

NO CANOLA TO BE PLANTED THIS FALL

Canola (aka rapeseed) opponents are celebrating the announcement that canola will not be planted in the Willamette Valley this year. The Oregon Court of Appeals has put a stay on a temporary rule that would have allowed the controversial crop to be planted in an expanded area this fall on about 480,000 acres in the valley.

Canola is grown as a food crop and for biofuels, but vegetable and specialty seed producers say the plant acts like a weed, cross-contaminates with vegetable seed crops like turnips and rutabagas, and conventional canola seed is often contaminated by genetically modified (GMO) canola. The Willamette Valley has had a 3.7 million acre zone from Portland to Springfield that protected Oregon's \$32 million a year seed industry from canola contamination. The new rule would have allowed canola at the edges of the zone.

Leah Rodgers, field director for Friends of Family Farmers, which was part of the case along with the Center for Food Safety, Frank Morton of Wild Garden Seed and others, said in a Labor Day weekend announcement about the ruling that the fight is not over. The Oregon Department of Agriculture has filed for permanent rulemaking on canola. Unlike the temporary rulemaking, the permanent rule does allow for public input. Rodgers said that allowing canola in the valley "would change the face of the Willamette Valley, the lives and livelihoods of growers and the economic security of this state."

The Oregon Court of Appeals wrote that FFF and its fellow petitioners demonstrated "the requisite prospect of irreparable harm" in their petition for a stay on the rule. And the court said

it also took into account the "vehemently disputed" environmental and economic impacts of allowing rapeseed in valley put forth by Oregonians for Food and Shelter in an amicus brief.

The court ruled that the canola opponents had a "very substantial likelihood of prevailing on the merits" in the case, and at one point it called the ODA's statement on what would happen if canola was not planted "inscrutable."

A public hearing on the permanent canola rule has been scheduled for 9 am Friday, Sept. 28, at Cascade Hall at the Oregon State Fairgrounds, 2330 17th St. NE, in Salem. For more information on the canola control area issue and the proposed permanent rule, go to wkly.ws/1c4

— Camilla Mortensen

KANNABOSM SHOP BUSTED

Eugeneans who don't want their tax dollars used to investigate and raid medical marijuana facilitators have a lot to complain about in the latest Oregon raid.

The Lane County Interagency Narcotics Team, with the help of other agencies, raided Kannabosm Medicinal Cannabis Resource Center, the Oregon Medical Marijuana Permit-only club at 401 W 11th Ave., on Thursday, Aug. 30, and confiscated all marijuana, computers, files and cash on the premises. Kannabosm owner Curtis Shimmin and his nephew, Austin Mullins, were pulled over earlier that day, arrested and their vehicle impounded. Four other properties owned by or otherwise associated with Shimmin in Eugene and Douglas County were also raided.

A Lane County press release listed the confiscated property as "several pounds of processed bulk marijuana, numerous packages of marijuana and hashish packaged for sale, numerous packages of food and beverage products suspected of containing marijuana derivatives also packaged for sale, 105 growing marijuana plants from three of the locations weighing more than 400 pounds along with additional evidence of distribution and money laundering."

"There were three legal gardens that were completely, totally legal, permits in place, plant numbers under the

allowable," Shimmin says. "None of the gardens belong to me. I allowed three people to grow their medicine on my properties. Those gardens were cut down. All the patients' medicine at all the locations was seized."

As *EW* went to press, Shimmin says neither he nor Mullins have been formally charged, but Shimmin says that he was arrested for possession, delivery, manufacturing, tampering with evidence and money laundering. Sgt. Carrie Carver of the Lane County Sheriff's Office says the lack of charges could be due to a number of factors, including a lack of evidence, not enough prosecutors to continue the case or investigators waiting to gather more information before filing.

Patients who used Kannabosm to acquire marijuana will now do so on the street, Shimmin says, and instead of smoking locally grown marijuana, they're more likely to smoke weed that cartels will profit from. "It's going to impact my patients incredibly. There will be several hundred. We've had close to 2,000 patients come through the club since opening [in 2011]," he says. "It will force most of them back to the street to operate on the black market for their medicine. They have no other choice. That's why we opened this facility, so people could have safe access to medicine."

Shimmin says he's taken pains to ensure that Kannabosm is compliant with Oregon's medical marijuana statutes. "I consult and have on retainer attorneys that have gone through my model and have told me that it's completely, 100 percent legal" according to Oregon law, he says. The actions of the narcotics team "are completely against the voters."

The OMMP law states that growers can be reimbursed for the cost of growing marijuana, but they may not profit from it.

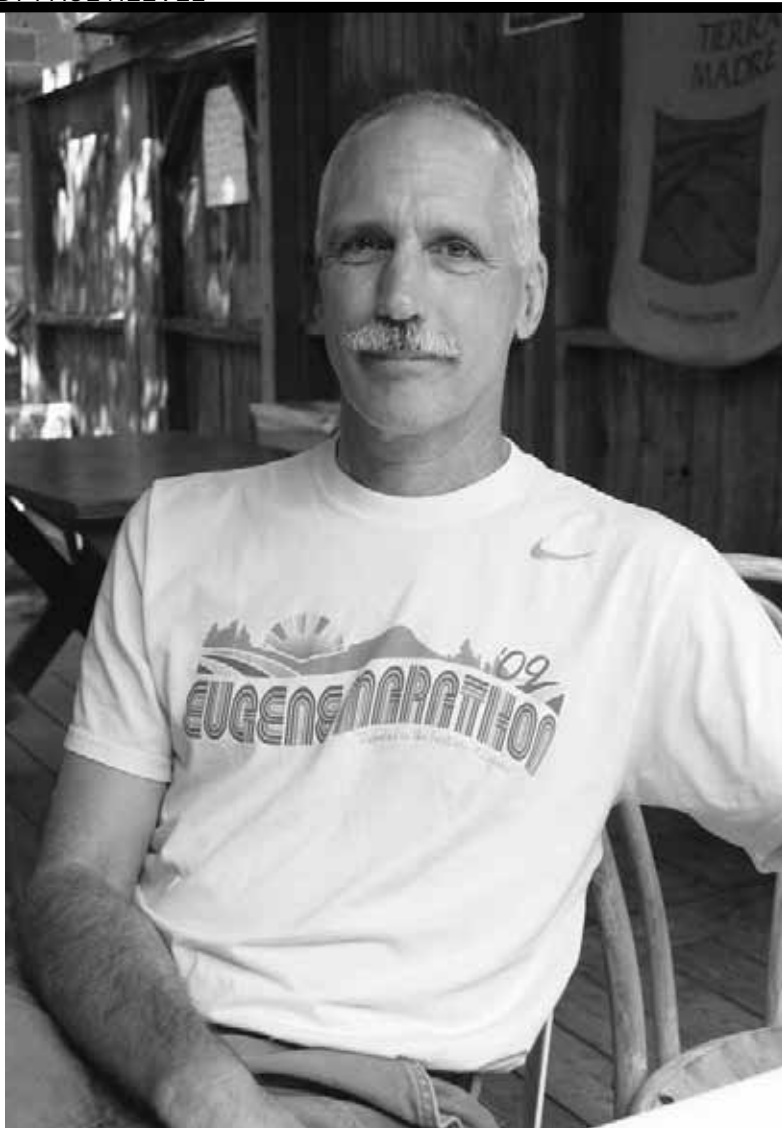
In addition to the cost of executing the five raids, Shimmin says officers were posted outside of the locations from the time he was arrested until the nighttime busts, and he says there was also a prior investigation. "It has to be tens of thousands of dollars," he says of the total cost. "Obviously the investigation took a substantial amount of man-hours, time, energy, taxpayers' money."

Shimmin and other Kannabosm volunteers are starting a letter-writing campaign directed at local officials in an effort to reacquire the confiscated marijuana. Learn more at <http://wkly.ws/1cm> — Shanon Finnell

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

TOM TITUS

"I grew up outside," says Tom Titus, whose parents moved, when he was 3, to 25 acres on Cedar Flat, east of Springfield. "I had the run of pastures and hills. Our family vacations were outdoor activities." Titus graduated from Western Oregon with a degree in biology, then worked seasonally at the Sunriver Nature Center where he met his wife, Kim. They moved to Kansas and had two kids, Alex and Laurel, while he earned a Ph.D. in evolutionary genetics. "I worked with salamanders," he notes, "one of my favorite animals from Oregon." After two years as a researcher in St. Louis, he landed a grant and brought it to the UO in 1994. He was later hired as a researcher at the UO's Institute of Neurology. "I work on fish genetics now," says Titus, who traveled to the Antarctic in March to study the icefish, "but I still teach a summer class on the amphibians and reptiles of Oregon." A board member of the Eugene Natural History Society for 15 years and currently its president, he will lead off the society's 2012-13 lecture season in September. An avid writer, as well as a gardener, bee keeper, clam digger and mushroomer, Titus will launch his first book, *Blackberries in July: A Forager's Guide to Inner Peace*, rooted in his childhood memories, with a reading at 7 pm Nov. 15 at Tsunami Books.



ACTIVIST ALERT

- **Western Environmental Law Center's** Eugene headquarters is planning a fundraising "Garden Workshop for Every Type of Gardener" from 10 am to 1 pm Saturday, Sept. 8, at Northwest Garden Nursery. Cost is \$50 and includes lunch. To register or for directions, visit westernlaw.org or email marlette@westernlaw.org or call 359-3240.

- The Lane County Chapter of the ACLU of Oregon is holding a series of "**Civil Conversations**" from 5:30 to 7 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Café Yumm, 730 E. Broadway. The next is Sept. 11 on the PATRIOT Act and the National Defense Authorization Act with Gregory J. Hazarabedian, Executive Director, Public Defender Services of Lane County, Inc. See www.aclu-or.org

- The 11th anniversary event of the **Interfaith Prayer Services** will be at 7 pm Tuesday, Sept. 11, at First Christian Church, 1150 Oak St. in Eugene. Speakers will include Mayor Kitty Piercy, the Rev. Dan Bryant, Rabbi Yitzhak Husbands-Hankin and presentations from many of the world's faith traditions. See www.interfaithprayer.org for more information.

- A community presentation by **Jan Spencer and Ravi Logan** on "Creating A Safer, More Secure and Greener Neighborhood" will be at 7 pm Wednesday, Sept. 12, at First United Methodist Church in Eugene, 1376 Alder St. The presentation is a "unique fusion of urban land use, global trends, economics, permaculture, human potential, social activation and concern for the natural environment," says Spencer. See www.suburbanpermaculture.org

- The **Latin America Solidarity Committee** will host a benefit concert from 6:30 to 9:30 pm Friday, Sept. 14, at New Day Bakery, 449 Blair Blvd. Cost is \$3 to \$10 sliding scale. Call 485-8633 for more information.

- Eugene City Councilor **Betty Taylor's re-election campaign** is building up for the last two months and those wishing to donate, volunteer or take a lawn sign can email her at bettyltaylor@gmail.com

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our cover story on "Problem Solving Stoves" last week we wrote about Institutional Stove Solutions and called it "ISS" on subsequent references and photo credits. We have since heard the nonprofit does not use that acronym, but instead prefers "InStove."