

## Valeri Wade



### **Elected Experience:**

- None

### **Other Professional Experience:**

- U.S. Army Veteran
- Radiant Heat Design & Installation Contractor
- Weatherization Specialist, Opportunity Council
- Wholesale Manager, Fourth Corner Nurseries (nine years)
- Owner, Manager, Employee, Bookkeeper, Advertising Executive, Seed Mixer, Janitor, Wild Bird
- Chalet (twelve years and still going)
- Fine Art Painter, oil, acrylic, charcoal

### **Education:**

- Western Washington University, BA environmental education
- Aikido, Nidan (second-degree blackbelt)

## **Community Service:**

- Environmental Advocate
- Workshops taught: Orchard Mason Bee Care, Fruit Tree Pruning, Diet of Wild Birds, Wildlife
- Habitat, Mixing Native & Ornamental Plants
- Booths run: Wild birds, Pollinators, Native plants

## **Candidate Statement**

Whatcom County is a wonderful place to live. Mountains. Sea. Forests. Farms. International neighbors. In one place! We're a varied group of people, building a sustainable future together. The land-use choices we make today are our gift to future generations; we must honor this responsibility as we improve conservation practices.

I'm an optimist who's happiest serving her community. The Whatcom Conservation District serves the residents of the county admirably, helping people care for the land and water. The board's role is to provide connection and direction among county residents, the WCD, and associated organizations. We need board members who work for everyone.

I've called Whatcom County home for thirty years. I spent twenty of those years turning half an acre of swampy junkyard into a wildlife sanctuary: native plants, creek, pond, fruit trees and organic garden. Growing up, I worked on my grandparents' farm in the Willamette Valley, picking apples and berries, stringing beans, and harvesting hay.

I'm a careful observer with deep respect for the natural world and I genuinely like people. I'm committed to listening to every voice in our community. Only through cooperation can we help the valuable projects of the WCD move forward.