

Ann Bennett Rogers



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I am running for the Board of Directors of the Oregon Country Fair because stewardship of our land is my passion. I contribute to the Fair's non-profit 501(c)(3) status by promoting educational participatory activities. Specifically, I prepare the exhibit in Ark Park and helped to develop with Stewardship the Passport program to which Ark Park is an active participant. My personal and professional life provides me with skills and knowledge that can contribute to the wellbeing and health of the Fair. My Fair involvement is year-round, and I see the land in all of the seasons. I am a member of Path Planning and Elders Committees as well as on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) task force. I attend other committee meetings as my schedule allows. Our committees include individuals who bring skills to the table who often provide specialized knowledge to assist policy and operations.

Our land is facing many challenges with climate change and the threat of the EAB. It is important as stewards of the land to employ the best scientifically based ecological knowledge and attempt to set the highest standards. As a member of the EAB task force we are developing strategies to address the numerous areas of the Fair and work within our Fair values. I bring to that group my background in environmental planning and awareness of the opportunities that will help us to address this issue as well as other ecological stewardship issues including maintaining the health of our riparian buffers and stewarding

all of our properties.

Our population and attendance caps are a mix of significant intertwined issues which also fit into stewardship as we have a desire to not love our Fair to death. We rely on volunteers, as do many non-profit organizations. We also rely on an event to produce our working revenue income. The importance of our entertainers, crafters and food booths cannot be understated. These groups are the reasons people return year after year. The trick is to find the sweet spot where our goals are met and we preserve the health of our land, support our and respect our volunteers, entertainers, crafters and food booths. In some instances, this may involve re-orienting our understanding of long-standing practices to ensure our revenues and our impact upon the land and to keep us on a healthy path with respect of our Fair family.

In addition, to having served previously on the Board of the Fair, I have been involved in a number of other non-profit organizations. I have volunteered and served on the Boards of the Association of Oregon Archaeologists and Fair Family Radio. I have served on a committee for the Oregon Community Fund where I had the opportunity to learn many organizational skills that have enhanced my participation in all types of organizations. Currently I also volunteer with the Springfield based Cascade Volunteers

I bring an understanding of diversity issues based on life experiences and formal trainings including yearly trainings on civil rights and diversity issues. My work and life experiences have included tribal consultations, ADA issues, working with immigrants, and working in programs to repair racially discriminatory policies that had been structured to deny BI-POC groups access to government programs. As a member of the former Diversity Committee, we wrote the statements in solidarity for Black, Asian Americans lives. How one addresses these DEI issues in a non-threatening manner is important in moving forward. We must honor diversity and recognize humanity.

Please consider voting for me, and I will do the best to help keep the Oregon Country Fair sustainable and honoring the overarching issues of the 1960s that originally brought the Fair into existence. I know about the Fair's dirt. I have read the soil survey and soil testing reports. Our soil is not healthy. Let's make our soil healthy through stewardship and the health of the Fair will fall into place. As others have written: "creation is worth conserving and stewardship is an act of gratitude."

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