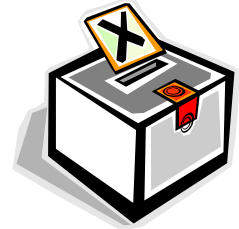


Extension District passes!

The Clackamas County voters approved the formation and funding of an Extension and 4-H District this past November 4th – providing a permanent property tax source of local government support for the agency. OSU's Extension Service has been a partner with Clackamas County to deliver informal, practical education programs for farmers, homeowners, homemakers, and youth throughout the county here for the past 91 years.



Local Extension funding provides office space, clerical and program support staff, and program budgets for faculty serving the county. The new district and its funding will provide an opportunity to grow programs into the future as the county's population grows to meet demands for service.

"We are very pleased to see the level of support in this county for the formation and funding Extension District here," said Mike Bondi, Extension Staff Chair. "Hundreds of Extension clients and volunteers led the charge on our behalf. We can't begin to thank people enough for their support."

Bondi said that the positive result for the Extension District vote demonstrates the value that citizens place on the importance of our agriculture and natural resource economy, local production of food and fiber, basic living skills, environmental stewardship, and the need for building capacity in 4-H youth and family programs.

Master Gardener classes offered!

Gardening as a hobby is certainly on the upsurge but even more important lately is the desire for families to offset food prices by growing their own fruits and vegetables. The media is doing a great job delivering the message that it is a good idea to garden for health and food production... now, how does one learn to do it?



After trainees finish the classroom sessions in March, they act as Master Gardener Interns for the next gardening season helping home gardeners, working with school gardens, and acting as garden educators.

Applications for the popular OSU Extension Master Gardener Program are now available by calling Jordis Yost at 503-650-3118 or Jordis.yost@oregonstate.edu. Applications are also available online <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/>.

There are still openings available, but classes fill quickly. Get your application in today!

Many people already know that OSU Master Gardeners can be a great resource for information and garden coaching...but how does one *become* a Master Gardener? This is the perfect time of year to ask that question because applications are now available to take the 11-week course.

4-H recognizes members, leaders, and friends



Last month the Clackamas County 4-H program held its annual Awards and Recognition event. Nearly 300 people filled the 4-H Exhibit Hall to support the numerous award winners. Youth members were recognized for their leadership, citizenship, and record-keeping skills.

Adult 4-H leaders received anniversary awards - the longest was 60 years! Six new Friends of 4-H were chosen for their gifts of support, funding, or expertise. A few highlights are shared below.

College Scholarship winners:

Stephanie Borgen, Canby
Shelbie Carmony, Sandy
Kelsey Downs, Canby
Rachel Geiter, Milwaukie
Michelle Janik, Sandy
John Jordahl, Estacada
Annie Kersting, Portland
Nathan McCarty, Estacada
Melanie Williams, Canby

Distinguished Service Leader Awards:

Heather Guariniello, Oregon City
Lynne Hartman, Oregon City
Tom McFarland, Oregon City
Janice Searls, Eagle Creek

Friends of 4-H:

3Cs Pet Co.
Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Karen Bassett
George & Glendel Campbell
Mark Williams
Gary Zosel

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Tree School coming soon

Mark your calendar's folks! Tree School 2009 is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, at Clackamas Community College. It promises once again to be a busy day for small woodland owners and Christmas tree growers. There will be numerous new classes, exciting new instructors, and lots of your traditional favorites as well. "There are too many fantastic new classes to name them all," says Tree School Coordinator, Merrily Enquist. "Altogether, we expect to present at least 60 classes."



Watch your mail boxes starting around the 12th of January, 2009. Tree School catalogs will start arriving about that time. Tree School Registrar, Cheryl Keithan, reminds everyone to read the class descriptions carefully and register early. Contact Cheryl at 503-655-8631 to be added to the mailing list.

What's Happening

Holiday Closures – December 24-25, January 1, and January 19. Extension office closed.

4-H Horse Enrollment Deadline – due to the Extension office by January 1. Contact Wendy Hein 503-650-3122.

Community Forestry Day - Saturday, January 10, 8:30am-4:00pm. Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beaver Creek. Registration required. Contact Tim DeLano, 503-632-2150.

Tree School catalogs in the mail – arriving around January 12. Contact Cheryl Keithan 503-655-8631.

Horse Bowl and Public Speaking Contests – January 24, 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby. Contact Wendy Hein, 503-650-3122.

Plant Your Trees RIGHT - Wednesday, January 28, 7:00-9:15pm, and Saturday, January 31, 9:00am-3:00pm. OSU Extension office, Oregon City. Contact Mike Bondi, 503-655-8631.

Christmas Tree Acquaintance Class - Friday, February 6, 1:30-4:30pm. OSU Extension office, Oregon City. Registration required. Contact Mike Bondi (503) 655-8631.

Community Forestry Day - Saturday, February 14, 8:30am-4:00pm. Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beaver Creek. Registration required. Contact Tim DeLano, 503-632-2150.

Managing Your Woodlands - a basic forestry short course. Six evenings and one Saturday, February 16 through March 7. Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beaver Creek. Registration required. Contact Mike Bondi, 503-655-8631.