

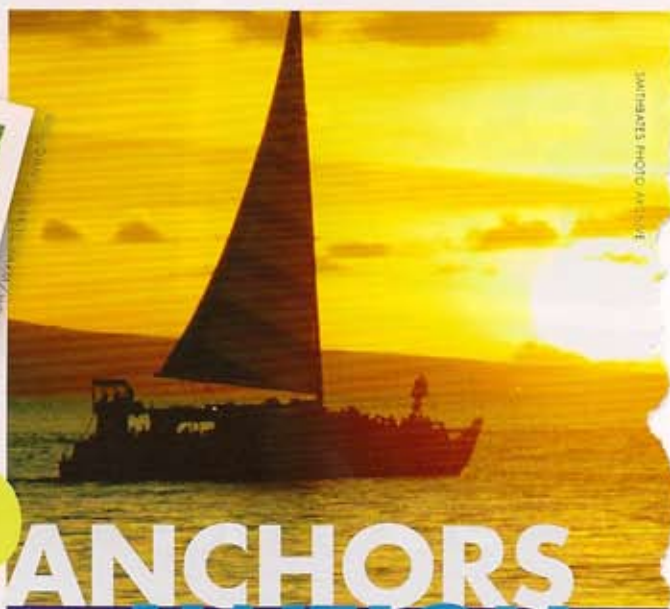
Klamath County

O R E G O N

A Great Place
to *Grow!*



Klamath County Chamber of Commerce



Big John's Garden

THE FIRST WEEK IN JULY is a busy time at Big John's Garden in Klamath County. The harvesting of over 4,000 pounds of organic garlic takes place by hand as part of the production process preceding the company's online sales splash.

Owner, gardener, businessman, entrepreneur, Stanford-educated John Dey took his garlic growing passion and pastime and made it yet another of his many successful business ventures.

Having grown vegetables since the '70s and garlic for the last two decades, Dey is a guy with a great green thumb! Not only has he grown vegetables but he has been extremely instrumental in helping to grow the Klamath County community. Dey has been a past president of the Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA) and more recently co-chaired a \$20 million capital campaign for the fundraising and building of Oregon Institute of Technology's Center for Health Professions whose ribbon-cutting was proudly held in the fall of 2007.

Dey's inspiration is turning a hobby into business stemmed from his observing the "crummy" quality of main stream marketplace garlic. Dey decided there was definitely an opportunity to compete in the upscale markets with good, organic garlic. His instincts and market insights proved him right. Dey cannot keep pace with his orders. Dey has merchant partners whom he supplies with 4000 half-

pound bags of garlic who would easily order 20 times as much, if he elected to grow it.

As he began his garlic adventure just two short years ago, Dey, along with his wife, Nancy, elected to plant between 30,000-40,000 plants on a half-acre plot of his family's fertile farmland on the Wray-Coffin Ranch about five miles outside of Klamath Falls. Fourteen types and hundreds of varieties, each garlic is planted carefully by hand and has eight-to-nine months of growing time.

Planted in October and harvested in July, the garlic must cure once it has been harvested. Once given the "green light" by John's "green thumb" the garlic is ready for online market distribution through which the Deys sell it.

They rely primarily on internet sales for distribution. However, they do sell to other growers and some regional specialty foods stores that swear by the high quality of the garlic products.

Currently, John Dey is exploring just how big to grow Big John's Garden. "I appreciate the success, but want to keep it fun and manageable for the moment," smiled Dey.

If you wish to order homegrown, hand picked and hot off the farm, great garlic, you are invited to contact the Deys online at www.bigjohnsgarden.com

ANCHORS AWEIGH AND A GREAT PLACE TO PLAY

AHOY MATEYS! Sailors and landlubbers alike are always invited to be part of the "crew" at the Klamath Yacht Club. Since 1947 the area's citizens fond of sailing and socializing have been gathering at the Yacht Club, which sits snugly on the shores of Klamath Lake on Front Street.

Club membership is most affordable. Only \$25 per month with an initial one-time membership price tag of \$100 gives members access to the Club, its myriad of parties and gatherings as well as other patron benefits.

Each year the Klamath Yacht Club hosts an annual Fourth of July Regatta drawing sailors and race fans from as far as San Diego, Sacramento and Portland. Each Wednesday night is Club racing on Klamath Lake followed by cool drinks and Club camaraderie.

The membership, which is composed of 60% boat owners and 40% non-boaters, is an eclectic and marvelous mix according to Chuck Dunbar, 2006 Club Commodore. "We have mailmen, merchants and manufacturers," said Dunbar. "There are teachers, doctors, plumbers, forest service folks—it is a great group to be around."

To learn more about membership and the Klamath Yacht Club, please contact Gail Corey, Director of Membership 541.882.8571