



JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013

2013 NATIVE PLANT SALE

Trees and Shrubs for Wildlife and Conservation

The twentieth annual Jefferson County Conservation District native plant sale is set for **Saturday, February 23th, 2013 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.

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 27 different species including: deciduous trees and shrubs, a few ground cover plants, and many evergreen trees as well, that can help you meet 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 15th, 2013. 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 23th, 10:00 a.m. 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!

DISTRICT ELECTION DATE SET

At the regular board meeting held on January 2, 2013, the Jefferson County Conservation District Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to hold the 2013 election for a full term (3 year) supervisor position on March 6, 2013 from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the JCCD 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 no later than February 6, 2013 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

NATIVE PLANT and BUFFER WORKSHOPS PLANNED!

JCCD and our partners will host a native plant workshop on **Friday, January 11, 2013 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Chimacum Grange Hall, in Chimacum, WA.** 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.



WSU Cooperative Extension will be hosting another free workshop for those of you that live on or near a critical area or buffer. "Living on the Edge—Protection for People, Property, and Habitat" You will learn about different types of critical areas and how to best manage the buffers around them. Topics covered include how to use your buffer area without harming it or yourself, the role of native plants, tips on removing noxious weeds, how to enhance or restore a buffer, how to encourage birds and wildlife, and what resources are available to homeowners. The workshop will be Jan. 31st from 12:30 to 4 p.m. at the Tri-Area Community Center in Chimacum. Reserve your space by contacting Darcy at 360-379-5610 ext. 222, or email darcym@wsu.edu.

and submit it to the district office by February 6, 2013 by 5 p.m.

Election absentee ballots must be requested by February 8, 2013, no later than 4 p.m.

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



SALMON BIOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE QUILCENE SCHOOL

Sometimes things just come together. That happened this past fall at the Quilcene School. It started when Glenn Gately, JCCD’s water quality technician, got a call from a film maker in California making a salmon documentary. The producer was looking for someone to steer his videographer to the right places at the right times to video salmon in their various life stages. One of those stages, often overlooked, is at the very beginning – the egg. Having a salmon hatchery right down the road proved to be an added bonus! All that was needed was a high definition (HD) camcorder and the expertise to go along with it. Enter 4-H. It just so happened that 4-H had both. The 4-H Technology Club had a HD camcorder and met right in the Quilcene School. Glenn contacted Quilcene National Fish Hatchery Manager Ron Wong just when returning coho were knocking on the hatchery door. Soon, two baskets of fertilized eggs were waiting to be videoed. Next, came Dan Spencer. Dan works for the US Fish and Wildlife Service out of Lacey and part of his job is environmental education or more specifically salmon biology. He had some grant money tagged for an aquarium and chiller and was looking for a school to place them in.

What better place than the Quilcene School! The same day they were fertilized, Dan stocked the aquarium with coho eggs. Since then, the kids have been observing developing embryonic salmon through the translucent eggshell membrane. Now, two months later, the eggs have hatched and the alevins or sac fry are on the loose. Dan and Glenn are also helping out in the class rooms with some instruction on salmon biology and water quality. Sometimes things just come together!



Above, 4-H member J T Lont videos coho salmon eggs as Teacher Ginny Beard observes.

CREP Stream Restoration

CREP: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This program provides incentives to land owners to restore and improve fish habitat on private land.

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 livestock 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.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is part of FSA’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). It is a Federal-State partnership between FSA and the Washington Conservation Commission.



At left, an 11 year old Cottonwood tree in a CREP buffer, felled by beaver.

BUT, WHY PLANT TREE AND SHRUB BUFFERS??

- ** 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 jeffersoned.org

Beaver! They continue to be a challenge for some restoration projects. “Plant it and they WILL come!” Depending on the site and the landowners tolerance level for the beaver, JCCD is assessing project areas to know which method of beaver control will work best for each situation. Methods include installing “beaver deceivers” (pipe through dam) or beaver pond levelers to help alleviate flooding, tree wraps to keep beaver from felling the trees, and of course, physical removal.



Above right, a Beaver Deceiver pipe allows water to pass through the dam, but the beaver is “deceived” into thinking the water level of his pond is not changing.

Fecal Coliform Monitoring

District personnel monitored water quality in the Chimacum and Hood Canal watersheds from October 2011 to September 2012. We sent monthly fecal coliform (FC) reports to interested landowners along the streams monitored. The fecal coliform bacteria standard, set by Washington Department of Ecology, has two parts; both parts must be met in order to pass the standard. Part 1 states that the geometric mean value (average) should not exceed 50 FC/100 milliliters (mL). Part 2 states that not more than 10 percent of the samples should exceed 100 FC/100 mL.

In the Chimacum watershed 16 of the 28 stations monitored met Part 1 of the standard, but only 4 stations met Part 2 so that 24 stations failed the standard. Streams in the Hood Canal watershed fared much better with only 3 of the 18 stations failing the standard.

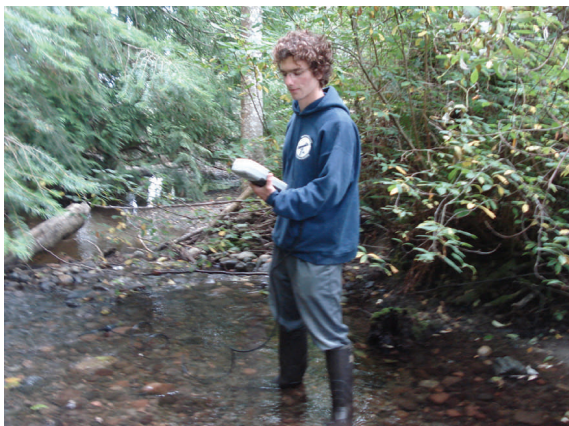
Ecology has a range of standards for different streams within the state. All of the streams in Jefferson County are required to meet the most stringent (termed “extraordinary”) of Ecology’s standards. The next step down, formerly termed “excellent,” requires the geometric mean not to exceed 100 FC/100 mL (Part 1) and not more than 10 percent to exceed 200 FC/200 mL (Part 2). If compared to this standard, 20 of the 28 stations would fail the standard – not a huge improvement.

Fecal coliform bacteria originate in the gastro-intestinal tracts of humans and warm-blooded animals including birds. Fecal coliform analysis does not differentiate between the two. However, this time we did some additional testing that will help identify pollutant sources in the Chimacum watershed. Under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant, we were able to send samples to the EPA laboratory where they performed DNA analysis on *Bacteroides* spp., another group of bacteria

which live in the gastro-intestinal tracts of humans and warm-blooded animals. The advantage of identifying these bacteria is that each host animal carries a specific kind of *Bacteroides*. Results from the EPA lab will allow us to differentiate between three possible sources: human, ruminant, and “other.” Ruminants include cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, elk, and deer; “other” could be any animal (including birds) except human and ruminant. Although still not as specific as we would like, the results may help us to some degree. Results from EPA are due by the end of January 2013 and will be incorporated into the District’s final report, which will be put on our web site, jeffersoncd.org.

So why should we be concerned about bacteria in the stream anyway? The answer is for our health. Fecal coliform bacteria serve as an indicator of potential pathogens originating from the feces of humans and warm-blooded animals. The rationale is that an increase in the bacteria’s concentration corresponds to an increased probability of the presence of pathogens. The higher the concentration of fecal coliform, the greater will be the chance for disease.

Our health can be affected by the ingestion of contaminated water or by the consumption of filter-feeding shellfish, which concentrate pathogens present in the water. It was outbreaks of shellfish-associated diseases 90 years ago, especially typhoid fever, which prompted the formation of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP). Under this program, fecal coliform monitoring was initiated.



Visiting student Adriane Carcione monitors temperature, pH, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen on a Hood Canal stream.



Volunteer Mike Tobias records data on a typical sunny water quality monitoring day!



Jefferson County Conservation District
 205 W. Patison St.
 Port Hadlock, WA 98339
 www.jeffersoncd.org

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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."

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 other programs available: 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. Call JCCD office for assistance.

*Western Washington Forest Stewardship Coached Planning will be available Online Wednesdays from Jan 16 to Feb 27, 6:00pm to 9:00pm at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/CP13Online.htm>

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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 Julie Boggs, Vice Chair.....732-4335
 John Boulton.....765-3394
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 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
info@jeffersoncd.org