



Mason County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

December Accomplishments, 2014

Zena Edwards, Interim County Director, zena_edwards@wsu.edu, 360-867-2161
Lisa DeWall, Office Manager, LisaD@co.mason.wa.us, 360-427-9670 ext. 680

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

Noxious Weed Program

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

Updates: The final days of the year were filled with year-end reporting and developing grant proposals.

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: Check pressure gauges on Monday's from 10-12. Answer questions regarding Food Safety & Preservation, in particular Holiday Food Safety. Provide USDA tips for handling turkey safely and the Butterball turkey talk line.

Master Gardener Program

Staff: **R. Jeanne Rehwaldt**, Program Coordinator
Danielle Thompson, AmeriCorps Member

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

Updates: Basic training for volunteers begins January 2nd, at Mason County Public Works. To date there are ten applicants signed up with a few more expected to trickle in. Registration for classes is open through January.

4-H Youth Development Program

Staff: **Dan Teuteberg**, Regional Specialist - Assistant Professor
Kathy Fuller, Program Coordinator
Jonathan Andrews, AmeriCorps Member

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 was proud to participate in the annual Shelton Christmas Parade on December 6. The “Grinchy” theme of this year’s float included approximately 15 youth with elaborate hairstyles and many of their project animals. The project was led by a group of 20 adult volunteers.

Planning is underway for upcoming summer programs which will include a Forestry Leadership program and a Career Exploration program. A meeting was held with program directors to establish timelines and program objectives.



Food \$ense Nutrition

Staff: **R. Jeanne Rehwaldt**, Program Coordinator
Pamela Lyons, Karen King and Joshua Munro, Educators
Danielle Thompson, AmeriCorps Member

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: Pamela Lyons, Nutrition Educator, completed nutrition lessons at Mt. View Elementary School. Four Fifth grade classrooms and four Second grade classrooms received five weekly lessons that focused on MyPlate and the five food groups. Students enjoyed hands on activities as well as taste tests for foods in each group. Fifth graders learned the principles of food safety – Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill as well as practicing reading food labels to make healthier choices.

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: The month of December marked the second phase of a grant from the Puget Sound Partnership to build the capacity of the Mason Education, Communication, and Outreach Network (Mason ECO Net). This phase of the grant includes creating a membership development plan to increase the number of ECO Net member organizations, build relationships with stakeholder community groups, and increase ECO Net member activity level. Mason ECO Net provides education, outreach, and involvement with partner organizations to motivate and inspire our community's understanding and stewardship to sustain and improve our environment.

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

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: Erik Hagan resigned his position and is transitioning to the Pennsylvania State University in January 2015. WSU Extension and Mason Conservation District are in the process of re-hiring a Small Farms Program Coordinator. The current appointment for the Small Farms position is .75 Mason County and .25 Thurston County.

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.

