

ACTIVIST ALERT

• Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg's fourth **State of the City** address will be at 5:30 pm Thursday, Jan. 9, at City Hall, 225 Fifth St. The event is free and open to the public.

• A gathering to "**Save the Bees**" involving the Pacific Green Party and others will be from 6 to 8 pm Thursday, Jan. 9, at Growers Market, 454 Willamette. The group is gathering to plan a March event with Oregon Sustainable Bee Keepers. See heliosnetwork.org for more information on this and other events.

• **No Kill Lane County** is holding a vigil from noon to 2 pm Saturday, Jan. 11, at First Avenue Shelter, 3970 W. 1st Ave., "to honor the adoptable/treatable animals killed by Greenhill," according to organizers. Find the event on Facebook at wkly.ws/1o2.

• The monthly **Interfaith Service Prayer Service** will be at 6:45 pm Saturday, Jan. 11, at First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St. Last month's service was canceled due to hazardous street conditions. This month's music will include the Eugene Peace Choir.

• **Friends of Civic Stadium** is holding a "fun fundraising event" for the Civic Escrow Account from 7 to 9 pm Saturday, Jan. 11, at Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st. Ave. Live music by The Porch Band. More information at friendsofcivicstadium.org.

• A "**Report Back from Fort Benning**" is planned at 6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Latin America Solidarity Committee (LASC) office, 458 Blair St. Joan Noyce, Aleita Hass-Holcombe and Dorothea Marcomb will talk about their participation in events held at the gates of the School of the Americas in Georgia, which has been renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Potluck at 6 pm.

• Biologist and author **Jim Lichatowich** will discuss the fate of Pacific salmon at 7 pm Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Valley Library on the OSU campus. His new book is *Salmon, People, and Place: A Biologist's Search for Salmon Recovery*, just published by the OSU Press. Also speaking will be Carmel Finley, an OSU scientist, historian and author of *All the Fish in the Sea*. Lichatowich will also speak in a seminar earlier that day, from 4 to 5 pm, in Nash 206 on campus.

• The 16th annual **Martin Luther King Jr. March**, celebration and student contest will begin at 1:30 pm Monday, Jan. 20, at the Springfield Justice Center, 230 4th St. in Springfield. A **community march in Eugene** will begin at 9:30 am that day in the Science Factory parking lot next to Autzen Stadium.

POLLUTION UPDATE

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sent **Pacific Recycling, Inc.** a pre-enforcement notice on Nov. 27 for multiple hazardous waste law violations at its facility on Cross Street in Eugene (off Roosevelt Boulevard). According to DEQ documents, Pacific Recycling recently acquired land on which **J.H. Baxter** used to do wood treatment, resulting in contamination from "arsenical compounds and creosote formulations." Pacific Recycling illegally failed to perform a hazardous waste determination on **874 tons of contaminated soil** generated from construction activities on the recently acquired land and illegally sent it to **Coffin Butte Landfill** in Benton County and **Short Mountain Landfill** in Lane County. DEQ sent warning letters to **Verne Egge** of **Coburg Road Quarry, LLC** and to **Eugene Sand and Gravel** on Dec. 31 for illegally accepting and transporting 12 loads and 18 loads, respectively, of this hazardous waste without required manifests. DEQ gave Pacific Recycling until Dec. 16 to respond to the pre-enforcement notice, and Pacific Recycling failed to do so.

Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project

"It hasn't created a problem; it's displaced a problem," says Alley Valkyrie, a local homeless advocate. She adds that she's not entirely surprised that local businesses aren't thrilled with the camp. "Some of the most hardcore problem people from downtown, the frequent fliers, the drunks, the drug addicts — many of them have taken residence down in Whoville," she says. "Whoville's really speaking right now to the desperate need for wet-bed facilities in Eugene."

Wet beds or wet housing are facilities for homeless people who use drugs and alcohol. The theory is that in addition to humanitarian purposes, that people who will continue to use drugs and alcohol in spite of all consequences should do so in an environment that can be somewhat managed, rather than on the street, where they are recycled in and out of the legal system (see the 2011 *EW* cover story on wet beds at wkly.ws/1bp).

Valkyrie says that putting some money into rest stops or other facilities could achieve a safe place to sleep in a way that's more compatible with the rest of the community, especially given the costs of shuffling chronic drug users and alcoholics through the criminal justice system. She adds, "It's to absolutely no one's benefit to close Whoville and displace the problem again." — *Shannon Finnell*

ECOVILLAGES, ECODISTRICTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Karen Litfin, a University of Washington professor of political science, spent a year traveling and researching her book, *Ecovillages: Lessons for Sustainable Community*. Litfin, along with Deni Ruggeri of the UO's landscape architecture program and Anita Van Asperdt, a local landscape architect, will be discussing "Ecovillages and Ecodistricts: Solutions for Climate Change" at the UO Jan. 13.

Litfin says an ecovillage is "generally an intentional community that has come together trying to live sustainably" and she says that means living ecologically, socially and economically.

In more than 20 years of teaching about global environmental politics at UW, Litfin says she has watched things go from bad to worse in terms of climate change, biodiversity and even optimism about where the world is going. But she

says that looking at ecovillages gives us some basic principles of how we can live together from small communities all the way to the nation-state.

Litfin studied 14 larger, established ecovillages that were part of the Global Ecovillage Network located around the world from Los Angeles to Africa. One of them, Auroville in India, is home to more than 2,000 people and was founded in 1968. Litfin says that despite the diversity in everything from location to religious beliefs, she still found commonalities including a belief that the web of life is sacred, and humanity is an integral part of that web; that global environmental trends are approaching a crisis point, and we need to act; that positive change will come from the bottom up; and that saying yes is a greater source of power than saying no.

"Ecovillages and Ecodistricts" is 4 pm Monday, Jan. 13, in Lawrence Hall room 115 on the UO campus, and it is free and open to the public. For professionals who cannot make the afternoon event, the Eugene Branch of the Cascadia Green Building Council is hosting a noon event at the LCC Downtown Center room 408. — *Camilla Mortensen*

COLUMBIA GORGE COAL CASE ROLLS FORWARD

The Sierra Club, Columbia Riverkeeper and several other conservation groups sued BNSF Railway Company last summer after finding what they call "substantial amounts of coal in and along several Washington waterways near BNSF rail lines." On Jan. 3 the groups celebrated the most recent development in the Clean Water Act case when the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington denied a motion to dismiss, allowing it to go forward.

The case alleges that coal and related pollutants drifting off trains are a violation of the Clean Water Act, which says that dumping into a U.S. waterway without a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit is against federal law.

Open-top coal trains are already going through the Columbia Gorge, and proposed port terminals in Washington and Oregon are vying to ship millions more tons of coal by train from the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming through the Northwest for export to Asia.

IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER

Last month the east Delta Ponds froze and then seven inches of snow fell, making for a rare and beautiful scene. When the snow melted on a single warm day, the ponds revealed dozens of patches of tapering, branching, clear lines radiating outwards from one point. These patterns were evenly spread across the ponds, three to 10 feet in diameter, over inch-thick ice. The mechanism behind the formation of these patterns is a topic of debate among my geophysical friends.

A humorous scene was created by a nutria schlepping across the ice. Its tail left a wavy line in the snow looking like a big snake had crossed the pond. Footprints in each crook of the wavy line gave it away as an animal track. Almost as funny were two Canada geese standing on the ice, seemingly unclear on the concept of ice. The frozen ponds were otherwise devoid of bird life. All the ducks, cormorants, geese, etc., took refuge across the highway in ponds where a current flowing from the river kept open water available.

Although winter for most animals begins with the Solstice, it is the beginning of spring for plants. Days are getting longer. As long as it is above freezing, light is the limiting variable for plants, not temperature. The evergreens are photosynthesizing, sap is rising, the buds swelling. The wind-pollinated trees begin blooming. January allergies come from white alder, filberts and the coast silk tassel tree. All have dangling catkins shedding pollen.

David Wagner is a botanist who lives and plays in Eugene. He created the "Willamette Valley Nature Calendar" for 30 years, ending in 2012. He offers a free download of 2014 calendar pages at: tinyurl.com/wagnercalendar. Contact him at ferenzenmosses@me.com.

GARRYA ELLIPTICA,
COAST SILK TASSEL.
LEFT: MALE CATKIN
SEGMENTS AS SEEN IN
NATURE. RIGHT: CATKIN
CARTOON ILLUSTRATING
STRUCTURE.

