



JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

2015 NATIVE PLANT SALE

Trees and Shrubs for Wildlife and Conservation

The twenty first annual Jefferson County Conservation District native plant sale is set for **Saturday, February 21st, 2015 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 specie.

This year we offer 33 different species including: conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs, and evergreen shrubs, that can help you meet landscaping needs, provide erosion control, and provide food, shade and shelter for birds and other animals. This year we are offering plants in bundles of 5 with a minimum of 2 bundles per order. Several new species are available this year. 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.

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 pick-ups **please bring your postcard with you when you come by the Fairgrounds to pick up your order.**

Order Deadline is: Friday, February 13th, 2015 Please include payment with your order. Note: we cannot accept credit cards.

DELIVERY TO QUILCENE! Pre-order pickup ONLY (no sales) available in Quilcene at the Community Center on Saturday, February 21st, 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!

NATIVE PLANT and BUFFER WORKSHOPS PLANNED!

JCCD and our partners will host a FREE native plant workshop on **Friday, January 16, 2015 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, along with native plant experts, will be available to answer landscaping and plant species questions, and assist with sale ordering. Join us for the fun event!. For more information contact the district office at 385-4105 or email us at info@jeffersoncd.org.



Jefferson County Conservation District looks forward to hosting a series of educational workshops in 2015. This year we will be offering workshops on Native Plants, Soils, Composting, Invasive Weed identification and management, Pasture Grass identification and management, and Water Quality in the Chimacum Watershed. **Check our website for details or contact** us at 360-385-4105, or by email at info@jeffersoncd.org.

2015 District Election and Appointment



"NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a poll-site election for a Board seat on the Jefferson County Conservation District will be held on March 4, 2015, at 205 W Patison Street, Port Hadlock, Washington. Polls will open at 3:00 p.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Registered voters who reside within the Conservation District boundary are eligible to vote. Candidates must be registered voters residing in the Conservation District. The candidate filing deadline is February 4, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. Elections procedures are available at the District Office. Absentee ballots are available upon request for eligible voters, but must be requested on or before 4:00 p.m. on February 11, 2015. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a Board seat on the Jefferson County Conservation District is available for appointment by the Washington State Conservation Commission. Conservation District Board Supervisors are public officials who serve without compensation and set policy and direction for the Conservation District. An applicant must be a registered voter in Washington State. Applicants for appointed positions do not have to live within the District to apply.

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.

To obtain an application form and/or absentee ballot, please contact the Jefferson County Conservation District or visit the Conservation Commission website at <http://www.scc.wa.gov/>. Applications and supporting materials must be received by the Commission no later than March 31, 2015.

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

WHAT IS NEW AT THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

Salmon habitat enhancement project in Quilcene is complete!



The District worked with Serendipity Farm to create a channel to direct winter overland flow to protect salmon from being stranded in the field. Fencing protects the wetland and all water bodies from livestock access to the water to improve water quality for shellfish. In March, we will be planting a riparian buffer through the CREP program to provide shade and habitat along all water bodies. A fish passage barrier culvert was removed and a new livestock bridge installed. Salmon were seen in the new channel within two weeks of the project completion and Red Tail Hawks are already using the raptor poles! Build it and they will come. Thank you to the Conservation Commission, EPA and DOE for financing the project.

Ness' Corner Beaver Deceiver Flood Control Project



You may have noticed that the flooding at Ness' Corner on SR 116 has gone down by over a foot. This is a result of a joint project between WADOT and JCCD. Beaver expert, Benjamin Dittbrenner, assisted us in installing two pond levelers on downstream beaver dams and a culvert protection fence on the upstream side of SR 116. These devices keep water moving, even when the beaver build dams there and they are designed to allow for fish passage, which is sometimes blocked by the dams (especially at a culvert). Thanks DOT and the CREP program for working with us to address the issue of beaver related flooding and fish passage blockage!

Check out our new website at: www.jeffersoncd.org!

SERVICES THE DISTRICT OFFERS

CREP: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This program provides incentives to landowners to restore and improve fish habitat on private land. New practices in CREP include Hedgerow buffers, Wetland enhancements, and Grass filter strips.

FORESTRY: Information and on site discussion about your forested property is available. Programs available include EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the FFFPP Family Forest Fish Passage Program.

NATIVE PLANTS: Information and assistance available for selection and use of native plants in landscaping and site restoration.

FARM PLANNING: Site visits, mud and manure management, noxious weed control, water management information and detailed planning available.

COST SHARE: The District manages cost share programs to help landowners install practices on their land that protect water quality.

SOIL TESTING: The Conservation District offers soil testing for \$25.00 per sample. Please call for more information and details on this program.

Contact us at (360) 385-4105 or info@jeffersoncd.org for more information.

WHAT'S COMING UP THIS YEAR?

We are developing **comprehensive water quality reports** on the Chimacum Creek, Discovery Bay and Hood Canal watersheds. These reports will compile, analyze, and explain over 20 years of JCCD water quality monitoring and fish trapping. Check our website for these reports, as they are completed.

We are looking forward to doing a number of new **Farm Plans**. A farm plan is a cooperative, coached process with a JCCD technical assistant to assist you in identifying resource concerns such as increased productivity, better pasture quality, mud and manure management, roof water run-off diversion, efficient energy usage, fencing and more. The District is often able to provide cost-share for on-farm and habitat improvements. The farm plan process is free of charge.

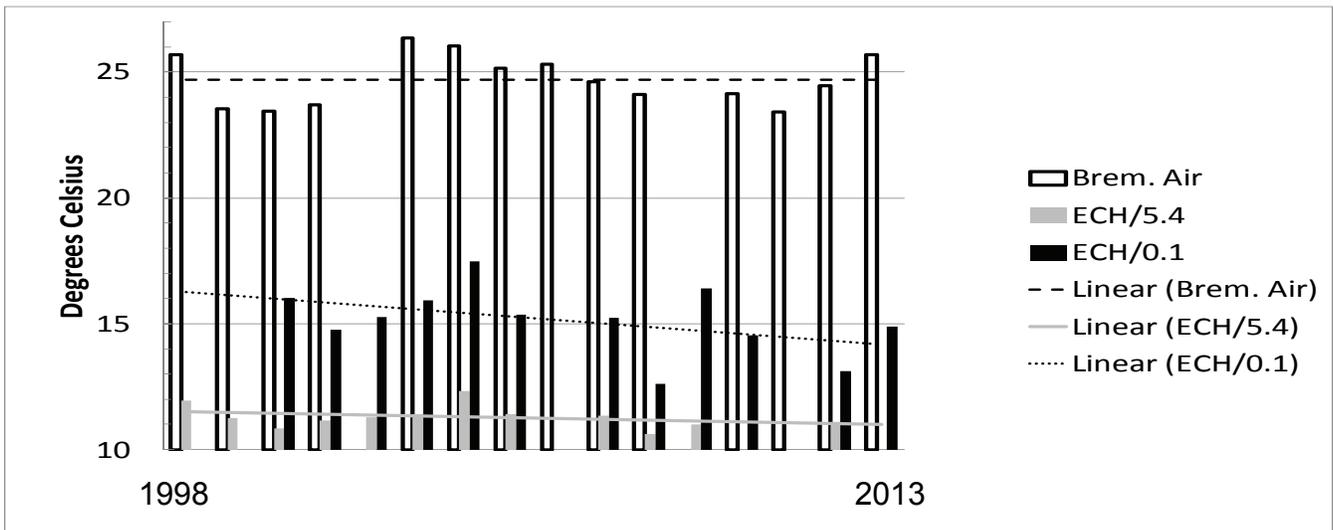
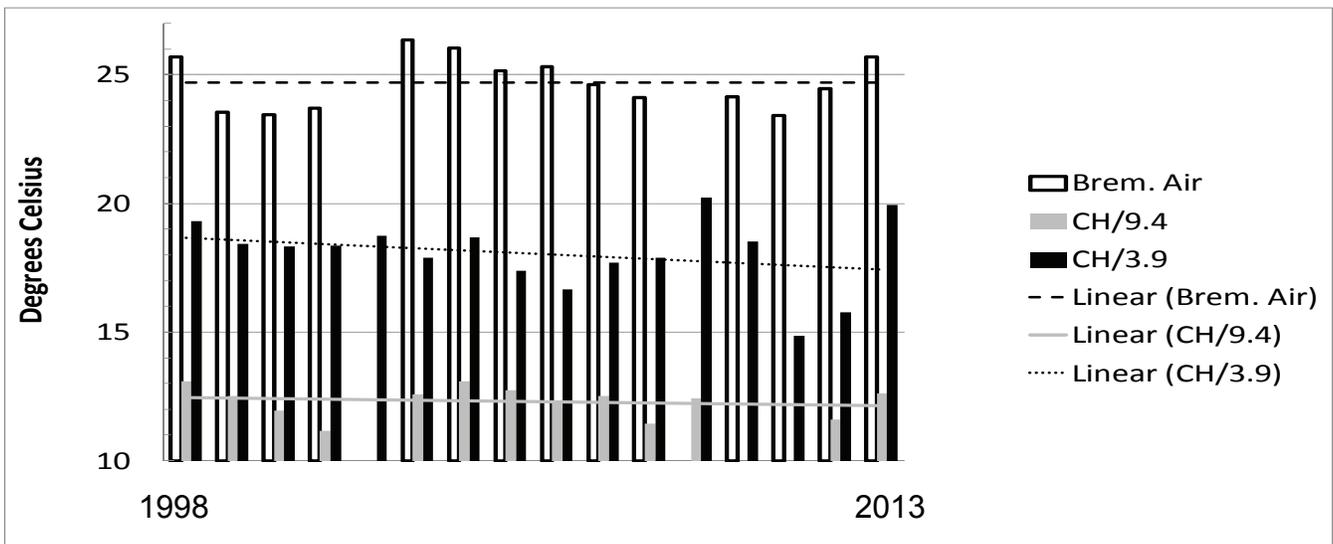
We have a number of **CREP** (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) projects in the works. CREP is a great way to protect water bodies on your property while providing wildlife habitat, salmon habitat enhancement and shellfish.

We are excited to be partnering with the 11 other conservation districts in the Puget Sound region to collaborate on regional-wide projects for a greater impact on improving Puget Sound and its upland tributaries. Conservation Districts are a great resource for private landowners and others in achieving natural resource and farm productivity goals.

Water Temperature in Chimacum Creek: Signs of Success!

After years of planting trees along the banks of Chimacum Creek, we are beginning to see measureable downward trends in water temperature. As in many watersheds in western Washington during the pioneering years, much of Chimacum Creek's soil-rich floodplains were cleared of trees all the way to the stream's edge. And as is occurring in many watersheds in recent years, stream buffers are being planted with a variety of native deciduous and coniferous trees.

The District has been monitoring water temperature in Chimacum Creek since 1998. Temperature data loggers record the temperature every hour. The graphs below show the average of the daily high temperatures for the 62-day period in July and August from 1998 to 2013. The graph at the top is for station CH/3.9 located downstream from 5.5 miles of agricultural land, where several restoration projects have taken place over the years. The graph at the bottom is for station ECH/0.1 near the mouth of the East Fork of Chimacum Creek.



Since no two summers are alike when it comes to temperature and water temperature is directly related to air temperature, we need to take that variability into account in determining trends. To do this, we compare the water temperature trends (dotted lines) to the air temperature trend at the weather station in Bremerton (dashed lines) and to water temperatures measured at upstream stations (solid lines) located in mature forests which have fully shaded the streams' upper reaches throughout the entire monitoring period. The air temperature trend in Bremerton was flat over the 15-year monitoring period. Very slight downward trends were observed in the two upstream control stations in the forests. In comparison, temperature decreased about 1°C in Chimacum Creek and 2°C in East Chimacum Creek. For those used to thinking in Fahrenheit, that is 1.8°F and 3.6°F. As the newly planted trees continue to grow, we should see greater gains as time roles on.



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."

Notes & Resources

JCCD provides technical assistance for forestry questions and concerns. We can help with site-specific planning and forest health recommendations depending on each 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 Washington 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.

Soil testing is provided at cost (\$25 per sample). Knowing your soil is a critical first step in maintaining healthy plants of any type.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Lige Christian..... 732-7035
 Julie Boggs.....732-4335
 Mike Mcfadden, Vice-Chair.....765-3312
 Glen Huntingford.....732-4658
 Roger Short, Chair.....732-4601

Associate Supervisors

Al Latham.....732-4607
 John Boulton.....765-3394

District Staff

Dana Ecelberger—District Manager/Farm Planner
 Glenn Gately—Water Quality Technician
 Jerry Clarke—Conservation Planner/Resource Specialist
 Tracy Kier— Office & Financial Manager
 Craig Shrader—Technical Assistant

Jefferson County Conservation District office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. 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