



Mason County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

January Accomplishments, 2015

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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

Noxious Weed Program

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

Updates: 2014 reporting is completed and 2015 is off to a good start with securing additional funding to assist Mason County property owners with control of the Class A Noxious Weed, giant hogweed.

Meanwhile, unseasonably warm temperatures are jumpstarting the noxious weed control program. The program participated in a Riparian Workshop hosted by the Mason Conservation District at the Skokomish Grange. Nearly 30 Mason County residents learned about native plants and some of the noxious weeds that threaten them. Another workshop is being planned for the end of January in Belfair.

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.

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.

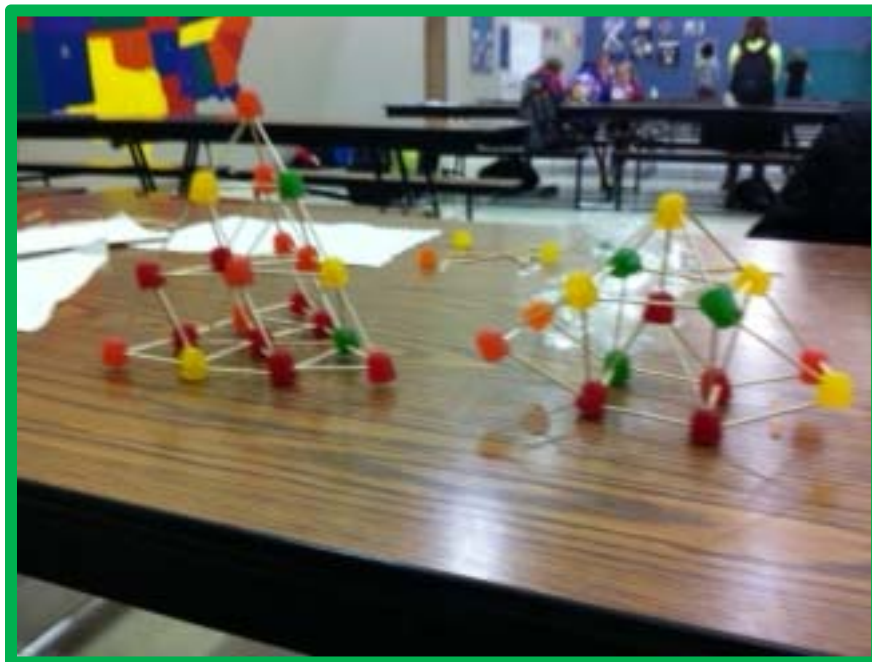
Updates: Through The Garden Gate series of gardening workshops began on January 10 with a workshop about growing a home orchard successfully in Mason County and basics of fruit tree grafting. 40 people were in attendance. On January 24 the topic was season extenders, water saving methods – including drip irrigation, rain barrels, and soil types for water retention. 26 people attended the workshop. All the gardening workshops are held at Memorial Hall. The next class will focus on Year Round Vegetable Gardening February 7 from 9 am – noon. Cost for class is \$10.

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: A partnership between Mason County 4-H Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) and Pioneer School District began September 30th and ended January 15th. During the 17 week program the 4-H STEM Coordinator provided science programming twice each week for 45 minutes. The science experiments ranged from engineering projects to chemistry, all of which were hands on learning experiences. In total the program served 88 students in grades 1 through 7.



Gum Drop Engineering

Food Sense 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: Jared Ibarra conducted a lesson for parents of Head Start students about how to plan, shop, and save money at the grocery store. 35 parents attended and they were a mix of English and Spanish speakers. Jared is bilingual in both languages and was able to switch between languages to be sure all in attendance were able to understand the principals being taught in the lesson and able to have their questions answered in a way they could easily comprehend. Jared will be scheduling another lesson on the same topic for Head Start parents in North Mason this spring.

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 January, planning work continued on the Targeted Shellfish Model Stewardship Program funded by an EPA grant through the Puget Sound Partnership. The current work is designing a cooperative program to increase landowner actions to reduce bacterial contamination in marine and freshwater tributaries in order to improve shellfish harvest areas. The pilot program is being undertaken in Hood Canal shellfish growing area 6 in Mason County and two areas in Pierce and Kitsap counties.

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: Vacant Position

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

Updates: WSU Extension and Mason Conservation District are in the process of 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.

Cooperating agencies: Washington State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Washington counties. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office

