



FOR RELEASE – Tuesday, 8 November 2016

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NATURE TALK:

CHASING ROOTS:

Untangling the puzzle of
wild parsley & biscuitroots

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ECO HUB
GRAND OPENING

Salem, OR – On Thursday, November 17, join the staff, volunteers and supporters of the Straub Environmental Center, Friends of Trees, David Douglas Society, and the Willamette Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon for the Grand Opening of the "Eco Hub," a new shared space at the Willamette Heritage Center offering classes, talks, workshops, interpretive exhibits and hands-on, environmental activities for students, adults and families.

The Grand Opening will begin at 6:00 pm with a talk, titled **“Chasing Roots: Untangling the Puzzle of Wild Parsley and Biscuitroots”** by award-winning author and naturalist Jack Nisbet. From the very first white visitors to the most dedicated modern taxonomists, Northwest residents have been perplexed by the early spring biscuitroots and desert parsleys that sweep across the Columbia Plateau. This slide presentation will peek into the ancient tribal uses of these plants, the nutritional value they offered for exploring expeditions and fur traders, and the frustrations of modern botanists who have tried to untangle one of our region’s most intriguing knots. A reception will follow the talk at 7:00 pm.

About the Presenter

Spokane-based educator and naturalist Jack Nisbet is the author of several books that explore the human and natural history of the Northwest, including *The Collector*, a biography of David Douglas, which was named a 2010 Book of the Year by the PNW Booksellers Association. His collection of essays about Douglas, titled *A Naturalist at Work*, served as the catalog for a museum exhibit that he and his wife Claire curated. Nisbet’s most recent book, *Ancient Places*, is a cycle of stories about people and phenomena that helped to shape the landscape of our region. It was recently named a finalist for a Washington State Book Award. Nisbet is based in Spokane, Washington.

Facts at a Glance

Event Title: “Chasing Roots: Untangling the Puzzle of Wild Parsley and Biscuitroots”

Presenter: Jack Nisbet

Day/Date: Thursday, November 17

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

Location: Eco Hub @ the Willamette Heritage Center

Address: 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem (on the first floor of the Wool Warehouse)

Cost: FREE and open to the public

Public Contact: Catherine Alexander, Straub Environmental Center Executive Director

Phone: 503-302-4645

Email: Info@StraubEnvironmentalCenter.org

Website: www.StraubEnvironmentalCenter.org

Sponsors: Willamette Valley Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, David Douglas Society, Straub Environmental Center, and Friends of Trees

High-resolution Images



File Name: Cous(Hi-Res)_JeannDebons

Image Caption: *Cous (Wild Parsley)* by Jeanne Debons
(Image courtesy of Jeanne Debons)



File Name: JackNisbet(3v2)_DavidDouglasSociety

Image Caption: Spokane-based Author & Naturalist Jack Nisbet
(Image courtesy of the David Douglas Society)



File Name: Lomatium_dissectum(Hi-Res)_MattLavin

Image Caption: **Image Caption:** Desert parsley and biscuitroots have been used by Native Americans for centuries, yet they continue to puzzle modern botanists
(Image courtesy of Matt Lavin)



File Name: Lomatium_dissectum2(Hi-Res)_MattLavin

Image Caption: Desert parsley and biscuitroots have been used by Native Americans for centuries, yet they continue to puzzle modern botanists
(Image courtesy of Matt Lavin)



About the Straub Environmental Center

The Straub Environmental Center (SEC) inspires our community to connect with and care for nature in the mid-Willamette Valley.

SEC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that embraces diversity and prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national/ethnic origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and all other classifications protected by law.

SEC is not owned or operated by any government agency and is supported through grant funding, donations, sponsorships, and its programs. To learn more, visit StraubEnvironmentalCenter.org or call 503-302-4645.

New Location: Eco Hub @ the Willamette Heritage Center | 1313 Mill Street SE, Suite 107, Salem
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12363, Salem, OR 97309