Dig in! Learn and Grow from the Ground Up!

“I absolutely loved the MG training program. I learned so much and met such wonderful people. The administrators, staff, and instructors were fantastic - helpful, supportive, and kind. I feel as if I am part of a great community and look forward to volunteering, learning, and growing with Master Gardeners.”

Those are the reflections of 2018 OSU Master Gardener™ trainee Kasey Marks, on the completion of her Master Gardener training.

You too can learn and grow by registering for the 2019 OSU Extension Service Master Gardener training! The training includes all aspects of sustainable gardening in a fun and friendly environment. Science-based curriculum is offered in a combination of in-person, online classes, and hands-on workshops that run February through March. This unique training is followed by volunteer educational outreach. Become a garden educator and help your community to grow from the ground up! To register go to: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/become-master-gardener.

Marcia McIntyre
Master Gardener Program

29th Annual Clackamas Tree School

Clackamas Tree School, held on March 23, 2019, will offer 75 classes covering key topics to support successful management of small woodlands. Participants will learn about forest management, wildfire preparedness, marketing and business, forest health, weed management, wildlife habitat, forest fungi, and more. This year there will be a new Youth Fire Academy (age 14-20 years) along with activities for children (age 6-13 years). About 650 woodland owners are expected along with about 150 instructors, exhibitors, and volunteers.

In a survey of over 300 past participants, 92 percent confirmed that Tree School helped them improve on-the-ground management. “As I work with landowners across my territory, it’s really encouraging to hear how they have benefited from Tree School.” Glenn Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester.

Tree School is a collaborative effort led by the OSU Extension Clackamas County team consisting of Glenn Ahrens, Rose Clarke, Jean Bremer, and Cheryl Keithan, with a lot of help from forestry community partners and volunteers. Registration opens at 10:00 am on Monday, January 28. Participants can register online, in-person, or by mail. Many classes fill in the first few days of registration. For more information see https://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas.

Glenn Ahrens
OSU Extension Forester
Fund Continues to Innovate!

For the past eight years, the Clackamas Extension and 4-H Service District has supported the development of new and creative education and research projects in the county aimed at encouraging fresh ideas, thinking and approaches to our work and how OSU Extension serves in the community. Funding from the District’s annual budget has been used to develop new workshops and educational programs, improve technology and outreach capabilities, and produce “proof of concept” pilot efforts as a springboard to larger projects and funding opportunities.

During 2018 funding supported the following projects. Final project reports were presented at an all-staff meeting in December for the Clackamas Extension office and the North Willamette Research and Extension Center.

The B.E.A.V.—Better than the Eye Aerial Vehicle Survey: Purchased drone technology and developed applications for commercial agriculture, research and education. Lead: Kristie Buckland, Extension Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crop Specialist—NWREC

Precision Planting Prevents Poor Performance: Purchased more sophisticated seed drill technology with applications for production and research. Lead: Kristie Buckland, Extension Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crop Specialist—NWREC

Assessing Caneberry Grower Research and Education Needs Gower survey and data collection to aid with determining industry needs. Lead; Pat Jones, Berry Crops, Faculty Research Assistant—NWREC

Attracting Wild Pollinators to Orchard Crops Research project determined wild pollinator presence and activity in peach and cider apple orchards. Lead: David Lowenstein, Orchard Crops Post Doc—NWREC

Cover Crop Demonstration and a New Christmas Tree Species Research projects assessed potential cover crops for use in Christmas tree management and developed of a new Trojan Fir Seed Orchard. Lead: Chal Landgren, Extension Christmas Tree Specialist—NWREC

Photo Stacking System New technology purchased to capture high quality photographic images of small insects and organisms for use in education, research and publishing. Lead: Heather Andrews, Orchard Crops Faculty Research Assistant—NWREC

North Willamette Botanic Garden Designed and established a showcase botanic garden next to patio outside NWREC’s conference room. Lead: Lloyd Nackley, Nursery/Greenhouse Crops Research Leader—NWREC

Field to Table—Farm Direct, Value-Added Workshops Developed four-part, hands-on workshop series to teach skills for producing processed products for sale from farms. Lead: Kelly Streit, Family and Community Health Instructor—Clackamas Extension

Riparian Forest Management on Family Forests Developed field protocols for assessing riparian forest characteristics needed by landowners when preparing management plans. Lead: Jen Gorski, Extension Forestry Education Program Assistant—Clackamas Extension

Heirloom Hard Apple Cider Orcharding Workshop Developed and delivered one-day workshop to help those interested in establishing a cider apple orchard. Lead: Aaron Heinrich, Orchard Crops Faculty Research Assistant—NWREC

Michael Bondi
Clackamas County Leader

Kelly Streit presenting at All-Staff Meeting.
2018 FCH Champions

OSU Extension Family & Community Health would like to recognize individuals in the community that we consider our Champions. They have each gone over and beyond in partnering with us, working to make their space, people, and organizations healthier, and have either motivated their students, residents, or clients in a special way. For 2018, our Champions are:

Julie Theander, Estacada School District Nutrition Services
Uli Sparks, Molalla Elementary School
Nicole Higginbotham, Molalla Elementary School
Mardi Morgan, Molalla Elementary School
Julie Deardorff, Molalla Elementary School
Gabriela Gutierrez, Trost Elementary School
Martha Schroeder, Trost Elementary School
Jessica Guevara Patiño, Trost Elementary School
Ashley Carroll, Todos Juntos
Alice Perez Ververa, Estacada Public Library
Debra Bufton, Estacada Area Food Bank
Santa Avila, Hacienda CDC Plaza Los Robles

Each Champion is receiving a special certificate to indicate our gratitude. We appreciate their contributions not just to Extension, but to the community at large. As you can see, these Champions serve in a variety of roles in their communities and we see them make a positive impact in so many different ways.

Erin Devlin
Family & Community Health Faculty

Clackamas County Shines at Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup

Six youth members from Clackamas County represented Oregon in national competitions in Louisville, Kentucky this November. Renee Kozlowski was the Reserve Champion in Public Speaking. The Horse Bowl team, with members Katie Dravis, Dawn Dravis, Savannah Lelm, Alexis Schuettkce, and Alexis Knight, placed 11th. Besides the competitions, the members had the opportunity to tour world caliber equine facilities like Churchill Downs, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, the Gluck Equine Research Center at the University of Kentucky, and the Kentucky Horse Park.

Wendy Hein
4-H Youth Development Faculty

We are still working on the building permitting process for the Clackamas Extension Education Center with the City of Oregon City. Several required changes to the exterior design (more windows, articulation style), primary entrance location, and mitigation in the wetland area have all slowed the next steps. The goal is to re-submit the application for permitting to the City the week of January 7-11. Following a staff review, it is expected that the Oregon City Planning Commission will need to make the final decision for permit approval. We are hoping this can occur in late January or February.

Meanwhile, the architects continue to work on construction documents for the building, refining the kitchen design and outdoor elements. In addition, we hope to have most of the wood product specifications in place by the end of January, so we can begin working with forest product companies for bringing in local products.

Michael Bondi
Clackamas County Leader
Future Events

January:

Office Closed: Tuesday, January 1 in observance of New Year’s Day.

4-H Enrollment Deadline: Thursday, January 10. This is the deadline for 4-H youth to re-enroll for fair eligibility and new enrollment eligibility in the Horse and Dog fair. Contact Jan Williams or Wendy Hein 503-655-8635.

4-H Western National Roundup: January 10-13 in Denver, Colorado. Contact Wendy Hein 503-650-3122.

Master Gardener Training Early Bird Discount Ends: Participants who sign up to take the Master Gardener training on or before January 11 save $50 from the class cost. Contact Marcia McIntire 503-650-3126.

Community Forestry Day: Saturday, January 12 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Contact Peter Matzka 503-655-8631.

Office Closed: Monday, January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

4-H Horse Bowl and Horse Public Speaking Contests: Saturday, January 26 starting at 7:30 am at the Clackamas County Event Center. 4-H youth participating in the horse project will compete on their knowledge of the subject. Contact Wendy Hein 503-650-3122.

Tree School Enrollment Opens: Monday, January 28. Registration will open in person and online at 10:00 am. Tree School will be held Saturday, March 23. Contact Glenn Ahrens 503-655-6718.

February:

Federal Income Taxes for Woodland Owners Workshop: Tuesday, February 5 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Extension annex. Pre-registration is required. Contact Glenn Ahrens 503-655-8631.

Master Gardener Training Starts: February 5-8. Classes will be held in Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties. The classes will run for six weeks. Pre-registration is required. Contact Marcia McIntire 503-650-3126.

Community Forestry Day: Saturday, February 9 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Contact Peter Matzka 503-655-8631.

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by two weeks before the event to the contact person listed on the event.

This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request. Please call 503-655-8631 for information.