

geranium lucidum, or shiny geranium, the site's newest unwelcome guest, according to Heidt.

These little green, almost clover shaped, leaves create a lush-looking carpet on the ground of many of the denser forested areas in the arboretum.

"It's awful and spreading everywhere," said Heidt.

It's not certain how these two invasive species got to the Willamette Valley, but it could have happened one of three ways.

According to Tom LoCascio, Mount Pisgah site manager, people could have brought blackberries over long ago because they saw economic value in having these fruit-bearing plants available to them and their community.

A second way is the same way earthworms got here — ships from other continents used soil and sand as ballast to balance out the load. When the ships got into port, the unloaded soil could have spread seeds from other countries on to our shores.

The third way, and how most invasives are being spread now, is by hitchhiking.

Seeds can be caught on people's cars, clothes, dogs, hiking gear and especially boots. Both Heidt and LoCascio strongly urge hikers to be aware of where they go and to always take the time to clean their gear before and after hiking (this includes your dogs if you bring them) to insure that no invasive seeds are being spread into our park areas as well as other areas around the country.

Not all nonnatives are invasive. Agricultural plants, fruit trees and flowers such as the tulips and daffodils blooming all around us now are a few of the positive visitors you can plant in your backyard garden. Heidt recommends anything that doesn't spread.

"They're nonnative but they don't take over an area; you don't walk into a forest and see it completely covered in daffodils," said Heidt.

If you're looking for fruit bearers to replace those dreaded blackberries, Diane Wennstrom, the bedding plant buyer from Gray's Garden Center in Eugene, recommends noninvasive, nonnative berries such as raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. And if you're looking for something a little more robust, like fruit trees, she says to go for apple, pear, peach and cherry trees.

For more information and to get involved with the volunteer work parties at Mount Pisgah visit mountpisgaharboretum.org. — *Chelsea Fryhoff*

SENECA SEEKS TO LOG OLD GROWTH

Seneca Jones Timber and Seneca Sawmill are fighting to log an old-growth forest in the McKenzie watershed — the source of Eugene's drinking water. The timber sale has spurred protests as has Seneca's new biomass burning cogeneration plant.

Trapper was first proposed as a timber sale in 1998, and according to Josh Laughlin of Cascadia Wildlands, which has been battling the sale in the courts. "Trapper doesn't reflect the direction the Forest Service has been headed the last five to 10 years," Laughlin says. Seneca has refused an alternative volume of timber offered by the Forest Service, he adds.

EWEB Commissioner Joann Ernst, who held a sign protesting old-growth logging at Trapper during a protest of the May 5 Seneca grand opening, says that in 2005 the Eugene City Council passed a resolution asking the Forest Service not to log old-growth forests in the McKenzie River watershed, and she has asked the council to send a letter to Seneca asking it not to log Trapper and other old growth. Ernst was speaking as a citizen and not in her role as EWEB commissioner.

EWEB Commissioner Rich Cunningham recently got a motion passed to write a draft resolution at the June 7 EWEB board meeting that would censor Ernst for her comments on Seneca's old-growth logging.

The 149-acre Trapper area has been under contract to be logged by Seneca since 2003. Laughlin says that the Forest Service recently pulled six prime acres of threatened spotted owl habitat out of the sale after a consultation with the Fish and Wildlife service. Trapper is habitat for red tree voles, the food of choice for northern spotted owls, and owls have been seen there as well.

The Trapper timber sale has been held up in the past by biological opinions that were found to be illegal, Laughlin says. A recent site-specific biological opinion under the new spotted owl recovery plan is no better, he says, calling the effects analysis to endangered species "bungled."

Laughlin says there has been a "voluntary stay from all the parties until the case is briefed" on logging Trapper, but that stay will be lifted at the end of July, when the spotted owl-nesting season ends.

Activists from Cascadia Forest Defenders and Ecosystem Advocates Northwest, who held signs and banners at the Seneca protest, have expressed concern that logging slash from Trapper and older ancient forests could be burned in the plant. The state of Oregon gives companies "biomass producer or collector tax credits," which Seneca could be earning in addition to millions in federal and state credits for its biomass burning facility. For more on biomass see *EW* cover 5/12. — *Camilla Mortensen*



PHOTO BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

Joann Ernst at Seneca

EARLY DEADLINES

EW offices will be closed Memorial Day Monday, May 30. The early deadline for reserving display ad space in our June 2 Summer Guide issue is 5 pm Thursday, May 26. For more information, call 484-0519.

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