



Conservation CONNECTION

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE

#10

Jan
2015

WICD Supervisor Election Feb 3, 2015

An election for a Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) Board of Supervisors position will be held on Feb 3, 2015 at the WICD office (1 NE 4th Street in Coupeville) from 2 - 6 pm. Registered voters residing on Whidbey Island are eligible to vote. Requests for mail-in ballots must be made by 4:30 pm, Jan 26 by email to sandy@whidbeycd.org or by phone to 360-678-4708. Ballots must be returned to WICD by 6 pm Feb 3, 2015.

Two Positions Open in 2015 - The WICD Board of Supervisors consists of five members, each serving a three year term. Supervisors are public officials who serve without compensation and set policy and direction for the District. The incumbent for the elected position is seeking re-election. The incumbent for the appointed position is not seeking re-appointment. Candidates must be registered voters residing on Whidbey Island, and may be required to own land or operate a farm. Filing deadlines are January 6, 2015 for the elected position and March 31, 2015 for the appointed position. Election and appointment procedures are available at the district office and at www.scc.wa.gov/elections/ or on the WICD website [here](#).



Sarah Cassatt - WICD Resource Planner and Outreach Specialist will lead the upcoming workshop, "Native Plant Palettes for Your Landscape."

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Visit our website at www.whidbeycd.org

WORKSHOP: Native Plant Palettes for Your Landscape - A North & South location on 2 dates

This workshop will cover plant selections for a variety of settings, such as shady areas, forest edges, open slopes, bluff crests and to achieve specific goals, such as creating rain gardens, wildlife and pollinator habitats, and more. We will also discuss site characteristics and how to plant and care for new plantings. You will be able to pre-order plants at the workshop from the remaining WICD Annual Native Plant Sale inventory, as well as purchase from the hosting nurs-

ery, and Native Plant Stewards. This workshop will be held in two locations: Friday, January 16, 2015, 2 - 4 pm, Greenhouse Florist & Nursery, 555 NE 7th Avenue, Oak Harbor; and Saturday, January 17, 2015, 10 - noon, Bayview Farm & Garden, SR 525 at Bayview Rd, Langley. Call 360-678-4708 or follow links for **more information** or to **RSVP**.

In the meantime, get all the information about our online **Annual Native Bareroot Plant Sale** below.

Annual Native Plant Sale has Package Pricing!

The WICD Annual Native Plant Sale continues taking pre-orders through January 31, 2015. New this year, we have discount pricing on selected plant packages. **Conifers** are available in large quantity discount packages of 50 or 100



trees. Through Jan 14, we have a discounted package on a select group of plants suitable for **well drained soils, slopes, and bluffs**. View the complete **storefront**, and pre-order/purchase plants online! Phone orders can also be taken by calling 360-678-4708 or by walk-in at our office,

1 NE 4th St., Coupeville. Order now for pick up late February at two different locations:
• **Friday, February 27:** 2:00pm - 6:00pm at our WICD office, 1 NE 4th St., Coupeville.
• **Saturday, February 28:** 9:30am - 1:00pm at Greenbank Farm, 765 Wonn Rd, Greenbank (in the big barn).

Upcoming Events - Please visit our website **Calendar page** for more details about these and other events:

- **Small Farm & Local Food Business Planning Course**, Thursdays, 6 - 9 PM, January 8 - March 26, Mount Vernon
- **Value Added Producer Grant Workshop**, 10AM - 1PM, January 13, Skagit Farmers Supply, Burlington
- **Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers Workshop**, Tuesday, 8:30AM- 4PM, January 20, Mount Vernon



WSU AgWeatherNet station goes live on South Whidbey!

On Wednesday, December 17, 2014 a new Washington State University AgWeather station on south Whidbey island was installed. Current data on wind direction and speed, rainfall and air moisture, and air and ground temperatures are now posted live on the Washington State University *AgWeather website* from the new station near Langley. Read more [here](#).

Whidbey Island Farm Tour Invites Farms to Apply for 2015 Tour

If you would like to learn more about how your farm can participate, visit www.whidbeyfarmtour.com

International Year of Soils in 2015

On Dec. 5, 2014, USDA joined nations from across the globe to kick off the International Year of Soils, an effort to highlight the importance of soil in everyday life. Healthy soil is essential as global demands rise for food, fuel, and fiber. Soils also play a crucial role in food security, hunger eradication, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and sustainable development. Working with the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) and other partners, NRCS will showcase the importance of soil with monthly themes created by SSSA. Learn more [here](#).

Attracting and Providing for Wildlife

Your backyard can become a miniature wildlife refuge, attracting many different kinds of wild animals. Songbirds, rabbits, frogs, bats, squirrels, and butterflies are the most common. But with careful planning and upkeep, you may find yourself watching raccoons, opossums, lizards, dragonflies, owls, and deer. To be a haven for wildlife, your yard must provide the basic needs of the animals: cover, water, and food.



Create Coverage for Wildlife

To feel safe from predators and raise their young, wildlife require places to hide. Plant shrubs and ground covers in dense groupings to provide cover.

Create brush piles with downed tree branches. Incorporate

nesting boxes with native plants to create an inviting and safe place.

Supply Water for Wildlife

Wildlife need clean water for drinking, bathing, and reproduction.

Provide a watering station with cover nearby, safe from predators. Fill it through the dry summer months, when natural water is scarce, and wildlife needs are greatest.



Provide Food for Wildlife

Our native wildlife species are adapted to subsist on Northwest native plants. Planting native shrubs and trees is the easiest way to

provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds, and nuts that wildlife require to survive and thrive. Use bird seed mixes sparingly – excess

seed feeds unwanted rodents.

Garden Green

The ways that you maintain your garden or landscape can have important effects on the health of the soil, air, water and habitat for native wildlife.



Reducing chemical use, composting, mulching, and reducing turf grass in your yard are important steps to greener gardening.

Planting for pollinators

Flowers provide the nectar and pollen resources that bees feed on. Research suggests that native plants are four times more attractive to native bees than exotic flowers.

Include a diversity of flowering plants in your landscape. By having several species flower at once, and a sequence of plants flowering through spring, summer, and fall, you can support a range of bee species that fly at different times of the season.

How has WICD made a difference in your Whidbey Island community?

Follow this [link](#) to view our Annual Report of Accomplishments.

Rain and Runoff

It is rainy season again, and time to start thinking about how best to manage the stormwater flows that come from our rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, and streets. These impervious surfaces prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. During heavy rains, stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, wetland, or Puget Sound.

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people. Sediment



can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary. Debris—plastic bags, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into waterbodies

can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds. Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

Click on the following topics to find out what you can do:

[Around the House](#) • [Septic Systems](#)
[Auto care](#) • [On the Farm](#) • [Lawn care](#)

If you need assistance with stormwater management on your property, contact Rob Hallbauer at rob@whidbeycd.org.