



Conservation CONNECTION

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Annual Native Bareroot Plant Sale Pre-Sale Ends Soon!

Pre-sale ordering for Native Plants ends midnight on Thursday, January 31st, and we still have many species of trees, shrubs, and groundcovers to choose from at our online storefront - www.whidbeycd.org/wicd-storefront.html.

Look for our new categories for specific site requirements or goals, including **erosion control**, **water-wise**, **pollinators**, and **wet site/raingarden**. And don't miss new discounts on the versatile **Tall Oregon Grape** and **Mock Orange**.

Plants will be available for pick-up Sat., Feb. 23, 9 AM – 1:30 PM at the Greenbank Farm, 765 Wonn Rd., Barn A.

Interested in plant sale volunteering? Or would like to know about our partnerships with Pacific Rim



Tall Oregon Grape



Mock Orange

Institute of Environmental Stewardship and WSU Ext. Waste Wise on Plant Sale

Day? Download the flyer at

<http://bit.ly/2Gsz4Y3>.



With Ken Drecksel retiring and Karen Bishop returning to her family farm business, we thank them for over 11 years of service to the Whidbey community!



Weeds of Winter 2018/19 Now Available

These seasonally-themed bulletins are a partnership between WICD and Island County's Department of Natural Resources. To view the bulletin, sign up to receive future Weed Bulletins, or view an archive of local weed resources, visit www.whidbeycd.org/weed-bulletin.html. View the complete list of Island County's Noxious Weeds for 2018 at <http://bit.ly/2II8V19>.

Staff Transitions: Thank You to Karen Bishop & Ken Drecksel for Your Service, Meet Erin Borden

They say the only constant in life is change. Ken Drecksel, WICD Farm and Forest Planner, recently retired – his last day was December 31st. Soon to join him will be District Manager, Karen Bishop, choosing to leave the District to devote her attention to her family farm business. Karen's last day will be February 23rd. Both Ken and Karen joined the District team over 11 years ago and have provided invaluable contributions to the community as leaders, team members, mentors, and landowner advocates.

As Ken rides off into the retirement sunset and Karen returns to her family farm, please welcome

our newest District staff member – Erin Borden. Hired this past October 2018, Erin is our new Farm Natural Resource Specialist and brings over 30 years of teaching experience and a practical understanding of farm ownership, especially in equestrian pursuits. She is a long-time Coupeville resident and looks forward to serving the public in her position. To learn more about our staff, visit www.whidbeycd.org/wicd-staff/.



Erin Borden

Could YOU Be The Whidbey Island Conservation District's Next District Manager?

The WICD Board of Supervisors has prepared a District Manager position description, including responsibilities, qualifications, and benefits, and application materials at www.whidbeycd.org/job-opportunity.html. Applications are due on or before **Friday, January 18, 2019**. The District Manager position is a full-time, exempt, salaried, and benefited position based out of Coupeville, Washington. If you or someone you know is interested in a career dedicated to advancing voluntary natural resource conservation on Whidbey, please consider applying!

Incumbent Supervisor Automatically Re-elected

As published in local papers and our website over the the past two months, the filing deadline for candidates to run for election as a WICD Supervisor was January 8, 2019. By reason of being the only person filing for the position by the filing deadline, the WICD election scheduled for February 5, 2019 is cancelled, and incumbent Tim Keohane will be automatically re-elected to serve a 3-year term as WICD Supervisor. For more information, visit our Supervisor webpage at: www.whidbeycd.org/wicd-supervisors.html.



Tim Keohane

www.whidbeycd.org

Congrats, WICD's Sarah Richards & Bruce Gordon

In October 2018 at the WA Association of Conservation Districts NW Area meeting, Sarah Richards, WICD's Vice Chair Supervisor, was recognized as 2018 NW Area District Supervisor of the Year. Bruce Gordon, WICD's Farm Planner, was awarded 2018 NW Area District Employee of the Year. Ron Shultz, WSCC's Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Relations, presented the awards. Way to represent, WICD!



Bruce Gordon, Sarah Richards, and Ron Shultz

Partner News

• **USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) accepts applications throughout the year. However, two deadlines are coming up: **FEB. 15, 2019** (all state fundpools, incl. energy application, socially disadvantaged producer, beginning farmer, Veterana, or limited resource farmer) and **APR. 19, 2019** (Local Work Group Funding, Tribal Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Implementation, NWQI, Olympia Oyster, Salmon Restoration). Contact: Jared Hamman (360) 488-4821 or Jared.Hamman@wa.usda.gov with questions.

• **WSU Extension Forestry** offers a free online Forest Health Seminar on Tues., Jan. 15 at two different times – 12:05 – 12:55 PM or 7:05 – 7:55 PM. For more info or to register, visit <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/>.



Restoration resources, recommended best practices, and regulations affecting areas like wetlands and shorelines will be discussed.

“Habitat Restoration Demystified”

A Workshop in partnership with Island County & DOE

Interested in doing restoration work on your property or in your community? Unclear how to get started? Habitat restoration, especially in known critical areas like wetlands, shorelines, and streams, has become increasingly popular in conservation. It's important to plan ahead, to know how to assess ecological function, and to decide whether restoration work truly is needed on your land. Come learn about the roles, regulations, and resources available on Whidbey from staff of Island County Planning Department, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the WICD on **Thurs., Jan. 24th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**, Coupeville Methodist Church, 608 N. Main St., Cplv. To download the flyer and share with a friend visit <http://bit.ly/2QGMGUB>.

WICD Hosts Awards Ceremony and Puget Sound Orca Recovery Day Events

“Collaboration for Conservation” was the theme at the WICD Open House and Awards Ceremony held in November. The event was the culmination of three thematic events on Whidbey taking place as part of Puget Sound Orca Recovery Day, a regional effort led by 10 local Conservation Districts to increase awareness and engagement in conservation actions that benefit the marine environment and the Southern Resident orca whales. Linda Rhodes of the Island County Marine Resources Committee provided the Keynote, and resources from organizations including Orca Network, Island County Marine Resources Committee, and the WSU Extension Island County Shore Stewards, Master Gardeners, and Waste Wise Programs were on display. A native plant workshop and two demo rain garden rehabilitation / replanting projects in partnership with WSU Extension Master Gardener interns also occurred. Thank you to the over 105 participants, and to organizational partners for helping to make Puget Sound Orca Recovery Day a success! Please help us congratulate this year's award winners:

- Tom Fournier – *Outstanding Supervisor*
- Whidbey Island Grown Steering Committee – *Local Marketing Collaborators*
- Greenbank Beach and Boat Club – *Restoration Collaborators*
- Judee Lea & Colton Diffie – *Farm Link Collaborators*
- Sierra Country Club Firewise Committee – *Outreach & Education Collaborators*
- Curt Gordon, Jeff Alling, Vicky Padgett, & Steve O'Sullivan – *Forestry Collaborators*



(l-r) Tom Fournier, Lee Fritsch, Judi Moore, Judee Lea, Colton Diffie, Brenda Dewey, Bob Monroig, Sharon Dunn, Lynne Scapple, Diane McClaine

New WICD Website highlights “Boots-on-the-Ground” for Better Ground

Better Ground means taking important stewardship actions at home and in our communities to create healthy soil and water, to provide healthy food, and to conserve land, water, forest wildlife and related natural resources. And you don't have to go it alone. You have a partner – your local conservation district! WICD strives to supply Whidbey residents with relevant conservation resources and has recently been busy updating its website with you in mind at www.whidbeycd.org. Check it out! Although still under construction, we hope you find this new format informative and easy-to-navigate. If you'd like an orientation to our web resources or want to provide feedback, please call (888) 678-4922 or email wicd@whidbeycd.org. Check back often to see our progress!

