

Winter-Spring 2026 Workshops - Blaine CORE*

www.nwcore.org

*Community Organization for Resources and Education

ALL CLASSES/WORKSHOPS ARE FREE

LOCATIONS: **Blaine Library**, 3rd St & G. & **Blaine Community/Senior Center**, 764 H St.

MASON BEES- Alternative Pollinators

April 1, Wed **Blaine Library** 5:30—7:30pm

The crisis in our bee population is very real. We want to help you learn how to support all pollinators in your own backyard. This workshop will present an overview of the problem and introduce you to native pollinators. We will discuss how to establish and maintain a healthy mason bee colony in your yard.

RAIN GARDENS/Barrels & Ponds

Jan. 17, Sat **Blaine Library** 10am-12noon

Now is the perfect time to walk out into your yard and figure out where the water "SITS". Come and learn about creating a rain garden. to manage the runoff and/or standing water by planting a "mini-forest floor" that will absorb and then slowly disperse the extra water in your yard. We will be talking about the do's and don't of ponds and water features! Requirements such as location, equipment/utilities, liability and maintenance

ORCHIDS & HOUSEPLANTS

February 4, Wed, 5:30-7:30pm- **Blaine Library**

Just in time for Valentine's Day! Tips and tricks for getting those orchids blooming again! We will also have an orchid dividing and re-potting demonstration. Slide presentation and "plant sale". Bring a houseplant to trade. Let's chat about general information for indoor plant care, especially during the winter months.

PRUNING 101

Jan. 24, Sat. **Blaine Library** 10am – 12noon

Jan. 31, Sat **Blaine Sr/Community Center** 9:30-11:30am

March 21, Sat. **Blaine Library** 10am-12pm

This is the time to start WINTER pruning. You can easily see damage and disease as well as make decisions regarding form. Trees are breaking hibernation earlier (or not even going into deep hibernation), so take advantage of some of our sunny winter days and brush up on those pruning skills. We will discuss tools, why prune, decisions necessary (learning to understand growth habits of trees/bushes). We will also present on overgrown trees and how to get them back in shape. Bring your questions!

GARDEN DESIGN 101 – Expanded Session, 4 class series **THURSDAYS** from **5-7pm** (if we have to cancel a class due to weather, we will reschedule) **Blaine Community/Sr Center**

We will discuss how to look at your yard as if you were a landscape designer. Especially important for placement of fruit bearing trees, bushes and vines. Considerations for placement of vegetable gardens. In this presentation, we will talk about your overall yard including hardscape assessments, materials use, integration with your home and/or views, sunlight observations, air flow and other major landscaping decisions. Some overlap for each class will naturally occur. Guest instructor, Cheryl Niles from WSU Ext.Services will join us

2/12 Thurs. **Blaine Community/Sr Center** Class 1 of 4 **Looking at Your Lot, All the Details** We will discuss creating a wish list of improvements desired and how to start looking at your lot in an organized manner. How to identify the components of your property. Including lot lines, easements, utilities, slope, airflow, sunlight hardscapes and structures. Measuring and notating to include in written plans. Resources for finding information about your property and creating a preliminary layout.

2/19 Thurs. Blaine Community/Sr Center Class 2 of 4 *Design Considerations, integrating with your House* In this second class of the series we will explore the most powerful tool in the Landscape Designers toolkit the integration of the exterior of your house with the interior and its importance to live-ability. We will delve into organizing the improvements that you will be making, organizing those as well as budgeting.

2/26 Thurs Blaine Community/Sr Center Class 3 of 4 *The Process & Decisions of Hardscapes/Structures* In this 3rd workshop, we will begin to address the execution of your plan and the choices for plants - size, structure, growing requirements, addition of food bearing plants, etc. We will also discuss the issues of stormwater management on your property. Cheryl Niles, WSU Ext. Services may join us for this workshop.

3/5 Thurs. Blaine Community/Sr Center Class 4 of 4,-- *Right Plant, Right Place* We like to refer to this class as "painting with plants". Just as an artist understands the "balance" of a painting and uses texture, color, repetition, unity, etc. to bring their composition to life - you can use these exact same principles to "execute" the decisions for what plants to use in your landscape design. HOWEVER, the considerations for using native plants and always, the concept of "right plant, right place". Learn how to determine your plants needs. Cheryl Niles, WSU Ex. Services may join us in this exploration.

WINTER SOIL & Jumpstarting your Garden

Feb. 28, Sat Blaine Library 10am - 12pm

What are the affects of winter on your garden? Moving on to simple hoop house construction and what can you grow with passive protection and get a jump on the growing season. What plants that can be "wintered over" in your garden/hoop house. Introduction to practices that will improve your soil for a healthier year round garden.

March 21, Sat – PRUNING 101 (see above) **Blaine Library** 10am-12noon

SEED STARTING & Sprouting

March 25, Wed. Blaine Community/Sr Center 5:30-7:30pm

We will start with "how to get that craving for greens satisfied" by growing sprouts in your kitchen!! Now is also a good time to start thinking about getting those vegetables started . . .How many seeds? What type? When to start? When to transplant? So many questions?? We can help get you started on the answers! Talk will focus on plants that can be grown in our climate. Tips and tricks from experienced growers.

DAHLIAS 101

March 28, Sat- Blaine Library. 10am-12noon

April 8, Wed Blaine Community/Sr Center 5:30-7:30pm

Dahlias are considered to be the premier cut flower. Easy to grow, there are some definite tricks! With thousands of colors and flower forms and their long bloom time they are VERY rewarding!! Presentation includes expert dahlia growers, live demos and answering questions. Free tubers! To get your dahlia addiction started (LOL!)

MASON BEES April 1, Wed – (see above description) **Blaine Library** 5:30-7:30pm

SEVERE PRUNING

April 25, Sat, - Blaine Library 10am-12pm

This presentation will focus ONLY on overgrown fruit trees. Using a combination of pruning techniques that quickly gets your trees into shape. Requiring some follow-up care (summer pruning) during the year to maintain the initial work done. Reduced fruit production will be overridden by the ease of completion for the average tree. May be followed by an actual hands on severe pruning. Volunteer your tree today by emailing "fruit@blaine-core.com".

SAUERKRAUT & Fermented Veggies - Homemade & Delicious

April 29, Wed **Blaine Library** 5:30-7:30pm

Yup, good old-fashioned homemade, delicious and crispy kraut, made right in your kitchen, easy & HEALTHY!! Can be made with lower salt levels when you make it yourself. Natural pro&pre biotics to help your micro-biome.

We will cover all the basics of fermentation. If you have always wanted to try it, now is your chance to get started. Simple tools, salt and veggies transform your diet into new and exciting foods. Come explore!

MUSHROOMS 101

May 2, Sat **Blaine Community/Sr Center** 9:30-11:30am

Grady Barstad, a self-taught local mycologist who has supplied local restaurants and the community with gourmet mushrooms and supplements for the past 5 years. This class will answer your questions and teach you how to start growing mushrooms, the basics of mycology and the nutritional benefits of enjoying delicious fungi!

COMPOSTING & WORMS

May 9, Sat **Blaine Community/Sr Center** 9:30am-11:30am

Do you dispose of organic matter in your regular garbage? It's not a good thing for our landfills AND you are throwing away valuable soil building materials! Whether you have been thinking about a compost bin or becoming a Worm Wrangler, this workshop will get you started!! We will cover the basics of food waste "recycling", how easy it is. Followed by managing worms, indoors and out! The upside - You will see huge benefits in your garden!

CONTAINER GARDENING

May 13, Wed **Blaine Library** 5:30—7:30pm

Join us for an "out of the ground and into the box" introduction to container gardening. If you think that you MUST have a plot of land or maybe mobility issues have slowed you down, we want to help you NOT give up on gardening!! We will start with the basics from choosing containers and the right plants to learning how to water them.

KOMBUCHA

May 16, Sat **Blaine Community/Sr Center** 9:30-11:30am

Known as "The Elixir of Life", Kombucha origins remain shrouded in mystery. Some drink it for health, some for flavor. If you have never tried it, come for a sample! We invite you to get in touch with your inner "Ghengis" by learning about this interesting elixir at this fun, informative presentation. We will be sampling different flavors, demonstrating how to make your own AND sending you home with your own culture (SCOBY) to start brewing.

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