

# Watershed Wise

MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2013 Special Plant Sale Issue



### Oakland Bay County Park

Work continues at Oakland Bay County Park as the Washington Conservation Corps crew plant native trees and shrubs at the new park location. The park is nearing completion and offers walking trails, picnic areas, and restrooms, all in a preserved natural setting. The park is anticipated to be open to visitors in spring of 2013. District Engineering staff incorporated Low Impact Development (LID) practices to manage stormwater impacts onsite. A raingarden facility and geogrid surfacing materials on the perimeters of the parking areas captures and treats runoff from the non-pervious surfaces. Mason Conservation District staff provided design, survey and construction management during the parks development through a cooperative agreement with Mason County Parks.

#### Inside This Issue:

- Native Plant Sale Order Form
- Salmon Recovery in Goldsborough Creek
- Skokomish Estuary Restoration
- Shelton Creek Trail Project

## Conservation Corner



2013 DISTRICT ELECTION  
Mason Conservation District's Board Member election will be early next year. 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 elected position will be filled in February 2013. Mason Conservation District elections occur annually during the first quarter of each calendar year, as required under RCW 89.08.

Mason Conservation District will conduct an election for one Board position on February 22, 2013 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the District office. The position is currently held by Bonnie Hall, a resident of the Arcadia area. Bonnie is recently retired from many years with the WSU Mason County Extension Service. Bonnie and her husband Dale also have a long history with forestry and shellfish production in the County. 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 28th 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, District Manager, at (360) 427-9436, Ext. 21 or email at [jbolender@masoncd.org](mailto:jbolender@masoncd.org).

## 2013 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 23rd Annual Plant Sale through January 25th. These plants are all suitable for conservation purposes such as wildlife habitat, streambank stabilization, and stormwater management, 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 **FIVE** 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.

### Native Plant Workshop

Reserve Your Seat Now

*"Landscape with Native Plants"*

Thursday, January 3rd from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M.  
At the Mason Conservation District office in Shelton

Or

Thursday, January 10th from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M.  
At the Timberland Regional Library in Belfair

This workshop will be held in conjunction with Mason Conservation District's Native Plant Sale. The workshop will introduce the use of native plants for a variety of purposes. The characteristics and needs of the plants will be described, questions answered, and specific uses addressed. There is no fee, however, seating is limited, so call now to sign up at (360) 427-9436 Ext. 13.

### MCD Staff

Evan Bauder - Resource Technician  
Dan Blatt - Engineering Technician  
John Bolender - District Manager  
Ron Cummings - Environmental Specialist  
Rich Geiger - District Engineer  
Gavin Glore - Engineering Technician  
Linda Gott - Treasurer  
Brandee Gregory - Resource Technician  
Erik Hagan - Small Farms/Outreach Coordinator  
Amy Hatch-Winecka - WRIA 14 Lead Entity Coordinator  
Adam Lloyd - Resource Technician  
Mario Skelly - Resource Technician  
Karin Strelhoff - Environmental Specialist  
Rodney Tennison - Engineering Technician  
Jen Thurman-Williams - Environmental Specialist

### District Board of Supervisors

Bill Burrows, Adam James, Michelle McCallum,  
Bonnie Hall, Jason Ragan, (David Mackey and Larry Bolts,  
Associates)

## Salmon Recovery in Goldsborough Creek



Coho Salmon in Goldsborough Creek

Mason Conservation District houses the Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery, working with a broad coalition of partners to restore and protect habitat for salmon throughout the southern portion of Mason County.

Goldsborough Creek is the largest freshwater system in WRIA 14 (inclusive of the freshwater drainages of Eld, Totten, Oakland Bay/Hammersley and Case Inlets) and has been the focus of many restoration and protection projects in an effort to continue the recovery of Coho salmon within the system. Goldsborough is the only stream system in all of South Puget Sound that is experiencing an increase in Coho outmigrants – juvenile fish leaving the freshwater for Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean. Beginning with the removal of the hydroelectric dam in 2001, the creek has seen many restoration projects and more are being developed. In the

summer of 2012, a fish passage barrier along the railroad was replaced and scheduled for next summer is the installation of large woody debris and a planting project near the middle section of the creek. Building upon the success of these projects, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board is funding one project within the system this year. The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group was awarded the grant to remove two fish passage barriers on Like's Creek. Like's Creek is a major tributary to Goldsborough Creek in the lower section. The first is under the Simpson Railroad and partners with them to restore access for spawning and rearing. The second is on Carman Road and will be replaced at the same time by Mason County. Large wood will be placed in the stream that will create pools for resting, cool the water and give fish insects to eat. Native plants will be planted as well, beginning the natural cycle of recruitment anew. In all, one mile of habitat will be restored. This project is supported by the Committee and in partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe and the Simpson Lumber Company.

Preserving and restoring essential natural areas provide habitat for fish, wildlife and a quality of life for people. Additionally, these intact areas provide another benefit: an economic one. It is simple to see the economic value of a piece of land for development, but more difficult to see the economic benefit provided by the natural systems left to function on their own in these places. In a report by Earth Economics (Valuing the Puget Sound Basin), it is estimated that the natural environment in Puget Sound delivers up to \$83 billion in economic value every single year. These goods and services include drinking water production, storage and filtration, flood protection, food, building materials, recreation, waste treatment, pharmaceuticals, climate stability, habitat, biodiversity, nutrient cycling and aesthetic value. With small investments from various State, Federal and local funds, the Salmon Habitat Recovery Committee Lead Entity is working to help preserve these goods and services for all of us. For more information about these projects please contact Amy Hatch-Winecka at (360) 427-9436 Ext.10 or [amyhw@thurstoncd.com](mailto:amyhw@thurstoncd.com).

## Skokomish Estuary Restoration, Phase 3A

The Skokomish Estuary Restoration Phase 3A was implemented fall 2012. The intent of the project was primarily to install a series of culverts that would allow the project team to evaluate groundwater conditions. An artesian aquifer was identified at the site during the geotechnical investigation undertaken before the final design could be completed. There is a layer of mucky wetland type soil that is perched atop a layer of sorted gravels and beach sands. The groundwater contained in the sand and gravel layer is under pressure and will bubble to the surface once the wetland soils have been removed. Installation of the 29 structures proposed in Phase 3 will require excavation into the sand and gravel layer which has the potential of encouraging substantial quantities of water to flow from the sand and gravel layer into the open excavation. The geotechnical report indicated that flows in the order of 1 cubic foot per second may be encountered. Implementation of Phase 3A has given the project team the opportunity to inspect the groundwater contributions during the scheduled installation of four culverts. As expected, there was a significant flow of groundwater into the open excavation sites, but fortunately two 3" trash pumps were sufficient to de-water the excavation and the four culverts were installed without any major problems. (continued on page 8.)

# 2013 Native Plant Sale

## Plant Descriptions

### EVERGREEN TREES

#### **Douglas-fir** - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

200 feet tall. Seeds provide an important food source for chickadees, finches, Douglas squirrel, and many other birds and mammals. Grows in full sun to partial shade in well-drained soils.

#### **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.

#### **Sitka Spruce** - *Picea sitchensis*

200 feet tall. Fast growing evergreen. Stiff, bluish-green needles. Grows best in full sun on moist, well-drained sites.

#### **Western Hemlock** - *Tsuga heterophylla*

160 feet tall. 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 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.

### DECIDUOUS TREES

#### **Pacific Crabapple** - *Malus fusca*

30 feet tall. Clusters of white, fragrant blossoms appear in spring, followed by bunches of small edible apples. Prefers moist soils.

#### **Pacific Dogwood** - *Cornus nuttalli*

60 feet tall. Best adapted for growing on sites with moist, well-drained soils, and areas that range from sunny to shady. From April until June, it produces large showy white flowers, which give rise to large red berries in late summer that are a favorite food for many species of animals.

#### **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

#### **Mock Orange** - *Philadelphus lewisii*

8 to 12 feet tall. Fragrant, white 2 inch 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 inch 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 moist to wet sites in sun to partial shade.

#### **Red Flowering Currant** - *Ribes sanguineum*

3 to 10 feet tall. Hummingbirds are attracted to the pale pink to deep red flowers. Prefers well drained soils in sun to part shade.

#### **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.

#### **Salmonberry** - *Rubus spectabilis*

6 to 10 feet tall. Reddish-purple flowers and yellow edible berries adorn this thicket-forming, sparsely thorned shrub. Prefers moist to wet places in partial shade.

#### **Serviceberry** - *Amelanchier alnifolia*

5 to 10 feet tall. Large, showy white flower clusters adorn this multi-stemmed shrub. The purple berries are commercially harvested for syrup.

#### **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.

#### **Tall Oregon Grape** - *Mahonia aquifolium*

3 to 15 feet. Grows in a wide range of conditions from dry to moist, exposed to shady. Bright yellow flower clusters in spring, dark purple berries in summer, and reddish green leaf color in fall and winter.

#### **Twinberry** - *Lonicera involucrata*

8 to 10 feet tall. Small yellow flowers and purplish black fruit adorn this fast growing shrub that also provides excellent erosion control. Grows well in streamside habitats providing food and cover for birds and other wildlife.

#### **Vine Maple** - *Acer circinatum*

15 to 25 feet tall. Deciduous shrub or small tree. Full sun to shady areas on dry to moist sites. Tiny white and purple drooping flower clusters. Provides 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 flowers. Flowers from March to July.

#### **Coastal Strawberry** - *Fragaria chiloensis*

Groundcover. This perennial has shiny, dark-green leaves that spread from horizontal runners. 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. Has excellent soil binding, erosion control capabilities. Most common in semi-open woods, in soils high in organic matter.

#### **Kinnikinnick** - *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

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

#### **Pacific Rhododendron** - *Rhododendron macrophyllum*

12 feet tall. Large bell shaped flowers bloom on this evergreen native in late spring. Grows in moist to dry openings or on forest margins.

#### **Salal** - *Gaultheria shallon*

6 inches to 3 feet tall. Evergreen shrub has dark green leaves. Produces showy clusters of pink to white flowers followed by purplish edible fruit.

#### **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 2013 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 FIVE, except for pots.				
Number of Bundles	Description	Plant Size	Price per Bundle	Amount
	Douglas-fir	12 to 18" Large Plug	\$6.60	
	Grand Fir	12 to 18" Medium Plug	\$7.00	
	Sitka Spruce	12 to 18" Medium Plug	\$6.10	
	Western Hemlock	12 to 18" Medium Plug	\$5.00	
	Western Red Cedar	12 to 18" Large Plug	\$6.60	
	Pacific Crabapple	18 to 36" Bare Root	\$8.30	
	Pacific Dogwood	18 to 24" Bare Root	\$11.60	
	Red Alder	12 to 18" Large Plug	\$6.10	
	Mock Orange	18 to 36" Bare Root	\$7.10	
	Nootka Rose	18 to 36" Bare Root	\$7.10	
	Pacific Ninebark	12 to 18" Large Plug	\$9.40	
	Red Flowering Currant	18 to 36" Bare Root	\$8.80	
	Red-Osier Dogwood	18 to 36" Bare Root	\$5.50	
	Salmonberry	18 to 36" Bare Root	\$7.10	
	Serviceberry	18 to 36" Bare Root	\$10.00	
	Snowberry	18 to 24" Bare Root	\$6.90	
	Tall Oregon Grape	18 to 36" Bare Root	\$5.50	
	Twinberry	18 to 36" Bare Root	\$7.20	
	Vine Maple	18 to 24" Bare Root	\$8.00	
Number of Plants			Price per Plant	
	Bleeding Heart	4" Pot	\$3.00	
	Coastal Strawberry	4" Pot	\$2.70	
	Evergreen Huckleberry	4" Pot	\$3.75	
	Kinnikinnick	4" Pot	\$2.85	
	Pacific Rhododendron	4" Pot	\$3.75	
	Salal	4" Pot	\$2.70	
	Sword Fern	4" Pot	\$2.85	
			<b>Subtotal</b>	
			Tax 8.5%	
DO NOT SEND PAYMENT AT THIS TIME			<b>Total</b>	

**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 8th. 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 25th.**

Pick up your order **Friday, February 22nd**, between 10 AM & 5 PM or **Saturday, February 23rd**, 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

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Fold Here

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*Thanks for your Native Plant Order!*



Red Flowering Currant



Mock Orange



Nootka Rose

Photos by Joy Spurr

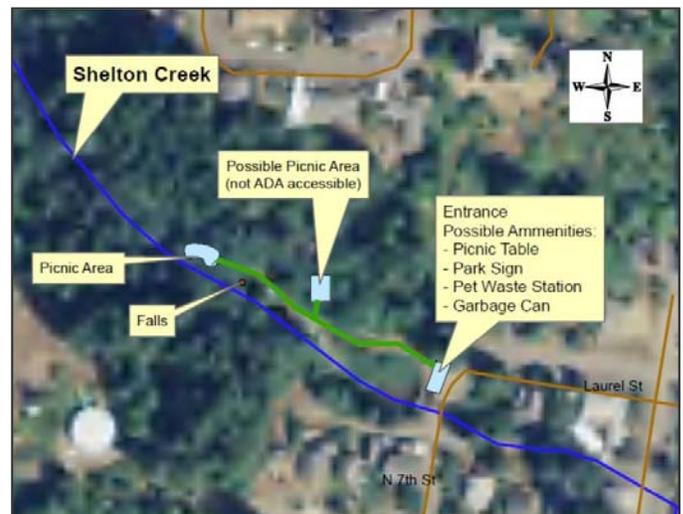
## Shelton Creek Trail Project



What started out as an idea from a group of neighbors that live adjacent to Shelton Creek, has quickly evolved into a fantastic community based project. The Shelton Creek Trail Project intends to develop a minimum-impact pedestrian trail and restore the native stream habitat along a section of Shelton Creek. The idea for this project was initially introduced to the District by a group of Shelton Creek neighbors and community members that wanted to take active stewardship of a section of Shelton Creek. They wanted to clean up the area, create a more official

park setting, and increase the use of the trail for recreational and educational purposes. The community group brought their ideas to the District in an effort to gain support and expertise. Interest and the number of community members in support of this project continues to grow.

The proposed pedestrian trail will begin by Shelton Creek at the diversion pond, which is located at the intersection of Laurel St and N 7<sup>th</sup> St. The first phase of this project focuses on developing initial infrastructure at the start of the proposed trail, including: building a widened, ADA accessible portion of the trail, conducting invasive weed removal, stabilizing the slope, installing a pet waste station at the entrance, and replanting with native species along the extent of trail to the main “rest area” located just past the waterfall. As time and funds permit, the trail will be lengthened to meet with walking trails developed upland at Mason General Hospital area. Such a trail would provide a wonderful pedestrian connection and alternative to the current sidewalk along busy Northcliff Road. In addition to the trail, the project would include a few picnic tables and rest stops. With additional funding and time, the group would like to install a sign at the park entrance, possibly including a name for the area, a site map, and educational information.



This project is a great example of the power of a community based initiative. The community group came to the table with some great ideas and are backing up their ideas by volunteering their time and services to help create change that they want to see. The community group is planning on staying involved with the project beyond the construction of



the trail and planting by taking long-term stewardship of the site, helping monitor and remove weeds, and continuing to participate in litter pick up. This project could become a model of community members adopting and caring for a specific creek in their neighborhood, in which they can identify with, take special interest in, and care for a water body that is right in their own backyard. The Shelton Creek Trail Project could provide the perfect opportunity to teach the importance of stewardship of our local waters, while simultaneously providing recreational opportunities via the proposed walking path.

For more information about the Shelton Creek Trail Project, contact Brandee Gregory at 360-427-9436 x15 or [brandee@masoncd.org](mailto:brandee@masoncd.org)



## MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

450 W Business Park Road  
Shelton, WA 98584

Phone: 360-427-9436  
Fax: 360-427-4396  
[www.masoncd.org](http://www.masoncd.org)

### Plant Sale Reminders:

- Plants are sold in bundles of **FIVE** except for pots.
- Place orders by January 25, 2013.
- View, Order and Pay for plants using your credit card through our website [www.masoncd.org](http://www.masoncd.org).
- Send order form by mail. If you are mailing your order form we will confirm your order in full or in part by sending you an invoice.
- Pick Up: **Friday, February 22nd, 10AM to 5PM** or **Saturday, February 23rd, 10AM to 2PM** at the District office.
- Warning: Any order not picked up will be donated to conservation projects or organizations.
- For questions about the native plant sale please call Jen at (360) 427-9436, Ext. 13 or (800) 527-9436, Ext. 13.

### Skokomish Estuary Restoration...continued from page 3

In addition to the culvert installations and groundwater investigation, several habitat improvements were made during Phase 3A. Two channels totaling a length of 2600' were excavated at historic locations. The original channels had been filled and graded level when the estuary was converted to agriculture land in the 1940's. In addition to the channel excavation, two notches we cut into the footprint of the perimeter dike. The notches were installed at historically accurate locations that were determined by interpretation of pre-disturbance aerial photographs dating from 1938. Near the notch installations, a 6000 square foot section of dike that was originally removed in 2007 had rebounded, a common occurrence during estuary restorations. The soils found in the estuary are so soft that they actually sag under the weight of a dike (similar to setting a heavy object on a waterbed) and can rebound slowly after the dike (or weight) is removed. The rebounded section of dike was re-graded to an elevation that matched the elevation of undisturbed reference saltmarsh near the restoration site, allowing for full floodplain connection. The final component of Phase 3A was removing the eastern most end of Skokomish Flats Road that extended into the floodplain and acted as a wing dike, deflecting floodwaters away from the interior of the restored saltmarsh. The removal involved excavating nearly 600 cubic yards of material and has significantly improved the ability of sediment laden water to enter the saltmarsh where the suspended sediments will settle out, helping to rebuild the soils that have been continuously degrading prior to the restoration. If you have questions about this project, please contact [Gavin Glore](#) at (360) 427-9436 Ext. 20



Adult chum digging redd in newly excavated channel in Skokomish Estuary. Photo by R. Tennison