

There's a five-mile gravel road near my house that connects to Highway 126. Many people avoid it, and with good reason. It's narrow, it's steep, and there are drop-offs and blind turns. Oh, and did I mention it's gravel? But there's an allegiance between those of us who take it. I know, because people wave.

No one waves to you on U.S. 97, except for the not-so-kind version. But down the gravel road, we drivers have a sense of community, traveling over that rough common ground together. Relationships often spring from overcoming challenges with others. At School of Ranch, we try to create shared learning experiences, and the best moments are when participants help each other learn, and find a new friend. It's a privilege to see the spark of a new relationship. Makes it all worthwhile.

Speaking of sparks, we've been busy creating a zillion new workshops. Want to make a terrarium? Lead a cookout using a cardboard box? Make leather goods? Fix furniture? We've got you covered! Summer is fleeting, so grab the reins and charge into August!

Mark Gross
Founder/Executive Director
School of Ranch
<https://schoolofranch.org>

PS - Unsubscribe link at the bottom.

School of Ranch News

The Hope, Dear Readers, Is In Our New Stars. For the first two years, I ran School of Ranch with a few special volunteers (thanks Cathy and Monee!), and my gang-o-interns. Then Elaine Cole joined as Workshop Development Manager. In the last two weeks, we welcomed Adriana Traum, Nessa Covington, and Mary Siani to the team in that role, and promoted Elaine to Sr. Workshop Development Manager. Adriana will be managing Equine Workshops, Nessa - Artisan Crafts, and Mary - Farm and Ranch, and possibly Food. Elaine and I will run the rest as we look for one more star to join the team. Welcome Adriana, Nessa, and Mary! Wanna be next? Reach out!

Moolah From Heaven. I almost tossed the email I got the other day from the Oregon Community Foundation until I saw that it said "You have been awarded a grant." I didn't apply for a grant, so I was, well, surprised. Turns out that it's a \$15,500 grant! More on this next month. Pretty amazing!

Wherefore Art Thou, Metal Shop? Well, we have one problem left on the facilities front as a result of the insurance debacle.... We need a place to host our welding program. Best would be a metal shop, auto shop, or some sort of industrial space we can use. Know anyone who can help? Let me know!

News About News. This newsletter has gotten too long, so starting next month, we're going to send you shorter newsletters aligned with your interests. To kick off the slimdown, we're only listing new workshops in the On Demand section. Less is more!



School of Ranch Current Workshops

NEW! August 4th. "Balance in the Saddle: Better Riding Biomechanics." Whether you're prepping for a smooth dressage test or just want to feel steadier on the trail, this workshop focuses on the biomechanics of balanced riding. Through demonstrations and guided floor-based exercises, you'll learn how posture, alignment, and body awareness improve communication with your horse. You'll leave with exercises to build stability and strength—even if you don't have a horse of your own!

Price: \$40

Time: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Location: Sisters Community Hall, 301 S Elm St, Sisters

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-riding-biomechanics>

August 9th. "Traditional Soap Making." There's nothing like handmade soap—and now you can create your own! In this hands-on workshop, you'll make eight custom bars using just four ingredients plus lye, learning safe practices and time-tested techniques along the way. Guided by soap-making expert Elly Jocham, you'll also take home a complete soap-making kit (mold, stir wand, spatula, and more) and a resource guide to keep your new skills bubbling long after class ends. **Only 1 ticket left!**

Price: \$90 + \$45 for materials and soap-making kit

Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm

Location: Hardenbrook Hardwoods, 2122 SW Deerhound Ave #7, Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.org/w-soap-making>

August 11th. "Handyman Basics: Drywall, Electric, Plumbing, and More." Think home repairs are only for pros? This two-session, beginner-friendly workshop will teach you practical skills to tackle drywall fixes, basic plumbing and electric, tile repairs, and more. You'll get real hands-on practice, learning what's worth fixing yourself and how to do it right. Leave with the know-how (and confidence) to handle the everyday repairs that pop up at home. **Only 3 tickets left!**

Price: \$225 + \$25 for supplies

Time: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Location: Hardenbrook Hardwoods, 2122 SW Deerhound Ave #7, Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.org/w-handyman>

August 14th. "Horse Speak: Unlocking the Language of Horses." Horses are always talking—are you listening? In this interactive workshop, you'll gain a deeper understanding of equine communication through Lucinda Baker's Being Herd program and Horse Speak®. Using videos, slides, and live horse demonstrations, you'll learn how horses think and express themselves, and how to build trust and connection with your herd. Whether you're new to horsemanship or looking to refine your approach, this session offers valuable tools for a stronger partnership. A potluck wraps up the evening—bring a dish and share in the conversation.

Price: \$40 + \$5 facility fee

Time: 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Location: HeartSpace Horse Sanctuary, Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-horsespeak>

August 19th. "Carving Curious: Intro to Wood Carving." Ready to carve out some creative time? This beginner-friendly workshop will teach you how to safely carve a wooden spoon using just a single chisel. With expert guidance from Ahmad Khalid Rauofi, you'll learn step-by-step techniques for shaping, refining, and smoothing your project. We'll provide pre-cut blanks and all the tools you need, plus you'll take home your own carving kit to continue practicing your new skill. **Only 5 ticket left!**

Price: \$110 + \$35 supplies

Time: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Location: Hardenbrook Hardwoods, 2122 SW Deerhound Ave #7, Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.org/w-carving-curious>



August 20th. "Starting from Seed for Central Oregon Gardeners." Ready to master the art of seed starting? This hands-on workshop will guide you through selecting climate-smart seeds, prepping the perfect soil, and creating ideal growing conditions for Central Oregon's unique environment. Whether you're starting seeds indoors, outdoors, or in a greenhouse, you'll learn practical techniques to help your garden thrive. A potluck mid-session adds a chance to connect with fellow gardeners while sharing tips and ideas.

Price: \$40

Time: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Location: Well Rooted U-Pick, 20377 Swalley Rd, Bend

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-startingseeds>

August 23rd. "Power Saws for Fearless Women." Ready to take a cut at self-reliance? In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll gain hands-on experience with six essential power saws: the chainsaw, table saw, compound miter saw, jigsaw, Sawzall, and skill saw. With a strong focus on safety, blade maintenance, and cutting techniques, you'll leave with the confidence to tackle your own projects at home. Led by Aaron Stump in a supportive and fun environment, this workshop will have you eager to claim your spot at the workbench. **Only 1 ticket left!**

Price: \$125

Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm

Location: Hardenbrook Hardwoods, 2122 SW Deerhound Ave #7, Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.org/w-power-saws-fearless>

August 23rd - Two Sessions! "Weaving the Wasco Way: Making Sally Bags." Discover the art and history of traditional Wasco weaving in this hands-on workshop led by master weaver Valerie Switzler. You'll learn the distinctive flat-bottom technique, practice twining methods, and create your own Sally Bag while exploring the cultural roots of this craft. A community potluck mid-session adds warmth and connection to the experience, making this workshop as much about shared stories as it is about skill-building. **Only 5 tickets left!**

Price: \$90 + \$10 for materials

Time: Session 1: 10:00am to 1:00pm. Session 2: 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: OSU Extension Redmond Fairgrounds

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-wasco-sally-bag>

August 24th. "Bee Curious: Intro to Beekeeping." Ever wondered what life inside a beehive looks like? In this interactive, family-friendly workshop, you'll explore the fascinating world of honeybees—from their unique social structure to the essential role they play in our ecosystem. Led by Jimmy Broadus of Broadus Bees, you'll learn the basics of starting and maintaining a hive, observe a working colony (weather permitting), and enjoy a honey tasting to discover the surprising variety of flavors bees create. Perfect for the bee-curious or aspiring beekeepers! **Sign up now!!**

Price: \$40

Time: 12:00pm to 3:00pm

Location: Well Rooted Farm, 20377 Swalley Rd, Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-beecurious>

September 10th. "DIY Skincare: Make Goat Milk Lotion and Lip Balm." Roll up your sleeves and create your own luxurious skincare! In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn to make nourishing goat milk lotion and natural beeswax lip balm, with options to leave them unscented or add essential oils like lavender or orange for a personal touch. Guided by Rebecca Saul of Glimfeather Farms, you'll leave with two finished products, beginner-friendly recipes, and the confidence to make more at home. **Only 1 ticket left!**

Price: \$90 + \$20 supplies

Time: 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Location: Left Coast Lodge, 511 W Cascade Ave, Sisters

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-diy-skincare>

September 13th. "Intro to Goat Cheese Making." Unlock the secrets of turning fresh goat milk into creamy, flavorful cheese in this hands-on workshop. You'll learn the essential steps, equipment, and food safety practices for making artisanal goat cheese at home. Rebecca Saul of Glimfeather Farms will share her expert tips, tricks, and time-saving techniques so you can enjoy your own homemade cheese for weeks to come. We'll wrap up with a potluck meal—bring a dish and bond with your fellow cheese makers!

Price: \$40

Time: 12:00pm to 3:00pm

Location: The Hub, 291 E Main Ave, Sisters

More: <https://schoolofranch.org/w-goat>



School of Ranch New Workshops On Demand!

We run the workshop you want, as often as you want. Welcome to *Workshops On Demand*. As soon as enough of you pre-register for the workshops below, we'll schedule them with you. Pre-registration is free. We don't charge you until we set a date and you agree to it. **These are just our new workshops. Check out our whole catalog!**

NEW! "Chainsaw 101: Safety, Saws, and Your First Cut... of Wood!" Ready to rev up? This no-experience-needed workshop introduces you to using a chainsaw with confidence and care. We'll start with the essentials—safety gear, saw maintenance, and proper handling—before you make your very first cut under expert supervision. By the end, you'll understand the fundamentals of chainsaw use, from tensioning and sharpening to reading wood fibers for smarter cuts. Pre-register now to be first in line; we'll schedule the workshop once 5 people sign up! **Only 2 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$125 + \$10 for supplies

Time: TBD

Location: Hardenbrook Hardwoods, 2122 SW Deerhound Ave #7, Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-chainsaw-101>

NEW! "Nature in Glass: Terrarium Building Basics." Ever wanted to try stained glass but didn't know where to start? This hands-on workshop will guide you through cutting, foiling, and soldering glass to create a beautiful geometric terrarium. Once your structure is complete, you'll bring it to life with soil, stone, and a succulent. You'll leave with both a finished terrarium and a take-home kit to keep honing your glasswork skills. **Only 2 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$110 + \$35 Take Home Kit

Time: TBD

Location: Bend/Redmond/Sisters

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-terrarium>

NEW! "Darn It! Mending Socks, Sweaters & More." Give your favorite knits a second life! This beginner-friendly workshop will teach you the art of darning—covering everything from weft and warp

techniques to simple, decorative stitching. You'll get guided practice repairing your own socks, sweaters, and scarves using a variety of threads, with plenty of hands-on help to build your skills and confidence. Leave with a finished repair (or two!) and your own darning needle to continue mending at home. A community potluck adds warmth and connection to the experience. **Only 3 ticket left to schedule!**

Price: \$40 + \$5 for supplies

Time: TBD

Location: 21535 Modoc Lane, Bend, OR

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-darn-it>

NEW! "Tortilla Making Basics: From Masa to Taco." Take your taco night to the next level with this hands-on workshop! You'll learn how to mix, press, and cook perfect corn tortillas, guided by Mayra Santana and Oscar Molina of Roots at Heart. From mastering masa texture to flipping like a pro, you'll finish with warm tortillas and a fresh, flavorful taco filling created by Chef Oscar. We'll wrap it all up with a community potluck and DIY taco feast. **Only 4 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$65 + \$20 supply fee

Time: TBD

Location: Redmond/Bend

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-tortilla>



NEW! "Furniture Fix-It: A Hands-On Repair Workshop." Got a wobbly chair, a sticky drawer, or a scuffed side table? In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn how to repair and restore small wooden furniture with confidence. Bring a piece from home—or work on a practice item—and get hands-on experience with drills, clamps, sandpaper, glue, and more. With expert guidance from Christy Tice of Handymandy, you'll learn practical techniques and leave with both new skills and a plan to finish your project at home. A potluck adds a fun, community vibe to the day! **Only 5 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$125

Time: TBD

Location: 7783 NW 93rd St., Terrebonne, OR

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-furniture-fix-it>

NEW! "Braided Rug Making Basics." Give your old clothes a second life by turning them into something warm, useful, and beautiful. In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn how to prep textiles, cut and hand-sew fabric strips, and use a five-strand braiding technique to start your own

handmade rug. You'll explore design options for circular and rectangular layouts and leave with a rug-in-progress plus printed instructions to complete it at home. A potluck adds a cozy, community touch to the day! **Only 6 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$65 + \$10 supplies

Time: TBD

Location: Bend/Sisters

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-braided-rug-making>

NEW! "Cookout Improv – Tasty Feasts with Low-Tech Tools." Want to cook like a campfire pro without all the fancy gadgets? In this hands-on workshop, you'll team up to create a full outdoor meal using simple tools like Dutch ovens, foil packs, and even cardboard box ovens. Together, we'll whip up an appetizer, main dish, veggie side, and dessert—then sit down to enjoy the feast you've made. Expect smoky flavors, clever cooking hacks, and plenty of laughs along the way. **Only 6 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$90 + \$25 supplies

Time: TBD

Location: Sisters Depot, 250 W Cascade Ave, Sisters

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-cookout-improv>

NEW! "Stock Dog Curious: To Herd or Not to Herd." Thinking of adding a herding dog to your life—or just wondering how to keep yours happy and busy? This workshop offers a candid look at stock dog instincts, breeds, and real-world needs. You'll watch a live demo of herding behaviors, learn how to assess a dog's temperament and skills, and have an open discussion about training, lifestyle fit, and daily care. We'll wrap up with a potluck so you can connect with fellow dog enthusiasts. **Only 6 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$40

Time: TBD

Location: Bend/Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-stock-dogs>

NEW! "Stress Free Farrier/Vet Visits with Horse Speak." Struggling to keep your horse calm during farrier or vet visits? This workshop teaches you how to transform tension into trust using Horse Speak, a body-based communication method that helps horses feel safe and understood. Through live demonstrations and practical strategies, you'll learn to recognize early stress signals, handle care scenarios with confidence, and develop a prep routine tailored to your horse's needs. **Only 10 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$40 + \$5 facility fee

Time: TBD

Location: HeartSpace Horse Sanctuary, 3867 Northwest Way, Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-vet-farrier-visits>

NEW! "Paracord Basics: Ranch Projects for Beginners." Paracord isn't just for survivalists—it's one of the handiest materials on the ranch! In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn essential paracord techniques and create three personalized projects with equine uses: a survival bracelet, a bucket hanger, and a carabiner keychain. With expert guidance from lifelong rancher Judy Robinson, you'll master the versatile Cobra Knot and head home with the skills (and printed instructions) to keep crafting on your own. A community potluck rounds out the day—because nothing builds community like good food and practical skills. **Only 10 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$65 + \$20 for supplies

Time: TBD

Location: Bend/Redmond

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-paracord-ranch-projects>

NEW! "Growing Wellness Herbs." Ready to bring more calm, flavor, and healing into your life? This beginner-friendly workshop will teach you how to grow and use simple herbs like mint, chamomile, lavender, calendula, and basil. Whether you've got a backyard plot or just a sunny windowsill, you'll

learn how to keep your herbs thriving and turn them into soothing teas, herbal oils, and simple salves. You'll leave with your own homemade salve, a starter herb plant, and the confidence to grow your own mini herb garden. A potluck lunch adds a fun community touch—bonus points if your dish includes herbs! **Only 10 tickets left to schedule!**

Price: \$50 + \$20 for supplies

Time: TBD

Location: Bend/Sisters

More: <https://schoolofranch.net/w-wellness-herbs>



News and Events From Friends

August 7-September 19. C4C presents "Let's Watch: Outdoor Movie Nights." Get ready for fun-filled summer nights under the stars as Citizens4Community launches *Let's Watch!* – our brand-new outdoor movie series! Powered by Kendall Auto Group of Central Oregon, co-sponsored by local businesses, and hosted at rotating locations around Sisters, *Let's Watch!* will bring community members together for four FREE nights of family-friendly fun and film.

Price: Free!

Time: Doors open one hour before sundown; movie starts at sundown.

Locations:

1. August 7 – *Cars* at Village Green Park, 302 S Elm St, Sisters, 97759
2. August 22 – *Encanto* at Sisters Art Works, 204 W Adams Ave, Sisters, 97759
3. September 5 – *The Sandlot* at Sisters Community Church ball fields, 1300 McKenzie Highway, Sisters, 97759
4. September 19 – *Top Gun* at Sisters Eagle Airport, 600 Barclay Drive, Sisters, 97759

Get Details: <https://citizens4community.com/events>

August 8. SFF Presents + C4C's "Hometown Hang" concert. Join us for a FREE, family-friendly concert at Sisters Art Works featuring the award-winning bluegrass band, East Nash Grass! Plus, the SMS Outlaw Strings students will kick the night off with a fun community dance. Come hang, dance, and mingle with many of the incredible nonprofits serving our community, presented by Citizens4Community! Food and beverages will be available for purchase. No pets or outside

food/alcohol. Please bring your own low-back festival chairs or blankets.

Price: Free

Time: Gates open at 5:30 PM, show starts at 6 PM

Location: Sisters Art Works – 204 W Adams Ave, Sisters, OR 97759

Get details: <https://sffpresents.org/concerts>

August 9th. High Desert Food and Farm Alliance presents, "Market Tasting." Join us in Madras for a special treat prepared with fresh, seasonal ingredients from the day's market. HDFFA staff will craft a tasty snack, unique to the fresh produce of the day!

Price: Free

Time: 9:00am to 2:00pm

Location: Madras Saturday Market. Sahalee Park 99 SE 7th St, Madras, OR 97741

Get Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/716986207751714>

August 27. C4C presents "Finding & Applying for Grants" (workshop). Join C4C for a free workshop offering practical, real-world strategies to help local organizations discover funding opportunities and write compelling grant applications. Led by The Grant Lab's Founder and CEO Susan Taylor, this session will share favorite grant writing tools, tactics, and common mistakes to avoid. *Registration requested.*

Price: Free

Time: Doors at 4:30 PM, workshop 5-6:30 PM

Location: The Hub, by Citizens4Community – 291 E Main Ave, Sisters, OR 97759

Get Details: <https://citizens4community.com/events/grants-workshop-25>

You received this newsletter because you signed up or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update your preferences](#)

