



Conservation CONNECTION

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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New! Edible Native Plant Packages

The WICD Annual Native Plant Sale continues taking orders through January 31, 2017. Our plant packages for specific site requirements or goals continue to be very popular, and we've just added two new packages: *Edible Fruits* and *Unusual Edibles*.

View the complete **storefront**, and pre-order/purchase plants online! Phone orders can be taken by calling 360-678-4708 or by walk-in at our office, 1 NE 4th St., Coupeville. Order now for pick up Saturday, February 25, 9am-1:30pm at Camp Casey, Coupeville.



WICD Marketing, Outreach & Education Specialist Kelsi Franzen leads an informative workshop about using edible native plants.

WORKSHOP: Edible Native Plants in Your Landscape - 3 different locations and times

In association with our [Annual Native Plant Sale](#), we are offering an Edible Plants workshop in January on two different dates at three different locations. Learn to identify common native plants suitable to a variety of landscapes, with emphasis on those plants which can also provide a source of sustenance through their berries, leaves, and roots.

Note: Many of the plants available in our [Native Plant Sale](#) are edible, including *Nootka Rose*, *Red Flowering Currant*, *Salal*, *Kinnikinnick*, and even *Sitka Spruce*! Check out our new plant packages: *Edible Fruits* and *Unusual Edibles* - more details about ordering and pick-up in the sidebar to the left.

We will also discuss how to care for new plants,

from taking care of them until you can plant them, to installing them, through caring for them the first few years until they become established.

Join us at one of these locations:

- Sat., January 14, 2017, 10:30am – 12pm
Coupeville Library
88 NW Alexander, Coupeville
- Sat., January 14, 2017, 2:00 – 3:30pm
Bayview Farm & Garden
2780 Marshview Ave, Langley
- Sat., January 21, 2017, 10:30am – 12pm
Hummingbird Farm Nursery & Gardens
2319 Zylstra Rd, Oak Harbor

[Click for more info or to RSVP.](#)



WICD Supervisor Election An election for a Whidbey Island Conservation District Board of Supervisors position will be held February 7, 2017 at the WICD office, 1 NE 4th Street in Coupeville. Polls will be open from 2 - 6:00pm. Registered voters residing on Whidbey Island are eligible to vote. Mail-in ballot requests must be made by 4:00pm, January 30 by e-mail to sandy@whidbeycd.org or calling 360-678-4708. Ballots must be returned to WICD by 6 pm February 7, 2017.

The WICD Board of Supervisors consists of five members, each serving a three-year term. District Supervisors are public officials

who serve without compensation and set policy and direction for the District. One elected position is open in 2017. Candidates must be registered voters residing on Whidbey Island, and may be required to own land or operate a farm. Election and procedures are available at the District office and at www.scc.wa.gov/elections/. Interested individuals may contact WICD at 360-678-4708 or www.whidbeycd.org for information on how to file as a candidate. Filing deadline is January 10, 2017.

On Whidbey Island, winter fare is there for the taking

What winter fare can be found on Whidbey? There are many resources available to connect you with local food. A few tips – keep your eyes open for road side and farm stands, look for “local” on grocery store labels, visit a winter farmers market, join a cool season CSA, or sign-up through a variety of farm mailing lists to stay “in-the-know” on what produce is available and where to find it.



How should you start? A variety of organizations that support local producers have developed informational

brochures and websites to help you in your search for local fare. A bit of research and creativity can point you in the right direction on Whidbey and connect you with the farms and food that you love. For a list of resources available, read the **complete version** of this article published in Whidbey Weekly.

Online Coached Forest Planning Begins January 24th, 2017

Do you want to know why people say this is the best class they've ever taken? Natural beauty, wildlife, ecosystem health, harvest income, family ties, privacy, and peace and quiet are some of the many reasons people value their forestland. Whatever your values are, this comprehensive, university-based forestry class from WSU Extension will help you get the most out of the land you love. Whether you have just a few wooded acres or a larger forest tract, this class is for you. Topics covered include:

- How do you know if your trees are healthy or need to be thinned? How do you go about it?
- What types of trees do you have? Does your forest look like a “mess”?
- Are characteristics of your property attracting or repelling the wildlife you enjoy? What can you do if wildlife cause damage?
- Are invasive and noxious weeds taking over your underbrush? What are the risks and what can you do about it?
- What kind of soil do you have and how does that affect what grows?
- What is the risk of wildfire on your property?

Cheers to the New Year! Start 2017 as a Resource Steward with These Five Conservation Tips

In 2017, if you live on Whidbey Island, you have many reasons to celebrate. Our little corner of the world is a unique place, rich with natural beauty, underlain with historical legacy, and brim full with exceptional, diverse communities all intertwined by geography.

On your resolution list this year, consider conserving your natural resources. How might you go about doing this? Start by contacting the Whidbey Island Conservation District. Since 1967, whether you're a farmer or forest owner, or a resident in town, Whidbey Island Conservation District is here as a resource to you. Conservation of natural resources starts on an individual level, right at home, and the following five tips can help get you started in 2017.



Tip #1 – Get to Know Your Soils

- Visit [Web Soil Survey](#): This interactive mapping tool will display your land's historical soil survey data.
- Get a Soil Test: Contact WICD, WSU Extension Island County, or your local farmer supply store or nursery to learn how to collect and where to submit your soil samples.

Tip #2 – Build Soil Through Composting

- Compost Food Scraps with a Worm Bin. WSU Extension Island County's Waste Wise Program's website has great information on [Worm Bin Basics](#).
- Try Hot or Cold Composting of Yard Debris. Check out USDA NRCS's [Composting Tip Sheet](#).

Tip #3 – Control Weeds

- Get Up To Speed on [Island County Noxious Weeds](#), including the most recent year's weed list.
- Sign Up for Whidbey Island Conservation District's [Weed Bulletin](#) to receive regular information.

Tip #4 – Increase Habitat for Pollinators & Wildlife

- Habitat for Bees & Butterflies: Check out a wide array of resources for promoting pollinator habitat through the [Xerces Society's](#) website.
- Habitat for Birds: The [Whidbey Audubon Society](#) has information about birds on Whidbey Island. Check out the National Audubon Society's webpage: [Creating Bird-Friendly Communities](#), too.

- Habitat for Other Wildlife: Check out USDA NRCS's [Wildlife Habitat Tip Sheet](#).

Tip #5 – Conserve Your Water

- For tips on protecting water resources, check out WICD's publication [Living Responsibly in Your Community](#) or [Water Saving Tips](#) sheet.

In 2017, as the New Year inspires you to pause, reflect, and plan for your future with hope, consider the positive impact that applying a few conservation practices has on this unique place we all call home.

Upcoming Events - Please visit the WICD website [Calendar page](#) for a complete listing.

Save money, too!

As part of this online class, WSU will “coach” you in the writing of your own simple forestry plan that may qualify you for property tax reductions or conservation cost-share grants.

Online – Winter 2017: Tuesday evenings starting January 24th. For details and registration, [click here](#). Registration is open—and the class is already about 3/4 full.

