SPRING A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY IN MT. HOOD TERRITORY

By JARROD LYMAN, MT. HOOD TERRITORY
For Pumpkin Media Group

T he same fertile soils that attracted pioneers to Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory more than 150 years ago continue to be a vital part of our life. Our farms produce delicious fruits and vegetables. Beautiful flowers burst forth in every color imaginable. Endless rows of vineyards present us with sweet grapes, which become award-winning wines. There's an agricultural wonderland growing in our own backyards, and spring is the time to explore it.

Nowhere is spring more visible than at the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm's annual Tulip Festival. Taking place this year from March 25 through May 1, the annual event turns spring into more than a season, but a celebration of beauty. The farm boasts 40 acres of tulip fields in various colors and sizes in a setting so beautiful you'll think you were in a dream. Festival organizations have
companies offering hot air balloon excursions.

The Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival takes place March 25 through May 1. Hot air balloons drop in, though Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival staff have no control over them. Visit the website to learn about the offerings each year. In addition to the many flowers to view or buy, this year’s activities include a tremendous kid’s play area with rubber duck races, swings and slides. On weekends, the options get larger still with ziplines, the bungee-jumper, pony rides, archery tag and the paintball shooter.

Adults can take in the gorgeous views while sipping wine under their new Wooden Shoe Vineyards label. In addition to well-known Oregon varieties like Pinot noir and Pinot gris, they offer rare varieties such as a 2014 Marechal Foch that has a wonderful, bold and spicy flavor.

Learn more online at woodenshoe.com/events/tulip-fest. A host of spring time events can be found throughout Mt. Hood Territory. If you’d like to bring a little of that spring feeling to your own home, you’ll love Gardenpalooza at Fir Point Farms in Aurora. Held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 2, it’s a huge event with more than 40 vendors showcasing hundreds of plants, garden art, gardening tools and everything else you would need to get ready for growing season. Learn more online at gardenpalooza.com or call organizer Therese Gustin at 503-793-6804.

The Clackamas County Master Gardeners host their Spring Garden Fair April 30 and May 1 at the Clackamas County Event Center. Enjoy some amazing displays and informative sessions that will help you make your garden something special this year.

Learn more online at http://www.clackamascounty_mastergardeners.org/springgardenfair.htm. Another benefit of spring is our wonderful farmers’ markets will be back up and running. Just about every community has at least one, and they’re each worth checking out. The variety of fresh produce sourced right from your own town makes for some truly special ingredients in your home cooked meals. Add in wines sourced from our local wineries, and the guests at your next dinner party will think you’ve got a private chef. Don’t know which wine to choose? You can sample them all during the annual Memorial Day Weekend Wine City Open Houses. Needless to say, spring is a wonderful time here in Mt. Hood Territory. Find more exciting agritourism options at MtHoodTerritory.com. We’re looking forward to getting out there and enjoying it. Hope to see you on our farms.

CCC CELEBRATES BIG BIRTHDAY

By BARR RANDALL
Pumpkin Media Group

n recognition of 50 years serving the educational needs of district residents, Clackamas Community College will host an Outdoor Sculpture Invitational March 21 through June 2. The invitational will include the works of 19 regional artists exhibited outdoors on the campus.

The exhibit includes a variety of materials, including steel and stone sculptures. Kate Simmons, director of the Alex ander Gallery on the CCC campus, said, “There will also be a unique, mixed media piece by Vicki Lynn Wilson, titled ‘Propag ate.’ It will be installed near Dye Learning Center, which is the campus library. The piece is a cast cement female figure and incorporates a composition of botanical elements to complete the artwork. A color composition created of succulent plants and gravel will occupy a large portion of the grass-scape and is rather introspective. Wilson pays attention to the physical environment and the intellectual environment, with the placement near the library.”


A 50th birthday party is set for May 21, starting with a docent-led tour from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., leaving from the Art Center (building 17). Artists will be in attendance to share information about the processes used to create their art.

Following the tour, the dance group Pendulum will present a 40-minute responsive performance to the sculptures on campus. A time capsule buried when the college opened in 1966 will be opened on campus at 3 p.m., and food and refreshments will be served near the Alexander Gallery at 3:30 p.m. An exhibit of student art will be on display in the gallery, and awards will be announced at 3:45 p.m.

“Our Outdoor Sculpture Invitational and its reception are free to the community, students and staff.” Simmons said, “We hope you will join us in celebrating 50 years of education and art.”

The Outdoor Sculpture Invitational is supported in part by the Art Center at CCC and a grant from Clackamas County Cultural Coalition and Clackamas County Arts Alliance.

To learn more, contact Simmons at 503-594-3025 or email kates@clackamas.edu. For a full list of CCC anniversary events and activities, visit www.clackamas.edu.