



Volume 26, Number 2      SOIL • WATER • WOODLAND      SUMMER 2010



Summer 2010





# AGRICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

## Benefits of Good Manure Management



Managing manure – pick up, storage and disposal – is an issue for every livestock owner. If you have livestock on your property, then you have manure that should be collected, stored and utilized in a manner that does not degrade water resources and that could benefit your property.

There are many negative impacts of improperly managed livestock manure on your property. Some of those concerns are as follows:

- Living in manure creates an unhealthy environment for horses and livestock; poor health may mean more vet bills and increased feed bills.
- Leaving manure on the ground creates more mud.
- Manure, like mud, creates a breeding ground for insects, especially filth flies. Insects are annoying and carry diseases or can cause serious allergies.
- Internal parasites hatch from the manure as often as every 3 days, allowing for parasite reinfestation as soon as 24 hours after worming.
- Manure problems are inconvenient for the farm owner, can make chores difficult and are unpleasant for neighbors.
- Nutrient runoff from manure has a negative impact on the environment. It contaminates surface water and groundwater, is detrimental to fish and other aquatic wildlife and fertilizes aquatic weeds.



### Tips on Disposal of Manure and Stall Waste

Manure contains significant quantities of salt, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, as well as lesser amounts of nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, manganese, zinc, copper and sulfur. When manure is properly utilized, it can greatly increase soil fertility, improve soil properties and reduce commercial fertilizer costs. However, improper handling, storage and application of manure can present multiple opportunities for both ground and surface water contamination.

- Collect raw manure from pastures, confinement areas and stalls every 1 or 2 days.
- Use less bedding – reducing the amount of bedding saves money and it will reduce the amount of compost material.
- Store manure and apply it to pastures during the growing season (April – October). A storage bin or area that is covered or tarped works well for this.
- Test soils and manure at least once every three years. A minimum of one acre of well-vegetated land is needed for annual spreading of manure from two horses or cows.
- Compost manure and stall waste and apply to pastures, gardens and flowerbeds during the growing season. As a general rule, apply about 1/2 inch of compost at a time, but no more than 3 – 4 inches per year and only during the growing season.
- Sell or give away composted manure and stall waste to neighbors, community gardens, local garden clubs, nurseries and topsoil and composting businesses.
- Applying manure back to pastures creates a natural nutrient cycle; one horse's manure represents about \$150 in fertilizer value per year.



## Financial Assistance for Ag Producers

USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary, technical and financial assistance program designed to help farmers improve irrigation efficiency; manage nutrient run-off and/or animal waste; improve the health of native plant communities; and reduce soil loss. In most cases, producers who participate in the program pay roughly half the costs of the conservation practices.

**August 13, 2010** is the sign-up deadline for those who want to be considered for the 2011 fiscal year, however, there will be additional ranking deadlines later in the year for some of the EQIP special initiatives such as funding specifically for Organic Producers, and Conservation Activity Plans.

For more details on this program or to apply, please contact the local NRCS office at 360-428-7758 ext.3. You can also visit the agency's web site at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information.



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## CREP Offers Greater Flexibility

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) now offers additional conservation practices and provides for additional lands to be eligible. CREP is a national voluntary program that in Washington improves habitat and water quality in salmon streams. Land enrolled in a 10-15 year CREP contract is removed from agricultural production and grazing. In return, producers receive annual rental payments, contract signing incentives, and financial incentives of nearly 100 percent reimbursement for creating new wildlife habitat. Approved conservation practices can include livestock fencing and water quality improvements.



In addition to traditional riparian buffers, **participants can now use 15-foot hedgerow buffers along smaller water courses, upstream grass filter strips, and wetland enhancements connected to salmon streams. In addition, orchards, vineyards and berry farms are now eligible for all CREP practices.** The changes will allow producers to meet critical habitat needs without sacrificing large portions of their farms or ranches.

All CREP practices must be established according to USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards and specifications. NRCS and local conservation districts provide technical assistance on the design and installation of the practices.

Skagit County landowners may sign up for CREP with the Skagit Conservation District or FSA at any time. For more information about CREP, contact the USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/wa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa).

## FARMERS MARKETS ~ SKAGIT COUNTY

**Anacortes Farmers Market**  
Saturday - 9 am to 2 pm - May to October  
7th Street & R Avenue (Depot Arts Center)  
Keri Knapp 360-293-7922  
[info@anacortesfarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@anacortesfarmersmarket.org)  
[www.anacortesfarmersmarket.org](http://www.anacortesfarmersmarket.org)

**Mount Vernon Farmers Market**  
Saturday - 9 am to 1 pm - May to October  
The Revetment (on the river at Gates & Main)  
Wednesday - 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm - June to September  
Skagit Valley Hospital at 1415 Kincaid  
Ron Farrell - 360-540-4066  
[mvfarmer1@hotmail.com](mailto:mvfarmer1@hotmail.com)  
[www.mountvernonfarmersmarket.org](http://www.mountvernonfarmersmarket.org)

**Rexville Farmers Market**  
Sunday - 9 am to 5 pm - June - November  
Next to Rexville Grocery  
19271 Best Road, Mount Vernon  
360-466-5522  
[TalkToUs@rexvillegrocery.com](mailto:TalkToUs@rexvillegrocery.com)

**Sedro-Woolley Farmers Market**  
Wednesday - 3 pm to 7 pm - May to October  
Hammer Heritage Square (Ferry and Metcalf)  
Gilda Gorr 360-724-3835  
[swfarmersmarket@fidalgo.net](mailto:swfarmersmarket@fidalgo.net)

**Concrete Saturday Market**  
Saturday - 9 am to 4 pm - June to Labor Day  
Senior Center - 45821 Railroad Street  
Marty Smith 360-853-8505

## Come See Us At The SKAGIT COUNTY FAIR

The Skagit County Fair is August 11 – 14

and once again the Skagit Conservation District will be seeking volunteers to help with cow milking contests. This is always a crowd favorite and fun for the whole family. Volunteers will receive free entrance into the fair for each three-hour shift.

If you would like to volunteer, please call **Cindy Pierce** at **(360) 428-4313**

## 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL of FAMILY FARMS

acres of fun for everyone

Saturday, October 2nd, 10a.m. – 4p.m.  
Sunday, October 3rd, 10a.m. – 4 p.m.

Visit [www.festivaloffamilyfarms.com](http://www.festivaloffamilyfarms.com) for more details.





# COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP



## Thank you, Skagit Stream Team, for Caring for our Waters!

On Saturday, June 12th, sixty-three Skagit Stream Team volunteers were recognized at a special celebration hosted by the Skagit Conservation District and the Padilla Bay Research Reserve for their participation in the 2009/10 Stream Team program.

The event included a variety of great foods, great company, and a great time! Special guests included Skagit County Commissioners Ron Wesen and Sharon Dillon, and Brian Dempsey, representing the City of Burlington. Special thanks to Paul Blau, Blau Oyster Company; and Jennifer Hopper, Taylor Shellfish Farms, for cooking up some delicious local clams and oysters and to all attendees for the outstanding potluck dishes! The entertainment was (once again) superb thanks to the delightful performances provided by Kulshan Creek Stream Teamers, Terri Dix, Gina Dilabio and Maria Magaña (a.k.a the "Salmon Sisters")!

Volunteers were all individually recognized in an award service. Special recognition was also given to Alec McDougall for ten-years of volunteer service; and to this year's "Shining Stars," Scott Doman, Shirley Doman, Luanne Goodrich, Steve Goodrich, Pete Haase, Michelle McPhee, Vivian Mizuta, Patrick O'Hearn, Carol Schwartz, and Dean Schwartz. Steve Goodrich was awarded for his dedicated efforts in entering all this year's stream team data in an excel spreadsheet (a huge job!).

Kurt Buchanan, Stephen Farmer, Pete Haase, Patrick Hurley, Jack Middleton, Patrick O'Hearn and Jack Sekora, were honored for their involvement as "Samish Storm Team," volunteers - this group has been on special assignment conducting storm event monitoring in the Samish basin for the past 2 years. Their ongoing commitment has been a key factor in protecting public health and identifying priority stream reaches in the watershed.

### The shining stars for 2010 are:

Left-Right: Top Row - Dean Schwartz, Steve Goodrich, Carol Schwartz; Middle Row - Michelle McPhee, Patrick O'Hearn, Luanne Goodrich; Bottom Row - Pete Haase, Shirley and Scott Doman, and Vivian Mizuta.



**ALEC MCDUGALL SKAGIT STREAM TEAM OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT**

**"Blessed is the person who invests in the next generation"**

Alec McDougall of Mount Vernon was the recipient of the Skagit Stream Team "Outstanding Service Award," for serving 10 years as a Stream Team Volunteer. Alec was recognized at the annual Skagit Stream Team Celebration, which was held on June 12th. Over the last few years, Alec, his wife Sandy, and their little dog, Keiko, have been conducting water quality analysis in the Kulshan Creek watershed in Mount Vernon. Over the years, Alec has also monitored in the Joe Leary Slough, lower Samish, and upper Samish watersheds. We are very proud of Alec and feel very fortunate for his long-term commitment to this program. In addition to his Stream Team activities, Alec is a math teacher at Skagit Valley College, was appointed by Governor Gregoire to serve on the WA Association of Boundary Review Board, is a local theater stage actor, provides bookkeeping and sales support to Cascadia Stoneaware, a local high fire pottery company owned by his son, and much more! Thank you, Alec, for your many contributions and for making our community a better place to live!



2010

Skagit Stream Team

Shining

Stars



2009/10 SKAGIT STREAM TEAM VOLUNTEERS

### Bayview Drainage

Patti Bolyard  
Walter Boy  
Marina Rogowski  
Sally Saxton  
James Stavig

### Brickyard Creek

Bill Bowen  
Jerry Corrion  
Jim Johnson  
Jack Middleton  
Richard Oickle  
Jack Sekora

### Fisher Creek

Chris Bouey  
Scott Doman  
Shirley Doman  
Peter Dowden  
Luanne Goodrich  
Larry Labo  
Henry Nyland  
Carol Schwartz  
Dean Schwartz

### Gages Slough

Emilia Blake  
Robyn Blankenship  
Stephen Farmer  
Patrick Hurley

### Joe Leary Slough

Scott Adams  
Donald Brassington  
Doug Edwards  
Luanne Goodrich  
Cindy Montañez  
Laura Paise  
Nate Schuh

### Kulshan Creek

Gena Dilabio  
Terri Dix  
Maria Magaña  
Alec McDougall  
Sandy McDougall

### Nookachamps Creek

Kara Block  
Eric Chabot  
Monte Richardson

### No Name Slough

Kathy Fournier  
Michelle McPhee  
George Miller  
Patrick O'Hearn  
Corey Peterson  
George Viverette

### Samish Bay

Mariepaule Braule  
Deryl Hart  
Stephen Farmer  
Steve Goodrich  
Sarah Huntington  
Dick Lease  
Elaine Lease  
Marci Maulden  
Sue Mitchell  
Vivian Mizuta  
Joyce Moon  
Dick Redmond  
Jeanette Redmond  
Tom Schmidt

### Samish Storm Team

Kurt Buchanan  
Stephen Farmer  
Pete Haase  
Patrick Hurley  
Jack Middleton  
Patrick O'Hearn  
Jack Sekora

### Trumpeter Basin

Sheila Berry  
Rhonda Jennings  
Janis Kautz  
Michele Morse  
Frank Repplier  
Jack Sekora

**"IF YOU HAVE SOME TIME TO SPARE AND WANT TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT, BECOME A STREAM TEAM PARTICIPANT."**



The 2010 Skagit Stream Team Celebration included great food, great company, and a great time!



Meet the Samish Storm Team! Back row: Patrick Hurley, Jack Middleton, Patrick O'Hearn, and Kurt Buchanan. Front row: Jack Sekora and Stephen Farmer. Missing from photo: Pete Haase.



Meet the Salmon Sisters! Kulshan Stream Team volunteers, Gina Dilabio, Terri Dix, and Maria Magaña were a hit at the Stream Team Celebration and at the Family Night on Samish Bay event. The trio sang and performed original songs written and directed by Terri.

**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE STREAM TEAM???**

Call Kristi Carpenter  
360-428-4313 or email  
kristi@skagitcd.org  
to register by  
September 1st.



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







# IN YOUR BACKYARD



MOUNT VERNON, CLEAR LAKE, BOW,  
AND CONWAY EARN NATIONAL  
DESIGNATION AS A CERTIFIED  
“COMMUNITY WILDLIFE  
HABITAT”  
....One Yard at a Time!



*Donna Schram of Mount Vernon has spearheaded local participation in the National Wildlife Federation's "Community Wildlife Habitat" program and serves as Chair for the Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team.*

Leading a nationwide trend in community concern for habitat loss, the City of Mount Vernon and communities of Bow, Clear Lake and Conway will be officially designated a "Community Wildlife Habitat," at a celebration scheduled from 1 pm-3:30 pm on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at the new Kulshan Creek Community Butterfly Garden ~ the public is invited. The Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team volunteers, in partnership with the Skagit Conservation District and the National Wildlife Federation, spearheaded the effort in 2007. The local effort has also been supported by the City of Mount Vernon, Skagit County, numerous local residents, and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The community program requires a certain percentage of homeowner yards, as well as public spaces (such as schools, parks, businesses, places of worship), to be certified under the National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" Program. To be certified, each participating yard or outdoor space must offer food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young. Homeowners must also follow healthy, sustainable gardening practices, such as water conservation, soil conservation, controlling exotic species, reducing or eliminating the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, planting native plants, removing invasive plants, and composting. Gardening for wildlife projects help keep water and air resources clean, they are healthier for people and the environment, and are less resource-dependent than conventional landscapes. Habitat landscapes also beautify our community and give residents pride in their neighborhoods.

In the Puget Sound region, Skagit Valley will join Fidalgo Island/Anacortes, Camano Island, Lake Forest Park, Alki, Kirkland, Bellingham, Edmonds, and Tukwila as "Certified Community Wildlife Habitats". Other Puget Sound communities currently registered and working on meeting the requirements, include Bainbridge Island, Crescent Valley, Mercer Island, NE Seattle, Poulsbo, Sammamish, Shoreline and Whidbey Island.

The Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team will continue their outreach efforts in the community and are hoping to inspire and support county-wide participation in the program. Informational workshops for Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, and the upper Skagit areas are planned for later this year. For information about the celebration contact Donna Schram, Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team at 848-0692 or Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District at 428-4313 or email: Kristi@skagitcd.org



## KULSHAN CREEK COMMUNITY BUTTERFLY GARDEN UNDERWAY!

*The Kulshan Creek trail will soon be aflutter with birds, bees, and butterflies!*

This fun and exciting Community Wildlife Habitat project was rekindled late this spring after a setback last fall when it had to be temporarily removed for the new PUD waterline. The project, lead by the Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team volunteers and the Skagit Conservation District, has inspired many partnerships including the City of Mount Vernon Police Department, the Skagit County Youth and Family Services, the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood kids, and local Scout Group 4100, who built the garden fence and arbor. Invaluable support for the project has also been provided by Ani Gurnee of Aulos Design (landscape design), Rodda Paint, BTI Landscape Supplies, Wells Nursery, City of Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation, Richard Jiles and Jeff Lacey, who provided a backhoe and labor to prepare the site, numerous community volunteers, and Skagit PUD who placed all the boulders around the garden perimeter.

The demonstration butterfly garden is being designed to provide valuable habitat for butterflies, birds, and bees, to create a sense of community, raise public awareness, provide an outdoor learning experience for the neighborhood children, and to beautify the environment. The garden is located on the walking trail on the corner of 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Kulshan in Mount Vernon.

Numerous work parties were held at the garden during June and July and work will continue through the summer and fall. We are hoping that when the garden is done, the opportunity to see the beautiful plants, flowers, and butterflies in the garden will brighten your day; bring a smile to your face and joy to your heart!



**Join us at the garden on Thursday, August 26th from 1 to 3:30 pm where we will celebrate our community as a "Certified Wildlife Habitat Community".**



*LEFT - L to R: Officer Jon Gerondale, Loren Sande, Kristi Carpenter (SCD), and Pat Hurley take a break after spreading the topsoil for the new butterfly garden.*

*ABOVE - Volunteers Maria Magaña, Stephen Farmer, Donna Helgeson, and Pat Hurley painting the butterfly garden fence and arbor.*



*ABOVE - Brooks Carpenter of Rodda Paint pressure washed the garden fence and arbor in prep for a fresh new coat of paint.*



*ABOVE - Ani Gurnee, Aulos Design, pictured with Donna Schram, SV Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team, provides a visual overview of the garden landscape plan.*



*LEFT - The creation of the community butterfly garden has involved numerous steps and lots of community support. Pictured, Jeff Lacey preps the site with a backhoe provided by Richard Jiles.*



*Confronted with the vision of a beautiful garden, we see something beautiful about ourselves.*

*- Jeff Cox*



**Thank you to our conservation newsletter sponsors!**

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.

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We wish to thank the businesses and individuals who help to sponsor this publication of the Skagit Conservation District News.



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- Al Craney, Forester
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**Correction:** Dorothy Haase was recognized as a Community Volunteer at our Annual Award Banquet last September. Unfortunately her name was left off the list in the Winter 2010 Newsletter. Our apology for that mistake.

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**Skagit Conservation District Board 2010 Election and Appointment Results**

Congratulations to Skagit Conservation District Board Supervisors Janet McRae, who was reappointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission, and Dean Wesen, who was elected in a public election in March.

Janet has served as a Board Supervisor since 1994 in both elected and appointed positions and has been the Chair since 2007. Janet and her husband, Jim, raise cattle and are members of the Island Grown Farmers Coop, which operates the Northwest Home Grown Ranch Meats in Bow at which Janet is the Manager. Janet also serves on the Skagitians to Preserve Farmland (SPF) Board. SPF acquires development rights on agricultural land in Skagit County to ensure that Skagit farming remains a permanent part of the region's identity for the benefit of local farmers and residents whose livelihoods depend on the land. Puget Sound citizens and visitors who enjoy the natural beauty of a pastoral landscape; and waterfowl, raptors, salmon, and other wildlife that depend on the managed farm landscape as habitat."

Dean was elected a Skagit Conservation District Board Supervisor in the District's March 16<sup>th</sup> public election held in Mount Vernon. The election was certified by the Washington State Conservation Commission Board at its board meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and Dean was sworn in as a new Supervisor at the District's June 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Dean joins Chair Janet McRae, Vice Chair Paul Blau, Auditor Thijs Jacobson, and Member Ryan Sakuma as a volunteer on the Board of Supervisors, who oversee the work of the District, which provides voluntary, incentive based options that support working landscapes while protecting and enhancing our natural resource land base.

Dean is one of many Wesens who live in the Valley and are members of a fourth generation dairy family. Wesen Farms has been in existence for 100 years, and the Organic Wesen Dairy opened in 2006. As a consumer, you probably have tasted their milk, but may not have heard of either dairy because they sell their milk directly to Darigold and Organic Valley, both coops. Dean is a graduate of Burlington-Edison High School and Cal Polytechnic at San Luis Obispo, CA. He and his wife, Danielle, have two red-headed boys, Drew 9 and Dylan 12. In his spare time, Dean is the leader of the Sunshine Dairy 4-H Club, in which his two boys are involved and through which they show cattle at local fairs, and he is a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. Dean hopes to further the work of the District's mission and work with the local community in reaching these goals.

The staff and Board of Supervisors welcomes Dean to the District team!

Other changes on the District Board:

Tony Hansen, who has served as an elected Supervisor since 2007 did not run for office this year, but will continue on the Board of Supervisors as an appointed Associate Supervisor. Thank you Tony for your three years of service and for continuing to be part of the District team!



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SCD Board Meetings are held at 2021 E. College Way on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 a.m. and are open to the public. Please call (360) 428-4313 to verify meeting dates.