



Conservation CONNECTION

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #19

o c t
2 0 1 7



- SAVE THE DATE - WICD 50th Year Open House Dec. 1st

You won't want to miss this special event, Friday, Dec. 1st, 5:30 pm at the Nordic Lodge in Coupeville, to commemorate our 50th anniversary! We're excited to announce that geologist and author David R. Montgomery will be our guest speaker. David is a professor of geomorphology at the University of WA and author of *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life* and other award-winning popular science books. Stay tuned for more details about the event.



David Montgomery

Celebrating 50 Years with a Photo Contest

To celebrate our anniversary, WICD's Photo Contest gives you the opportunity to tell your unique conservation stories through breathtaking images that showcase Whidbey Island's distinct landscapes and people. Four winners will be selected for prizes and announced at WICD's 50th Anniversary Celebration on December 1st.

More details
TBA, or
call (888)
678-4922.



WICD Outreach Coordinator, Kelsi Mottet, will share the beauty and benefits of "painting your landscape" with native plants at this upcoming workshop.

Let WICD bring resources to you!

Subscribe to a variety of *WICD resource lists via email* to be the first to know what's new in local conservation. Be sure to like us on *Facebook* and check out our *Calendar* for Whidbey Island events and announcements.

Visit our Homepage at whidbeycd.org

WORKSHOP: *Paint Your Landscape* WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Are you curious to know how you can "paint your landscape" with the beauty and conservation benefits of native plants? To kick off our *Annual Native Bare-root Plant Sale* beginning November 1st (see below), we are offering this special *native plant workshop*. Be inspired by Whidbey's natural spaces, and join us for this informative FREE tutorial about identifying and using native plants in your yard or landscape. The session will include an easy outdoor walk where you will learn about:

- Native plant varieties of Whidbey Island.
- Selecting a group of plants that is in harmony with your goals and the specific characteristics of your site.
- How to plant and care for new plants.

We will also have detailed information about the plants offered through our sale, and there will be time for your questions. Join us at either location:

Saturday, November 4th

SOUTH - 10am – 12pm

South Whidbey Parks & Rec
District Office & Community Park
5475 Maxwellton Rd. Langley

NORTH/CENTRAL - 2pm – 4pm

Pacific Rim Institute of Environmental Studies
180 Parker Rd, Coupeville



RSVP appreciated at <http://bit.ly/2kFfcpZ>
by October 30th.

Additional resources and individual site assistance is available - call (888) 678-4922.

2018 WICD Annual Native Bareroot Plant Pre-Sale Opens Soon! Mark your calendars for November 1st!

This year we'll have over 30 species of natives, including tried-and-true favorites, and a couple of new surprises! The finalized list will be available on opening day, November 1st. Expanded descriptions and pictures of all the plants will be posted at our online storefront. Orders will be taken online November 1st, 2017 through January 31st, 2018. All

confirmed orders will be available for pick-up, Saturday, February 24th at Camp Casey in Coupeville.

Want to be the first to hear about the Native Plant Sale opening, specials, and deals?

Sign up for the Native Plant Sale email list [here](#).



Congratulations to WICD District Manager!



Mark Clark (L), WSCC Executive Director, and Dean Longrie (R), Conservation District Western Commissioner, present to Karen Bishop (C).

Karen Bishop, WICD's District Manager, was awarded the Northwest Area District Manager of the Year. She was recognized for her thorough and thoughtful approach to district operations, outstanding board and staff support, and broad respect and trust from the local community. Karen recently served 2 years as President of the WA State Association of District Employees. She was nominated by colleagues and presented the award at the WA Association of Conservation District's NW Area meeting.

Weeds of Fall 2017 Now Available



WICD and WSU Extension's Noxious Weed Program are partners in providing a quarterly, seasonally-themed Weed Bulletin. The current bulletin, "Weeds of Fall," is a locally-tailored resource for acquainting landowners on Whidbey with local noxious weeds and their removal methods. To view the bulletin or learn more, visit www.whidbeycd.org/publications/.

Who will be growing our food in the future?

Early in 2017, a USDA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Grant was awarded to a consortium of organizations that support new farmers on Whidbey Island and in the San Juan Islands. Grant partners include San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild, Whidbey Island Conservation District, Washington State University San Juan County Extension, Organic Farm School, and Northwest Agriculture Business Center. This three-year grant supports:

- Linking new farmers to farmland
- Resources for farmland access
- New farmer training program
- Technical Training on crop and livestock production
- Business planning, financial management, and market assistance
- Mentoring for new farmers

The Whidbey Island Conservation District and the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild and are partnering to address this challenge through support for new farmers on farmland tenure and transition. As such, we encourage you to contact us if you are a:

• New farmer seeking access to land for farming

• Farmer planning to transfer your land to another generation

• Farmland owner seeking new farmers to farm your land

We can meet with you to find solutions, connections, resources, and opportunities. Contact Karen Bishop karen@whidbeycd.org or (888) 678-4922.



Regional Grant Opportunities for Farmers and Ag Businesses

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for two grant programs to help farmers, ranchers, and producer-based businesses. The **Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG)** program can be used to develop new products from raw agricultural products or promote new markets for established products. The **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)** provides grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. For additional information and application instructions view the October addition of [USDA's Rural Developments newsletter](#).

Cool Tool for Accessing Historic Aerial Photos Online



Oak Harbor, 1942.

Whidbey Island Conservation District inherited several sets of historic aerial photographs from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) when NRCS closed its Whidbey Island office in the 1990s. The aerial photos are images of Whidbey Island and Island County from the 1940s, 1963, and 1990.

Recognizing the important historic value of these aerial photos, WICD knew they should be made readily available to the public. In the spring of 2015,

the Washington State Conservation Commission awarded funding to WICD to electronically archive the images. The aerial photos were first scanned to the WICD server and then with the aid of Andrew Phay of the Whatcom Conservation District and WICD's long-time IT associate, Richard Doyle, the aerial images were posted online for public access using an interface that allows the viewer to pinpoint locations throughout Whidbey and Camano Islands.

Subsequently, the physical photos were donated to the Island County Historical Society to be archived at the Island County Museum in Coupeville.

To digitally access the map and the aerial photos, follow this link: <https://arcgis.is/2yHWNj0>. The online portal to the maps is also hosted under "Special Projects" on the WICD website Publications page: [whidbeycd.org/publications/](http://www.whidbeycd.org/publications/).