

Hermosa Beach, Calif., more than a year ago, and she has been running the foundation from there. She is no longer able to continue do that, so the foundation will now move with her. She says all funds raised in Lane County have gone to local animals, and while the public can still donate to the organization, the funds will now go to the new foundation in California. She says that UC Davis has had to suspend the transplant program that saved her cat's life, and if people would like to donate to the Bearen Foundation on behalf of UC Davis, they can direct the funds. Donations to the Bearen Foundation are tax deductible.

Bearen Foundation's mission was that that no pet should be euthanized solely due to financial hardship, and Bendtzen says 100 percent of donations went to saving the lives of local pets. For more information go to www.bearenfoundation.org — *Camilla Mortensen*

A GOOD BAG IS HARD TO FIND

The answer to July's Brewhaha forum topic "Paper or Plastic: Is Either Fantastic?" turned out to be a resounding "no." Four panelists discussed the topic during the discussion at Davis' Restaurant July 29 sponsored by the Oregon Bus Project and *EW*.

The Oregon Legislature will vote in 2011 on a proposal to ban plastic bags statewide. Many stores prefer plastic bags, made from fossil fuels and not

biodegradable, because they cost less than paper. Recyclable and biodegradable paper bags require a lot of energy to recycle, use a lot of water in their production and weigh more (which requires more fuel during transport).

Steve Cook, a geosciences instructor at OSU, explained that switching from one grocery-carrying product to another requires an examination of its life from resource extraction to grave. "There's no free lunch," Cook said, and added that even cloth bags have an environmental impact.

From an economic standpoint, Kiva co-owner Melissa Brown favors reusable bags. "Any time people are bringing in their own bags it's good for grocers," she said.

"We're attacking the one bag that has adequate alternatives and doesn't present safety problems," said Brock Howell of Environment Oregon, explaining the group is not seeking to ban plastic produce or trash bags. He said that the damage that plastic bags inflict on the oceans inspired him to advocate for the plastic bag ban.

Some cities and stores have independently taken measures toward encouraging bag reuse. Washington, D.C., issued a five-cent tax on plastic bags in January that prompted a drop in consumption from 22.5 million plastic bags to three million, according to the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue. San Francisco banned plastic bags in grocery stores in 2007. Locally, Market of Choice and Sundance offer a five-cent rebate for bag reuse. — *Shannon Finnell*



SLANT

- We were sad to hear that **Mark Zolun** died the evening of July 30. In an email to friends and family, Mark's partner Kenne Glenn says, "I was at his side as were others and it was very peaceful. Know that he is not suffering any longer and put up a valiant struggle to the end. He never complained or was angry about his situation and was always trying to play host and put others at ease!" Mark and Kenne owned Iralia Mediterranean Rustica, one of Eugene's favorite restaurants and catering businesses. A celebration of life is being planned, tentatively at 11 am Aug. 21 at Mark and Kenne's home. For updates, email gwenmey@uoregon.edu or info@iraila.com

- Eugene's **independent police auditor** Mark Gissner appears loathe to lock horns with either the police or the city manager, despite Eugene's long history of police abuse and ongoing complaints and lawsuits about cop behavior. We need an assertive, hardheaded advocate for the people in this key position of independent oversight. Until we get a real auditor, frustrated residents have one more place to be heard. Check out <http://ratemycop.com> to find a list of nearly all EPD uniformed officers. Once you register (free and anonymous) you can rate individual officers and write comments, positive or negative, about your interactions with them. So far, it's mostly blank. Let's fill it up, not with angry rants, but rather with clear, accurate and specific information.

- We hear that **Phil Knight** already has contributed at least \$100,000 to the Chris Dudley campaign for governor partly because Knight is still pissed about the passage of tax Measures 66 and 67. Those measures cautiously raised taxes on Oregon corporations and wealthy individuals to slightly boost the budget for such frills as education. *The Oregonian* (Aug. 3) reports that Knight's current Nike holdings are \$5 billion.

- **Former UO quarterback Jeremiah Masoli** announced on his website that he's going to be a Rebel as he heads off to get a degree in parks and recreation from Ole Miss. His new site www.jeremiahmasoli.net is supposedly run by a PR firm. The site and a recent sympathetic piece in *Sports Illustrated* take some jabs at the media, specifically the *R-G*, for getting facts wrong about Masoli's issues with the law. The most common correction made on the website is that Masoli was not involved in a series of strong-arm robberies in high school; he just happened to be in the car during an incident when the thieves got caught. The site also corrects the repeated assertion that Masoli was arrested in the Eugene frat house burglary and the marijuana incidents. While Masoli pleaded guilty to the crimes, the page clarifies that he was never actually arrested. *EW* is proud to say that we are *not* listed as one of the 14 erring media outlets, possibly because of our fabulous fact checking, or maybe because we don't cover a lot of sports ...

- For better, for worse, **The Oregonian is back** in Eugene home boxes in some parts of town early every morning. To cut costs some months ago, the Portland daily had limited home deliveries to Sundays. Ad revenues must be back up. The paper's paid weekday circulation has dropped over the past 10 years from about 431,000 to 250,000, according to the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com

IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER



Vines bearing pretty little purple flowers with yellow center posts are growing all

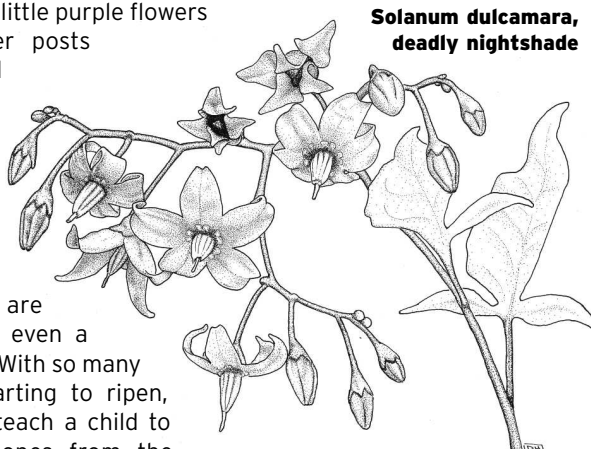
over town in alleys, around ponds and along waterways. These will develop succulent looking red berries later in the month. The plant is known as deadly nightshade and its berries are indeed poisonous. Eating even a few can make one very ill. With so many excellent wild berries starting to ripen, this is a good month to teach a child to discriminate the edible ones from the inedible.

Lakes and ponds may be reported to have a "toxic algae bloom" as waters get warm. It is unfortunate that algae are blamed for a problem caused by bacteria. The proper name for the offensive goop is cyanobacteria. Maybe if we start calling it "blue green bacteria" instead of "blue green algae" the general public will kick its scientific appreciation up a notch.

Queen Anne's lace dances in open grassy areas now. Its flower buds start out in saucer formation, then bulge out like a balloon as the flowers come into full bloom. Later in the season most of these clusters will have a dark, purplish maroon sterile flower in the middle. This is a dead fly decoy, a mimic that attracts flies to come and pollinate. As the seeds mature the flower cluster turns in on itself again, often harboring a spider in the urn-like center of the seed cluster.

The August full moon is a pleasure to behold. Gaze at the moon before bedtime the 23rd.

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



Solanum dulcamara, deadly nightshade

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