

Upcoming Sustainability Events

The Sustainability Project at Clackamas Community College draws attention to the challenges facing the planet through lecture, film and Earth-friendly events.

All events are free and open to the public. They will take place in the college's McLoughlin Auditorium, unless otherwise noted in the schedule that follows.

Tomorrow: Speaker: Dr. Mark Hixon, professor, department of zoology, Oregon State University. "Ocean Warming: Threats to the Pacific Northwest." 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14: Speaker: Dr. Kirsten Sheeran, economics professor, St. Mary's College of Maryland, on effects of planetary warming on the economy. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 15: Speaker: Val McQuaid, CCC librarian emeritus. "Germany's World Leadership in Green Technology." Noon to 1 p.m.

Thursday, May 15: Speaker: Dr. Ceiridwen Terrill, writer, naturalist, professor at Concordia University in Portland, author of "Unnatural Landscapes: Tracking Invasive Species." 3 to 4 p.m., Roger Rook 220.

For more information, contact Jim Grabill at jimg@clackamas.edu.

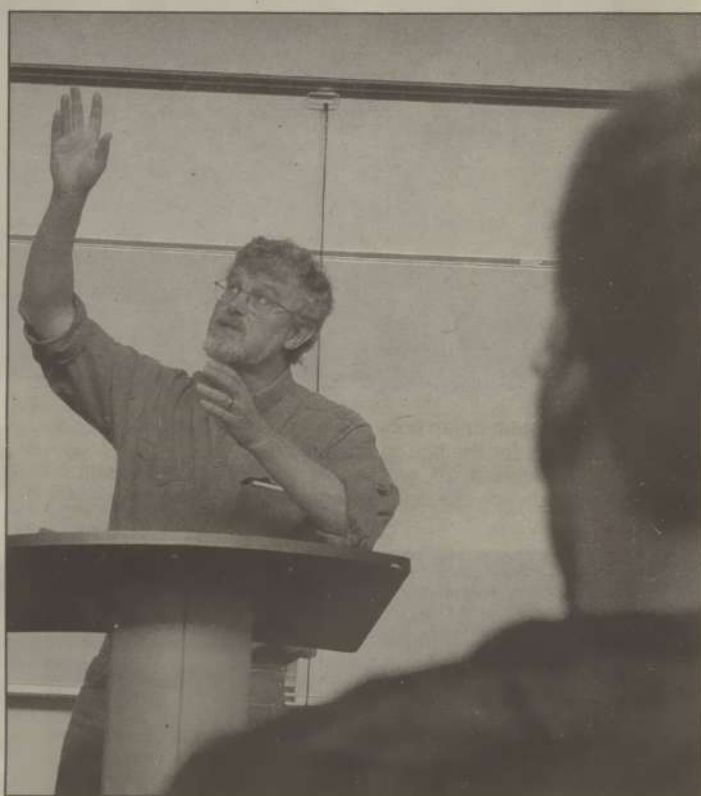
Events

OPEN: The Alexander Gallery's new exhibit by Los Angeles-based artist Max Lesser, which features a series of new paintings, opened May 2. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is called "Between here and there is better than neither here nor there," and will be open until June 13.

TODAY: The foreign language department and the college's language clubs host the annual International Day Celebration in which students, staff and community members participate. Performances will take place in the Community Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and include music, dancing and plays. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the foreign language department at ext. 2381 or ext. 2813.

May 15 to May 30: The Student Art Exhibition for 2008 will be shown in the Pauling Gallery. Faculty will select the work for the show, and several awards and scholarships will be handed out after being judged by an off-campus curator. Student artwork is now being accepted in the Art Center Lobby until Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Art must have been completed in conjunction with an art department class within the last year.

Gardening poet shares literary works



Emily Walters/Clackamas Print

Charles Goodrich gestures flamboyantly with his arms as he reads a selection from his poetry and prose works.

Emily Walters

Arts & Culture Editor

Lit only by rare bright sunbeams flowing through the windows in the high ceiling, room 220 inside Roger Rook Hall comfortably seated 18 audience members in swirling purple armchairs Thursday, May 1. Attendees came to listen to a self-described "lifetime gardener."

From 11 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m., creative writer Charles Goodrich shared pieces from his written works, all inspired by his avid pursuit of gardening.

Goodrich is currently a leader of the Spring Creek Project at Oregon State University, which he said seeks to "bring together creative writers and scientists" to explore nature.

Over his many years of working as a gardener — or simply doing it as a stress-relieving pastime that also happened to provide him with fresh produce — he has found that his very perception of life has been altered.

"You begin to see the world through that lens," he said. "I would get materials for my writing."

Goodrich started off by reading from a short selection of poems that he titled "Dispatches from the Garden."

Animatively waving his arms, he first perused "Black Tomato," which described his relief at the frost killing off his dwindling garden and sparing him from eating vegetables that had ceased to taste fresh. He followed it with "The Boss," a piece of a similar subject.

"Erosion" was inspired by a realization Goodrich experienced

while in his garden one day: a correlation between his plants and his brother's then-recent surgery.

Perhaps the most interesting poem was the last one he read, in which he relayed how he took to the garden after hearing about the planes hitting the Twin Towers on September 11. He channeled his anguish into destroying weeds and overgrown plants.

Goodrich then took a 20-minute hiatus from his personal work so that two students from Clackamas could present a few of their own poems concerning nature.

Nate Courtney went first, reading three pieces.

The subject matter was the "spirituality of nature," and the poetry seemed to be a little too far removed from sustainability of the planet, focusing more on animal rights than "green" matters.

Rose Lefebvre stepped up to the podium next, with five poems for her sampling of work. The subjects ranged from the ocean to dancing in the rain with her son.

Goodrich finally retook his place to commence the readings with a bit of prose written about his community's land-use battle with developers who wanted to expand a fiberglass factory down the street on which he lived.

Some of his published works may be found in the books "Insects of South Corvallis," "The Practice of Home" and his most recent, "In the Blast Zone," a collaboration with a few other members of the Spring Creek Project that is set to launch at Powell's, in Portland, on May 18.

Additional information regarding the Spring Creek Project may be found at <http://springcreek.oregonstate.edu>.