



Mason County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

November Accomplishments, 2016

Justin G. Smith, PhD., County Director, justingriffis@wsu.edu, 360-427-9670 ext. 690

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

Community & Economic Development

Staff: **Justin G. Smith, PhD.**, County Director & Assistant Professor
Greg Schundler, CED Program Coordinator & GIS Specialist

Mission: Serve as leader in assisting Washington communities achieve their economic, environmental and social goals.

Updates:

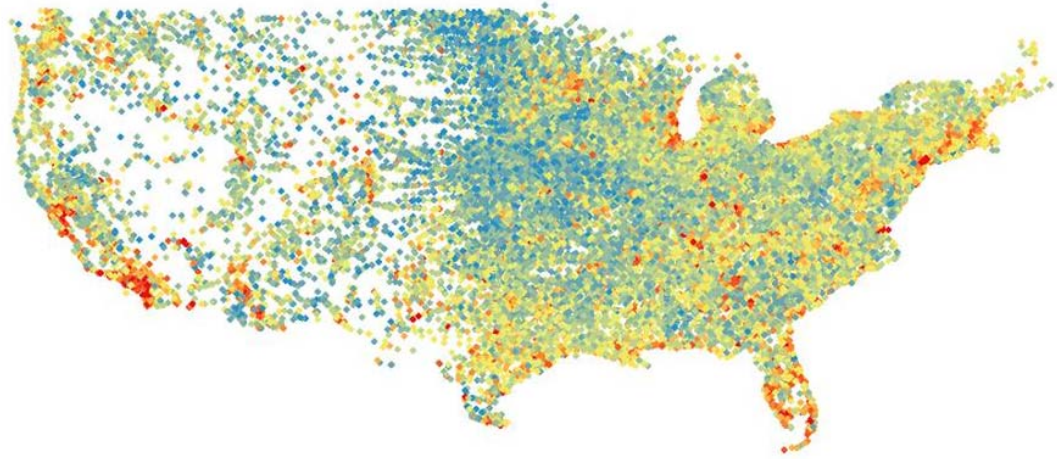


WSU Community Intelligence Lab continued its efforts through "**Community Consulting Office Hours**" every Tuesday evening at **Smoking Mo's (5pm-8pm)**. We continue our online forum through the **Facebook group "WSU Community Intelligence Lab"**. Computer mentorship is also available remotely through Skype and Join.me video conferencing platforms. Come join us!

The **Community Intelligence Lab (CIL)** is dedicated to empowering the people through Information Technology mentorship and collaboration. Whether supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses or assisting civic action groups with research, the CIL proactively engages Washingtonians across the State with workshops, solution support, and a collaborative community

Projects this month included city to city comparisons, county to county comparisons, how to speed up a Mac with a solid state drive installation in the CD port, how to sort lists in Wikipedia and copy to Google Sheets, collecting/mapping data with smart phone apps (Mappt), mapping wealth inequality through Gini Index maps, and how to browse more quickly by opening several tabs and windows.

Figure 1: Unearthing an ArcGIS database of 38,186 Cities and Towns to do comparable



city and county budget comparisons! (red is high population, blue is low)

Noxious Weed Program

Staff: Patricia Grover, Coordinator
Kendall Carmen, Assistant
Keith Reitz, Assistant

Updates:



Despite record setting rainfall during the month of October, field staff were still on the ground completing knotweed surveys along nearly 5 miles of the North Bay shoreline with funding from the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

And, on November 16, staff participated in the Olympic Invasives Working Group's fall meeting at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center near Sequim, WA. Hosted by Clallam

County Noxious Weed Control Board, the meeting provided an opportunity for nearly 100 Olympic Peninsula Weed Warriors to share ideas, review accomplishments, learn from expert speakers and obtain Applicator License credits. This year, Andy Mackinnon, co-author of "Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast" was the keynote speaker.



Food Safety & Food Preservation Program

Staff: Lisa DeWall, 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.

4-H Youth Development Program

Staff: Dan Teuteberg, Regional Specialist-Assistant Professor
Kathy Fuller, Program Coordinator

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

Updates: 4-H youth, adult volunteers, family members, and staff from across the county gathered at Veteran's Memorial Hall on November 9 to celebrate and support the Mason County 4-H Youth Development Program at our annual 4-H Achievement Event. Approximately 75 people enjoyed delicious dessert and refreshments as they celebrated 4-H in Mason County. The evening provided an opportunity to recognize 4-H members and volunteers for their achievements, project work, sportsmanship, and length of service. We also honored Mason County 4-H Leader of the Year Katie Mak for her dedication to the 4-H program at both the club and county level. The program was organized and led by 4-H youth volunteers.



Master Gardener Program

Staff: **Johanna Willingham**, Master Gardener Coordinator

Mission: To provide relevant university based research to meet the home and community horticultural needs of Mason County and to promote responsible environmental stewardship. Public education is the primary goal of Mason County WSU Master Gardener Program.

Updates:



We have welcomed 8 newly certified Mason County Master Gardener's into our ever-expanding community of growers. The newly certified MCMG's embody the mission of WSU Extension through engaging people, organizations, and surrounding communities in our effort to advance knowledge, economic well-being, and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

We had our final work party at Catalyst putting the garden to rest for the winter. We had a great season this year and are already planning for the 2017 garden.

The Master Gardener Clinic is open year-round in the WSU Cooperative Extension office. Bring your plant, insect, and weed samples and horticultural inquiries to the Master Gardener Clinic for identification on Monday's from 12-3 at the office. The Master Gardener clinic at the Shelton Farmers Market will resume in the Spring 2017.

Food \$ense Nutrition

Staff: **Christine Ciacetta**, Interim Program Coordinator
Pamela Bish, Educator

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: SNAP-Ed Nutrition Programs continues to provide nutrition education support to our most needy families this holiday season. Educator Pamela Bish assembled holiday food preparation and food safety handouts in English and Spanish for Saint's Pantry Food Bank clients. These focused on safe handling techniques for thawing and cooking turkeys plus USDA-approved recipes for healthy Thanksgiving and holiday dinner entrees, sides and desserts.

In addition, we distributed applications in English and Spanish for WA State DSHS Food Assistance as the holiday season tends to bring new clients who are not receiving services to Saint's Pantry for food and community support.

Water Resources Program

Staff: Vacant - 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 Water Resources Program continued implementation of the Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Outreach and Education program, which will continue through the end of 2016. WSU Mason County will be putting forward a formal announcement for this position the first week of January 2017. With this new hire, WSU will begin to focus more heavily on developing citizen networks to that invite public participation in water resource education. This includes revitalizing "Shore Stewards" and developing a Master Composter program to assist residents in better managing nutrients and septic systems.

Significant current partnerships include: Mason Conservation District, Mason County Public Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Puget Sound Partnership.

Small Farms Program

Staff: Colin Stewart, Small Farms Education and Outreach Specialist

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

Updates: The Small Farms Team has been focused on developing new funding opportunities related to improving agricultural production and food processing capabilities within Mason County. Resources necessary for growing Mason County's agricultural landscape and economy are continually being identified. Ideas centered around regional food-processing and distribution are being heavily explored.

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.