

NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 3, 2017
Contact: Paige Belfry, Customer Service Specialist, Port Angeles Main Library
360.417.8500 or pbelfry@nols.org
Re: NOLS Grows Seed Library Opening Celebration

Attachments: *NOLS Grows Sustainable Model.jpg*
NOLS Grows Volunteer.jpg
Maureen Wall.jpg

Join the North Olympic Library System in a special after-hours opening celebration at the Port Angeles Main Library on Friday, March 17 at 6pm. The event will mark the grand opening of the NOLS Grows Seed Library, a community seed exchange kiosk. Among the evening's festivities will be Librarian-guided tours of the Seed Library collection, veggie trivia, booths featuring community garden groups, and a presentation about vegetable gardening. Spring into gardening this year with your community by joining in this "seedy celebration".

About the NOLS Grows Seed Library

NOLS Grows Seed Library is a seed exchange kiosk, stocked with small, pre-packaged quantities of free vegetable seeds, and providing other educational materials related to gardening, growing, and seed-saving. The new NOLS Grows Seed Library will help new gardeners succeed, and provide opportunities for experienced gardeners to grow their knowledge. Some plants will be grown to eat, and others will be grown for seeds. Seeds that are returned to the Seed Library donation box will be sorted and labeled by volunteers to become available for future

borrowers. Saving seeds helps to preserve genetic diversity, flavor and nutrition, and unique varieties that may otherwise disappear over time. Returning seeds at the end of the growing season will encourage seed strains that are adapted to local conditions.

About the Opening Celebration

A special after-hours “seedy celebration” will be held at 6pm on Friday March 17 at the Port Angeles Main Library to introduce the *NOLS Grows* Seed Library collection to the community. The first 25 people to check in at the Customer Service Desk after 6pm will receive a cup of Cascadia sugar snap pea starts. From 6-6:45pm, the reception will feature Librarian-guided tours of the new Seed Library collection, booths showcasing community garden groups and resources, veggie trivia, and refreshments. Veteran Clallam County Master Gardeners will be available to discuss “seed essentials” such as how to read a seed packet, time your seed planting, and start seeds indoors. They will also demonstrate how to test the viability (germination rate) of old seeds and will share good seed storage practices. Port Angeles Community Gardens will be on hand to present information about ways to get involved in local community gardens, and will provide copies of *The Port Angeles Community Gardens Planting Guide*.

At 6:45pm, Port Angeles farmer Maureen Wall will present “The Milk Crate Garden: How to Grow Food to Fit Your Space”. Wall’s talk will cover how gardening rules have changed in recent years, introducing creative processes such as Tom Colicchio’s *Milk Crate Farms* and Will Allen’s *Growing Power* projects. The presentation will outline what steps can be taken by gardeners beginning to grow in a new space, and what considerations to take when finding a space to suit your needs.

The evening will conclude with a raffle drawing for a seed starting kit, complete with heat mat, generously donated by Airport Garden Center in Port Angeles.

Limited Library services will be available at this special after-hours program.

About Maureen Wall

Maureen Wall is the owner of *This Is Odd*, an urban aquaponic farm in Port Angeles, where she utilizes permaculture ideas to make taste decisions. When she first began studying aquaponics, Wall was met with skepticism about cool water aquaponic practices, but has successfully reared 1000 Arctic char and grown hundreds of pounds of greens. Wall specializes in the preparation of organic “pesticides” and soil preparations, and is well versed in plant ailments and their cures. She also grows snails, worms, mushrooms, several species of trout, and many other plants and seeds.

Help the NOLS Seed Library Grow

The *NOLS Grows* project is built on a sustainable community model, at the heart of which are community members who volunteer to lend a hand sorting seeds. *NOLS Grows* is currently accepting volunteer applications. Discover what it means to be a *NOLS Grows* Seed Steward. Visit nols.org and click on ‘About NOLS’ and ‘Volunteer’ to learn how you can join the *NOLS Grows* volunteer team.

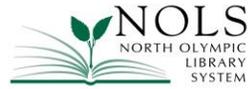
More Information

For those who cannot attend the grand opening at the Port Angeles Library on March 17, the traveling Seed Library will be on display at the Soroptimist Gala Garden Show on Saturday, March 18, from 9am to 5pm at the Sequim Boys and Girls Club at 400 W. Fir St. The *NOLS Grows* Seed Library is generously supported by the Port Angeles Friends of the Library. For more information, contact the Library at 360.417.8500 or Discover@nols.org, or visit www.nols.org and select “Events”. The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 South Peabody in Port Angeles.

Seed Library



For more information about the Seed Library, visit
<http://www.nols.org/services/seedlibrary.html>



The NOLS Grows project is built on a sustainable community model.



NOLS Grows volunteer, Kathie Karst, sorts Parsnip seeds donated by Salt Creek Farm.



Maureen Wall, owner of This is Odd, an urban aquaponic farm located in downtown Port Angeles.

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