

# WATERSHED WISE

## MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### 2017 Special Plant Sale Issue



Site visit with Forester Dave Houk and Katrinka Hibler

### Mason Conservation District: Your Online Conservation Resource

Mason Conservation District's website has recently undergone a significant update, with the purpose of providing more information to viewers while improving the accessibility of information. The goal is for all of Mason County to be able to use Mason Conservation District as a resource, whether it is assistance for a natural resource concern, guidance to help get the most out of your soil, or help finding ways to contribute to conservation efforts. This update will increase our ability to provide you with usable information quickly, while also showcasing the variety of other programs and services you might benefit from. Please visit [www.masoncd.org](http://www.masoncd.org) and let us know what you think!

We have also been working to make Mason Conservation District's Facebook page as informative and helpful as possible. We will strive to keep the page current with content that will be valuable to landowners and residents of Mason County. Whether you are interested in rainwater collection, creating a rain garden, finding a job in the conservation field, or a variety of other topics, we hope our Facebook page will serve as a useful tool. To see what our Facebook page has to offer, please check out [www.facebook.com/MasonConservation](http://www.facebook.com/MasonConservation).

### Volunteer Opportunities

The **27th Annual Native Plant Sale** is underway and MCD is looking for hearty volunteers to help sort, pack, and distribute plants. With nearly 9000 plants to organize, volunteers are encouraged to dress for cold weather for this semi-outdoor event. Plant sorting and packing will take place on Thursday, February 23rd, and distribution will be on Friday and Saturday, the 24th and 25th.

In early 2017, we will begin work on two AmeriCorps service projects in collaboration with the WA Department of Natural Resources in the **Tahuya State Forest**. We will be planting along the banks of the Tahuya River, helping to stabilize the shoreline while creating better habitat for wildlife, as well as reestablishing diverse understory plants in the surrounding area. Our projected first planting date will be in early February.

#### Bordeaux Elementary Garden

Update: In our partnership with the HOPE Garden Project and the Shelton School District, a team of AmeriCorps-led volunteers assembled the raised garden beds prepared by the Shelton High School shop class. This December we've begun filling the beds with soil and preparing for a spring planting. As we move closer to the spring, we'll be looking for volunteers to help with the school garden program and general garden maintenance.

If you are interested in any of these or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Sara Sedgwick, AmeriCorps Education and Outreach Coordinator, at [sara@masoncd.org](mailto:sara@masoncd.org) or 360-427-9436 ext. 103.



# Conservation Corner

## 2017 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION

Mason Conservation District's Board election will be held early 2017. The District is governed by a five member volunteer Board of local Mason County landowners. Three board positions are elected by Mason County voters. Two members are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission, an agency that supports conservation district activities in Washington State. District elections occur annually during the first quarter of each calendar year, as required under RCW 89.08. The next District election will be on February 25, 2017, between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the District office.

The elected position is currently held by Larry Boltz. Successful elected candidates serve a three-year term as a Board member. To be eligible, a candidate must occupy land and be a qualified county elector and registered voter within the District boundaries. This includes all residents of Mason County, outside the incorporated boundaries of the City of Shelton. Individuals interested in this position must pick up a nominating petition at the District office. Petitions must be returned to the District office by January

27th for a candidate to be placed on the 2017 ballot.

The appointed position is currently vacant. Those interested in seeking appointment to this volunteer position may contact the District to secure an application for appointment. Successful candidates serve a three-year term as a Board member. Eligibility requirements are the same as those for the elected position. Individuals interested in this position may contact the District.

Conservation districts are subdivisions of state government directed by a volunteer board representing 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.

All future information will be posted to the District website. Additional information can also be obtained by contacting John Bolender, District Manager, at (360) 427-9436, Ext. 121 or email at [jbolender@masoncd.org](mailto:jbolender@masoncd.org).

## Rich J. Geiger Scholarship Fund

In September 2016, our friend and colleague Rich Geiger passed away. Those who knew Rich remember him not only as a top notch engineer, but as a sweet and funny man who cared deeply about the people he interacted with on a daily basis and about his work to protect and restore the ecological health of Puget Sound. Rich was an excellent engineer, teacher, and committed mentor. He was instrumental in habitat restoration projects around Puget Sound, but perhaps will be best known for his long history and tireless work in restoring the Skokomish Watershed. Rich's easy going personality coupled with his skills and intelligence made him a sought after partner, colleague, and friend.

A scholarship fund has been established with The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound. Tax deductible donations to the Richard J Geiger Scholarship Fund will honor his legacy and carry forward his commitment to mentoring those interested in pursuing engineering as a career. A scholarship minimum of \$1,000 will be awarded to the applicant who best fits the criteria of the fund, which also includes interest in improving environmental and/or social conditions, experience mentoring/teaching, and interest in music which all were near and dear to Rich.

We miss Rich more than words can say. We hope you will join us in keeping his legacy alive.

**You can make a donation online by browsing to [www.thecommunityfoundation.com](http://www.thecommunityfoundation.com) and selecting the Richard J Geiger Scholarship Fund, or mailing your donation to:**

The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound  
212 Union Ave SE, Suite 102  
Olympia, WA 98501





# America's Next Gold Rush

It's that magical time - time to start thinking about the upcoming planting season! We get to dream of what to plant and make lists of trees and plants to buy. We can even begin to imagine them leafing out in the spring and blooming in the summer. And so we also need to think about fertilizing!

*What do I fertilize with?*

If you have a covered compost bin or an impervious surface and a tarp, you can take advantage of free animal manure from the Manure Exchange Program. Free manure, piled or layered with other composting materials, will become an excellent fertilizer and soil amendment for your trees, plants, and fields in the spring.

*Why not just buy fertilizer?*

- Composting animal manure takes waste products and makes a beneficial material – a material so good it's often referred to as 'Black Gold'!
- Composting recycles the nutrients plants have taken from the soil, stabilizes them, and makes them available again to the next generation of plants when applied as a soil amendment.
- Compost adds organic matter to the soil, loosening clay soils, helping sandy soils retain water, and improving fertility.
- Making compost supports environmental health by feeding the soil and reducing contamination of our streams and bays.
- Using compost saves you time and money - you'll need less water for irrigation and no chemical fertilizers.

*Plan now because composting takes time!*

Creating compost is like making a slow baking cake. The right ingredients – manure mixed with a balanced ratio of compostable materials - with just enough moisture, cooked at the right temperature for several months will make excellent compost. It needs a little tending, but then you can enjoy its benefits all season long.

A good compost pile has no unpleasant odor; it smells fresh and earthy. It should, however, be located away from water sources and covered during the winter rainy season so that valuable nutrients are not washed away.

*Do I really need to compost it?*

Small amounts of manure can also be buried a foot below the root zone when planting new trees. Dig the hole 18 inches deeper than needed, add a scoop of manure, add more dirt, and then plant your tree. You can burn the roots of the tree if they're in direct contact with manure, so be sure to take these extra steps at planting time.



Spreading manure on fields or digging it directly into garden beds is not recommended in the winter – plants aren't growing so they don't uptake the nutrients and the rain washes them away. If you can't safely store and compost manure over the winter, wait until the weather changes to get it. But making compost piles is fun and easy, and we'd be happy to help you learn how!

For more information on how to build compost piles to suit your needs and where to get free manure contact: Amy Rosen at [arosen@masoncd.org](mailto:arosen@masoncd.org) or at 360-427-9436 Ext. 112. Additional online resources are also available at: <http://www.betterground.org/composting-basics/>



# MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2017 PLANT SALE

Order Online at [www.masoncd.org](http://www.masoncd.org)

Number of Bundles	Plant Species	Plant Size	Price Per Bundle	Amount
	<b>Evergreen Tree</b>			
	Coastal Redwood	Plug	5 Trees for \$8.93	
	Douglas-fir	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$3.99	
	Grand Fir	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$5.25	
	Pacific Madrone	Plug	5 Trees for \$10.30	
	Shore Pine	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$3.99	
	Sitka Spruce	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$5.25	
	Western Hemlock	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$7.88	
	Western Redcedar	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$6.30	
	<b>Deciduous Tree</b>			
	Douglas Maple	12-18" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$8.93	
	Oregon White Oak	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$12.60	
	Pacific Dogwood	12-18" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$10.50	
	<b>Shrub &amp; Herbaceous Perennials</b>			
	Blackcap Raspberry	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$8.40	
	Dunegrass	Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$5.57	
	Hairy Honeysuckle	12-18" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$11.55	
	Mock Orange	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$9.45	
	Nootka Rose	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$8.93	
	Oceanspray	12-18" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$9.98	
	Pacific Ninebark	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$6.83	
	Red Flowering Currant	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$7.35	
	Red Osier Dogwood	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$6.83	
	Redstem Ceanothus	Plug	5 Shrubs for \$12.92	
	Silk Tassel Bush	12" Bare Root	5 Plugs for \$8.93	
	Snowberry	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$6.83	
	Tall Oregon Grape	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$6.83	
	Vine Maple	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$8.93	
<b>Number of Plants</b>	<b>Potted Plant</b>		<b>Price Per Plant</b>	
	Coastal Strawberry	4" pot	1 Plant for \$2.75	
	Creeping Dogwood	4" pot	1 Plant for \$2.85	
	Inside Out Flower	4" pot	1 Plant for \$3.50	
	Kinnikinnick	4" pot	1 Plant for \$2.75	
	Pacific Rhododendron	4" pot	1 Plant for \$3.25	
<b>Number of Packets</b>	<b>Seed Packet</b>		<b>Price Per Packet</b>	
	Native Pollinator Conservation Seed Mix	Packet	1 Packet for \$3.00	
			Subtotal	
			Tax 8.5%	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	


















































































































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 accepted through Wednesday, February 1st.**

**Pick up** your order Friday, February 24th, between 10 AM & 5 PM or Saturday, February 25th between 10 AM & 2 PM at the Mason Conservation District office at **450 W Business Park Road, Shelton, WA 98584**. If you have any questions please call (360) 427-9436, Ext. 113 or (800) 527-9436, Ext. 113.

## Mail in Orders

If you would like to order through the mail, please contact Jen Thurman-Williams at 360-427-9436, ext. 113 to receive an order form.

COMMON NAME GENUS SPECIES	HEIGHT	CLASSIFICATIONS	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
<b>EVERGREEN TREES</b>			
Coastal Redwood <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	360'	  	Fast growing evergreen tree is well adapted to our area. Does best in full sun, moist, acid, and well-drained soils.
Douglas-fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	250'	  	Important food source for chickadees, finches, and Douglas squirrel. Grows best in full sun to part shade on well-drained soil.
Grand Fir <i>Abies grandis</i>	250'	  	Glossy, dark green to bright green needles. Grows in dry to moist conditions and is a shade tolerant species.
Pacific Madrone <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	70'	  	Glossy evergreen leaves and clusters of creamy white blooms that give way to bright red fruits. Brownish red bark peels away in summer.
Shore Pine <i>Pinus contorta</i>	200'	  	Grows in shade to full sun, in areas ranging from dry, rocky upland forests, to coastal bluffs, to wet, poorly drained bogs. Irregular and contorted branching.
Sitka Spruce <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	200'	  	Fast growing evergreen. Short, thin needles are prickly to the touch and bluish-green in color. Grows best in full sun on moist, well-drained sites.
Western Hemlock <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	160"	  	Moderately fast growing evergreen tree that is shade tolerant. Found in fairly dry to wet sites. Graceful branches that droop with deep green needles.
Western Redcedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	150'	  	Lustrous dark green foliage. May be planted under existing canopies on moist sites. Vigorous growing, ornamental tree.
<b>DECIDUOUS TREES</b>			
Douglas Maple <i>Acer glabrum</i>	35'	  	Multi-stemmed small tree or large shrub. Prefers dry sites, sun or shade. Leaves are wine-red in fall. Great soil binding, erosion control capabilities.
Oregon White Oak <i>Quercus garryana</i>	75'	 	Dry to moist, well-drained, gravelly soils. Full sun to partial shade. Once established, it provides good habitat for many species of birds and mammals.
Pacific Dogwood <i>Cornus nuttalli</i>	60'	   	Best adapted for growing on sites with moist, well-drained soils, and areas that range from sunny to shady. Large white flowers, with berries for wildlife.
<b>SHRUBS &amp; HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS</b>			
Blackcap Raspberry <i>Rubus leucodermis</i>	10'	    	Deciduous perennial shrub with reddish-purple fruit. Grows in sun or partial shade and does well in moist soils.
Dunegrass <i>Leymus mollis</i>	3-5'	 	Robust clump-forming perennial grass with strong rhizomes. Grows on coastal dunes and beaches, helps prevent beach erosion.
Hairy Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	10'	   	Perennial vine with attractive pink honeysuckle blossoms. Grows in sun or partial shade and does well in dry soils.
Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	10'	   	Fragrant, white 2" flowers. Arching green branches. Highly adaptable, grows in most locations.
Nootka Rose <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	3-8'	    	Clusters of large 2" pink flowers & red fruit. Grows well in most areas. Good for erosion control & wildlife habitat.
Oceanspray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	10'	   	Multi-stemmed deciduous shrub suited to rocky, dry slopes. Masses of cream colored flower clusters are attractive in spring.
Pacific Ninebark <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	10-15'	   	Arching branches hold small white flower clusters. Prefers wet, somewhat open sites.
Red Flowering Currant <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	3-10'	   	Hummingbirds are attracted to the pale pink to red flowers blooming March - June. Grows in clearings and open forest areas that remain dry.
Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	15'	   	Red winter branches. Large white flowers. Grows best in moist areas. Good for erosion control. Excellent food & cover for wildlife.
Redstem Ceanothus <i>Ceanothus sanguineus</i>	3-10'	   	Clusters of small white flowers. Reddish stems are attractive in the winter landscape. Grows in sun or partial shade and does well in dry or moist soils.
Silk Tassel Bush <i>Garrya elliptica</i>	10-15'	   	Evergreen shrub with 2" slim cascading flower clusters. Thrives in full sun to part shade in well-drained moist soil often in coastal conditions.
Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	5-10'	  	Bright white berries are ornamental after the leaves drop. Good in partial shade and moist locations. Excellent for erosion control. Drought tolerant.
Tall Oregon Grape <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	3-15'	    	Grows in dry to moist sites that vary from exposed to shady. Flower clusters in spring, berries in summer, and reddish green leaf color in fall.
Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	15-25'	  	Grows in full sun to shady areas on dry to moist sites. Provides good forage for wildlife and attracts butterflies. Great fall color.
<b>INDIVIDUAL POTTED PLANTS</b>			
Coastal Strawberry <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	2-6"	    	This perennial has shiny, dark-green leaves that spread from horizontal runners. It has large white flowers followed by edible berries.
Creeping Dogwood <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	2-6"	   	Spreading groundcover perennial. Striking white dogwood flowers bloom in spring followed by scarlet berries in late summer.
Inside Out Flower <i>Vancoveria hexandra</i>	6-8"	   	Semi-evergreen groundcover has leaves that emerge bright green, then darken with age. In spring, white blooms dangle on wiry stems.
Kinnikinnick <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	8-12"	   	Ground Cover. Evergreen leaves with pinkish flowers and bright red fall berries. Grows in sandy soil in filtered shade to full sun.
Pacific Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>	12'	   	Large bell shaped flowers bloom on this evergreen native in late spring. Grows in moist to dry openings or on forest margins.
<b>SEED PACKET</b>			
Native Pollinator Seed Mix		   	Native annuals and perennials seed mix provides an ongoing succession of flowers. Species include Showy Milkweed, Self Heal, and Seablush.

LEGEND:  Full sun  Partial shade  Shade  Evergreen  Deciduous  Flowers  Edible Fruit



## Welcome New Employees

Please join us in welcoming Jennifer Holderman and Barbara Adkins to the Mason Conservation District team. Jennifer, Water Resources & Lead Entity Coordinator, recently worked for the Washington Department of Ecology as a water resource planner. Her work primarily focused on legislative coordination, instream flow rule writing and policy development. Prior to working at the Department of Ecology, she was a coordinator at the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council located in Manzanita, OR. Jennifer holds a MS in Water Resources from Oregon State University and a JD from the University of Oregon and enjoys cooking a banjo (playing Irish fiddle) and DIY projects.

Barbara, Special Programs Manager, recently worked for the Mason County Department of Community Development. She worked there for twelve years in long range planning, the last five years as the Department Director. Barbara primarily wrote all the regulatory land use code and Comprehensive Plan updates. Before that she was in Brunswick, Georgia working in long range planning for the Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia, and just before that a long range planner for the Arizona Department of Commerce in Phoenix, Arizona working with cities, counties and tribes throughout the entire state. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners; has a B.S. in Sociology, with a minor in Environmental Science from Stetson University in DeLand, Florida; and an MEP in Environmental Planning from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

## Mason Conservation District's Habitat Restoration Crew



Habitat Restoration Crew Member Cody Mullikin, Crew Leader Brayden Raber, and Crew Member Will Corvell

The habitat restoration field crew is one of the implementation arms of the habitat program here at the Mason Conservation District (MCD). The crew is comprised of anywhere between four and ten members, depending on the workload and season. The focus of the crew's work changes with the season: invasive vegetation control in the summer, planting in the winter, and planting site maintenance in the fall and spring.

The majority of crew time spent on invasive vegetation control has been focused on treating and surveying for knotweed within the Skokomish, Mill, and Goldsborough Watersheds. Last year, the crew worked on 490 acres within these watersheds. Knotweed is an invasive plant from Asia and is incredibly successful in establishing itself along stream sides, as it spreads tenaciously from root and stem fragments. Left untreated, knotweed and other invasive plants degrade the riparian ecosystem by displacing and inhibiting native vegetation, which in turn negatively affects ecosystem processes and habitat functions critical to salmon and other wildlife.

Winter through early spring the crew spends the majority of their time implementing riparian restoration plantings. Last year the crew planted 33,052 trees and shrubs in riparian areas around Mason County. 10,000 of those trees were planted in the Skokomish Valley as part of an effort to facilitate the establishment of a conifer forest. Many of the other trees and shrubs were planted for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). A voluntary program designed to benefit both farmers and fish, CREP provides compensation for landowners interested in re-establishing forest buffers along eligible streams. This year the crew has a goal of planting 25,800 trees and shrubs in riparian areas throughout Mason County.

Since 2009, MCD crews have planted over 450 acres of riparian areas within Mason County. To ensure the success of those plantings, during the fall and spring the crew performs maintenance on the planting sites. These activities include brushing down competing vegetation, invasive species control, and plant protector maintenance. The crew is critical to the riparian restoration component of the habitat program at MCD. Restored riparian areas are the foundation for successful process-based ecosystem restoration in our community.

# Living Along the Waterfront in Mason County

By Jim Irving



As active boaters for 50 years, my wife Jan and I knew that we wanted to live on the water when we retired — not near the water, but on the water. We wanted a place where we could sail, row and kayak without traveling any distance. I also restore small classic wooden boats, so water access was imperative when considering where to live.

We found a home on .41 acres adjacent to Jarrells Cove on Harstine Island. The house was built in the 1960s on low-bank waterfront within 15 feet of the shore. Located in a sheltered portion of the cove, our 165 feet of shoreline bulkhead can best be characterized as a combination of pilings and stacked rocks.

Initially, I was not convinced that this cove, which dries to a mud flat twice a day, would induce me to live here. But tidal changes usher in a wide range of wildlife that cannot be seen at most deep-water sites.

My background lies in forestry, fire and wildlife biology. Jan spent her career as a high school science teacher. So, for both of us, a rural lifestyle was critical when we moved to Puget Sound from Salem, Oregon, in 2005.

Eight years later, I was recruited by fellow Harstine Islander Bill Burrows to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee for salmon habitat recovery in our local region — Watershed Resource Inventory Area 14. Bill, a board member for Mason Conservation District, knew of my background and believed I could contribute, even though I had never studied salmon or shoreline issues. I have learned a great deal about what it means to be a shoreline owner and about my obligations as a resident of Puget Sound.

Later, I served on a focus group of waterfront property owners created by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to address shoreline armoring. I was amazed that most participants had little understanding of how detrimental armoring — specifically bulkheads — can be to a healthy, functioning shoreline. Unfortunately, bulkheads continue to be a big selling point for prospective buyers.

As I became more involved in these ecological issues, John Bolender, manager of Mason Conservation District, invited me to get my portion of the shoreline assessed by the district. Environmental specialist Karin Strelhoff was very helpful and informative, but because of the proximity of the house to the water and the slope of the bank, little can be done except for removing the ivy and planting deep-rooted species.



I am glad to see that Mason Conservation District is reaching out to local communities and organizations, sharing knowledge about the importance of shorelines to the Puget Sound ecosystem. Nevertheless, until shoreline owners reverse their mindset about the value of bulkheads, I believe that the recovery of the Sound will be way too slow.

My advice to other waterfront property owners is to become informed and to get involved with local groups. Reach out to the conservation district to find out about what resources (money and expertise) are available, so that you can become not just a shoreline owner but also a shoreline steward. The salmon you eat and the wildlife you view from your shoreline home depend on a healthy Puget Sound.



Jim Irving at his Harstine Island property displaying his Shore Friendly Mason placard.

*Jim Irving worked with environmental reporter Christopher Dunagan to tell his Shore Friendly Mason story.*

**Plant Sale Reminders:**

Plants are sold in bundles of FIVE except for pots.

Place orders by February 1st, 2017

View, Order and Pay for plants **Online** using your credit card through our website **[www.masoncd.org](http://www.masoncd.org)**.

**Pick Up:** Friday, February 24th, 10AM to 5PM or Saturday, February 25th, 10AM to 2PM at the District office.

For questions about the native plant sale please call Jen at (360) 427-9436, Ext. 113 or (800) 527-9436, Ext. 113.

## Conservation in the Classrooms

Hello all! Sara here, Mason CD's resident AmeriCorps member and Education and Outreach Coordinator. It's been a wonderful fall season for environmental education here at MCD. In partnership with the Pacific Education Institute and the Shelton School District, we've further developed our field experience programs for kindergarten, second, and fifth grades. While most of these programs take place in the spring, we've completed the first half of our fifth grade forestry program for this school year.

Through October and November,

fifth graders from Mountain View, Evergreen, and Bordeaux Elementary schools joined us for a day at Green Diamond's Mason Lake Recreation Area, where they learned about forest benefits, the layers of the forest, and conducted their own vegetation plot surveys to explore the many species we have growing in our forests. Students had a wonderful time and learned a lot as well – 95% of those polled listed at least one new behavior they will adopt to help protect and manage our forest resources.

Coming up in the spring season, we have a slew of further field

experiences planned with the Shelton School District. Kindergarteners will be heading up to Twanoh State Park to explore the beach and nearshore habitats. Over at the Skokomish Estuary, second graders will be investigating the living things found in an estuary system and will walk through forest, beach, and salt marsh habitats. And for our fifth graders, we will be continuing the grand tradition of Forest Festival Field Day – with a return trip to Mason Lake Recreation Area, where various community partners will present on a wide variety of forest management related topics.

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**District Board of Supervisors:** Jason Ragan, Larry Boltz, and Myron Ougendal

**MCD Staff**

Barbara Adkins - Special Programs Manager

Evan Bauder - Habitat Program Manager

John Bolender - District Manager

Judith Denoyer - Financial Accountant

Katrinka Hibler - Engineering Technician, CIT

Jennifer Holderman - Water Resources & Lead Entity Coordinator

Brayden Raber - Habitat Restoration Crew Leader

Mitch Redfern - Habitat Program Lead

Amy Rosen - Environmental Specialist

Sara Sedgwick - Environmental Outreach Coordinator

Mario Skelly - Engineering Technician

Kevin Schmelzlen - Community Engagement Coordinator

Karin Strelhoff - Environmental Specialist, MLA

Jennifer Symons - Resource Technician

Rodney Tennison - Engineering Technician

Jen Thurman-Williams - Environmental Specialist