

IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER

GREAT BLUE HERON NEST

Do birds return to the same nest year after year? All winter, when the deciduous trees are bare, I look at clots of debris high in their branches and try to pick out which are just clumps of leaves and which are nests. The obstacle to solving this puzzle is that the old nests are obscured by leaves by the time birds might come back. The trees leaf out before most birds begin nesting. It's hard to tell if the nests are used again.

Only occasional observations have presented themselves over the past years of bird watching. Chickadees nested in one of our nest boxes two years in a row. A spotted towhee has nested in the hedge across the street for five or more years. And the herons down by the ponds start their nesting season long before the cottonwoods leaf out. The East Delta Pond rookery broke up 15 years ago when a pair of bald eagles started marauding their young. The number of active nests plummeted, probably fledging no young heron in some years. There has been resurgence this spring: Six nests are being tended. Four are old ones, two are new or dramatically refurbished. It will be interesting to see how they fare through the season.

Extra warm, sunny days, the ones that approach record highs, bring out everybody to stretch their wings. Literally in the case of birds, figuratively in the case of quiescent snakes and dozing turtles. And, of course, me too!

David Wagner is a botanist who has lived in Eugene for more than 30 years. He teaches moss classes and leads nature walks. He may be reached at fernzenmosses@me.com.

THAT'S MY FARMER OFFERS MEET AND GREET WITH LOCAL FARMS

Community supported agriculture (CSA) is booming: Winter Green Farm in Noti delivers fresh farm produce to about 500 members each week, up from 35 members when it first started 24 years ago.

"Local food is rockin' it," says Linda Davies, Winter Green Farm's office and CSA manager. Add a community supported fishery (CSF) to the mix and the Oregon-grown food scene looks even better.

To celebrate Lane County's love of food grown and produced locally, First United Methodist Church is hosting the 16th Annual That's My Farmer Celebration on April 14. A fundraiser to help low-income families participating in CSAs, the event allows visitors to meet farmers from 15 local farms and sign up to have a CSA box full of fruits and vegetables delivered each week.

"It's a chance to say to people, 'Here are your farmers,'" says Leah Geocaris, an organizer for That's My Farmer. "Here are the people growing food locally, and here's how you can support them."

CSAs are important to local farmers, Davies says, and she estimates that about a third of her farm's income is sourced from CSA members. "We find that people come out to compare and explore the different farms," she says, "and most farmers go home with at least one new membership."

Attendees of That's My Farmer can also expect to sample produce from the various farms. Davies says Winter Green Farm is bringing beet chocolate cupcakes.

Geocaris says this is the first year the event will feature a community supported fishery, Port Orford Sustainable Seafood. Members can purchase a full share for \$110 a month, which includes 8 pounds of seafood, enough to provide four meals over the course of a month.

"Right now we have open enrollment all year every year until we reach our maximum of around 400 members, and we're currently at around half of that, with members evenly distributed between the northern and southern half of the state," says Michael Baran, the fishery's CSF program manager.

Baran says that Eugene CSF members can pick up their seafood, including lingcod, black cod, rockfish and Dungeness crab, at Beezup's Farm in Eugene.

The event is also a fundraiser — last year, it raised over \$4,000 for low-income assistance, helping out families who can't afford CSA membership on their own.

That's My Farmer is 6 pm Tuesday, April 14, at First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St.; \$10-\$15 suggested donation. — Amy Schneider



YOU CAN MEET THE FARMERS, BUT NOT THE DRAFT HORSES OF RUBY AND AMBER'S FARM ON APRIL 14

GET OMMP CERTIFIED

- MEDICAL MARIJUANA CERTIFICATION
 - Primary Care • CHIROPRACTIC
- NO RECORDS? NO PROBLEM! —



**SOUTHERN OREGON
ALTERNATIVE
MEDICINE**

SERVING ALL
OF OREGON



**14
YEARS
OF
SERVICE**

ESTABLISHED & RESPECTED FOR OVER 14 YEARS

541-844-1708

1401-B MARKET ST. SPRINGFIELD OR
SouthernOregonAlternativeMedicine.com

Your Medical Marijuana Facility

**GRATEFUL
MEDS**
Oregon

FINE MEDIBLES
TOP QUALITY FLOWERS
CONCENTRATES

SPRINGFIELD

1401-A MARKET ST.
SPRINGFIELD, OR
541-636-3489

WWW.GRATEFULMEDS.COM

**Green Room
Medical Marijuana
DISPENSARY**

2521 NW 9th Street, Corvallis

420 Raffle

A ticket for every
\$30 spent between
March 29th & April 20th
Double tickets on Friday.



Win all
of this!

VJ's Medibles

available at Green Room Dispensary (OMMP only)