



Conservation CONNECTION

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Annual Native Bareroot Plant Sale Featured Plant!
TALL OREGON GRAPE

If you've ever bought bare root *Tall Oregon Grape* in the past, you know that the leaves can turn brown and even fall off in its first year, leaving you looking at bare sticks and wondering where it all went wrong. Fear not! Keep watering them and they'll bounce back the next year, growing new leaves and thriving in our PNW climate. Tall Oregon Grape is as deer resistant (not proof!) as you can get on Whidbey Island. They can grow moderately tall (up to 10') and makes a great, evergreen screening hedge. Their deep roots are soil stabilizers to help with erosion control. They provide wildlife habitat, beautiful fall color, and berries that are delicious when mixed with some sugar. Pre-order yours [here!](#)



Tall Oregon Grape is favored for its bright yellow flower clusters in spring, the dark purple berries in late summer, and the reddish green leaf color in fall and winter.



Weeds of Winter 2019/2020

These seasonally-themed bulletins are a partnership between WICD and Island County's Department of Natural Resources. To view the current bulletin or view an archive of local weed resources, visit whidbeycd.org/weed-bulletin. View the complete list of Island County's Noxious Weeds for 2019 at bit.ly/2CgbedB.

Annual Native Bareroot Plant Sale is in Full Swing! There's still time to order, and we've added special packages.

In response to requests, we've created plant packages on our [storefront](#) with special pricing for site-specific goals like **fall color**, **erosion control**, **pollination**, **evergreen**, **winter berries for birds**, **full season**, and **wet site enhancement**. And we've restocked **Paper Birch**, **Sword Fern**, and **Oceanspray**, which had been sold out. **Order now for pick up Saturday, Feb. 29, 9am-1:30pm at Greenbank Farm**. Pre-order/purchase plants at our online [storefront](#), now through January 31, 2020. Phone orders can be taken at 360-678-4708 or by walk-in at our office, 1 NE 4th St., Coupeville.

Plant Sale Volunteering

Sign up [here](#) to be added to our general volunteer list, and you'll receive a special email message in late January with all the details for plant sale volunteers. We couldn't do this without the hard work of our volunteers – thank you for helping out!



BOXES FOR PLANT SALE

We're seeking small/medium boxes - up to approximately 14" x 20" x 12" - to package our plant sale orders for pick up. Instead of recycling all that cardboard this holiday season, we welcome you to drop boxes off at our office at 1 NE 4th St in Coupeville, M-F, 8:30am - 4pm (closed Jan 1, 2020).



UPCOMING DISTRICT ELECTION - Candidate filing & voting information

Whidbey Island Conservation District is pleased to announce two opportunities to contribute to conservation and your community by serving on the Board of Supervisors. Supervisors are public officials who identify local conservation needs, set priorities, and oversee the implementation of district projects. Both positions are 3-year terms. One is an appointed position and one is an elected position. The deadline for applying for the elected position is January 7, 2020,

and the deadline for applying for the appointed position is March 31, 2020. Details about elections and appointment procedures can be found at <https://scc.wa.gov/elections-and-appointments/>.

The election will be held on February 4, 2020 at the WICD office at 1 NE 4th Street in Coupeville, WA. Polls will be open from 2 - 6 pm. Island County registered voters are eligible to vote. Mail-in ballots will be available starting January 8, 2019 through 4:00 pm, January 14 by emailing sandy@whidbeycd.org or by calling 888-678-4922. Ballots must be returned to WICD by 6 pm February 4, 2020.

Horsekeeping Assistance

Do you have horses? Are you experiencing lots of mud? WICD natural resource planners can help horse owners with mud, manure, and pasture management, and chore efficiency – check out our new [horse keeping webpage](#) for resources and financial assistance information.

Conservation Kid's Corner

Be sure to check out our new Conservation Kids Corner [here](#) for monthly ideas and crafts to get your kids connected to and excited about nature. We're currently featuring tips to inspire the young - and young at heart - to create a "bug hotel." Part garden art and part winter habitat, a bug hotel encourages beneficial insects to overwinter on your property, lay eggs, and live in your garden all year.



I ♥ PENN COVE

Thanks to all the wonderful participants who came out for our fall "I ♥ Penn Cove" workshop series! We held workshops on natural yard care, rural acreage conservation techniques, and mud management. Is there a topic you'd like to see as a workshop in 2020? Click [here](#) to share it with us – we'd love to hear from you!

WICD Fiscal Year 2019 Report of Accomplishments

Read our highlights for 2019 in our Annual Report of Accomplishments. WICD addresses many local natural resource issues with expertise in conservation planning, technical assistance, and engineering for farms and forest lands, and stormwater management in urban and rural areas. Click [here](#) to read.



Orca Recovery Day 2019 - What We Did Together!

Orca Recovery Day in October was a Puget Sound region-wide day of action where over 2,300 volunteers came together to help Southern Resident Orcas, and it was a huge success! One more big THANK YOU to the 100 Whidbey Island volunteers and partners who participated in work parties up and down the island. Read the summaries of our accomplishments below. And, click [here](#) for resources to stay involved and make "Every Day Orca Day."

Garbage Clean-up and Art Project

Orca Network and South Whidbey seventh graders spent the afternoon cleaning trash off the Langley beachfront. They took the garbage back to the Whale Museum and created repurposed art!

Cornet Bay Shoreline Planting

Northwest Straits Foundation and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group led 37 volunteers in planting over 200 native plants at Cornet Bay marina. Read about this multi-year restoration project [here](#).



Native shoreline plants were installed at the Cornet Bay marina.

Sunlight Shores Restoration

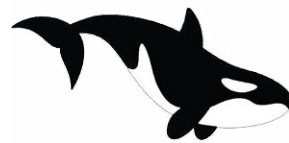
As part of their voluntary shoreline restoration project, 18 volunteers planted over 200 native plants, including ocean spray, nootka rose, twinberry, and more! Learn more about this ongoing project [here](#).

Rain Garden Renovation

Installed 7 years ago by community partners and volunteers, the Greenbank Farm rain garden was in need of restoration. The WSU Master Gardeners led volunteers in adding new mulch, removing some plants, and adding fresh plants to the garden. Learn more about this project [here](#).



WSU Master Gardeners restored a demonstration rain garden.



How did these work parties help the Orcas?

Protecting our shorelines and waterways is essential to the health of our resident Orcas and their food source - salmon. Planting native vegetation along shorelines and waterways prevents erosion and buffers storm water run-off. It also provides important habitat for insects that are eaten by forage fish, who are in turn eaten by salmon. Rain gardens filter storm water pollutants, which improves the quality of water running into Puget Sound. Picking up trash on the beach is a powerful way to learn and remember how important it is to properly take care of our waste. We need to keep as much of it out of the ocean as possible.

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events From Our Partners!

Winter is the time to stock up on knowledge! We'll see you at these events:

- **Country Living Expo:** Saturday, January 25, 2020 at Stanwood High School
- **Sound Waters University:** Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8:30 - 4:30; South Whidbey High School, Langley
- **Whidbey Gardening Workshop:** March 14, 2020, Oak Harbor High School, Oak Harbor