

# Tenmile Treasures

A Newsletter for the Tenmile Creek Watershed Community

TENMILE CREEK  
WATERSHED

Healthy Streams  
Neighbor to Neighbor

Happy 2008! The Tenmile Creek Watershed Restoration Project begins the new season with a tree give-away March 1<sup>st</sup> and a Septic Workshop March 29<sup>th</sup>. See below to find out how you can get free trees to plant along your stream, pond, lake or wetland. Learn how you can participate in a workshop to understand the new septic regulations and what the regulations mean to you. 2008 came in fast, so jump on board and become part of the action!

**"Trees for Streams" - A tree give-away made possible by the "Farmers Growing Trees for Salmon" program. MARCH 1, 2008!**

Take home the trees you need: 4,000 trees need a home! Local farmers have grown western red cedar, Sitka spruce, and Douglas fir for you to plant along YOUR stream, river, wetland, pond or lake in order to help improve water quality in Whatcom County. On March 1<sup>st</sup> these trees will be dug and bagged, ready for you to plant.



**Tree Give-Away Location:** Bob Hunter Farm, 2630 Lampman Rd.

**Time:** 9:00am to Noon

**Directions:** Take Slater Road toward the casino. Turn right at the light on Haxton Way, then right on Lampman Rd. Signs will be posted. For more information and/or to volunteer call Dorie at 398-9187.

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## Tenmile Advisory Committee

Henry Bierlink, APC  
George Boggs, WCD  
Darrell Gray, NSEA  
Craig MacConnell, WSU  
Mike Murphy, Landowner/PUD  
Susie Nelson, Volunteer  
Leroy Plagerman, Landowner  
Steve Seymour, WDFW  
Kevin Sterk, Landowner  
Eric Sundstrom, Landowner  
Dan Thompson, Landowner  
Art Zawicki, Landowner

In partnership with WCD, NSEA,  
WA Dept. of Ecology & NFWF

Project Manager: Dorie Belisle

**For the tree give-away, volunteers needed Friday Feb 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. Help us dig and bag trees. Your orders will be guaranteed. This is a community project made possible with your help. Call Dorie 398-9187!**



**While at the tree give-away, visit a five year-old CREP site.** Take a walk along Schell Creek, where ten acres have been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is a voluntary program that pays landowners rent and all the costs for planting wooded stream buffers to improve fish and wildlife habitat, increase stream bank stability, and contribute to improved water quality. CREP also pays to construct livestock exclusion fencing. Landowners receive a signing bonus for land enrolled in the program. During this visit, you will have the opportunity to talk with the landowner and the Whatcom Conservation District project manager.

## Septic Workshop - "What's this about an inspection?"

You've heard the rumors and now it's time to learn the facts. On Saturday, March 29th from 9am-noon, the Tenmile Creek Watershed Project and the Whatcom Conservation District will host a Septic Workshop. The workshop will include a system inspection:



- Meet Mike Eaton, a professional inspector with Coast Construction, and watch him conduct a real septic system inspection. Learn what an inspector looks for and what you need to know to keep your system healthy. Mike will be placing an access riser over an existing tank and walking us through the entire process.

- Hear from Whatcom County Health Department staff about implementation plans for new State and County regulations.

- Have your questions answered by the experts!

Join us at the  
Septic Workshop  
Sat. March 29th  
9:00am-12:00pm  
at BelleWood Acres,  
231 Ten Mile Road.



**March 1-**  
Tree Give-Away, 2630  
Lampman Rd.  
9am-12pm  
(Call 398-9187)

**March 8 -**  
Washington

Farm Forestry  
Assoc. tree sale -  
Lynden Fairgrounds

**March 8 -** Terrell Creek Watershed  
Tree Give-Away - 7568 Birch Bay  
Drive (Call 371-5312)

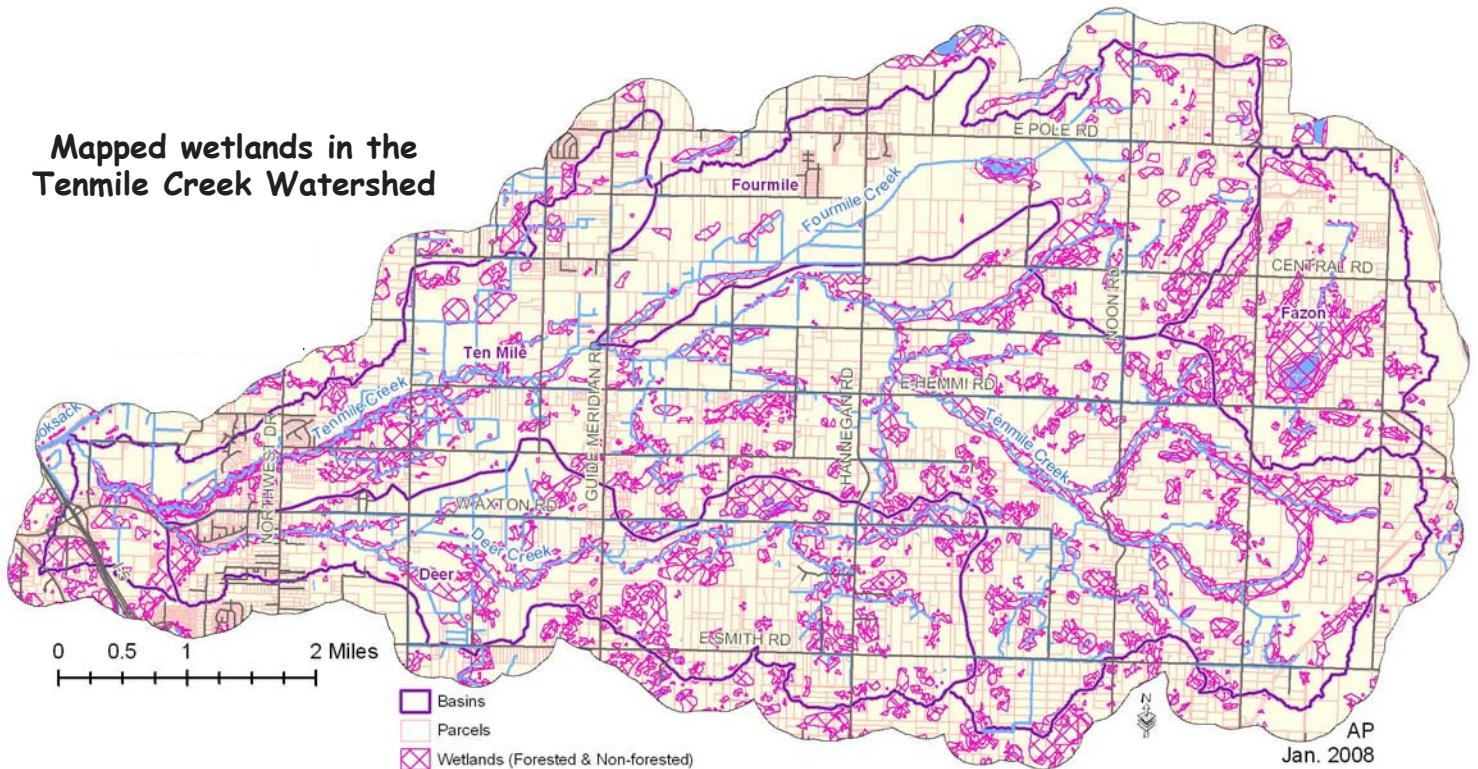
**March 22 -** Whatcom Conservation  
District Annual Plant Sale (Call 354-  
2035 ext 3; or see plant list at  
[www.whatcomcd.org](http://www.whatcomcd.org))

**March 29 -** Septic Workshop -  
231 Ten Mile Rd. 9am-12pm  
(Call 398-9187)

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### Mapped wetlands in the Tenmile Creek Watershed



### Wetlands and our Watershed

At this time of year, the last thing we want to hear about is how important wetlands are, because they seem to be everywhere. Yet for the year-round health of our Tenmile Creek Watershed, we need to remember that wetlands are very important. Without wetlands, we would see more flooding and erosion during the winter and less water flow in streams during summer and early fall.

One of our watershed's greatest threats is the increasing amount of impermeable surfaces (pavement, buildings, etc.). Impermeable surfaces prevent water from soaking into the ground. With less surface area available for water to soak into, more water runs off impermeable surfaces at a faster rate, increasing winter flooding. Lower infiltration levels during the rainy months result in the water not being stored in the ground to supplement stream flow during the summer and early fall. Wetlands help reduce flooding, help to maintain summer stream flows by slowly releasing water stored after the wet season, and help to recharge groundwater. Wetlands also help improve water quality by filtering and retaining sediments, nutrients, and contaminants. As we look to new growth and development, we must protect and enhance the wetlands we have to ensure that they can perform their valuable functions!

Many of the wetlands in our watershed are mapped (see sample map above). Check out your property, verify the wetlands you have and help protect them. Call if you have any questions or would like to have help identifying them.

### Tenmile Watershed History-Sharing Event a Success

July 13, 2007 was a warm summer evening, perfect for learning about our watershed, listening to stories about our ancestors building homes and living near the Nooksack River, and enjoying the hospitality of the Lynden Pioneer Museum. Members of the Bellingham Storytellers Guild including Brian Flowers, Rob Astyk and Doug Banner, as well as brave individuals from the audience, entertained the packed house of 150 attendees with local stories of the past. Thanks to all who came to learn, listen and share stories and to the members and staff of the Lynden Pioneer Museum who were such hospitable hosts. And thanks to all the volunteers that served us ice cream and berries!

Three individuals have offered to be interviewed for the Tenmile Oral History Project. This project can only continue with your help. Call 398-9187 to learn more.



The late Diane Miller shares stories from her husband, Herman Miller, a lifelong Tenmile watershed resident.

*It is with sadness that we share the loss of two individuals who told their stories through the oral history interview. We offer our sympathy to the families of Milo Watts and Diane Miller. They will be remembered for their stories and their friendship.*