

# Washington State University Skamania County Extension -2012 Highlights-

## *Lifelong Learning Culture*



### **Mission Statement**

Washington State University Extension engages people, organizations and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

### **Vision**

Washington State University Extension is the front door to the University. It extends non-credit education and degree opportunities to people and communities throughout the state. Extension builds the capacity of individuals, organizations, businesses and communities, empowering them to find solutions for local issues and to improve their quality of life. Extension is recognized for its accessible, learner-centered, relevant, high quality, unbiased educational programs. Extension collaborates with communities to create a culture of life-long learning.

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WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

You do  
great stuff!

-Survey Response  
Skamania Co Fair

# Accomplishments

## -2012 Highlights-

### Washington State University Skamania County Extension

#### **Strategic Goals :**

I. Create and Sustain Vibrant Communities

II. Create and Sustain Business, Jobs, and Economic Vitality of Washington

III. Enhance Natural Resources and Environmental Stewardship

IV. Enhance Economic Opportunities for Agricultural Enterprises While Protecting Washington's Resources

V. Empower Youth and Families to Achieve Social, Economic, and Educational Success

#### **Program Areas:**

- 4-H
- Forest Youth Success
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources
- Gardening
- Community Development

#### **Staying Relevant and Responding to Needs**

Visit us on-line to take a survey and provide feedback to help guide our work plans. <http://skamania.wsu.edu>

#### **Volunteers and Youth Development**

In 4-H we have over **151 volunteer** leaders of **31 4-H clubs** working with **over 539 enrollees**. Our volunteer base is paramount to successful programs. We have successfully expanded into afterschool programs and organized a club in outlying areas of the county – specifically East County where 4-H enrollees have traditionally gone to Klickitat County. We are currently partnered with a SCSD representative to continue to recruit for and market school clubs and non-traditional clubs.

#### **Outreach and Education**

In 2012, over 1,150 residents were educated through **25 workshops, field tours, and classes**. Topics ranged from forest health, beginning farming and water catchment. Additionally, we offered direct consultation at the office, over the phone, on email and with field visits for gardening, farming, pest diagnosis and small woodlot consultation. On all our surveyed events, **over 90% of participants show evidence that they have gained new knowledge and expect to change their practices based on the skills developed**. The WSU Organic Gardening team, lead by Skamania County, produced **six extension publications** and have **five in track** to be published in 2013.

#### **Funding**

Due to the partnership between WSU and Skamania County, we are able to leverage our efforts to bring in grant funds to the county. In 2012, we have accessed over **\$390,000** in funds with **8 grants** and \$35,000 in pending. Many of these grants are through partnerships with other departments, groups and agencies that will bring funds and/or resources to Skamania County. Because of this grant activity, **all operation expenses through Skamania County are funded through grant accruals**.

#### **Projects**

**One grant** has supported the development of forest service collaboratives on the South end of the Gifford Pinchot. Thirty-two volunteers surveyed the range of the **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug** throughout Washington State. Collaboration with WA DNR, USFS Health and private landowners revealed the **expanded range of the California five-spined Ips**. Experimental retrofits of trellis systems for blueberries and gardening recommendations were developed to allow for **Spotted Wing Drosophila management**. Our office has significantly expanded to support community and economic development through **Local Technology Planning Team** and **Strengthening Economies Together**.



# 4-H -2012 Highlights-

## Washington State University Skamania County Extension

### Where Kids Experience 4-H in Skamania County:

- 4-H camp—two overnight camps in Skamania County
- 4-H Summer Day Camp – 3 week-long sessions
- Know Your Government Conference
- State 4-H Forum
- Local Clubs/Activities
- National 4-H Congress
- Washington State 4-H Camp Rally
- Western Regional 4-H Forum
- National 4-H Conference
- National 4-H Technology Leadership Conference,
- 4-H Science Camp-In
- State 4-H Teen Conference
- Washington State 4-H Fair
- Cultural Exchange
- Super Saturday
- Skamania County Fair
- Workshops, seminars, trainings
- Challenge/Ropes training
- Employment through Forest Youth Success
- Daily afterschool programs

4-H is the largest youth organization in Skamania County outside of the school district. 4-H has **539 active members** active enrolled in **31 Skamania County clubs** (total-including group enrollments and active). **151 volunteers** maintain and lead these clubs and events . Although we have successfully engaged youth and families in more diverse projects seeking opportunities to partner with existing and future businesses and enterprises in the County remains a priority. A stronger WSU Extension/4-H presence in the schools has been established and opportunities for increasing these partnerships continue to be explored. The office has partnered with school district employees to expand these opportunities and market 4-H within the school districts.

New clubs include one small animal club and a new fiber arts and alpaca club in East County, an area we have worked hard to establish new memberships /clubs.

Leaders Council sponsored their second Super Saturday for participants in a variety of areas including animal husbandry, judging, Home Economics, media and art.

The Horse Advisory Board held horse camp again this year with over 45 participants. Camas Camp 'n Ranch, a 4-H Club held three one-week day camps. Over 100 youth and adults attended.

The office presented three club-specific leader trainings. Leaders council has established several sub-committees to address the need to update by-laws, fund raising and expenditures, and Achievement Night. Attendance at Leaders Council meeting is at an all-time high.

Forty-one 4-H Members represented us at the State 4-H Fair in Puyallup and one youth was named Washington State Poultry Person of the Year!

In 2012, Leaders Council will continue address several key questions toward re-establishing the goals of the WSU Extension 4-H Program and the Leader's Advisory Council for the constituency of our 4-H Programs:

### What 4-H Participants experienced in Skamania County in 2012:

- Educational trips to colleges, shows, workshops, seminars, foreign exchange
- Community service, service learning, community development
- Fairs and exhibits—a chance to display projects publicly
- 4-H activities and project work
- Fairs and exhibits—a chance to display projects publicly
- 4-H activities and project work
- Lifelong friendships with young people and adults
- Public speaking
- Ecology and placed based education
- Government, law and political process training/experience



Super Saturday, 2012

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



4-H Youth Development Program



1. What are the vision and goals of the organization?
2. Who are affected by the group's work?
3. How does the organization work?
4. How do people interact?
5. How can we achieve our stated Objectives and Purposes?



**“This is very important to learn. Thank you for teaching me”**  
-Bark beetle Workshop attendee

# Agriculture & Natural Resources

## -2012 Highlights-

### Washington State University Skamania County Extension

#### Project Partners

- WSU Forestry
- WSU Klickitat & Clark Counties
- WSU Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center
- WSU Mt Vernon Research & Extension Center
- University of Washington Skamania County Noxious Weeds
- Gorge Grown
- South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative
- Mount Adams Resource Stewards
- WSDA Pest Program
- WADNR
- USDA APHIS
- USDA FS Forest Health
- OSU Hood River & Wasco Counties
- Underwood Conservation District

#### Forest Health

Area fires, ice storms and drought conditions significant forest health issues have arisen in the region such as bark beetle outbreaks. In partnership with Washington State Department of Natural Resources, residents learned about forest health issues at two field days, two workshops and multiple publications.



Out break of the newly discovered California fivespined Ips bark beetle

#### Agriculture and Natural Resource Entrepreneurship

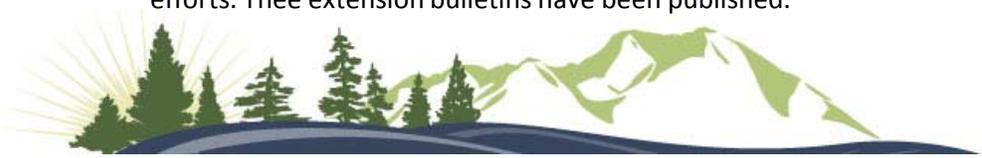
In collaboration with Mid Columbia Small Farms Team, Cultivating Success: Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Ties to the Land: Succession Planning was delivered to Skamania County. Participants left with working business plans and succession plans. 85% have researched similar markets to price product and develop volume. 100% know where to get financial assistance. 35% have developed at least one enterprise budget. In collaboration with South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative and Mount Adams Resource Stewards, 97% of small business owners now understand how to bid on contracts for the GPNF and 79% now know how to apply for HUBZone certification because of workshops delivered. Three extension bulletins were published to assist small farmers. Two grants were submitted to bring innovation to the area for mushroom and bio fuel production.

#### Exotic Insect Detection and Management

In partnership with Skamania County Noxious Weeds and the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area, the first Invasive Species Workshop was created and attended by over 100 land managers. Six other workshops and seminars were delivered to recruit residents and professionals to aid in exotic insect detection. 100% intend to submit a suspected insect sample and know how to do so. Over 80% of participants can distinguish Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs from native stink bugs and can distinguish Asian Long horned Beetles from native species. Two grants are being implemented to develop detection techniques for BMSB and management of the Spotted Winged Drosophila. One additional grant has been submitted to elaborate on outreach efforts. These extension bulletins have been published.



The newly introduced Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.



# Community Development -2012 Highlights-

## Washington State University Skamania County Extension



### ***Klickitat Skamania Local Technology Planning Team***

A \$69,600 broadband planning project was awarded to MCEDD (\$24,814 WSUE sub-grant) to increase broadband awareness, access and adoption in Klickitat and Skamania counties. WSU Extension, along with MCEDD, Skamania EDC, Klickitat EDC and Community Enrichment for Klickitat County (CEKC) serve as the core team on this KSLTPT project. Four community forums and an assessment survey were delivered in 2012. 80 residents responded. Initial survey results were presented to the full KSLTPT committee on November 29th. Analysis will occur in the first quarter of 2013. Findings will be used to inform next steps during the project such as identification of additional broadband needs, continued community outreach and new training offerings.

### ***Strengthening Economies Together***

WSU Extension received grant funds to collaborate with USDA RD and Mid-Columbia Economic Development District-MCEDD in the Columbia Gorge to deliver seven monthly sessions of SET. Local assets and regional support culminated in updating the region's economic development strategy. Participation was great and ranged from 45-75 local businesses, non-profits, municipalities and educational institutes that came to share resources and ideas.



Opening session of SET in The Dalles-Photo by Carrie Pipinich.

### ***TELL US HOW WE ARE DOING AND WHAT PROGRAMS YOUR COMMUNITY WANTS***

We need your guidance to develop effective and relevant programming for Skamania County. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey on-line or visit us at the office to pick up a survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J5RDPTJ>

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