



Whatcom

CONSERVATION NEWS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3

SUMMER 2001

Bertrand Creek Stream Team Kicks Off This Fall!!



Stream Team volunteers prepare tree protection tubes for installation at John Postma's riparian revegetation project.



Are you interested in learning about local water quality issues and becoming involved in a worthwhile community program? This fall, the Whatcom STREAM TEAM is kicking off its second year and looking for volunteers to as-

sist with water quality monitoring, restoration projects and community outreach.

Most people agree that conservation works best when people who live and work in an area are involved in find-

ing solutions to local resource management challenges. Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) incorporates that local problem solving approach in its efforts to offer educational opportunities and technical and financial support to landowners. One such opportunity that offers a chance for local citizens to be involved with protection and stewardship of local streams is the Whatcom STREAM TEAM.

The STREAM TEAM program involves classroom training as well field instruction about topics including fish habitat, plant identification, water quality, riparian habitat restoration, pasture management, composting and much more! This program is modeled after successful programs offered by Skagit, Pierce and Thurston County Conservation Districts.

Whatcom STREAM TEAM members will focus their work in the Bertrand and Fishtrap Creek watersheds. STREAM

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

District Board of Supervisor Election Placed on General Ballot

Bastian "Bas" Scholten and Fred Tjoelker Both File

The State Attorney General, Christine Gregoire, issued a formal opinion last month that Conservation District Board of Supervisor elections must now comply with the state's general election laws. This means that for the first time in our history (Whatcom's District was formed in 1946) candidates for the District Board will appear on the general ballot. Two candidates filed by the July 27th deadline, Bas Scholten and Fred Tjoelker. Bas Scholten, the incumbent and current Board Chair, is a retired dairy farmer who lives near Everson. Fred Tjoelker, who grows row crops and runs a custom harvesting business, lives in the Custer area. Whatcom CONSERVATION NEWS will provide more information about these two candidates in our fall issue.

Forest Owners Field Day set for August 25 and 26 at Black Mountain Forestry Center. See page 3 for details.

Dairy Planning Report

In 1998 the Washington State legislature passed the Dairy Nutrient Management Act (RCW 90.64) requiring all dairies in the state to develop Nutrient Management Plans. The Act established deadlines for Nutrient Management Plan approval and implementation:

- * June 30, 2002 - Deadline for nutrient management plan approval. Plan must be approved by local conservation district.

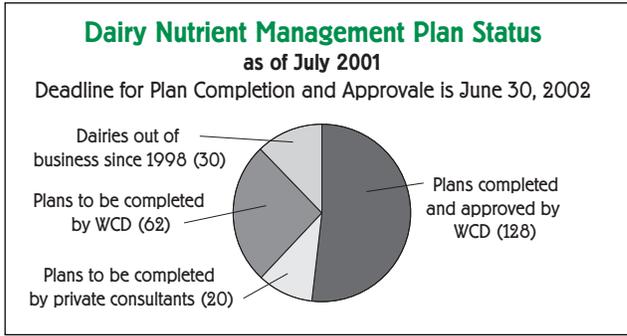
- * December 31, 2003 - Deadline for nutrient management plan implementation. A completely implemented nutrient management plan means that all structures needed to collect, store, and transfer wastes have been installed or constructed, and that dairy wastes are being applied to fields at agronomic rates according to standards developed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

When planning began in 1998 for implementation of the Nutrient Management Act, there were 240 dairy

farms in Whatcom County.

- * As of July 2001, 210 Whatcom County dairies remain in business.

- * Of Whatcom County's 210 dairies, 128 have nutrient management



plans approved by WCD.

- * Of the 82 remaining dairies without approved plans, 20 farms intend to have nutrient management plans prepared by a private consultant (these plans are still subject to approval by WCD).

Questions about the dairy nutrient management planning process can be directed to Chuck Timblin, Bill Sickner, or Chris Clark at the District (360) 354-2035.

“We must also admit that we are part of the problem, and if we are truly going to be responsible environmental stewards, we are in the best position to find solutions to those problems.”

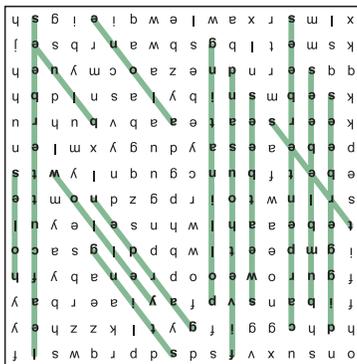
Read Smith, Palouse area wheat farmer and newly elected President of National Association of Conservation Districts

State Funding For Water Quality Improvements On Dairies Goes Quickly

The state legislature approved nearly \$4 million dollars for the current biennium (2001-2003) to fund water quality improvements on state dairy farms. Although the money was to last for two years, it was all allocated by second week of the new biennium, which began July 1st. Whatcom County dairy farmers were allocated all the funds they requested: \$419,738 dollars.



KIDS' PAGE Answers



WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT – Mission Statement: *the Whatcom Conservation District promotes conservation education and provides technical assistance to foster a healthy relationship between the environment and people.*

Western Washington Forest Owners: Field Day Set For August 25-26

On August 25th - 26th, the Western Washington Forest Owners' Field Day will be held at Black Mountain Forestry Center north of Maple Falls. The Field Day will feature practical "out in the woods" learning on a wide variety of topics of interest to small forest landowners. On Saturday, hourly presentations will include: site preparation, reforestation and early plantation care; forest health; fish and wildlife habitat

enhancement; thinning, forest fertilization, pruning, hardwood management, cultural resources, special forest products; understanding the forest floor, selling your timber, protecting your house and land from wildfire, and live timber harvesting demonstrations featuring horse logging, small scale logging equipment, and state-of-the-art mechanized harvesting machinery. Each topic will be repeated every hour, on the hour, from 9AM until 4PM.

More advanced and in depth workshops are scheduled for Sunday, and include: wildlife and plant identification, and forest ecology & soils, and understanding the new forest practices rules. These half-day workshops will be offered in both the morning and afternoon. Advanced registration will be required for these special emphasis workshops.

Additional activities offered will include



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tours into the mountains to see industrial forestland management practices.

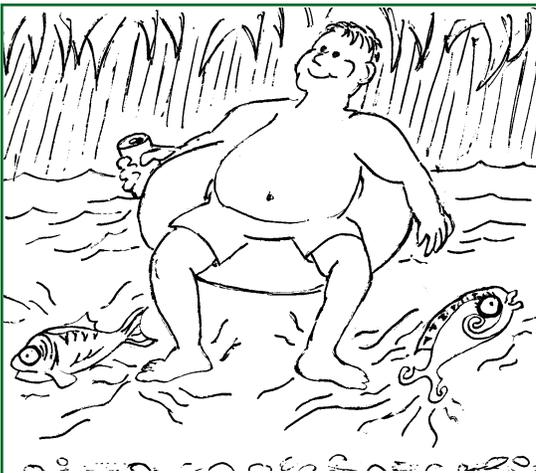
The Field Day is sponsored by a variety of agencies and organizations including the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. Admission for both events is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors over 55, and \$10 for families.

If you don't receive a Field Day brochure in the mail and are interested in attending, brochures may also be available at your local Washington State DNR, WSU Cooperative Extension, Conservation District, and Farm Service Agency offices. If you do not receive one by early August, call DNR at 1-888-783-9548 or e-mail your request to forest_stewardship@wadnr.gov.

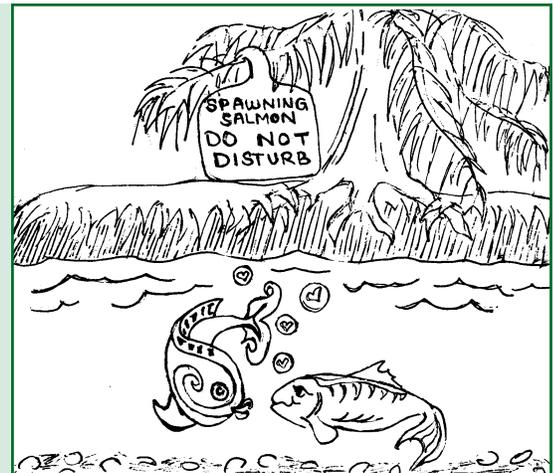


©2001 photo courtesy of Galen Biery Collection

South Fork Chinook Need Your Help To Survive!



This summer give them a break and choose somewhere else for water-related recreational activities.



Stream Buffers Important for Healthy Riparian Areas

The term "riparian" refers to the buffer areas of moist soils and plants adjacent to streams, lakes, and wetlands. Planting buffers of shrubs and trees adjacent to streams can stabilize streambanks; improve fish and wildlife habitat by providing shade, cover and food; and filter sediment that could otherwise degrade water quality.

Over 300 species of Washington's wildlife depend on riparian habitat during at least a portion of their lives. Riparian vegetation provides food, nesting, and hiding places for fish, turtles,

beaver, river otter, eagles, ducks, songbirds, frogs, insects, and more. A healthy riparian area is the key to a healthy stream system!

Take a look at information on the following page about stream buffer restoration projects that have taken place in Whatcom County through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Contact Wayne or Sabina at WCD (354-2035) for more information about CREP.



WCD teaches conservation practices at local fairs and festivals with a hands-on watershed model.

Stream Team *continued from page*

TEAM training meetings will begin in mid-September and will occur once a week in the evenings for five weeks. Saturday field trips are also scheduled. The classes are FREE and open to all. However, space is limited to twelve participants, so sign up today.

Please join us in working with willing landowners and school and community groups, educating them about the watershed in which they live, work and play in. We already have three restoration projects that need our help! If you enjoy learning new things, need to brush up on your plant identification skills, or just want to meet neighbors in your community watershed, join the Whatcom STREAM TEAM. Contact Beth or Andrea at 354-2035 x114 for more information.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON FAIR August 13th - 18th 10am - 10pm: Together the WCD and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association will have a booth located outside near the Expo Building. Come find us, learn about our programs, and enjoy some great kids activities, local trivia, prizes and giveaways!

GREENWAY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, Bellingham Parks and Recreation: **BACKYARD HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT OPEN**

HOUSES September 8th 10am - 3pm: This new pilot program aims to educate private property owners about creating native plant habitat in their own backyards. Native landscaping can increase the variety of urban wildlife, specifically songbirds and salmon. Also, native plants generally need less irrigation water and can reduce stormwater runoff. We need volunteers to help give tours and distribute educational information at several open houses around town. Call Margot at 676-6801 ext. 24 for further information.

NOOKSACK RECOVERY TEAM (NRT) ANNUAL SALMON SUMMIT October 12th 8am - 5pm: Mark your calendar for the 6th annual Salmon Summit to be held at the Best Western Lakeway Inn Conference Center in Bellingham. The Salmon Summit is a conference related to local salmon recovery and watershed restoration. The program will consist of presentations, keynote speakers, panel discussions, workshops, and displays. Call Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) at 360-715-0283 for further details and registration information.

WASHINGTON WATERWEEKS 2001 is a statewide series of more than 150 water- and habitat-related education and action activities that takes place September 1 through October 14. WCD will sponsor two Washington WaterWeeks events during fall 2001.

BERTRAND CREEK WATERSHED FARM TOUR September 15, 2001 9am - noon: The tour will leave from Berthusen Park. We will visit a local dairy and restoration project then return to the park for refreshments. Call the WCD for details.

SHELLFISH HATCHERY TOUR October 11th 10am - 11:30 am—Join Lummi Natural Resources Hatchery manager Dick Poole for a 45-minute tour of the shellfish operation located on the Lummi Reservation, 3801 Haxton Road. For more information and to register call the WCD at 354-2035 ext. 3.



Stream Buffer Restoration Projects

Whatcom
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



IMAGINE A GROWN TREE FOR EVERY TUBE!



Each planting spot is maintained to reduce vegetative competition.



What's with all those tubes anyway?... They protect seedlings against animal damage, they provide some shelter against adverse weather, and they help in identifying seedlings when maintaining competing vegetation.

CREP Projects In Whatcom County

LANDOWNER WATERSHED LINEAL FT. OF BUFFER

SITE PREPARATION (Will be planted in winter or spring 2002.)

Dick Bedlington	Schneider Ditch	20150
Helena Cavan	Black Slough	10195
RobertForthun	Johnson Creek	4250
Hilliare-Harrison	Lummi River	1740
Hilliare-Swilhouse	Schell Creek	4700
Dan Newell	Johnson Creek	326
Kimberely and Theo Roe	Black Slough	4000
Clyde Shetler	South Acme Area	7500
Vera Thistle	Middle Fork Nooksack	10500
Randy Van Beek	Ten Mile Creek	7250
Patricia Woodall	Ten Mile Creek	4650

POST PLANTING MAINTENANCE (Planted in 2000 or 2001)

Bob Barker	Black Slough	18384
Evergreen Land Trust	S. Fork Nooksack	4335
Tom Funk	S. Fork Nooksack	5450
Steve Groen	Bertrand Creek	15100
Robert Hawes	Bertrand Creek	10080
Curt & Joy Hawley	Johnson Creek	2281
Steve Hicks	Haynie Creek	1275
Lyle Honrud	North Fork Dakota	7071
Ken & Annette Kirkman	Johnson Creek	1100
Robert Kirkman	Johnson Creek	2500
Brian Knutzen	S. Fork Nooksack	7771
Marvin Larson	S. Fork Nooksack	3256
Rod Perry	Johnson Creek	5875
Tim Slater	Jordan Creek	8168
Ed & Michelle Stone	Ten Mile Creek	5020
David Syre	S. Fork Nooksack	9527
Earl Thomas	Lummi River	3250
John Vander Veen	Johnson Creek	15600

TOTAL LINEAL FEET OF BUFFER* 201,304
MILES OF BUFFER 38.1



Before site preparation stream channels and planting spots may be overgrown with reed canary grass or blackberries.



LOOK BUT DON'T TOUCH!
Fencing buffers keeps livestock on the outside.



Site prepared for planting.



Conifers are interplanted to increase diversity and stocking.

Whatcom County Health and Human Services Offers Loans to Repair On-Site Sewage Systems

You'll never find a better deal than this: Loans with 0% interest and a 5-year pay back period. If the following conditions fit your situation then you are qualified for this unique loan opportunity:

- * The property must have a confirmed failing on-site sewage system (OSS)
- * Participant income level can not exceed \$82,000 annually
- * Participants can not live within an area that will be served by a public sewer within 2 years
- * Highest loan priority will be given to residences in Shellfish Protection Districts, Lake Whatcom Watershed, and on sites where there is a high degree

of public exposure potential or surface water impacts.

* Expansion of residences are not permitted

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Whatcom County Health and Human Services

509 Girard Street
Bellingham WA

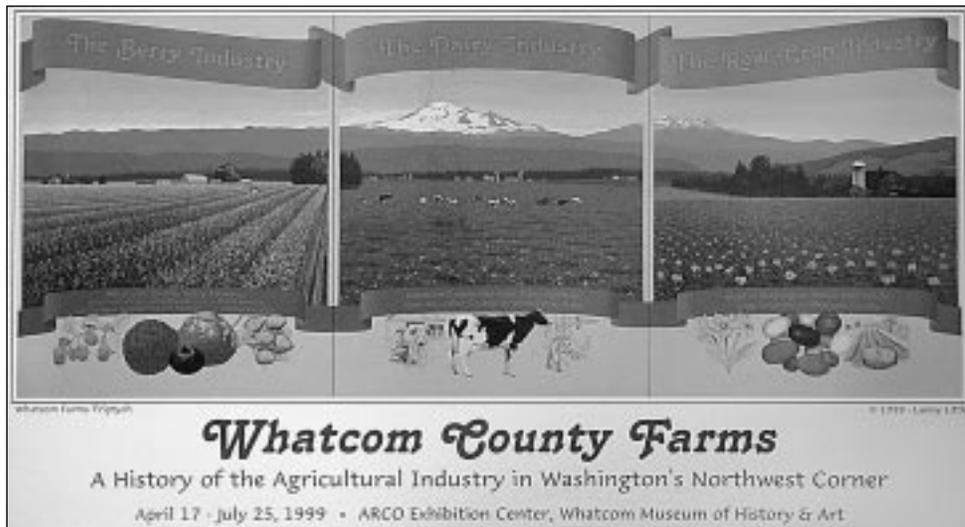
Whatcom Conservation District

6975 Hannegan Road
Lynden WA

Free Pesticide Safety Training Available

Free pesticide safety training is available through Sea Mar Community Health Clinic in Bellingham. Three pesticide safety presenters are available to nurseries, growers, farm workers, service providers, schools and health care providers to promote simple measures and teach common sense precautions related to health and pesticide safety. The presentations can be made in English or Spanish. Please contact Douglas Venn or Christy Trommer at Sea Mar Health Clinic (360) 671-3225 to schedule a presentation.

Posters Celebrating Whatcom Agriculture by Lanny Little Now Available



The Whatcom Museum of History and Art donated to the Conservation District surplus posters from two shows that took place in 1999. These posters are available free of charge at our office. Both posters are by area artist Lanny Little who is best known locally for his murals. One poster (measuring

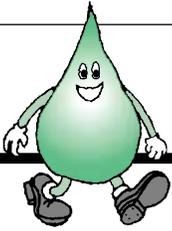
16 X 20 inches) is a whimsical parody of Grant Wood's famous portrait, American Gothic, advertising the show Old MacWally Had a Farm at the Whatcom Children's Museum. The second poster (14 X 24 inches) pays tribute to Whatcom County's principal agricultural enterprises (berry, dairy, and



row crop) by combining paintings featuring each industry into one panoramic landscape. This poster served to publicize Whatcom County Farms - A History of the Agricultural Industry in Washington's Northwest Corner.

KIDS' PAGE

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3



This time of year, bees are everywhere! Walking barefoot or smelling flowers without paying any attention can leave you with a painful stinger and a strong dislike of bees. But did you know that without bees one third of all you eat wouldn't be available? Learn some more cool bee facts as you find the underlined words in the word search.

Un-BEE-lievable BEES!

1. There are five thousand native bee species in the United States.
2. Almost all bees live alone, not together in hives.
3. Bees often find homes in holes in the ground; others live in burrows, trees, dead twigs and branches.
4. Bees without hives to protect are friendly and hardly ever sting.
5. Most bees are hard workers, pollinating all kinds of plants their whole lives.
6. Making bee habitat in your yard will help your garden grow bigger and tastier fruits and vegetables.
7. Bees like blue and yellow flowers best.
8. Some kinds of bees include: Bumblebees, Carpenter Bees, Sweat Bees, Leafcutter Bees, and Digger Bees.
9. You can make a good bee home by drilling holes (3-5" deep, 1/8" across, and spaced 1/2" apart) in scrap wood and hanging it under the eaves of your house or garden shed.
10. Hidden Words Challenge: Bees especially love these 6 kinds of plants. Can you find them?

o	n	s	u	x	v	f	s	d	s	d	p	r	q	w	s	l	f
h	d	h	c	g	g	i	f	g	y	t	l	k	z	z	h	e	y
f	i	b	a	n	s	v	p	f	a	y	i	a	e	r	b	a	y
f	g	u	r	o	w	e	o	o	p	r	e	n	a	b	y	f	h
i	g	m	p	e	e	t	l	w	b	p	d	l	g	s	a	c	o
t	e	b	e	a	a	h	l	w	h	n	s	e	l	e	y	u	l
s	r	l	n	w	t	o	i	r	p	g	z	d	n	o	m	t	e
e	b	e	t	f	b	u	n	c	g	u	q	n	l	y	w	t	s
p	e	b	e	a	e	s	a	y	d	u	g	y	x	m	l	e	n
k	e	e	r	s	e	a	t	e	a	a	b	v	b	u	h	r	u
k	s	e	b	m	s	n	i	b	y	l	a	s	n	l	d	b	h
q	q	s	e	r	n	d	n	e	z	a	o	c	m	y	u	e	h
k	s	m	e	t	l	b	g	s	b	w	a	n	r	b	s	e	j
x	l	m	s	r	x	a	w	l	e	w	q	i	e	i	g	s	h

To learn what's good for a compost pile and what makes it raunchy, find the correct path through the maze below. As you go, fill in the "Good Materials for Compost Piles" list. If you hit something not on the "good" list, it's time to retrace your compost adventure.

Labels in the maze: MOISTURE, OXYGEN, DISEASED PLANTS, EXCESS WEEDS, CLOVER, LEAVES, WILDS, SEWAGE, VEGETABLE SCRAPS, FRUIT SCRAPS, POULTRY & MEAT SCRAPS, COFFEE GROUNDS, GRASS CLIPPINGS, CAT MANURE, DOG MANURE, LIVESTOCK MANURE, SHREDDED PAPER, SAWDUST.

GOOD MATERIALS FOR COMPOST PILES

M_____	V_____
O_____	F_____
L_____	C_____
C_____	L_____
T_____	S_____
G_____	S_____
S_____	

A FUN SUMMER PROJECT YOUR GARDEN WILL THANK YOU FOR

Instead of putting biodegradable kitchen waste in the garbage or down the disposal, why not use it to begin a compost pile? Composting turns "junk" into a valuable resource: rich, fertilizing soil. Spread it on flowerbeds and gardens and you'll see your plants get much bigger and healthier!





THIS NEWSLETTER is published by the Whatcom Conservation District with support from the Centennial Clean Water Fund under the authority of the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Washington State Department of Ecology. Call the district's office at (360) 354-2035 if you know of anyone who would like to be on the mailing list, or if you have articles of interest or questions concerning the Whatcom Conservation District.



Whatcom Conservation District

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