

# WSU Mason County Extension

## Summary of Accomplishments, August 2014

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### Mission

Washington State University Mason County Extension connects the people of Mason County to the research and knowledge bases of the state's land grant research university providing solutions to local problems and stimulating local economies. Our county-based educators work with partners in your communities to provide educational programs and leverage the broad resources of a major university to resolve issues and create a positive future for the residents of Mason County.

### Program Updates

#### 4-H Youth Development Program

**Staff:** Dan Teuteberg, Regional Specialist - Assistant Professor  
Kathy Fuller, Program Coordinator

**Mission:** 4-H Youth Development empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

**Updates:** Mason County 4-H Summer Camp was held August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at Panhandle Lake 4-H Camp. During this six day educational experience Panhandle was home to 87 youth campers, including 13 Japanese youth. The Japanese youth were part of the 4-H International Exchange Program; attending 4-H camp is an important part of their month long visit to Washington State. Camp is a valuable learning experience that helps boys and girls appreciate the outdoors, live together as a group and appreciate people with different interests and backgrounds. Camp was staffed by 35 trained adults and teen counselors who provided leadership, educational activities, nutritious meals and mentorship to the youth campers. Many campers have indicated a strong desire to become a counselor-in-training and then a teen counselor as they approach the appropriate age for these roles. Camper registrations were slightly above projected numbers for this year.

#### Food Safety & Food Preservation Program

**Staff:** Lisa DeWall & R. Jeanne Rehwaldt, Food Safety & Preservation Information Assistants

**Mission:** Provide resident's current up to date research based answers to their home canning questions to reduce risk of food borne illness.

**Updates:** Checked six pressure gauges on Monday's from 10-12.  
Answered seventeen questions regarding Food Safety & Preservation.

## Food \$ense Nutrition

**Staff:** **R. Jeanne Rehwaldt**, Program Coordinator  
**Diana Castro, Pamela Lyons, Karen King and Michelle Lapp**, Educators

**Mission:** Providing outreach to youth and adults via direct education, environmental supports, and policy work to reduce childhood obesity and stretch food dollars for SNAP recipients.

**Updates:** WSU Extension and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction have been awarded a grant from USDA Team Nutrition. WSU Extension Food \$ense program in Mason County will be hiring a part time educator to work in three local schools to develop a Whole School Approach at Mt. View Elementary, Pioneer Intermediate, and Mary M. Knight Elementary. This is a two year grant.

## Water Resources Program

**Staff:** **Erica Bates**, Water Resources Associate

**Mission:** The Water Resources program helps members of our community make the best choices in caring for our local waters by providing research-based tools and information. We connect people with appropriate resources through collaboration with other extension programs, government agencies, businesses, schools, and other organizations

**Updates:** During the month of August, I produced and mailed 350 informational postcards to property owners on Hood Canal as an invitation to participate in the shoreline vegetation grant. Participants will receive free shore-friendly plants, mulch, and planting instructions in an effort to assist homeowners in improving and maintaining the health of Hood Canal.

Significant current partnerships include: Mason Conservation District, Mason County Public Health, Taylor Shellfish, Mason ECO Net, Puget Sound Partnership, and Native Plant Salvage.

## Master Gardener Program

**Staff:** **R. Jeanne Rehwaldt**, Program Coordinator

**Mission:** To provide relevant, research based, ecologically sound resources to meet the home horticultural needs of Mason County.

**Updates:** Harvesting of produce from Catalyst Park continues with all the donations going to Saint's Pantry Food Bank. In August the food bank experienced record high numbers of individuals accessing food at the site. 1,000 individuals received food which included 350 pounds per week of fresh produce grown at Catalyst Park by Master Gardener volunteers.

## Small Farms Program

**Staff:** Erik Hagan, Program Coordinator

**Mission:** Work to build a socio-ecologically sustainable agricultural community through education, outreach and conservation programs.

**Updates:** Ecological Farming Weekend Course: T.B.A. Currently developing curriculum to offer a weekend long course on farming practices and niche markets specific to Mason County community. This course seeks to introduce landowners to innovative and unique production strategies that allow an opportunity for developing their land to meet regional conservation goals while maximizing economic return on their investments. Topics include water resource management, vegetation (weed) management, and agroforestry. *Max. 30 registrants.*

Key Partnerships: Mason Conservation District, Mason County Public Health Department, Taylor Shellfish, Capital Land Trust, Shelton and Belfair Farmers' Market, KMAS News Radio, Mason PUD.

## Noxious Weed Program

**Staff:** Patricia Grover, Coordinator  
Connor Cordray, Assistant

**Updates:** The Noxious Weed Control program continues to capitalize on good weather and the availability of additional personnel to reduce the impacts of noxious weeds in Mason County. Collaboration with Olympic National Forest personnel, PUD #3 interns and 2 WCC crews resulted in noxious weed control on well over 90 acres of land within Mason County.