



CHAPTER LECTURE SERIES ARCHIVE

2025

January 13 – Seed to Supper – *A presentation by Nancy Muir, Eve Freeman and Bill Dixon*

Do you want to learn more about the “Seed to Supper” program? Seed to Supper is comprehensive beginning vegetable gardening curriculum designed for adults gardening on a budget. This program is taught at community sites throughout Oregon by trained class facilitators. Find out why the program was created in 2007 and who developed and ran the program until 2023. How will the Master Gardener Program be involved? How can you become a Seed to Supper Trainer? How and why does a Seed to Supper trainer build partnerships in our community?

Bill Dixon was the Food Gardening Coordinator for Washington State University Master Gardener Program in Benton and Franklin Counties for 12 years and joined the Clackamas County Master Gardener Program last year. Nancy Muir has been a Seed to Supper trainer since 2015, and has been a Master Gardener for 13 years. Eve Freeman has been a Master Gardener since 2014 and a Seed to Supper trainer in 2023. Nancy and Eve were Team Leaders of Grow an Extra Row from 2014 to 2023.

February 10 - Finding Balance Within City Garden Soils *presented by Mykl Nelson **

Learn more about the soils in your garden: Mykl Nelson is an instructor of urban agriculture in the department of Horticulture at Oregon State University. Mykl is a popular speaker and has researched the problem of over-enriched garden soil, especially with excessive use of organic matter in raised beds. In addition to research on soils, he is developing online courses to train and empower new urban growers to produce food within the confines of their modern environment. He presents socio-ecological research in urban and suburban garden systems.

- <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab/>
- *Article: Excess fertility in residential-scale urban agriculture soils in two western Oregon cities, USA*
- *Soil Test Flow Chart*

March 10 – Helpful, Hungry Bats! *presented by Rick Reynolds **

Every night our furry, flying friends – bats – can eat up to their body weight in insects. Learn about these fantastic creatures and ways they can catch so many dangerous mosquitoes, crop-eating moths, and other flying insects in the dark. Explore different types of bats, their amazing adaptations, and the important roles they play in Oregon and around the world in this multimedia presentation with bat artifacts and hands-on activities. Discover ways to help them with bat-friendly habitats, bat boxes, and more! Presented in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Clackamas County Vector Control.

Rick Reynolds has been a passionate educator for 30 years. He creates educational resources with partners such as the National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Clackamas County Vector Control, and NOAA through [Engaging Every Student](#), the organization he founded in 2009 with the mission to help make the learning process more compelling and meaningful. With a passion for environmental education, Rick is an enthusiastic trainer of fellow educators and helps all ages connect with nature. He has authored or co-authored 20 books and curriculum guides, as well as hundreds of lesson plans and multimedia resources.

A certified teacher who has taught in elementary, middle, and high schools, Rick is a past chair of the Board of the [Environmental Education Association of Oregon \(EEAO\)](#). He holds an M.S. in Education from the University of New Haven and a B.A. in Geography from the University of Connecticut. He enjoys exploring the beautiful Northwest with his wife and collaborator, Krista, as well as gardening, tennis, music, and community service. You can learn more about him and see sample projects [here](#).

April 14 – *Wyatt Williams* will talk about the Mediterranean Oak Borer Beetle*

Mediterranean oak borer (MOB) is a recent arrival to Oregon and California. Like other ambrosia beetles, it vectors several fungal species, some of which are pathogenic to various oak species in both its home and introduced ranges. In California, the insect/pathogen complex has been implicated in the mortality of several hundred, if not thousands, of valley oak trees in natural areas of Napa Valley and nearby Sacramento. In Oregon, MOB was first detected in a trap in 2018, and in 2022, MOB was confirmed in a dying Oregon white oak in Multnomah County. In 2023, over 30 large Oregon white oak trees in the City of Wilsonville were found to be infested. The pest status of MOB is still under evaluation. This presentation will cover the basics on MOB identification and detection, as well as provide an update to current management actions and how the private and public sector can survey and report suspected trees to state authorities.

Wyatt Williams has been with the Forest Health Unit of the Oregon Department of Forestry for 12 years as the agency's Invasive Species Specialist. He received a PhD in Entomology from Colorado State University in 2012, where he studied evolutionary ecology of invasive plants and insect herbivores. Wyatt studied the behavioral ecology of Douglas-fir beetle in Idaho for his Master's degree at Boise State University in 2007. He participates in the annual fixed-wing aerial survey for forest health in Oregon and conducts various ground surveys for invasive forest insects. Wyatt lives in Salem.

Program notes from the April 14 talk: [Links and Resources](#)

May 12 – Dahlias *presented by Laura Oldenkamp**

Understand the small adjustments a gardener can make to be able to grow healthy dahlias in our changing climate. Carefully choosing cultivars, siting dahlias for sun exposure and protection, providing minimal required watering, monitoring for pest pressure and taking dahlia cuttings for a jump start on the season are topics covered. Laura Oldenkamp is a Master Gardener in Clackamas County. She has been raising dahlias for over 40 years and is an award-winning dahlia exhibitor.

June 9 – Flower Flies in Portland and Corvallis Urban Gardens *presented by Nina Miller **

This fascinating family of insects also known as hover flies or syrphid flies serves as pollinators as adults, and some predate on pest insects as larvae, making them valuable insects in a garden system. With 30 gardens in Corvallis and Portland, Oregon, Nina has identified floral associates and defined ways to attract these pollinators into your garden.

Nina Miller has B.S. in Botany and Entomology and is currently a master's student fellow pursuing a degree in Horticulture and Entomology at Oregon State University. She is merging her two fascinations of plants and insects into a research project with the Garden Ecology Lab, led by Dr. Gail Langellotto. She recently presented at the 2024 Dipterist Society meeting and is a co-author in two papers that will be published within the next year. <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab/author/millenin/>

October 13 – *Matthew Shepard: Mason, Carpenter, Blood, and Sweat: Bees You can Meet in Your Backyard* *

A suburban garden may be visited by 30 or 40 different species of bees. Some may look like the stereotypical image of a bee—yellow-and-black and hairy—but most do not: metallic green, midnight blue, orange, red. Join Matthew Shepherd for an introduction to the diversity of our local bees, how to recognize them, their natural history, and more. This event will include time for a discussion, so if you have questions about bees, bring them along!

Matthew Shepherd has spent thirty-five years working with people from diverse communities to create better places for wildlife. He works for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and over the last two decades has helped build pollinator conservation from an obscure issue to a topic of dinner-table conversation and wide engagement. Matthew is author or coauthor of numerous articles and other publications, including *Attracting Native Pollinators* (Storey Publishing, 2011) and *Gardening for Butterflies* (Timber Press, 2016).

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is a donor-supported nonprofit organization that protects our world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. Xerces works throughout North America to conserve pollinators and other invertebrates, protect endangered species, and reduce pesticide use and impacts. Our staff use applied research, policy advocacy, public education and on-the-ground habitat improvement to advance meaningful, long-term conservation. Xerces is the largest invertebrate conservation organization in the world. For over 50 years, we have been champions of Earth's most biodiverse and overlooked animals, protecting the life that sustains us. Learn more at xerces.org.

November 10 – Restoring Healthy Habitats in the Clackamas Watershed *presented by Dakota Hufford* *

Clackamas River Basin Council fosters partnerships for clean water and to improve fish and wildlife habitat and the quality of life for those who live, work and recreate in the watershed. They accomplish this by: Engaging communities and landowners in watershed improvement projects that protect and enhance the natural resources.

- Undertaking watershed restoration to increase the abundance, diversity, and productivity of native resident and anadromous (salmon and steelhead) fish populations throughout the basin.
- Protecting and enhancing the quality and quantity of source water for domestic water supplies to meet an increasing population.

- Controlling non-native weeds, and restoring native vegetation to improve both aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Dakota is an entomologist with a heavy focus on community outreach, youth programming and science education. She is passionate about issues surrounding equity in access to natural spaces and environmental education, and she has been living in Clackamas County since 2007. When not at work, she can be found with her animals (of which there are many), hiking with her husband and daughter, or hunting for bugs.

December 8 – Growing Culturally Significant Plants: Connecting People to Place presented by *Jeremy Ojua of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde*

Jeremy will be speaking about growing plants that grow community. Jeremy Ojua is the Native plant nursery supervisor at the Natural Resources Department for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Operating the Native plant nursery to provide culturally significant native plants for restoration, cultural use, and education for the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde's projects, programs, and community.

Prior to supervising nursery operations, Jeremy worked 13 years as Wildland fire fighter and Silviculture technician for the Tribes wildland fire program, helping to maintain healthy forests on the Tribe's reservation lands and fighting wild fires nationally.

Jeremy is an avid snowboarder, photographer, and lapidary in his free time and more than anything just enjoys spending time outdoors. Jeremy can be reached at the following email address: Jeremy.ojua@grandronde.org