



Mason County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Accomplishments, November 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

Administration

Updates: Zena Edwards attended the Washington State Association of Counties county leaders' conference in Spokane, WA November 18-20. In addition to the WSU Extension directors' affiliate meetings, she attended **Healthy Children, Engaged Communities, Prosperous Counties** and **A Healthy Bottom Lion for Puget Sound**. WSU Extension Director Rich Koenig made a WSU Extension 100-Year Celebration presentation at the Wednesday general session luncheon. In the afternoon, WSAC attendees enjoyed award winning Ferdinand's ice cream compliments of WSU Extension.

Noxious Weed Program

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

Updates: November was a month to report on the accomplishments of the Mason County Noxious Weed Control program during 2014. Reports to the Washington State Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture have been submitted and reporting to the Olympic National Forest is nearing completion. Program staff attended the fall meeting of the Olympic Knotweed Working Group held at Jamestown S'Klallam Campus in Sequim and presented on the topic "There's an App For That: Electronic Data Forms". Just over 90 attendees participated in the meeting.

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: 4-H enthusiasts from across the county gathered together on October 24 to celebrate and support the Mason County 4-H Youth Development Program at the 5th Annual 4-H Harvest of Hope Dinner, Auction, and Achievement Event. Volunteers, youth, and community members filled the Shelton Civic Center and enjoyed an evening celebrating 4-H. The event provided an opportunity to recognize 4-H members and volunteers for their achievements, project completion, and length of service. Over one hundred awards were presented during the achievement program, while the auction raised approximately \$3,000 to support 4-H youth programs in Mason County. We also shared a tribute to Jean Sharer, who recently passed away. Jean served as a 4-H volunteer for an incredible 52 years! A memorial scholarship was established in her name and \$1500 was pledged to establish the Jean Sharer Memorial Scholarship fund.



4-H volunteer Marilyn Brennan presents awards to 4-H members. Program MC Jonathan Andrews.

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.

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: WSU Extension would like to welcome Jared Ibarra, our new Instruction Classroom Support Technician 2 (Nutrition Educator). Jared graduated from Shelton High School and continued his education at Western Washington University, graduating this past June. He will be teaching nutrition to students and their parents at Evergreen Elementary and Shelton High School. In addition, he will be active in the community, encouraging SNAP eligible adults to take Eating Smart, Being Active, an eight week series of lessons. These classes will be scheduled for Spring and Summer 2015. His bilingual abilities will ensure better communication with the Hispanic population in Mason County.



Jared Ibarra, Nutrition Educator

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: Coordinated the first phase of a grant from the Puget Sound Partnership to build the capacity of the Mason Education, Communication, and Outreach Network (Mason ECO Net). The first phase of the grant was to conduct a survey of the membership to learn more about the members and the organizations they represent, the motivators and barriers to participation in the ECO Net, and suggestions for improvements. 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.

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 horticultural needs of Mason County.

Updates: Master Gardener Basic Training classes begin January 2 and will be held monthly through October. Trainees will learn WSU research based gardening information that they will then teach to members of the community. These hands on classes will complement the WSU on-line course for WSU Master Gardeners. Deadline to apply for the program is December 15.

The schedule for the Through The Garden Gate gardening workshops has been set. Two classes, on Saturdays January through March will be held from 9 AM – noon at Memorial Hall, 210 W. Franklin Street. Please call the Extension office to pre-register. The list of classes, dates, topics, and speakers can be found on the mason.wsu.edu website under gardening>master gardeners.

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: Working Riparian Buffer Feasibility Study: Developing a framework to bridge the gap between agricultural landowners and environmental regulators on water quality issues surrounding the Puget Sound. This project presents an opportunity for new niche markets and agricultural production systems that focus on tree crops along riparian ecosystems. This has a tremendous potential to positively impact agricultural and economic development within Mason County while supporting stakeholder objectives towards protecting our sensitive aquatic natural resources.

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.