

who accept VIM patient referrals at no cost. Ensuring the organization's longevity are donations, grants and volunteer services.

Goss said that in order to qualify for care through the Volunteers in Medicine, a Lane County resident must fall in between 80 to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, without any other insurance policies to fall back on. "We are really trying to take care of a segment of the population that is underserved." — *Deborah Bloom*

CAMAS SWALE GETS SOME PROTECTION

Camas Swale has been cited as a stopover for sandhill cranes and for wintering waterfowl. Native Americans historically used the area for collecting camas bulbs.

Oregon Habitat Joint Ventures in 2004 identified the area near Creswell as a target area for conservation and restoration for its wet prairie habitat throughout the area and upland prairie and oak savanna on the fringes of the swale.

Ryan Ruggiero of McKenzie River Trust says thanks to a conservation easement with landowner Helen Hollyer, 60 acres in the area, including an unnamed tributary of Camas Swale Creek, will be protected. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and MRT to protect a property's ecological value. Hollyer is known locally as the publisher of the *Creswell Chronicle*.

Ruggiero said that in addition to the riparian oak and ash forest has been allowed to grow undisturbed at what has now been named Hollyer Prairie, a 2009 survey found that the property is habitat to the threatened Kincaid's lupine. This is the first known occurrence of the flower in the Camas Swale area, he said. The lupine is one of only two host plants for the endangered, and once thought to be extinct Fender's blue butterfly. Ruggiero said the butterfly has not yet been sighted in the area. Camas Swale, which is in the urban-rural interface, also hosts red-legged frogs and western pond turtles, as well as cougar and elk.

The conservation easement means that the area, which is made up of several tax lots, is restricted from development such as subdivisions. The property would have to be sold as one contiguous block and uses such as grazing and forestry are also restricted. Hollyer will still be able to use the horse trails on her property and develop one future trail, Ruggiero said.

He said MRT used funds from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant the trust received in 2007 and the conservation group paid less than half of the full market value for the easement.

MRT will monitor the easement on annual basis and check to see that Hollyer and all future landowners keep to the terms of easement. Ruggiero called Hollyer an "ideal, engaged landowner," she was already working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Coast Fork Watershed Council to preserve the land and waterway.

"The project is set up for long term

success. Ruggiero said. "She's very concerned about leaving this place to future generations." — *Camilla Mortensen*

EPA SEEKS INPUT ON PESTICIDE

The Environmental Protection Agency wants to know what you think about toxic pesticides being sprayed on or near waterways like rivers and streams.

EPA is seeking public comment on the proposed permit process for pesticide application near waterways. A 2006 EPA rule was overturned in January, reversing the policy of allowing pesticides in and around waterways to be regulated according to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) rather than the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Eugene attorney, Charlie Tebbutt, hopes that citizens will take advantage of the public comment period and demand earlier evaluation of whether pesticides are indeed necessary. "The CWA's goal is to eliminate pollution, not to continue to issue permits to allow it," says Tebbutt, who argued the case before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (*National Cotton Council, et al. v. EPA*).

The Clean Water Act regulates pollutants by requiring that pesticide usage be approved prior to use. FIFRA differs from the CWA by allowing anyone to use pesticides, as long as they are applied according to the purpose and dosage of their labeling directions.

A draft of the new pesticide general permit is available for review at <http://wkly.ws/ne> It requires that applicants apply for a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The draft permit says "outside the scope of this permit are terrestrial applications to control pests on agricultural crops or forest floors," which pesticide use opponents says is a problem, because after crops or forests are sprayed the residue runs off into waterways.

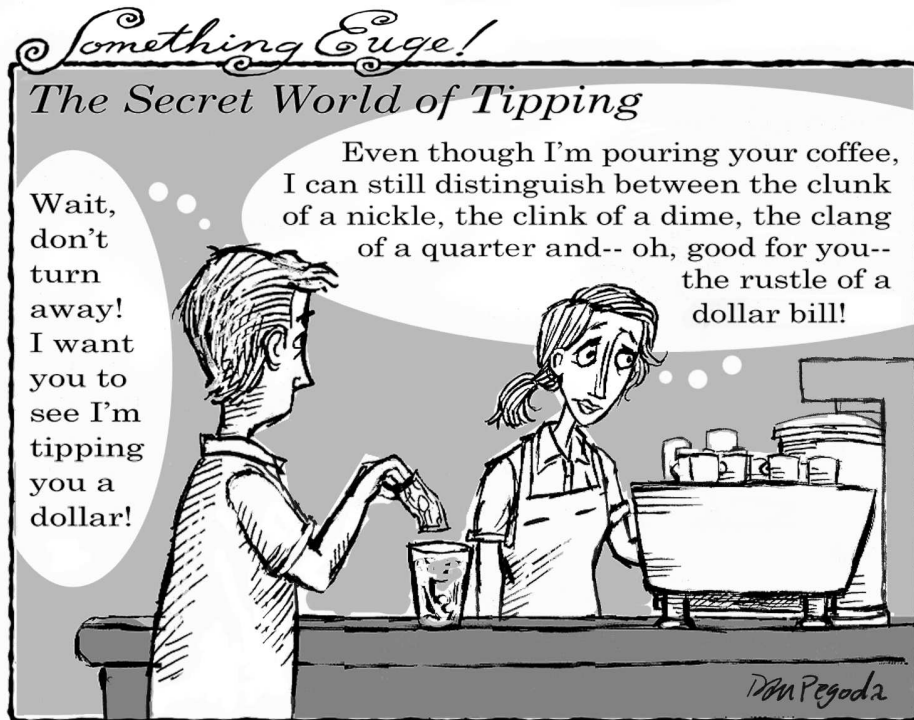
After EPA or NPDES approves a general permit, it assesses how much of a pesticide or herbicide can be applied and when.

According to Tebbutt, pesticide use near waterways would occur more judiciously if other alternatives were formally considered before a permit is issued.

Alternatives to pesticides and herbicides can include the use of mechanical removal of pests, traps, natural enemies and plant-based repellants. Information about control methods for various pests can be found at the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides website, <http://wkly.ws/nf>

Tebbutt believes that input from the public could prompt EPA to implement a more effective policy. "It's really important that EPA hear from people who are affected by these kinds of pesticide discharges," says Tebbutt, "and that the EPA hear loud and clear that the people want elimination of the pesticides wherever possible, and if not possible, really tight control and monitoring."

Public comments can be submitted to www.regulations.gov until July 19, using the Doc ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2010-0257. — *Shannon Finnell*

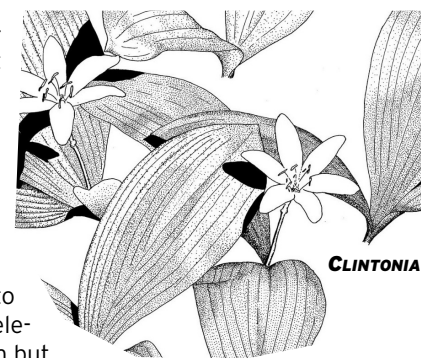


IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER



A With the passing of the solstice, summer has arrived. It took its sweet time, following a long, cool spring. Only now have the sugar snap peas finally gotten sweet, just at harvest time a late harvest. Garlic is slow coming on and the tomatoes probably won't ripen until October. Potatoes look happy.



Warm days make good opportunities to hike in cool woods. Open areas at high elevations will be coming into peak of bloom but mountain mosquitoes will also peak this month.

Mosquitoes are usually not so thick down in the woods and there one can see the coral root orchids and queen's cup, Clintonia, on the forest floor. The queen's cup is one of the forest floor lilies that spread by underground runners instead of some kind of bulb or corm.

Starlings are flying back and forth to a nest full of peepers in a neighbor's walnut tree. The idea of little birds is cute, but these birds are nasty pests. Like the English sparrow, they have displaced many native birds with their aggressive behavior. Starlings and sparrows will smash eggs and kill baby birds, taking over the nest. It would not be a bad thing to tear out that nest and destroy the starling nestlings.

As grim a notion as it might be, killing baby birds pales in the face of the assault on the environment wrought by our petroleum-based culture. Nature lovers looking at the future have motivation stronger than ever to preserve what we can.

David Wagner is a botanist who has lived in Eugene for more than 30 years. He teaches mosses and leads plant walks. He may be reached at fernzenmosses@me.com

Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule

- **ODOT** will be spraying invasive species through June and July. Call Tony Kilmer (District 5) at 686-7626.
- **Eastern Lane County:** Rosboro LLC (746-8411) will ground spray herbicides on approximately 500 acres starting July 7 (No. 771-00586). Seneca Jones Timber (461-6245) will ground spray hundreds of acres with herbicides including 2,4-D LV6 (No. 771-00413).
- **Near 10 Mile Creek and Klickitat Mountain:** Roseburg Resources (935-2307) will ground spray roadsides starting July 7 (No. 781-00572).
- **Near Cottage Grove:** Weyerhaeuser Company (744-4684) will spray roads and roadsides near Row River, Hawley, Pitcher Creeks starting July 6 (No. 771-00582).

Compiled by Jan Wroncy, Forestland Dwellers: 342-8332, www.forestlanddwellers.org