

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 a new way to grow crops that encourages 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.