

Free workshops teach helpful gardening techniques

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Several community members braved the recent snowfall for a chance to practice pruning techniques that they learned through a free Saturday workshop.

In fact, community members still have one chance to attend a free gardening workshop as part of a local series.

OSU Extension Service has been working in conjunction with the Warm Springs Community Action Team and the Diabetes Prevention Program to conduct a series of free gardening workshops at the Family Resource Center.

The final workshop is this Saturday, January 31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The session will focus on community food systems and the local community garden.

Prior workshops have taught community members skills in areas such as soil types, composting, fertilizing, irrigation, pruning and more. The workshops aim to teach participants that gardening can be a fun way to improve your budget, health and the environment.

Sandra Brunoe said she found the session on irrigation interesting because she learned different ways to water. "You really need to conserve water around here," Brunoe said. "That was a good lesson."



Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

Participants at one gardening workshop learned proper pruning techniques.

Brunoe said she has gardened for several years and plans to garden even more now that she has additional knowledge from the workshops. She also has more time for hobbies like gardening now than she did in the past, and Brunoe added with a smile, "My husband likes to work hard."

Harvey George said he's planted a garden for the past three years but only his first garden turned out well. He's attended the workshops in hopes of improving future gardens.

"I hope I get a better one this year," George said. "I'm working my yard now so I can do a garden."

Wanda Berry attended the workshops for the same reason—her past gardens haven't turned out as well as she expected. She's attended the workshops to learn ways that she can improve her efforts and said they have been very helpful.

"It is really, really beneficial for anyone that wants to garden," she said.

Program partners include the OSU Central Oregon Master Gardeners and Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development.

According to Fara Brummer from OSU Extension, the turnout steadily increased throughout the course of the workshops.

About 25 people attended last Saturday's workshop, she said, while prior workshops included about 15 people. Brummer added, "We were hoping for 10, so we are way beyond pleased."

Brummer said a bonus effect of the workshops is the idea of a local gardening network being built.

"We hope it's going to be the start of kind of a community gardening group," Brummer said.

Edmund Francis works for the Diabetes Program and heads up the local community garden, and said they decided to hold a

series of gardening workshops in order to educate the community while helping to bring back the tradition of gardening.

In addition, he said, gardening can help people to ease food bills and become healthier by incorporating more fruits and vegetables in their diet.

It's also a fun way for families to spend time together, he added.

He's been involved with the community garden for the past two years, and said over an acre is devoted to participants with the Diabetes Prevention Program in order for them to be able to produce their own healthy food.

As for the turnout, Francis said, "It brings a different level in hoping that we can continue to keep this up as the community garden starts."

Katherine Loeck is helping with the workshops as part of her current volunteer work through the AmeriCorps

VISTA program. Loeck serves as the Community Food Systems Coordinator for the Wy'East Resource Conversation and Development Program in The Dalles.

Loeck and Francis will be the featured presenters at the final workshop as they discuss community food systems and the local community garden.

Loeck said she'll be explaining community food systems to participants as well as speaking about the value of locally or regionally produced food. In addition, Loeck will speak about ways that food can impact individual health, the community and the environment.

Loeck will also explain ways in which people can be more self-sufficient. Francis will tell participants ways in which they can become involved with the community garden. For more information on the final gardening workshop, contact the Extension office at 553-3238.

Genetic technology helps fish restoration

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is first in the Columbia basin to integrate revolutionary genetics technology to advance salmon management.

The new technology is known as integrated fluidic circuits, or IFCs.

IFCs read the genetic code of specific genes of interest in salmon and steelhead populations.

"This technology will help to clear the fog that surrounds genetics research in the Columbia Basin," said N. Kathryn Brigham, chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

"Genetic uncertainties have long caused management frustrations for the basin," she said. "This technology is a prime ex-

ample of the type of cutting-edge research that will allow tribal scientist to address those concerns in a timely manner."

The technology was created by San Francisco based Fluidigm, a company that develops, manufactures and markets proprietary IFC systems for life science research.

Tribal scientists have been using Fluidigm's IFC technology since last July as part of their genetics program.

"We are utilizing Fluidigm technology to characterize genetic variation in fish populations," said Shawn Narum, lead geneticist for the tribes at CRITFC.

"Genotypes from these SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) markers provide a genetic signature for specific

populations that may also be used to identify unknown origin fish during migration or in fisheries harvest," said Narum.

"This information can support fisheries management in the Columbia River basin; including several salmon stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act."

Fluidigm's system has a higher sensitivity than conventional laboratory systems and is quicker than traditional methods, generating between 27,000 and 200,000 or more genotypes in a day.

"The traditional life science equipment that we were using could only process 384 data points at a time," said Narum.

"The Fluidigm system gives us a 24-fold increase in production."

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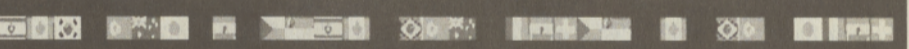


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