



# JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## 2012 NATIVE PLANT SALE



WINTER  
2012  
EDITION

The twentieth annual Jefferson County Conservation District native plant sale is set for **Saturday, February 25th, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the **Jefferson County Fairgrounds in the Horticulture Building.**

The order form is included in this newsletter, and is also available at the office, or on our website [www.jeffersoncd.org](http://www.jeffersoncd.org).

To make certain you get the trees you want, be sure to order your trees early. *Keep in mind the district cannot guarantee that every species will be available.* If a species is unobtainable, we will issue refunds or work with you to exchange for another species.

This year we offer 37 different species including: deciduous trees and shrubs, a few ground cover plants, and many evergreen trees as well, that can help you meet native landscaping needs, provide erosion control, and provide food, shade and shelter for birds and other animals. Several new species are available this year—see the order form. We encourage you to look at our website for photos and more descriptive information on characteristics, growth habits, site preferences and best uses for all species we have available.

**Order Deadline is: Friday, February 10, 2012. Please include payment with your order.** Unfortunately we cannot accept credit cards.

All excess trees will be available for purchase on sale day. For those of you who do pre-order, expect to receive your order conformation **postcard** approximately one week

prior to the sale. To help track order pickups **please bring your postcard with you when you pick up your order.**

**DELIVERY TO QUILCENE! Pre-order pickup ONLY (no sales) will be available in Quilcene at the Community Center on Saturday, February 25th, 9 to Noon, for south county residents who have placed orders and paid for them. Be sure to indicate on the order form if you need to pick up your order in Quilcene!**

### NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP

JCCD and our partners will host a native plant workshop on **Friday, January 20, 2012 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Chimacum Grange in Chimacum.** Learn about the characteristics and benefits of the native plant species we'll have for sale, and where and how to plant them! Staff from JCCD, North Olympic Salmon Coalition, and WSU Cooperative Extension will be available to answer landscaping and plant species questions, and assist with sale ordering. The workshop is free. For more information contact the district office at 385-4105 or email us at [info@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:info@jeffersoncd.org).



*Conifer seedlings*

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### DISTRICT ELECTION DATE SET

At their special board meeting held on December 21, 2011 the Jefferson County Conservation District Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to hold the 2012 election for a full term (3 year) supervisor position on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Jakeway/Boulton Conference Room, located in the Shold Business Park in Port Hadlock at 205 W. Patison Street.

To be eligible for candidacy, or to vote, you must be a registered voter living inside the district boundary. This includes all land outside of the city limits of Port Townsend in eastern Jefferson County. Candidates must declare their interest and eligibility by completing an eligibility form and providing it to the district office by no later than February 8, by 5 p.m. In order for a candidate's name to be placed on the official ballot, they must also complete a nomination petition and submit it to the district office by Feb. 8, by 5 p.m.

Election absentee ballots must be requested by February 15th by 4 p.m.

Jefferson County Conservation District also has an appointed supervisor position term expiring this spring 2012. To apply for an appointed position, interested persons must complete an application form and send the original to the Conservation Commission by close of business on March 31, 2012.

There are five Conservation District board members who serve three-year terms. Three of the five Conservation District supervisors are locally elected, and the Washington State Conservation Commission appoints two. Supervisors set policy and direction for the district, and are public officials serving without compensation. It is preferable that candidates have a good understanding of the goals and operations of the Conservation District.

Contact the district office at 385-4105, or contact the Conservation Commission in Olympia at 360-407-6200 for more information.

## Jefferson County Agricultural Survey Coming in January 2012



To help Jefferson County agriculture producers succeed, several organizations and individuals have taken the initiative to work together under the name Citizens for Local Food (CLF).

CLF is conducting a comprehensive survey of local farmers to help identify more ways in which to connect our local farmers with local consumers, including restaurants, schools, other institutions and retail sales. The results of the survey will assist in determining what infrastructure our farmers need and can support, such as; cold storage, meat processing, and additional sales outlets. We will also use the consolidated survey results to encourage local government officials to review rules and regulations so that undue burdens are not placed on our farmers.

The survey has been reviewed and endorsed by Pete

Brackney, Wildwood Farm; Tinker Cavalaro, Dryland Farm Project; Crystie Kisler, Finnrivier Farm; Al Latham, retired Manager, Jefferson County Conservation District; Roger Short, Short's Family Farm; and, Karyn Williams, Red Dog Farm.

Farmers in the east county will be contacted personally by volunteers starting in mid-January. CLF members are: Chimacum Grange, Dick Bergeron and Diane Johnson; Count Me In for Quilcene, Linda Herzog; Jefferson County Farm to School Coalition, Al Cairns and Candice Cosler; Finnrivier Farm, Crystie Kisler; Local 20/20 Food Resiliency Action Group, Judith Alexander, Lys Burden and Richard Dandridge; Jefferson County WSU Extension, Laura Lewis and Pamela Roberts; and in partnership with Jefferson County Conservation District, East Jefferson Watershed Council and North Olympic Farm Bureau.

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### AL LATHAM RETIRES FROM DISTRICT

After 20 years as District Manager of the Jefferson County Conservation District, Al Latham retired on September 30, 2011. A retirement celebration was held Oct. 6, where many of his friends, associates and members of the community joined district staff and supervisors for a fond farewell. The Wa. State Conservation Commission also recognized Al this year with the District Manager of the Year Award for his dedication and hard work in the field of conservation. Al will be continuing his many endeavors, as you can see, one of which is zipping around on his new motorbike! (He also says he's going to catch up on Oprah re-runs!) The district board of supervisors recently appointed Al as associate supervisor, so his voice will continue to be heard on the conservation forefront. We wish you the very best Al! Thank you sincerely for your years of dedication to Jefferson CD!




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### CREP Update 2011:

In Jefferson County, There are currently **23 projects** consisting of **10.8 stream miles**, and **162 acres** planted with over **93 thousand native trees and shrubs**. The current program for CREP on the main stream channels flowing through agricultural properties, requires a minimum of a 35 foot buffer with a maximum of a 180 foot buffer. The rent received by landowners is determined by the soil type and the acreage enrolled in the program.

The first hedgerow buffer was completed this year!

NEW Practices available within the CREP program include: .....

**Hedgerow buffers** - on tributary streams to the main stream channels. These can be 15 foot buffers and still are eligible for fencing and live stock watering facilities.

**Wetland Enhancements** - and buffers for wet areas, will be eligible on land adjacent to the same reaches that are mapped for the CREP Forested Riparian Buffer Practice, but there must be a hydrological connection between the enhanced wetland and CREP-eligible stream.

**Grass Filter strips** - upstream of salmon reaches which can be combined with a planted buffer.

In addition, certain types of horticulture lands are now eligible for all CREP practices. These include orchards, berry farms, and vineyards.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is part of FSA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The Washington CREP provides incentives to restore and improve salmon and steelhead habitat on private land. It is a Federal-State partnership between FSA and the Washington Conservation Commission.

CREP is a voluntary program to improve habitat and water quality in salmon streams. The most prominent practice is restoration of a forested riparian buffer and now the three additional practices of hedgerows, grass filter strips, and wetland enhancements have been added to target water quality issues.

#### BUT, WHY PLANT TREE AND SHRUB BUFFERS??

- \*\* Traps eroded soils.
- \*\* Protects water quality by filtering pollutants.
- \*\* Reduces flood damage.
- \*\* Increases stream flows in summer.
- \*\* Provides food for fish, large and small.
- \*\* Creates habitat for wildlife.
- \*\* Shades the stream and improves water quality.
- \*\* Helps control invasive species such as Reed Canarygrass.

For more information, or for an on site visit and evaluation of your property, call the Jefferson County Conservation District or visit our web site at [jeffersoncd.org](http://jeffersoncd.org)

## Spring Rain Farm Bridge Completed

On the Spring Rain Farm, along Chimacum Creek, farm equipment and livestock had to travel through the creek to access fields on either side resulting in temporary water quality and habitat impacts. Farm owner John Bellow had to drive 2 miles to get to the other side of creek when ever he needed to work on that area of the farm. This project replaced an existing stream "ford", known as a wet crossing, with a bridge for livestock and farm equipment. The stream corridor on the farm had already been fenced and planted with native trees and shrubs through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The bridge was the next necessary step in Spring Rain Farm's efforts to improve habitat, protect water quality and reduce vehicle use.

A Dept. of Ecology Terry Huessman Account (Coastal Protection Fund) grant was awarded to Jefferson Co. Conservation District for the project. A bridge design had previously been developed, and then, modifications to the design were made by Rich Geiger PE, the engineer for Mason Conservation District.

The landowner, John Bellow, purchased a used

railcar frame as his contribution to the project costs. JCCD solicited bids for construction of the bridge abutments, setting of the railcar frame, and approach construction. The contract was awarded to Shold Excavating. Once construction was complete, the former stream ford was rendered unusable. The landowner added new bridge decking and constructed the railings. Additional funding from WA Conservation Commission grants were utilized for engineering and project management that was not covered by this DOE grant. The project was successfully completed in September 2011.



*Newly constructed Spring Rain Farm Bridge*

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## Farm Plans and Cost Sharing for Best Management Practices

Recently, Jefferson County Conservation District acquired two funding sources, grants from Dept. of Ecology and the EPA, administered through Jefferson County Environmental Health, to assist landowners in developing farm plans and implementing best management practices (BMPs) on their land. JCCD will also be presenting a series of workshops during 2012 all about managing your farm with conservation of your farm's resources in mind.



Cost share funds can be made available to qualifying landowners that develop farm plans and are in need of implementing BMPs to address concerns or issues derived from the farm plan. BMPs include practices such as gutters and downspouts, confinement areas, manure storage, watering features, and fencing livestock out of water ways. If you are interested in developing a farm plan, or if you would like technical assistance in determining your needs for BMPs, give us a call.

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## Water Quality Monitoring to Use Microbial Source Tracking

In October the District, once again, began monitoring water quality in the Chimacum watershed. In addition to the usual parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and fecal coliform bacteria, we will be doing something new called Microbial Source Tracking. Microbial Source Tracking or MST for short involves the identification of certain genes known as markers within *Bacteroides*, a genus of bacteria common in the digestive tract of warm blooded animals. The advantage of MST is due to the fact that different animal



*JCCD Water Quality Technician  
Glenn Gately*

species contain different *Bacteroides* bacteria. With that said, the laboratory methodology to differentiate between species is still evolving, and in our study we will only be able to tell the difference between humans and ruminants. Ruminants are animals that chew a cud and include cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, deer, and elk. Although the results will not be as specific as we would like, they will provide us with more information than fecal coliform alone. The MST analysis will be provided by the Environmental Protection Agency's laboratory in Port Orchard at no extra cost to the District.

In addition to the Chimacum watershed, monitoring will soon start on streams entering Hood Canal. Some of these streams have never been monitored and the baseline data obtained could prove valuable in the future. The parameters monitored in Hood Canal streams will be the same as those monitored in the Chimacum watershed with the exception of MST.





# Jefferson County Conservation District

205 W. Patison St.  
Port Hadlock, WA 98339  
www.jeffersoncd.org

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**

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*“The function of the Jefferson County Conservation District is to take available technical, financial and educational resources – whatever their source – and focus or coordinate them to meet the needs of the local land user.”*

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## Forest Land Assistance

JCCD can provide technical assistance for your forestry questions and concerns. We can help you with site-specific planning and forest health recommendations depending on your situation and needs. No parcel is too large or small for general forestland, and native vegetation, site specific management recommendations.

Site planning allows a landowner to understand and examine current resource conditions and then to develop an organized strategy for management of the site resources for a desired future condition or outcome. Contact the district office to schedule a site visit, or call us with your forest land questions.

There are also programs available to help private small landowners manage their forest lands with cost-share funds for different management activities. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has several programs that address forestry, including The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Wa. Dept. of Natural Resources Small

Forest Landowners Office also administers programs, such as the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, to replace or remove culverts that are impeding fish passage, and the Forest Riparian Easement Program, that protects forests along streams and waterways, for qualifying forests.



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Lige Christian.....732-7035  
Julie Boggs, Vice Chair.....732-4335  
John Boulton.....765-3394  
Glen Huntingford, Chair.....732-4658  
Roger Short.....732-4601

## Associate Supervisors

Dennis Shultz.....379-0338  
Mike McFadden.....765-3312  
Al Latham.....732-4607

## District Staff

District Manager—Rosie Taylor  
Glenn Gately—Water Quality Technician  
Jerry Clarke—CREP Planner/Resource Specialist

## NRCS Resource Conservationist

Jim Poffel—360-452-1912, ext. 3

*Jefferson County Conservation District office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office is located in the Shold Business Park, (just off Rhody Dr.) in Port Hadlock.*

*Contact us at the address above or: 360-385-4105*

**[www.jeffersoncd.org](http://www.jeffersoncd.org)**

*[info@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:info@jeffersoncd.org)*