

Garden Tours

Annual Master Gardener Garden Tour

A reminder that our annual garden tour is coming up on **June 7, 2023**. Meet Jenny at Gilbert Park at 9:00 am to organize carpools. The four gardens we will visit this year are those of **Purna Rankin, Joan Sousley, Lucy Stevens, and Sheila Gunderson**. The tour will begin at Sheila's garden and end at Lucy's garden, where we will have our traditional brown bag lunch. Water and dessert items will be provided.

Please RSVP to either Jenny Mansfield (509) 480-8829 or Sheila Gunderson (360) 464-7161.



Above: Claudia shared her expansive patio and garden in 2021.



Left: Such an ingenious trellis design shared by Gini in 2022.

**Mark Your Calendars:
4th Annual Barge-Chestnut
Neighborhood Garden Walk**

SUNDAY 6/25 from 12-4

Free admission and self-directed. A list and map of gardens will be available in early June. Visit one garden or visit them all!

Reminder! Foundation Meeting

Wednesday, June 14th at 10:30 at the Red Barn

2023 Plant Sale

Our sale this year has been our most successful to date. Hooray! Customers came from as far away as Moses Lake and the Tri-Cities. Many people even take the day off from work to shop with us. While there's room for improvement, many positive comments were heard from our customers. How our sale was organized was complimented, along with our selection of plants. By Sunday afternoon, the greenhouse was almost empty! As many customers had questions, the presence of the Plant Clinic, along with a computer setup and WiFi, would be very effective.



This year our sale competed with many other sales, most notably the Arboretum Sale. A discussion with the Arboretum Sale leader produced an agreement to not compete in the future. They will return to their traditional sale dates of Mother's Day weekend.

The Plant Sale debrief on Wednesday, May 24th at the Demonstration garden was very well attended. Many ideas and suggestions were shared. The debrief was sent to you along with the weekly team updates. You can download it and get more information

regarding that meeting.

Our sale requires many volunteers, more than we had. We were noticeably short-staffed. If you have mobility issues, we can accommodate you. Many positions just require you to sit in chair and provide information. Your time commitment is flexible. If four hours is too much, donate two hours Friday morning, our busiest time. Please consider volunteering in the future as we are a volunteer organization and we need you.

~Deanna Husch

Writer's Guild

It Could Be You!

Sometimes we do not recognize ourselves when we put out a request for writers, so this little paragraph is targeting some of you talented folks among us. I had a nice conversation with **Larry Connell** and his topic was that every single household should be planting a food garden...no matter if it is in a pot, a small raised bed, or an acre. Love this advice! What a nice column that would be in our local newspaper. I know **Amber Knox** is growing filberts and I bet she could write about how to take care of them, and perhaps other home fruit trees. **Debra Byrd** has a lot going on in the gardening world on the Yakama Indian

Reservation. What a story that could be. I know **Don Flyckt** is studying the bumble bee. I would like to read more about that. **Janet Roberts** propagated a viburnum and donated it to the Demonstration garden. I bet she could teach us how she did that. **Mary Kearney** is taking care of the grapes in our demonstration garden and I'm pretty sure she could write a column on that topic. You get the idea. Simply do a bit of research, include enough words to make about 750, photos are nice, and send it to **Claudia**. She does a little editing and sends it to the paper...and...you get your name in the paper. So easy.

~Diana Pieti

WSU Master Gardener 50th Regional Celebration in Prosser



Jennifer Marquis presents leadership awards to Yakima MGs Michelle Murphy, John Strong, and Debra Kroon. (Photo by Dan Fortier)

Three Master Gardener Programs were represented at the Prosser Event on May 20th and each program honored three Master Gardeners from their program. Yakima honors were for Leadership and were awarded to Debra Kroon, Michelle Murphy and John Strong. Congratulations to each for volunteer work well done! The following words, written by Patty, were read by State Program Coordinator Jennifer Marquis.

Yakima County Awards

I chose the theme of Leadership to honor Master Gardeners from Yakima County. It's not always easy to be a leader. One needs to stop and get a vision, be able to stand up under criticism and put in a lot of thankless hours to get that vision to become a reality.

Michelle Murphy (Master Gardener since 2019) Michelle is a busy lady with a family of her own; yet she finds time to make our WSU Master Gardener Youth Program come alive. She knows what volunteers are doing on her teams, steers clear of trouble and creates some really fun and exciting things for kids to do as they acquire some gardening skills. Michelle and her team reach school children as well as teens in the Juvenile Justice program. Thank you Michelle for your hard work as we strive to highlight youth in Yakima County!

John Strong (Master Gardener since 2011) John has been a Master Gardener for 12 years. In that time

John has had many leadership roles. In Yakima County. John is a mentor to Interns, is actively involved on the Curriculum Team and the Advisory Team. He also co-leads the new West Valley Food Garden that produced nearly 3,000 lbs of fresh produce for the Local Food Bank in 2022. His vision for the food garden is to help others learn how to grow food and he and his team have classes scheduled to begin in June. John has also contributed greatly at the state level. He has been on the board of the Master Gardener Foundation for Washington State since 2015 and is currently the Secretary. Thank you, John for your amazing contribution to the Master Gardener Program.

Debra Kroon (Master Gardener since 2003) Debra might better be described as an 'Energizer Bunny'. She is a leader, but when asked for help with small details she is happy to jump in. Along with being our Yakima County Foundation President for the last 2 years, Debra has re-designed many of our Plant Clinic flyers with WSU branding, helped find speakers for the annual class schedule, worked on the Advisory Team, created our County Directory and broken in a new Program Coordinator. Her latest creative PowerPoint presentation was for Master Gardeners on "How to Give a Presentation" complete with WSU branding. This award is much deserved ~ thank you Debra for your commitment to the Yakima County Master Gardeners.

Demonstration Garden

Demonstration Garden Summer Classes

We had two great May Summer Garden classes at the Demonstration Garden. First was **Patty Ferguson** who demonstrated planting containers on May 13th. Five lucky attendees went home with the containers she planted. Then, Kelsi Potterf led a very interesting Meadowscaping class attended by over 40 people on May 27th.

Scheduled for the second Saturday of June is a class targeting youth taught by Youth Co-Leader **Michelle Murphy** on Seeds and Sunflowers. Of course, adults are welcome too! The fourth Saturday the class will cover Summer Care of Roses. All classes start at 10 am. *(Photos by Angela Galbreath)*



Above: Patty Ferguson demonstrates how to put together an attractive container.



Left: Kelsi Potterf teaches about meadowscaping.



Foundation Board

President: Dan Fortier

Treasurer: Gilbert Plascencia

Members at Large: Dick Larson

Sheila Gunderson

Past President: Debra Kroon

Program Coordinator: Patricia Ratzlaff

Vice President: Rick Russell

Secretary: Janet Jones

Kamiakin Gardens

On Monday, May 15, this hard working crew planted lots of raised beds at the Kaimiakin Gardens in Toppenish.

(Photos provided by Debra Kroon)

Top photo: *Debra Byrd, Debra Kroon, Kelli Barton, Annette Olson, Greg Uberagua, Shelly Oshie, and Beatrice Reiss.*



Bottom Photo: *Debra B took the photo and Kat Livingston is now in the photo between Beatrice and Annette.*



Master Gardener Mission Statement:

“Engaging university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain communities with relevant, unbiased, researched-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education.”

Floribunda: Mulch Volcanoes by Carol Barany

Way back in the mid-1980s, when my husband and I first started gardening, we had some friends who raised horses out in West Valley. They had a lot of horses, and those horses produced tons of manure. When this happens, who ya' gonna' call? Well, the Baranys, of course.

The horses were bedded on wood chips, and when their stables were cleaned, the glorious mess was piled up outdoors, and left to rot for at least a year. Each spring, to make room for new piles, our friends would load the 'Black Gold' into their ancient six-wheeler truck, and we'd drive it home, lumbering east down Tieton Drive at 20 mph. We emptied the load, one shovelful at a time, onto our driveway, and from there, wheelbarrowed it all over the yard.

It was a sight to behold, fluffy, dark, and slightly steaming. All the weed seeds were long gone, thanks to the high temperatures generated inside the pile. Honestly, this stuff was so beautiful it was all I could do to keep my toddler daughter, Alison, from playing in it with her sandbox toys.

Some springs, we would bring home as much as three truckloads full, and end up with a surplus. My husband's solution was to mound it up around our newly planted trees, mostly to keep me from running into them with the lawn mower. We didn't know it then, but we had created what are now referred to as "mulch volcanoes."

Even if you've never heard of mulch volcanoes, you've seen them. After all, they're erupting all over Yakima (sorry, I couldn't resist). They're those symmetrical, cone-shaped piles of mulch at the base of trees. You may have created mulch volcanoes of your own and have gone for years without noticing much of a problem, but the damage can occur slowly and silently.

One clever garden writer explained that volcano mulch looks like a muffin. Instead, the mulch around your tree should look like a donut. That is, a circle of mulch around the tree with a hole in the middle where no mulch touches the trunk. The tree shouldn't look like a telephone pole sticking out of the mulch; you should see it flare out at the bottom. Aim for a mulch layer that's no more than three inches deep, at least three inches from the trunk, and extending out to the drip line.

Pennsylvania State University Extension has the following to say about how trees benefit from properly applied mulches. Mulches help conserve soil moisture, which means less frequent irrigation. They also help moderate soil temperature, protecting fragile feeder roots from temperature extremes. They help keep weeds down, at least for a while. But just as weed seeds blow into the garden, they'll find their way into the mulch, where they easily germinate. Organic mulches also add organic matter to the soil as they break down, improving soil structure, porosity, and nutrient-holding capacity. And all types of mulch protect vulnerable trunks from weed whacker and mower damage.



Problems can arise when the mulch is applied more than 3" deep, or placed in contact with the tree's trunk. Wet mulch in contact with the trunk can cause the bark to break down. Additionally, as the mulch starts to compost, it heats up, which can further damage the bark and the underlying vascular tissues, compromising the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Too much mulch also blocks tree roots from getting sufficient oxygen. Lack of oxygen can also cause the tree to develop adventitious roots, which

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(Mulch Volcanoes, con't from previous page)

they grow in diameter, adventitious roots can develop into girdling roots, which circle the trunk, instead of spreading out from the tree in all directions like a web. This compromises the tree's ability to transport water and will eventually kill the tree. If piled on too thickly, the underlying soil can remain too wet for too long, and the tree's roots can begin to rot. Lastly, an

overly thick mulch layer can become impervious to overhead irrigation or rainfall, further stressing the tree.

As always, a picture is worth 1,000 words. University of New Hampshire Extension has a great video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1sd8Zxx2Wg.

In the meantime, just try to remember: no volcanoes, only donuts.

Give Pulse Tip of the Month

by Julie Hunziker

To Access Give Pulse on your computer, go to:

<http://wsu.givepulse.com/group/453187-WSU-Yakima-County-Master-Gardeners>

Why be timely in entering your impacts? In case of injury claim, L&I needs a record of activity/work.

We had a productive GivePulse tutorial session with both Master Gardeners and Extension office employees in attendance on May 31st. A few things came to light:

- **Chrome, Edge or Safari** are the best internet options when using GivePulse. **Firefox** is not a good match for the GivePulse platform.
- When editing an impact, if you have to change the event (the first drop-down menu), you cannot immediately change the "Reporting Code" in the next box. You must click the green "Update Impact" box, which then takes you to a page showing the impact. Click on "Options" in the upper right corner and select "Edit." The Reporting Code box will be correct, but subsequent boxes will be blank and you can correctly enter the appropriate information. Be sure to click on the green "Update Impact" box again at the bottom.

Details. Details. Details.

See the following page for a "Pull-down Menu Chart." Good to print and keep on hand by your computer.



***Julie found a fuzzy friend
fluttering from flower to flower
in her rhododendron.***



Print and use the following table to help with entering impacts:

Give Pulse Drop Down Menu Guide

Answer/Plant Clinic

Diagnostic Clinic

Farmer's Market

Fair

Set-up & Take-Down @ FM/Fair

Misc for Clinic Team

Other Table Events

Continuing Ed

Attend Class Lecture @ Red Barn

Demo Garden Classes

Zoom Approved Classes

Spring Symposium

Research for SB Talk or WG Articles

Annual Adv. Ed. Conference

NWFG Festival

Master Gardener Field Trip

Demo Gardens

Wk at Ahtanum

Wk at Heirloom

Wk at WVFG

Wk at Kamiakin

Misc for Gardens

Program Support

Work in Green House

Work before, during, after the Plant Sale

Work on Art Projects

Foundation, Program, or Board Exec Mtgs

Working on Supportive Teams or Mtgs

Community Involvement

MG Basic Training

Attend Class Lecture @ Red Barn

Demo Garden Classes

Zoom Approved Classes

Spring Symposium

Research for SB talk or WG articles

Annual Adv. Ed. Conference

NWFG Festival

Master Gardener Field Trip

Other Delivery

Speaker's Bureau

Writer's Guild-Writing/Editing

Giving Lectures

Speaker Support

Newsletter

Across the Pond

While visiting her daughter in Hawaii recently, **Beatrice** met up with some local master gardeners.



PICNIC TIME!

Don't forget to put the Master Gardeners annual picnic on your calendar. It's August 2nd at noon at the Red Barn, Ahtanum Park. More info to come later in June. If you have new or like-new items suitable for door prizes, we'd love to have your donations. Call Patty Ferguson and she'll pick up. (509)952-2551



Rays of Sunshine

We wish a speedy recovery to Mike Hendricks as he recovers from recent heart surgery.



Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie at jbhunziker@gmail.com. Texting photos and brief descriptions are fine, as well: (530)209-4329.

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension Office.

Insect Spotlight: Praying Mantis

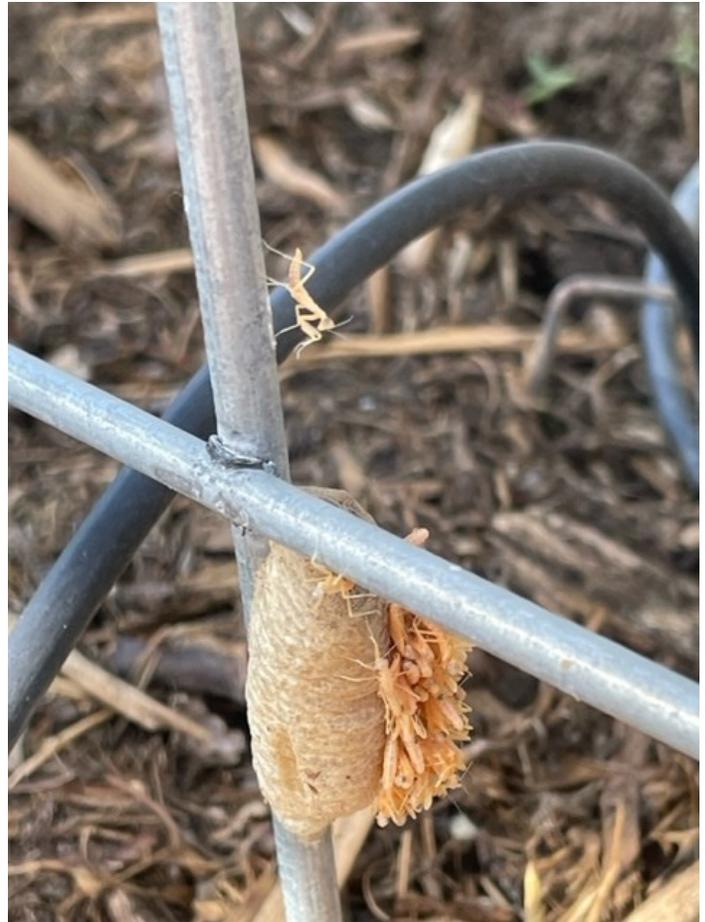
by Julie Hunziker

“Hey, Guys! Come quick! Look at this!” exclaimed Diana Pieti at the West Valley Food Garden last week. Our small herd of workers hurried over to see what she was so excited about...an egg case of praying mantis was in the throes of hatching! You’d think we were a bunch of naive second graders on an out-in-the-world excursion in the wild. But, even as mature adults, it’s not every day that you get to, as John entered in his GivePulse impact entry, “...witness a miracle of nature.” Inquiring minds want to know and, as Master Gardeners, we always want to learn about our gardens. How many eggs are in an egg case? When was the egg case deposited? Do the nymphs really attack each other? How long does a praying mantis live? Is it “praying” or “preying?” A little research project was in store for the weekend.

Drawing its name from its front legs resting in a “praying” position, the fascinating orthoptera is named “Praying Mantis,” although one could think of it as a “Preying Mantis” because of its predatory behavior. The term “mantis” refers to the genus, whereas “mantid” refers to the entire group. Many people use the terms interchangeably.

The praying mantis is a great ambassador for the insect world. Its size and innocuous behavior make it an ideal insect to introduce children, and even adults, to biology and the insect world. Their size alone draws even the mildly interested person to view them closely. Growing from 2-5 inches long in adulthood, they are often green, but can also be found in colors of brown, gray, or brick red. They often change colors, as well as mimic the movement of flowers and leaves, to blend in with their environment in order to disguise themselves from their prey. Their head, situated at the top of an elongated thorax, can swivel 180 degrees. The mantis’ forelegs are “raptorial,” meaning they are folded back like a pocket knife, and have sharp spines that mesh together when the two legs are not in use. These spines are what allow the mantis to hold its catch. In a resting position, the front legs are held up front of the head in a “praying” position. Having two sets of wings, the front being leathery and narrow and the hind wings being wide and fan shaped when unfolded, the praying mantis can fly, but it is a rare sight as they are clumsy fliers.

Egg cases are laid on twigs or some other hard surface (I find them on our masonry walls or wood trel-



Camille’s photo of the hatching egg case with dozens of praying mantis nymphs at the WVFG.

lis) in the fall and are made up of a frothy material that hardens to a Styrofoam-type substance. Inside are two rows of eggs, numbering from a couple dozen to hundreds, depending on the species. A few weeks after the laying of the eggs, the adults die off. Against popular myth, the female does not normally kill and eat the male, although it does happen occasionally. Come late winter and early spring, the nymphs will hatch from the egg case and scatter to all corners of their world. The nymphs are known to attack each other if in proximity to each other. Somehow they know to flee. Newly hatched nymphs are miniature versions of the adult and will develop through seven or eight morphoses until it develops wings and becomes an adult in the fall. They do not survive the winter.

Praying mantis are often thought of as being a beneficial insect in the garden. However, because they are indiscriminate in their choice of prey, they are not

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(Praying mantis, continued)

considered to be a benefit for biological pest control. They will feed on any insect they can catch, whether it is a honeybee, a butterfly, a fly, or grasshopper. The insects generally found to be a pest in the home garden, such as caterpillars, aphids, and spider mites, are not affected significantly by the praying mantis. As a relatively inactive insect, they actually consume few insects. But, surprisingly, they have been known to catch and consume lizards, frogs, and even hummingbirds!

So, next spring, be on the lookout for the egg cases that have wintered over. You may be surprised to see movement one day and be the witness of a hatching. As Diana wrote in her GivePulse impact, "[Our] entertainment for the morning [at the WVFG] was watching baby praying mantids entering the world." We are so easily amused.



Continuing Education Opportunities

WSU Master Gardener Workshops: June

On Tuesdays at 12:00 pm WSU Master Gardeners present weekly on-line **free** programs. No need to register, just pop in. Connection information (YOU MUST HAVE A ZOOM ACCOUNT AND BE SIGNED INTO IT--sign up for one at zoom.us), then join from **PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android**: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/7756056320?pwd=RzVxbTl0dXpyUjJjSDdsWnJuTXdydz09>

Meeting ID: 775 605 6320 Password: 12345

Phone Call: +1 253 215 8782, 775 605 6320#

For help, call Gary Fredricks at garyf@wsu.edu or 360-577-3014 Ext. 3.

- **June 6th @ Noon Tuesday Using Native Plants in your Home Landscape (on-line)**
WSU Master Gardener Wendy Santiago will discuss the advantages native plants have to offer. She will discuss considerations when using native plants and the great alternatives in using them to spice up your yard. Native plants offer a large variety of colors and shapes that flourish all year long in this climate.
- **June 13th @ Noon Tuesday Do-It-Yourself "Irrigation" (on-line)**
Hot summer, wilted plants, and *you* are stuck holding the hose. There is a way out! **WSU Master Gardener Jerry Winchell** will explain how to construct a simple and inexpensive *sprinkler* drip irrigation system. Learn how a *sprinkler* drip irrigation system allows you the flexibility to reduce water use, save time, use less labor, and control weeds.
- **June 20th @ Noon Tuesday Selecting Plants for Your Home Landscape (on-line)**
Choosing spring flowers and shrubs is a passion here in the PNW. **WSU Master Gardener Tracy Morgan** will help you to make the best choices and how NOT to make the most common mistakes. Learn more about which plants go from friend to foe and become a problem over time.
- **June 27th @ Noon Tuesday Protecting Your Plants From the Heat (on-line)**
Plants continue to suffer every summer from heat and lack of moisture. **WSU Master Gardener Tom Myklebust** will describe what techniques you can use to protect your plants. He will share great plant selections that are more drought tolerant and tips to consider when placing plants for your landscape.

2023 Heirloom Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
June 3rd	Cover Crops in the Garden	Sally Mayo
July 1st	Pruning Tomatoes	Phyllis Pugnetti
August 5th	Bumblebees	Don Flyckt and Sally Mayo
September 2nd	Fall Gardening	Sally Mayo
October 7th	Putting the Garden to Bed	Judith McDonald and Sally Mayo

2023 Demonstration Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
June 10th	Seeds and Sunflowers	Michele Murphy
June 24th	Summer Care of Roses	Angela Galbreath
July 8th	Soil Testing	Ken Tolonen
July 22nd	Orchids	Nancy Kallenberger
August 12th	Herbs	Diana Pieti
August 26th	Demonstration Garden Tours	Master Gardeners will lead tours
September 9th	Mulching and Compost	Suzann McFeat and Diana Pieti
September 23rd	Trees and Water Gardens at the Yakima Arboretum	

2023 WV Food Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter
June 17th	Bee Ready for Pollinators	Debra Kroon
July 15th	Tomato Pruning	Julie Hunziker
August 19th	Drip Irrigation	John Strong
September 16th	Basics of Starting a Vegetable Garden	Camille Smith



June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Heirloom Garden 8 am	2 WVFG 8-11 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	3 Heirloom Garden Class 10 am
4 Farmer's Market 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	5 Kamiakin Gardens 8 am Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	6 Demonstration Garden 8-11	7 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4 MG Yard Tour 9-?	8 Heirloom Garden 8 am	9 WVFG 8-11 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	10 Demonstration Garden Class 10 am
11 Farmer's Market 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	12 Kamiakin Gardens 8 am Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	13 Demonstration Garden 8-11	14 Foundation Mtg 10:30-11:30 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	15 Heirloom Garden 8	16 WVFG 8-11 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	17 WVFG Class 10 am
18 Farmer's Market 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	19 Kamiakin Gardens 8 am Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	20 Demonstration Garden 8-11	21 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	22 Heirloom Garden 8 am	23 WVFG 8-11 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	24 Demonstration Garden Class 10 am
25 Farmer's Market (Youth Team) 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	26 Kamiakin Gardens 8 am Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	27 Demonstration Garden 8-11	28 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	29 Heirloom Garden 8 am	30 WVFG 8-11 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	



Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact: WSU Extension/2403 South 18th Street/Union Gap, WA 98903/509-574-1600.

For accommodation please call at least two weeks prior to the event. WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.