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SOIL • WATER • WOODLAND

WINTER 2014



**WINTER 2014**  
ANNUAL PLANT SALE EDITION



# Cleaning up the Samish

## Making Progress... It's all about Community!

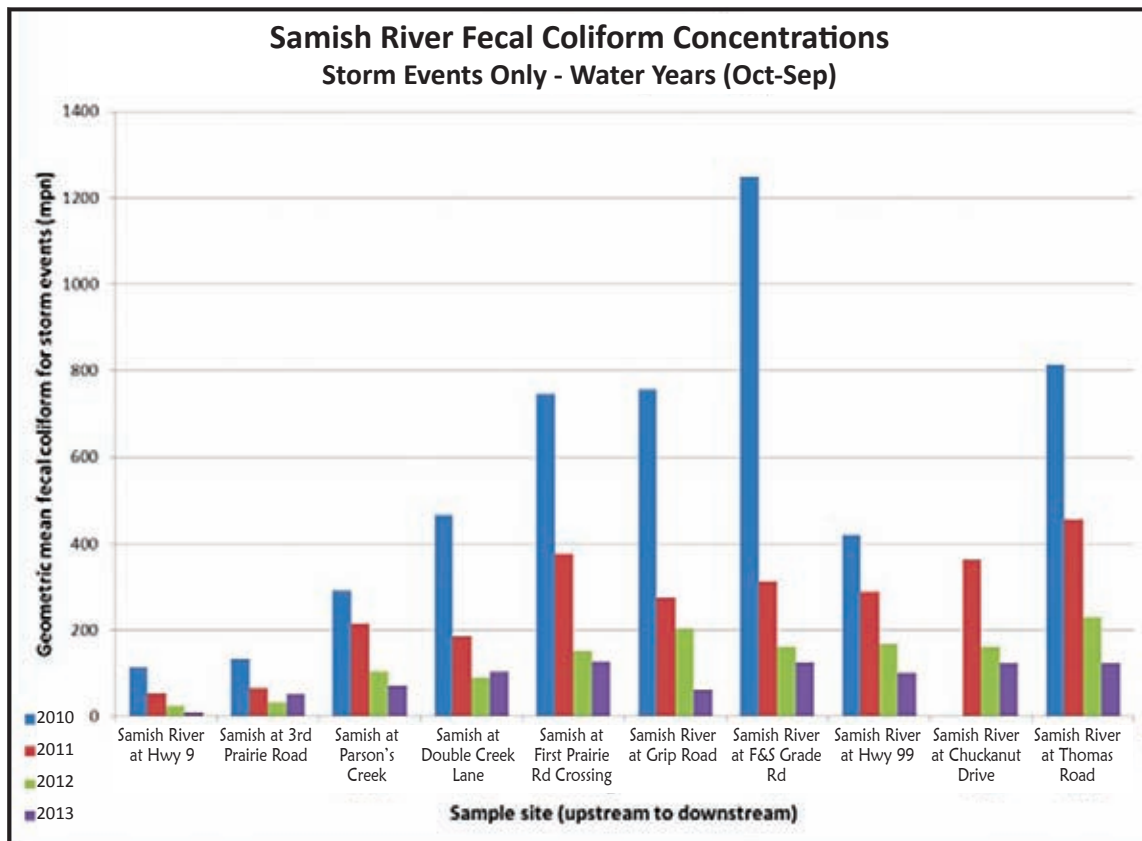
The Skagit Conservation District would like to give special thanks and commend the many Samish watershed residents, farmers, community groups, and volunteers who have taken action to improve their land, promote land stewardship, and protect the health of the Samish River and its tributaries. Due to strong community participation, partnerships, and stewardship activities, fecal coliform pollution loading has been significantly reduced over the last few years! The graph shown at right (courtesy of Skagit County Public Works) illustrates the improvements that have been made in the watershed over the last four years. Teamwork and citizen involvement has been the key to this success and will continue to be the key to resolving Samish pollution issues.

## Success will rely on each individual and family doing their part

While the average fecal coliform count during storm events has continued to decline over the last four years, we still have a lot of work to do. Levels are still high enough to exceed state water quality standards in the river and Samish Bay shellfish bed closures are still occurring. Success in meeting state regulations and protecting the health of the watershed will require the actions and involvement of every individual who lives, works, or plays in the Samish watershed. As rain falls and runs off backyards, fields, gardens, and impervious surfaces, fecal coliform and other pollutants are transported to surface waters. While the amount contributed from an individual property or individual may be insignificant, a little bit added from many throughout the watershed cumulatively adds up to a lot. Thus, every action to reduce potential pollution and contaminated runoff, no matter how small, will make a significant difference.

## Community Stewardship in Action

Numerous Samish residents have become engaged in efforts to clean up their neighborhood stream by reducing sources of pollution from farm animals, failing on-site sewage systems, pets, and stormwater runoff and/or volunteering or organizing neighborhood stream enhancement projects and educational opportunities. As dedicated land stewards, Samish farmers and ranchers have provided a leadership role in this effort by implementing 65 structural Best Management Practices and applying conservation practices on the ground to protect the health of the Samish River and to ensure that their operation does not pollute Samish waters. Over the last few years, the Skagit Conservation District provided technical assistance to Samish Watershed agricultural landowners seeking assistance with farm management options and ensuring compliance with environmental laws. "The farmers we have worked with are implementing practices that reduce the potential of runoff from their farms," notes John Schuh, Livestock Program Coordinator for the Skagit Conservation District. Individually and collectively, these landowners are making a significant difference.



## The critical spring rainy season – Let's rise to the challenge!

We will soon be in the critical spring season, when fecal coliform counts and loading have peaked in past years. This spring will provide another check on progress in the Samish watershed. The State Department of Health will upgrade Samish Bay from "Conditionally Approved" to "Approved" if there is no more than one pollution closure between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>. We encourage everyone in the watershed to take action and join with your neighbors to help meet this challenge! Managing runoff on your property is the best way to reduce pollutants before they reach your neighborhood drainage ditch, stream, or river. Together we can do it!



Chris & Kelly Allen's horse confinement area before the implementation of a heavy use area protection project.

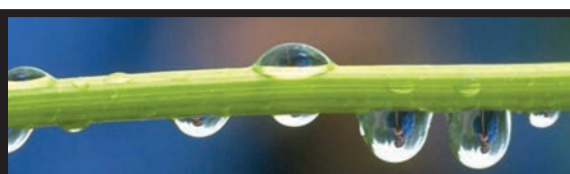


The new waste storage structure shown here at Gisele Sassen's farm will store manure which will be covered with a tarp to keep it from running off when it rains.

Confinement area after the implementation of a heavy use area protection project. Gravel in the confinement area reduces mud issues.



Gisele Sassen's heavy use area protection project. Two horses will be confined to a barn and this paddock area during the winter months or when it is not conducive for the horses to have access to a pasture field.



**"Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our water is the principle measure of how we live on the land."**

– Luna Leopold

# ... One Neighbor at a Time

## Community Stewardship in Action (Continued)

Since 2010, District staff has also hosted over 35 community workshops and events targeting a broad spectrum of interests in the watershed and continues to provide support to watershed residents and community groups.



Many Samish residents have taken action on their own to help reduce fecal coliform impacts to Samish Bay. For example, several residents of Samish Island got together and installed and maintain pet poop stations in their own front yards to provide easy access to pet waste bags and disposal for dog walking islanders: scoop the poop, bag it, and put it in the trash.



**High fecal coliform levels in the Samish River and its tributaries are a threat to human health, our local shellfish industry, and our quality of life.**

Over 70 Samish watershed residents have joined in the "Gardening for Wildlife" movement by reducing the size of their lawn and planting more trees, shrubs and plants. The plants help manage stormwater runoff, and enhance the land's ability to filter out and break down pollution sources before they get to the water.



The Friday Creek Habitat Stewards received grant funding to install a demonstration naturescape garden at the Alger Community Hall with support from the Alger Improvement Club, SCD, and community neighbors. Two work parties were held over the summer & early fall with lots of neighborhood participation.



Protecting their neighborhood creek: The Alger Improvement Club, with support from the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards, SCD, Skagit County, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Samish neighbors, participated in the County's Natural Resource Stewardship Program (NRSP) to remove invasive blackberries and restore riparian habitat on Silver Creek. The restored riparian area will improve bank stability, provide shade and cover, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, attract pollinators, improve aesthetics, and protect water quality and the overall health of the Samish watershed.

**The actions of each individual, family, and community doing their part to reduce nonpoint source pollution can add up to significant protection and improvement of local water resources for both current and future needs.**



Robert Pare, one of the Storm Team Volunteers, draws a water sample from a monitoring station near Edison.

Storm team volunteers are currently conducting a storm event study of the Edison Pump station drainages.

## Get Involved, Lend a Hand!

Success in cleaning up the Samish basin relies on the participation and involvement of everyone who lives, works, or plays in the watershed. The first step is to explore and learn about your watershed. The second step is to get involved and do your part by taking action in your own backyard and property:

- Be responsible for proper septic system maintenance or repair.
- Keep livestock waste out of waterways.
- Implement good pasture and manure management practices.
- Plant or preserve trees and native vegetation - trees hold rainfall, prevent soil erosion, help manage stormwater, and enhance the land's natural ability to filter out and break down fecal coliform pollution before it gets to the water.
- Consider a rain garden or bioswale to capture and infiltrate rainwater runoff.
- Add compost to planting soil and dress it with mulch to improve plant growth and reduce stormwater runoff.
- Pick up after pets. It may seem hard to believe, but dog waste can be a significant source of water contamination. Scooping the poop, bagging it, and throwing it in the garbage is an easy and simple way to keep it from washing into our waterways and making its way to shellfish beds.
- Participate in volunteer opportunities; attend workshops and neighborhood meetings and events that are being scheduled in your watershed.
- Talk to and provide support to your friends and neighbors – it's all about community.





## SCD ANNUAL AWARDS

The Skagit Conservation District held their Annual Awards Banquet Tuesday, September 17th at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center to honor landowners who implemented conservation practices or participated in one of many volunteer educational programs.

Awards were presented to the following:

**Harry Taggart Inspirational Award :** Sue Mitchell

**Cooperator of the Year Award:** Larry Jensen and Mary Tveit

**Special Partnership:** Fred Wefer

### CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION:

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTATION

Chris & Kelly Allen, Mark Blackwood, Rick Clark, Cowboy Campsite, Vern Grenier, Larry Jensen & Mary Tveit, Kim Lilgren, Sakuma Brothers Farms, Gisele Sassen, Harley Soltes, Jason Vander Kooy, Larry Vander Veen, Darrin Vaughn & Josh Varner, George & Eiko Vojkovich

#### CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Dennis & Maria Whitcomb, David Wilson

#### FOREST STEWARDSHIP:

Auburn & John Parent

#### FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA® PROGRAM

Tom Clement, Mary Kay Barbieri & Linda Jordan, Mark Malone & Joan DeClaire, Skagitwilde Firewise Community

### VOLUNTEER AWARDS:

#### BACKYARD WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

#### COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT GROUPS

Fidalgo Backyard Wildlife Habitat Group, Friday Creek Habitat Stewards, Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team

#### BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATION

Bow Hill Farm, Gathering Force Farm, John & Julia Hurd, Robert & Terry Lewis, Skagit County Parks & Rec, Terry & Marci Williams, Anette & Keith Witter

#### SUSTAINABLE SAMISH GARDEN TOUR

Barry Christensen, Ray Minnerly & Ginny Wolf, Robert & Wendy Pare, Samish Island Acres Community Garden, Chris Soler & Ruth Richmond, Anette & Keith Witter

#### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Alger Improvement Club, Chuckanut Transition, Jane Billingham, Rich Brown, Stephen Farmer, James Fukuyama, Ani Gurnee, Pete Haase, Sue Mitchell, John Patton, Ingeborg Siller, Linda Zielinski

#### STREAM TEAM SUPER STARS

SUPER STARS (10 Years of Monitoring)  
Joyce Moon, Tom Schmidt

#### SHINING STARS (5 Years of Monitoring)

Bill Bowen, Stephen Farmer, Jim Johnson, Sue Mitchell, Richard Oickle, Frank Repplier, Jack Sekora

#### STORM MONITORING TEAM

Bill Bowen, Kyle Deerkop, Stephen Farmer, Lin Folsom, James Fukuyama, Pete Haase, Jack Middleton, Robert Pare

#### STORM TEAM LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Pete Haase

#### MARINE BIOTOXIN VOLUNTEERS

Glenda Alm, Chet Bradley, Barbara Cameron, Ann E. Childs, Jim Crone, Kathy Crone, Chuck Davis, Stephen Farmer, Bud Freeman, Cherie Freeman, James Fukuyama, Donna Helgeson, Dick Kent, Robert Knowles, Robert Lewis, Jack Mercer, Jack Middleton, Henry Nyland, Shirley Nyland, John Patton, Jim Roberts, Jessie Sauer, Gordon Sjogren, Jon Stables, Marcus Stables, Vicky Stables, Steve Thornton

#### WATERSHED MASTERS

Andrea Bachman, Linda Baker, Anne Chase-Stapleton, Beverly Dresen, Carla Glassman, Joan Lang, Robert Lewis, Marci Williams, Terry Williams, Seth Young

#### A special thanks to those that contributed to the event:

Social hour hosted by: The Skagit Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Delectable dinner prepared and served by: Skagit County Cattlemen

#### Banquet Sponsors:

Northwest Dairy Association

Skagit River Brewery

#### Door Prize Donors:

Blau Oyster

Lincoln Theater

The Lunch Box

Skagit Farmers Supply Country Store

Skagit's Own Fish Market

Skagit Wild Bird Supply

Valley Farm Center



Sue Mitchell smiles proudly holding her well-deserved Harry Taggart Inspirational Award plaque.

Larry Jensen and Mary Tveit received the Cooperator of the Year Award for implementing all the conservation practices in their plan.

Jenny Hinderman, Firewise Program Coordinator for SCD awards Fred Wefer of the Skagit County Fire Marshal's Office the Special Partnership Award for all the years of dedication and partnership on Firewise efforts.

Pete Haase with his Storm Team Leadership Award plaque.

## Local Student Labels Drains to Earn Eagle Scout Honor

This past September, Austin Garner, a senior at Sedro-Woolley High School, installed 250 storm drain markers in the northeast neighborhoods of Mount Vernon. He coordinated the project and recruited teams of fellow scouts and parents to help implement his project. Austin is a member of the Mount Baker Council, Troop 4067, and selected the marking project to earn his Eagle Scout ranking.

Austin and his crew also distributed 240 door hangers to neighborhood residents informing them of the project, as well as explaining the importance of keeping our storm drains free of pesticides, oil, and other contaminants that could ultimately pollute our streams and rivers, harming wildlife and impairing human health.

The Skagit Conservation District would like to thank Austin for his hard work in completing this project. Austin is the son of Chuck and Judy Garner of Sedro-Woolley.

For further information about how you can plan a marking project for your neighborhood, please call Cindy Pierce at our office at (360) 428-4313. Marking projects are available in the cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and rural Skagit County areas. All materials are free of charge and assistance is available.



Austin Garner explains how to label storm drains to his crew, including two coneheads!



**You are invited!**  
**How Clean is Your Neighborhood Stream?**  
Annual Water Quality Report to the Community

Join us on **Thursday, February 27th from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm** at the Padilla Bay Research Reserve for an annual water quality update on the health of our local streams. Water quality data collected by Skagit County and the Skagit Stream Team and Storm Team volunteers for monitoring year 2012/13 will be presented at this meeting. Streams monitored by the Skagit Stream Team over this time period included the Samish River and its tributaries, No Name Slough, Bay View drainage, Joe Leary Slough, Gages Slough, Nookachamps Creek, Kulshan Creek, Trumpeter Basin, and Fisher Creek. In addition, the Storm Team initiated a new storm event study in the Edison Slough pump station drainages to help identify fecal coliform hot spots and to assess water quality during high flows. To register, for more information, or if you would like a copy of the 2012/13 Annual Stream Team Report, contact Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District, 428-4313 or email: [Kristi@skagitcd.org](mailto:Kristi@skagitcd.org)



Skagit Stream Team and Storm Team volunteers have been collecting water quality data in our community since 1998.

# STEWARDSHIP

**Congratulations!**

## Fall 2013 Watershed Master "Graduates!"

Hats off and special thanks to the graduates of the Fall 2013 Watershed Masters Program! The participants were recognized at a small celebration on November 13<sup>th</sup>, culminating eight weeks of training. Skagit County Commissioner, Sharon Dillon, joined SCD staff Kristi Carpenter, in recognizing each of the class participants.

Watershed Masters attend an intensive 8-week course, which provides over 40 hours of free training to interested local residents (age 17 and up) and is designed to demonstrate the interrelationship of watershed health, beauty, recreation, stream ecology, economics and citizen behavior; and to provide residents with a vehicle to get involved individually & collectively to protect and improve the health of our local streams and rivers. 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.

The Skagit Conservation District and partners, including Skagit County and the Cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley, would like to thank and commend the participants of the Fall 2013 Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program for their involvement and commitment to help protect our legacy of clean water in Skagit County:

**Russ Barger**  
**John Buchanan**  
**Lenore Bussing**  
**Chuck Davis**  
**Isabelle Delise**  
**Caleb Dobey**  
**Dawn Harju**  
**Danna Kellison**  
**Bruce Lindsay**

**Richard Lorentzen**  
**Sarah Merchant**  
**Beverly Noble**  
**Jerry Sells**  
**Lisa Temcov**  
**Jack Uren**  
**Pat Wedul**  
**Strand Wedul**  
**Cedar Wyatt**

We would also like to give special thanks to our guest speakers and field trip guides for sharing their time and expertise and for their involvement in making this program so successful: **Rick Haley (Skagit County Public Works); David Beatty (Nooksack Fisheries Enhancement Group); Professor John Miles (Huxley College); Glen Alexander (PBNERR); Bill Dewey & Nicole**

*"In the long run, the fate of each community still lies in the hands of the people who live there."*

- Margaret Mead



Above: Fall 2013 Watershed Masters enjoyed an evening session on beautiful Samish Bay with Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish Farms, learning about local shellfish resources, watershed health, and ocean acidification.



Left: Watershed Masters explored marine life at Bay View State Park with Glen Alexander, Padilla Bay Research Reserve.

**Hopper (Taylor Shellfish Farms); Steve Seymour (WDFW); Al Craney (SCD); Mike Ficklin (Puget Sound Energy/Baker River Dam); Professor Richard Gammon (UW); Professor Scott Babcock (WWU); Phil Roberts (NRCS); Pete Haase (Volunteer Extraordinaire); Betsy Stevenson (Skagit County Planning & Development Services); Joe Gaydos (SeaDoc Society); Richelle Potter (SCEA), Donna Schram (Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team); Linda Zielinski (Fidalgo Backyard Wildlife Habitat Group); Sue Mitchell (Friday Creek Habitat Stewards) Kristi Carpenter (SCD); and Carolyn Kelly (SCD).**

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.



Above: Fall 2013 Watershed Masters had the opportunity to see sockeye salmon up close during a tour of the PSE Baker River Dam Hydroelectric Project and sockeye spawning beaches.

**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](mailto:Kristi@skagitcd.org)**



## The Skagit Conservation District Presents: 2014 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 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and will continue every Wednesday evening through April 30th.** The program also includes two Saturday field tours, scheduled for **April 12th and April 26th.** The class is **FREE**, however, pre-registration and a commitment to complete the program is required. To register, contact Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District, at (360) 428-4313

or email: [Kristi@skagitcd.org](mailto:Kristi@skagitcd.org). **Registration Deadline is March 19th, 2014.** 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*

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

# SCD Summary

# 2013

## Commercial Livestock and Small Farm Operations

- 168 commercial and small farm landowners assisted
- 14 farm plans completed
- 18 structural BMPs implemented
- 2 farm plans updated



## Forest Stewardship Program and EQIP

- 21 forest conservation plans written
- NW Washington Forest Landowners Field Day with WSU, DNR and NRCS ~ 100 participants
- 26 landowners received technical assistance
- 16 forestry conservation practices implemented



*"It is literally true that the quickest by helping others..."*

## District Media

- Skagit Conservation News – 2 newsletters each distributed
- Skagit Conservation District website maintained –
- Skagit Conservation District Facebook page maintained



Kids in Nature at Pomona Grand Park

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 2 new projects planted this past spring totaling 27 acres
- 1 new CREP contract signed
- 10 new interested cooperators
- 593.2 acres of buffer installed to date
- 186,406 (35.3 miles) stream bank feet of riparian restoration installed to date
- 268,206 native trees planted to date



## Professional Engineering

- Completed conceptual engineering design and report for a drainage district
- Completed report and cost estimate for stabilizing creek bank erosion
- Review of 2013 SRFB grant proposals
- Completed survey and preliminary design for drainage and salmon habitat improvement project
- Completed preliminary survey and design for property on Manser Creek
- Completed survey and conceptual design for installing several large woody debris habitat structures in East Fork Nookachamps Creek
- Participated in ongoing stakeholder committee meetings



Buffers and Beavers farm tour



Stream Team Training

## Firewise and Community Wildfire Protection Planning

- WA State ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for number of Firewise Communities/USA
- 10 home wildfire risk assessments completed this year
- 10 Firewise plans written
- 3 community level hazard assessments written
- 10 Firewise presentations and outreach events conducted with 285 attendees
- 8 recognized Firewise Communities/USA in Skagit County
- 11 Firewise BMPs implemented
- Wildfire Awareness Week Proclamation televised, presented, and signed at the Skagit County Commissioners' meeting in May
- 1 radio interview with Skagit Valley College on Firewise and fire prevention in Skagit County



## Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program

- 25 community volunteers participated in the 2013 sampling season
- 80 sampling events conducted by volunteers at 9 recreational shellfish harvesting beaches



## Clean Samish Initiative Education

- 3 workshops for livestock property owners ~72 attendees
- 5 workshops on sustainable landscaping practices
- Co-hosted the "Buffers and Beavers" Farm tour ~60 attendees
- Co-sponsored Kids in Nature: Families Outdoors ~100 attendees
- Co-sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sustainable Samish ~100 attendees
- Provided technical assistance to the Friday Creek riparian natureescape demonstration garden at the Alger Community residents participating and 250 native trees planted
- Published 2 editions of the Clean Samish News—600 copies distributed
- Co-sponsored the Samish Seed Sale/SSWAP & Arboretum and distributed 100 native trees
- Attended 10 Samish neighborhood meetings
- Recruited 18 volunteers and assisted at two shellfish harvesting events
- Provided ongoing support to Samish neighborhood meetings

## Low Impact Development (LID) & Stormwater

- 300 markers installed on storm drain inlets by volunteers
- 300 educational door hangers distributed
- 44 stormwater education presentations provided to Skagit County students
- 7 LID presentations given to 125 people
- 1 rain garden/LID tour held with 14 attendees
- New "Puget Sound Starts Here" education game/door hanger distributed
- Hosted "Puget Sound Starts Here" educational display at Storming the Sound and Festival of Family Farms
- Hosted Stormwater game and Watershed Model at the Festival, Kid's in Nature event and the Taylor's "Share the Love" attendees
- Published 5 yard care fact sheets
- Hosted "Puget Sound Starts Here--Don't Drip and Don't Dump" local ASA businesses participating
- Designed Puget Sound Starts Here media ads for local businesses

Special thanks to all of our partnering organizations who helped make the Skagit Conservation District's efforts to...

# Report of Accomplishments

*"You can succeed best and  
others to succeed."* – Napoleon Hill

distributed to over 4,000 readers  
- [www.skagitcd.org](http://www.skagitcd.org)  
maintained



Sprig at the Festival of Family Farms



Heavy use protection area



Firewise fuels reduction

## Environmental Education

- 750 students participated in the annual Sixth Grade Conservation Tour in May
- Participated in the Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail
- 500 tree seedlings distributed to students in honor of Arbor Day
- 25 tree seedlings distributed to Mount Vernon Library Youth Program
- 2 Community proclamations in recognition of Arbor Day and "Soil and Water Stewardship Week" televised, presented, and signed at Skagit County Commissioners' meetings in April
- Promoted Arbor Day on KAPS and KBRC radio stations, including tree trivia
- 75 posters entered for the Soil and Water Stewardship poster contest for local youth grades K-12
- Hosted educational displays and distributed educational and program promotional materials at 2 farm locations at the Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms ~2,500 attendees



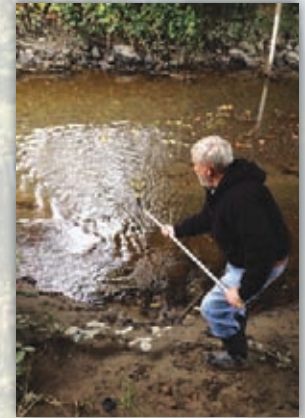
## Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program

- 32 individuals completed the Spring 2013 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course
- Provided presentations on Backyard Conservation practices at 13 events, reaching over 275 people
- Continued support to Friday Creek Habitat Stewards and the Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team
- Hosted 2 volunteer work parties at the Kulshan Bird and Butterfly Demonstration Garden
- Provided 110 native plants for habitat enhancement project at the Fidalgo Pool location



## Skagit Stream Team

- 71 volunteers participated in the 2012/13 Stream Team Program
- 8 Storm Team volunteers monitored 14 stations in the Edison Pump Station drainages
- 50 stations, located in the Padilla Bay, Samish, Fisher Creek, Kulshan Creek, Trumpeter, Gages Slough, Clyde Creek, and Nookachamps basins, were monitored for fecal coliform, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity twice a month
- 1,143 Stream Team volunteer hours reported for 2012/2013 monitoring season
- Annual Stream Team report completed and distributed
- Hosted "How Clean is Your Neighborhood Stream?" event ~32 attendees
- Hosted annual Stream Team celebration ~ 63 attendees



attendees  
s ~121 attendees  
60 attendees  
at Pomona Grange Park ~30 attendees  
Garden Tour ~75 attendees  
neighborhood volunteers in establishing new community  
Community Hall—3 work parties held with over 40  
e plants established  
distributed to over 6,000 residents  
or Day Tree Giveaway with approximately 200 attendees

ish seed sales hosted by Taylor Shellfish Farms  
od groups



## Water Education

unteers, and  
to over 1050 Skagit

activity created  
play and game at  
to over 2,360 attendees  
at the Skagit River Salmon  
ellfish-tival"~4,000

Drive" campaign with 3

local papers



## Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- 18 individuals completed the fall 2013 Watershed Masters Training Program, bringing the total participants to date to 475
- 3,445 Watershed Masters volunteer hours reported in 2013, bringing the total hours to over 39,934
- Over 100 sustainable backyard practices implemented and reported by fall 2013 graduates



ward conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural resources of Skagit County a huge success in 2013!



# FIELD NOTES



## Do Not Disturb: NRCS Focuses on Soil Health & No-Till Practices

Those of us familiar with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) know that the agency originally was called the Soil Conservation Service, and that the agency's first mission was to prevent the massive erosion of soil that was occurring during the 1930s due to farm management practices at the time. NRCS has launched a new educational campaign with a focus on soil health. The agency is coming back to its roots, and this time there is an increasing amount of evidence showing that by focusing on improving overall soil health landowners can receive multiple benefits, rather than simply reducing the quantity of soil lost. During the 1930s, the primary mission of the agency was to reduce the volume of fertile top soil that was either washing into the river, or blowing away with the wind. High input costs from fertilizers and pesticides had not yet emerged as factors affecting a farmer's business. Chemical pollution from field application was also not a factor

energy, and wildlife are just a few of the resource concerns that caused the agency to change its name from the Soil Conservation Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. It is sobering to think of all the natural resource concerns a modern landowner needs to deal with, but there is some encouraging guidance coming from the agency. The NRCS is now spreading the word that by improving the overall health of the soil, through reduced tilling and using cover crops, many associated resource concerns can be improved also.

The soil is the foundation to any farm operation, and the idea is that if the foundation is healthy then all the crops growing out of the foundation should also be healthy. Healthy in this case means an increased yield with decreased costs and multiple environmental benefits. With an emphasis on managing for soil health you can prevent problems from occurring rather than reacting to problems as they occur; treating pest

Managing for soil health is primarily done by reducing or eliminating tilling, always using cover crops, and having a diverse crop rotation. By eliminating or reducing tilling, the soil structure remains intact, and pores that would otherwise be crushed stay open

allowing water to infiltrate rather than pond on the surface and wash away the fertile topsoil. The benefits of maintaining soil structure go beyond water infiltration. The less you till, the less you have to buy diesel to drive your equipment across

your field. Also, you can imagine how tilling would disrupt the communities of microorganisms that make their home in your field. When these communities are disturbed they are not able to serve their role in nutrient cycling. Practicing no-till agriculture alone is not enough for optimal soil health, planting cover crops and implementing a rotation are also necessary for a variety of reasons. Cover crops can help increase the organic matter present in the soil, and crops with high organic matter content have less of a need for expensive fertilizers and the diesel costs for applying them. When fewer fertilizers are applied there will be less risk of runoff polluting rivers and aquifers. Cover crops also provide cover for beneficial microorganisms, reduce erosion, and conserve water during dry weather. A crop rotation is another key component in managing for soil health. A crop rotation with a wide variety of plant species is better at disrupting pest and disease cycles that thrive when the same species is grown repeatedly over time. When these cycles are disrupted there is less need to buy expensive

pesticides. Furthermore, when fewer chemicals are applied there is a greater chance of beneficial microorganisms surviving. Since these microorganisms are at the base of the food chain, their presence increases the likelihood of beneficial insects, pollinators, birds and other wildlife at the top of the food chain. Again, fewer pesticide applications are just one more way to help cut fuel costs.

**FACT:** *There are more soil microorganisms in a teaspoonful of soil than there are people on the earth.*

These are just a few examples of the benefits possible by managing for soil health, and adopting a no-till system with cover crops mixed into a diverse rotation.

The staff of the NRCS office in Mount Vernon can provide guidance on managing your soil for optimal health.

To contact the staff in the Mount Vernon Service Center, call 360-428-7758 Ext. 3.

**"We went from using between 15,000 and 20,000 gallons of fuel to half that."**

– Darryl Crowley, Montana Farmer on his switch to no-till management

as many chemicals were not yet being used, and stringent environmental regulations had not yet been written. Water scarcity was also less of a problem because the smaller population at the time was putting less demand on the rivers and aquifers. Energy related problems such as climate change were not known about. Although, there was an awareness of threatened species, and loss of biodiversity, the loss of pollinator species that farmers depend on was not yet a concern. Fast forward to today and input costs, pollution, water scarcity,



Soil microorganisms, like the Purple Snout Mite shown here, cycle nutrients by de-composing and shredding organic matter.

problems, for example. Managing for soil health improves the structure of the soil, increases the organic matter, and allows microorganisms to thrive.

### Back to Basics: Conservation Planning with Skagit CD

The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) was organized in 1944 and is one of 48 conservation districts in Washington State. SCD provides local citizens with sound resource management advice and technical assistance on a wide variety of natural resource challenges, ranging from air and water pollution to fish and wildlife habitat restoration and soil issues. SCD works closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a federal agency that coordinates regularly with our conservation district board and staff members.

SCD's priorities and goals include:

- Protection and preservation of prime agricultural land
- Protection and improvement of surface and groundwater quality
- Riparian restoration and enhancement
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Conservation education
- Watershed planning and implementation
- County government assistance

These goals are met through SCD's extensive technical assistance and public outreach programs.



### Conservation Planning

The purpose of a conservation plan is to identify and suggest Best Management Practices so that the landowner can implement them.

How does the process work?

Recently, a landowner in the Jones Creek watershed contacted the District because he was interested in a farm plan. The new Small Farm Planner (see Jeff Frazier's bio on back page) at the District scheduled a site-visit with the landowner to define his short-term and long-term goals for the property. The landowner's primary objectives included:

- Protecting water quality in adjacent waterways
- Installing a solar water pump to provide water for his livestock in a lower pasture and near a water source
- Optimizing pasture forage production
- Improving the existing roof runoff system and collecting rain water into cisterns
- Installing a fence around each pond that eliminates livestock from drinking any muddy or contaminated water, and also decreases the potential for manure to contaminate the water in the ponds

With these goals in mind, factors like farm size, soil type, slope of the land, proximity to streams or bodies of water, livestock, and crops were taken into consideration. In addition, the landowner's resources, such as machinery, buildings, and available finances were given top priority. After reviewing all suggestions and conclusions with the landowner a series of information was compiled: an inventory of resources, maps, plan agreements, concerns and alternatives. This information was incorporated into the farm plan. These plans use Best Management Practices (BMPs), which result in maintaining or improving soil quality and structure, protecting water quality, increasing forage production and improving animal health and welfare. The information in the plan was then reviewed with the landowner. An implementation schedule for accomplishing the landowner's goals was developed. One copy of the farm plan is for the landowner and the conservation district keeps one on record. One thing to keep in mind is that revisions of the plan can be made as the goals and needs of the landowner change. Landowners may decide to implement some of the BMPs in the first year and others in the coming years. Farm plans often include work over a number of years. This landowner chose to implement his within a couple of months.



The landowner built a frame around his newly installed solar water pump to keep his cows from ruining it.



The landowner installed a fence around his pond so that his cows don't have direct access to them.





# FIRE & FORESTRY



## FOREST RESTORATION AND FUELS REDUCTION

Insects, disease, wind, snow, climate, and other factors affect forest health. These agents cause damage that often times is not immediately apparent. These factors can lead to extreme fuel loads creating conditions that result in wildfires that are much larger and more difficult to control.

The past fire seasons have been a warning that active forest management is necessary to avoid catastrophic wildfires. We are just beginning to recognize unhealthy forest conditions after years of fire suppression. Forest prescriptions need to fit each situation. In the Soil Survey of Skagit County, published by the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, 165 different soil types are described just within Skagit County. Why would we think one type of management fits all sites? It does not. Current research indicates a variety of forest management treatments must be used to restore forest health. Today many of our forests are "out of whack" from what are considered natural conditions.

A coalition of citizens, environmental groups, foresters, and agencies are cautiously exploring methods to mimic nature and actively manage forests toward desired future conditions. The management emphasis is on protection of water quality, improved fish and wildlife habitat and a healthy forest ecosystem.

**A healthy forest is not only more RESISTANT to FIRE, but SAFER!**



Identifying and dealing with unhealthy trees (left) can help prevent dangerous and potentially damaging situations as seen in above photo.

## Al Craney, District Forester, wins award

Recently, our District Forester, Al Craney was recognized for his partnership with Skagit County Parks & Rec and his stewardship at Northern State Recreational Area. He was given his award at a ceremony in front of the Skagit County Commissioners. Al was responsible for an incentive based program to help replace the non-native vegetation with native trees, along the riparian area of Hansen Creek.

According to Brian Adams of the Skagit County Parks & Rec, who presented Al's

award, "the partnership developed with Al and the Conservation District was instrumental in our ability to attain our goals at the park and in doing so, reduce long-term maintenance at the park. As a result, the recreational experience at the park has been enhanced and the ecological functions are well on their way to being restored. Al has been instrumental in the transition of the park. Without people like Al who care about park lands, our staff would not be as successful in the care and upkeep of the lands we are responsible for."



Al proudly accepts his award. L to R: Brian Adams of Skagit County Parks & Rec, Commissioner Dahlstedt, Al Craney, Commissioner Dillon, and Commissioner Wesen.

## WILDFIRE INSURANCE:

# The Missing Piece



One of the factors that often gets missed in educating homeowners about wildland fire risk and preparedness is the insurance aspect. Often, homeowners are unprepared and under-insured when it comes to recovering from damage or destruction of their home by a wildfire. Despite the popular commercials from well-known insurance companies that tout no matter what you need, they'll be there to get it for you, in reality, as an insurance customer, you have half the responsibility for making sure you'll have what you need when you need it. It's difficult to imagine the stressful and emotional situation homeowners face after losing their home and belongings to a wildfire. Then imagine finding out that you were underinsured for the value of your home, and you have to try and remember every item and its value that was in the house? That is a situation nobody wants to face.

With continued growth and development in the wildland urban interface resulting in more destructive wildland fires, insurance companies are paying more attention to the potential losses associated. Rather than offering incentives such as reduced premiums or rates for folks that implement defensible space/Firewise™ practices, the incentive for homeowners in high-risk areas instead lies in being able to get coverage at all, and avoiding a high premium. Insurance companies are getting stricter but there isn't a standard risk assessment tool that all

insurance companies use to evaluate wildfire risk/potential.

Wildfire insurance is part of your homeowners' insurance policy. It covers damages to your home, personal belongings, and living expenses if you have to live outside your home while it's being rebuilt or repaired. What would it cost to rebuild your home with today's money and today's building codes? Having a home inventory list (complete with photos and video) kept somewhere safe outside the home will allow reimbursement for personal items much quicker. Here is a link that helps homeowners through the inventory process, [knowyourstuff.org](http://knowyourstuff.org).

Whether you are a resident of Skagit County or have a second home elsewhere in a more wildfire prone environment, it is important to recognize that YOU have the power to make sure you don't end up in the aforementioned situation. It is crucial to review your coverage with your insurance agent to make sure you are adequately covered for the current value of your home, have videoed, taken photos of, documented all your possessions in your home, know the restrictions/guidelines for being able to rebuild, and fully understand the risk associated with your property and neighborhood.

**"Your insurance is only as good as you've made sure it is."**  
- Linda Masterson, Author of "Surviving a Wildfire: Get Prepared, Stay Alive, Rebuild Your Life".

## NASA may be the key to saving more firefighter lives



James Moseley, a former insurance exec. and musician out of Valencia, California is developing a new kind of fire shelter for wildland firefighters. The shelter utilizes a flexible ceramic wool fabric used on NASA space shuttle's exterior heat-shield tiles that can insulate against temperatures as high as 2,200 degrees. To make the fire shelter, the fabric would be covered with aluminum foil, coated with Inconel spray (a heat-resistant spray), and would have the potential to withstand up to 4,000 degrees of heat. The challenge lies in the added weight and cost of the new design. Moseley is working on securing funding to test the product.

For the full article, go to <http://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-wildfire-science-20131201,0,557622.story#ixzz2nNSiqY8G>  
(Source: LA Times Science & Health, Bob Pool, November 30, 2013)

## WSU Extension offers classes for forest landowners

How do you know if your trees are healthy? Is your land at risk from invasive species or fire? How do you remove trees without damaging your land? When selling logs, are you getting a fair deal? WSU Extension's Forest Stewardship Coached Planning program will help you answer these questions and more. This comprehensive, university-based forestry class will help you get the most out of the land you love. Whether you have just a few acres of woods or a large forest tract, if you have trees on your property, this class is for you.

### Two spring 2014 offerings for North Puget Sound landowners:

- Thursday evenings at the Rome Grange (east of Bellingham) starting March 13th.
- Wednesday evenings online (live webinars) starting April 23rd.

The class includes weekly evening sessions and a Saturday field trip.

**For more information visit:** <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/forestryevents.htm> or call 425-357-6023.



# SCD ANNUAL PLANT SALE



## OPEN SALE DATES & TIMES:

Friday, April 4, 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Saturday, April 5, 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

### 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. Proceeds from the plant sale help fund education efforts.

### 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 sale. Pre-orders will be filled in the order received, and open sale orders will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Open Sale

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.

## 15% DISCOUNT AVAILABLE!

for purchases of more than \$500 (before sales tax).

*Free compost from the LaConner Wastewater Treatment Plant will be available to our plant sale customers.*

## PRE-ORDER OPTION

Presale orders will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2014

Required Minimum Pre-Order:

\$100 before taxes with a 50% deposit at the time your order is placed

See order form insert to pre-order or visit our website at [www.skagitcd.org](http://www.skagitcd.org)

Pre-orders can be picked up **Friday, April 4, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the WACD Plant Materials Center

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT OUR PLANT SALE?



*We need your help!*

**Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Please contact Jenny Hinderman at (360) 428-4313 or email [jenny@skagitcd.org](mailto:jenny@skagitcd.org).

**Location**  
WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center, 16564 Bradley Road, Bow, WA

**Directions**  
From I-5 take the Cook Road Exit (#232). Go west on Cook Road. Cross Chuckanut 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 turn you have gone too far.

Note: This information is not absolute in terms of its accuracy regarding location, quantity, or quality. It shall only be used as a source of generalized information.



**Questions?**

Call Cora or Cindy at (360) 428-4313

# SKAGIT CD 2014 NATIVE PLANT SALE: Plant Descriptions & Pricing

Common/Latin Name Genus Species	Max. Ht	Classification & Species Characteristics (see key)	Habitat Characteristics & Conservation Uses	Est. size	Bundle Price						
<b>EVERGREEN/CONIFER TREE SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25)</b>											
1. Cedar, Port Orford/ <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	2-0	140'		Prefers marine climate, usually along streams; arrow shafts, pencils	12" \$19.00 For 25						
2. Cedar, Western Red <i>Thuja plicata</i>	P-1	200'		Prefers moist sites; riparian plantings, wildlife food & shelter, lumber	12" \$32.50 for 25						
3. Fir, Concolor <i>Abies concolor</i>		50'		Tolerates most soils & drought; Christmas trees; wildlife food & shelter	12" \$27.50 For 25						
4. Fir, Douglas <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	2-0	300'		Prefers acidic, well-drained soils; Christmas tree, lumber, wildlife food & shelter	12" \$19.00 For 25						
5. Fir, Noble <i>Abies procera</i>	P-1	200'		Prefers well-drained soil; Christmas trees, wildlife food & shelter	12" \$32.50 For 25						
6. Pine, Scots <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	2-0	60'		Adapts to most climates; windbreak, Christmas trees, wildlife food & shelter	12" \$27.50 for 25						
7. Pine, Shore <i>Pinus contorta</i>	2-0	100'		Grows in dry to wet sites; windbreak, wildlife food, fuel, lumber	12" \$21.50 for 25						
8. Sequoia, Giant* (cubic plug) <i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>		300'		Prefers humid climate with dry soil; wildlife shelter, windbreak, lumber	8" \$30.00 for 25						
9. Spruce, Sitka <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	P-1	200'		Prefers moist well-drained soils; wildlife food & shelter, lumber	12" \$35.00 for 25						
<b>DECIDUOUS TREE SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10)</b>											
10. Aspen, Quaking <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	1-0	80'		Grows in wet, moist & dry sites; Firewood, wood pulp, wildlife food & shelter	18" \$20.00 for 10						
11. Birch, Paper <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	2-0	80'		Prefers moist well-drained soils; wildlife food & shelter, fuel, lumber, windbreaks	12" \$20.00 for 10						
12. Dogwood, Pacific <i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	1-0	65'		Prefers moist, deep, well-drained soil high in organic matter; wildlife food	12" \$21.00 for 10						
13. Maple, Big Leaf <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	1-0	80'		Grows in dry to moist soil; lumber, syrup, wildlife food & shelter	18" \$21.00 for 10						
<b>SHRUB SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10-EXCEPT KINNIKINICK)</b>											
14. Blackberry, Trailing <i>Rubus ursinus</i>	1-0	20"		Grows in moist to dry soil; sea to mid elevations; wildlife food & shelter, edible	6" \$20.00 for 10						
15. 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" \$14.00 for 10						
16. Dogwood, Red Osier <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	1-0	20"		Grows in moist to wet sites; wildlife food & shelter, erosion control	12" \$16.00 for 10						
17. Elderberry, Blue <i>Sambucus glauca</i>	1-0	15"		Grows in dry to moist sites in open areas; Wildlife food & shelter, edible	12" \$16.00 for 10						
18. Kinnikinnick <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>		6"		Ground cover that prefers sandy, well-drained, exposed sites on dry slopes; wildlife shelter	4" pot \$3.90 for one						
19. Maple, Vine <i>Acer circinatum</i>	2-1	25"		Grows in dry to wet areas at low to mid elevations; wildlife shelter, landscaping	18" \$19.00 for 10						
20. Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	2-0	10"		Prefers well-drained moist sites; has colorful flowers; wildlife food	12" \$19.00 for 10						
21. Oceanspray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	1-0	13"		Grows in dry land in forested areas at lower elevations; spreading shrub	12" \$20.00 For 10						
22. Oregon Grape, Low <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	2-0	2'		Grows in dry to fairly moist sites; wildlife food, edible	6" \$19.00 for 10						
23. Oregon Grape, Tall <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	2-0	5'		Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food, medicine, erosion control, edible	12" \$19.00 for 10						
24. Plum, Indian <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	2-0	10'		Grows in dry to moist sites & loamy soil; wildlife food	18" \$20.00 for 10						
25. 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						
26. Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>		6"		Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food, edible, floral greens, erosion control	4" pot \$2.70 for one						
27. Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	1-0	15'		Grows in well-drained dry to moist soils; wildlife food, edible	12" \$16.00 for 10						
28. Thimbleberry <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	1-0	10"		Grows in well-drained soils at low to mid elevations; wildlife food, edible	12" \$16.00 for 10						
29. Willow, Hooker <i>Salix hookeriana</i>	whip	20'		Grows in moist to wet sites; erosion control, wetland restoration	36" whip \$16.00 for 10						
30. Willow, Pacific <i>Salix lasiandra</i>	whip	15-45'		Grows in wet to dry sites; erosion control, windbreaks, wetland restoration, wildlife food & shelter	36" whip \$16.00 for 10						
31. Willow, Sitka <i>Salix sitchensis</i>	whip	15'		Grows in moist to dry sites; erosion control	36" whip \$16.00 for 10						
<b>WETLAND PLANTS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10)</b>											
32. Pacific Ninebark <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	1-0	13"		Grows in damp places along streams; has white flowers with yellow seeds; wildlife shelter	12" \$20.00 for 10						
33. Spirea, Douglas <i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	2-0	6"		Grows in margins of ponds, meadows, & open space at low elevation; erosion control, wildlife shelter	18" \$20.00 for 10						
<b>KEY:</b>											
											* non-native plant
evergreen	deciduous	full sun	Mostly Sunny	partial sun	partial shade	mostly shade	full shade	seed	flower	fruit	

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANTS: A Buyer's Guide

Many of our customers purchase plants in order to remedy a specific problem or to meet a particular landscape goal. Below are some examples of landscape problems and goals with suggested plant species to help meet those 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.

### Erosion Control

Giant Sequoia  
Red Osier Dogwood  
Kinnikinnick  
Vine Maple  
Oceanspray  
Oregon Grape  
Nootka Rose  
Salal  
Serviceberry  
Willow species



### Fire Resistant

Shore Pine  
Quaking Aspen  
Paper Birch  
Big Leaf Maple  
Red Flowering Currant  
Red Osier Dogwood  
Blue Elderberry  
Kinnikinnick  
Vine Maple  
Mock Orange  
Oregon Grape  
Nootka Rose  
Salal  
Serviceberry  
Douglas Spirea  
Willow species



### Wetland Restoration

Quaking Aspen  
Red Osier Dogwood  
Pacific Ninebark  
Douglas Spirea  
Willow species



### High Wildlife Value

Big Leaf Maple  
Red Flowering Currant  
Red Osier Dogwood  
Blue Elderberry  
Kinnikinnick  
Vine Maple  
Mock Orange  
Oregon Grape  
Indian Plum  
Nootka Rose  
Salal  
Serviceberry  
Douglas Spirea  
Thimbleberry



**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:**

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**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 \$100,000.

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](mailto:skagitcd@skagitcd.org)

**www.skagitcd.org**  
**We're On Facebook!**

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** 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.

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**SCD Board Member Elected as WACD Secretary-Treasurer**

Wendy Pare, Skagit Conservation District Board Supervisor and Auditor, was elected as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts at its annual meeting in Cle Elum in December. The WACD Secretary-Treasurer furnishes information about the activities of the Association to its members, monitors the financial results against the adopted budget, receives and accounts for any and all moneys paid into the treasury of the Association and disburses such moneys as approved by the Executive Committee. The term of office is two years.

**SCD welcomes Jeff Frazier to the team**

Hello, my name is Jeff Frazier and I am the new Small Farm Planner for the District. I am a lifelong resident of Bow, WA. I come from a 4 generational farming family. I received my Agricultural Technical Degree in 2000 from Skagit Valley College and I owned and operated my own farm from 2001-2007. I have four boys ages 20, 16, 13, and 11. I am very happy to be on board with the District and am looking forward to helping improve small farm operations in Skagit County! You can reach me at [jeff@skagitcd.org](mailto:jeff@skagitcd.org).



**SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD SUPERVISOR 2014 ELECTION & APPOINTMENT**

Did you know that the Skagit Conservation District (SCD) Board holds a public election every year for one Board Supervisor position and if you are a Washington state registered voter living in Skagit County, you can vote in the election or even be a candidate?

To vote in the election, either ask us for an absentee ballot by 4 p.m. Tuesday, February 25 or come to our poll election on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 2021 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA. Voters must be Washington state registered voters and live within Skagit County. Completed absentee ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on March 18, 2014.

To be an elected candidate, you must be a Washington state registered voter, live within Skagit County, and file an information form with the SCD by 4 p.m. on Friday, February 14. For a candidate's name to appear on the ballot, a valid nomination petition signed by 25 registered Skagit County voters must also be filed. Information forms and nomination petitions are available by contacting the SCD. Completed information forms and petitions must be received by the SCD by 4 p.m. Friday, February 14, 2014.

To be an appointed candidate, you must complete and submit an application and other required documentation to the Washington State Conservation Commission no later than Monday, March 31, 2014. Application forms are available through the SCD or the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) website <http://www.scc.wa.gov/elections/>.

**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 WSCC. In 2014 one elected and one appointed position will expire. The incumbents may choose to run again or to apply for the appointed position.



**Don't forget to vote!**  
**Tuesday, March 18, 2014**  
**1-5 PM**

**Important 2014 Election Dates**

Candidate Filing Deadline ~ 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14  
Absentee Ballots Request Deadline ~ 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25  
Absentee Ballot Receipt Deadline ~ 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2014  
Public Poll Election ~ 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 18  
At 2021 E. College Way, Mt. Vernon, WA

For more information or to request a form or ballot  
**Contact Cora at 360-428-4313 or email [cora@skagitcd.org](mailto:cora@skagitcd.org)**

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2021 E. COLLEGE WAY, SUITE 203  
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273-2373  
PHONE: (360) 428-4313  
Website: [skagitcd.org](http://skagitcd.org)



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