Clark College biology professor leads eco-dynamic discussion

Kathleen Perillo, ecologist and biology professor at Clark College, will lead a discussion as part of the schools faculty speaker series on eco-friendly living.

In Birds, Bees and Biodiversity, Perillo will discuss how food choices impact the planet. She will also share impressions of sustainability issues and their relationship to the United States that she encountered while on sabbatical throughout Switzerland, France and Mexico.

Perillo organized the center for eco-dynamic agriculture, which is an organization that promotes new ways to grow crops that encourage biodiversity. Guests at the event will learn how to become a locavore" by determining environmental benefits to eating local, organically-farmed food. They can also discover differences between polyculture and monoculture farming and learn how to reduce their carbon footprint.

"Each of us has the power to promote or reduce biodiversity in our own kitchens and in the simple everyday food choices we make," Perillo said.

Perillo has a bachelor's degree in physical geography from the University of Delaware and a master's degree in environmental science from the University of New Haven. She promotes sustainability in her own life by trying to live simply in a modest straw-bale house in the gorge with her pets. She supports local markets, grows an organic garden and assists with her partner's organic vineyard, where grapes are grown to produce small batch, sulfite-free wines.

Prior to coming to Clark College, Perillo spent 14 years in environmental education, working with students from pre-kindergarten to seniors. She joined Clark College faculty in 1999 and received tenure in 2002. She teaches a variety of courses in biology and environmental science, with expertise in wildlife biology, environmental biology, general ecology and birds.

The lecture is free and open to the public. It will be held Fri., April 25, noon-1:30 p.m., at the Penguin Student Lounge, located in the Penguin Union Building on the Clark College campus, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Doors will open at noon. Refreshments, featuring seasonal food from local farms, will be offered. Parking will be available in the college's red and yellow parking lots.

Watercolor society sets show

A juried art show will continue through Sun., April 27, at the front of Nordstrom at Westfield Shoppertainment Vancouver, 700 Vancouver Mall Dr., Vancouver.

More than 100 works will be on display during the free show. The public will be able to vote for the People's Choice award.

Opera star sets Longview performance

An internationally-known opera singer from Salzburg, Austria, with ties to Clark and Cowlitz counties, will perform Sat., May 3, 7:30 p.m., at the Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts in Longview.

Soprano Charlotte Pistor, daughter of Walter and Hildegard Pistor of Kalama, will perform works by romantic American composers with the Columbia River Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of George Simonsen. Theme of the concert is "An American Celebration."

The featured work on the program will be Gershwin's "An American in Paris." Pistor will perform "Scena di Tragedia" from Beethoven's "Fidelio, Op. 72," as well as an encore, "Vivat Christus Rex," from Handel's "Messiah." She will also perform "Pace, pace, my lord," from "Les Contes d'Hoffmann," by Rossini.

Pistor has performed around the world, including concerts in college years. Pistor spent time in Clark County, working on family property in the Rock Creek area along the banks of the East Fork of the Lewis River. She fished in the East Fork and at Battle Ground Lake. "How many internationally-respected sopranos have spent so much time in the area surrounding Battle Ground," questioned her father. "This soprano is an inspiration to young singers who may only need to believe they, too, can someday be recognized if they really apply themselves through effortful work to accomplish their dreams."

"Parents need to encourage their kids to dream and then guide them and support them in the fulfillment of their dreams," said Pistor. "What helps are positive expectations and also the power of belief that outstanding results can be obtained if there is a commitment of persistent effort and work. Parents can provide guidance as well as a pragmatic plan to help accomplish the desired results."

Tickets for the Nov. 3 concert in Longview are $21 for adults, $18 for seniors, $12 for students and $7 for children. Available by calling (360) 575-8499, or (888) 575-8499.

Pistor's performance with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra will be Sat., May 17, 2008, at 8 p.m., at the Longview Civic Auditorium, 1101 24th St., Longview.