



# JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WINTER 2023/2024 NEWSLETTER

## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

It's been another year of big changes here at the conservation district. Marrowstone Island resident George Sibley stepped up to fill the remaining year on a long-vacant board position. Recently retired from a career with the Foreign Service, George brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the district. Shortly after George's appointment, long-time board member Lige Christian decided to hang it up, leaving us with another vacancy on the board. Lige contributed 22 years of volunteer service to the district. Thank you, Lige! This past summer, office manager Tracy Kier retired after over ten years of dedicated service to the district. Jessica Brittain has aptly taken over the district's bookkeeping duties, among other administrative tasks.

After months of delays, we finally got a contract approved with the Jefferson County Public & Environmental Health to lead an effort to develop a strategic plan for the Chimacum watershed, focusing on drainage and flooding issues (see related article below). That same contract will fund ongoing water quality monitoring in the Chimacum watershed. And as you've probably heard, changes are afoot in the Chimacum Valley with the Port of Port Townsend's acquisition of the Short Family Farm. Al Latham, JCCD board chair, will serve on the farm steering committee to help the Port develop a farm plan for the 253-acre property. And, we have several cost-share projects underway, which landowners will complete over the next year and a half. These include planting, fencing, and roof runoff catchment, to name a few.

We were recently awarded a Riparian Plant Propagation Program grant from the Washington State Conservation Commission. We are partnering with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) to improve and expand their native plant nursery in Chimacum, greatly increasing its capacity. As part of this project, conservation planner Sierra Young will also work alongside NOSC staff to support their Real Learning Real Work program with 7th-grade students implementing restoration on the ground at Snow Creek.

District Manager Joe Holtrop is serving on a Jefferson County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) committee, which once adopted, will identify specific wildland fire risks facing communities and neighborhoods and provide prioritized recommendations to reduce those risks. With funding from a new forestry grant, we will play a role in implementing the CWPP by providing landowners with technical assistance for fuels reduction and fire-resistant landscaping choices. That same grant will support other forestry outreach, education, and technical assistance, including technical assistance from Mason Conservation District foresters. They are available to conduct site visits and to assist forest landowners with development of forest management plans.

— Al Latham



Volunteers plant trees to restore a wetland



Jessica Brittain, Office Coordinator/Bookkeeper

# Chimacum Watershed Management and Improvement Plan

We are leading a planning effort for the Chimacum watershed that will focus on the drainage and flooding issues. The goal is to work with the community to identify problems and potential solutions, as well as habitat enhancement opportunities. Once the problems and solutions have been articulated, we will be able to estimate the costs and potential funding sources. We anticipate that many problems will need to be addressed through regular and ongoing maintenance, throughout the drainage system, such as management of invasive vegetation (primarily reed canarygrass) and beaver dams. Instream and wetland habitat restoration and enhancement opportunities will also be explored.

This planning effort is happening in conjunction with two community engagement processes in the watershed. The County is leading a process to determine whether the Chimacum Drainage District should be reactivated or dissolved. It is expected that our planning process will help inform that decision-making process. Meanwhile, the Port of Port Townsend, with assistance from University of Washington Urban Planning master's students, will conduct a planning process for the Short Family Farm, which was recently purchased by the Port. Our hope is that this process will serve as a very tangible example of problems and solutions found throughout the watershed.

The goal is to complete all three processes by August of 2024. We plan to post information on our watershed planning process on our website in the next few months.



Chimacum Creek obscured by reed canarygrass

## Water Quality Monitoring

In 2023, the report Microbial Source Tracking in the Chimacum Creek Watershed was completed. In 2021-22, 19 stations were monitored for *E. coli* bacteria and DNA markers specific to cattle and humans. Samples were collected in four wet months and four dry months. *E. coli* failed the state standard at four stations in the wet months and at eleven stations in the dry months. *E. coli* concentration was positively correlated to water temperature (*E. coli* concentrations increased with water temperatures). Human DNA markers occurred 2-3 times more frequently than cattle markers. This report and other water quality reports are available on the District website at <https://www.jeffersoncd.org/resources-database/water-quality>. In October of this year, the District and Jefferson County Environmental Health began a two-year study of *E. coli* in the Chimacum Watershed.

## Project Re-Cap



Roof runoff structure with gutters and cisterns

Much of our project-based work at the district is funded through Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) grants. June marked the end of a two-year grant cycle that included roof runoff collection projects totaling 12,000 gallons of rainwater storage, hedgerow plantings totaling nearly 3,000 trees and shrubs, and livestock exclusion fencing to project approximately 3,000 feet of stream. Through the WSCC Salmon Recovery Funding Riparian Restoration grant, the District funded the planting of 44,000 trees and live stakes on 22 acres and invasive vegetation management on 12 acres of riparian wetlands in the Tarboo Creek watershed for salmon habitat improvement. Through this project the Northwest Watershed Institute engaged volunteers of all ages, including several school groups.





*Philadelphus lewisii*

## NATIVE PLANT SALE

Through our plant sale last year, we got over 12,000 native trees and shrubs into the community where they will provide wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration, while adding beauty to our landscape.

Our [online store](#) will be open until **November 30<sup>th</sup>**, while supplies last for this year's sale. We continue to do all online sales with a credit or debit card. Plant pick-up is February 24, 2024. There will be no in-person sales on pick-up day. Just drive up and we'll put your order right into your car. Details about plant offerings and pricing are posted on our [website](#). We have 30 species to choose from, including a handful of new species in

stock this year! Be sure to place your order early to ensure the best species selection. Based on exceptionally high demand last year, we have many more evergreen huckleberry, Pacific rhododendron, and Pacific dogwood available this year. We are open to customer feedback. While we cannot guarantee specific plant selection, we do consider your suggestions, so let us know if there is a species you'd like to see offered in the future: [young@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:young@jeffersoncd.org).

## NATIVE PLANT SALE WORKSHOPS

To help you prepare your plant order and properly care for your new plants, we're offering a two-part workshop series on native plants. Workshop #1 focuses on how to select the right plants for your site. Workshop #2 is about how to care for and plant bare-root trees and shrubs. There is no cost to attend, but due to space limitations, we ask that you [register](#).

### Workshop #1: Selecting the Right Plants for Your Site

**When:** November 15, 2023 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm

**Where:** Jefferson County Library, 620 Cedar Avenue, Port Hadlock.

### Workshop #2: Bare-Root Plant Care and Planting

**When:** January 17, 2024 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm

**Where:** Jefferson County Library, 620 Cedar Avenue, Port Hadlock.

## SPRING NATURAL LANDSCAPING COURSE

Conservation district manager Joe Holtrop offered a Natural Landscaping Course last spring and recently concluded the course this fall. If you're looking for in-depth instruction about how to design, install, and maintain a sustainable landscape, consider signing up for our Spring Natural Landscaping Course. Two separate courses will be offered. A course with classes in Port Hadlock will emphasize large lot landscaping, while one in Port Townsend will have a more urban focus.

Holtrop will teach participants how to analyze the unique ecological conditions of their properties and develop site-specific landscape plans designed to meet homeowner needs while being in harmony with the environment. Holtrop, who holds master's degrees in landscape architecture and adult education, has been teaching about sustainable landscaping for over 30 years. In addition to his formal education, he draws on his permaculture design training and experience, emphasizing the principle of working with rather than against nature.

Both courses are planned for April. Registration information will be available online in early 2024. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Registration for Jefferson County Conservation District educational events is available online at [jeffersoncd.org](http://jeffersoncd.org). For more information, contact Jefferson County Conservation District at [jholtrop@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:jholtrop@jeffersoncd.org) or 360-554-8066.



*Lonicera involucrata*

# 2024 CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR ELECTION and APPOINTMENT

Each conservation district in Washington is governed by a board of five members, called *supervisors*. Three are elected registered voters in the district, and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). Supervisors set policy and direction for the district and serve without compensation.

**An election with no in-person voting** will be held for the 2024 Jefferson County Conservation District election. The term of elected supervisor George Sibley expires in May 2024.

Below are details for filing for the Jefferson County Conservation District position of elected supervisor, as well as details for how to vote. **All election-related correspondence, inquiries, and requests for assistance or special accommodations should be directed to Election Supervisor Jessica Brittain by email at [jbrittain@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:jbrittain@jeffersoncd.org), by telephone at 360-385-4105, or by mail at 205C W Patison Street, Port Hadlock, Washington, 98339.** The district office is currently open to the public by appointment only.

## **INTERESTED CANDIDATES – FILING DEADLINE 4:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 2, 2024**

Interested candidates must be registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the district, which includes all of Jefferson County. If you are interested in running for this elected position, see the [WSCC Guide to Elections for Conservation District Candidates](#). To learn about conservation district supervisor responsibilities, [click here](#).

Interested Candidates must file the required *“Candidate Information for the Office of Elected Supervisor”* form with the district on or before 5:00 p.m. (PST) on February 2, 2024. To access the WSCC Form PF-A *“Candidate Information for the Office of Elected Supervisor,”* [click here](#). If you are unable to access or print the required paperwork, please contact district Election Supervisor Jessica Brittain.

## **ELIGIBLE VOTERS and BALLOTS**

Eligible voters are Jefferson County registered voters. Ballots can be requested by contacting Election Supervisor Jessica Brittain. Ballots can be requested from the Election Supervisor and obtained either by mail or at the office. Ballots will be mailed to requestors during the week of February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Completed ballots must be received by the district, either by mail or hand delivery to the drop-off ballot box located outside the office, on or before 5:00 p.m. (PST) on March 5, 2024.** The district mailing address is Jefferson County Conservation District, 205 W Patison Street, Port Hadlock, Washington, 98339. No in-person voting will occur.

## **ELECTION PROCEDURES**

Election procedures and rules can be found in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) [Chapter 135-110](#). They can also be requested by contacting Election Supervisor Jessica Brittain. Additional conservation district election information can be found on the [WSCC website](#).

## **APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES**

The appointed term of one vacant position expires in May 2024. Applicants for appointed positions must be registered voters in Washington State; however, applicants for appointed positions do not have to reside within the District. For more information, or to complete an application, applicants can visit the WSCC website <http://scc.wa.gov/>. Applications for appointed positions must be received by the WSCC on or before March 31, 2024. The published appointment procedures can be viewed at the District office located at 205 W Patison Street in Port Hadlock, Washington, and are available from the WSCC at <http://scc.wa.gov/>.

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Al Latham, Chair  
Julie Boggs, Vice-Chair  
Laurie Hannan, Interim Auditor  
George Sibley, Member  
Vacant, Member

### **ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR**

Erik Kingfisher

### **DISTRICT STAFF**

District Manager: Joe Holtrop  
Office Coordinator/Bookkeeper: Jessica Brittain  
Fisheries Biologist/Habitat Specialist: Glenn Gately  
Conservation Planner: Sierra Young

### **Contact Us**

Please email: [info@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:info@jeffersoncd.org)  
or Call: 360-385-4105

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Find us at Jefferson County, WA  
Conservation  
District.