

WSU Mason County Extension

Summary of Accomplishments, May 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: The 4-H Wacky Science series wrapped up on May 15. During this 6 week program Mason County 4-H teamed up with the Shelton Timberland Library to present unique science sessions where youth became scientists using critical thinking and problem solving skills. Over 60 youth from local schools explored science concepts and took part in the educational activities.

On May 4, in the pouring rain, 4-H partnered with the Mason County Equestrienne's to host the 14th Annual Scholarship Event Trail Ride and Pet Walk at Panhandle Lake 4-H Camp. All proceeds from this event help to provide scholarships for graduating 4-H members. Mason County 4-H presented a \$500 scholarship to a SHS senior at the May 15 Senior Recognition and Awards Ceremony.

Concluded "Denim, More Than a Pair of Jeans" workshops held at Sew Now Studio. The six classes provided youth an opportunity to improve their sewing skills and knowledge.

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: Announced a new food preservation program called "Preserve the Taste of Summer". It is a series of eight online lessons for the in-home consumer who wants to learn about food preservation and food safety.

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: The Project Summary and budget for the 2015 SNAP grant proposal was submitted on May 7 to the state WSU admin office in Puyallup. More work will be done with developing partners, Whole Schools, and for the first time, added two schools in Belfair to receive lessons.

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: The May on Oakland Bay event was a success on May 18th at Flying Dog Farm with approximately 150-200 attendees. Do Some Good for the Hood and Puget Sound Starts Here months are ongoing with activities including beach walks, beach cleanups, shellfish seed sales, and other educational events.

Significant current partnerships include: Mason Conservation District, Mason County Public Health, Taylor Shellfish, Capitol Land Trust, Mason ECO Net, Puget Sound Partnership, Native Plant Salvage, Mason County PUD 3, Flying Dog Farm.

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 Plant Sale was a major success in spite of the rainy conditions. Plants all looked very healthy with lots of variety. Cake was served in honor of Extension's 100th anniversary. Master Gardeners helped choose plants and answered plant questions for the customers. Sales were 15% more than last year which will support the program for the next year.

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: May on Oakland Bay Event – The annual Mason County Earth Day event was hosted on 5/18 at Flying Dog Farm in Grapeview. This event highlighted the connection between food, farming, and shellfish production while also providing an opportunity for community and public organizations to connect with the general public on their environmental stewardship programs and efforts around Oakland Bay. There were over 150 people from Mason and surrounding counties that attended this event.

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: “We continue to get the word out about noxious weeds”

The program had an informational booth at the Matlock Old Timers' Fair and the Master Gardener Plant Sale.

Updated the WSDOT on “What's New in Noxious Weeds in Mason County” at their spring meeting in Port Orchard.

Initiated the 2014 season of noxious weed treatment on the Olympic National Forest.

EDRR works! A citizen reports a Class A noxious weed, shiny geranium, previously unrecorded in Mason County, on Friday; site is visited and id confirmed on Monday; property owner notified on Wednesday and control implemented.