



SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

News

Volume 34, Number 2

SOIL • WATER • WOODLAND

Summer 2018



Inside this Issue:

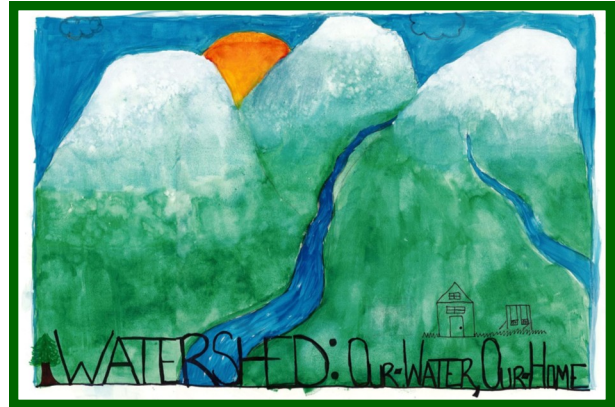
- Youth Education
- Rates and Charges
- Dairy Planning
- Upcoming Training Programs
- Skagit County Water Quality

2018 Poster Contest

"Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home"

The Skagit Conservation District hosted its annual Natural Resources Conservation Poster Contest in honor of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 29 to May 6, 2018. Each year, the National Association of Conservation Districts creates a theme based on an annual rotation of five natural resource topics. The theme for 2018 is "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home". The contest was open to Skagit County students, grades K-12, and 52 posters were submitted for judging.

This year's overall winner was **Searrah Martin**, an 8th grader at Concrete High School. Searrah was also the Category 7-9th Grade Winner. She was awarded a \$50 Tri-Dee Arts gift card, a plaque and professional framing of her winning poster. The Runner-up Winner was **Payton Dickinson**, also an 8th grader at Concrete High School. Payton was awarded a plaque and a \$25 Tri-Dee Arts gift card.



Lydia Gultrom, a 1st grader at Foothills Christian, was the Category K-1st Grade Winner; **Abbie McMoran**, a 3rd grader at West View Elementary, was the Category 2-3rd Grade Winner; **Vicky Batchelor**, a Central Elementary 6th grader, was the Category 4-6th Grade Winner; and Landon Edwards, an 11th grader at Mount Vernon High School, was the Category 10-12th Grade Winner. Each Category winner received a weather station and category award certificate. Laminated bookmarks were created featuring their poster artwork. All contest participants received participation certificates, as well as activity booklets and bookmarks related to this year's theme.

The award winning students and their families were recognized during a televised presentation with the Skagit County Commissioners and Blossom the Treeture™ at the annual Soil and Water Stewardship Proclamation that was held at the Skagit County Commissioners Hearing Room this past April.

We want to give a special thank you to our 2018 poster contest judges: **Richard Brocksmith**, Executive Director of the Skagit Watershed Council, **Lucy DeGrace**, Outreach Manager for Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and **Rick Haley**, Water Quality Analyst for Skagit County.

Skagit Conservation District Rates and Charges

The Skagit Conservation District recently completed a rates and charges analysis to assist with securing a stable funding source. The District advertised and held a public hearing to answer any questions about the proposal. The proposal would allow a \$5.00 per parcel rate along with \$0.10 cents per acre charge. The industrial forest landowner would have a rate of \$3.00 per landowner. The District has served landowners of Skagit County since 1942 and rates and charges are needed to keep up with the growing population and demands on our natural resources. The District is talking with various interest groups to find out which of our District services are of most value in assisting them manage the natural resources they steward.

Please contact the District if you have any questions regarding the proposal. Please share your support for the District Clean Water Actions supporting shellfish and salmon, maintaining productive agriculture through farm planning, Healthy Forests and Firewise Communities, and all ages stewardship education.

2018 Skagit Conservation Youth Tour

This year's annual Skagit Conservation Youth Tour, held May 8th and 9th, welcomed over 500 fifth and sixth grade Skagit County students to Pomona Grange Park on Friday Creek. Students participated in hands-on activities offered by local resource professionals at stations provided throughout the park; forest protection, the salmon life cycle, invasive species identification and eradication, soils, "Leave No Trace" camping practices, and forest regeneration. This was a "Zero Waste" event and students who chose to have lunch at the park were encouraged to bring their lunches in reusable containers. Students were then assisted with sorting their leftover items between composting and recycling.

THANK YOU!!!

- **Department of Natural Resources**
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- **Sierra Pacific Industries**
- **Skagit County Compost/Recyclers Program**
- **Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group**
- **Skagit Land Trust**
- **US Forest Service**



**SIERRA
PACIFIC**
FOUNDATION
GROWING HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES...

A huge thank you to Sierra Pacific Foundation for providing transportation funding for the students.



Interested in Pesticide monitoring being done in the Skagit?

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has been conducting annual ambient monitoring to evaluate pesticide concentration in surface waters since 2003. They would like to make sure that everybody knows there is a web tool to review that data and asked us to share the link to their website. If you have any questions regarding the data, the WSDA contact information is on the web page.

<https://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/natresources/SWM/>

Dairy Planning at the CD



The Skagit Conservation District and the local dairies have been working together for generations. There have been countless projects designed, built, and funded to help our local dairies use Best Management Practices to maximize efficiencies and protect water resources. The dairies are able to access District services with funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission, United States Department of Agriculture and Skagit County. The District Dairy Planner, Jeff Frazier, has completed the training required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and produces a plan that meets all specifications needed by a dairy for certification.

This summer the District completed Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) for three individual dairies. The CNMP provides the landowner detailed maps and recommendations that help them manage the collection and application of nutrients (manure) across multiple field types. The plans also provide guidance on timing to avoid extremely wet periods and maximize those times when temperatures support rapid plant uptake of nutrients during the growing season.

The District is proud to serve our local farmers and help them be successful in meeting their goals, including the stewardship of all natural resources found in Skagit County. Our staff enjoy working directly with the landowners to identify the Best Management Practices that best fit their operation and see the process through to funding, construction, and operation. Pictured are examples of a manure solids separator and new gutters to collect and utilize clean stormwater.



If you have questions regarding the development of a farm plan or access to state and federal cost share programs to assist with the design and construction of Best Management Practices, contact Jeff Frazier at 360-428-4313 or email to jeff@skagitcd.org.





Fall 2018 Watershed Masters Program



Explore the wonders of local watersheds!

The Skagit Conservation District is now taking registrations for the Fall 2018 Watershed Masters Program! Enjoy 8 evening sessions and 3 Saturday field days (1/2 day) and learn from local experts about local water quality, marine life, salmon, stream ecology, geology, climate change impacts, sustainable landscaping, stormwater, rainwater harvesting, and much more!



Fall 2018 Training Dates:
 Class will begin on
WED. SEPTEMBER 26th
 from 6 pm to 9 pm
 and continues every
Wednesday evening through November 14th
 (however, the Oct. 31st session will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 30th)
Sat. field days are scheduled for Sept. 29th, Oct. 13th, & Oct. 20th

Pre-registration Requested by Sept. 21st:
Contact Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District
(360) 428-4313 or Email: Kristi@skagited.org



Join the Skagit Stream Team!



Help protect our legacy of clean water!

The Skagit Conservation District is now taking registrations for the 2018/19 Skagit Stream Team Program. Stream Team volunteers participate in an annual 3 day training taught by local professionals and are then responsible for either collecting and recording water quality data in the field or conducting testing in the lab on a monthly basis from October through June. Volunteers learn sampling and analytical techniques used by environmental professionals, and have the opportunity to learn new skills, gain new insights, network with local experts, meet new friends, and participate in a worthwhile community program. For more information, download the informational flier on the Skagit Conservation District website: www.skagited.org.

2018 Skagit Stream Team Training Dates:
WED. SEPT. 5th & THURS. SEPT. 6TH
 from 6 pm to 8:30 pm
SAT. SEPT. 8TH
 from 9 am to 2:30 pm

Pre-registration Requested by AUGUST 31ST, 2018:
Contact Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District
(360) 428-4313 or Email: Kristi@skagited.org



Do you Poop Smart?

Submitted by: Skagit County Public Works

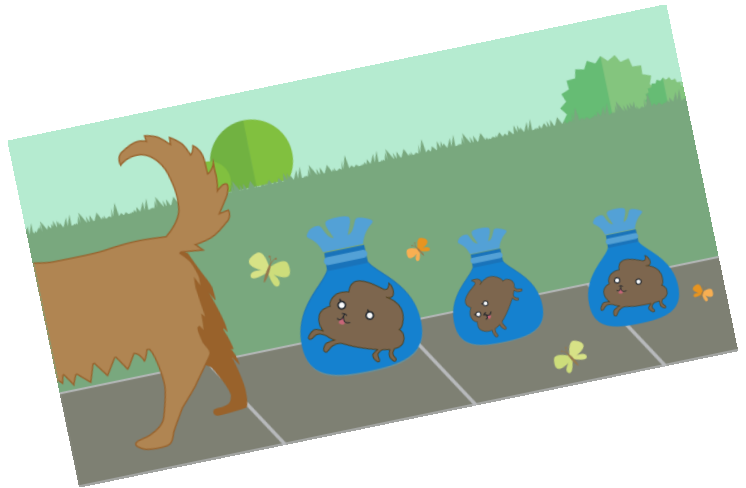
The turd herders at Skagit County's Clean Water Program recently pushed out their new PoopSmart campaign at www.poopsmart.org. The goal? Getting to the bottom of local water quality problems. Channeling the humor of everyone's inner five-year old, they're encouraging people to spread the word (not the turd!) and to do their dooty to manage livestock, pet, and human waste better.



From hound mounds and man bombs to cow chips and meadow muffins, the website has tips for just about anyone who lays a loaf. But it's not all poop puns. The website shares resources for hikers and fishers, as well as pet, livestock, and septic system owners. There's even financial assistance for those who could use a little help getting their septic systems fixed, or get fencing, manure storage, or other help on their small farm.

Anyone wanting to join the movement is welcome to download and use the social media toolkit available at www.poopsmart.org. The toolkit includes all the fun images, plus suggested messages to use on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The Skagit Conservation District and Skagit County have also teamed up to create a series of short videos about all the things that can be done on a small farm to save money and time.



Our first video discusses growing better grass through pasture management. You can find it at Skagit County Clean Water's YouTube channel, or on the Skagit Conservation District and Skagit County Clean Water Facebook pages (www.facebook.com/skagitcd and www.facebook.comskagitcountycleanwater).

Stay tuned for future videos, too.

Stormwater Presentations

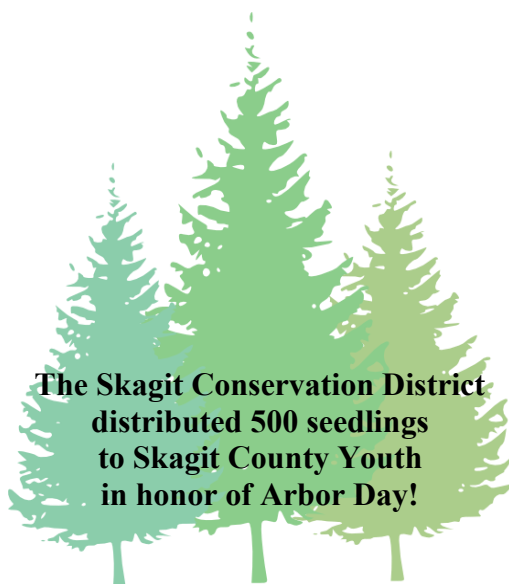
During the 2017-18 school year, the Skagit Conservation District visited 35 Skagit County classrooms educating over 850 students about stormwater pollution within their watersheds. In addition, the Watershed Model made its appearance at several events, such as the Mount Vernon Science night, the Skagit River Salmon Festival, and many other outreach events.

Using the EnviroScape watershed model, which is a scaled-down, tabletop version of the "Skagit Watershed", participants learn about the important relationship they share with their local water bodies and the impact that human actions have on them. The hands-on model gives a visual example of what a watershed may look like and accompanying demonstrations show how various land uses and their associated non-point source pollution can affect water quality, especially after a rain storm.


These presentations provide a unique, interactive learning experience, enabling children, as well as adults, to make the connection between the way we live and the health of our local waterways. They are able to see how the combined affects of non-point source pollution from many small sources can have a large impact on the quality of our shared water resources. Students discover how they can protect the environment by taking small, local actions and also gain knowledge about stormwater runoff, water pollution, water quality, watersheds, and stewardship.



We are all part of the solution to stormwater pollution!



The Skagit Conservation District distributed 500 seedlings to Skagit County Youth in honor of Arbor Day!



SUMMER

WORD SEARCH

UQE Z J Y L A V E X S T F L
 N O I T A C A V L G A C Y Q O
 Q X D C C T G T T G A K V P L
 Z T F U P F S U N F L O W E R
 H O Q Q T A C A O X A D Q H X
 H E A T C I I Q L T Q U C N Y
 B V B D Q C N A E O H A V W F
 F A N P D E C S M P E V L U S
 G A S K B C I F R B O P A W K
 S N V E A R P C E C G O I N O
 F S I S B E L J T D F M L D G
 U I O T W A K J A X M Q E B F
 A I Y S A M L F W I V N A F G
 I T A C E O H L N G D B Y V F
 T F Z C G K B G O V W N P Y C

BEACH
BASEBALL
ICE CREAM
SWIMMING

PICNIC
VACATION
SUNFLOWER
WATERMELON

SANDCASTLE
HEAT
BOATING
POOL



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

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

Change Service Requested



Printed on recycled paper that contains 30% post-consumer

We wish to thank the businesses and individuals who help to sponsor this publication of the **Skagit Conservation District News**

Skagit Conservation News sponsorships cost \$50 a year for listed business names or \$100 for business cards, and are seen by over 4,000 readers twice a year.

The **Skagit Conservation District** recognizes the following businesses as **Skagit Conservation District News** sponsors:

To become a Skagit Conservation District newsletter sponsor, please contact Sheri at 360-428-4313.

William F. Black Soil Testing Testing and Consulting

Agricultural • Nurseries • Landscaping

William Black 360-757-6112
 Agronomist Cell: 360-770-6437

E-Mail: wfblacksoiltester@gmail.com

503 Gardner Rd. • P.O. Box 317 • Burlington, WA 98233



We have what you need!

Lawn & Garden
 Feed • Animal Health • Wild Bird
 Pet Food & Supplies
 Hardware • Tack & Clothing

Countrystore.net

Burlington
 (360) 757-4055

Freeland
 (360) 331-1970

Mount Vernon
 (360) 424-4207

Oak Harbor
 (360) 675-2277

Sedro Wooley
 (360) 656-6567

Stanwood
 (360) 629-7033



360.707.2353
 northwestfcs.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



HAPPY FACE FARMS, INC.

Complete Site Prep. / Logging / Glendons
 Design and Septic Installers / Sewers / Utilities
 Permit Applications / Crawl Space Drainage

Gary Lohman • (360) 421-5193 Travis Lohman • (360) 661-4533
 gary@happyfacefarms.com happyfacefarms4@gmail.com

8795 District Line Rd. • Fax (360) 399-1820
 Burlington, Washington 98233 • MasterCard / VISA Accepted



SCHUH FARMS

Since 1963

Steve & Susan Schuh

Steve Susan Jennifer Andrew
 360-420-0453 360-420-5178 360-202-3863 360-424-6982

Wholesale & Retail

15565 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
 Tel: 360-424-6982



(360) 419-0988

P.O. Box 2632 friends@fidalgo.net
 Mount Vernon, WA. 98273 www.friendsofskogitcounty.org

Visit Us On Facebook!

Visit our page for tips, updates, photos and events, and don't forget to "Like" us!

SCD Board meetings are held at 2021 E College Way 2nd floor conference room on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30 a.m. and are open to the public. Please call 360-428-4313 to verify dates.

www.skagitcd.org

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION www.scc.wa.gov

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS www.wadistricts.org

SCD Board of Supervisors: Dean Wesen, Chair | Dave Malsed, Vice Chair | Jed Holmes, Auditor | Margery Hite, member | Eben Twaddle, member