

EUGENEANS CONCERNED FOR BAHÁ'ÍS IN IRAN

The Bahá'ís of Eugene will hold a day of prayer Sunday in response to Iran's continued persecution of members of the Bahá'í faith.

The religion holds that Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad are all messengers of God and their religions represent a stage in the spiritual development of humanity.

Bahá'ís believe that the Bahá'u'lláh is the latest of these messengers and that his message is one of unity.

The Bahá'í community of Iran, numbering about 300,000 people, is the largest non-Muslim religious minority in that country. Bahá'í youth are denied entry to Iran's colleges and universities while Bahá'í adults are denied jobs and business licenses. Since August 2004, 335 Bahá'ís have been arrested in Iran, according to Marcia Veach, public information officer for the Eugene-Springfield Bahá'í communities.

As the situation for the Bahá'ís in Iran has worsened, the Bahá'í International Community has reached out in an open letter to Iran's judiciary, requesting that the Bahá'ís be granted their full rights of citizenship, she said.

In December, the U.N. General Assembly supported a resolution that expressed "deep concern at serious ongoing and recurring human rights violations." In more than two decades of such resolutions about Iran, the vote passed with one of the highest percentages ever.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden has been in the forefront of a Senate resolution (SR 694)

condemning the treatment of the Bahá'ís and other religious minorities in Iran. Resolutions, unlike laws, are nonbinding.

"It's clear that just continuing to shine a light on these injustices does make a difference," said Veach.

A day of prayer will be held beginning at 10 am Sunday, Jan. 9, at the Eugene Bahá'í Center, 1458 Alder St. The Bahá'ís will be joined by special guest Dr. Feridoon Rahimi, who, along with his family, suffered persecution in Iran because of his faith.

For more information: 541-344-3173 www.EugeneBahai.com — Heather Cyrus

HERBICIDE SPRAY AT SCHOOL

Rural Triangle Lake Charter School in Blachly is surrounded by a clearcut. On Dec. 31, three acres of that former forest — right behind the school where students resumed classes three days later — were "chopped and squirted" with an herbicide called Arsenal.

In the fall of 2008 Weyerhaeuser clearcut 50 acres of its land around the school and offered to cut five acres of the school's trees as well because the school board was told at the time that the school's trees would blow down with the surrounding forest gone, possibly damaging the school buildings.

Jan Wroncy of Forestland Dwellers, who supplies *EW* with our weekly pesticide spray schedule, says the commercial Weyerhaeuser timberland has to be cleared of weeds and made "free to grow" under Oregon Department of Forestry rules. But Wroncy says when it comes to school lands, it should be "letting the kids be free to grow," not exposing them to toxics.

She says Arsenal's ingredient imazapyr breaks down into quinolinic acid, which is



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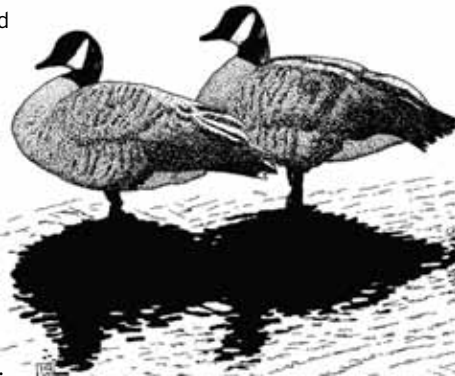
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IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER



A goose rearing up in the water and flapping his wings is goose sign language that means, "I'm beating my chest. This is my pond and my spouse." During breeding and nesting season male birds are aggressive and territorial. But as soon as the young are out and able to take care of themselves, most will become friendly again, moving around in groups for safety. Similarly, the flocks of warblers, bush tits and finches coming to your feeders this time of the year will break up as nesting season approaches. You'll see the friendly flocks again this fall.



It's ironic that humans seem to be in breeding season hostility throughout the year.

Remember to clean outside birdseed feeders regularly, at least once a week. When they get damp, which happens even in sheltered spots, mold grows quickly. Some of the molds are toxic to birds and all of them will clog up the bird feeder port and prevent birds from getting anything. Birds will appreciate a supply of fresh water, too.

Some years won't allow it but if you have a good seed supply, be bold and plant early. Last year I planted my first row of arugula on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and it germinated within 10 days. On Valentine's Day I planted the second row of arugula and a bed of snap peas. Both gave good harvests despite the crazy, cold spring we had. This kind of boldness works best with well drained, sandy loam in raised beds.

David Wagner is a botanist and writer who lives in Eugene. The Canada geese drawing is from his 2011 Willamette Valley Nature Calendar, available at Down to Earth Home and Garden Store and the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

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