



Conservation CONNECTION

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Pollinator Garden Project

Next time you're out for a hike at South Whidbey State Park, walk by the ranger station to see the new pollinator habitat garden that the Calyx School students planted. The garden is a combination of native plant shrubs and groundcovers from Maillard's Landing and Venture Out Nursery, and wildflower seeds from Northwest Meadowscapes.

This fall, WICD partnered with the Endangered Species Coalition to provide garden planning, native plants, and education to the Calyx School project and to the South Whidbey School District gardens at both the elementary school and the high school. We can consult on native plant landscaping projects with organizations and landowners, so don't hesitate to contact us for help with your project!



The Ranger Station at South Whidbey State Park now has a pollinator habitat garden, planted by Calyx School students.



WICD Staff & Board members removed noxious weeds at the Comet Bay shoreline restoration site on Orca Recovery Day.

Orca Recovery Day - virtual event success

In October, our third annual Orca Recovery Day event went virtual. More than 600 people participated in our Ecochallenge, an online platform where teams took 7,800 actions to benefit the Southern Resident Orcas. The Whidbey Island community's participation was amazing!



The team earning the most points was LaVassar Science Period 2,3,4,5,6 at the South Whidbey South Campus, and the top 5 individual point earners included 3 members of our Sound Water Stewards organization!

In addition to the Ecochallenge, we co-coordinated with Northwest Straits Foundation, County Marine Resource Committees and Salish Sea Institute to

Plant Sale Volunteering

Due to COVID19 restrictions, WICD is planning to have small groups of 10 volunteers bundling, sorting, and packing orders Feb. 23 - 26, 2021. We'll have many shifts available to choose from. Please sign up [HERE](#) for our volunteer email list, and you'll receive a special message in late January with all the details about plant sale volunteering. We couldn't do this without the hard work of our volunteers - thank you for helping out!

present an entertaining and educational Orca Forum. You can watch a recording of the Orca Forum [HERE](#). We also partnered with Northwest Straits Foundation to hold a fun trivia night themed all things Orca, Salmon, and Marine Habitat, where 12 teams battled it out to win prizes and bragging rights. Sound Water Stewards and Island County Marine Resource Committee hosted a community art contest with the theme "Orca Recovery and the Human Connection to Orcas." Congratulations to the two top art contest winners, Amy McInerney and Tina Dinzi-Pederson. View their winning artwork [HERE](#).

Visit www.whidbeycd.org/orca to learn how you can help the Southern Resident Orcas every day!



Plant Sale Ordering Ends Soon!

Our bare-root native plant sale pre-order continues until Dec. 30, 2020. Pick-up of orders will take place on February 26-27 at Greenbank Farm.

Our **plant packages** make great gifts for the gardeners and plant lovers on your holiday list. Each package includes a selection of plants targeted on a theme, including: **Pollinator Habitat, Rain Lovers, Deep Woods, Wildflower Meadow, and Classic Whidbey**.

Printable gift cards are available for each plant package to make giving the gift of native plants easy and fun! View the entire plant storefront at www.whidbeycd.org/plant-sale-storefront



Plant Sale Packing Boxes Needed

We're seeking small to medium boxes up to 14"x20"x12" to package our plant sale orders for pick-up. Instead of recycling all that cardboard this holiday season, we welcome you to drop off boxes at our Coupeville office: 1 NE 4th Ave, Monday-Thursday. Our office is closed to the public, so please call us at 360-678-4708 before you drop off.



WICD Receives Public Engagement Award

The Washington State Conservation Commission awarded WICD with a 2020 Northwest Area Special Recognition Award for public engagement. As an example, our small district had four highly qualified candidates and the 5th highest state-wide voter turn out in our board supervisor election last year, which was a big accomplishment. This award speaks to our relationship with our community, and so we want to say thank you, Whidbey, for valuing conservation, our district, and our work!



UPCOMING DISTRICT ELECTION Ballot request & voting information

WICD will hold an election on Feb. 2, 2021 to elect a supervisor to our board. The election will be held by mail-in ballot this year. Registered voters residing on Whidbey Island are eligible to vote.

Mail-in ballots are available only by request; requests must be made by 4:00pm, January 19, 2021 by e-mail to wicd@whidbeycd.org or by website link at [request ballot here](#) or calling 360-678-4708. Ballots must be returned by Feb. 2, 2021, 4:00pm via mail to WICD, PO Box 490, Coupeville, WA 98239. Voters must account for the time it may take a ballot to be returned by mail. A locked ballot box for drop-off ballots will be available at the District office, 1 NE 4th St., Coupeville on Monday and Tuesday, Feb 1st and 2nd, 2021, 8:30am-4:00pm.

An appointed supervisor position is also open. Candidates for this position must apply by March 31, 2021. Both elected and appointed supervisors begin their 3-year positions in May 2021.

Additional election information and appointment application procedures are available on our website at www.whidbeycd.org/elections.

Candidate Introduction

Beginning November 4th, WICD published in local papers, on our website, and through social media a call for candidate applications for the upcoming elected position. We received one declared candidate application by the filing deadline of December 11, 2020. Jennifer Abermanis has been verified as an eligible candidate and will appear on the ballot. Learn about Jennifer through her [candidate statement](#), available on our [election webpage](#). A space for undecared "write-in" candidates will also appear on the ballot.



Jennifer Abermanis is a declared candidate for WICD's elected Board Supervisor position.

Congratulations to Habitat Grant Winners

Whidbey Audubon Society created a conservation grant fund to offer grants up to \$200 for non-profit groups, gardening groups, and neighborhood organizations willing to restore or create habitat with native plants. Whidbey Audubon had fifteen inquiries about the grant program, and received seven completed applications from non-profits on the island. They recently awarded five grants, totalling \$816.75, to:

- Coupeville Farm to School
- Sunlight Shores HOA
- Upper Langley CoHousing HOA
- Good Cheer
- Whidbey Children's Theater

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to the Whidbey Audubon Society for supporting native plants!



WINTER PLANTING: Planning for tree/shrub establishment

WICD works with forest landowners to create forest stewardship plans, comply with the Designated Forest Land tax program, and provide resources on protecting and preserving forestland. If you have forest property that you'd like to manage by establishing trees and shrubs, now's the time! The best time to plant tree and shrub seedlings is December-April, when the plants are dormant. Tree seedlings are available until Dec. 30 from WICD's bare root native [plant sale](#), and through conservation district plant sales throughout the Pacific Northwest. Learn about sourcing, timing, and planting of forest seedlings in this Department of Natural Resources publication [HERE](#). Find all our forest stewardship resources [HERE](#).