



Conservation CONNECTION

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Save the date: Nov 8th!

WICD Open House

Mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, November 8th to come join WICD staff and board supervisors in celebrating another great year of conservation and to highlight our conservation partners through an awards ceremony and dessert social. Stay tuned for evolving details!

2nd Annual Whidbey Island Grown Week, Sept. 28 – Oct. 7, 2018



“Whidbey Island Grown Week” is celebrating its second annual 10-day celebration of local products, services, and experiences. Collaborative events are organized by Whidbey Island Grown members to celebrate the abundance of the island. <https://whidbeyislandgrown.com/whidbey-island-grown-week-2018/>



Herbicide and carp treatments successfully eradicated the Brazilian elodea aquatic plant infestation in Lone Lake, but shifted the lake to an algae-dominated state.



Weeds of Fall 2018 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/publications.html. View the complete list of Island County’s Noxious Weeds for 2018 at <http://bit.ly/2I18V19>.

Lone Lake to Receive an Algae Management Plan

In July 2018, Whidbey Island Conservation District received grant funding from the WA Department of Ecology’s Freshwater Algae Program to develop an Algae Management Plan for Lone Lake. The overall goal of this project is to produce a management plan focused on reducing nutrient loading to Lone Lake, allowing restoration of native aquatic vegetation and fish habitat, and improving water quality to restore and enhance recreational uses of the lake. In short, this process will involve stakeholders, volunteers, and a hired consultant to gather needed data, synthesize pertinent information, and develop a strategy for plan implementation. An informed and engaged community will be key to carrying out lake management actions.

Project Kickoff Meeting On August 23, 2018, WICD hosted a public meeting at the Deer Lagoon Grange Hall to introduce the Lone Lake Algae Management Project. We had great attendance with about 25 people showing up to learn about the current grant-funded project, provide input, and ask questions. To view/download a PDF version of the PowerPoint presentation given at the meeting, click [HERE](#). For more information, please contact Matt Zupich at matt@whidbeycd.org or visit the project webpage at www.whidbeycd.org/lone-lake-algae-management.html.



Protecting & Improving Water Quality in Penn Cove Watershed

WICD’s Penn Cove Near Term Action (NTA) was selected by the Island Local Integrating Organization to receive EPA National Estuary Program funding through the Puget Sound Partnership and WA Dept of Ecology. The goal of this NTA is to protect and improve water quality in the Penn Cove watershed. Funding will enable WICD to deliver public outreach and education, provide landowner technical assistance, and to assist private landowners with voluntary implementa-



WICD planners work with landowners in Penn Cove watershed to implement practices to protect water quality.

tion of Best Management Practices. For more information, please contact Matt Zupich at matt@whidbeycd.org.

WICD Staff Highlight Meet Karen Bishop District Manager



I've lived most of my life in Coupeville on Whidbey Island. My time away in college, serving with the Peace Corps in Africa, and travelling abroad taught that I am truly fortunate to have been born, lived, farmed, and raised our family on Ebey's Prairie. When the non-native settlers arrived, they described Whidbey as "...almost a paradise of nature." How am I so lucky to spend most of my life here?

My passion for working in resource conservation is driven by a goal to encourage sustainable food and fiber production while protecting ecological functions of our island's natural resources. Sustainability, to me, also means ensuring those who work the land and live here can have economically sustainable businesses. I hope our work at the District helps instill pride and motivation in all residents of Whidbey to be part of the long-term effort to ensure a healthy future for our island's natural resources.

My work at the Conservation District has taught me how much I've yet to learn about all things related to natural resources. Each day at the CD, we respond to a broad variety of requests. We rely on our vast network of professionals to help respond to these requests. I find every topic fascinating, and I want to learn more! I end each day hopeful we've helped a landowner find solutions to a resource challenge.

Connect with Other Farmers through Monthly Whidbey Island Growers Association Potluck

Are you a farmer or rural business owner interested in connecting with other farmers here on Whidbey? For the past three years, the Whidbey Island Growers Association (WIGA), an informal potluck group of rural business owners, has been gathering on the second Monday of each month to network, share resources, learn from ag-experts on a wide variety of topics, and create community. The group is open to any landowner who considers themselves a farmer and is interested in learning more about local and regional resources and connections in agriculture here on Whidbey Island. Staff from the Whidbey Island Conservation District and WSU Extension Island County Farms & Food Systems Program coordinate the communications and meetings, but topics and activities are guided by those who attend. The next WIGA potluck is scheduled for Monday, October 8th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the



The second annual WIGA dessert social in August included a tour of operations at 3 Sisters Farm in Oak Harbor, hosted by the Muzzall family.

WSU Extension Island County virtual classroom, 406 N. Main St., Coupeville in which we'll learn from Dr. Doug Collins, Soil Scientist & WSU Small Farms Program Educator, on "Understanding & Caring for Your Soils." To view the remaining 2018 schedule of events, visit <https://bit.ly/2HNPI65>. To be added to the email list, contact Kelsi Mottet at kelsi@whidbeycd.org.

Messages from Our Conservation Partners

Explore Island County's GIS Data Downloads From property data, to land use/planning, transportation to topography, and more, visit <https://bit.ly/2MOuNNH> and use the Search box to find GIS layers of interest by name, or browse the data categories by icon.

USDA's "REAP" (Rural Energy for America) Program Seeking Grant Applications for Renewable Energy Installations – Deadline: October 31, 2018.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>

Tools for Forest Landowners on Recognizing Drought-Stressed Trees

WSU Extension Puget Sound Forest Stewardship "Focus On" article from July 2018 is a great resource: http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/newsletter/2018_july/#focus. To subscribe to the forestry e-newsletter, http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/newsletter/2018_july/#contact.



AgWeatherNet: Interested in current and historic weather data? Just a click away! WSU AgWeatherNet provides access to current and historical weather data from Washington State University's automated weather station network, along with a range of models, decision aids, alerts, and advisories. WSU Extension's AgWeatherNet is a service to farmers and gardeners alike. You can download the free Mobile phone app or visit <http://www.weather.wsu.edu/>. With just the click of a button, you have access to two weather stations in Langley and Coupeville.

11-Week Sustainable Small Acreage Farming and Ranching Course on Whidbey, Thursdays, Sept. 27 - Dec. 6 Learn how to apply successful whole farm management principles to your small farm operation. Questions? E-mail loren.imes@wsu.edu or phone (360-639-6059).

<https://cultivatinguccessfall2018.brownpapertickets.com/>.