



# Conservation CONNECTION

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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## Shoreline Bluff Stability Workshop

On Thursday, June 20, WICD will host a free workshop for shoreline property owners who want to learn more about coastal bluff geology and what they can do to protect their properties. This workshop is co-hosted by WICD and the WSU Extension Shore Stewards program. Dan McShane, the featured speaker, is a coastal geologist with the Stratum Group in Bellingham. In addition to Dan's geologic expertise, participants will learn what to do and what not to do with their stormwater drainage. We'll also cover vegetation management on bluffs, and how to revegetate exposed areas.

The workshop will be held at the Sierra Country Clubhouse, 2685 San Juan Street, in the Sierra community. We'll begin at 5:00, and plan to finish the classroom portion by 7:00. There is an optional beach walk afterwards to look at some of the nearby bluff exposures.

To register click [this link](#).



*l-r: Doug Rollin, Jill & Dave Campbell, Tom Kramer. Not pictured John Joynt and Mary Margaret Haugen.*

## WICD Recognizes Award Winners at Annual Open House

Whidbey Island Conservation District cooperators and partners were recognized at an open house held on May 9. The Forest Cooperator of the Year award went to Doug and Sally Rollin. Doug joined WICD and other Strawberry Point Watershed landowners in attending a 10-week Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Class in Sedro Woolley in 2008. Over the past 5 years, they have used their knowledge to implement their forest conservation plan, managing their 10 acre forested parcel.

Tom and Ken Kramer received the Farm Cooperator of the Year award. They raise beef cattle on a beautiful heritage property that has been in their family since 1876. They are an outstanding example of small scale production agriculture working in concert with natural resource conservation in a sensitive area along Lone Lake.

The Clean Water Cooperator award went to Jill and Dave Campbell of Island Recycling. With design help from WICD, the Campbell's installed a

series of parallel grass-lined bioswales that direct stormwater flows through a porous soil media where natural filtration and microbial action remove pollutants from the stormwater runoff

John Joynt was honored as the outstanding District Volunteer. John was selected for his ongoing support of the annual Whidbey Island Farm Tour as well as for his help and inspiration for the District's annual Native Plant Sale.

Former State Senator, Mary Margaret Haugen was honored with the WICD Lifetime Supporter Award. Mary Margaret is a resident of Camano Island, where she was raised on a farm. She was honored by WICD for her long-standing support of Conservation Districts statewide during her tenure in the state legislature. She continues to provide ongoing encouragement and unwavering support for the Whidbey Island Conservation District.

All award winners were presented with a plaque honoring their achievements.

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Visit our website at  
[www.whidbeycd.org](http://www.whidbeycd.org)

**WICD Board Approves FY14 Budget and Elects New Officers** At their May 23, 2013 Board Meeting, the WICD Board of Supervisors approved their FY14 Budget and Work Plan following a two week public comment period. This document can be viewed on the district website at [this link](#). At this meeting, Wendi Hilborn was elected as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Sarah Richards as Vice-Chair. The Board expressed appreciation to Fran Einterz who has served as board Chairman since 2010.



## 2013 Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Class – coming to North Whidbey! Registration Open

This practical, hands-on course will enable owners of small woodlands to prepare their own forest stewardship plan with guidance and “coaching” from natural resource professionals. Open to all, this program is designed to help forest landowners develop customized management solutions to meet their own unique ownership objectives. Whether you own 5, 50, or 500 acres of forest, if you want to expand your knowledge, tools, and confidence for managing your forestland, this course is for you.

Classes take place Thursday evenings, October 3 - November 21, 2013, from 5:30-8:30 PM at Skagit Valley College in Oak Harbor. There will be a Saturday Field Trip on November 9th. Cost is \$180 per couple if registered by September 7th; \$205 if registered September 8th or later. For registration, visit the [WSU Forestry website](#).

The Coached Planning program is an educational partnership between WSU Extension and the WA Dept of Natural Resources, with funding support from Island County, Skagit County, and the Whidbey Island Conservation District.

## North Whidbey CSA – Pilot Project Starting in Oak Harbor

WICD is implementing a pilot project to increase the accessibility of fresh, local food for residents of the Oak Harbor area, with an emphasis on introducing the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) concept to navy families. This project was made possible by a partnership between WICD, local farmers and the Northwest Agriculture Business Center through a USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant. A cooperative of several central and north Whidbey farms has formed to provide CSA shares for 10 weeks during the peak of the summer season. By becoming a member of the CSA, a family receives a weekly box of fresh produce from the farms. The overall goal of a CSA, is to connect consumers with growers



while providing consistent funding to the farmers to enhance their economic viability, helping to preserve farmland at the local level.

The weekly box will provide about 10 fresh items from the farms, varying over the course of the season. Information and recipes are included in the box and on the website each week. Convenient weekly pickup will be at the Thursday Oak Harbor Public Market. The cost of a CSA membership is \$260, with a discount available to Navy personnel. Payment plans are also available. For more information, visit this [link](#) or contact Sarah at 360-678-4708 or [sarah@whidbeycd.org](mailto:sarah@whidbeycd.org).

Please visit our website [Calendar page](#) for details on upcoming events . . .

including Small Grains Field Day, June 27, at WSU Research Center, Mount Vernon and Irrigation Training, July 10, at WSU Skagit County Extension Center, Burlington



## Ebey's Watershed Project

Earlier this year, WICD began work on the Ebey's Prairie Watershed Stormwater Remediation project. This project is being funded by the state Department of Ecology, as part of the National Estuary Program's Watershed Protection and Restoration program. The purpose of this grant is to study the hydrology of the watershed, identify pollutant sources, and make recommendations for remedial measures that will result in improvements to water quality. Ebey's Prairie was chosen for this study because of its history of water quality issues through Island County monitoring at the outfall at Ebey's Landing.



Stormwater flow monitoring on Ebey's.

Under this grant, WICD has begun conducting water quality monitoring at seven places within the watershed, as well as measuring flows at two points. Data will be collected through the Spring of 2014, and the grant will conclude in December of 2014. For the duration of the grant, WICD will be working with landowners and residents



Stormwater drainage discharges into Puget Sound at Ebey's Landing.

on a voluntary basis to implement land management practices intended to improve water quality in the Ebey's watershed. On May 16th WICD hosted a meeting for local landowners to learn more about the project, share early sampling results and for WICD to learn from landowners. If you would like to learn more about this project, call WICD at 678-4708.