

Watershed Wise

MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Special Plant Sale Issue



Native Snowberry blossoms.

Inside This Issue:

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- Partnerships in Restoration
- Stormwater Superstars
- 2010 Census, Be Counted

Conservation Corner

2010 DISTRICT ELECTION

Mason Conservation District's Board Member election is coming up this spring. The district is governed by a five member Volunteer Board consisting of local Mason County landowners. Three of the board positions are elected and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission, an agency that supports conservation district activities in Washington State. The next Commission appointment to the Mason Conservation District Board will take place in April 2010, and the next elected position will be filled in February 2010. Mason Conservation District elections occur annually during the first quarter of each calendar year, as required under RCW 89.08.



Board and staff annual retreat at Truman Click Park.

Mason Conservation District will conduct an election for one Board position on February 20, 2010 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the District office. The position is currently held by Duane Phinney

of Hoodspport, who is a retired fisheries biologist. Local residents interested in seeking election to this volunteer position should contact the District to be placed on the February ballot. Successful candidates serve a three-year term as a District Board member. To be eligible, a candidate must occupy land and be a qualified county elector and registered voter within the conservation district boundaries. This would include all residents of Mason County outside the incorporated boundaries of the City of Shelton. A candidate may also qualify through the possession of land within the district as an owner, lessee, renter or tenant. Individuals interested in these positions must pick up a nomination petition at the District office at 450 W Business Park Road, Shelton, WA 98584. Petitions must be returned to the District by January 22nd for a candidate to be placed on the ballot.

Conservation districts are subdivisions of state government directed by a volunteer board that represents landowners while directing the efforts of a paid staff. The staff provides technical assistance on natural resource issues for Mason County landowners. Board members identify local natural resource needs, set goals and direct the efforts of the staff to implement Best Management Practices designed to protect soil, water, wildlife and other renewable natural resources.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting John Bolender at (360) 427-9436, Ext. 21 or email at jbolender@masoncd.org.

John Bolender
District Manager

2010 Annual Plant Sale

Mason Conservation District promotes the use of native plants and strives to provide you with a variety of high quality, affordable bare-root and small potted plants. We are now taking orders for the 20th Annual Plant Sale through January 15th. These plants are all suitable for conservation purposes such as wildlife habitat, streambank stabilization, and erosion control, as well as for landscaping around homes and farms. They are proven growers in our variable climatic conditions and have been selected because of their beauty and adaptability to most growing conditions. Most plants come in bundles of 10 except for our potted plants. This is for ease of handling and simplicity in filling orders. Look for the order form in the middle of this newsletter.

Landscape with Native Plants

Would you like ideas for your home landscape?

We can help! Mason Conservation District offers:

- Free landscape plans for planting projects near critical areas including wetlands, creeks, streams and marine shorelines.
- Financial assistance for restoration projects near critical areas funded through grants from the Department of Ecology and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- Plant recommendations for managing slopes, septic drain fields, stormwater, and other special sites.

CALL us for free planting plans, information and ideas!

Mason Conservation District (360) 427-9436 Ext. 13



MCD Staff

Dan Blatt - Engineering Technician
Stephanie Bishop - Education & Outreach Coordinator
John Bolender - District Manager
Seth Book - Environmental Specialist
Ron Cummings - Environmental Specialist
Keith Dublanica - Environmental Specialist
Rich Geiger - District Engineer
Gavin Glore - Engineering Technician
Linda Gott - Treasurer
Amy Hatch-Winecka - WRIA 14 Lead Entity Coordinator
Karin Strelhoff - Environmental Specialist
Jen Thurman-Williams - Environmental Specialist
Kirsten Workman - Small Farms Educator

District Board of Supervisors

Gary Schuyten, Mark Biser, Duane Phinney,
Michelle McCallum, Adam James

Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail 2009

The 2009 season of the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail opened on Halloween day this year and ran through November 29th. During this time a total of 4,700 people visited the trail to view this prolific chum salmon run and watch their unique spawning behavior. In addition, this popular interpretive salmon trail served as an outdoor classroom to more than 2,500 students from Mason, Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties ranging in age from preschool through college.

As always, volunteer docents are the backbone to this program, and one of the key reasons for its success. This year 41 docents served as trail guides during the week, educating the public about salmon and their habitat. Docents are trained annually, and this year Larry Dominguez, faculty member at The Evergreen State College, led the training on salmon biology. At this year's training docents also observed a salmon dissection, learned about the shellfish in Oyster Bay, and about continuing salmon restoration work in the Totten/Little Skookum Watershed.



The Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail is a unique partnership between Mason Conservation District, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Taylor Shellfish, Green Diamond Resource Company, and the Squaxin Island Tribe. This year Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail was featured in the November/December issue of the National Geographic Traveler. For more information on how to be a docent at Kennedy Creek, to find out how you can support the trail, or to obtain other information regarding the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail, please contact Stephanie Bishop at (360) 427-9436, Ext. 13 or stephanie@masoncd.org.

Partnerships in Restoration

Mason Conservation District has helped implement Phase One of the Ohop Creek restoration, a tributary to the Nisqually River. This is the largest salmon habitat restoration project in the South Sound. This project involved creating a new channel and installing more than 30 large woody debris structures during late summer and early fall of 2009. Dan Blatt and Keith Dublanica provided construction oversight on behalf of the District through a contract with the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

This project resulted in nearly a mile of re-vegetated banks along the new creek channel on land owned by the Nisqually Land Trust. Phase Two will tie the new channel into the existing Ohop Creek next summer. Other partners included the Nisqually Indian Tribe, NRCS, Pierce Conservation District, Washington Conservation Corp, Entrix Environmental Consultants and RV Construction out of Gig Harbor.



Is Your Farm Ready for Winter?

Follow these simple tips to help your horse or livestock property prepare for the wet winter ahead!

- Bring in footing material for paddocks, confinement areas and other high traffic areas. Hogfuel or gravel work well for these well used spaces.
- Begin a manure management program if you haven't already. All manure should be collected at least every 3 days throughout the winter in high traffic areas. Mason Conservation District can help you plan for this if needed.
- Tarp your manure piles to keep nutrients in the compost and out of local streams and waterways.
- Check gutters and downspouts. Clean, properly functioning gutters and downspouts will reduce mud on your property and make daily chores easier.
- Reroute surface water runoff. Runoff from driveways, parking areas & hills can create problems with mud management.
- Bring animals in off pasture.
- Provide shelter for animals to protect them from wind, freezing temperatures and driving rain.
- Set up a water supply that won't freeze or get icy.

Other great tips are available at www.horsesforcleanwater.org

[Interested in a Manure Exchange?](#)

Mason Conservation District is working with local livestock owners to create a manure exchange list. The goal of this program is to help small farmers offload the excess manure on their site by matching them with local gardeners interested in this nutrient rich material for their own use. If you are interested in participating in this program, give us a call!

2010 Native Plant Sale

Plant Descriptions

TREES

Douglas-fir - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

90 to 200 feet tall. Fast growing conifer. Grows well on dry to moist sites with sun to part shade.

Giant Sequoia - *Sequoia giganteum*

150 to 200 feet tall. The world's largest & most massive trees. Grows well in moist areas with deep, rich soils. Excellent ornamental.

Grand Fir - *Abies grandis*

240 feet tall. Glossy, dark green to bright green needles. Grows in dry to moist conditions and is a shade tolerant species.

Shore Pine - *Pinus contorta*

200 feet tall. Fast growing tree with bluish-green foliage and drooping branches. It grows well in moist, well drained soils.

Western Red Cedar - *Thuja plicata*

60 to 100 feet tall. Lustrous dark green foliage. May be planted under existing canopies on moist sites. Vigorous growing, ornamental tree.

Black Cottonwood - *Populus trichocarpa*

200 feet tall. Very fast growing deciduous tree. Grows well along river and streambanks, lakeshores and forested wetlands.

Bigleaf Maple - *Acer macrophyllum*

40 to 95 feet tall. Bright yellow fall color. Fast growing shade tree that grows well in dry to moist sites.

Douglas Maple - *Acer glabrum*

To 35 feet tall. Multi-stemmed small tree or large deciduous native shrub. Prefers dry sites, sun or shade. Leaves are wine-red in fall. Has excellent soil binding, erosion control capabilities.

Oregon Ash - *Fraxinus latifolia*

40 to 80 feet tall. A deciduous tree that grows best in wet or saturated soils and prefers full sun to partial shade. Provides nesting sites and cover for birds, deer, elk and beavers.

Paper Birch - *Betula papyrifera*

80 feet tall. Smooth white bark that peels in layers. Beautiful golden fall color. Grows well in wet areas but does not like shade.

Red Alder - *Alnus rubra*

30 to 120 feet tall. Fast growing, highly adaptable deciduous tree that is useful for stabilizing disturbed soils and revegetating nutrient-poor soils. Provides food and cover for birds, butterfly caterpillars and other wildlife. Full sun to partial shade.

SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVERS

American Cranberry - *Viburnum opulus*

10 to 15 feet tall and wide. White flower clusters appear in late spring followed by red foliage in autumn with scarlet edible berries. Full sun to part shade in moist, well drained soil.

Mock Orange - *Philadelphus lewisii*

8 to 12 feet tall. Fragrant, white 2" flowers. Arching green branches, which retain foliage. Highly adaptable, grows in most locations.

Nootka Rose - *Rosa nutkana*

3 to 8 feet tall. Clusters of large 2" pink flowers & red fruit. Grows

well in most areas. Good for erosion control & wildlife habitat.

Pacific Ninebark - *Physocarpus capitatus*

10 to 15 feet tall. Arching branches hold small white flower clusters. Prefers wet, somewhat open sites.

Red Flowering Currant - *Ribes sanguineum*

3 to 10 feet tall. Hummingbirds are attracted to the pale pink to deep red flowers blooming March - June. Grows in clearings and open forest areas that remain dry.

Red-Osier Dogwood - *Cornus sericea*

6 to 16 feet tall. Bright red winter branches. Large white flowers. Grows best in moist areas. Good for erosion control on steep banks. An excellent producer of food & cover for wildlife.

Sitka Willow - *Salix sitchensis*

10 to 30 feet tall. Vigorous-growing large shrub or small tree. It thrives in moist, well-drained areas. Good for erosion control along streambanks.

Snowberry - *Symphoricarpos albus*

5 to 10 feet tall. Outstanding shrub. Bright white berries are especially ornamental after the leaves drop. Attractive foliage. Good for erosion control along streambanks.

Thimbleberry - *Rubus pariflorus*

2 to 8 feet tall. Adaptable plant that grows in moist to dry and wooded to open sites. White flowers followed by edible berries.

Vine Maple - *Acer circinatum*

15 to 25 feet tall. Deciduous shrub or small tree does well in dry to moist sites. Grows in full sun to shady areas. Tiny white and purple drooping flower clusters. Provides good forage for wildlife and attracts butterflies. Great fall color.

Plants in Pots Sold Individually

Bleeding Heart - *Dicentra formosa*

Perennial growing from rhizomes to a delicate long stem. Fern like with pinkish purple heart-shaped drooping flowers. Flowers from March to July.

Blue Huckleberry - *Vaccinium ovalifolium*

6 to 8 feet tall. This deciduous shrub has small oval leaves and pink flowers. Bluish black berries are plump and edible. Grows well in moist coniferous forests and bogs.

Coastal Strawberry - *Fragaria chiloensis*

Ground Cover. This perennial has shiny, dark-green leaves that spread from horizontal runners. It has large white flowers followed by edible berries.

Evergreen Huckleberry - *Vaccinium ovatum*

6 to 8 feet tall. Ornamental shrub with pink, bell-shaped flowers and blue edible berries. Excellent soil binding, erosion control capabilities. Most common in semi-open woods, in soils high in organic matter.

Kinnikinnick - *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Ground Cover. Evergreen leaves with pinkish flowers and bright red fall berries. Grows in sandy soil in filtered shade to full sun.

Sword Fern - *Polystichum munitum*

2 to 5 feet tall. Evergreen fern with dark-green fronds arch from central clump. Grows well in lowland forests, full sun to full shade.

MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2010 ORDER FORM

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Mailing Address: _____ **City:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

E-Mail: _____ **New Customer?** Yes No

If yes, how did you hear about the sale? _____

Plants are Sold in Bundles of Ten, except for Pots and Plugs.				
Number of Bundles	Description	Plant Size	Price per Bundle	Amount
	Douglas-fir	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$7.00	
	Giant Sequoia	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$12.00	
	Grand Fir	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$7.00	
	Shore Pine	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$9.00	
	Western Red Cedar	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$12.00	
	Black Cottonwood	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$16.00	
	Bigleaf Maple	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$16.00	
	Douglas Maple	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$16.00	
	Oregon Ash	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$18.00	
	Paper Birch	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$18.00	
	Red Alder	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$17.00	
	American Cranberry	6 - 12" Bare Root	\$12.00	
	Mock Orange	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$11.00	
	Nootka Rose	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$16.00	
	Pacific Ninebark	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$16.00	
	Red Flowering Currant	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$13.00	
	Red-Osier Dogwood	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$12.00	
	Sitka Willow	36" Cutting	\$14.00	
	Snowberry	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$12.00	
	Thimbleberry	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$16.00	
	Vine Maple	12 - 18" Bare Root	\$15.00	
Number of Plants			Price per Plant	
	Bleeding Heart	2-1/4" Pot	\$4.00	
	Blue Huckleberry	Plug	\$4.30	
	Coastal Strawberry	2-1/4" Pot	\$4.00	
	Evergreen Huckleberry	2-1/4" Pot	\$4.00	
	Kinnikinnick	Plug	\$4.00	
	Sword Fern	3-1/2" Pot	\$4.80	
			Subtotal	
			Tax 8.4%	
DO NOT SEND PAYMENT AT THIS TIME			Total	

Cut Along Dotted Line

Once we have received your completed order form, we will reserve your order and send you a bill. All bills must be paid before February 5th. Plants are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Quantities are limited and some species always sell out so please order early. Several species of native plants not listed are available for special order. Call for availability and pricing. Orders will be taken through **Friday, January 15th.**

Pick up your order **Friday, February 19th**, between 10 AM & 5 PM or **Saturday, February 20th**, between 10 AM & 2 PM at the Mason Conservation District office. If you have any questions please call (360) 427-9436 Ext. 13 or (800) 527-9436 Ext. 13.

Place
Stamp
Here

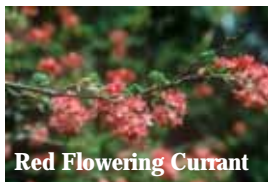
MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

450 W Business Park Road
Shelton, WA 98584

Fold Here

Fold Here

Thanks for your Native Plant Order!



Red Flowering Currant



Mock Orange



Nootka Rose

Photos by Joy Spurr



MCD Stormwater Superstars

Native Plants Work for you in Wet Weather!

Pacific Northwest native plants are adapted to growing in our soils and climate. They manage stormwater by slowing rain down as it falls, drinking it up, and evaporating it off their leaves. Once your native plants are established in the right location, they need minimal maintenance. Free up your weekends by converting unused lawn to well-mulched landscaping beds that include beautiful native plants. The plant suggestions below are just a starting point, with special focus on planting in the wet areas of your property. Many of these plants can also handle dry sites. All plants are listed in alphabetical order. Trees have a (T) after their name. **Plants in BOLD BLUE are available through the MCD plant sale.** Call us with questions and to learn about free landscape plans or funding opportunities.

MOIST LOCATIONS

MOIST & SUNNY

Black cottonwood (T)
Black hawthorn (T)
Black twinberry
Bigleaf maple (T)
Douglas-fir (T)
Nootka rose
Pacific wax myrtle
Paper birch (T)
Red alder (T)
Red flowering currant
Red-osier dogwood
Serviceberry
Shore pine (T)
Sitka spruce (T)
Snowberry
Thimbleberry

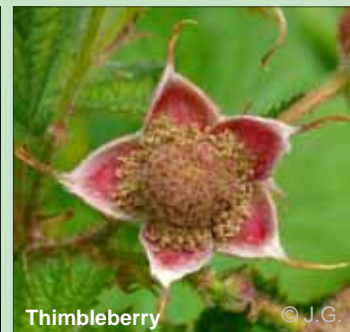
MOIST & SHADE/PART-SHADE

Baldhip rose
Bigleaf maple (T)
Cascara
Douglas-fir (T)
Evergreen huckleberry
Indian plum
Nootka rose
Oceanspray
Pacific dogwood (T)
Paper birch (T)
Red-osier dogwood
Salmonberry
Sword fern
Vine Maple
Western redcedar (T)
Western hemlock (T)



Snowberry

© J.G.*



Thimbleberry

© J.G.

WET LOCATIONS

WET & SUNNY

American cranberry
Oregon ash (T)
Pacific ninebark
Pacific willow
Red-osier dogwood
Shore pine (T)
Scouler's willow
Sitka willow

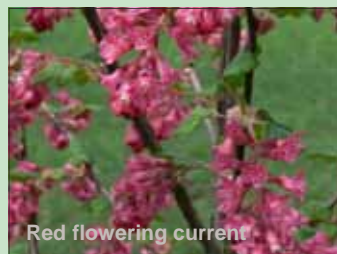
WET & SHADY/PART-SHADE

Black twinberry
American cranberry
Pacific ninebark
Red alder (T)
Red-osier dogwood
Salmonberry
Sitka willow
Sitka spruce (T)
Western redcedar (T)



© J.G.

Evergreen huckleberry



Red flowering currant



Western redcedar



Shore pine

MIRACLE PLANTS (WET+DRY+MOIST+SUNNY+SHADY!)

Cascara
Oceanspray
Red elderberry
Serviceberry
Shore pine (T)
Snowberry
Vine maple
Western/beaked hazelnut

MARINE SHORELINES

MARINE & SUNNY

Beaked hazelnut
Big leaf maple (T)
Hooker's willow
Nootka rose
Oceanspray
Pacific crabapple
Pacific madrone (T)
Pacific wax myrtle
Red alder (T)
Serviceberry
Shore pine (T)
Sitka spruce (T)
Snowberry
Thimbleberry

Funding for this information sheet provided by:



Red-osier dogwood



* J.G. photos, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jim-sf/3905033001/in/set-72157605166913391/>



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MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

450 W Business Park Road
Shelton, WA 98584

Phone: 360-427-9436
Fax: 360-427-4396
www.masoncd.org

2010 Census, Be Counted!

The 2010 Census is coming up, starting March of next year! Who cares, right? Well, we all should. This is the once-in-10-year count of America's population. The Census determines how many representatives we get in Congress, where legislative districts are drawn, and what portion of the annual Federal budget gets distributed to our community. That's *our tax dollars* being distributed around the country based on how communities respond. Mason County needs these federal funds for emergency preparedness, infrastructure, roads and transportation, schools, hospitals, health services, senior services, natural resources, and on and on.



We encourage you to help bring federal dollars back to Mason County by mailing back the Census questionnaire when you receive it in the mail. There are just 10 simple questions on the questionnaire, so it takes no time at all to complete. Your name and address remain confidential - it is illegal for the Census to share any individual's information, only the numbers. No one (including law enforcement, IRS, INS, FBI, etc) can access this info. The Census is SAFE, IMPORTANT, AND EASY! BE COUNTED and help our community.

Oakland Bay Marina Rain Garden



In September 2009, Mason Conservation District designed and installed a Rain Garden at the Oakland Bay Marina for the Port of Shelton. The rain garden is designed as a landscaping project but is also a *low impact development* stormwater facility. The garden is located on the waterfront by the Shelton Yacht Club. It uses a special soil mixture and selection of plants to soak up and remove pollutants in stormwater draining from the parking lot.

The Oakland Bay Marina Rain Garden is an example of a simple landscaping project that protects water quality and adds an attractive garden feature to the property. The site was originally covered with invasive weeds and had a severely eroding slope. The slope has been stabilized and planted with native vegetation.

To learn more about designing and installing rain gardens to manage your stormwater or to enhance your landscape, please contact us. Free Rain Garden manuals are also available!

Plant Sale Reminders:

- Plants are sold in bundles of **TEN** except for the Pots and Plugs.
- Orders must be in by January 15, 2010
- You may order by mail or on our website www.masoncd.org using your credit card.
- DO NOT SEND PAYMENT AT THIS TIME. We will confirm your order in full or in part by sending you an invoice.
- **Pick Up: Friday, February 19th, 10AM to 5PM or Saturday, February 20th, 10AM to 2PM at the District office.**
- Warning: Any order not picked up will be donated to conservation projects or organizations.
- For questions please call the Mason Conservation District office at (360) 427-9436 or (800) 527-9436.