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Where We've Been...

Pueblo County Native Plant Masters Take the Community on a Stroll

The Native Plant Masters of Pueblo County took community members on a stroll through the native short grass prairie on the CSU-Pueblo campus on September 14. This free wildflower walk was open to the public, and was an effort to pique some interest in the Native Plant Master program here in Pueblo County. Former CSU-Extension Horticulture Coordinator and current Native Plant Master (NPM), Linda McMulkin led this educational walk. She was assisted by some of the most active NPMs in the County, Marge Vorndam, Orla O'Callaghan, John Powell, and Mary Abrahams.

The volunteers were spread out in stations that the participants rotated through. At each station they learned how to recognize some of our most common and beloved native short grass prairie plants. They also learned fun facts about the plants, as well as some of their uses throughout history. The participants loved that they could also point out familiar species and learn about what they are and if they are native or invasive here in Pueblo. Many participants indicated that they intended to incorporate some of our beautiful native prairie plants into

their own landscapes. Overall, this event was a huge success with over 40 members of the community joining the Pueblo County NPMs for an evening of fun and learning.

The Native Plant Master program, an offering from CSU Extension, started in 1997 in Jefferson County and has since spread to 23 other counties in Colorado, including Pueblo County. The mission of the program is to educate the public about native plants in order to foster stewardship, sustainable landscaping and management of weeds that threaten

native ecosystems. The NPM program here in Pueblo will be starting strong next Spring with formal outdoor courses and preparatory classroom style courses. You can contact the CSU Extension office in Pueblo County for more details. We hope to see you on the trail!



This group of participants is "all smiles" as they head out to identify native plants on the CSU-P campus.

Where We're Going...



The Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) began programming in Colorado in 2009, and since has been active in the metropolitan areas of Denver, Fort Collins, and Grand Junction and also the rural and mountain areas of Eagle, Cortez, Lamar, and Leadville. Recently, the program has found a new operations home, transitioning administration of the program to Colorado State University Extension. Along with finding a new home, FLTI is growing to engage more locations throughout Colorado. One of those new locations is in Pueblo, via a “public-private” partnership with the Catholic Charities Diocese of Pueblo.

As described on the FLTI website: *The Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) is a family civics program. Program graduates have spent more than 120 hours to develop skills to become effective leaders in their communities. Once recruited and accepted in to the program, participants attend a 20-week program that integrates personal and child development, leadership training, civic literacy and civic participation skills. The curriculum includes four components: an initial retreat; two 10-week sessions that focus on knowledge about the change process, skill building, and tools of civic engagement; and a community project.*

Alumni of the program report numerous positive outcomes:

- Development of leadership skills that they can use to better position families and local communities through civic engagement efforts.
- Increase in the capacity and ability of families to become change agents.
- Building family involvement within the policy decision-making process at both the local and state level.
- More involved families who are able to increase their parent-child interaction.

More information about the Family Leadership Training Institute can be found on their website at <https://coloradofamilyleadership.com/>. Those who are interested in exploring the possibility of participating in the FLTI program here in Pueblo should contact the local site host, Catholic Charities Diocese of Pueblo.

Where We're Going...

4-H is Joining the Maker Movement

The Colorado Maker movement is growing by leaps and bounds since Governor Hickenlooper's signing of the proclamation to create Colorado Maker Day in October of 2015. The State of Colorado recognizes the thriving entrepreneurial community which spans a wide variety of sectors including arts, innovation and manufacturing sectors. The hope is that we can inspire the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs to contribute to Colorado's economy and job growth.

Pueblo has a long history of making, from our barn-forged chili roasters to our local steel industry. Pueblo was a leader in Making and Extension is aiming to bring that culture back to our community. However, many of Pueblo's students are lacking the necessary science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills needed to fulfill this projected demand. This is where Extension can make a difference in Pueblo's future.

Colorado State University Extension is in the unique situation to support this effort by providing research-based educational programming in STEM. The youth development programs engage STEM "learning by doing", which is a philosophy which aligns with the Maker Culture of "do it together". The National 4-H Organization has embraced the Maker Culture and has catalyzed a community of making within 4-H youth development program. Colorado 4-H has also embraced the Maker movement by promoting maker curriculum and activities through the 4-H STEM program, where Agents can request use of the new Maker Trailer filled with all kinds of Making tools and supplies like soldering irons, Arduinos and a 3D printer. In Pueblo County's Extension office, we use the term STEAM, because it supports the creative and innovative focus on Making through project-based art practice.

Jane Crayton, Pueblo County Extension Agent, has embraced the Maker movement through creation of several Maker Programs where she hopes to engage Making for 4-H members and non-members. Growing STEAM Makers is an after-school program started in September of 2016 and takes place at several Pueblo Library District branches each month. The STEAM Punks are a new 4-H Club in Pueblo focused on Maker Culture and they are really gaining momentum. Additionally, Crayton will present a series of Mini Maker Camps that focus on Making specific STEAM projects engaging students with in-depth transformative STEM learning starting in November. She also plans a robust summer camp program.

However, Crayton can't do it alone so her Maker program has partnered with not only the library district, but also the Engineering and Technology program and 3D print lab at Colorado State University – Pueblo to provide future camps and programs on campus. She is currently seeking business partners in the community to support the ongoing Maker movement in Pueblo because she sees how critical partners are for successful implementation of the goals in transforming intergenerational poverty into intergenerational entrepreneurship.

See <http://pueblo.extension.colostate.edu/programs/steam/> for more information.



CSUE 4-H Agent, Jane Crayton with a student at a Growing STEAM Makers after school program.

Upcoming Events

Call 583-6566 or visit <http://pueblo.colostate.edu> for details.

Family and Consumer Programs

- The search is over for the new Family and Consumer Agent. Laura Krause will start Dec. 1.

Horticulture Programs

- Applications are being accepted for the CO Master Gardener Program. Go to <http://pueblo.colostate.edu> for application.
- All Pueblo Grows Seed Library, collecting and packaging seeds, last Saturday of every month, Rawlings Library, Idea Factory - 2nd Floor.

4-H/Youth Development

Ongoing Club and County Programs

- New enrollment year starts Oct. 18
- CO Leadership Conference– Nov. 4-6
- Dare to be You Camp– Nov. 18-20

4-H STEAM

- Growing STEAM Makers– at Pueblo area libraries. Call for details– 719-583-6566.
- STEAM Punks 4-H club taking new member.
- Holiday Maker Series– Balm Maker, Nov. 5; Candle Maker, Nov 19; Soap Maker, Dec. 10. All classes will be held at CSU Extension. \$25.00 each with proceeds to benefit the BEE WISE youth beekeeping program. Call 583-6566 for more information.

EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Program)

- Nutrition classes– Ongoing-call for schedule

Ag/Range/Natural Resources

- Site visits and consultations– Ongoing, upon request
- Grass-Grazers-Family: Finding Common Ground, Nov 1-3, State Fairgrounds
- AgrAbility Workshop– Nov. 16. Call 719-583-6566 for more information.

Pueblo Youth Naturally

- Program under review.

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Congratulations!

New Staff at CSU Extension-Pueblo Welcome, Laura Krause -- New Family and Consumer Science Agent

We are happy to introduce you to Laura Krause, our new Family and Consumer Science Agent. Laura, a native Puebloan, graduated from Colorado State University– Fort Collins with a Masters in Environmental Health.

Laura is no stranger to the Pueblo Extension office; she was a member of the Pups and Hounds 4-H Club for ten years. She competed in dog shows at the county and state level and participated in community service projects.

Laura spent this summer working as a program assistant in the Pueblo County Extension office. She presented classes on canning jams/jellies and tomatoes, as well as serving as a liaison at the Saturday Farmers' Market at the El Pueblo Museum. Laura also assisted at 4-H Adventure Day Camp and the Pueblo County Fair.

We are excited to have Laura join our staff as an Extension Agent. She will be on board December 1, 2016. Stay tuned for new and exciting programs Laura will schedule on foods, nutrition, wellness, and family management.



While a summer program assistant, Laura presented classes on home food preservation.

Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. If you have a disability for which you seek an accommodation, please notify CSU Extension at 719-583-6566 at least five (5) business days in advance of the event. Colorado State University Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating.