



Extension Service
Washington County

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OSU to You

November/December 2008

OSU Extension Service engages the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.

County 4-H welcomes new faculty

The 4-H Youth Development program is pleased to announce that **Patrick Willis** has joined OSU Extension in Washington County. Pat brings a long list of skills and expertise to 4-H to further the vision of offering experiential learning and involvement opportunities for youth.

Pat has worked in informal education for over 25 years, the past 16 as director of Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve in Hillsboro. There he developed a wide array of hands-on programs for kids of all ages, camps and classes, interactive exhibits, habitat restoration and research projects, teacher education programs, and a very active volunteer program. Before diving into wetlands, Pat worked at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry as a science education program manager. He has taught marine and aquatic education classes at the Hatfield Marine Science Center and is an adjunct science instructor at Marylhurst University. His enthusiasm and passion for 4-H and developing learning opportunities is contagious! Welcome Pat!



Master Gardener training goes online

OSU is now offering an online version of our popular Master Gardener course. This joint Oregon State University (OSU) Extended Campus and Extension Service program educates Oregonians about the art and science of growing and caring for plants. This program also facilitates the training of a highly-educated group of volunteers. These volunteers extend sustainable gardening information to their communities through education and outreach programs. In the Portland metro area, volunteers will join the ranks of 800+ Master Gardener volunteers that serve the public with two telephone hotlines and dozens of plant clinics at farmers' markets and other venues. The online training is proving to be very popular among residents of the metro region. Twenty participants from the tri-county metro region have been accepted into the online program and there are over 50 people on the waiting list for this innovative method of program delivery. We hope to accept more participants in the future as we build capacity to integrate this new cohort of volunteers into our existing programming.

Washington County Volunteer Master Gardener, Jean Natter answers consumer questions at Saturday market





What you eat affects how you feel

Adejoke Babatunde affects how local school children learn about health to improve their own lives. As special guest educator at Hillsboro’s Lincoln Street Elementary school, Adejoke shares positive nutrition experiences with all the kindergarteners, first- and second graders every month, helping them to learn and choose healthy behaviors. “I want the children to achieve that ‘aha’ moment when they make that healthy choice. It can be eating breakfast or perhaps choosing to try a new healthy snack.” Drawing on her degree in Health Promotion Education, Adejoke creates learning moments when children make choices with healthy foods tasting, story times that draw attention to health and literacy, and activities which integrate writing and movement as well. This month’s whole grains identification had kindergartners wielding magnifying glasses then whole wheat, oats, rice and corn got the taste test. To enhance classroom learning and involve families, a newsletter and recipes are sent to families and the same messages are echoed throughout the school with help from the classroom teacher, p.e. teacher, principal and cafeteria staff.

“It’s also really important to me to approach each child differently to make sure they’re engaged. As much as possible I try to spend individual time with them, because that connection is important.”

Washington County OSU TO YOU is a bi-monthly publication of the OSU Extension Service in Washington County highlighting the activities and accomplishments of local programs. More information on all program areas and events can be seen on our website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington> or our location at 18640 NW Walker Road, Suite 1400, Beaverton, OR 97006 (CAPITAL Center Entrance D1).

New chemicals needed, being tested for Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) is paving the way for a new generation of insecticides and fungicides that will target common pests found on many of the vegetable and small fruit crops grown in Washington County. This work leads to safer food for consumers.

According to Joe DeFrancesco, Extension researcher at the Center, “Everyone wants to see integrated pest management become a standard for our growers, but it is more difficult to achieve with the older pesticides.” IPM is an approach to control disease and insect problems on crop land by looking more broadly at what’s actually causing the problem and trying to find a control method that’s pest specific and environmentally sensitive.

“IPM doesn’t mean *not* using pesticides at all, but it does mean that we are looking for new, more target-specific chemicals that kill only the pest we are after. Then we test and evaluate these materials and petition the federal Environmental Protection Agency for possible registration and use of the chemical by the growers.”

DeFrancesco heads up the Center’s Specialty Crop Registration program, one of only a handful of such testing locations in the U.S. Since 2001 the Center has done residue studies on more than 50 different pesticide products for crops from beets, chard and onions to blueberries, hops and grapes—just to name a few. These residue studies have led to dozens of new registrations for pesticides now available to local growers.

“The key is that we are creating new ways for area farmers to successfully grow crops and make a living while ensuring consumers have food that is safe to eat,” DeFrancesco adds.



Community Networking Forum Hosted

The CPO (Citizen Participation Organization) program hosted a **Community Networking Forum** in October, bringing together citizen leaders and city staff involved in public involvement. Representatives and staff involved in the Washington County CCI, Beaverton NACs, Tigard CCI, Forest Grove CCI explored issues that they have in common. Discussion centered around three questions:

- What are the first three positive things about your neighborhood?
- What needs/issues/concerns that your neighborhood needs to work on?
- What resources/partners do you need to get results?

Appreciation for community amenities such as parks, recreation, libraries, youth programs, walkable neighborhoods and “active senior” facilities were highlighted although some citizen leaders stated that not all areas have these amenities available. Participants also shared common concerns and gained insight on the ways that citizens throughout Washington County and its cities work together to address local issues. Common concerns included lack of street connectivity, pedestrian and bike safety issues, funding for aging infrastructure, zoning variances, and need for preservation of urban trees.