

## Fairies land in a new world

Because of high ticket sales, the arts, crafts and music festival moves from a winery to Mount Pisgah

**BY EMILY SMITH**

*The Register-Guard*

Appeared in print: **Sunday, Jul 12, 2009**

With less than three weeks until showtime, the fairies have taken flight and landed at a new venue — one with forested hills and a streaming river.

Perfect for the Faerieworlds festival, event producers say.

The annual arts, crafts and music festival with ties to folkloric Celtic fairies is still set for July 31 through Aug. 2, but Faerieworlds producers announced last week that it will move from Secret House Winery in Veneta to Lane County Parks' Mount Pisgah southeast of Eugene.

Faerieworlds co-producer Emilio Miller-Lopez said the festival's unprecedented ticket sales of more than 9,000 led to the move. "At Secret House, we were very much in a small, fenced-in property," he said.

Ticket options include one-day and weekend passes, but the event is expected to average at least 5,000 people a day — including as many as 2,300 who will be allowed to camp in tents or RVs at the Buford Recreation Area, where camping is not normally allowed.

Miller-Lopez said moving the event to Mount Pisgah "is going to make it that much more magical."

Lane County Parks will collect 15 percent of gross proceeds, Miller-Lopez said. Ticket prices for adults range from \$18 to \$24 for a day pass, to \$120 for adult weekend camping passes.

Organizers vow that the festival will be a green, "leave no trace" event. SeQuential Biofuels will power generators at the event, Miller-Lopez said, and organizers will bring in water for drinking and to supply the food court while on-site well water will supply the showers.

But the Mount Pisgah arboretum staff said the festival's move took them by surprise. Pisgah's

executive director, Brad van Appel, said impact on the natural habitat is a chief concern.

While the area undergoes frequent foot traffic from hikers, van Appel said “this will be a whole different thing.”

Van Appel said the park’s Mushroom Festival last October drew about 4,700 visitors to the arboretum, but the area hasn’t hosted a large-scale event similar to Faerieworlds in several years. Chris Orsinger, executive director of Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah, said he’s concerned about how event management will address the needs of the ecologically sensitive area.

“For example, few visitors realize how weed seeds easily ‘hitchhike’ on shoes and can infest a pristine area with noxious, invasive weeds, degrading habitat,” he said in an e-mail.

Lane County Parks Director Todd Winter said it’s true the park hasn’t been used for large-scale events in several years, as crews have cleared brush and worked on roads. But in the past, he said, it has accommodated even larger events such as historical re--enactments. The last such enactment included construction of a 16th-century village, he said.

While the county always considers the damage the site might incur from an event, “leave no trace” is not a rental stipulation, Winter said. That’s a commitment that Faerieworlds organizers made on their own, he said.