



SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

News

Volume 31, Number 1

SOIL • WATER • WOODLAND

Winter 2015



Skagit Conservation District

2015 NATIVE PLANT SALE

OPEN SALE

Saturday, March 28th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Plant Materials Center
16564 Bradley Road, Bow

NEW this year:

NO PRE-ORDER MINIMUM!

Order online

www.skagitcd.org/native_plant_sales

or

call **360-428-4313** by March 13th

50% deposit due at time of order

(We accept all major credit cards)

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PLANT LIST & ORDER FORM INSIDE

SKAGIT CD 2015 NATIVE PLANT SALE: Plant Descriptions & Prices

FOR A BUYERS GUIDE VISIT:
www.skagitcd.org/native_plant_sales

Common/Latin Name Genus Species	Max. Ht	Classification & Species Characteristics (see key)	Habitat Characteristics & Conservation Uses	Est. size	Bundle Price	
EVERGREEN/CONIFER TREE SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25 EXCEPT PACIFIC MADRONE)						
1. Cedar, Alaska Yellow <i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>	100'	  	Prefers full sun; cool, humid climate; boat & house building, carving, weaving	18"	\$36.00 for 25	
2. Cedar, Western Red <i>Thuja plicata</i>	200'	  	Prefers moist sites; riparian plantings, wildlife food & shelter, lumber	6" plug	\$33.50 for 25	
3. Fir, Douglas <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	2-0	300'	  	Prefers acidic, well-drained soils; Christmas tree, lumber, wildlife food & shelter	12-18"	\$20.00 for 25
4. Fir, Grand <i>Abies grandis</i>	2-0	200'	  	Prefers moist to dry sites; low to middle elevation; Christmas trees, lumber	12"	\$20.00 for 25
5. Fir, Noble <i>Abies procera</i>	P-1	200'	  	Prefers well-drained soil; Christmas trees, wildlife food & shelter	12"	\$31.00 for 25
6. Madrone, Pacific <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	90'	   	Prefers dry, sunny, often rocky sites; low to middle elevation; white flowers, red berries; wildlife cover, pulpwood, fuel	plug	\$11.05 EACH	
7. Pine, Shore <i>Pinus contorta</i>	P-1	100'	  	Grows in dry to wet sites; windbreak, wildlife food, fuel, lumber	12"+	\$21.50 for 25
8. Spruce, Sitka <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	P-1	200'	  	Prefers moist well-drained soils; wildlife food & shelter, lumber	18"	\$33.50 for 25
DECIDUOUS TREE SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10)						
9. Aspen, Quaking <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	2-0	80'	   	Grows in wet, moist & dry sites; Firewood, wood pulp, wildlife food & shelter	18"	\$19.50 for 10
10. Birch <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	2-0	80'	   	Prefers moist well-drained soils; wildlife food & shelter, fuel, lumber, windbreaks	18"+	\$19.50 for 10
11. Dogwood, Pacific <i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	1-0	65'	   	Prefers moist, deep, well-drained soil high in organic matter; wildlife food	12"+	\$19.50 for 10
12. Hawthorne <i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	1-0	25'	   	Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife habitat & food source	12"+	\$19.50 for 10
13. Maple, Vine <i>Acer circinatum</i>	1-0	25'	  	Grows in dry to wet areas at low to mid elevations; wildlife shelter, landscaping	18"	\$18.50 for 10
14. Oak, White <i>Quercus garryana</i>	2-0	75'	  	Prefers dry, well-drained soils; wildlife habitat & food	12"+	\$19.50 for 10
SHRUB SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10-EXCEPT AS NOTED)						
15. Blueberry, Oval Leaved <i>Vaccinium ovalifolium</i>	4'	   	Grows in moist coniferous forests, openings, & bogs; edible berries	plug	\$6.95 EACH	
16. Bunchberry <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	1'	   	Grows in moist forest, meadows, bogs; edible berries	plug	\$17.75 FOR 5	
17. Currant, Red Flowering <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	1-0	10'	   	Grows in dry well-drained soil at low and mid elevation; wildlife food, edible	12"+	\$15.50 for 10
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"+	\$15.50 for 10
19. Elderberry, Blue <i>Sambucus glauca</i>	15'	   	Grows in dry to moist sites in open areas; food & wildlife shelter, edible	root	\$16.00 for 10	
20. Hardhack <i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	2-0	6'	  	Grows in margins of ponds and meadows, open space at low elevation; erosion control, wildlife shelter	18"+	\$19.50 for 10
21. Kinnikinnick <i>Arctostaphylos uva-vrsi</i>	8-10"	   	Ground cover that prefers sandy, well-drained, exposed sites on dry slopes; wildlife shelter	4" pot	\$3.95 EACH	
22. Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	2-0	10'	   	Prefers well-drained moist sites; has colorful flowers; wildlife food	12"+	\$18.50 for 10
23. Ninebark <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	1-0	13'	  	Grows in damp places along streams; wildlife shelter	12-18"	\$19.50 for 10
24. Oregon Grape, Short <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	2-0	2'	   	Grows in dry to fairly moist sites; wildlife food, edible	12"+	\$18.50 for 10
25. Oregon Grape, Tall <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	2-0	5'	  	Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food, medicine, erosion control, edible	18"+	\$18.50 for 10
26. Rhododendron, Pacific <i>Pacific rhododendron</i>	10'	  	Prefers moist to drier well-drained soil; erosion control	plug	\$6.95 EACH	
27. Rose, Nootka <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	1-0	10'	   	Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food & shelter, hedgerows, erosion control	12"+	\$16.00 for 10
28. Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	6'	   	Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food, edible, floral greens, erosion control	4" pot	\$3.55 EACH	
29. Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	1-0	15'	   	Grows in well-drained dry to moist soils; wildlife food, edible	12"+	\$15.50 for 10
30. Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	2-0	6'	   	Prefers dry well-drained soils; wildlife food source, erosion control	12"	\$17.50 for 10
31. Willow, Hooker <i>Salix hookeriana</i>	whip	20'	  	Grows in moist to wet sites; erosion control, wetland restoration	36" whip	\$16.00 for 10
32. Willow, Pacific <i>Salix lasiandra</i>	whip	45'	  	Grows in wet to dry sites; erosion control, windbreaks, wetland restoration, wildlife food & shelter	36" whip	\$16.00 for 10
33. Willow, Sitka <i>Salix sitchensis</i>	whip	15'	 	Grows in moist to dry sites; erosion control	36" whip	\$16.00 for 10

Key:

-  Evergreen
-  Deciduous
-  Full Sun
-  Mostly Sunny
-  Partial Sun
-  Partial Shade
-  Mostly Shade
-  Full Shade
-  Seed
-  Flower
-  Fruit



Sign up for a Voluntary Natural Resources Conservation Plan!

What is it? A conservation plan for a farm, ranch, forest, shellfish, or aquaculture operation within Washington State. The plan covers all land-uses and natural resource concerns (soil, water, air, plants, animals, humans and energy) associated with the operation.

Benefits of a Conservation Plan

- Identifies immediate or potential resource problems that could hurt production.
- Helps landowners/operators comply with environmental regulations.
- May help landowners/operators access various USDA and other voluntary conservation programs.
- Can be adapted to ever changing operational goals.

It's FREE! Application Deadline:
March 20, 2015

More information is available at
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wa/home/?cid=STELPRDB1266502>
Or contact the local NRCS office at 360-428-7758 x3

women in agriculture Conference



Making Sense of Marketing

So you can put your best boot forward!

Enjoy a day of inspiration, learning and networking with other women farmers.

Keynote Speakers:

Emily Asmus of Welcome Table Farm –
Walla Walla, WA

Erica Mills of Claxon Marketing – Seattle, WA

February 21, 2015 • 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

WSU Research Center

16650 State Rte 536, Mount Vernon, WA

Visit WomenInAg.wsu.edu for
registration and details.

Questions? Call Cindy Pierce (360) 428-4313
cindy@skagitcd.org

You are invited!

Holistic Manure Management Workshop

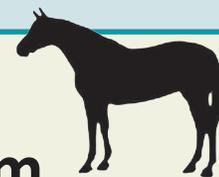
Monday, March 2nd, 2015
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



HORSES
for clean water

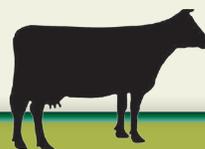
Learn the latest on manure management and horse health. Hear from **Horses for Clean Water's** **Alayne Blicke** and equine veterinarian **Dr. Julie Eihl** about a holistic approach to parasite control and manure management. Learn how to compost horse manure, off-site options for dealing with stall waste and view the latest techniques for reducing stall waste in the barn. Hear about techniques to target parasite control, resistance to dewormers, and use/overuse of dewormers. Discover "natural" options and how to safely cut back on deworming. Save money, keep your horse healthy AND keep the environment healthy, too! This training is being hosted by the Skagit Conservation District and will be held at the Samish Valley Grange, 4320 State Route 9, Sedro-Woolley. **FREE! Pre-registration requested.** To register or for more information, contact: Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District at **360-428-4313** or email: kristi@skagitcd.org.

Manure Exchange Program



Skagit Conservation District's Manure Exchange program is a community resource connecting local farmers who have excess manure on their site with local gardeners or landscapers who need manure to improve soil in gardens and landscapes. The Program is a simple, free way to recycle valuable nutrients and organic matter. SCD will maintain a list of livestock owners who have excess manure available and their contact information in a regularly updated list available at www.skagitcd.org/small_farm.

More information about the program and selecting the proper manure source is also available on the site.





Stewardship in the Samish...

*“One generation plants the trees,
another gets the shade”*

Community Spirit Continues to Run High in Alger: Dawn Harju Stream Enhancement Project

Despite a very cold, crisp 32 degree morning on November 29th, community spirit and camaraderie were high on Silver Creek as the Alger community, Watershed Masters, Stream Team, and Friday Creek Habitat Steward volunteers gathered to plant 198 native trees and shrubs. “I thank you, my property thanks you, and the salmon thank you,” notes landowner, Dawn Harju of Alger. After helping out at a community work party for the new naturescape demonstration garden and the stream enhancement project at the Alger Hall in the summer of 2013, Dawn was enthused and inspired to get more involved and do her part to help protect her neighborhood stream. To learn more about stream ecology and watershed health, Dawn participated in the Skagit Conservation District’s Fall 2013 Watershed Masters program, signed up as a Stream Team volunteer where she continues to monitor water quality in the Samish on a

monthly basis, participated in the 2014 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course and is now a member of the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards.

As the largest tributary to Friday Creek, Silver Creek has traditionally been one of the most productive salmon spawning streams in the Samish watershed. The restored riparian area on the Harju property will improve bank stability, provide shade and cover, enhance critical fish and wildlife habitat, attract pollinators, protect water quality, improve aesthetic values of the property, and benefit the overall health of Silver Creek and the Samish watershed.

The riparian restoration project on Dawn’s property was made possible by funding provided by Skagit County’s Natural Resource Stewardship Program (NRSP) with blackberry removal and planting preparation conducted by the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group.

Above: Samish Watershed resident, Dawn Harju works alongside a group of volunteers planting native trees and shrubs in the riparian area along Silver Creek – a tributary of the Samish River. Dawn was thrilled to be involved in protecting and enhancing salmon habitat in the watershed.

For more information about NRSP, contact Emily Derenne at the County at 360-336-9400 or email emilyjd@co.skagit.wa.us

You can also visit <http://www.skagit-county.net/Departments/PublicWorks-NaturalResourcesManagement/stewardship.htm> for more details on the program.

Located directly across the creek from the Alger Hall project and with the support and involvement of numerous community neighbors and volunteers, both sides of Silver Creek have now been restored – exactly what community is all about!



Samish Challenge – we need your help!

This spring will provide another opportunity to upgrade Samish Bay from “Conditionally Approved” to “Approved” if there is no more than one pollution closure between March 1st and June 30th! We encourage everyone in the watershed to take action and join with your neighbors to help meet this challenge. Success in cleaning up the Samish basin relies on the participation and involvement of everyone. Managing runoff on your property is the best way to reduce pollutants before they reach the nearest drainage ditch, stream, or river.

Other actions you can take include

- Proper septic system maintenance
- Keeping livestock waste out of waterways
- Implementing good pasture and manure management practices
- Installing rain gardens or bioswales to capture and infiltrate rainwater runoff
- Picking up after pets
- Planting or preserving trees and native vegetation



SCD Watershed Master volunteer, Megan Jordan of Mount Vernon, helped plan and organize the tree planting event at the Kintzele/Allen project held on a sunny, cold frosty morning on Nov. 15th.
(photo courtesy of SFEg)

Thomas Creek Project Provides Habitat for Juvenile Salmon and Improves Water Quality

Kara Allen and Jim Kintzele are proud of the conservation project they have recently completed on their Thomas Creek property, an important tributary of the Samish River. With support from NRCS and other local partners approximately 2 acres of Thomas Creek have been restored. The goals of their project, funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), were to increase juvenile salmon rearing habitat, improve wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and to remove invasive reed canary grass and blackberries which were negatively impacting the ecosystem, all while still maintaining farming fields for Kara's small organic CSA farming operation.

After meeting with staff from Skagit County, Skagit Conservation District, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, the local drainage district, NRCS biologists and engineers, WDFW biologists, and the Samish Indian Nation, a design was created that would enhance juvenile salmon habitat with a connection to Thomas creek on the downstream end, a ponded area that maintains water for a large portion of the year, a high water

event side channel, and a high water connection on the upstream end. This project creates a water reservoir that helps the watershed during high water events, as previously this section of Thomas Creek was steep and resembled an irrigation ditch after decades of dredging. Root wads, stumps and logs were piled and anchored in the pond and side channel, which create diversity and habitat for fish and wildlife.

The entire restoration area was planted with 740 native trees, shrubs, and sedges, with support from over 30 hearty volunteers.

Instead of paying to remove the rich soils from the project, the landowner

instead used them to create planting benches on the adjacent hill side. This project is a great example of a restoration project which benefits the farmer while also benefitting the entire ecosystem.



Right: In the distance large woody debris piles can be seen anchored into the pond and side channel off of Thomas Creek. These will help create diversity and habitat for fish and wildlife.

2014 ACCOMPLIS



Commercial Livestock and Small Farm Operations

- 289 commercial and small farm landowners assisted

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 62.5 buffer acres installed

Firewise and Community Wildfire Protection Planning

- 21 Firewise plans written

Forest Stewardship Program and EQIP

- 32 forestry conservation practices implemented

Professional Engineering

- Removed fish passage barrier, installed bridge along Mannser Creek and coordinated with Skagit County NRSP for riparian planting at this site

Clean Samish Initiative Education

- 478 people attended workshops and events focused on sustainable practices in the Samish Watershed

Environmental Education

- 750 students participated in the annual Sixth Grade Conservation Tour in May

Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program

- 25 community volunteers participated in the 2014 sampling season

Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program

- 50 individuals completed the Spring 2014 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program

Low Impact Development (LID) & Stormwater Education

- Over 500 storm markers installed on storm drain inlets by volunteers

Skagit Stream Team

- 65 volunteers participated in the 2013/14 Stream Team Program and monitored for fecal coliform, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity twice a month at stations located in the Padilla Bay, Samish, Fisher Creek, Kulshan Creek, Trumpeter, Gages Slough, Clyde Creek, and Nookachamps basins
- 11 Storm Team volunteers monitored stations in the Edison Pump Station drainages

Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- 3,500 Watershed Master volunteer hours reported in 2014 – over 43,000 total hours to date

Photo Captions, Starting at Top Left:

- 1: Soil & Water Stewardship poster contest winners pose with Blossom, the Treeture™
- 2: Pollinator Habitat Garden at the Alger Community Hall
- 3: Seattle City Light receives Firewise Communities/USA® recognition for the town of Newhalem
- 4: CREP project
- 5: Waste storage construction project
- 6: Bay View Storm Team
- 7: Fish passage barrier removal & bridge installation
- 8: Marine Biotoxin Monitoring volunteers



AWARD HIGHLIGHTS



Jill Weber and Ted Rodriguez receive their Cooperator of the Year Award. Joe Holtcamp, Resource Technician for the District (pictured at left) worked closely with them to develop their farm plan.

Samish Watershed Couple Receive Prestigious Conservation Award!

Special congratulations to **Jill Weber and Ted Rodriguez**, who were honored as “Cooperator of the Year” at our Award Banquet this fall. Over the last year, the couple implemented an intensive conservation plan on their small working farm, “Rancho Mira Sol,” located in the Samish watershed. After completing a farm plan with the Skagit Conservation District, the couple began work in implementing a suite of best management practices, which included a concrete livestock waste storage facility, a livestock heavy use area to confine livestock when weather and pasture conditions are not suitable for grazing, gutters and downspouts, and an underground outlet line to divert rainwater away from the barn and confinement area. Weber and Rodriguez take pride in cultivating good stewardship practices throughout their small working farm, where they raise heritage Scottish Highland cattle, horses, and free range poultry breeds, including several varieties of turkeys and chickens. Their property has also been certified as a “Backyard Wildlife Habitat” through the National Wildlife Federation’s community backyard wildlife habitat program and was one of the featured stops for the 2014 Sustainable Samish Garden Tour.

Rich Brown – 2014 Inspirational Award Recipient

Congratulations to **Rich Brown of Anacortes**, who was the recipient of the Skagit Conservation District’s 2014 Inspirational Award. This award recognizes a local volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to our community throughout the year. “Rich exemplifies the true meaning of volunteerism and community spirit,” notes Kristi Carpenter, SCD’s Public Information & Education Coordinator. After completing the Fall 2011 Watershed Masters program Rich has been a consistent source of positive energy, contributing numerous volunteer hours for the protection and conservation of our local streams, rivers, and marine waters – and for the health and well-being of our community overall. He has been participating as a Stream Team volunteer since 2011 and is also an active Storm Team volunteer. Rich also provides support at numerous community events throughout the year, including the Festival of Family Farms, Skagit River Salmon Festival, the Kids in Nature event, and the District’s Annual Native Plant Sale. His hard work, commitment, and support in the creation of the new naturescape demonstration garden at the Alger Hall was instrumental to the success of this project. His positive support and enthusiasm has been greatly appreciated and recognized by our staff and numerous other community residents and volunteer groups.



Rich Brown (at right), shown here volunteering at the Kids in Nature event at Pomona Grange Park. He hosted the water quality station with volunteer Maria Magaña.



For a complete list of 2014 Award Recipients, visit the District’s website at: http://www.skagitcd.org/adult_edu

SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD SUPERVISOR 2015 ELECTION

One elected position on the Skagit Conservation District (SCD) Board will expire in 2015. A public election for this position will be held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 at 2021 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA.

To vote in the election, request an absentee ballot by 4 p.m. Tuesday, February 24 or come to our poll election. Voters must be Washington state registered voters and live within Skagit County.



To be a candidate with your name on the ballot, you must file an information form and a valid nomination petition signed by 25 registered Skagit County voters with the SCD by 4 p.m.

Tuesday, February 17. Candidates must be Washington state registered voters and live within Skagit County. Information forms and nomination petitions are available by contacting the SCD at 360-428-4313.

More about the Board of Supervisors

The SCD Board is a governing body of five supervisors who are unpaid public officials. The Board oversees the work of the SCD, which provides voluntary, incentive based options that support working landscapes while protecting and enhancing our natural resource land base. Three of the Board Supervisors are elected by the voters of Skagit County, and two are appointed by the Conservation Commission.



CREP: *Helping Preserve*



Before

The very first CREP project in Skagit County was installed in the Childs Creek Watershed 15 years ago.



After

“The CREP process, paperwork, timeline, conservation plan and planting design were all helpful since we really did not know the best management practices for the land at the time. Now we have excellent wildlife habitat with lots of migratory birds and other animals using the land and the trees are flourishing. I recommend CREP to any and all who have stream or riverfront lands for all kinds of positive reasons, including excellent habitat for all living things and improved air and water quality for us all.”

– Cindy Bjorklund

What comes to mind when you think of Skagit County? Green forested hills, fertile fields and a robust agriculture industry, rugged North Cascade Mountain peaks, a favorite fishing or hunting spot, rich estuaries full of oysters, mighty rivers full of salmon? Whatever it is for you, Skagit County is a diverse and uniquely beautiful place with much to offer.

A lot of this natural beauty and abundant natural resource based economic opportunity is due to balance; the balance of making a living – maintaining a lively and viable natural resource industry culture and protecting the very natural resources, such as the prime soils that have defined the beauty and bounty of our valley.

One of the many ways we are maintaining and improving that balance is with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – a voluntary joint federal and state funded program to establish native plant buffers along waterways and wetlands to improve salmon, steelhead, and other wildlife habitat. These buffers also prevent bank erosion, reduce water temperatures, keep soil sediment and pollutants from reaching streams, and provide floodwater storage and attenuation. Land enrolled in CREP is removed from production and grazing and placed under 10 to 15 year contracts. In return, landowners receive annual soil rental payments and are reimbursed for 100% of the eligible costs for planting and maintaining the buffer for the first five years. Although some land is being taken out of production, the buffer boundaries are flexible and



the Identity of Skagit County for 15 years

can be configured to meet the needs of the landowner. The District has seen CREP projects of all scales and sizes; anywhere from 15 feet to 180 feet wide depending on the practice implemented.

Skagit CD has been providing technical assistance and program guidance on CREP in Skagit County since 2000.

Over the last 15 years in Skagit County:

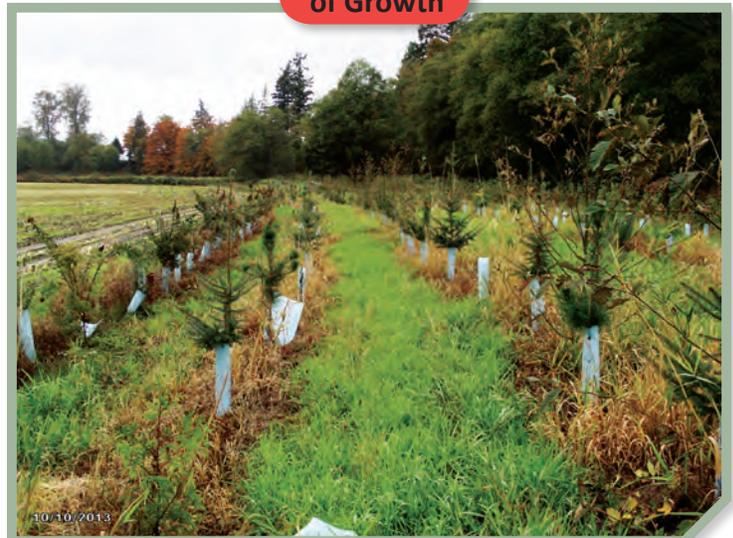
- **86 CREP projects have been implemented**
- **The average buffer width is 147 feet**
- **607 acres of buffers have been installed**
- **35.9 miles of stream bank have been enhanced**
- **273,885 trees & shrubs have been planted**



One Year of Growth



Before



10/10/2013



After



HAVE YOU HEARD?

- You can sign up for CREP at any time during the year! Just call or visit us at our office.
- You may be eligible to receive up to \$904 per acre soil rental rate (dependent on soil type)!
- Wetlands are eligible for buffers under CREP!
- CREP may also pay for livestock exclusion fencing, and off-channel watering!

*"Seeing wildlife
in my garden
takes me to my
happy place."*

*– Carole Sevilla Brown,
Conservation Biologist*

**BACKYARD
CONSERVATION**
It'll grow on you.



**The Skagit Conservation District
Presents:**

2015 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short-Course

"Bring Your Backyard to Life!"

Conservation can begin in your very own backyard by making it a haven for songbirds, bees, and other wildlife. The Skagit Conservation District's Backyard Conservation Stewardship short-course provides an opportunity to learn from local experts about how you can design and implement a sustainable residential landscape, help protect our local streams and waterways, provide shelter and habitat for wildlife, and add beauty and interest to your backyard! Topics covered over this fun and exciting six-week program include an introduction to native plants, sustainable landscape design, environmentally friendly gardening practices, attracting birds & butterflies, building healthy soils, alternatives to pesticides, natural lawn care, composting, invasive plants & noxious weeds, an introduction to low impact development and rain gardens, bees as pollinators, and much more!

Classes will begin on **Wednesday, March 18th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and will continue every Wednesday evening through April 22nd**. The program also includes two Saturday field tours, tentatively scheduled for **April 11th and April 18th**. The class is **FREE**, however, pre-registration and a commitment to complete the program is requested. To register, contact Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District, at (360) 428-4313 or email: **Kristi@skagitcd.org**. **Registration Deadline is March 13th, 2015**. The program is being co-sponsored by Skagit County and the cities of Mount Vernon, Anacortes, Burlington, and Sedro-Woolley. The evening sessions will be held at the Padilla Bay Research Reserve, located at 10441 Bay View Edison Road, Mount Vernon.

*"If you look the
right way, you can
see that the whole
world is a garden."*

*– Frances Hodgson Burnett,
The Secret Garden*



Protecting our legacy
of clean water ...

Thank you, Fall 2014 Watershed Master Graduates!

Congratulations and a special thank you to the Fall 2014 Watershed Master Graduates! The Watershed Masters Volunteer Training program provides a unique opportunity for local residents to learn more about the place we live and to make a difference right here in our own community.

Participants attend an intensive 8-week course which provides over 40 hours of free training, including several Saturday field tours. 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 & collectively to protect and improve the health of our waters. In exchange for 40 hours of training, participants pledge to complete 40 hours of volunteer service in the community over the next two years. Each individual volunteer decides how to spend these hours.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

***– Margaret Mead (1901-1977),
Anthropologist***



Fall 2014 WSM participant, Jennifer Prosser, plants native grasses and prairie flowers to help restore a rare piece of ancient prairie on Admiralty Inlet.

The Skagit Conservation District and partners, including the Cities of Mount Vernon, Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, & Anacortes, Skagit County, and the WA Conservation Commission, would like to thank and commend the participants of the Fall 2014 Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program for their involvement and commitment to help protect our legacy of clean water in Skagit County:

**Elaine Bruns
Burt Daggett
Gary Dorsay
Judy Fisher
Michelle Grace
Samantha Johnson
Sarah Jake LeMaster
Raylene Levi**

**Jean Moore
Jim Moore
Gil Ormbrek
Jennifer Prosser
Aneka Sweeney
Anne Traylor
Laura Tuttle**

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 at (360) 428-4313 or email: kristi@skagitcd.org

Watershed Masters, Anne Traylor, Burt Daggett, and Laura Tuttle explore the marine life at Bay View State Park during a “Values and Functions of Estuaries” field tour taught by Glen “Alex” Alexander, Padilla Bay Research Reserve.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWS



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 business names or \$100 for business cards and are seen by over 4,000 readers twice a year. To become a conservation newsletter sponsor, please contact Cora at **360-428-4313**.

The Skagit Conservation District salutes the following businesses as Skagit Conservation News sponsors:

- NW Dairy Association
- Puget Sound Energy
- Schuh Farms
- Skagit River Steel & Recycling



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SCD Board meetings are held at
2021 E. College Way
on the third Tuesday of every month
at 7:00 a.m. and are open to the public.
Please call (360) 428-4313
to verify meeting dates.

