



Conservation CONNECTION

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Weeds of Summer 2017 Now Available



WICD and WSU Extension's Noxious Weed Program are

partnering to provide a quarterly, seasonally-themed Weed Bulletin. The current bulletin, "Weeds of Summer," is a locally-tailored resource for acquainting landowners on Whidbey with noxious weeds to be aware of and remove during this season. To view the bulletin, sign up to receive future Weed Bulletins, or view an archive of local weed resources, visit www.whidbeycd.org/weed-bulletins.html. To learn more about other noxious weeds in our area, check out Island County's Noxious Weed List for 2017 at www.bit.ly/2o6XSY0.



Be sure to check out WICD's NEW 50th Anniversary Display in the Burrier Annex at the Whidbey Island Fairgrounds in Langley, Thursday through Sunday, July 20 – 23, 2017.

What's happening on Whidbey Island?

When it comes to sharing information about local and regional natural resource conservation events, WICD strives to be a hub for Whidbey residents. Check out our Calendar at: www.whidbeycd.org/calendar/

Visit our Homepage at www.whidbeycd.org

WICD Uses Low Impact Development Tools in New Stabiligrd Parking Stall

Did you drive by the Whidbey Island Conservation District office in mid-June, notice the parking lot all torn up, and wonder what was going on? WICD invites you to stop by and check out a recent installation of "stabiligrd" in our office parking lot at the historic Williams House, 1 NE 4th St. in Coupeville. With assistance from Craig Holmquist of Whidbey Tractor & Chainsaw Services, this "ASM" (alternative stormwater management) project was led by WICD's Natural Resources Planner, Matt Zupich, and the building's owner. Stabiligrd is one of many techniques to create permeable surfaces that allow rainwater to soak into the ground, mimicking the landscape's natural hydrology.

Alternative stormwater management practices encompass bioswales, rain gardens, green streets, and permeable paving. These techniques reduce the runoff of stormwater into nearby water bodies, providing filtration of the water and recharging of ground water supplies. While you're at it, check out WICD's rain gardens, too, and visit www.whidbeycd.org/water-resources/ for more resources related to alternative stormwater management.



Top: Stabiligrd is placed atop a surveyed, sub-grade surface.
Bottom: Gravel is placed and raked over Stabiligrd to allow water infiltration.

50 Years of Conservation Leadership

2017 marks WICD's 50th anniversary! To celebrate and honor the occasion, a special Open House event is planned for Fall. Stayed tuned for evolving details!

Welcoming WICD's Newest Board Member, Anza Muenchow



Anza Muenchow was recently elected to the WICD Board of Supervisors for a 3-year term. Muenchow began her 45-acre farm, Maha Farm, on Whidbey in 2003 after years serving on community garden and micro-farm education projects in the greater Seattle area. In addition to direct sales of fresh produce at local markets and a roadside farm stand, Muenchow works as WSU Extension's SNAP ED Coordinator, and with the Oak Harbor School District at Crescent Harbor and Olympic View Elementary schools installing vegetable gardens to educate and engage children in food growing to increase consumption of fresh, local foods. District Supervisors like Muenchow are public officials who serve without compensation and set policy and direction for conservation districts. Learn more about WICD's other board supervisors at www.whidbeycd.org/board-of-supervisors/

WICD Board Changes



Wendi Hilborn recently completed her second 3-year term serving on the WICD Volunteer Board of Supervisors.

We thank Wendi for her service and dedication to WICD. Board supervisors play a very important role in directing the programs and policies of conservation districts. Read more about Washington State's conservation district election process at scc.wa.gov/Elections-and-Appointments/

Summer is a great time to conserve our precious water resources!

A few great water-saving guides from WICD include "Water Saving Tips For Residential Water Use - Indoors and Out" at bit.ly/2tdgVCH and one of WICD's recent "Make a Difference" articles with Whidbey Weekly that focuses on water conservation tips for this summer at bit.ly/2td7Aur.



County Critical Areas Update & Agriculture

Island County is in the process of doing a limited update to its Critical Areas Ordinance. To learn how this will affect you, and how this will keep Island County in compliance with Washington State's Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A), visit the Island County Critical Areas Ordinance Update webpage at www.islandcountywa.gov/Planning/Pages/WP17_CAO.aspx. You will also find access to meeting documents, resources, schedule of upcoming meetings, and how to submit public comment.

NEW Firewise Home Assessments available to Whidbey Island residents - expanded partnerships in North Whidbey Fire & Rescue and South Whidbey Fire & EMS districts

Summer has arrived - are you wildfire aware and is your property Firewise "island-style"? With growing awareness of the effects that drought-prone summer seasons play in wildfire ignition potential on Whidbey Island, the Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) has partnered since July 2016 with Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue District (CWIFR) and the WA Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) with funding from the WA State Conservation Commission to pilot a geographically-tailored Firewise Program to central Whidbey residents. Resources are available in print at the WICD office, as well as at www.whidbeycd.org/firewise/. Our successful island-wide Firewise Day on May 20 included presentations and resources from the WICD, CWIFR, WA DNR, as well as the National Fire Protection Association, WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship Program, Whidbey Camano Land Trust, and Island County Department of Emergency Management.



Firewise Home Assessments are geographically tailored to address the specific fire concerns of the Pacific Northwest.

Whidbey Island's Firewise resources and assistance have expanded and are now available to all Whidbey Island residents, with new participation and support from North Whidbey Fire & Rescue District and South Whidbey Fire & EMS.

Whidbey Island's Firewise Program also offers free, one hour Firewise Home Assessments from WICD coupled with Home Safety Surveys given by fire department staff. If you're interested in learning how to reduce your fire risk, from the inside-out, be sure to request your visit at www.whidbeycd.org/firewise-home-assessment/

WICD Assists with Whidbey Island Grown

Whidbey Island Grown's (WIG) relaunch is underway! WIG's new website at www.whidbeyislandgrown.com shows a shift in an inclusive, exciting direction benefiting businesses with an emphasis of "Go local!" and supporting local agriculture. Since January 2017, a WIG Steering Committee comprised of leaders in Whidbey's farm, restaurant, lodging, event planning, tourism, press, non-profit, and local government sectors have met regularly to create a member governance, member pledges, clarified goals, and a new mission statement - "The Whidbey Island Grown Brand preserves and promotes Whidbey Island as an authentic rural, farm, and culinary destination through taste-driven experiences, products, and attractions."

With support from Whidbey Camano Islands Tourism, Whidbey Island Conservation District, Northwest Agriculture Business Center, and WSU Extension Island County, as well as grant funding from the Island County 2% Lodging and Tourism Grant, Port of South Whidbey, and Goosefoot Community Foundation, over 33 island businesses have become members and more are en-



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couraged to join by signing up at www.whidbeyislandgrown.com.

Members can choose from 7 categories,

create their own member profile, and submit events to an interactive calendar, which will be promoted through a rack card circulated to locations throughout the Pacific Northwest. Member categories include *Local Farms, Local Dining, Local Lodging & Venues, Local Libraries, Locally Made, Local Markets - Where to Buy, and Local Supporters*. Upon checkout, use the "wig2017" discount code to save \$50 off the regularly \$100 membership for 2017. Member benefits can be found at www.bit.ly/2ueFrpK or by clicking the image to the right.

