The Skagit Conservation District hosted its Annual Recognition Banquet on Tuesday, September 14th at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center to honor those who have made significant contributions toward conservation and natural resource enhancement in Skagit County.

The Skagit County Cattlemen provided a wonderful meal for guests to accompany the events of the evening. The social hour was hosted by the Skagit CD Board of Supervisors and staff. This year the talented Emcee was Thjis Jacobson, Skagit CD Board Auditor. Carolyn Kelly, District Manager, and Kristi Carpenter, Public Information and Education Coordinator, presented the awards to the admirable crowd.

**AWARDS BANQUET**

SCD ANNUAL RECOGNITION BANQUET

Awards were presented to the following:

**Volunteer Awards:**

- **Community Volunteers:**
  - **Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program:**
  - **Marine Biotoxin Volunteers:**
  - **Stream Team Super Stars**
    - Alec McDougall
  - **Shining Stars (5 Years of Monitoring)**
    - Dean Schwartz
  - **Super Star (10 Years of Monitoring)**
    - Scott Doman, Shirley Doman, Luanne Goodrich, Steve Goodrich, Peter Haase, Michelle McPhee, Vivian Mizuta, Patrick O’Hearn, Carol Schwartz, Dean Schwartz
  - **Samish Storm Monitoring Team**
    - Kurt Buchanan, Stephen Farmer, Peter Haase, Patrick Hurley, Jack Middleton, Patrick O’Hearn, Jack Sekora
  - **Watershed Masters**
    - Glenda Alm, George Bullock, James Fukuyama, Teresa Hansen, Donna Helgeson, Patrick Hurley, Rhonda Jennings, Hella Lee, Lisa Mirante, Cindy Montanez, Michelle Morse, John Patton

**Conservation Implementation:**

- **Agricultural Implementation:**
  - Richard Ackerman, Gary Kraus, Sr., Don & Natalie Stewart, Dick & Jason Vander Kooy — Harmony Dairy #2, Larry & Beth Vander Veen — LB Veen Holsteins, LLC.
- **CREP Implementation:**
  - Carlos Aguerro, Earl Hanson, Larry Jensen – Country Cousins, Lawrence McCormick, Ron Spragg, Samish Indian Nation
- **Firewise Program:**
- **Hedgegrow Program:**
  - Alan Cooper, Ben Day, DVF Management Inc., Jim Youngsman
- **Forest Stewardship:**
  - Dave Chamberlain – C&G Timber, Vicki Hanson, Paul Kriegel – Goodyear Nelson

**Community Volunteers:**


**Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program:**


**Marine Biotoxin Volunteers:**


**Stream Team Super Stars**

- Alec McDougall

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- Kurt Buchanan, Stephen Farmer, Peter Haase, Patrick Hurley, Jack Middleton, Patrick O’Hearn, Jack Sekora

**Watershed Masters**

- Glenda Alm, George Bullock, James Fukuyama, Teresa Hansen, Donna Helgeson, Patrick Hurley, Rhonda Jennings, Hella Lee, Lisa Mirante, Cindy Montanez, Michelle Morse, John Patton

**Community Volunteer Awards:**

- Patrick Hurley – Inspirational Award
  - The inspirational award recognizes an inspirational volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to our community throughout the year. Since participating in the Fall 2008 Watershed Masters program, Pat has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours, is always willing to help when needed, is dependable, and has contributed to the success of numerous SCD programs and projects. His volunteer activities are too many to list. We will give it a try: Pat has participated in the Marine Biotoxin Volunteer program the last two years; has participated in the Skagit Stream Team program for the last 2 years; has participated as a Samish Storm Team volunteer for the last 2 years, and even participated in the Watershed Masters program again in the Fall of 2009. He also has helped with set up and clean up at numerous workshops, including the Samish public meetings, assisted with the planting at the new County rain garden, has volunteered at all work parties for the Kulshan Creek Butterfly Garden, volunteered at the Samish Bay Bivalve Bash & Mud Run, the Samish Seed Sale, our annual plant sale, and has planted thousands of trees for the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and Skagit Land Trust – volunteering at almost all of their planting work parties, and also helped with blackberry removal projects. Patrick has been a consistent source of energy and his dedication and great work have provided not only a source of inspiration, but has contributed to the protection and conservation of our natural resources and our community as a whole.

**Conservation Implementation**

- **Agricultural Implementation:**
  - Richard Ackerman, Gary Kraus, Sr., Don & Natalie Stewart, Dick & Jason Vander Kooy — Harmony Dairy #2, Larry & Beth Vander Veen — LB Veen Holsteins, LLC.
- **CREP Implementation:**
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- **Forest Stewardship:**
  - Dave Chamberlain – C&G Timber, Vicki Hanson, Paul Kriegel – Goodyear Nelson
4 Easy Steps:

1. Make sure your onsite sewage system is in good working order. Schedule an inspection as required by Skagit County Public Health.

2. Manage your livestock so they can water away from a stream or ditch. Skagit Conservation District can help with fencing and watering alternatives.

3. Safeguard manure piles from rain and surface runoff. Call the Skagit Conservation District for help.

4. Use proper waste management when you are boating, fishing, birding, hiking, hunting and camping.

5. Bag pet waste and put it in the garbage, not in the onsite sewage system where it can cause expensive problems.

6. Protect the natural vegetation along ditches, streams, lakes and rivers and consider enhancing these riparian areas with native plants appropriate to the site. Vegetation slows and filters pollutants carried in runoff.

7. Stabilize your soil. Make sure that bare dirt is not exposed during the wet season. Use native plants for long term stabilization, and straw or mulch to temporarily protect exposed areas.

8. Talk to your neighbors and work together to reduce neighborhood impacts on water quality.

9. Go outside and get to know your section of the river.

10. Attend public meetings and workshops.

Samish Mainstem Geomean FCU/100ml

To meet state standards the annual geometric mean of fecal coliform bacteria levels cannot exceed 100 colonies/100 ml. Thus, although fecal coliform levels have improved, there is much work still to be done - the majority of stations still do not meet state standards.

Clean water starts with everyone!

Over the last year, Skagit Conservation District, in partnership with the Cities of Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, Anacortes, and Skagit County, has designed stormwater educational tools for a variety of community audiences, including local businesses.

For a FREE poster contact Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District, 428-4313 or email: kristi@skagitcd.org.

10 Ways to Love Your River

1. Make sure your onsite sewage system is in good working order. Schedule an inspection as required by Skagit County Public Health.

2. Manage your livestock so they can water away from a stream or ditch. Skagit Conservation District can help with fencing and watering alternatives.

3. Safeguard manure piles from rain and surface runoff. Call the Skagit Conservation District for help.

4. Use proper waste management when you are boating, fishing, birding, hiking, hunting and camping.

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8. Talk to your neighbors and work together to reduce neighborhood impacts on water quality.

9. Go outside and get to know your section of the river.

10. Attend public meetings and workshops.
Currently, there are 6 commercial dairy operations located in the Samish Watershed, which consist of 4 conventional dairy operations, one organic operation and one goat dairy. Two other dairy operations control cropland that is located in the Watershed.

Dairy farms are a benefit to the Watershed because they produce dairy products, which most people enjoy, they provide jobs and a way of life, and preserve precious farmland.

Dairy farms produce large amounts of wastewater and manure, but when properly handled can be a benefit because it supplies a natural source of nutrients to crops and provides organic matter back into the soil.

Manure storage is very important because if it is not handled and stored properly, then the manure can find its way into water bodies. Manure should be stored so that it can be applied agronomically and when the potential for runoff into waterways is low. The typical storage period is from November 1st - March 1st depending on weather and soil conditions. Manure should not be applied to cropland on bare soil after harvest in the fall and should not be applied when the soil is frozen or saturated. Commercial dairy operations are inspected by the Washington State Department of Agriculture at least once every 22 months to ensure that dairy operations have adequate storage and that the nutrients that are contained in the manure are applied at agronomic rates.

One dairy in the Samish Watershed was in need of additional manure storage, so the operator contacted the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Skagit Conservation District to obtain technical and financial assistance to construct a second waste storage pond. Through the technical and financial assistance of the NRCS and the financial assistance of the District, the dairy operator was able to construct a second pond. Now that a second pond is in place, the dairy operator has more options as to when manure can be applied to his crop fields. Having additional storage provides the operator the benefit of applying manure when the crops need it the most and when the potential for runoff is low. This is just one of the recent land-use improvements that benefit the health of the Samish Watershed.

Over the past 14 months, the Skagit Conservation District has presented several workshops in the Samish Watershed to educate landowners on the importance of livestock management and how implementing best management practices can have a positive effect on water quality in the Watershed.

One landowner in particular participated in a three-part livestock workshop series in October and November 2009 and became aware that their cattle having access to the Samish River to obtain drinking water was a potential water quality issue and decided to contact the District to obtain assistance in coming up with alternatives. The solution they chose was to install two solar powered water pump systems that draw water from the river and into water troughs that are placed well away from the river’s edge. The end result is that the cattle can still obtain drinking water without accessing the Samish, which could cause streambank erosion and contamination of the water.

It is important to recognize that there are landowners located in the Watershed that are making a difference without enforcement actions. If you are a landowner in the Samish Watershed that has implemented Best Management Practices on your property, we would love to hear about it! Feel free to call the District at 360-428-4313 or email John Schuh at john@skagitcd.org

Simple & Inexpensive BMPs

Some best management practices are simple and inexpensive to implement. One example is a one-strand electric fence, installed to exclude livestock from pasture areas that are adjacent to surface waterways, such as drainage ditches. This fence (pictured above) was installed 20 feet away from a drainage ditch in November and will be taken down sometime in the spring once the soil is no longer saturated. The purpose of installing the temporary fence is to create a "filter strip" to collect sediment and bacteria before runoff reaches the ditch.
EMERGING FORESTRY ISSUES:

BIOMASS

Forest biomass may provide future opportunities for forest landowners. Biomass harvest has the potential to improve forest health and provide jobs and create income in rural communities.

BCAP (Biomass Crop Assistance Program)
The USDA Farm Service Agency has developed new rules for the producers and purchasers of forest biomass. The BCAP program will assist forest landowners with payments for the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible materials to a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility. The USDA recognizes landowners with Forest Conservation Plans ensuring operations are within the context of sustainable forest management practices.

What is Forest Biomass?
Forest biomass will come from:

- Residuals from ongoing harvest operations, (called slash)
- Products of pre-commercial thinning, (small saplings from over-crowded young forests)
- Trees thinned from forests that are at risk from wildfire, insects, disease, (forest health treatments)

Forest biomass will NOT come from:

- Stumps – removal of stumps from a forest can increase soil erosion and is not considered a forest practice, but a conversion activity
- Traditional timber that would otherwise be made into lumber, paper, tissue, or other existing products
- Down logs required to be left on the forest site or material incorporated into the forest floor
- Old growth forests
- Any acres restricted from harvest by the Forest Practices Act or Administrative Directives, (State or Federal)

Woody biomass is already part of the natural “carbon cycle” and as a result, using it sustainably for bioenergy greatly reduces greenhouse gas emissions by replacing energy that would have been produced by fossil fuels. In addition, modern biomass power facilities contribute to a reduction of greenhouse gases beyond the displacement of fossil fuels. The use of forest fuels in a modern boiler also eliminates the methane emissions from incomplete oxidation following open burning, landfiling or decomposition. This is important because methane is a 25 times more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, and modern biomass combustion typically lowers the greenhouse gas footprint of these alternative fuels by 50% or more.

The use of biomass will help create a market for a product previously seen as a “waste”. Forest sector jobs will be created from clean renewable energy sources. Studies included in the new biomass rules include supply, economics, ecological protection and the carbon “footprint” of forest biomass energy facilities. The carbon “footprint” was found to be significantly less than the carbon “footprint” of fossil fuels that have been shipped from other parts of the world. On-going research at the University of Washington in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources will sort out issues surrounding forest biomass.

Wildfire Hazard Reduction
Biomass removal can reduce the risk of intense wildfire, by removing hazardous fuels, and help prevent large scale insect and disease problems. This can also mitigate future large expenditures on wildfire suppression costs and dead / dying tree removal for public safety. This can be a win-win for communities providing healthy, resilient forests, additional revenue streams to forest landowners (therefore, an incentive to keep their land forested), safer landscapes and provide jobs.

For more information on forest biomass visit:

Forest Biomass in Skagit County
Currently in Skagit County the infrastructure is in place to begin biomass harvesting, however, the USDA is in the process of revising and publishing the federal rules related to the BCAP. A Fact Sheet for producers in Washington State is expected in the near future from the USDA Farm Service Agency that will explain how the program works and how producers can get involved.

For more information, please call the Farm Service Agency in Skagit County at (360) 428-7758 x 2.

Soil & Water Stewardship Poster Contest Theme for 2011

The Skagit Conservation District will be hosting its annual poster contest in March using this theme. The contest will be open to Skagit County students grades K-12.

Further contest information can be found at http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/2011/forestry_2011.html

Forestry Tidbit
Washington’s forests are some of the most carbon rich in the world and are continuing to increase. “The U.S. Forest Service provided its first ‘snapshot’ of how much carbon trees store at state and regional levels in new figures released [Friday, October 15, 2010]. Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin and Vermont ranked highest in terms of average carbon stored per acre, trapping upward of 85 metric tons in an average forestland acre, the analysis found.” (Climate Wire, Oct. 18, 2010).
2010 Feature Accomplishment

Samish Watershed Improvements
Skagit Conservation District (SCD) has been addressing high fecal coliform bacteria levels in the Samish Watershed this year by:
- Providing farm planning technical assistance to 36 landowners in the watershed
- Completing farm plans for 19 landowners in the watershed
- Planning and designing 21 best management practices and treating approximately 400 acres
- Installing 14,000 feet of fencing
- Providing 39,260.91 in cost share for the implementation of 9 structural best management practices
- Coordinating 11 educational workshops for Samish watershed residents with over 265 attendees
- Publishing and distributing the Samish newsletter and 3 other informational mailings to over 5500 residents
- Hosting educational displays at 6 events reaching 500 people

Firewise outreach with Smokey Bear

Firewise and Community Wildfire Protection Planning
- 1 new certified Firewise Community/USA
- 4 home wildfire risk assessments completed
- 3.0 acres of fuels reduction completed with 29 homeowners participating
- 1 community-level wildfire risk assessment completed
- 5 Firewise presentations & outreach events conducted – audience: 647
- 1 Firewise Community/USA certification in progress
- 5 certified Firewise Communities/USA in Skagit County
- WIA State ranks 2nd in the nation for number of Firewise Communities/USA

Environmental Education
- Over 700 students participated in the annual Sixth Grade Conservation Tour in May
- 250 seedlings distributed to students in honor of Arbor Day
- A community proclamation in recognition of “Soil and Water Stewardship Week” televised, presented, and signed at a Skagit County Commissioners meeting in April
- 222 posters entered for the Soil and Water Stewardship poster contest for local youth
- Hosted educational displays and distributed educational and program promotional materials at 3 farm locations at the Skagit County Festival of Family Farms – 3,000+ attendees combined for these locations
- Recruited 136 volunteers and 17 resource agencies/organizations to host displays for the 8th annual Samish Bay Bivalve Bash and Mud Run – attendance: 1,400
- Hosted an educational display with a cow milking contest at the Skagit County Fair in August – 20,000 attended the fair
- Over 700 Stream Team volunteer hours reported for the 2009/2010 monitoring season
- Annual Stream Team report completed and distributed

Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program
- National Wildlife Federation recognition of “Community Wildlife Habitat” for zip codes 98273, 98274, 98272, 98218, & 98233
- 25 backyard conservation practices installed on 6.25 acres of land
- Provided presentations on backyard conservation to 89 people
- Coordinated work parties and constructed a community bird and butterfly demonstration garden in the Kulshan neighborhood in partnership with Skagit Valley Backyard Habitat Team, City of MV Police Department, Boy Scout Troop 466, and the Kulshan Creek neighborhood kids and families
- Labeled 8 storm drains & distributed 500 educational door hangers in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood with the assistance of 23 Kulshan kids and families, City of MV Police Department and Backyard Habitat volunteers

Forest Road Projects
- 6.88 miles of roads treated
- 0.8 miles of road surfacing treatment
- 39 drivable dips constructed
- 83 culverts permanently removed
- 32 old or undersized culvens replaced
- 3,722 miles of road decommissioned

Low Impact Development (LID) & Stormwater Education
- 400 storm drains marked on storm drain outlet by volunteers and 1,200 educational door hangers distributed in the City of Burlington and the City of Mount Vernon
- 30 stormwater education presentations provided to 950 county students
- 35 Clean & Green car wash events for 2,170 cars with 141,050 gallons of water treated
- 2 rain garden designs completed & approved
- 3 LID presentations given to 225 people
- 2 stormwater educational posters designed & distributed

Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program
- 29 individuals completed the fall 2010 Watershed Masters Training Program, bringing the total participants to date to 418
- 4,099 Watershed Master volunteer hours reported in 2010, bringing the total hours to over 25,600
- Over 130 sustainable backyard practices employed & reported by Fall 2010 graduates

2010 Skagit Conservation District Summary
Report of Accomplishments

Forested Stewardship Program and EQIP
- 15 forest conservation plans covering 866 acres written
- 9 forestry conservation practices implemented
- 5 plans written for NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program participants treating 250 acres
- 5 forestry outreach events

24 community volunteers participated in the 2010 Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program, bringing the total participants to date to 418. 4,099 Watershed Master volunteer hours reported in 2010, bringing the total hours to over 25,600. Over 130 sustainable backyard practices employed & reported by Fall 2010 graduates.

Low Impact Development (LID) & Stormwater Education
- 400 storm drains marked on storm drain inlets by volunteers and 1,200 educational door hangers distributed in the City of Burlington and the City of Mount Vernon.
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- 35 Clean & Green car wash events for 2,170 cars with 141,050 gallons of water treated.
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- 29 individuals completed the fall 2010 Watershed Masters Training Program, bringing the total participants to date to 418.
- 4,099 Watershed Master volunteer hours reported in 2010, bringing the total hours to over 25,600.
- Over 130 sustainable backyard practices employed & reported by Fall 2010 graduates.

21 best management practices designed and 4 commercial livestock operation plans written.

4 nutrient management plan updates completed.

42 small farm landowners assisted.

14 small farm plans written.

10 small farm landowners assisted.

2 projects implemented: Marches Point rock Slough and the WDFW Goose Preserve.

Cooperators, agencies, and committees received engineering technical assistance.

9 cooperators, agencies, and committees received engineering technical assistance.

35 projects designed, such as test vegetable gardens for the cities of Burlington, Anacortes, and sedro-Woolley.

Long-term project work on Cottonwood Island Slough and the WDFU Grove Preserve.

2 projects implemented: Marches Point rock wave removal and a pipeline stock watering tank installation.

Removal of rock grain at March’s Point

Professional Engineering
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- 35 projects designed, such as test vegetable gardens for the cities of Burlington, Anacortes, and sedro-Woolley.
- Long-term project work on Cottonwood Island Slough and the WDFU Grove Preserve.
- 2 projects implemented: Marches Point rock wave removal and a pipeline stock watering tank installation.

Purchased Development Rights Monitoring
- Assisted the FarmLand Legacy Program by monitoring approximately 8,665.55 acres under easement with status reviews conducted.

Special thanks to all of our partnering organizations who made the Skagit Conservation District’s efforts toward conservation, water quality improvement, and best land-management practices a huge success yet another year!!

2010 Skagit Conservation District Summary

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On November 16th, twenty-eight enthusiastic and dedicated community residents celebrated their “graduation” and became official “Watershed Master Volunteers.” The celebration, held at the Padilla Bay Research Reserve, culminated eight weeks of intensive training, which included 8 evening classes and 3 Saturday field excursions. Since 1995, over 425 community residents have participated in the Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program. In addition to educating and involving local residents in the protection of our streams, rivers, and marine waters, the program has also provided numerous partnership opportunities, kindled many new friendships, and enhanced our community!

The Skagit Conservation District and partners, including the City of Mount Vernon, City of Burlington, City of Sedro-Woolley, Skagit County, and the Washington Department of Ecology, would like to thank and welcome the participants of the Fall 2010 Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program:

David Alger, Mount Vernon
Steven Day, Burlington
Eric Denni, Sedro-Woolley
Kraig Hansen, Sedro-Woolley
Henry Nash, Mount Vernon
Donna Helgeson, Sedro-Woolley
Sabrina Jones, Burlington
Carol Kestl, Mount Vernon
George Koerber, Mount Vernon
Basemo Krkoska, Anacortes
Ward Krkoska, Anacortes
Jim Kunzmann, Bow
Edward Lawless, Mount Vernon
Lachelle Love, Mount Vernon
Rebecca Love, Mount Vernon
Lisa Santcroix, Sedro-Woolley
Sue Mitchell, Burlington
Blake Musselman, Burlington
Chris Pettit, Mount Vernon
Nancy Richard, Sedro-Woolley
Gordon Sjorgen, Kirkland
Jon Stables, Anacortes
Vicky Stables, Anacortes
Brigid Stockton, Burlington
Bill Swartz, Sedro-Woolley
Josh Underdahl, Sedro-Woolley
Sara Van Zandt, Bow
Kris Walker, Bow

The Watershed Masters Volunteer training program is a great way for local residents to find out more about the place we live and to make a difference right here in our own community and neighborhoods. The course is offered each fall, with volunteer activities occurring year-round.

Volunteer Spotlight! Ani Gurnee

Ani Gurnee of Aulos Design in Conway, for giving freely of her time and expertise to design the beautiful new Kulshan Creek Demonstration Bird and Butterfly Garden, located on the corner of 26th and Kulshan in Mount Vernon. Ani, who is a participant of the Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team and a Conservation District volunteer, has been an inspiration for all of us! Over the summer, Ani designed the low-maintenance landscape plan, was instrumental in plant selection, helped solicit plant donations, helped lead planting and maintenance work parties, and has been involved in planning future garden activities. The demonstration butterfly garden was designed to provide valuable habitat for butterflies, birds, and bees, to reduce stormwater runoff, to create a sense of community, raise public awareness, provide an outdoor learning experience for the neighborhood children, and to beautify the environment. Stay tuned for upcoming tours of the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Bird and Butterfly Garden, which will be held at the garden this spring. If you would like to be included on the invite list, contact Kristi@skagitcd.org.

Congratulations! Fall 2010 Watershed Master “Graduates!”

Leading a nationwide trend in community concern for habitat loss, the Skagit Valley Community was officially designated a “Community Wildlife Habitat,” the forty-fifth in the country and tenth in Washington State to receive this honor. A special ceremony in recognition of this achievement was held at the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station on Thursday, August 26th with over 50 people attending. Skagit County Commissioners Sharon Dillon, Ron Wesen, and Ken Dahlstedt, and Gary Molena, Mount Vernon City Council received the award on behalf of the community, which was presented by Courtney Sullivan of the National Wildlife Federation. The Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team, under the leadership of Donna Schram of Mount Vernon, spearheaded the effort, in partnership with Skagit Conservation District, the National Wildlife Federation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and hundreds of local community residents. Community support for the program continues with a new Friday Creek Neighborhood group currently forming! For information on the program or how to certify your own yard, contact Kristi Carpenter, SCD, at (360) 428-4313 or email: Kristi@skagitcd.org.

Volunteer Spotlight! Ani Gurnee

Hats off and special thanks to local landscape designer, Ani Gurnee of Aulos Design in Conway, for giving freely of her time and expertise to design the beautiful new Kulshan Creek Demonstration Bird and Butterfly Garden, located on the corner of 26th and Kulshan in Mount Vernon. Ani, who is a participant of the Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team and a Conservation District volunteer, has been an inspiration for all of us! Over the summer, Ani designed the low-maintenance landscape plan, was instrumental in plant selection, helped solicit plant donations, helped lead planting and maintenance work parties, and has been involved in planning future garden activities. The demonstration butterfly garden was designed to provide valuable habitat for butterflies, birds, and bees, to reduce stormwater runoff, to create a sense of community, raise public awareness, provide an outdoor learning experience for the neighborhood children, and to beautify the environment. Stay tuned for upcoming tours of the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Bird and Butterfly Garden, which will be held at the garden this spring. If you would like to be included on the invite list, contact Kristi@skagitcd.org.

Congratulations SKAGIT VALLEY!

Congratulations Fall 2010 Watershed Master “Graduates!”

The Fall 2010 Watershed Masters spent an evening session at Taylor Shellfish Farms to learn about our local shellfish resources, water quality, and the Clean Salmon Initiative.

The Fall 2010 Watershed Masters smile for a group photo during a Saturday field day, which included a tour of a stream restoration project, a “walk in the woods” forestry tour, and a tour of the PSE Baker Dam and salmon spawning grounds.

For information about the Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program, please contact Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District, at (360) 428-4313 or email: Kristi@skagitcd.org.

The Fall 2010 Watershed Masters spent an evening session at Taylor Shellfish Farms to learn about our local shellfish resources, water quality, and the Clean Salmon Initiative.

On August 26th, the Skagit Valley Community was officially designated a “Community Wildlife Habitat,” the forty-fifth in the country and tenth in Washington State to receive this national honor.
Welcome 2010/11
Skagit Stream Team Volunteers!

Skagit Stream Team is a partnership of local citizens, Skagit Conservation District, Padilla Bay Research Reserve, City of Mount Vernon, City of Burlington, City of Sedro-Woolley, and Skagit County.

2010/11 Skagit Stream Team Volunteers

Storm Team volunteers, Jack Middleton and Stephen Farmer, assisted in a field day to identify and map potential monitoring stations in the Padilla Bay Watershed. This year the Storm Team volunteers will be gathering baseline data (storm related) in the Bay View and No Name Slough drainages.

2009/10 Annual Stream Team Report Now Available!

2009/10 Skagit Stream Team annual report is now available. The report includes the results of ambient water quality monitoring by Skagit Stream Team volunteers. Recent and historical data indicate that bacterial contamination is a significant and ongoing problem throughout these two freshwater drainages that flow to Padilla Bay. In addition, marine water sampling at stations located off the Bay View area shoreline (conducted by the State Department of Health), resulted in the decline of a request for commercial shellfish harvesting on Padilla Bay tidelands, and the closure of Bay View State Park for recreational shellfish harvest in 2005.

Assessing water quality during high flows is important since storms can flood large volumes of pollutants into streams that may impact beneficial uses such as water supplies for domestic, industrial, or agricultural purposes, fish, shellfish, wildlife habitat, recreation, aesthetics, research and education, etc. The storm event monitoring will help detect priority areas for clean up as well as provide data that will compliment the Storm Team’s regular ambient monitoring program. Special thanks to our Storm Team volunteers for 2 years of commitment in conducting storm event monitoring in the Samish and beginning the new Padilla Bay Study this year: Kurt Buchanan, Stephen Farmer, Lin Folsom, Pete Haase, Patrick Hurley, Jack Middleton, Patrick O’Hearn, and Jack Sekora.

Storm Team volunteers, Stephen Farmer, Jack Middleton, and Jack Sekora pictured with Susan Wood (PBNEER) on the shores of Padilla Bay.

Eating Shellfish from This Beach is Unsafe to Eat.

This sign was installed at Bay View State Park in 2006 to warn people that the shellfish from this beach are unsafe to eat.

“Conservation is a state of harmony between man and the land.”
— Aldo Leopold

Interested in learning about the health of your local streams?

The 2009/10 Skagit Stream Team annual report is now available. The report includes the results of ambient water quality monitoring by Skagit Stream Team volunteers from September 2009 through August 2010, and includes the following freshwater streams: Samish River, Joe Leary Slough, No Name Slough, Bay View drainage, Brickyard Creek, Gages Slough, Kulshan Creek, Trumpeter Creek, Nookachamps Creek and Fisher Creek. Each freshwater stream reach is monitored on a regular twice a month schedule for fecal coliform, turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen and total depth. The report is on the district’s website: www.skagitcd.org or contact kristi@skagitcd.org.
About the Plant Materials Center
The Plant Materials Center (PMC) is owned by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and provides high quality conservation grade plants, shrubs, and services that benefit natural resources. The 60-acre bare-root nursery located in Bow, where the SCD holds its native plant sale every year, produces over 70 species of quality conservation seedlings and cuttings. Once the seedlings are lifted, they are kept in cold storage until the day of our plant sale. The PMC provides plants to conservation districts around the state of Washington.

Purpose of the Plant Sale
The purpose of the plant sale is to promote natural resource conservation by providing quality, conservation-grade plants at wholesale prices to the public for use in conservation related projects. Some examples of conservation projects include erosion control, riparian restoration, reforestation, backyard habitat enhancement, wetland restoration and wildfire mitigation.

Availability of Plants
Every year, the SCD purchases a large number of plants from the PMC to sell at our annual plant sale. The decision of what type and how many seedlings to buy is based on the previous year’s sales and what is available depending on the cultivating success of certain species that year. While most of the plants come from the PMC and are grown on site, some are brokered stock, which means that they are contracted out and grown elsewhere. Because we don’t always know what our supply will be, especially if certain species failed or ended up being too small to sell, we cannot guarantee that all the species listed in the newsletter or on the order form will be available for pre-orders or during the open sales. Pre-orders will be filled in the order received, and open sale orders will be on a first come, first served basis.

Open Sale Days
For organization and budget purposes, our plant sale is run on a first come, first served basis. Sometimes the lines can get long and the atmosphere can be hectic. We ask that you please be patient with the staff and our many volunteers who work very hard to make the sale run as smoothly as possible for you, our customers. Each year holds new challenges that we try our best to adjust to and accommodate for. The SCD welcomes suggestions on how we can improve the process on sale days. Thank you for your patience.

Remember
Please note that these are conservation-grade plants. They are intended for shelterbelts, erosion control, wildlife habitat and other conservation purposes. Most are sold as bareroot seedlings and are generally small; therefore, high hauling capacity is NOT necessary.

Payment
A 50% deposit must accompany all preorders, and the balance of the order must be paid at time of pick up. Open sale orders must be paid for at the time of purchase.

We are unable to accept credit or debit cards, so please bring your checkbook or cash.

DISCOUNT AVAILABLE!
For purchases of $500 or more (before sales tax), there is a 15% discount.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT OUR PLANT SALE?
We need your help!
Thursday, March 24—12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, March 25—8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays, March 26 and April 9
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Please contact Jenny Hinderman at (360) 428-4313 or email jenny@skagitcd.org to sign up.

OPEN SALE DATES
(First Come, First Served)
Friday, March 25, 2011
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
and Saturdays, March 26 and April 9
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PRE-ORDER OPTION!
Presale orders will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2011

Required Minimum Pre-Order:
$100 before taxes with a 50% deposit at the time your order is placed

See pre-order form insert to pre-order.

Pick-up date for pre-orders is Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the WACD Plant Materials Center

Questions? Call Sue or Cora at (360) 428-4313

PLANT SALE LOCATION:
WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center
16564 Bradley Road, Bow

DIRECTIONS TO PLANT MATERIALS CENTER:
From I-5 take the Cook Road Exit (#232). Go west on Cook Road. Cross Chaidanit Drive and Avon Allen Road. Cook Road will become Bradley Road after Avon-Allen. Continue west for about one mile. The PMC will be on your left. If you come to a sharp right turn, you have gone too far.
Choosing the Right Plants:

A Buyer’s Guide

Many of our customers purchase plants in order to remedy a specific problem or for a particular landscape goal. Below are some examples of landscape problems and goals with suggested plant species to help meet these goals. The plant species listed include only those plants that will be available at our plant sale. Additional informational materials will be available at the plant sale.
ATTENTION CONTRACTORS!

The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) maintains a Small Works Roster (SWR) as required by RCW 39.04.155. The roster is used to secure bid proposals from contractors for conservation public works projects estimated to cost less than $100,000. WA licensed contractors will be added to the SCD SWR after submitting a registration form which can be requested by calling 360-428-4313, emailing skagitcd@skagitcd.org, or downloading it from www.skagitcd.org.

WHO WE ARE:

District Staff
Carolyne Kelly, District Manager
Cora Amburn-Uijek, Staff Assistant
Susan Bridgman, Administrative Assistant
Kristi Carpenter, Public Information & Education Coordinator
Al Craney, Forester
Jennifer Hinderman, Firewise Program Coordinator & Resource Technician
Joe Holtcamp, CREP/GIS Coordinator
Lori Kyle, Resource Monitoring Specialist
Cindy Pierce, Youth Education & Data Information Coordinator
John Schuh, Livestock, Small Farm Planning & Technical Program Coordinator
Tom Slocum, Professional Engineer

Board of Supervisors
Janet McRae, Chair
Paul Blau, Vice Chair
Thiljs Jacobson, Auditor
Dean Wesen, Member
Ryan Sakuma, Member

SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2011 EXPIRING SUPERVISOR POSITIONS
Candidates and Voters Wanted!

Don’t forget to vote!

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Two board supervisor positions will expire in 2011. The elected supervisor is chosen in a public election held by the Skagit Conservation District (SCD), and the appointed supervisor is appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission). The SCD Board of Supervisors is a board of volunteers, who are public officials that serve without compensation. The SCD Board oversees the SCD in its mission to provide voluntary incentive-based programs to local landowners and farm operators and educational workshops to the public to support the land base while promoting and enhancing natural resources in Skagit County. The Board has five members; two are appointed by the Commission, and three are elected by the voters of Skagit County. Two of the elected and one of the appointed supervisors must be landowners or farm operators. For more information about Washington State conservation district elections, refer to the Commission website (www.scc.wa.gov).

ELECTION INFORMATION FOR VOTERS:

If you are a Skagit County registered voter living in Skagit County, you are eligible to vote in the SCD Board of Supervisors Election. The election will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2021 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA. Absentee ballots will be available. To receive an absentee ballot request form, please call us, email skagitcd@skagitcd.org, or download the form from our website at www.skagitcd.org. Your completed absentee ballot request form must be faxed to 360-424-6572, emailed to skagitcd@skagitcd.org, brought to our office at 2021 E. College Way, Suite 203, Mount Vernon by 4:30 p.m. on March 1, or mailed postmarked no later than March 1.

APPOINTED AND ELECTED CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

If you are interested in serving on the SCD Board of Supervisors, are a Skagit County registered voter, and live within Skagit County, you can be a candidate for either the appointed or elected position. Both volunteer positions are three-year terms (2011-2014).

To file as a candidate for the elected position, you must submit a candidate information form with the SCD by February 14, 2011. To have your name on the ballot, you must also get the signatures of at least 25 registered Skagit County voters on the nomination form and submit the form to the SCD by February 14. If you submit an information form, but do not submit a nomination form, you may be a declared write-in candidate, so your name will not appear on the ballot.

To apply for the appointed position, you must submit an application to the Commission between January 1 and March 31. Both candidates forms and applications are available by calling the SCD at 360-428-4313 or the Commission at 360-407-6200, or by visiting the SCD website (www.skagitcd.org) or the Commission website (www.scc.wa.gov).