was already post event.

From 2015, but submitted, July 2016.... Multiple invasive plant species displayed in front of Hemp Eatery, Policeman's Helmet in bloom with seed!!! This is not the first occurrence. I have also seen invasive plants in Energy Park displays in past years. Is there a policy re bringing plants/flowers to site?

SOMETHING EXTRA

Will the Dr. Bronner's bubble machine/showers ever come back? This year would have been terrible for it, but man wasn't that the coolest thing ever?

SOUND VS NOISE

Securities inconsistencies with amplified music are perplexing. I met a trio with a sound wagon that was using it live. Actually making music. We were having the best interactions and you shut it down. I witnessed multiple "boom boxes" not being handled at all. In Xavanadu it was more of the same, canned music for hours and the owners were rude when we asked if we could use the stage for acoustic music. You were extremely inconsistent about amplification and I think it is time for some transparent and sensible rules regarding this. Canned music not permitted, unless it's been officiated, period; feels like a good start. Sound carts under a certain decibel, that is quantified, should never be shut down before a loud disco cart or live painters playing canned music. Canned music, i.e. playing your stereo, is in no way a performance. I saw personally, the faire security shut down three interactive amplified stations for being "too loud" while I saw a dozen people effectively playing their stereos with no harassment. This trend is unsettling and I hope it can be addressed. Interactive amplified We can keep the balance, however giving a pass to stereo starters and shutting down musicians seems backwards from what was intended. Thank You for considering my words, your time is appreciated.

Stations fit the faire ethos, playing your stereo does not. Playing your stereo was unofficially allowed this year by observation and live music was discriminated.

I witnessed it enough that a denial is unacceptable, a solution is necessary or the same thing that happened to Burning Man will happen to faire. The EDM and playing canned music will take over the live music. We can keep the balance, however giving a pass to stereo starters and shutting down musicians seems backwards from what was intended. Thank You for considering my words, your time is appreciated.

I'm wondering why the amplification of the various stage venues has to be so loud. The sound from one stage spills over to the sound from a nearby stage. The sound is often too loud for me to enjoy the performance.

I wish there was less amplification from stages at night. I miss walking around to hear people playing music behind their booths.

Regarding music at the fair. I've noted dozens of comments regarding the growing loudness of amplified music at the fair. As a musician who's been attending since 1979, and began working Traffic in 1981, plus 15 years at Patti's Pies, two years on Construction, and three years in Community Village, this is a growing source of irritation for me.

When the debate first was proposed around electrifying Main Stage, those of us who resisted were told, "Don't worry — it'll just be Main Stage — all the other performing venues will remain acoustic." Of course we protested, "Uh, right — how long will that promise last?" Now most every venue is amplified, even the Ritz, which has transformed from the sweetest-ever heartfelt, soulful acoustic music under the stars, to just another slick sound-blast, leaving little room anymore for what used to make the Fair the Fair — heartfelt improvisation.

Hundreds of festivals produce slick electrified sound, the Fair used to be known for something different. And many of us got our start as musicians around the 8 — I couldn't do what I do today on stages and in recording studios if I hadn't started at the Fair all those years ago.

I wish the Ritz would go back to acoustic and the amount of amplified sound would get pruned back, instead of getting louder and louder and more and more prevalent, pushing acoustic musicians right out of the venue.

The other issue that has gotten much worse at the Fair is very loud portable sound systems wandering the grounds and the Fair, blasting the ears of everyone and drowning conversations. Saturday night, the acoustic music at the mushroom in front of the Ritz was drowned out by the moving disco party, which although it creates a fun moving party, it also forces their choice of music onto everyone they pass at an unacceptable volume.

At 2 in the morning when folks were headed to bed in the area by the new Elder camp and the Youth Stage camp, a very drunk and profane teen girl blasted our ears with a portable sound system and got in a cursing match with those who told her there were a lot of folks and kids trying to sleep. It was so loud that earplugs didn't work!

It's always been an issue of loud talk and partying late at night with folks who have no consideration for those nearby who need sleep, but the proliferation of loud boom boxes just exacerbates the issue. I love the party and the music at the Fair, but many folks need to work early in the morning and extremely loud folks late at night are really being inconsiderate and selfish.

Ah well, the Fair goes on in its usual fantastic fashion, despite the issues of rain and loud people, I can tolerate the hassles, but there are others for whom these issues are even much more a problem. So, mostly good as always, but it would be great to have more unstickered parking and more consideration from the loud party and music blasters at night.

The sound amplification policy needs to be changed badly. The sound is shut down entirely too early. The site crew party in the photo ID corral this year was a sweet little affair and not horribly loud or rowdy but was shut down early anyway. This is not about bothering our neighbors. Most of our neighbors now make a year's income off our event and many rage all night like we did in the old days. We should move to a complaint driven policy and create a space that allows for late night music (like all-night) during the Main Event. This will actually address some of the noise complaints about sleeping because there will be a place for people to go instead of them wandering around with no direction looking to make some noise. By the time one gets off work at 9-10pm (or attends a 10pm meeting), showers, eats, and dresses - then goes out - the music is being shut down.

The subwoofer at the Monkey Palace is so loud as to be heard at the Rising Moon booth. Not only heard but felt right in your hear. It is pounding and it really affects one's psyche. The pounding is created by the DJ's sound system. It's not even live music. I know there are a lot of people who enjoy the stage but does it really have to be SO loud? When it pounds all day, it affects sales because people don't feel calm but they feel agitated. You just can't wait for it to stop. Please help solve this problem.

We have had at least two incidents where people have come into our camp at 2am high and playing loud music. A lot of us have left Fair.

We camp on Sharpy Curve next to Traffic Camp and work pre-fair in the troubleshooters' booth. I think it was Wednesday before the fair that traffic camp had a party that started around 9 or 10. The music was so loud the ground was vibrating. It was so loud we could not talk to each other in our camp. Usually I just put in earplugs and go to sleep but earplugs did not TOUCH the loudness of this music. Even with earplugs, the sound was just as loud as without. I could not sleep and had to work the next day. It went on and on and on. Finally when it did not stop at midnight, I went over to traffic camp to tell them to shut it down. The crew coordinator of the camp, a woman, told me she had applied for a noise permit and it was legal. This was about 12:20. These noise permits cannot permit the holder to play music at any decibel they choose. There still has to be some regulation. It was overwhelming, metal music and there were only about 20 or 30 people there when I finally had way more than enough. This "party" controlled the experience of everyone around there for the evening. It was so loud, it hurt. I don't choose to go to events with this kind of music or this decibel.

TRADITIONAL SKILLS

Vegan. Was upset today as my husband & I walked by animal hanging and being skinned in the tanning area -- kids walking by and very against the spirit of what it's all about here. Bummed us out. Otherwise a lovely experience.

I love the Fair but... Today I was deeply offended and shocked to see an animal being skinned for spectators. This was a seriously unpleasant experience for me as an adult, but I can only imagine how awful and traumatizing it might be for a child. Please remove this activity from the Fair.

TRAFFIC

I live so close to the Fair that I go home every night, even tho I have a wristband and a vehicle sticker. Friday about 7:30 PM, leaving Trotter's toward the main entrance off Suttle, all cars are stopped, idling. Cars are coming in the main entrance from Suttle but no cars are going out that way, everyone is forced to idle and wait for Aero. Finally, almost 8 PM, bales are moved and we are allowed to exit (thru that main entrance on Suttle, not sure of its name). Saturday about the same time, no traffic, no idling, exit is allowed out that main entrance on Suttle. Yay! Sunday about the same time, maybe closer to 8, there we are sitting there idling, waiting to go out Aero again. I asked to go the other way and was told it wasn't open yet. So frustrating! What happened to no entrance during peak exit time?

Thank you for an amazing easy out on Monday. The traffic/security crew deserves major props for keeping the road clear to drive to my booth and pack up. Easiest fair exodus I have had for years.

Lastly, a more efficient way to allow cars to exit in the evening is a must. It took forever!

I wanted to send a big thank you and congratulations to the traffic crew! Monday's changes in routing of traffic made such a HUGE difference. The limiting of 2 way traffic on Chickadee, the opening of the exit on the highway and the "English" style routing on Bus Road seemed to make a huge difference and cut about 2 hours off of our normal Monday traffic dance to get our booth packed and all of our people on the road.

New great things:

The doubled-up car entry lanes for check-in and registration were a great idea. Things moved along really smoothly. Entry to Far Side was so much smoother, both off the highway and also dropping off gear at the trailhead.

TREES

Great Fair, only concern is with the trees. A large branch crashed down in our camp behind energy park. Thankfully no one was hurt. I understand wanting to let nature take its course but I fear an already dead tree will come down and harm someone. Seems this has been a debate for many years. I can only hope and pray the trees do their falling on the off season. Peace out.

I am writing to bring attention to hazardous trees in the onsite camping areas. Saturday afternoon after my work shift I returned to camp to find one of our outer tapestry 'walls' down and a note in our kitchen area from a camp neighbor telling us of a large fallen branch, and another hanging precariously directly over one of our tents. Folks were notified and came to check it out, but given that we were mid-way through the weekend not much could be done about this hazardous situation other than a swift, dusk-time tent relocation. Not fun or easy with two tired five year olds, and worried parents.

I have worked in landscape management for over 20 years, including hazardous tree removal at the Washington Park Arboretum in Seattle. After our rude awakening to the hazards of our campsite I began to look around at other campsites in our neck of the woods and saw many more dangerous 'hangars'. I know that you all have a lot of things on your plate, but hope that you can add one more important thing to that list...hazardous tree inspection/removal prior to next year's fair. It would be a terrible tragedy for one of these dangerous limbs/trees to fall during our amazing and special time at OCF. Please consider adding this to your long list of fair budget necessities. Thank you for your time!

VALUES

I have been a part of Fair Family since I was 6, I am 38 now. My father has been a Booth Vendor and Rep for over 35 years; we are right next to Children's Stage, giving me and my family the ability to grow with Fair. Last year was the first year I brought my Two children to OCF; we came down just for Pre-Fair (I do booth repairs for my family and then volunteer my labor for other Booths). It was a very hot and dry year last year and we were told to not have any form of fires at booths, even cook stoves. Main camp kitchen Momma was so kind and allowed my children to eat with the other kids at Main Camp, so they could be fed properly. My kids loved it, they only ate small amounts, but being part of the dining experience was magical to them. They became good friend with the kids of Crew members and played every day with them until we left last year.

This year, 2016, my kids and I came down early again. The kids joined up with their friends from last year, and the magic began. Out of habit and enjoyment they joined the lunch line with their friends at Main Camp and enjoy a lovely lunch with their friends and I think again at dinner. The next day they met up with the group of little ones breakfast and again joined them at lunch, Momma in the kitchen recognized them and seemed to welcome them. But at dinner something happened. ... Right before dinner my daughter was utilizing the picnic tables at Main Camp to draw on, but was stopped and was escorted back to our booth right on the other side of main Camp because she was a Booth child. When the dinner bell rang and they went into line with the other kids, kitchen crew stopped the line, had Kitchen Lady come over and point out that my children were Booth children and not Crew children and are not allowed to be there and told them to go on to the other side of the fence and wait for the second bell...

My daughter came back in tears asking why the Crew people Do not like Booth people... I had no answer for her. For three weeks I listen to Main Camp pre-fair Kitchen yell out seconds at every meal, but they had to segregate two small children and treat them like something negative, not allow them to eat with their friend and wait, because they come from Booth families. The amount that they eat is barley anything compared to what the people getting seconds consume.

Needless to say, that was the last day the Children from Crew families came to play with them and when they tried to join them for the next two weeks my kids we're treated poorly by the children from the crew families. Because that is what their parents set as an example that day in the meal line. They were taught that booth children are not worthy and should be treated different. My booth shares a fence with Main Camp, every year I come down and repair part of that fence without asking for any help from Main Camp. I drop off Boxes of Herbal Decaf tea to the kitchen and multiple cans of bug spray to White bird at main camp. Those are needed things to help out The Crew and my way of thanking them for their hard work. ...

...Without the vendors and crew we would have No Fair.

I cried that night that my children had been shunned. I almost left then. I did not know that that tall fence literally meant we are two separate entities of Country Fair, but this year I realized That Crew Members do not like "Boothies". I sat in many crowds of Crew members, this year, who did not know my ties to Country Fair, and had heard many slandering comments about "Booth People".

I love the OCF. It is part of me and me it. I am proud to be a Fair Family Member, but strongly feel that the Segregation between The Crew Members and Booth Members is Ugly and Negative. Two tiny plates of food are not worth teaching hate and segregation. That lovely and innocent group of children had been taught something horrible that day. Something that I know deep down inside Oregon Country Fair should not and would not be part of. Thank you for your time.

VIBES

Early am atmosphere at Main Stage -- Something has changed in the early am crowd at Main Stage. In years past, I would awake to the sounds of birds and recycling trucks, and even breaking glass, and wander towards Politics Park and marvel at those that had been up all night, they would be playing with bubbles, laughing in small groups or cruising for ground scores. This year however, was a completely different scene! There were probably 400 "Festies," raver types who had been screaming and hollering, literally all night long. Not the sounds of people enjoying themselves, but dark, guttural screaming, and a darker vibe, all gathered under the tents near Main Stage, and still raging fully at 6:00 am. Any way to divert the screaming festies somewhere else? I'd happily trade the lot for our old bubble blowing all-nighter crew

WATER

There are some items I want to put on the record that would make life at the fair a bit better for us and our neighbors, not complaints really, just housekeeping stuff that needs dealing with: - there is a water shut-off valve buried in front of our booth, L76, inside a valve box. It presents a tripping hazard, it needs to be leveled before the next fair, better even before much traffic happens since it gets worse the more people walk over it and vehicles drive over it.

This is my 32nd year as a craft vendor in booth# 583 and we always had our fire suppression buckets filled the first day, Thursday, when the crew yelled "water", but that doesn't happen anymore. They walked by in silence and we were missed last year and this year. Also, no one came through to check on water buckets, burlap, and fire extinguishers. It seems volunteers are poorly educated on protocol. We witnessed H2O crew searching for the connection by Ritta's all to no avail. For 10 minutes they searched and never found its connection. It's not the volunteers' fault; they weren't informed.

WHITE BIRD

Please staff Xavanadu WhiteBird earlier than 11am Friday. We had to call WhiteBird 3 times before 10:30am. Apparently Fire Crew called 2 times before 8am and pre-Fair said they needed WhiteBird many times for medical emergencies.

I deeply appreciate White Bird and the supporting crew. Specifically Coach Summerfield, Don & Neil. They were so gentle and kind in a scary, difficult situation. They went above and beyond to insure my comfort and reassure me in a dark place. They really are family and I am so grateful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

WILDLIFE

Ringtails, log jam by Still Living Room. Verify with wildlife camera. I think it's worth studying and its image entered into Fair iconography. I talked with Thomas about his siting of what he thinks is a Ringtail in the log jam. This is certainly an exciting possible discovery for wildlife on OCF grounds. Thomas thinks we should verify his siting, perhaps with a motion-triggered camera. A general wildlife survey may be something OCF would like to do! It would be good to document the status of wildlife on site if we do not do this yet.

WRISTBANDS

It would be more convenient if we could pick up all we need at one place. Such as wrist bands, car pass, tent tags. Tent tags only if you plan to stay in same spot each year. It might save a lot of people from trying to track things down and lesson foot traffic the week prior to fair. Another possibility is to mail car pass as early as a month ahead of time. It goes on car so less chance of forgetting it. Thanks for all you do!

XAVANADU

Xavanadu was lovely.

I have a young daughter, and this was her first year. She loved it!! Thank you guys! One of the things she loved there was the new big chair by the piano. We spent a lot of time there. While we were there playing, I had to help 3 little kids at 3 different times get unstuck.. What would happen is the kids would climb to the top of the chair, and then slowly slide down. If their arm or elbow got stuck between the boards, they would get stuck and they could not get themselves unstuck because of the weight of their bodies... I love the chair!!! And I hope it stays!! But it may be a good idea to put some foot holds on the boards..?.. Or maybe fill in the space so there arms could not get caught. I trust that the Artist would see this minor flaw and come up with something totally awesome!!! Thanks for all you guys do to make the fair a safe place for all!!!! We love you guys!!

I don't care (at all) for the name of the new area, plus very few folks know how to pronounce it. So working the radios or helping the general public with pointing them to the new area via the new name was challenging. Can we rename it since the name is obviously not sticking?

I have been attending the fair since birth, and I just wanted to write and congratulate you on another great fair. For many years, I heard a lot of frustration from second generation fair-goers like myself. The feeling was that the fair wasn't inclusive of the younger generation's creative energies, and that other festivals were outdoing the fair in terms of art and music. Which is not to say that we didn't still love the fair and enjoy our annual reunion with fair family and beloved spots and icons. But this year, I heard a lot of excitement from my generation about the direction the fair is moving in--the abundance of nonprofit art projects and a real sense of innovation and inclusion. The new area is lovely and I had a lot of fun checking out all the new art and entertainment, especially the pink room and the mini golf.

Main Stage was a holy wreck this year, not because of the rain, but someone overwatered early in the week, and the meadow was in ruins by Wednesday, and it only got worse after the rains came. It was so sad, and treacherous to boot!

KUDOS

Best Faire ever, thank you for all of your hard work. The new area Xavanadu is very nice, I had a most amazing experience at the Monkey Palace in Chela earlier the same evening that I was hanging out in Xavanadu in the Visionary Lounge.

Beautiful Fair! People did an awesome job mitigating effects of the rain. Xavanadu and Chela Mela were wonderful.

What a great fair it was. Despite the weather, fair, per usual, was a magical experience. I have been coming for 12 or 13 years now and really truly love it! Thank you!!!!

Love you! Thank you!

All else was fabulous!

My magickal home once again did not disappoint. My cup is so full! <3 Thank you OCF for all that you are and all that you allow to be brought... we truly manifest a one-of-a-kind experience and are blessed.

Loved the new art pieces in the new area and beyond! Loved the crew, staff, volunteers, and vendors as usual (they rock)!! And a big thank you to everyone who makes OCF magical.

Good changes this year.

The folks at the intersection at the top of the 8 on Pooh Corner this year were spectacular and really made a difference in coordinating all the traffic which sometimes turns into a gridlocked snarl. They were on top of their game and made it all go so smoothly.

And, as usual, thank you for the intense level of work and organization that goes into throwing this event. I saw various typical fair crises handled with efficiency and grace, which reinforced my sense of security. All in all, it was a great year and everyone I've talked to seems really positive about the direction we're moving in. Onward!

Thanks for another lovely Fair. It is a safe and peaceful place in a scary world. Essential Event.

Congratulations on another fun fair.

Thought it was a great fair, considering all of the variables this year!

Our new staff did a wonderful job. Tom, Crystalyn, Stephanie, kudos to you.

It was a really nice year. Love to all.

Thanks for all the hard work creating a wonderful space.

wonderful fair. I enjoyed their being a smaller crowd and the rain kept the dust down and people from getting dehydrated or sunstroke.

Thank you so much for a fun and memorable 2016 fair!

Hello and thanks for a wonderful 2016 Country Fair. Thank you. Looking forward to next year. Loved it. If there is anything we can do to help, let us know.

Thank you so much for a truly unique experience. I was but a shy virgin before and now have emerged a freak-flag-flying-Oregon Country Fair fan with a very different paradigm now for how to live life FUN! Yoli and Eagle Rose were my hOsts with the mOsts and boy howdy were they right about how this event can change people's lives for the better. So much kindness and help from all the staff is what truly sets this festival on a level unlike any other. That and the breath taking land! WOW! Nicely done people! May the light of love never leave your hearts and the gratitude from this newly devirginised (I know that's not a word but you get the idea of course) Oregon Country Fair Fanatic! See you next year!!!!!!!

Hello to all the lovely people that help create and maintain such a beautiful event. Before giving my feedback I would like to say how much I love fair and our fair family and am extremely grateful to be a part of not only the event itself but also pre-fair.

Thank you for your time and hard work.

Thanks again to everyone for another great fair.

Thanks again to all the great volunteers who make the majority of the Fair a wonderful event!

We had a great fair, bad weather notwithstanding, sales were good, no real issues or hassles, good work by everybody, as usual, thanks a ton.

Thanks for the brilliant ideas on making things better and better every year.

Another Great Fair! Each fair always feels like the Best Fair Ever. Thank you everybody for doing such a great job, fair after fair. Looking forward to next weekend (OCF 2017) See you out there. Love.

I have been attending the fair since birth, and I just wanted to write and congratulate you on another great fair. For many years, I heard a lot of frustration from second generation fair-goers like myself. The feeling was that the fair wasn't inclusive of the younger generation's creative energies, and that other festivals were outdoing the fair in terms of art and music. Which is not to say that we didn't still love the fair and enjoy our annual reunion with fair family and beloved spots and icons. But this year, I heard a lot of excitement from my generation about the direction the fair is moving in--the abundance of nonprofit art projects and a real sense of innovation and inclusion. The new area is lovely and I had a lot of fun checking out all the new art and entertainment, especially the pink room and the mini golf.

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It was lovely, thank you.

Crowds just right on Sunday.

2016 was a fabulous fair and I am grateful for all the volunteers and staff who made it happen

First of all, many thanks to all who make this event happen. It is one of the most incredible happenings on the planet and Oregon for sure! :)

That's it! Thanks for listening folks! I appreciate each and every one of you. Truly.