

# Frig•get, Frig•get, Frig•get, It's winter

One of the reasons I love this region, and Eugene in particular, is that our winters are friendly. In the past I've even said we have no winter, that we have a rainy season that stitches together fall and spring. On almost any day we can take a walk without feeling we are struggling with the elements. Even when it snows, as is happening as I write, the stormy weather is transitory.

The hawks are perched in the trees, hunting, and the herons are keeping vigil by the neighborhood ponds, fishing. In these ponds the Canada geese tend to sit very still this time of the year. They seem to be in deep meditation as they rest on logs. Coots and grebes on the other hand, are always swimming about or diving. The tree frogs are starting to croak. More like "creeeeek," actually. I think they are just warming up their vocal cords since the robust "frig•getting" hasn't started.

The plant world is active, too. The largest herbaceous perennial leaves one sees coming out of the ground now, are those of poison hemlock. Seedlings of winter annuals are well past the cotyledon stage. Mosses on

the fence have their spore capsules growing tall, starting to produce the spores inside. Spore dispersal will take place when the weather warms up and the capsules dry out.

I notice the lichens on a rock next to our walk route. The colonies are greater than my hand, two starting to grow together. Over the past years I've watched them grow from disks only about two inches across. What a fine project it would be to take a picture of this rock every January and document the lichens' growth! I wonder if we couldn't embark on a society group project in which members of ENHS would choose a site to follow through either the seasons of one year or over several years. We could share the pictures on the society web site. If anybody is interested in participating in this change-documentation project, please email or call me.

Speaking of the web site, it is time to declare our appreciation for Joe Ross, our webmaster. Joe has kept our site as up to date as possible, uploading material as it comes to him. This past October his family grew, and now Joe has a newborn to look after along with his work; it's



time for him to pass the baton. First, a round of applause for Joe. Now, we need a volunteer to take over the project. Again, if anybody is interested, please email me.

We need to talk about another upcoming activity of the Eugene Natural History Society. We have scheduled a bike path cleanup for our adopted section, March 4. We'll meet at 10AM on the north bank bike path, just under the Ferry Street Bridge. It usually takes about two hours to police the path. Then, those who can stay, relax with a Sunday lunch at McMinamen's where we started. We collect trinkets and trash, rain or shine--well, almost. A few years there WAS a HUGE storm on the Sunday of a scheduled bike path cleanup and we postponed the event. In order to facilitate this, it's good to know who is interested. Please email or call me to show your interest.

Finally, let me pass on a personal invitation to ENHS members to come on a winter walk at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum. It takes place from 1-3 in the afternoon on Saturday, January 20, the day after our January program meeting. My intention is to focus on the plants for whom winter is particularly wonderful, the mosses, liverworts, lichens and ferns.



I hope to hear from you. See you soon. Call: 344-3327 or email: [davidwagner@mac.com](mailto:davidwagner@mac.com).

Thanks Joe

