



SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

News

Volume 35, Number 1

SOIL • WATER • WOODLAND

Winter 2019

Orca Day 2018 on Trumpeter Creek

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2019 NATIVE PLANT SALE
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Orca Day 2018 on Trumpeter Creek

The Skagit Conservation District, partnering with Puget Sound Conservation Districts, participated in the inaugural Puget Sound Orca Recovery Day effort led by the Pierce Conservation District. The Pierce CD was able to secure \$30,000 from the Washington Conservation Commission and \$30,000 from the Ruth Foundation – A legacy of the Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation. The Skagit CD partnered with the Skagit Land Trust to add additional buffer trees along Trumpeter Creek just east of Skagit Valley College. The project was put together in a little less than two weeks with 35 volunteers planting 150 potted cedar trees to replace trees that had not survived the previous drought year. The volunteers installed plant protectors around each tree after planting. That included mounding at least 3 inches of soil around the blue tube to assure its effectiveness and stability. Riparian buffers are a fundamental piece to restore stream temperatures and instream habitat for salmon populations the Orca are relying on for their food. The Washington State Orca Task Force recently identified the three biggest challenges faced by the Southern Resident Orca as lack of food, toxins and noise. Before the tree planting started, the group participated in taking the Orca Trivia test. The test included sixteen questions related to the survival challenges faced by the Puget Sound Orca. The volunteers came from all over including Seattle, Snohomish, Anacortes and the greater Skagit community.

Welcome Emmett Wild



Emmett Wild joined the District in October as a Farm/Natural Resource Planner. He is a lifelong local, having grown up in the Arlington area. Before transferring to Skagit, Emmett spent 3 years with the King Conservation District, where he worked with a wide variety of livestock and crop farms. He specialized in supporting dairies and commercial producers and helped King County farmers access more than \$600,000 in cost-share funds to protect natural resources and improve farm operations. Emmett Graduated from Western Washington University with a B.S. in Environmental Science after studying at the Ocean Research College Academy and Washington State University. Emmett is a certified conservation planner and a student in Class 41 of the AgForestry Leadership Program. He looks forward to supporting and advocating for farmers and landowners in Skagit County.

Emmett operates a small farm in Stanwood, raising poultry and a variety of fruit. He grew up in 4-H and FFA, raising poultry, beef, and swine. One of his most memorable accomplishments was winning reserve champion steer at the Skagit County Junior Livestock Show and Sale. Emmett is an internationally licensed poultry judge, and travels the U.S. and Canada to exhibit and evaluate poultry and pigeons in his spare time. When not in the office or traveling for poultry, Emmett can be found mentoring youth with livestock, supporting our local fairs, or hiking.

Coho Salmon in Thomas Creek as Proof of the Stewardship Efforts of Local Landowners

The feeling that comes to a landowner or partner when witnessing a large salmon splashing its way upstream or digging a redd (nest) within a restoration project is inspiring. If you build it they will come seems cliché, but in fact when a salmon stream is restored or reconnected through riparian reforestation or removing a fish blockage, both adult and juvenile fish respond to the available habitat reducing competition for food and cover from predators.

Can you find the three adult Coho returning to spawn in the photo? The Coho normally wait until a good rain storm comes to aid them in migrating upstream through culverts and modified stream channels. This picture shows the water is a little murky as a result of the increased flow but the water is still clean enough to see the fish and there is always a little natural turbidity with larger storm events.



Photo Courtesy of Ron Holmes

We need to make sure to celebrate the hard work done by all to help restore water quality and fish habitat in Thomas Creek and all tributaries that have been part of the **Clean Samish Initiative**. The fish are the real measurement of success and knowing they are coming back will help us continue our work together so future generations can once again tell stories of walking across the backs of the salmon.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT LEADS TO EVALUATION PERIOD CHANGE

JANUARY 2019

The Clean Samish Initiative has made great progress in improving water quality during the past 8 years (see figure). Samish Bay has more than 4,000 acres of commercial shellfish beds; an upgrade is crucial to meeting the statewide goal of upgrading 10,800 acres of shellfish beds by 2020.

Why did the evaluation period need to be changed?

Since 2011, we've used the spring period (March through June) to evaluate success. However, new data shows that the spring period no longer accurately represents water quality conditions throughout the year. Closures occur year round, so it makes more sense to evaluate based on the entire year rather than just one season. Early on, the majority of pollution closures happened in spring, so that was our focus. Overall, finding and fixing pollution sources has significantly reduced the number of pollution closures throughout the year.

What is the criteria for an upgrade?

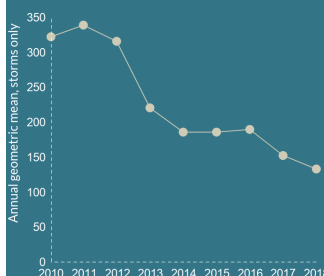
The Washington State Department of Health will evaluate the bay's classification at the end of each year, as it does for all other commercial shellfish beds in the state. The updated criteria provides more flexibility than previous criteria did. To upgrade the shellfish growing areas in Samish Bay, bacteria in the river must not exceed levels the Department of Health has determined will contaminate shellfish. However, if the river exceeds the critical bacteria levels but the pollution problems causing it are found and fixed, the shellfish growing area may still qualify for an upgrade.

Is it still possible to get an upgrade?

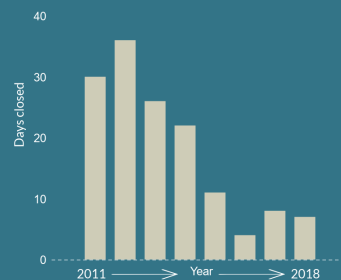
Yes! In the last year, we have succeeded in fixing several long-standing issues, and recently released a new public outreach campaign (poopsmart.org) to reach people in a new way. With these efforts, we believe it is possible to achieve an upgrade by 2020.

Clean Samish Initiative Successes 2010-2018

Average bacteria levels have reduced significantly



Commercial shellfish beds are closed for fewer days in spring



260+

Best management practices implemented on farms



330

Septic systems identified as failed or seriously deficient



46+

Farm plans completed



12+

Pet waste stations maintained by Skagit County or community partners



Progress Made!

November 2017 - Washington Department of Health updates the rules for closing the bay due to reduced pollution. This has resulted in fewer precautionary shellfish harvest closures.

For Questions or more information, contact **Scott Berbells**,
Washington Department of Health, (360) 236-3324

New this year: NATIVE POLLINATOR MEADOW SEED PACKETS

WHY?

Animal Pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds, and bats) are needed for the reproduction of 90% of flowering plants and one third of human food crops. We depend on pollinators for the wide range of foods we eat. Abundant and healthy populations of pollinators can improve fruit set and quality, and increase fruit size. In farming situations this increases production per acre. In the wild, pollinators are necessary for genetic diversity and plentiful wildlife food sources. The more diverse plants are, the better they can adapt to changes in the environment.

We need pollinators and now they

need us. Honey bees are suffering increased sickness and death and biologists fear several butterfly and bumble bee species have completely disappeared from parts of their range. Habitat loss, introduced diseases, pollution, and pesticide use are factors in their decline. Fortunately, we can support pollinators by creating pollinator-friendly gardens and protecting wildlife habitat.

This tangible course of action can be accomplished by anyone at any scale. Even the smallest plot, container garden, or rooftop planting, can help support native pollinators.

Making conscious choices to include plants that provide essential habitat for bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds and other pollinators will increase the number of pollinators in your area. First, choose a variety of plants that will provide nectar and pollen throughout the growing season. Resist the urge to have a totally manicured lawn and garden. Leave bare ground for ground nesting bees and areas of dead wood and leaf litter for other insects. Strive to eliminate the use of all pesticides. Above all, be sure to include native plants in your pollinator garden. Native plants will attract more native pollinators and can serve as larval host plants for some species of pollinators. Most pollinators feed on specific plant species. Nonnative plants may not provide pollinators with enough nectar or pollen, or may be inedible to butterfly or moth caterpillars.

Northwest Meadowsapes Native Pollinator Seed Packets contain native annuals and perennials to provide an ongoing succession of flowers over multiple years. This seed mix includes native bunch grasses to provide nesting habitat for bees and to reduce weed encroachment:

Annual Wildflowers 29% Douglas Meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), Large Flower Collomia (*Collomia grandiflora*), Globe Gilia (*Gilia capitata*), Farewell to Spring (*Clarkia amoena*), Wine Cup Clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*), Diamond Clarkia (*Clarkia rhomboidea*), Sea Blush (*Plectritis congesta*)

Perennial Wildflowers 39% Springbank Clover (*Trifolium wormskioldii*), Douglas Aster (*Symphyotrichum subspicatum*), Self Heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Western Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Large Camas (*Camassia leichtinii*), Puget Sound Gumweed (*Grindelia integrifolia*), Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), Riverbank Lupine (*Lupinus rivularis*), Common Camas (*Camassia quamash*), Bingleaf Lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*), Meadow Checkermallow (*Sidalcea campestris*), Meriwether Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristata* 'Meriwether'), Western Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), Prairie Cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*), Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), Fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), Nettleleaf Giant Hyssop (*Agastache urticifolia*) Showy Fleabane (*Erigeron speciosus*)

Grasses 32% Prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), Roemer's Fescue (*Festuca romeri*), Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Meadow Barley (*Horedum brachyantherum*)

For more information on planting for pollinators, check out these links:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/?cid=NRCS143_022326

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>

https://pollinator.org/assets/generalFiles/PacificLowlandrx8_171017_090207.pdf

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2017-048_MaritimeNorthwestPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf

<https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/planting-for-pollinators/http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/EstablishingPollinatorMeadows.pdf>

Skagit Conservation District 2019 Native Plant Sale



Our mission:
Providing voluntary
incentive-based programs
to support the land base
while protecting and
enhancing natural
resources in Skagit
County.

Pre-order Information

Pre-order minimum:
\$50 before taxes
with 50% deposit
(check, cash or credit card)

Pre-order deadline:
4 p.m. Friday, March 29, 2019

Pre-order forms available
from the office or
www.skagitcd.org

Limited quantities
First come, first served

Pick up date:
Friday, April 12, 2019
from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pick up location:
WACD Lynn Brown
Plant Materials Center,
16564 Bradley Road, Bow

SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2021 E. College Way, Suite 203
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-2373

Phone: 360-428-4313

Website: www.skagitcd.org

Email: skagitcd@skagitcd.org



Open Sale Information

OPEN SALE

Saturday, April 13, 2019
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SALE LOCATION

WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center
16564 Bradley Road, Bow
(Directions & map on page 3)

***First-come,
First-served
basis sale!***

More About Our Native Plant Sale

Discount Available!

15% discount for plant purchases more than \$500 (before sales tax)

Plant Sale Proceeds:

The proceeds of the plant sale
are used to support our K-12
education programs.























































































Availability of Plants:

The number of plants for sale
are limited to the number we
order six months before the
sale. Availability may also be
affected for various unpredict-
able reasons, such as plant
failure, damage or disease.

Plant Grade & Size:

Our plants are conservation-
grade, graded mostly on
survivability as they are
intended for conservation
purposes, such as shelterbelts,
erosion control, fire resistance,
and wildlife habitat. Most
plants are bareroot seedlings,
so are generally small
(approximate sizes are listed).
A high hauling capacity is NOT
necessary.












































































SKAGIT CD 2019 NATIVE PLANT SALE: PLANT DESCRIPTIONS AND PRICING

Common Name/Genus Species	Max. Ht.	Classification & Characteristics	Habitat Characteristics & Conservation Uses	Est. size	Bundle Price
EVERGREEN/CONIFER TREE SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25- EXCEPT AS NOTED)					
1. Fir, Grand <i>Abies grandis</i>	2-0	150'	   	Moist to dry, well-drained soils; Christmas tree, lumber, wildlife food & shelter	12"+ \$27.00 for 25
2. Fir, Noble <i>Abies procera</i>	P-1	100'	   	Prefers well-drained soils; Christmas trees, wild-life food & shelter, floral greens	6-12"+ \$37.00 for 25
3. Port Orford Cedar <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	P-1	100'	   	Prefers cool, moist, well-drained soils; building, carving, weaving	12"+ \$27.00 for 25
4. Spruce, Sitka <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	P-1	200'	   	Prefers moist, well-drained soils; wildlife food & shelter, lumber, deer resistant	12"+ \$27.00 for 25
5. Pine, Shore <i>Pinus contorta</i>	2-0	100'	   	Tolerates wet soils; Christmas trees, wildlife food & shelter	12"+ \$27.00 for 25
6. Western White Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	2-0	150'	  	Prefers full sun on dry sites; windbreak, disease resistant seedlings	6-12" \$37.00 for 25
7. Fir, Douglas <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	2-0	300'	   	Prefers acidic, well-drained soils; Christmas tree, lumber, wildlife food & shelter	12"+ \$27.00 for 25
8. Cedar, Western Red <i>Thuja plicata</i>	P-1	300'	   	Tolerates wet soils; wildlife food & shelter, wind-break, carving, weaving	12"+ \$37.00 for 25
DECIDUOUS TREE SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10)					
9. Maple, Vine <i>Acer circinatum</i>	1-0	25'	    	Grows in dry to wet areas; wildlife shelter, variety of landscapes	12"+ \$24.00 for 10
10. Maple, Big Leaf <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	1-0	80'	    	Grows in dry to moist soil; wildlife food & shelter, syrup, early bloom for bees & other pollinators	30"+ \$24.00 for 10
11. Pacific Madrone <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	plug	90'	    	Prefers dry, sunny, often rocky sites; white flowers, red berries, wildlife cover	plug \$7.75 EACH
12. Birch <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	2-0	80'	    	Prefers moils, well-drained soils; wildlife food & shelter, fuel, lumber, windbreak	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
13. Dogwood, Pacific <i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	1-0	60'	    	Prefers moist, deep, well-drained soil high in organic matter; wildlife food	12" \$24.00 for 10
14. Quaking Aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	1-0	80'	    	Grows in dry to moist soils; wildlife food & shelter, fuel, lumber, windbreak	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
15. White Oak <i>Quercus garryana</i>	2-0	80'	    	Prefers dry, well-drained soils; wildlife habitat & food	12"+ \$22.00 for 25
SHRUB SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10- EXCEPT AS NOTED)					
16. Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	1-0	15'	    	Grows in well-drained dry to moist soils; wildlife food, edible berry	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
17. Kinnikinnick <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	4" pot	8-10"	    	Ground cover that prefers well-drained, exposed sites; wildlife food & pollen	4" pot \$5.50 EACH
18. Dogwood, Red Osier <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	1-0	20'	    	Grows in moist to wet sites; red twigs; wildlife food & shelter, erosion control	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
19. Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	4" pot	6'	    	Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food, edible fruit, floral greens, erosion control	4" pot \$5.50 EACH

KEY:



SKAGIT CD 2019 NATIVE PLANT SALE: PLANT DESCRIPTIONS AND PRICING

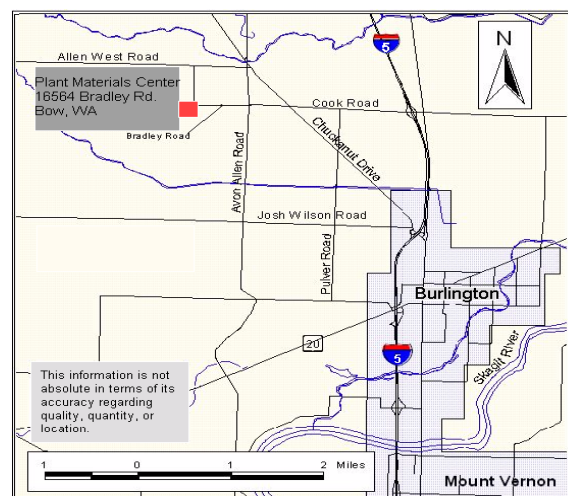
Common Name/Genus Species	Max. Ht.	Classification & Characteristics	Habitat Characteristics & Conservation Uses	Est. size	Bundle Price
SHRUB SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10- EXCEPT AS NOTED)					
20. Oregon Grape, Tall <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	2-0	5'	    	Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food, erosion control, edible fruit	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
21. Oregon Grape, Short <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	2-0	2'	    	Drought tolerant once established; wildlife food, durable & adaptable, edible fruit	6"+ \$22.00 for 10
22. Indian Plum <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	1-0	15'	    	Grows in dry to moist, soils; wildlife food; attracts pollinators	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
23. Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	2-0	10'	    	Prefers well-drained moist sites; has fragrant flowers, wildlife food & nectar	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
24. Ninebark <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	1-0	13'	    	Grows in damp soils; benefits small bees, host plant for Spring Azure butterflies	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
25. Currant, Red Flowering <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	1-0	10'	    	Grows in dry to moist soil at low & mid elevation; wildlife food & pollen	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
26. Rhododendron, Pacific plug <i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>	plug	10'	    	Prefers moist to dry, well-drained soil; source of shelter & pollen	plug \$5.50 EACH
27. Rose, Nootka <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	1-0	10'	    	Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food & Shelter, host plant for numerous butterflies	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
28. Elderberry, Blue <i>Sambucus glauca</i>	root+10"	15'	    	Grows in dry to moist sites in open space; wildlife food & shelter, edible	12"+ \$22.00 for 10
29. Willow, Hooker <i>Salix hookeriana</i>	whip	20'	    	Shrub. Grows in moist to wet sites; erosion control, benefits birds & butterflies	36" whip \$19.50 for 10
30. Willow, Sitka <i>Salix sitchensis</i>	whip	15'	    	Shrub. Grows in moist to dry sites; erosion control, benefits birds & butterflies	36" whip \$19.50 for 10
31. Willow, Pacific <i>Salix lasiandra</i>	whip	45'	    	Tree. Grows in wet to dry sites; erosion control, benefits birds & butterflies	36" whip \$19.50 for 10
32. Douglas Spirea <i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	2-0	6'	    	Margins of ponds & meadows; wet sites, open space at low elevation, benefits bumble bees	18"+ \$22.00 for 10
33. Huckleberry, Evergreen <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	plug	4'	    	Grows in sun or shade with well-drained soil; Floral greens & edible fruit	plug \$5.50 EACH
NEW ITEM!!!!!! HERBACIOUS (SOLD BY EACH)					
34. NW Meadowsapes Native Pollinator Seeds	100 sq. ft	    	Variety of native annuals and perennials. Includes native bunch grasses to provide nesting habitat for bees and to reduce weeds	Seed pack	\$10.00 EACH

KEY:



DIRECTIONS TO THE SCD NATIVE PLANT SALE

WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center (PMC)
16564 Bradley Road, Bow, WA
From I-5 take the Cook Road Exit (#232). Go west on Cook Road. Cross Chuckanut Dr. 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. (Do not rely on GPS devices!)



Don't Just Landscape, RainScape!

Create beautiful landscapes that protect water quality and reduce runoff

What is RainScaping?

A "RainScape" is a landscape which helps absorb water at the lot level, reduces stormwater runoff, promotes infiltration, and filters runoff by controlling it at its source. RainScaping practices range from simple measures that include redirecting downspouts, building healthy soils, installing rain gardens and rain barrels, planting native trees and shrubs, and replacing hard surfaces with permeable surfaces, to more sophisticated measures such as larger bioretention and green roofs installation.

RainScaping Practices

Install a Rain Garden: A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression with special soil and plants that can be shaped and sized to fit your yard. Rain gardens capture runoff from rooftops, lawns, and pavement. The rain water collected in rain gardens soaks in within a few hours to a day or two. This provides flood and erosion control, infiltration, groundwater recharge, and water-cooling benefits. Visit 12000raingardens.org for more information and to download the Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington.

Mulch and Amend Soils: Healthy soil is the key to preventing polluted runoff. Lawns and gardens with good soil quality reduce the need for watering and minimize the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Incorporating compost-amended topsoil or well-aged compost, with an annual application of organic mulch are recommended strategies for improving soil infiltration rates, reducing compaction, and improving soil quality and infiltration capacity. For more information visit: www.savingwater.org

Collect Rain in Barrels or Cisterns: The use of rain barrels and cisterns is an old idea that has been recycled. A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from downspouts and rooftops for future use watering lawns and flower gardens. Collecting rainwater is an easy way to conserve water - and save money on your water bill. During the drier season, when water consumption often doubles, using collected rainwater also reduces the strain on the water supply and keeps more water

available for fish and wildlife. For more information visit skagitpud.org/conservation/rain-barrels/

Plant Native Trees and Shrubs: Trees soak up rainfall and protect soil against erosion by catching raindrops before they hit the ground. Tree roots break up tightly packed soil, increasing the amount of water the ground absorbs. Consider incorporating native plants in your landscape. They are adapted to our local soil and climate and don't need chemical fertilizers or extra watering once established. They also provide food and habitat for local songbirds and other native wildlife, and shade for our homes, which can reduce energy costs. For detailed information on native plants for our region visit: green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/index.aspx

Replace Pavement with Permeable Options: Permeable pavement is a special type of pavement that allows rainwater to soak through it into the ground below. Unlike traditional surfaces, permeable pavement or pavers infiltrate pollutants and slow the water down, stabilizing stream flows and reducing flood potential. A few options include: interlocking pavers, porous concrete, and permeable asphalt. Permeable pavers are ideal for patios, sidewalks, and driveways. Proper installation is critical. For more information visit: www.concretenetwork.com/pervious/

Consult an Architect to Design & Install a Green Roof: A green roof incorporates vegetation, soil or other growing medium, and a drainage layer over a waterproof membrane as an alternative to an impervious roof surface. A green roof will eliminate 50% to 80% of roof runoff. The soil and vegetation absorb precipitation and release what is not used by plants over several hours rather than the rapid runoff associated with impervious roofs. A green roof also provides air quality and aesthetic benefits and improves home energy efficiency. For more information visit: www.asla.org/sustainablelandscapes/greenroof.html

Help keep our many streams, rivers, and beaches clean and healthy for each generation now and in the future.

For more information contact the Skagit Conservation District

Protecting our legacy of clean water... Congratulations Fall 2018 Watershed Masters - Class 26!

The Skagit Conservation District and partners, including the City of Mount Vernon, City of Burlington, City of Sedro-Woolley, City of Anacortes and Skagit County, would like to thank and commend the participants of the Fall 2018 Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program for their involvement and commitment to help protect our legacy of clean water in Skagit County: **Heather Brennan, Jenna Cassells, Heather Conkerton, Andrea Doll, Britta Eschete, Leanne Forner, Zena Gavin, Meagan Maillet, Leah Miller, Karen Nelson, Ron Raczkowski, John Smith, and Barbara Weed.**

The class was recognized at a special ceremony on November 14th culminating eight weeks of training, which included eight evening classes and three Saturday field days. The sessions are taught by local experts and designed to demonstrate the interrelationship of watershed health, beauty, recreation, economics and citizen behavior; and to provide residents with a vehicle to get involved individually and collectively to protect and improve the health of our local streams, rivers, lakes, and marine resources. In exchange for 40 hours of training, Watershed Masters pledge to complete 40 hours of volunteer service in our community over the next two years. Each individual volunteer decides how to spend these hours.

"Even the smallest person can change the course of the future." ~Bilbo Baggins, The Hobbit



A group of fall 2018 Watershed Masters enjoying a beautiful fall day in the upper Skagit touring the PSE Baker Dam facilities and sockeye spawning grounds. Thank you PSE staff for this great opportunity!

The Watershed Masters Volunteer Training course is offered each fall, with volunteer activities occurring year-round. For information about the program, please contact Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District, at (360) 428-4313 or email kristi@skagitcd.org.



Thank you, Holli!
We love our volunteers!

SCD would like to give an extra special thank you to volunteer extraordinaire, Holli Watne, for all of her time and support assisting with the Watershed Masters program this fall! In addition to helping every Wednesday night throughout the program, Holli has been helping out once a week at the office, is a Watershed Masters graduate, completed the Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course, and is now in her 7th year with the Stream Team program. It has been a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with Holli and we love all of her passion and enthusiasm!



Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Demonstration Project

at Bay View United Methodist Church — "It's all about Community!"

Work was completed this fall on the installation of a demonstration rain garden, compost sock terrace project, and native plant hedgerow at the Bay View United Methodist Church (Bay View UMC). The Bay View UMC is a well-known historic landmark in the center of the Bay View Community and located just two blocks from Padilla Bay. The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) received grant funding through the WA Dept. of Ecology's Terry Husseman Fund to install the project, which has brought together numerous partners, including the Bay View UMC, Skagit and Snohomish Conservation Districts, the Backyard Eco Garden Group, and numerous community neighbors and SCD volunteers. This project will collect and infiltrate stormwater runoff, support local and state efforts to improve the water quality health of the Padilla Bay watershed, and provide an educational demonstration site to inspire community awareness of local water quality issues and to promote landscaping techniques that are protective of water quality.

Special thanks to the Bay View United Methodist Church and congregation for their inspiration, for doing their part to protect the water quality health of Padilla Bay, and serving as a source of information and education for others in their community. The SCD would also like to extend special thanks to volunteer and local landscape architect, Ian Horton, who volunteered his time and expertise throughout the project.



*Rain garden maintenance work party.
Pictured L to R: Susan Olson, Tammy Ennen,
Judi Rogers, Kathryn Lindsay, and Bill Rogers*



*Bill Blake, SCD District Manager,
installs an interpretive sign*

**For more information about this project contact Kristi Carpenter, SCD,
at 360-428-4313 or email: kristi@skagitcd.org**

SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD SUPERVISOR ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

One elected position and one appointed position on the Skagit Conservation District (SCD) Board will expire in May 2019. The elected position is currently held by Eben Twaddle. The appointed position is currently held by Dean Wesen. There are no term limits, so the candidates may choose to continue on the Board if elected by the public or appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC).

To vote: request an absentee ballot by 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 6, 2019 by calling the SCD at 360-428-4313 or cast your vote at our public walk-in poll election, which will be held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 2021 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-2373. ***Voters must be registered Washington State voters and live within Skagit County.***

To be an appointed candidate: go to <http://scc.wa.gov/elections/> and complete the Conservation District Appointed Supervisor Application form. This is only available online. The SCD can provide assistance if needed. Applications for the appointed position must be received by the Conservation Commission by close of business on **Friday, March 29, 2019.**

**For more information on Elected or Appointed Board Supervisors go to
<http://scc.wa.gov/elections/>**

For more information or to request a ballot: contact Sheri at 360-428-4313 or email sheri@skagitcd.org.





The Skagit Conservation District Presents: Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course



Featuring Valuable Tips for:

**Native Plant Landscaping * Environmentally Friendly Garden Practices
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) * Attracting Birds to Your Backyard * Composting
Bees as Pollinators * Building Healthy Soils * Managing Invasive Plants * Gardening for Wildlife
Introduction to Low Impact Development/Rain Gardens * Permaculture Gardens and MORE!**
Training provided by local experts!

Classes are free and will be held on Wednesday evenings, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, beginning Wednesday, March 20th and continuing through Wednesday, April 24th at the Padilla Bay Research Reserve facility. Two Saturday field days are scheduled for April 6th and April 13th.



PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Please pre-register by March 18th



This program is being held in partnership with Skagit County and the Cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley



For more information or to register, contact Kristi Carpenter:
(360) 428-4313 or email kristi@skagitcd.org

Skagit Conservation District Rates and Charges Update

The Conservation District staff and Supervisors worked hard all year spending time with various customer groups to learn where existing services are needed and opportunities to provide new services where wanted. The rates and charges proposal has been refined and will be presented again to the County Commissioners in early 2019. We appreciate all of our cooperators that shared their support for the proposal and recognition of benefits our District brings to hundreds of landowners each year that participate in farm plan implementation or outreach and education programs. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the rates and charges please contact Bill Blake, District Manager, at 360-428-4313 or email bill@skagitcd.org.

Small Works Roster and Contractors Lists

Licensed contractors who do conservation public works are invited to sign up for our small works roster. The list will be used to secure bid proposals for Skagit Conservation District public works projects estimated to cost less than \$300,000.

Restoration/reforestation contractors and contractors that do work such as concrete structures, ditching, drainage, fencing, pipeline, waste ponds, wildlife ponds, culverts, stream and wetland restoration, pipeline, soil testing, and pumping are invited to sign up for our contractors lists, which are given to the public upon request. The SCD provides the information as a public service. It does not endorse any of the contractors listed nor does it verify required licenses or registrations.

For a small works/contractors registration form, call: 360-428-4313 or email: skagitcd@skagitcd.org

2018 SCD Accomplishments

Each year, the Skagit Conservation District compiles an annual report of Accomplishments. This report can be found on our website at www.skagitcd.org.

We would like to thank all of our partner organizations, cooperators, volunteers, and students, who helped make the SCD's efforts toward conservation, protection and enhancement of natural resources in Skagit County a huge success. You are the reason we are here!



SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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We wish to thank the businesses and individuals who help to sponsor this publication of the **Skagit Conservation District News**

Skagit Conservation News sponsorships cost \$50 a year for listed business names or \$100 for business cards, and are seen by over 4,000 readers twice a year.

The **Skagit Conservation District** recognizes the following businesses as **Skagit Conservation District News** sponsors:

To become a Skagit Conservation District newsletter sponsor, please contact Sheri at 360-428-4313.

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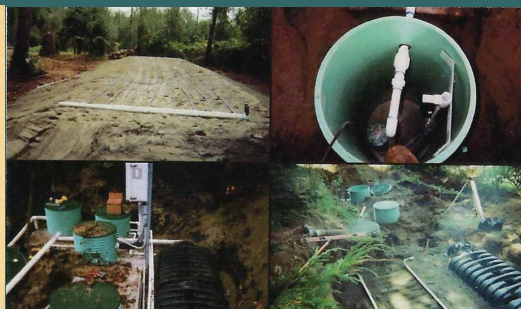


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Visit our page for tips, updates, photos and events, and don't forget to "Like" us!

SCD Board meetings are held at
2021 E College Way
2nd floor conference room
on the fourth Wednesday of every month
at 7:30 a.m. and are open to the public.
Please call 360-428-4313 to verify dates.

www.skagitcd.org

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION www.scc.wa.gov

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS www.wadistricts.org

SCD Board of Supervisors: Dean Wesen, Chair | Dave Malsed, Vice Chair | Jed Holmes, Auditor | Margery Hite, member | Eben Twaddle, member