

SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Volume 34, Number 1 SOIL • WATER • WOODLAND

Winter 2018

2018 NATIVE PLANT SALE—Details inside!!!

Al Craney Retires!

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A Farewell to Al Craney

Al Craney, Forester for the Conservation District is retiring. Al is a graduate of Centralia Community



College, ATA forest technology and Washington State University with a BS in Forest Management, MS in Forest Genetics. He has 40+ years of experience in natural resource management, forest genetics, nursery operations, and forest ecology. Al has enjoyed the silvicultural "plant growing" aspect of forestry. WSU was a good choice; the forestry department within the College of Agriculture focused on plant science. "There is always something new to learn." "I have greatly enjoyed my tenure with the Conservation District, especially working with private landowners to achieve their objectives and helping them see the unique qualities of their forest and how it may differ from other forests. Forestry was a natural choice, as Al began working in the family business at the age of 11 learning to operate equipment and scale logs. "I applied at the Social Security office and they actually have records that go back that far." "My colleagues tell

me that I'm older than dirt. Not really. I feel like I am just getting started". In summers during college, Al worked for the U.S. Forest Service and was on the first helitack crew in region 6 training in Redmond, Oregon, and Twisp, Washington. The fire experience became very helpful later.

In 1974, Al joined the Oregon State Division of Forestry in LaGrande, Oregon, and gained some valuable eastside experience. This was followed by a move to western Washington as Area Forester for Scott Paper Company. Al helped establish a seed orchard south of Coupeville and forest genetic testing program for Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish forest lands and a forest nursery in Skagit County. Following the sale of Scott Paper Company, Al worked for Daniels & Associates, a forest genetics consulting firm, where he continued research in tree improvement, plant breeding, and seed orchard management. In 1993, Al joined the Washington Association of Conservation Districts as the nursery manager of the Washington Association Districts Plant Materials Center.

In 1995, Al moved to his current position with the Skagit Conservation District assisting forest landowners integrate the management, protection, and enhancement of their forest resources. Al served on the NRCS Soils Science Team, correlating native overstory vegetation and understory vegetation to develop ecological site descriptions. Forestry has been an integral part of District programs, such as the Community Wildfire Protection Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Clean Water Program, Native Plant Sale and Education Programs.

Al coordinated the Forestry Track for the Washington Association of District Employee's annual training from 2002 to 2013. He also co-authored Skagit County's Fire Section of the County's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and Skagit County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Al is certified as a Forester by the Society of American Foresters and as a forest planner by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service. He also serves on the Skagit County Forest Advisory Board and the U.S. Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee, Mt. Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest.



Al plans to stay engaged in conservation issues, the great

outdoors and to travel. Three thoughts Al would like to leave you with: "When you cut a tree, plant two." "Not all soils can bare all things." "Healthy forests are the best thing we have going for us." Thank you for **23 years** of service! You will be missed!!

Samish Bay and Padilla Bay Update

Submitted by: Skagit County Public Works

Samish Bay Watershed Update—What an unusual year we've had! From near recordbreaking streaks of daily rain all the way through February and March, to a remarkably dry late spring and summer. Though we did not qualify for an upgrade this year, there are clear signs of progress! In November, the Washington Department of Health (DOH) took the opportunity to review the last three years of Samish River water quality results. We are very pleased to report that water quality in the Samish River has improved enough that DOH has updated the conditional closure criteria for Samish Bay. The new closure criteria took effect November 1, 2017.

In recent years, we have seen far fewer pollution closures, and the closures we do have last for fewer days. Previously, it only took a minor increase in the Samish River flow rate to trigger a conditional closure. Because of better septic system and manure management by residents and farmers in the Samish basin, the updated criteria allows for greater increases in flow rate before triggering a closure.

We are pleased with the progress, but our work is not done. The analysis of water quality showed that we still have significant fecal coliform problems in the fall and springtime. Our team will be working hard during these seasons to identify potential problems and contacting landowners about them.

Padilla Bay Watershed Update—Pollution source identification work continues in the Padilla Bay Watershed, and we are pleased at the progress we've made. Over the last year, the volunteer Storm Team has been helping out by sampling at various sites in the watershed to help us understand where pollution might be coming from. With this data, we have identified several areas that we want to focus on over the next year. These areas include Big and Little Indian Slough Watersheds, specifically the industrial areas in the region of Ovenell Road and the area of Joe Leary Slough that is east of I-5 and north of the city of Burlington.

We spent a lot of time last year in the No Name Creek Watershed, and are working closely with several property owners in the area on projects that we hope will go a long way toward improving water quality. We are also hoping to see an improvement in water quality in the town of Bay View itself, since the last known septic system failure in the area has now been fixed.

We, of course, will continue to explore the rest of the watershed as well. We appreciate the work the residents of the watershed are doing to improve water quality, and hope you will join us in continuing to reach our goal of safe water for everyone. We are also always happy to take reports of possible problems at our Clean Water Hotline 360-416-1400, or online at www.skagitcounty.net/cleanwater.

What you can do

- Get your septic system inspected regularly to check for problems
- Keep livestock and pet waste away from streams and drainage ditches
- Implement good pasture and manure management practices
- Consider a rain garden to capture rainwater runoff
- Take advantage of opportunities to educate yourself and your family about your local stream and watershed



Work began this fall on the installation of a rain garden and compost sock terrace project at the Bay View United Methodist Church (Bay View UMC). The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) received grant funding through the WA Dept. of Ecology's Terry Husseman Fund to install the project, which has brought together numerous partners, including the Bay View UMC, Skagit and Snohomish Conservation Districts, the Backyard Eco Garden Group, and numerous community neighbors and SCD volunteers.

This project will collect and infiltrate stormwater runoff, support local and state efforts to improve the water quality health of the Padilla Bay Watershed, and provide an educational demonstration site to inspire community awareness of local water quality issues and to promote green landscaping techniques and construction. Polluted runoff is one of the greatest threats to clean water throughout the U.S. As we develop our cities and towns, we replace forests and meadows with buildings and pavement. And now when it rains, the water (often called runoff or stormwater runoff) runs off roofs and driveways into the street. Runoff picks up fertilizer, oil, pesticides, dirt, bacteria and other pollutants as it makes its way through storm drains and ditches - untreated - to our streams, rivers, lakes and the ocean.

When we take action to soak up the rain, we keep rain closer to where it falls and reduce the runoff from our roofs, driveways, and parking lots. Reducing runoff can help prevent water pollution, reduce flooding, and protect our water resources. When we put in plants to filter the rain water, we also help beautify our neighborhoods, recharge groundwater and bring many other benefits to our communities.

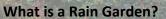
The Skagit and Snohomish Conservation Districts would like to give special thanks to the Bay View United Methodist Church, Ian Horton (who volunteered his time and expertise for the landscape design), Everett Chu, owner/manager of Azusa Farm and Gardens, for providing a significant discount on plants, and all the wonderful volunteers who have provided support to this project. Work will continue on this project in early spring with opportunities for rain garden workshops and tours also coming soon. For information, contact Kristi Carpenter (360) 428-4313 or email: kristi@skagitcd.org.



Planting begins!



Alicia Kellogg, with the Snohomish CD Demonstrates proper planting techniques.



Rain gardens are versatile features that can be installed in almost any unpaved space. Also known as bioretention, or bioinfiltration cells, they are shallow, vegetated basins that collect and absorb runoff from rooftops, sidewalks, and streets. This practice mimics natural hydrology by infiltrating, and evaporating and transpiring—or "evapotranspiring"—stormwater runoff.



Pictured from L to R: Mary Wahlgren, Susan Olson, Alicia Kellogg (Snohomish CD), Ian Horton, Virginia Naef, Jean Stephens, Janet Nevitt, and Jack Middleton. Missing from photo: Judi Rogers, Bill Rogers, Amy Fenlon, and Kristi Carpenter (SCD).

Skagit Conservation District 2018 Native Plant Sale

Our mission: Providing voluntary incentive-based programs to support the land base while protecting and enhancing natural resources in Skagit County.

Pre-order Information

Pre-order minimum: \$50 before taxes with 50% deposit (check, cash or credit card)

Pre-order deadline: 4 p.m. Friday, March 30, 2018

Pre-order forms available from the office or www.skagitcd.org

Limited quantities First come, first served

Pick up date: Friday, April 13, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pick up location: WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center, 16564 Bradley Road, Bow

SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2021 E. College Way, Suite 203 Mount Vernon, WA 98273-2373

Phone: 360-428-4313 Website: www.skagitcd.org Email: skagitcd@skagitcd.org



Open Sale Information

OPEN SALE Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SALE LOCATION WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center 16564 Bradley Road, Bow



More About Our Native Plant Sale

Discount Available!

15% discount for plant purchases more than \$500 (before sales tax)

Plant Sale Proceeds:

The proceeds of the plant sale are used to support our K-12 education programs.

Availability of Plants:

The number of plants for sale are limited to the number we order six months before the sale. Availability may also be affected for various unpredictable reasons, such as plant failure, damage or disease.

Plant Grade & Size:

Our plants are conservationgrade, graded mostly on survivability as they are intended for conservation purposes, such as shelterbelts, erosion control, fire resistance, and wildlife habitat. Most plants are bareroot seedlings, so are generally small (approximate sizes are listed). A high hauling capacity is <u>NOT</u> necessary.

SKAGIT CD 2018 NATIVE PLANT SALE: PLANT DESCRIPTIONS AND PRICING

Common Name/Genus S	pecies	Max. Ht.	Classification & Characteristics	Habitat Characteristics & Conservation Uses	Est. size	Bundle Price				
EVERGREEN/CONIFER TREE SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25- EXCEPT AS NOTED)										
1. Fir, Grand Abies grandis	2-0	150'	🍂 🌞 🥗 🝵	Prefers acidic, well-drained soils; Christmas tree, lumber, wildlife food & shelter	12"+	\$26.00 for 25				
2. Fir, Noble Abies procera	P-1	100'	1 🔆 🧐	Prefers well-drained soil; Christmas trees, wildlife food & shelter, floral greens	12"+	\$36.00 for 25				
3. Cedar, AK Yellow Chamaecyparis nootkater	P-1 nsis	100'	🛊 🔆 🦖 🕈	Prefers full sun & cool humid climate. Uses; building, carving, weaving	18"	\$41.00 for 25				
4. Spruce, Sitka Picea sitchensis	P-1	200'	🛊 🌞 🔶 🔵	Prefers moist, well-drained soils; wildlife food & shelter, lumber, deer resistant	18"	\$36.00 for 25				
5. Pine, Shore <i>Pinus contorta</i>	2-0	100'	1 🔆 🐝 🐐	Tolerates wet soils; Christmas trees, wildlife food & shelter	12"+	\$26.00 for 25				
6. Pine, Scots Pinus sylvestris	2-0	60'	1	Adapts to most climates; windbreak, Christmas trees, wildlife food & shelter	12"	\$31.00 for 25				
7. Fir, Douglas Pseudotsuga menziesii	2-0	200'	🛊 🌞 🖤 🍵	Prefers acidic, well-drained soils; Christmas tree, lumber, wildlife food & shelter	12"+	\$23.50 for 25				
8. Cedar, Western Red <i>Thuja plicata</i>	P-1	200'	🖡 🌞 🦤 🌻	Tolerates wet soils; wildlife food & shelter, wind- break, carving, weaving	18"	\$36.00 for 25				
DECIDUOUS TREE SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10)										
9. Maple, Vine Acer circinatum	1-0	25'	🕊 🌞 🦖 🧶 🕊	Grows in dry to wet areas; wildlife shelter, variety of landscapes	18"	\$21.00 for 10				
10. Maple, Big Leaf Acer macrophyllum	1-0	80'	🌿 🌞 🏆 🎘 🏓	Grows in dry to moist soil; wildlife food & shelter, syrup, early bloom for bees & other pollinators.	24"+	\$21.00 for 10				
11. Birch Betula papyrifera	2-0	80'	🕊 🌞 🌺 🏶	Prefers moist, well-drained soils; wildlife food & shelter, fuel, lumber, windbreak	18"+	\$21.00 for 10				
12. Crabapple, Pacific <i>Malus fusca</i>	1-0	30'	***********	Prefers low, damp places; wildlife food & pollen	12"+	\$21.00 for 10				
13. Dogwood, Pacific Cornus nuttallii	1-0	60'	¥ % 🛉	Prefers moist, deep, well-drained soil high in organic matter; wildlife food	12"+	\$21.00 for 10				
14. Hawthorne Crataegus douglasii	1-0	25'	¥**** & **	Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife habitat & food source	12"+	\$21.00 for 10				
SHRUB SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10- EXCEPT AS NOTED)										
15. Serviceberry Amelanchier alnifolia	1-0	15'	🌿 🔆 🦉 🛞 🔴	Grows in well-drained dry to moist soils; wildlife food, edible berry	12"+	\$20.00 for 10				
16. Kinnikinnick Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	4" pot	8-10"	🛊 🌼 🖇 🔉	Ground cover that prefers well-drained, exposed sites; wildlife food & pollen	4" pot	\$3.85 <u>EACH</u>				
17. Dogwood, Red Osier <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	1-0	20'	🐝 🦖 🛞 🎈	Grows in moist to wet sites; red twigs; wildlife food & shelter, erosion control	18"	\$20.00 for 10				
18. Salal Gaultheria shallon	4" pot	6'	🖡 🍀 👷 😵 💑	Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food, edible, floral greens, erosion control	4" pot	\$3.85 <u>EACH</u>				
19. Oregon Grape, Tall Mahonia aquifolium	2-0	5-10'	🗚 🔆 🌪 🗞	Dry to moist sites; wildlife food, attracts long- tongued bee species, erosion control, edible	18"	\$20.00 for 10				
Evergreen deciduous full sun partial full shade nuts/seeds flowers/pollen fruit/berries										

shade sun

SKAGIT CD 2018 NATIVE PLANT SALE: PLANT DESCRIPTIONS AND PRICING

Common Name/Genus Species	Max. Ht.	Classification & Characteristics	Habitat Characteristics & Conservation Uses	Est. size	Bundle Price				
SHRUB SEEDLINGS (SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 10- EXCEPT AS NOTED)									
20. Oregon Grape, Short 2-0 <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	2'	🎄 🧐 😣 🐝	Drought tolerant once established; wildlife food; durable & adaptable; edible fruit	6"	\$20.00 for 10				
21. Indian Plum 1-0 <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	15'	¥ 🥗 🐝	Grows in dry to moist, soils; wildlife food; attracts bees, butterflies, & hummingbirds	18"	\$20.00 for 10				
22. Mock Orange 2-0 Philadelphus lewisii	10'		Prefers well-drained moist sites; has fragrant flowers; wildlife food & nectar	12"+	\$20.00 for 10				
23. Ninebark 1-0 Physocarpus capitatus	13'	🐝 🜞 🎊	Grows in damp soil; benefits small bees; host plant for Spring Azure butterflies	12"+	\$20.00 for 10				
24. Currant, Red Flowering 1-0 <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	10'		Grows in dry to moist soil at low & mid elevation; wildlife food; pollen	18"	\$20.00 for 10				
25. Rhododendron, Pacific plug Rhododendron macrophyllum	10'	🎉 🔆 🌺 🥵	Prefers moist to dry well-drained soil; source of shelter & pollen	plug	6.95 <u>EACH</u>				
26. Rose, Nootka 1-0 <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	10'		Grows in dry to moist sites; wildlife food & Shelter; host plant for numerous butterflies	12"+	\$20.00 for 10				
27. Elderberry, Blue root+10" Sambucus glauca	15'	🌉 🂐 🏶 🐝	Grows in dry to moist sites in open space; wildlife food & shelter; edible	10"+	\$20.00 for 10				
28. Willow, Hooker whip Salix hookeriana	20'		Grows in moist to wet sites; erosion control; benefits birds & butterflies; shrub	36" whip	\$15.50 for 10				
29. Willow, Sitka whip Salix sitchensis	15'	🐝 🌞 🌫	Grows in moist to dry sites; erosion control; benefits birds & butterflies; shrub	36" whip	\$15.50 for 10				
30. Willow, Pacific whip Salix lasiandra	45'		Grows in wet to dry sites; erosion control; benefits birds & butterflies; tree	36" whip	\$15.50 for 10				
31.Douglas Spirea 2-0 Spiraea douglasii	6'	🖊 🔆 🦓 🚒	Margins of ponds & meadows; wet sites; open space at low elevation; benefits bumble bees	18"	\$20.00 for 10				
32. Snowberry 1-0 Symphoricarpos albus	6'		Prefers dry well-drained soils; wildlife food; erosion control	12"+	\$20.00 for 10				
33. Huckleberry, Evergreen <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i> plug	4'	🗚 🔆 🦖 🗞 💑	Grows in sun or shade with well-drained soil; Floral greens & edible fruit	plug	6.95 <u>EACH</u>				



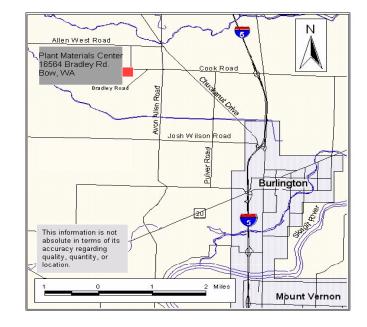




sun

DIRECTIONS TO THE SCD NATIVE PLANT SALE

WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center (PMC) 16564 Bradley Road, Bow, WA From I-5 take the Cook Road Exit (#232). Go west on Cook Road. Cross Chuckanut Dr. and Avon Allen Road. Cook Road will become Bradley Road after Avon-Allen. Continue west for about one mile. The PMC will be on your left. If you come to a sharp right turn, you have gone too far. (Do not rely on GPS devices!) 7



Skagit Conservation District Rates and Charges Analysis

The District was hit hard in 2017 by the State Capital Budget not being passed. In order to better provide assistance to landowners who are interested in Agriculture, Rural and Urban Forestry, Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife and conservation of our shared resources, the District is investigating the adoption of Rates and Charges. A rates and charges system is allowed by the State Legislature for special purposed Districts like the Skagit CD.

The District has a long history of helping landowners be successful stewards of the Skagit landscape. The Districts employees value the opportunity to keep the Skagit a healthy place for families through events like the Skagit CD Native Plant Sale, Backyard Wildlife Habitat classes, Sustainable Gardening workshops, youth education programs, and the Clean Samish Initiative. The District will be providing more information in late winter or early spring after the preliminary analysis is complete. In the meantime, please feel free to contact the District to share how we can improve our services in assisting Skagitonians in preserving our cherished resources.



2017 SCD Accomplishment Highlights

Commercial Livestock and Small Farm Operations

- 204 commercial and small farm landowners assisted
- 9 farm plans completed and 10 structural BMPs implemented





Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 702 buffer acres installed to date with 324,560 native trees planted to date
- 237,154 feet (44 miles) of riparian restoration implemented to date

Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities

- 7 hazardous fuels reduction projects implemented
- Skagit County CWPP and wildfire hazard map updated for D.E.M.
- Implemented a research project to reduce extreme fire danger, improve wildlife habitat and control invasive non-native species
- WA State ranks 3rd in the nation for number of Firewise Communities/USA (139) and had the most new communities in 2016



Forest Stewardship Program

- 60 landowners received technical assistance
- Completed a forest restoration project in cooperation with Skagit County Parks and Recreation

Clean Samish/Padilla Bay Education

17,500 native plants were sold

at the annual SCD plant sale

- Bay View Methodist Church rain garden, compost sock terrace and volunteer planting underway
- 6 tours of Naturescape Demonstration Garden & Alger NRSP projects – 781 participants



2017 SCD Accomplishment Highlights

Environmental Education

- 734 students (27 classes) participated in the annual Youth
- Conservation Tour in May
- Hosted educational displays and "hands-on" educational
- activities to over 12,213 attendees
- 65 individuals completed the Spring 2017 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course





Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program

• 22 community volunteers participated in the 2017 sampling of 10 local shellfish harvesting beaches

Over 55,550 total volunteer hours to date!



Low Impact Development (LID) & Stormwater Education

- 48 stormwater education presentations provided to 1150 Skagit County students
- LID presentations/trainings conducted with over 750 participants
- Hosted "Puget Sound Starts Here" educational display and watershed model/and or stormwater game at 13 community events (12,594 attendees overall)

Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- 24 individuals completed the fall 2017 Watershed Masters Training – 557 participants to date
- 5,050 Watershed Master volunteer hours reported in 2017



For the complete 2017 Annual Report of Accomplishments, please visit our website at www.skagitcd.org

Skagit Stream/Storm Team

- 79 volunteers participated in the 2016/17 Stream Team Program
- Over 1,200 Stream Team volunteer hours reported for 2016/17 monitoring season





Important 2018 Election Dates

Public Poll Election

7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 20 2021 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Candidate Filing Deadline

4 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Absentee Ballots Request Deadline 4 p.m. Tuesday

March 6, 2018

Absentee Ballot Receipt Deadline 1 p.m. March 20, 2018

For more information

or to request a form or ballot:

contact Sheri at 360-428-4313 or email sheri@skagitcd.org

Don't forget to vote!

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Commission website: http://www.scc.wa.gov/ One elected position on the Skagit Conservation District (SCD) Board will expire in May 2018. The position is currently held by David "Dave" Malsed. There are no term limits, so the candidate may chose to continue on the Board if elected by the public or appointed by the Washington State

Conservation Commission (WSCC). There are no appointed positions that expire in 2018.

To vote: request an absentee ballot by 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, 2018, by calling the SCD at 360-428-4313 or cast your vote at our public walk-in poll election, which will be held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, at 2021 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 *Voters must be Washington State registered voters and live within Skagit County.*

There are no vacancies of appointed supervisors for 2018. For more information on Elected or Appointed Board Supervisors go to: http://scc.wa.gov/elections/



On-site Public Poll Election held in 2nd Floor Conference Room, 2021 East College Way Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Enter on north side of building

To be an elected candidate: you

must be a Washington State registered voter and live within Skagit County and file an information form with the SCD by 4 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2018. For your name to appear on the ballot, a valid nomination form signed by 25 registered Skagit County voters must also be filed by February 20, 2018. Information forms and nomination petitions are available by contacting the SCD at 360-428-4313.

<u>Candidates</u> must be registered voters residing in Skagit County and **may be required to own land or operate a farm**. The candidate filing deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2018. No further candidate filings will be accepted after this date.

More about the Board of Supervisors:

The SCD Board is a governing body of five supervisors who are unpaid public officials. The Board oversees the work of the SCD, which provides voluntary, incentive based options that support working landscapes while protecting and enhancing our natural resource land base. Three of the Board Supervisors are elected by the voters of Skagit County and two are appointed by the WSCC.





NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 91 Mount, Vernon, WA

SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2021 E. COLLEGE WAY, SUITE 203 MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273-2373 PHONE: (360) 428-4313 WEBSITE: www.skagitcd.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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To become a conservation newsletter sponsor, please contact Sheri at **360-428-4313**.

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