

IT'S ABOUT TIME BY DAVID WAGNER



**CASCADES FROG,
RANA CASCADAE**

This must be nature's designation of the Year of the Nut. Filbert trees all around town have an abundance of swelling husks. When growing close to the curb, nuts are being knocked off their branches by passing trucks and smashed on the street by subsequent traffic. Squirrels and crows leap out onto the street to snatch up the soft, as yet unripe, meat of the seed inside, what we call a nut. Walnuts are also showing a major crop, especially the Turkish walnuts, in abandoned orchards and back yards. This means lots of little walnut seedlings in flower beds next spring, planted by squirrels this fall.

Mountain meadows are full of wildflowers and butterflies. Butterflies are as fun to watch with binoculars as birds. It's important to use binocs that focus up close, so their beauty can be fully appreciated.

The dry spring seems to be holding the mosquito level down in mountain meadows. The rapidly shrinking ponds have tadpoles with legs. They need to metamorphose quickly or perish!

Where there are permanent streamlets in high mountains fed by cold water springs, one may see native frogs in the quiet pools. Most common is the Cascades frog. It is not a rare species but recently observed declining numbers are a cause for concern. Two sources of the decline are suspected. One is increased UV radiation from the sun. The other is the spread of parasites by trout planted in high mountain lakes. Effects of global warming are yet unknown.

David Wagner is a botanist who has worked in Eugene for more than 30 years. He teaches nature drawing and moss identification classes. Visit his website: fernzenmosses.com

The going's easy in summertime...



Mural tour by bike.

Saturday, August 17th at 10 a.m. a free 2-hour tour begins at "Oak Savannah" mural across the street from Ninkasi Brewing, 3rd and Van Buren.

Details at facebook.com/arriving.by.bike
2705 Willamette St • 541.484.5410
Mon.-Fri. 11-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5

arriving by bike
Urban Cycling Outfitters

EUGENE/SRINGFIELD



PRIDE FESTIVAL

Saturday August 10th • Noon to 7:00 PM

Alton Baker Park on the Willamette River
Live Music and Entertainment All Day Long!

Tylan

Ashleigh Flynn

The Sexbots



Food • Beer Garden • Queer Artists' Pavillion
Free - \$5 Suggested Donation

Thanks to the many community organizations and business vendors contributing to this year's festival!



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