

ACTIVIST ALERT

• The Lane Peace Center's fourth annual **Peace Symposium**, "Water for Life, Not for Profit," will be Friday, April 15, at the new Longhouse at LCC's main campus. Free and open to the public. Speakers include Winnemem Wintu tribal chief Caleen Sisk-Franco and headman Marc Franco, Takelma Indian elder Agnes Baker Pilgrim, water justice activist Debbie Davis of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, Teresa Huntsinger of the Oregon Environmental Coalition, and Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy. The morning session begins at 10 am, afternoon sessions are at 1 pm and the main session is from 6 to 9:30 pm. Suggested donation is \$10 for the symposium and reception. More information at <http://www.lanecce.edu/peacecenter> or see Stan Taylor's Viewpoint this week.

• The **Oregon League of Conservation Voters'** 14th annual celebration for the environment will be Friday, April 15, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. See www.olcv.org for tickets and reservations.

• Oregon House and Senate **committees on redistricting** have begun public hearings around the state. Local hearings are planned for 10 am to 1 pm Saturday, April 16, at the UO Knight Law Center, Room 175, in Eugene, and from 3:30 to 6:30 pm the same day at Forum 104, Linn Benton Community College in Corvallis. More information at <http://wklyws/11g>

• Cascadia Wildlands is hosting a showing of **Lords of Nature** at 5:30 pm Tuesday, April 19, in McKenzie Room 240-C at UO. The film was made by Oregonians Karen and Rolf Meyer about nature's predators, including **wolves, in the ecosystem**. There will be a panel discussion at the end of the film about gray wolves in Oregon that will include Cristina Eisenburg, a prominent OSU ecologist studying wolves in Yellowstone.

• Lane County Commissioner Pete Sorenson and his guest, Nick Walker, will discuss improving democracy through the development of new **social internet technology**, from 5:45 to 7:15 pm Wednesday, April 20, at Market of Choice, 29th and Willamette in Eugene. The discussion will include "enabling community participation and enhancing the fidelity of representation within our existing system of government to the

development of a progressive, modern democratic system that enables communities of any size to deliberate, make decisions, and author legislation."

• The **Oregon Department of Forestry** is inviting public comment on its draft plans to guide management of the state-owned forests. The comment period opened April 11 on plans proposed for the approximately 821,000 acres of public forestland managed by ODF. These plans describe specific activities such as timber sales and reforestation, road building, stream enhancement and recreation projects on the state forests. Deadline for written comments is 5 pm May 25. The plans are available for review at all ODF district offices, and online at <http://wklyws/11t>

• A new local group, **We the People-Eugene**, has formed to help facilitate a constitutional amendment process to reverse Supreme Court interpretations granting corporations the same constitutional rights as people. To get involved, call 255-2946 or email wethepeopleeugene@gmail.com for more information.

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*Steven Yeager
Willamette National Forest, Oregon*

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A Passion for Plants

I first gazed upon the pearly bloom of a *Trillium ovatum* 15 years ago. When I began to study botany and wildcrafting in the cascades that year, I discovered that these enchanting lilies were being harvested and sold on the herb market. The thought of our old growth forests without the beloved western *Trillium* was heartbreaking. Thankfully, I was not alone and through conservation we can still enjoy these harbingers of spring.

Today, I teach my students that ethical wildharvesting requires a relationship not only with the plants we use, but with the complex ecosystems where the plants grow. With that relationship comes the immense responsibility of stewardship.

It's this commitment to stewardship that shapes my work as Quality Control Manager at Mountain Rose Herbs. I strive to raise industry standards and preserve our ethical foundation, and will never compromise the quality of herbal products we carry or the health of the unique ecology we all treasure.

Steven Yeager
Lab & Quality Control Manager

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