

2016

January 11, 2016

Native American ecology: Siletz Tribe's Wisdom in Protecting the Soil - Rachel Summer, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon

Native Americans have the shortest lifespans and most childhood deaths of any group in America. Many elders do not have access to fresh foods. A Siletz program, Healthy Traditions, encourages community, sharing, and sustainability in the cycle of food growing, harvesting, processing, storing and consumption. Improvements to procedures are made possible through partnerships and support from other community members and groups like PSU, Oregon Food Bank, OSU Master Gardeners, nurseries and growers, as well as Native American herbalists, foresters and agriculturists. Rachel will be talking about the steps her tribe took to create Healthy Traditions and community garden programs and goals, and how they honor Mother Nature and Creator in their efforts.

Rachel Summer is a double native—Native American (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians) and born in Oregon. She worked in law enforcement, ironwork, and local government administration before retiring in 2005 to work with other Tribal members to improve the lives of the people by instituting and nurturing better food and farming practices.

February 8, 2016

Native Plants: in the Garden and in the Wild - Linda Hardison <http://www.oregonflora.org/>

What constitutes a native plant for gardeners in the Portland metro region? Native to North America? The Pacific Northwest? Or a Douglas Fir forest on Mount Hood? Or the banks of the Clackamas River? Linda Hardison, director of the Oregon Flora Project (OFP), is uniquely qualified to speak on this and offer advice on the use native plants in our gardens.

Linda believes calling a plant “native” requires consideration of both time and place. Speaking from the perspective of the OFP, she will introduce us to a myriad of Oregon's native plants – along with naturalized and exotic species. Together we will learn the context from which these plants arise and gain an appreciation for the biodiversity found in our state.

Linda Hardison has been director of the Oregon Flora Project since 2005. The OFP houses the Oregon Plant Atlas which consists of more than 540,000 records of plant distribution in Oregon. Its extensive photo gallery is a valuable resource for identifying native plants. Linda is instrumental in the recent publication of Volume 1 of Flora of Oregon, a three-volume reference about the plants of our state. Linda earned a Ph.D. in botany from the University of Washington and is a research assistant professor in the Botany & Plant Pathology Department at Oregon State University. *mg education credit

March 14

Creating Rain Gardens - Scott Buley <http://www.raingardennursery.com/>

Scott will show us why rain gardens optimally use locally available plants, and the trade-off with adapted plants. He also will discuss considerations in engineering rain garden beds for different soils, topography and plants. We will understand what rain gardens can do for the landscape: roadside basins, permeable and pervious surfacing, and how they are better for the environment.

Scott Buley owns Rain Garden Nursery, which grows Pacific Northwest native nursery stock and other plants for naturalized gardens and shade tree plantings. Scott, an OSU graduate, has extensive training in turf renovation and landscape restoration. His extensive landscape projects include the Oregon Garden, Oregon City Rose Farm Museum and the Westerly Stud Thoroughbred Horse Ranch. Best of all, Scott transformed the garden of Dee Linde! *mg education credit

April 11, 2016

Camellias: the Revival of an Aristocrat - Robert Herald

Revisit the world of camellias, old, new, rare, and just plain good ones! Learn about the amazing variety of camellias that thrive in Pacific Northwest gardens!

Robert Herald has had a lifelong passion for all ornamental plants. He received a degree in botany from Iowa State University with an emphasis on taxonomy and ornamental horticulture. Robert has spent most of his professional career in Pennsylvania at Longwood and Chanticleer public gardens. He moved to the Portland area in 2011.

May 9, 2016

Grow a Greener Lawn – Weston Miller, OSU Extension

Learn the latest on establishing, renovating and maintaining turf that meets your needs. Get time-tested tips practiced by golf course superintendents for mowing, mulching, watering and managing weeds without toxic chemicals. Discover eco-lawns, and learn where to get more information on low-input lawn care.

Weston Miller serves as Community and Urban Horticulturist for OSU Extension Service. Since 2007, Weston has managed the popular Master Gardener™ program in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties, which includes a contract with Metro, the regional government. He also started and manages the Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship (BUFA) to help new and aspiring farmers build a foundation in specialty crop production and marketing. Weston serves as elected Director and Treasurer for West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District. In his free time, Weston enjoys gardening and hiking with his family in SW Portland. *mg education credit

June 13, 2016

Landscape Elements for a Healthy Watershed – Brian Wegener, Advocacy & Communication Manager, Tualatin River Keepers <http://tualatinriverkeepers.org/> <http://www.parkingforest.org/>

Brian Wegener will talk about how stormwater runoff impacts urban streams and different ways of reducing those impacts including green streets, rain gardens, eco-roofs, bioswales, and street trees. He will also talk about the Parking Forest project, using a specially engineered soil that helps trees to thrive in the hostile environment of a parking lot.

Brian Wegener is a lifelong river enthusiast who has been on Tualatin River Keepers staff since 2003. He has extensive expertise in municipal stormwater regulations, green infrastructure, wetland permits, and grass-roots advocacy. Brian leads TRK's Watershed Watch and works as a catalyst with TRK's network of volunteer scientists to keep abreast of all new developments impacting our river. He earned a B.S. & M.S. in Mathematics, PSU. *mg education credit

September 12, 2016

Sex on Six Legs - Gail Langellotto-Rhodaback, OSU Associate Professor, Urban and Community Horticulture Extension, and OSU Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator.

Insects are capable of highly complex courting, mating and parenting behaviors, despite having a collection of neurons in place of a brain. Nuptial gifts, maternal care, male ornaments as honest advertisers of health and fitness, female choice and even traumatic insemination: insect sex is stranger than you could imagine!

Gail earned a B.S. in Biology and M.S. & Ph.D. in Entomology, from the University of Maryland. Since 2007, she has served as the statewide coordinator of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program. She currently studies garden bees, but used to study spider cannibalism and planthopper sperm, among other topics. Gail is helping to develop a better research-based understanding of how to design and sustainably manage gardens and parks to maximize ecosystem services. Her Extension and Outreach efforts are focused on communicating these and other research-backed management practices to home gardeners, commercial landscapers, and others. *mg education credit

October 10, 2016

Northwest Plant Evaluations: Plant trials and the results - Neil Bell, Community Horticulturist, OSU Extension

In 2000, Neil Bell began research to identify a palette of shrubs suitable for low-input, un-irrigated landscapes in the Willamette Valley. Since 2000, he has conducted many studies of landscape plants for drought tolerance and cold hardiness, collaborating with Heather Stoven. Studies on Ceanothus, Halimium, Hebe and Grevillea have concluded and results continue to inform the nursery industry and home gardeners in plant selection. Neil is currently evaluating 75 selections of Arctostaphylos (Manzanitas). Neil's method for evaluation is harsh by home garden standards—plants are not watered, sprayed or pruned for the duration; they are rated for growth, flowering and hardiness. The goal is to provide information on plants suitable for “low-input” landscapes in the Willamette Valley and other areas west of the Cascade Mountains.

Since 2000, Neil Bell has overseen the Community Horticulture program in Marion County and Polk County, which includes the Master Gardener program. Among his significant contributions to the Statewide Master Gardener Program are training on diagnosis of plant problems and pruning of ornamental plants. He has co-authored publications on water-efficient landscape plants, soil amendment and mulch use. Neil lives and gardens with his family on 5 acres west of Monmouth. *mg education credit

November 14, 2016

Cataclysms on the Columbia: the Great Missoula Floods - Scott Burns

Between 15,000 and 18,000 years ago, a series of momentous floods crashed through the Pacific Northwest, reaching heights of up to 400 feet where Portland lies today and carving the landscape of the Columbia Gorge and Willamette Valley.

Geologist and gifted speaker Scott Burns will focus on the incredible story of J Harlen Bretz's discovery of the Ice Age floods and the pioneering research that Bretz used to prove his discovery to the world. Burns will also discuss the floods' effect on the formation of 16,000 square miles of Pacific Northwest terrain, from eastern Washington to Astoria and the Willamette Valley. Whether or not you're a geology buff, you'll be glad you joined us for this fascinating and humorous presentation about our region's natural history.

Scott Burns is a Professor Emeritus of Geology and Past-Chair of the Dept. of Geology at Portland State University. He has been teaching for 44 years, with past positions in Switzerland, New Zealand, Washington, Colorado and Louisiana. Scott specializes in environmental and engineering geology, geomorphology, soils, terroir and Quaternary geology. *mg education credit

December 12, 2016

Therapeutic Gardens - Brian Bainnson, landscape architect. <http://www.quatrefoilinc.net/index.htm>

Brian will talk to us about therapeutic garden design using evidence-based research and participatory design processes. He led the design team for the Portland Memory Garden. The garden has been developed for people with Alzheimers, their families and caregivers and is located in Ed Benedict Park in Southeast Portland. Mr. Bainnson has helped develop several therapeutic landscapes for Legacy Health System including gardens for the Oregon Burn Center, Legacy RIO and the Legacy Trauma Center. All of these gardens will be used for active patient therapy as well as restorative places for patients, families and caregivers.



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Brian Bainson is a landscape architect with over 27 years of experience, concentrating most recently in design of therapy gardens for hospital patients and families, wounded warriors, and people suffering with memory loss. Brian earned his BFA and Bachelor of Landscape Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design.