

SLANT

- We would like to assure parents and their children that **Mickey Mouse** lives.

- The **Amazon headwaters keystone** has finally been saved from development and well over 100 people showed up at Tsunami Books Jan. 31 to join the Be Noble Foundation, Southeast Neighbors, Lane County Audubon Society and others to celebrate the long-fought victory. It's a fascinating and often frustrating tale over 15 years of lost opportunities, land speculation, neighborhood activism, dogged determination, community fundraising and finally a public-private partnership in honor of the late Erin Noble who loved this lush area. These fragile, mostly steep 26 acres could have been turned into streets, culverts and homes, but instead dozens of Eugeneans paid attention and took action to preserve the critical headwaters and now-connected ecological corridor for open space, walking trails and wildlife. Councilor Betty Taylor was one city official who stood with the opponents of development over the years. More work remains to be done. See be-noble.org for how to help.

- **Something we were reminded of** at the Amazon headwaters celebration from land-use advocate Kevin Matthews: Aerial analysis of the Amazon headwaters using LIDAR (Light Detection



and Ranging] indicates a long history of landslides hidden below the trees and other foliage. *EW* wrote about this back in 2008. LIDAR is a very useful tool that city and county planners could and should use to avoid developing vulnerable sites such as the Amazon headwaters.

- Great fun to have **Tony Corcoran's spicy words** back in *EW* at the start of the 2015 Oregon legislative session. Longtime readers will remember

his "Insider Baseball" columns during some previous sessions. We want to add the perspective that the hard work of many women helped increase the D majority in this election. The *Salem Statesman Journal* predicts in a headline that "Women Will Guide Oregon Legislature in 2015." We look to both our own Rep. Val Hoyle, House majority leader, and Rep. Tina Kotek, Portland Democrat and House speaker, to be powerful players. This should be a heads up for the rest of the country.

- We hear Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor** will be speaking at City Club of Eugene May 1, and apparently one reason she will be in Lane County is to do a little flyfishing, maybe on our world-famous McKenzie River. Lucky is the river guide who gets this customer, but it might be stressful with a pack of Secret Service guys rowing nearby, scaring the trout.

- Well, this is one way to **get people back in libraries**: Last October, former OSU student Kendra Sunderland, 19, filmed herself masturbating in the stacks of OSU's Valley Library. The video came to the attention of Oregon State Police after it was anonymously posted to Pornhub.com, racking up 260,000-plus views before removal. The video has made national headlines, landing on *Playboy's* website with the headline "Large-breasted blonde films porn in Oregon State library; Campus freaks out." The police issued Sunderland a citation for public indecency. While Sunderland's motives are unclear, online discussions on sites like Reddit point out that many students turn to webcam modeling and amateur porn to help pay tuition. Consider this a stark reminder of two contemporary truths: Tuition costs are too high and privacy does not exist on the internet.

IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER

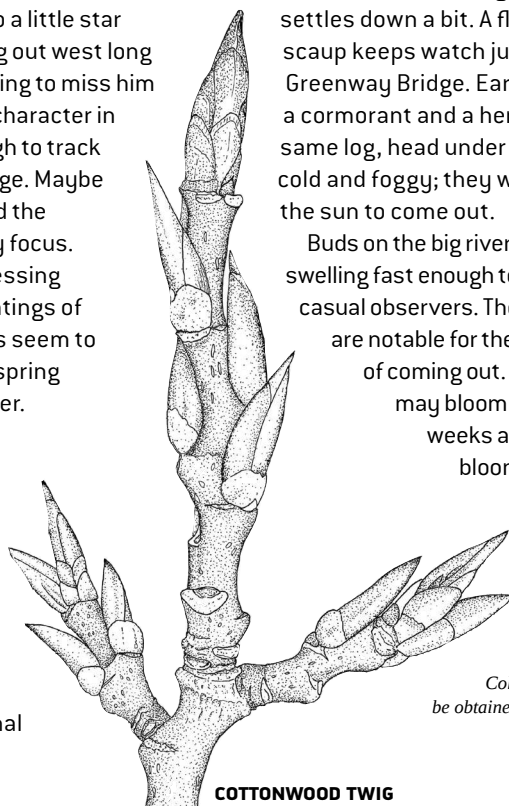
Looking up at a rare starry sky in January, even rarer because of a warm night, I was drawn to do a little star gazing. Orion is heading out west long before midnight. I'm going to miss him because there is no summer character in the sky that I know well enough to track the spring-summer-fall passage. Maybe a little gazing this July will find the constellation that attracts my focus.

Flower watchers are witnessing an odd year. Unexpected sightings of truly precocious early blooms seem to indicate an early spring. But spring is far off; winter is far from over. Last year February brought a late snowfall in the valley followed immediately by a spectacular ice rain. We suffered long dry spells several times. Global warming means climate change which produces erratic weather fluctuations, which messes with the internal clocks of plants.

As the river returns to normal winter levels, the flow through Delta Ponds settles down a bit. A flock of lesser scaup keeps watch just below the Greenway Bridge. Early in the morning a cormorant and a heron share the same log, head under a wing. It was cold and foggy; they were waiting for the sun to come out.

Buds on the big riverbank trees are swelling fast enough to be noticed by casual observers. The cottonwoods are notable for their long season of coming out. Individual trees may bloom as much as six weeks apart. Only the first bloomers have fat buds in February.

David Wagner is a botanist and artist working in Eugene. He has created the new "Oregon Nature Calendar and Coloring Book" which can be obtained at fernzenmosses.com.



COTTONWOOD TWIG



Some yahoo or two dumped their vehicle ashtrays behind this building near 13th and Charnelton. Hey people! Cig butts make up some of the nastiest trash on the planet and billions of them end up washing into our rivers and beaches, harming wildlife. This toxic litter can persist in our environment for many years. Pick 'em up.