LECTURER'S PROGRAM
Member meeting October 3rd, 2023

In loving memory of Steve Moening

OCTOBER: October, the month of color, when the well-known “Jack Frost” paints the leaves in glorious shades of crimson, yellow, orange, green, and gold! October is a month when we feel the serenity of nature and wonderment of its natural cyclical process that is ever so present. The tall corn stalks gently wave in the fields and the great pumpkin and other gourds, and squashes shine in the sunlight. It is a month for embracing transition in all its forms.

THE FARMERS ALMANAC SAYS
- Sweater weather is the theme for the coastline of the Pacific Northwest, which will be relatively dry and cold throughout the season. While storm clouds will typically deliver rain, snow is possible for late December and mid-January.
- The October full Moon, the Full Hunter’s Moon, will occur on Saturday, October 28, 2023.
- The Draconid meteor shower will be active 6-10th of October and will peak around 8-9th of October, best seen in the evening.
- October 14 is the Annular Solar Eclipse. For the first time in 11 years, a “Ring of Fire” Solar Eclipse will be visible in Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. The eclipse begins at 8:04 A.M. PDT and ends at 1:55 P.M. PDT

FLOWER/PLANT/FUNGI FEATURE
October is the time when the rains bring mushrooms (King Bolete, Chanterelle, Chicken of the Woods, Lion’s Mane, Matsutake, and Lobster, to name a few) and there is no better time to mushroom forage than now! It is also a month that is a perfect time to plant trees, shrubs, conifers, garlic, and hardy perennials. As we transition our gardens and farms now is the time to sow cover crops and plant fall and winter hearty greens and other vegetables. The frost is coming. The average frost date in our area is November 8th. Front date sources- Farmers Almanac & Portland Nursery.

GRANGE GUIDING LIGHTS & CONTEMPLATIONS
Ever since humans learned to cultivate their own crops, harvest festivals, holiday ceremonies and celebrations for a successful harvest have been carried out throughout the world. What will you do to celebrate the bounty of the harvest from the farmers and gardeners who work tirelessly to feed us?
Now is a time of change, contemplation, and thanks as the seasons transition and we all hunker down for winter. As we begin the harvest of grains – rustling corn is waving as ripe and ready for the reapers and gleaners – may we feel the attendant lessons as well. We must reap for the mind as well as for the body, and from the abundance of our harvest this year, in good deeds and kind words, dispense CHARITY! The grain is ripe and ready for harvest. It is, however, important that the best of intelligent and skillful laborers be equitably employed.

GRANGE MONTHLY MESSAGE - On Change and Transition
There was a wise man Sviatozar. One day his nephew came to visit him. The young man was sad, gloomy, and obviously upset with something. Sviatozar asked what happened to him. The nephew said that he suffered a serious setback and now he will never be able to achieve his goal.

The nephew asked an old man to give him advice on what he should do next, but Sviatozar just asked to lead him to the hills. This road was difficult and long. But the nephew immediately agreed to help his uncle. When they reached the hills, Sviatozar said that he needed to go to the top of the highest hill. The young man was surprised but decided to help his uncle because the old man had never climbed there. With great difficulty, the nephew helped his uncle to climb the hill, sometimes even dragging the old man on his back. On the top of the hill, sweating, he put his uncle on the ground and laughed happily.

Do you remember that when you were a little boy sometimes you returned home with tears in your eyes? Sviatozar asked him. The boys teased you. Do you remember why? The young man looked around and nodded. He recalled that as a child he often played there with other boys. And they called this hill an Everest because only a few people could get to its top. At that time, I was unable to get there. This hill seemed like an impregnable rock to move. And today you not only climbed there but dragged me up, too, an old man said and looked at his nephew. How could you do this? What do you think? Perhaps I just grew up, the young man shrugged. I became stronger and fitter… and the formidable Everest suddenly turned into a harmless mound said Sviatozar. You got my advice.

QUIPS & QUOTES
"We will not march back to what was. We move to what shall be, a country that is bruised, but whole. Benevolent, but bold. Fierce and free." –Amanda Gorman

FARMERS CORNER
This section will be transitioning into brief updates and news about local farms (see below). If you have something to contribute or know of a farm I am missing let me know!

FEATURED FARM - Growers Grange is a small farm run by Bianca Nati and Ethan Riddle. Growers Grange is dedicated to preserving tradition through the growing of heirloom vegetables and fruit. Their focus is on protecting food that is culturally significant and providing these crops to our community. Some may say we use Organic practices, but we like to say we use the growing methods of Bianca’s Grandpa and Nonna, with lots of love and absolutely no chemicals.
Second Chance Ranch and Plants - Has 38+ pumpkins (5-25lbs) ready, and more on their way! The ranch is open to the public, just stop by the farm and if someone isn’t available then there is a jar to put your money for the pumpkin purchase / $15 for large $7 for medium, and $5 for small
Mudbone Grown - Sign up to volunteer or show your support by donating. Your contribution supports our work as land stewards while keeping the food and love flowing into our Black community.
Fiddlehead Farm - Winter CSA / Bi-weekly with one size share that feeds 2-6 people depending on your veggie eating habits.
Worthy Jacob Farm - Reserve a share of lamb and mutton! To reserve a share email Shepherd@theworthyjacobfarm.com or visit their website!
Blue Raven Farm - Keep an eye out for their Soil Ecology Workshops, or contact them for consulting on small-scale vegetable farming in the Pacific Northwest.
Terra Farma - check out their Meat CSA
Waddle Woods Farm - Whole and half hog orders
Old McDonald’s Farm - Keep an eye on their events and workshops throughout the year
Columbia View Blueberries (formerly Klock Farm) - Closed for the season but keep an eye out for their “you pick” dates next year!
Bates Lavender Farm - U-cut lavender or shop the website for homemade lavender products!
Strums Berry Farm - closed for berry season

RECIPE FOR THE MONTH
Food Waste Reduction initiative of the National Granges Lectures program has recommendations for recipes that reduce food waste! See this link for details and more.
A snapshot of what they suggest are things like:
  ● Don’t throw leafy greens away! Make pesto!
  ● Leftovers about to be trashed? Make a frittata!
  ● Berries about to go bad? Make berry syrup!
  ● Smoothies help bring fruits and greens new life!
  ● Old bread got you down? Make croutons or breadcrumbs!

MOVIE/PUBLIC TALK RECOMMENDATION
Oregon Humanities Presents on Wednesday, October 11th at the Alberta Rose Theatre in Portland
Consider This with Casey Parks a conversation on Gender, Family, and Belonging
Ways to Participate:
  ● Tickets are $15 and are available on the Alberta Rose Theatre's website
  ● Can’t make it to Portland? The conversation will also be broadcast live, for free, on YouTube.
  ● discussion group event on Wed, Oct 18, at 11:00 a.m. To register, click here.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION
Gathering Moss, A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Published January 2003, OSU Press / ISBN 9780870714993
Living at the limits of our ordinary perception, mosses are a common but largely unnoticed element of the natural world. Gathering Moss is a beautifully written mix of science and personal reflection
that invites readers to explore and learn from the elegantly simple lives of mosses. In this series of linked personal essays, Robin Wall Kimmerer leads general readers and scientists alike to an understanding of how mosses live and how their lives are intertwined with the lives of countless other beings. Kimmerer explains the biology of mosses clearly and artfully, while at the same time reflecting on what these fascinating organisms have to teach us. Drawing on her diverse experiences as a scientist, mother, teacher, and writer of Native American heritage, Kimmerer explains the stories of mosses in scientific terms as well as in the framework of indigenous ways of knowing. In her book, the natural history and cultural relationships of mosses become a powerful metaphor for ways of living in the world.

**HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE?**
If you have someone or something to feature in the Lectures Program for our monthly meetings, please email Sara Huston at sahuston@gmail.com.