

GRAND OPENING

Wednesday, July 24, 2019
Open House: 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Wine & Hors d'oeuvres 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



SMART OFFICE
SOUTH WHIDBEY

COWORKING SPACE ★ DAY OFFICES ★ DEDICATED SUITES

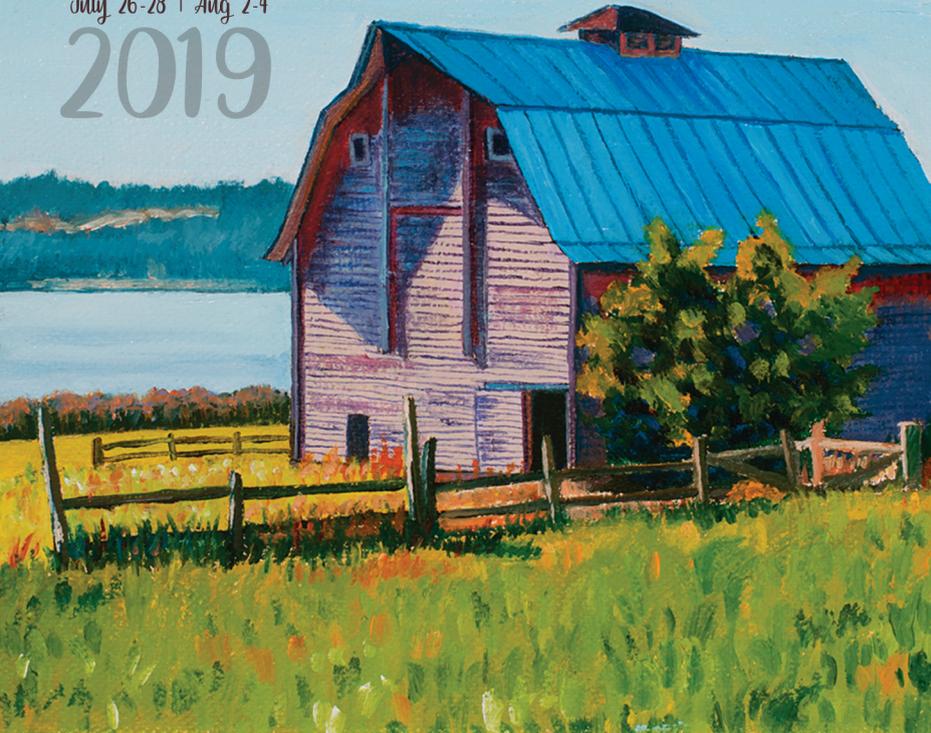
1660 Layton Road, Freeland
(Kitty-corner from the Freeland Public Library)
360-443-9444 | www.smartofficenw.com

WHIDBEY ISLAND music festival

July 26-28 | Aug 2-4

Tekla Cunningham, director

2019



Celebrating our 14th season of fine baroque
and classical chamber music!

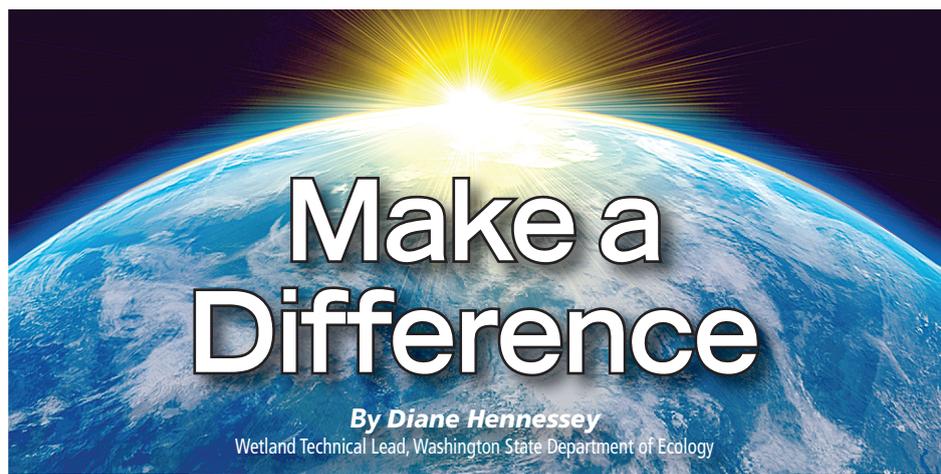
www.whidbeyislandmusicfestival.org

tickets | whidbeyislandmusicfestival.org

or call 1-800-838-3006

all performances held at St. Augustine's in-the-Woods, Freeland

program sponsored by the Whidbey Island Arts Council



Make a Difference

By Diane Hennessey
Wetland Technical Lead, Washington State Department of Ecology

AMAZING WETLANDS – CONSERVING THEM IN YOUR BACKYARD

What I love about the Puget Sound and its island communities like Whidbey Island is when the days get longer and warmer, everyone is outside playing and recreating along shorelines and in natural areas. My favorite thing to do on Whidbey Island is to visit natural areas, parks, and shorelines that contain wetlands. Whenever I travel to Whidbey Island, I get very excited about the various wetland systems I might get to study or visit. The island has an amazingly diverse landscape of both freshwater and saltwater wetlands systems and there may even be one in your backyard.

Wetland Types

Whidbey Island contains over 300 wetlands of various types. A 2006 study of 103 of these wetlands showed wetlands scattered across the island (www.islandcountywa.gov/Planning/Documents/Health-of-IC-Wetlands.pdf). Wetland systems on Whidbey Island are unique in that very few are associated with streams or floodplains due to the lack of freshwater streams. Freshwater wetlands on the island include ponds (both man-made and natural) with submerged or floating vegetation, seasonally wet meadows, forested wetlands, wetlands associated with small streams, bogs, and seep (or slope) wetlands which feed freshwater to coastal areas or streams. Saltwater wetlands on the island include coastal lagoons behind barrier beaches, and estuary wetlands within deltas and other embayments. For more information about wetland types visit www.islandcountywa.gov/Planning/Documents/WetlandTypes.pdf.

Wetland Identification

So how can you tell if an area is a wetland, particularly if you do not see ponded water? Three elements help identify the presence of wetlands:

Hydrology: a wetland may be ponded all year or just seasonally wet. Water does not have to pond, but can be near the water's surface for 2-3 weeks during the spring season.

Vegetation: Wetlands contain plants that can handle getting their roots wet and low oxygen levels.

Soil: Wetland soils are poorly-drained and develop characteristics that result from the presence of water and absence of oxygen. These soils are darker than non-wetland soil and typically have yellow or rust-colored spots.

Benefits of Wetlands

Wetlands provide important functions which benefit humans and the surrounding landscape. These functions include water retention for flood prevention, water purification, habitat and water sources for wildlife and fish, shoreline protection from wave and storm erosion, and beautification of the rural character of the islands. Nearly all animals use wetlands and their adjacent uplands for nesting, breeding, feeding, water source, and/or cover. Even small wetlands can provide these important functions. When wetlands become degraded due to filling, adjacent development, discharge of stormwater pollutants, and invasion on non-native plants, their functions are diminished.

How Wetlands Are Protected

Due to their importance, wetlands are protected at the local, state, and federal levels. Island County's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) protects wetlands in a few key ways - the CAO applies regulatory buffers and development standards which limit the encroachment of development within wetlands and buffers. Applicable buffers vary depending upon the quality and character of the wetland with the intent of facilitating appropriate development

while protecting wetlands and buffers. Wetlands are rated in four categories from highest quality (Category I) to lowest quality (Category IV) and applicable buffers are applied. Avoidance and conservation of wetlands is first required for any potential development proposal. Where new or expanded development is permitted to occur within wetlands or buffers, wetland mitigation projects may be required to replace the loss of the wetland or buffer. In addition to the application of regulatory buffers, Island County's CAO contains specific standards for wetland mitigation. These standards address activities such as adequacy and type of wetland mitigation (e.g., wetland creation, enhancement, or rehabilitation), planting, maintenance, and monitoring to determine success of the site. State and federal wetland regulations may also apply and are coordinated with the local regulatory requirements.

What You Can Do to Help Conserve Wetlands

Landowners have an important role to play in protecting and conserving wetlands. The following are a few tips for conserving wetlands and buffers:

- If you are a property owner, identify whether wetlands are present on your property or nearby and identify the type and category of your wetland. Knowing your wetland category (I, II, III, or IV) will help you comply with the applicable buffers, setbacks, and land use standards. Contact Island County or a qualified environmental professional to determine your wetland category and buffer. For more information visit www.islandcountywa.gov/Planning/Documents/WetlandIDGuideFINAL.pdf
- Avoid and conserve wetlands and buffers.
- If impacts to wetlands and buffers are unavoidable, work with Island County, and if needed, state and federal agencies to determine appropriate mitigation or restoration. For more information about wetland mitigation, visit ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Wetlands/Mitigation.
- Plant appropriate native vegetation to improve existing wetland and buffers or mitigation sites. Observe which native plants grow naturally within nearby wetlands and consider planting the same species. To get you started, learn more about native plants from the Whidbey Island Conservation District's Native Plant page at www.whidbeycd.org/native-plants.html.
- Noxious weed removal is encouraged, but necessitates replanting with appropriate native species. Critical areas review for noxious weed removal and replanting projects requires a no-fee permit. Please contact the Island County Planning Department before starting your noxious weed removal project within Critical Areas. For a list of Island County Planning Department contacts, visit www.islandcountywa.gov/Planning/Pages/contactus.aspx. To learn more about noxious weeds, visit the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board at www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/Noxious-Weed/Pages/Home.aspx
- If you are unsure about any proposed developments near wetlands and shorelines, please contact the Island County Planning Department with your questions. To learn more about Island County's Critical Areas regulations and resources available to property owners, please visit www.islandcountywa.gov/Planning/Pages/criticalareas.aspx. For land use questions, please contact the Island County Planning and Community Development Department at 360-678-7339 or Washington State Department of Ecology, Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program at 425-649-7000.



Thank you for reading! Please recycle the Whidbey Weekly when you are finished with it.

