

can be,” Brown says. “Indie Game Con is the flashpoint. The public sees it, investors see it and the government sees it.”

This year, Brown and fellow organizers received \$5,000 in sponsorships and a \$10,000 economic development grant from Lane County for Indie Game Con.

“It’s time to move past timber and make some tech,” Brown says.

Emerald Valley Comic Fest — not to be confused with Eugene Comic Con (EUCON), which takes place in November — happens the same weekend as Indie Game Con.

The fest is a form of “comic con,” a pop culture event that celebrates comic books, movies, television shows, artists, writers and more.

John Roach, the fest’s organizer and promoter, says the event is one of about 10 events he hopes to produce in Oregon, Idaho and Washington in the next few years, including the possibility of an anime show in Eugene.

Roach says when Cherry City Comic Con in Salem fell through due to bad management last year, he swooped in and took over this spring. “So many people were telling me that it was the most fun show they had ever been to,” he says. The show inspired him to put on more events elsewhere, he says.

Roach, who lives west of Salem in Dallas, says the fest will feature more than 20 artists and celebrity guests, including Nicholas Brendon from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and Cody Saintgune from *Teen Wolf*.

“It’s a place where you can be yourself and you don’t have to worry about being judged — just go there and have fun with other people who are there to have fun,” Roach says.

Royce Myers, producer of EUCON in November, says he started developing EUCON last year and hopes it has a positive impact on the local community. “I’m grateful to have the opportunity to give Eugene its first locally produced comic

>>> CONTINUED ON P. 10

FRIED CHICKEN MUSHROOM,
LYOPHYLLUM DECASTES

IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER



Well, the summer has slipped past the equinox without much fanfare, as usual. All we need is for the rainy season to begin and fall will be here. When the bigleaf maple loses its leaves, the licorice ferns uncurl on its branches. Or, as they say in Alaska, “when the fireweed goes to cotton, the summer’s soon forgotten.”

The little birds are crowding our feeders as if we were the only source of suet and finch seed in the neighborhood. They are molting right now, so they have fresh flight feathers for safe migration, more fluff for warmth, and less color to avoid notice by predators. The sunflower seed chunks seem to be particularly desirable.

There is something similar going on down in the east side Delta Pond that had so much red *Azolla* [mosquito fern] last year. The *Azolla* has been replaced by a dense cover of duckweed, both the common duckweed and tiny water meal duckweed. I counted over 75 ducks on the day after the equinox, more than I’ve ever seen in that pond. Mallards were in the majority but plenty of other species are present. They were all scooping up the floating feast.

As soon as the rains come, we can plant our winter greens. They grow slowly but have fewer pests than spring-planted salad. The rains will bring on the wild mushroom crop. Only the chanterelles are reliable producers. Learn about mushroom diversity at the Mushroom Festival Oct. 25 at Mount Pisgah Arboretum.



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