

# WSU Mason County Extension

## Summary of Accomplishments, September 2014

**Zena Edwards**, Interim County Director, [zena\\_edwards@wsu.edu](mailto:zena_edwards@wsu.edu), 360-867-2161  
**Lisa DeWall**, Office Manager, [LisaD@co.mason.wa.us](mailto: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.

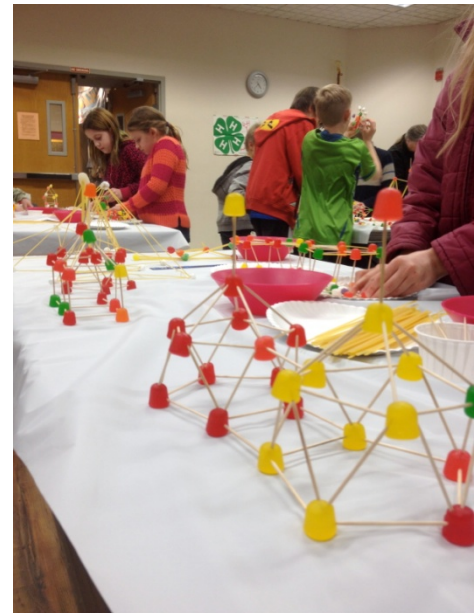
### Program Updates

#### 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:** Mason County 4-H Youth Development welcomed Jonathan Andrews to the staff on September 16. Jonathan is an AmeriCorps member who will be serving as the full-time 4-H STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Coordinator for the next 10 months. Jonathan's focus will be on delivering educational science programming to youth throughout Mason County. Programming will include partnerships with local elementary schools and community organizations. He will be partnering with an afterschool program at Pioneer Elementary that currently serves approximately 18 youth each week. He will also be continuing a partnership with Timberland Regional Library where afterschool and evening programs will be offered. Jonathan will continue the popular Discovery Science Day Camp and also has plans to connect with local service organizations and the local power supply company. Throughout the upcoming year we expect to reach and engage over 300 youth with 4-H science programming.



*4-H STEM  
Gumdrop Engineering*

## 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. September 9<sup>th</sup> staff appeared on KMAS Radio morning show to answer questions about food safety & preservation and promote the new WSU online course "Preserve The Taste Of Summer".

On September 17 at Memorial Hall Jeanne Rehwaldt gave a presentation on pickling and fermenting. The So Easy To Preserve DVD from University of Georgia was used to show participants how to safely hot water bath pickled and fermented foods. A Master Gardener volunteer presented a demonstration how to make sauerkraut in a gallon jar. Examples of home canned produce and equipment were on display as well as food preservation resources from Washington State University. 16 people attended the 2 hour workshop immediately following the fall gardening workshop.



*Examples of home canned produce and equipment*

## 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:** Danielle Thompson began her term of service as an AmeriCorps Washington Service Corps Individual Placement member. She will be developing a Whole School Approach at Pioneer School District which includes the school garden, nutrition lessons in classrooms, parent outreach, and Smarter Lunchroom Design. Danielle is a graduate of Mary M. Knight High School.

Joshua Munro began working as a part time nutrition educator and will be teaching in local area schools and working with school lunchroom staff for Smarter Lunchroom Design. Josh is a graduate of Shelton High School and Central Washington University.

## 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 September, orders were processed for 55 shoreline residents on Hood Canal for free shore-friendly plants through the shoreline vegetation grant and compiled additional informational materials to assist homeowners in improving and maintaining the health of Hood Canal.

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:** Jeanne Rehwaldt attended the bi-annual Master Gardener Program Coordinators meeting in Puyallup on September 17 where she participated in a Ripple Effect Mapping (REM) Exercise. REM is a new way to explore overall (individual, group, community, or regional) changes that have taken place since participating in an Extension program. On September 18 and 19 Master Gardener volunteers and staff participated in the annual MG Advanced Education Conference held in Tacoma. Classes covered a wide variety of topics and helped staff and volunteers to be able to better identify needs in the community where Master Gardeners can be effective in meeting those needs.

On September 13, Master Gardener volunteers presented 1.5 hours on fall gardening, extending the season, and planting and growing garlic. 16 people attended the workshop on a beautiful, sunny, end of summer morning at Memorial Hall.



*Garlic presentation by community gardener Randy Norenberg*

## 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.

## Noxious Weed Program

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

**Updates:** With funding from a WSDA grant and support from the Puget Sound Corps crew, the Mason County Noxious Weed Control program initiated control efforts for knotweed on over 40 parcels of land in Mason County. Specific areas targeted included Finch Creek, Stimson Creek, Sherwood Creek, North Bay and Allyn.



*Puget Sound Corps crew with Patricia Grover & Connor Cordray MCNWCB*

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.