10th Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, March 8th at Ten Mile Grange

This year, in an effort to reduce costs associated with the plant sale, Whatcom Conservation District is using a new format for ordering and purchasing plants from our annual plant sale. Pre-orders will only be accepted for orders totaling $100 minimum. Pre-orders require 50% pre-payment and must be received in the District office by February 28, 2003. All other purchases will be based on a first-come, first-serve basis on the day of the sale.

WHY: The main purpose of the District’s annual plant sale is to promote conservation of our natural resources. Planting native trees and shrubs can provide many positive benefits to your property and the natural environment: improved water quality, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, reduction of wind and soil erosion, cleaner air, reduction of energy costs, and beautification of your property! Additionally, proceeds from the District plant sale are used to support District education programs such as involvement in the 6th Grade Conservation Tour, Envirothon, and staff support to local schools.

WHEN: The sale will be 8am - 4pm on Saturday, March 8, 2003.
WHERE: Ten Mile Grange (on Hannegan Road across the street from the District office).
WHAT: This year there will be 25 different species of seedling trees and shrubs (most of them 25 different species of seedling trees and shrubs (most of them 25 different species of seedling trees and shrubs (most of them

Mike & Elaine McRory Earn Statewide Recognition

Each year the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) solicits nominations for deserving recognition for outstanding efforts toward implementing on-the-ground conservation projects. On December 3, 2002 at its annual meeting in Wenatchee, the WACD presented the 2002 Washington State Special Service Award to Mike and Elaine McRory of Bellingham. The Special Service Award honors those outside the professional ranks of conservation work for outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of conservation.

Mike McRory, a retired dentist, and his wife Elaine have dedicated the past ten years of their lives to improving streams in Whatcom County. Their tireless work includes planning, planting, and maintaining streamside revegetation projects. The McRory’s work has not only improved habitat for fish but also has inspired volunteers and students of all ages to take part in improving our environment. Although the McRory’s have worked countywide, their primary focus has been Whatcom Creek. Maritime Heritage Park in downtown Bellingham is a great place to view the results of their restoration efforts and the work of the community. Whatcom Conservation District congratulates Mike and Elaine and applauds them for their efforts locally and their inspiration statewide!

Restoring Bertrand Creek
10 years in the making...

Roy and Lila Carlsen show us how perseverance, patience and the passage of time can produce results

In the winter of 1992 Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) recognized Roy and Lila Carlsen’s on-farm wildlife stewardship efforts by awarding them the County’s first-ever Wildlife Farm of the Year honor. At the time, the Carlsen’s were raising dairy replacement heifers and 20 head of beef. They also held a keen interest in improving and protecting the natural environment and the beauty of their land. Their interest in improving the natural environment continues to hold true today for the Carlsen’s who, now in their 70’s, continue to plant trees and walk their property daily. They count returning salmon, watch for birds and other wildlife, pick up garbage that appears on their property, and best of all share the fruits of their efforts with others.

Then... Many years ago the Carlsen farm consisted of 92 acres from “H” St to the Canadian border, with Bertrand Creek meandering through it for nearly two-thirds of a mile. Back in the late 1980s the Carlsen’s fenced off almost 2000 feet along the stream to restrict livestock access. In 1986 the

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.
Looking for a way to get involved locally for the New Year?

WCD Plans for March Volunteer Board Election

Are you concerned about agricultural and environmental issues? Do you enjoy leadership? Are you looking for a way to make a difference locally? If this sounds intriguing, it will interest you.

In March of this year, two WCD Board of Supervisor positions, currently held by Ken Thomas and Brian Cieslar, will expire. One or these positions will be filled by the winner of a March 10, 2003 county wide election. The other positions will be appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. The two positions are for three-year terms and will become available at the end of March 2003.

A District Supervisor serves as a member of the governing board for the conservation district. Volunteer Supervisors must commit to attending 12 regularly scheduled monthly board meetings, as well as committee meetings and special events. Any district elector or registered voter in Whatcom County is eligible for the unpaid positions. Serving on the District Board is a great chance to get involved and have a positive effect on protecting our local natural resources.

In addition to supervisor positions, an alternative way of getting involved with the district is as an associate supervisor. WCD participates in a wide variety of committees dealing with issues such as habitat restoration, farmland preservation, dairy nutrient management, funding, and public outreach. Many opportunities exist to provide input and to represent the District as an associate supervisor on these committees.

Contact Dawn Bekenyi at the WCD office (354-2035 ext. 3) for more information about supervisor and associate supervisor positions and about the appointment process.

---

Making Sense Of All Those Tests
Dairy Nutrient Results To Be Evaluated

Lynn Johnson, PhD will be working part time for the District on a six-month assignment. The purpose of Lynn’s work is to evaluate data from the dairy nutrient records that the conservation district has collected from producers over the last three years. This evaluation will help identify trends and cycles in nutrient levels over time. Lynn will continue working part time for WSU on various nutrition and nutrient management projects. Lynn received her BS, MS and PhD from Washington State University. Her PhD work focused on dairy cattle nutrition.

Lynn lives in Everson with her husband and their 16-month old daughter Kayla. Welcome Lynn!!

---

Winter 2003 Announcements

“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little” – Edmund Burke

The WCD staff welcomes baby Ella Marie Gouran born October 31st, 2002

Congratulations Sabina and Brian on your new addition!! Sabina Gouran, one of the District’s two CREP technicians, was on maternity leave for a couple of months, but is now back to work part-time. If you have been working with Sabina and have specific questions about your CREP contract, Sabina can be reached via email (sgouran@whatcomcd.org) and she will be in the office on Wednesday mornings. For general CREP questions you can visit our website at www.whatcomcd.org or contact Wayne Claudiere.

A Steady Stream Of Community College Interns Continues At The WCD

Angela Nickle is our current intern who works 12 hours a week while attending classes at Whatcom Community College. Angela has been assisting on a variety of projects and providing general office help. We are happy to have Angela as part of our team through spring 2003.

2003 Soil and Water Stewardship Week

Annually the National Association of Conservation Districts develops and distributes materials in recognition of Soil and Water Stewardship Week. This year’s educational theme is FOOD FOR THE FUTURE. The WCD will be offering presentations to schools and community groups from April 27th- May 4th. Call the District office (360-354-2035 ext. 3) for more information.

Annual Regional High School Envirothon Set For March 31st

This year’s outdoor regional environmental problem solving competition for high school teams will be held at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Bow, Washington. This all day event brings in students from Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish County schools. Homeschoolers, FFA students, natural resource and environmental science students are all encouraged to put together a five-person team to compete. Contact the WCD or the Skagit Conservation District for more information and learn how to prepare for this excellent event!!

2003 Whatcom Farm Friends Calendar

This calendar features beautiful pictures and information about 16 local farms/farmers that were highlighted at the Farming, For Life! exhibition at last summer’s NW Washington Fair. For only $10, you may find them at many locations in Bellingham and Lynden. For info, call the Farm Friends Office, 1796 Front Street, Lynden 360-354-1337.

---

Water Quality Monitoring

The Project

Since 1998, Northwest Indian College (NWIC) staff and a consultant have been collecting data and water samples for analysis from specific sites throughout the Nooksack River Basin. In November 2002 Whatcom Conservation District formally partnered with NWIC in an effort to maintain this long-standing, local water quality monitoring program. District staff have begun participating in the regularly scheduled monitoring efforts that have led to the collection of literally thousands of pieces of information. With this information, goals are:

• Better determine and protect the health of local watersheds.
• Determine effectiveness of current and future pollution control programs.
• Determine sources of water pollution and then design specifically targeted programs to address the determined sources.
• Better identify which factors in our local environment are not causing water pollution.

Purchase of Development Rights Program Update

During the November 2002 application period, Whatcom County’s new Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program received seven applications representing a total of 485 acres. Program staff have begun using criteria established by an ad hoc steering committee to evaluate and rank the properties. A PDR Oversight Committee will review property rankings developed by the staff and forward recommendations to the Whatcom County Council who will then approve the final ranking.

Six of the seven members of the PDR Oversight Committee have been selected: John Belisle (farmer); Doug Dostal (real estate/banking); Michael Durbin (urban incorporated, non-farmer); Jim Dykstra (farmer); Rod Erickson (farmer); Rich Stipe (agriculture related business). The County Executive will soon appoint the seventh member (unincorporated, non-farmer).

Following County Council approval, the process of appraisal, negotiation and acquisition of development rights will take place. PDR program staff hope to have the property appraisals completed and negotiations underway by the end of February 2003 in order to begin the federal application process. Whatcom County funds for the PDR program will come from the Conservation Futures fund and will be matched by federal dollars at fifty percent.

Blue Tubes

Tree Protectors Give Seedlings a Fighting Chance

In nature the struggle for survival always takes its heaviest toll on the young. Only a small fraction of the seeds produced by plants live long enough to grow into seedlings, let alone survive to maturity. Seedling plants must compete with other plants for food (i.e. light and water), and they are viewed as food by a many predators (e.g. voles, deer). Local groups and individuals who are dedicated to improving habitat conditions for fish and wildlife by planting trees along streams have tried a variety of techniques to increase the odds of seedling survival. Many light weight tubes (e.g. made with a 36-inch bamboo stake) can be used in place of tubes that are too heavy or too expensive. These tubes are valuable for many reasons:

• Greenhouse effect: Tree growth is accelerated because trees increase the temperature around seedlings and reduce the drying effect of wind.
• Rodent protection: Tubes provide a barrier that stops voles and other rodents, which proliferate in grassy areas, from devouring seedlings.
• Reduced maintenance: Competing vegetation can quickly overtake seedlings in the spring and must be controlled. Seedling tubes readily identify where seedlings are planted and protect them during mowing, tillling, pulling or spraying.
• Versatility: Tubes can be used in the home garden to shelter plants like tomatoes and peppers early in the growing season and to hasten germination in squash and other vegetables planted in hills.

Though the tube may cost more than the seedling it is protecting, tree protection tubes are valuable for many reasons:
Whatcom CD 10th Annual Plant Sale

2003 WCD Annual Plant Sale
Inventory & Price List

SALE DAY - SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH - 8 AM - 4 PM AT TEN MILE GRANGE

Pre-ordered accepting for $100 minimum purchase (pre-order deadline Feb. 28th)

TREES & SHRUBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIZE/AGE</th>
<th>Price/Bundle (Plants per bundle)</th>
<th>Bundles Ordered</th>
<th>COST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Red Cedar</td>
<td>P-1</td>
<td>$9.00 (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Orford Cedar</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>$3.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Yellow Cedar</td>
<td>P-1</td>
<td>$5.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Fir</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>$4.00 (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Fir</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>$5.00 (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble Fir</td>
<td>P-1</td>
<td>$7.00 (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Hemlock</td>
<td>P-1</td>
<td>$9.00 (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain Juniper</td>
<td>4’ cutting</td>
<td>$4.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shore Pine</td>
<td>P-2</td>
<td>$5.00 (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitka Spruce</td>
<td>P-1</td>
<td>$9.00 (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Sequoia</td>
<td>P-1</td>
<td>$5.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DECIDUOUS TREES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>treese and shrubs</th>
<th>Size/age</th>
<th>Price/Bundle (Plants per Bundle)</th>
<th>Bundles Ordered</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf Mt. Ash</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>$9.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Ash</td>
<td>18-36’</td>
<td>$5.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cascara</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>$9.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Dogwood</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>$7.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon White Oak (Garry)</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>$9.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Willow</td>
<td>12-18’</td>
<td>$5.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size/age</th>
<th>Price/Bundle (Plants per Bundle)</th>
<th>Bundles Ordered</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Flower Currant</td>
<td>18-36’</td>
<td>$8.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Osier Dogwood</td>
<td>18-36’</td>
<td>$5.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vine Maple</td>
<td>18-36’</td>
<td>$7.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mock Orange</td>
<td>18-36’</td>
<td>$5.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serviceberry</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>$5.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowberry</td>
<td>12-18’</td>
<td>$5.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Willow</td>
<td>C-1</td>
<td>$9.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MISCELLANEOUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Size/age</th>
<th>Price/Bundle (Plants per Bundle)</th>
<th>Bundles Ordered</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wildflower Seed Mix</td>
<td>ounces $3.00 (1 oz)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat’s Beard</td>
<td>BR transplnt</td>
<td>$8.00 (5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18” Norples Tree Protectors tube/stake</td>
<td>$5.00 (10)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$100 MINIMUM AMOUNT FOR PRE-ORDERS
Balance Due

SPECIAL NOTES:

- No Pre-Orders accepted under $100.
- Payment: Cash or check only (no cash in mail).
- Make checks payable to Whatcom Conservation District.

AVAILABILITY OF PLANTS:

We cannot guarantee the availability of all the plants. This is a first-come, first-served sale.

Plants and plant materials sold at this sale are not guaranteed for survival, health, or performance. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty. Plant materials sold at this sale are not covered by any warranty.

Plant Sale continued from page 1

native to our area) to choose from. A variety of native perennials will be available in 4 inch and 1 gallon containers. Please see the order form in this newsletter listing available plants, as well as the chart describing each plant’s growth characteristics. Please note on the order form that the PRICE listed is PER BUNDLE. You can also find additional information about the plant sale on our website at whatcomcd.org.

We receive our plants from the nurseries shortly before the day of the sale. For a variety of reasons (i.e. vendor is unable to fill the order, plants are of unacceptable quality, we sell out of a certain species, etc.), we unfortunately cannot guarantee the availability of all the plants listed on the order form. The District staff will certainly try our best to make your plant sale purchase a pleasant experience! Please note that the plants sold at this sale are conservation-grade (graded on their ability to survive, not on their ornamental value) and most of the plants are sold bare-root. The bare-root plants are not large (note the approximate sizes listed on the order form), so you don’t need a high hauling capacity.
Restoring Bertrand Creek continued from page 1

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) assisted Vern and Lila in their efforts to convert a poorly drained piece of the property into a half-acre pond connecting to Bertrand Creek. For many years that pond annually served as home for approximately 15,000 juvenile silver salmon. On a recent walk of their property, Lila explained, “We started planting tree seedlings for habitat in the early 1980s, long before it was en vogue”. On their own the Carlsen’s have planted more than 1000 trees.

Now, during visits, the Carlsen’s grandchildren enjoy sitting in the shade of the trees and watching salmon swim over clean gravel, seeking cover under logs and root wads (large woody debris or LWD) that characterize this section of stream. Currently the Carlsen’s own 70 acres. Thanks to Roy and Lila, their stretch of Bertrand Creek has a riparian buffer of mixed 10-15 year old alders, cedars, ninebark, fire thorn, bittersweet and a row of trees that provide a canopy of shade and habitat for the stream. The pond still exists but it is no longer connected to Bertrand Creek. WDFW no longer stocks the stream with coho due to dissolved oxygen in the water at specific sites. A sample of the water is also collected. The sample is later tested in a laboratory to determine the number of fecal coliform bacteria present in the water sample. At some sites, the depth and/ or flow rate of the water are also measured.

Benefits Abound for Planting Trees Around the Farm

Start planning now, because the best time to plant trees and shrubs in Whatcom County is rapidly approaching (mid-February through early April). Seedling plants, which are available at a fraction of the cost of those grown in containers, are only available in the early spring, and getting them planted early helps ensure that they will get off to a good start. Check out the Whatcom CD Annual Plant Sale information in this newsletter for a perfect opportunity to purchase conservation grade plants at great prices! These are some reasons to consider planting trees:

- Windbreaks and shelter-belts for livestock - Even a single row of trees will take some of the chill out of winter wind (though 2 or 3 rows is even better). Trees are also useful for minimizing and/or controlling drifting snow around the farmstead.
- Privacy and noise reduction - A line of trees is the best way to keep inquisitive minds from wondering about things that are none of their business.
- Odor control - A row of trees accelerates the dispersion of odor by causing air to swirl and lift away from the ground.
- Beautification - Trees add beauty (and value) to the landscape and can be used to screen out less than pleasing sights.
- Wildlife habitat - Once trees are established you won’t have to buy birdseed to entice songbirds to your farm.

Small Farm Management Workshops Coming this Spring

On Tuesday evenings, May 6-June 3, from 6:30 pm to 9 pm Whatcom Conservation District will partner with the Whatcom CD Annual Plant Sale to present a series of six FREE workshops focusing on environmentally sensitive small farm management practices. The workshops will take place at the Haynie Grange (3344 Haynie Road in Custer). Educational topics will include West Nile Virus, horse health, composting horse manure, mud and pasture management, septic system care and maintenance, and several other important topics. Anyone is welcome to attend any or all of the sessions. The workshops are free, but pre-registration is required (so that we can provide adequate education materials!). Call Andrea or Beth at the Office for more information or to register.

Water Quality Monitoring continued from page 2

Fecal coliform bacteria are associated with wastes from warm-blooded animals such as livestock, wildlife and humans. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria is an indicator of the potential presence of disease-causing organisms that may be a threat to human health. Fecal coliform monitoring gives us an accurate account of the amount of specific bacteria in a stream, ditch or river. This can help us to determine if, when, and where a significant pollution event may have occurred.

So How Is Our Watershed Doing?

The good news is that water quality in the monitored areas of the lower Nooksack basin has shown improvement since 1998. Though some pollution events occurred in 1999 and 2000 during certain times of the year, many of the problems have been addressed through better land and nutrient management practices. We will continue to monitor the health of our watersheds with the hope that they may provide our community with a safe drinking water supply and a rich, natural habitat for fish, wildlife and for people.