



A plant clinic at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum in Ilwaco.

Master gardener event set for Saturday in Ilwaco

ILWACO, Wash. — Washington State University Master Gardeners of Pacific County are sponsoring a plant clinic and information center at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum in Ilwaco Saturday.

The Ask a Master Gardener event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the muse-

um's discovery garden at 115 SW Lake Street. Representatives will address plant questions and concerns.

Visitors are asked to bring samples of problems they're experiencing in their gardens. For more information, contact Bev Arnoldy at bevarnoldy@gmail.com.



Attendees of a Washington State University Master Gardeners of Pacific County event look through a selection of cabbage.

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Where to start

"It's really fun to play in a group, because beginners can play part of the strumming pattern, intermediates can cover the whole strumming pattern, advanced players can pick riffs and everyone can sing melody or harmony," she said.

Dan Gerth, another member of the orchestra, added that the ukulele is easier to play than similar instruments because it has nylon strings. Additionally, the small size makes it easy to tote around for practices or pop-up concerts. He also appreciates the versatility of the ukulele.

"You can play anything from classical music to bluegrass to standards — whatever you want," he said.

The instrument is versatile in other ways as well. It can serve as accompaniment, be used percussively or sing out a melody. A player can choose from five different sizes, and the initial investment is relatively low.

Since establishing the orchestra, Martin has also started teaching continuing education ukulele classes at Clatsop Community College for both beginners and intermediate students. While there's no formal connection between the classes and the orchestra, the former provides a venue for people interested in playing with the group to first get foundational instruction. That's how members like Pat Heck got involved.

She hadn't played an instrument before taking Martin's beginner ukulele class at the college, but before long, she was also involved in the orchestra.

"The ukulele is not a difficult instrument to learn, and (Martin) really makes it easy and fun," she said, adding the group dynamic is equally enriching. "The people are so much fun and such great people to be playing with. It's just wonderful that way for me."

CrosswordAnswers

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