

# WSU Mason County Extension

## Summary of Accomplishments, July 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.  
**Mollie Taylor**, AmeriCorps

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

**Updates:** A career exploration program named "Oh the Places We'll Go" which is geared towards at risk youth began on July 24. Weekly field trips will introduce youth to potential career opportunities in Mason County. Trips will include visits to an aquaculture site, welding shop, fish hatchery, an aviation mechanics facility and more. The series will conclude on August 21.

Many 4-H youth from Mason participated in the Mason Area Fair. This showcase of 4-H learning provides an opportunity for youth to display items that they have made and exhibit animals that they have raised. Youth also provided Educational Posters for displays and participated in Public Speaking contests.

#### 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:** Food Safety & Preservation educational displays were in Mason County Building 1 and at the Mason Area Fair.

Continue to check pressure gauges on Monday's from 10-12.

## Food \$ense Nutrition

**Staff:** **R. Jeanne Rehwaldt**, Program Coordinator  
**Diana Castro & Pamela Lyons**, Educators.  
**Michelle Lapp**, AmeriCorps

**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:** Please welcome Danielle Thompson who is the successful candidate for our WSC AmeriCorps position. Danielle will begin September 16, 2014 and her term will end July 31, 2015. She will be working 40 hours per week developing the Whole School Approach for Food \$ense at Pioneer and Mary M. Knight Schools. gardening with youth at Pioneer in their greenhouse and raised beds, and working alongside the Master Gardeners at Catalyst Park food bank garden.

## Water Resources Program

**Staff:** **Erica Bates & Cammy Mills**, Water Resources Associates

**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:** Highlights during the month of July were performing outreach at Tahuya Day, continued work on the shoreline vegetation grant, attending a two-day social marketing training course, and completing the McLane Cove water quality report on behalf of Mason County Public Health.

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.  
**Michelle Lapp**, AmeriCorps

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

**Updates:** The MG Garden Tour, located within the Shelton city limits, provided many community members with a wonderful array of gardens. Despite the 90 degree temperatures, all gardens were spectacular. We are looking forward to finding gardens for next year's tour tentatively located in the Pickering/Harstine Island area. Please contact Jeanne Rehwaldt if you have suggestions for gardens in the area to include on the tour.

## 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:** Small Scale Commercial Cheese Production Workshop: July 12<sup>th</sup> - Through a blend of classroom and hands-on learning, a local cheesemaker and two Department of Agriculture experts exposed students to the principles of managing a small-scale goat dairy, the art of goat cheesemaking, food safety regulations, and marketing approaches and opportunities.

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:** Mason County Noxious Weed Control program staff provided training in plant ID, field safety and noxious weed control techniques to a six person Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew working to remove invasive species in riparian areas of Mason County. This crew is currently deployed to the Carlton Complex in eastern Washington supporting the emergency fire efforts there.

With funding from a WSDA grant, nearly 40 letters were sent to property owners in the Sherwood Creek area requesting permission to survey for, and treat, knotweed and other noxious weeds.

The program had a booth at Allyn Days and the Mason Area Fair providing noxious weed information to visitors and residents of the county.