

# OREGON Life

OUTDOORS • COMICS/PUZZLES/TELEVISION



## 'THIS FEELS GOOD'

Carol Burnett receives the Mark Twain Prize/D4

### Buzzworthy

#### WHALE-LOVERS WANTED

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is seeking whale-lovers to volunteer for its Whale Watching Spoken Here program. The program places trained volunteers at 24 whale-watching sites along the Oregon Coast each year during winter and spring watch weeks, when Gray whales migrate along the Pacific Coast on their way to and from Alaska. This year, the dates will be Dec. 26-31, 2013, and March 22-29, 2014. The first of three one-day training sessions will be Nov. 30 at the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. Training will be led by Dr. Bruce Mate, director of the OSU Marine Mammal Institute. For more information, visit [www.whalespoken.org](http://www.whalespoken.org). Whale Watching Spoken Here was launched in 1978 and is one of the most organized onshore whale-watching programs in the U.S.

#### BUILD A BETTER (BIRD) HOME



Bird lovers and weekend hobbyists may want to check out the "Audubon Birdhouse Book: Building, Placing and Maintaining Great Homes for Great Birds" (Voyageur Press, \$24.99 paperback). Due to be released next month, the book explains how to build and place functional bird homes that are safe and appropriate for more than 20 classic North American species, from wrens to raptors.



Author Paul Hoobyar with another large Peacock Bass on the first day of their trip.

## A fly-fishing paradise

### Brazil's tropical Aqua Boa River offers great sites and rewards to its visitors

BY PAUL HOOPYAR  
For The Register-Guard

We were on the Aqua Boa River fly-fishing for bass on a 20-acre "Lago," or side-channel lagoon. Every cast produced a hook-up on this clear-water tributary of the Amazon River: Butterfly bass, in the 2- to 4-pound range, chased our flies from under the overhanging mangroves and inhaled them. The feverish pace of fishing on this, our first morning on the river, kicked my endorphins like a drug. If the fishing is like this every day, I thought, our week on the Aqua Boa will be a fly angling Valhalla.

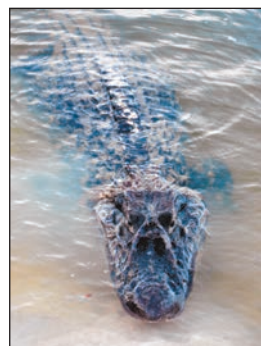
When we first entered the side channel that drained the Lago, the dense, confining canopy loomed out of Conrad's "Heart of Darkness." For half an hour our Brazilian guide cleared the under-story, sometimes with his machete, and navigated our johnboat up the small channel. As the jungle closed in around us, zingers percolated up my brainstem. Could we find our way back to the main river

should something happen to the guide? I kept an eye out for Fer-de-Lances or boa constrictors in the overhanging canopy as we pushed farther into the jungle.

With a deft touch on his throttle, our guide zigzagged the boat around and through driftwood piles, over sunken trees and across shallow sand bars until the channel broke open onto the 20-acre lagoon. A flock of egrets took flight as we emerged from the forest canopy — their white plumage a striking tableau against the verdant rainforest.

Within minutes of stripping out our lines, my doubts were cast aside. My fishing buddy, David Bayles, and I stood six feet apart, threading our flies under mangroves with 40- to 60-foot casts. And one or the other of us — and often both of us — had a fish on for most of that 90-minute run.

But then a tropical cloudburst rained on our parade. As the curtain of nickel-sized drops pummeled us, the



An 18-foot caiman they saw regularly on the Aqua Boa.

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PAUL HOOPYAR

The Aqua Boa River, a clear-water tributary of the Amazon River in Brazil, from a johnboat.

### MUSHROOMS

## Chanterelle picking a picky business

Knowing where to look and what to look for are key

BY HENRY MILLER  
The (Salem) Statesman Journal

While sight is important when hunting wild chanterelle mushrooms, hearing is probably about as important.

"Car coming," Phil McCorkle of Salem said in a stage whisper, which is a cue to use another key outdoor skill, nimbleness.

Or in my case, sneaking.

Phil managed to duck behind a tree to avoid being spotted.

Caught out in the open, I had two choices: Turn my back and pretend to be relieving myself, or since the camera already was in my hands, pretend to take a breathtaking shot of the rotting stump in front of me.

Hunting wild mushrooms is that kind of pastime, kind of like pretending you're stuck on the bottom if you have a Chinook on the line when another boat passes, because you don't want to give your secret spot away.

Judging by the number of cut mushroom stems looking like tiny pencil stubs sticking out of the ground, though, this spot was about as unknown as Mount Rushmore. We have visited it on rare occasions during the course of

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BRYAN SHROY

Tasty chanterelle mushrooms are found in the lush Oregon forests.

## Mushroom festival at Mount Pisgah

Boasting the largest mushroom display on the West Coast, the 32nd Mount Pisgah Arboretum Mushroom Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday with live music, food, arts and crafts, children's activities, hay rides, nature walks and a scarecrow contest.

Exhibits will feature more than 350 mushrooms, and visitors may bring their own mushrooms to be identified by experts.

A variety of mushrooms, plants and arts and crafts also will be on sale, with proceeds benefiting the arboretum's work in environmental education and habitat restoration.

Cost is \$8 for those 12 and older (members free). A free shuttle will run from Civic Stadium. For more information, or to volunteer, phone 541-747-3817 or visit [MountPisgahArboretum.org](http://MountPisgahArboretum.org).

## OUTDOORS BRIEFLY

### NEWS & NOTES

#### MIDWAY'S SEABIRDS FOCUS OF EVENING

The seabirds of Midway Atoll will be the topic of today's Lane County Audubon meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St.

Paula and Dave Pottinger, who spent a week on the atoll in March 2012, will show photographs that document the natural history of some of Midway's inhabitants, and provide commentary on the threats to its seabird and marine life populations.

Midway Atoll is an unorganized, unincorporated territory of the United States near the northwestern end of the Hawaiian archipelago.

The atoll hosts several native species that rely on the island as critical habitat in the central Pacific. The Laysan Albatross, Black-footed Albatross, and the Short-tailed Albatross can be found on the island. An additional 14 species of seabird also call the island home.

Part of the presentation will describe the life of the people who work on Midway.

#### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR MEDFORD HUNT

The C2 Cattle Company is allowing limited adult and controlled youth deer hunts on its 9,500-acre ranch near Medford. Applications must be received by Sunday and winners will be drawn Monday.

The ranch is offering six archery deer hunts for adults during the late season, Nov. 9 to Dec. 1. Those who draw will have two days to hunt buck deer, which must not have less than a forked antler.

Also offered are 28 controlled youth hunts during the 630T Rogue Unit Youth Deer Hunt, which runs Dec. 14 to Jan. 1. Hunters need to have drawn and purchased their tag by Dec. 13.

Youth hunts will be one day and the ranch will provide young hunters with a guide; a parent or family member may accompany a youth hunter. Young hunters can harvest either a buck or doe deer.

Applications are available online at [www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/). For more information, call ODFW's Central Point office at 541-826-8774.

#### POLITICS OF WOLVES COVERED IN BOOK

The reappearance of wolves in Oregon and the effect this apex predator has on people from ranchers to conservationists to attorneys is the subject of a new book by the Oregon State University Press.

"Collared: Politics and Personalities in Oregon's Wolf Country" was written by Aimee Lyn Eaton, a former science communicator at OSU who also has worked as a freelance writer for the New York Times, National Geographic and other publications.

Eaton describes her experience in seeing wolves first-hand, and meeting many Oregonians most affected by their return. She takes the reader to the state capitol in Salem, to town hall meetings in rural northeastern Oregon and beyond.

"Collared" is available in bookstores, online at [osupress.oregonstate.edu](http://osupress.oregonstate.edu), or can be ordered by calling 1-800-621-2736.

#### RANGER DISCUSSES RAINBOW BRIDGE

Eugene resident Doug Crispin will give an insider's look at Rainbow Bridge National Monument in Utah during the Obsidians' October potluck on Friday at the Obsidian Lodge (directions at [www.obsidians.org](http://www.obsidians.org)).

Crispin worked as a National Park Service ranger during the centennial year of Rainbow Bridge as a national monument in 2010. He covered more than 3,000 miles by motorboat, hiked 91 times into the monument and experienced many facets of the desert Southwest.

A social hour begins at 5:30 p.m.; a potluck follows at 6:30 p.m. with the presentation at 7:30 p.m.

## FISHING

**Rivers and streams:** The Alton Baker Park canal in Eugene is scheduled to receive 500 legal-size and 50 larger trout in ODFW stockings this week.

— From ODFW and Register-Guard reports

# Aqua Boa: One of world's best fly-fishing rivers

Continued from Page D1

fish went off the bite, and the deluge quickly overwhelmed our raingear. By then my casting had fallen apart: my fly landed in the mangrove branches more often than under them. Bone drenched and shivering, we headed to the lodge.

The equatorial rain pelted my face as we hydroplaned upriver, and I thought about the events that led us to the Aqua Boa. As an adventure travel writer on assignment running tropical rivers earlier in my life, I reveled in exploring exotic bioregions and cultures by kayak. But the years — and the aches — had piled up, and decades ago I hung up my paddle. Yet the urge to experience new cultures and exotic watersheds persisted.

David and I have fished the McKenzie, the Willamette, and the Siuslaw for years, and we'd often talked about fishing together in other parts of the world. Now in my 60s, such adventures appealed for their age appropriateness. And David's lifestyle as a semi-retired photographer and writer afforded him time for travel, as well.

Forbes rates the Aqua Boa as one of the top 10 fly-fishing experiences on the planet.

"There aren't too many places in the world where you can sight fish for bass with a fly and land a 14-pound fish," David told me. After our first day of fishing, I was hooked.

On our second day, the river level had risen from the previous day's storm, yet the water clarity remained unchanged — one indication of the Aqua Boa's hydrologic integrity. Headlines have highlighted the loss of approximately 230,000 square miles of the Amazon rainforest to grazing, infrastructure developments and resource extraction during the past four decades. And even in the biggest watershed in the world (about 2.7

million square miles — similar to the size of Australia), a 10 percent loss of habitat has had negative consequences. Yet, Brazil is making some inroads against this rapaciousness. During our two-hour flight from Manaus to our lodge on the Aqua Boa, we saw an unbroken canopy below that stretched to the far horizon.

The Aqua Boa is a maze of side-channels, off-channel lagoons and lakes — all of which connect to the main river. Such hydrologic complexity is an endangered phenomenon. The United States, like most developed and developing countries, has traded such complexity for harnessed waterways that control flooding and accommodate agricultural and development uses. The Aqua Boa, by contrast, continues to be governed by gravity, fluvial processes, geomorphology and meteorological forces.

But in Brazil, where resource exploitation has been going on since the heyday of the rubber barons in the 1800s, protections are only as good as the capacity of local support. Every day we passed signs posted along the eastern bank of the river declaring that the "Noquita Ecological Reserve" prohibited trespassing, hunting and other activities. And a phalanx of men stationed in tents, and piloting speedy johnboats, patrolled the area enforcing the regulations.

The Aqua Boa is home to myriad species, many of which are endangered. During our stay, we saw caiman up to 18 feet long; pink, freshwater dolphins; troops of monkeys; otters as big as Great Danes; packs of peccaries; pairs of macaws; and flocks of parrots, parakeets and egrets. One afternoon an Ornate Hawk-Eagle circled above the canopy.

Fly fishing for bass on the Aqua Boa River, using a weighted fly on a sinking tip, demands a mindful technique

given the proximity of three people's heads in a small boat. The Brazilian guides prefer few false casts — partly to minimize the chances of a heavy fly parting their hair — but also to encourage getting the fly back in the water quickly.

Late that first morning, on the umpteenth strip, a wake the size of a Volkswagen Bug broke the surface behind my fly, and seconds later a heavy hammer hit it. Instinctively, I jerked the rod skyward. The reel screamed. My adrenaline surged as the rod bent from the handle, and then — nothing. The line went dead and my spirits tanked.

"Set the hook!" the guide shouted from the back of the boat.

Peacock Bass are as good as billed when attacking a fly. They attack from behind with the speed of a torpedo, requiring 20-pound tippet to keep the flies from breaking off. To set the hook on Peacock Bass, Arowana, Striped Peacocks and Jacuana, strip setting ensures the hook is set in these fishes' large mouths. Lifting the rod tip up, my instinctive response after years of trout and steelhead fishing, just pulled the fly out of their mouths.

Fishing the Aqua Boa is not for the casual angler. We left the lodge by 7:15 a.m. and didn't return until 5 p.m. Our routine began at 6:30 a.m.: eat breakfast, pack a lunch; take a long ride to new water, tie on a fly and cast to the mangroves. And, except for a short break at lunch, we were either ferrying to another section of the river or standing and casting for fish — all while the temperatures hovered in the low 90s, the humidity pasted our clothes against our skin, and the equatorial sun beat down.

Each day we went with a different guide and fished a different stretch of river. On our last afternoon, we headed upriver from our lodge and

veered into an open, shallow, side channel. The channel bottom was golden, a function of the abundant white sand that formed the streambed.

Instead of casting to the mangroves along the bank, our guide had us cast to the center of the channel. As I wondered about this change in tactic, David hooked up and played an enormous bass. The Peacock repeatedly leapt out of the water, tail-walked across the surface and sprinted downstream in strong, speedy bursts for almost five minutes. When the fish came unbuttoned, and David's rod went slack, he turned to us with his face beaming. "That was great!" he exclaimed, before abruptly turning and casting again to the center of the channel. Within minutes he hooked, and landed, another ginormous bass. The guide weighed that fish before releasing it. At 14.5 pounds, I wondered how much the previous, bigger fish, weighed.

That last afternoon, between the two of us, we landed five Peacock Bass in the 12- to 15-pound range. Three of them weighed more than 14 pounds, and we hooked and played three other large fish that we didn't land: this, after a morning of catching countless Butterfly Bass in the 2- to 4-pound range.

But the heat, humidity and baking sun had taken their toll. The best we could do that final afternoon, even with the penultimate fishing, was to take turns casting from the front of the boat for 15 minutes before plopping down to rest. We were exhausted.

Forbes' Aqua Boa rating is no hype. Ours was a peak experience, and not just because of the fishing. The river basin and the relatively intact rainforest provided us glimpses of a functional river system in an exotic, equatorial setting — something as rare as sitting a 280-pound jaguar in its native habitat.

## Shrooms: Prime picking time from first rain of season to first freeze

Continued from Page D1

20-plus years.

But for the sake of our agreement, also two decades old, let's just say we were in an undisclosed location in the Coast Range somewhere between Astoria and Gold Beach.

Picking edible wild mushrooms in general is not for the careless or the uninformed, or as the old saying goes, if we had more people like you, we'd have fewer people like you.

We're both pretty much one-trick ponies when it comes to mushrooms, chanterelles being our one and only quarry.

Phil learned the art of finding them as a commercial picker, briefly, when he was "17 to 20, or 18 to 20," he said, then laughed, "it's not on my resume."

"I learned from the mushroom buyer who always had his booth set up over in Falls City back in those days," said the lifelong Willamette Valley resident and current director of development for Marion-Polk Food Share.

There are two things to like about the bright yellow mushrooms.

They're relatively easy to identify by the color, the solid stems, and gills

### MAD FOR MUSHROOMS

#### CLUBS

**EUGENE:** Cascade Mycological Society

**MEETS:** The second Thursday of the month unless a special posting on the website indicates a different date in Room 115, Science Building No. 16, Lane Community College, 4000 E 30th Ave.

**Cost:** Free

**Website:** [cascademyco.org](http://cascademyco.org)

**SALEM:** Willamette Valley Mushroom Society

**MEETS:** 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month October through December and February through June at Woodland Chapel, 582 High St. SE.

**Cost:** Free

**Website:** [mushroom.byethost12.com](http://mushroom.byethost12.com)

**PORTLAND:** The Oregon Mycological Society

**MEETS:** 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of every month except July and December, in the Forest Discovery Center, Cheatham Hall, 4033 SW Canyon Road (across the street from Washington Park Station on the MAX Red Line near the Zoo).

**Website:** [wildmushrooms.org](http://wildmushrooms.org)

#### WEEKEND WORKSHOP

**What:** The Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center's annual Edible Mushroom Retreat

**When:** Nov. 1-2 (registration closes Oct. 25)

**Where:** It's an overnight at Drift Creek Camp in the Coast Range southeast of Lincoln City.

**Costs:** \$70 adult, \$35 youth, 3 and younger free (Friday arrival, includes dinner Friday and all three meals Saturday, lodging). \$45 adult, \$20 youth (Saturday only includes lunch and dinner).

**Registration, information:** link to map to Drift Creek Camp, gear list for overnights at [bit.ly/1gr0ri6](http://bit.ly/1gr0ri6)

on the underside that go down the stalk in tell-tale ridgelines.

"That's an important component for me," Phil

said about the reliable keys. "And also it's my favorite mushroom as far as flavor. I haven't, by any means, tried them

all ... but I like the nutty taste of chanterelles."

You're looking for fairly old evergreen forests with lots of moist forest detritus such as rotten wood on the ground, he explained. As long as it's got those conditions, he has found chanterelles up as high as 3,000 feet in the Cascade Range.

The pencil stubs were a giveaway that the previous pickers knew their stuff, cutting off the stems to leave the thread-like mycelium in the ground from which the next batch will grow.

"There's one," Phil said, pointing to a splotch of yellow amid the moist forest duff. "And another, and another."

He'd found a patch of about four, make that five, no, six.

"I think this is one," I offered.

Ka-ching.

One of the chanterelles had a nearly identically colored deceiver less than a foot away, same size, same relative shape.

Phil cut them and turned them over.

"See how the gills go down the stem?" he said, pointing to the chanterelle in his right hand.

"Now see how this one has the gills going

right into the stem?" Phil continued, adding about the stem, "squeeze it."

It was as hollow as a soda straw.

"Car coming!" Duck and cover.

Back to the lecture. "The point is there are a few mushrooms out there that look enough like it that if you aren't careful, you could end up with something that's not a chanterelle," Phil said. "I don't know that any of them are deadly, but I'm sure as heck not going to eat one to find out."

My point being that if you don't have a Phil, find one.

Clubs are as prolific as chanterelles in the spring, as are mushroom shows and festivals this time of year, all with their own Phils willing to show you, teach you, and take you out in the woods.

"What's prime time?" he asked, repeating my question. "Summers are pretty dry around here, so you want to go out after the first rains set in, and that's when it all starts."

"That may not be prime time, but that's when it starts. And from then on 'til it freezes, that's when you're going to find them."

## OUTDOORS CALENDAR

### To submit events

**Submit listings to:** [Outdoors@registerguard.com](mailto:Outdoors@registerguard.com). Events are free, unless otherwise noted.

#### Bicycling

##### WEDNESDAY

**Eugene Adult Service:** In-town ride of varying length for seniors, every Wednesday starting at Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., at 10:30 a.m. Helmets required. Info: 541-682-5318.

##### THURSDAY

**Eugene GEARS:** 35 miles out McKenzie View Drive and Sunderland Road. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Alton Baker Park.

##### SATURDAY

**Eugene GEARS:** 35 miles to Alvadore via Meadowview Road, with return via the Fern Ridge Bike Path. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Alton Baker Park.

**Eugene GEARS:** 42 miles to Waltherville via McKenzie View Drive. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Alton Baker Park.

##### SUNDAY

**Obsidians:** McKenzie View Drive and Coburg Bottom Loop, 30 miles, 100 feet of elevation gain, leader Guy Strahon.

**Eugene GEARS:** 45 miles to Pleasant Hill via Bear Creek Road and Dillard. Meet at Alton Baker Park at 9:30 a.m.

##### OCT. 29

**Eugene GEARS:** 25-40 miles out Fox Hollow Road, route back depends on the weather. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Alton Baker Park.

##### Birding

##### THURSDAY

**Birds of Oregon; General Science:** Birding trip on the bike path behind Valley River Center. Meet at Campbell Community Center, 155 High St., at 9 a.m., with return by noon. All ages and abilities are welcome. There is no charge, although carpool drivers would appreciate a small donation. Bring binoculars and a bird book if you have them; spotting scopes will be provided. Information: 541-682-5318.

##### Meetings

##### SUNDAY

**Tree walk:** Horticulturalist and UO instructor Whitey Lueck will lead a tour of campus trees. Meet on the central campus near the Pioneer Mother statue between Johnson and Gerlinger halls for the walk, which will last

between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

#### Trail Maintenance

##### SATURDAY

**Obsidians:** Spencer Butte trail maintenance, 2 miles, 500 feet of elevation gain, leader Matthew Bell.

##### Hiking

##### WEDNESDAY

**Obsidians:** Amazon Headwaters/Spencer Butte, 6 miles, 1,530 feet of elevation gain, leader Janet Jacobsen. Sign up only online at [obsidians.org](http://obsidians.org) for all Obsidians outings.

##### SATURDAY

**Obsidians:** Tamolitch Pool to Clear Lake, 10 miles, 900 feet of elevation, leader Becky Lipton.

**Obsidians:** SOLV Beach cleanup, 4 miles, 50 feet of elevation gain, leader Joella Ewing.

##### SUNDAY

**Obsidians:** North Fork Willamette River, 7 miles, 200 feet of elevation gain, leader Janet Hackett.

##### Walking

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY Steppers Walking Group:** For those 50-plus, casual 30- to

60-minute walk through Island Park, leaves Willamalane Adult Center at 8:30 a.m. Info: 541-736-4444.

##### TUESDAY & THURSDAY

**Whippets Walking Group:** For those 50-plus, a moderate to brisk pace for one hour, leaves from Willamalane Adult Center in Springfield.

##### WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

**Altair Sports Club:** 5-6 miles around town, meet at 9 a.m. at Brail's, 1689 Willamette St., Eugene. Information: 541-746-6263.

##### THURSDAY

**50-plus, self-led:** Hour-long group walk around neighborhood surrounding Petersen Barn Community Center, 870 Berntzen Road. Meet at 9:30 a.m. For those 50 or older.

##### FRIDAY

**Campbell Community Center:** Walk 'n' Talkers group is self-led for 3-5 miles every Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., leaving from 155 High St. Info: 541-682-5318.

##### SATURDAY

**Altair Sports:** 4-5 miles on river bike trails. Meet 9 a.m. at Café Aroma at Valley River Center.

Information: 541-343-7893.

**Mossback Volkssport Club:** Meet at 8 a.m. at the Valley River Inn, 1000 Valley River Way, then carpool to Yachats for the Yachats Halloween Walk Event, which includes a 10- or 5-kilometer event on an easy trail that affords great ocean views. Information: [www.mossbacks.org](http://www.mossbacks.org) or call 541-726-7169 or 541-547-3949.

### Halloween HQ's for Authentic Costumes

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