

SHORE STEWARDS NEWS

January 2005 Island County, Washington

Issue No. 3

Welcome to Whidbey Island Shore Stewards

You might have noticed that rather than having “Camano Island” after the date in this newsletter, it now reads “Island County”. As of January 1st, Shore Stewards is not restricted to Camano Island, but also includes Whidbey Island, and the first group of applications went into the mail this week! So a big welcome to our neighboring island! Most of the information will remain the same, although the Calendar will also include events that are happening on Whidbey. If any of the new Shore Stewards on Whidbey have events to share, please call or email them to the address at the bottom of the page. As always, Camano events are also welcome, so if you know of any, we would love to have you share them with us!

Jefferson County Adopts Shore Stewards Program

We also would like to welcome Jefferson County to the Shore Stewards program! We look forward to helping Cammy Mills, the Hood Canal Shore Stewards Coordinator, in spreading the program to as many of the property owners on Hood Canal as possible. The Legislature is being encouraged to address the Hood Canal situation this year, including granting the state Department of Health authority to regulate nitrogen releases from septic systems, in an effort to help save the sea life from oxygen starvation. We wish them the best in their endeavors.

Resolution for the New Year

Remember, if you have not yet returned your Shore Stewards application, there is no better time than the beginning of the year, so you can be sure you'll receive all newsletters and important information! If you are receiving this in the mail, but have an email address, please forward it to shorestewards@wsu.edu to receive the online version, complete with web links.

Phone: (360) 629-4522, ext. 6012 Email: shorestewards@wsu.edu

This Program is supported by the Washington State University Extension and the
Island County Marine Resources Committee

Conservation Plant Sales

Looking to add native plants to your landscaping, or don't know where to go for a good selection of plants for erosion control? Every year thousands of tree and shrub seedlings are sold at conservation district sponsored plant sales for wildlife habitat, reforestation, wind/visual screens and erosion control.

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT SALE

The Whidbey Island Conservation District is currently taking orders for the 2005 Native Plant Sale. Order Forms are available by calling the district office at (360) 678-4708 or online at www.whidbeycd.org. The sale is by pre-order only and orders will be taken until February 1st. Order Early for best selection! Plants can be picked up on South Whidbey February 23rd 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Farmers Market Pavilion at the Bayview Corner Cash Store Complex or on North/Central Whidbey February 24th or 25th from 8:30am to 7:00 pm at the Whidbey Island Conservation District Office at 404 Center Street in Coupeville.

SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT SALE

March 4th and 5th is the 20th Annual Conservation Sale sponsored by the Snohomish Conservation District at the Monroe Fairgrounds. This popular sale includes conifers of all types, deciduous trees, shrubs/small trees, "whips", groundcovers, perennials and wildflowers. A planting suggestion page in the back of their colorful catalog lists which plants best fit into the following categories: Erosion Control; Nectar Plants for Hummingbirds; Shady Areas; Wet Areas; Deer Resistant Plants; Sunny, Dry Sites; and Sunny, Damp Sites. For more information or a copy of their catalog, go to their website at <http://www.snohomishcd.org/>, or call them at 425-335-5634, ext. 4.

SKAGIT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT PLANT SALE

A full online catalog may be seen by going to their website, http://www.skagitcd.org/plant_sale.htm. Plant sales are on a first-come, first-serve basis at the open sales on Friday, March 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. , Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Preorders are not accepted. Cash and checks only; no credit cards. LOCATION OF OPEN SALES: WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center , 16564 Bradley Road , Bow , WA DIRECTIONS: From I-5 take the Cook Road Exit (#232). Go west on Cook Road . Cross Chuckanut and Avon Allen Road (just past Allen School). Cook Road will become Bradley Road after Avon-Allen. Continue west for about one mile. The PMC will be on your left. If you come to a sharp right turn, you have gone too far.

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Camano 101

When people move to an island from other areas, especially urban or suburban areas, it usually takes a few years to find out what they should know about well water, septic systems, erosion control, wildlife, etc. It also takes awhile to find out about county government, civic groups, recreation, and volunteer opportunities.

The first week of January, several groups on Camano Island gathered together to plan a series of programs in 2005 that will be open to the public. These programs will go by the name "Camano 101" to inform the public about the different volunteer groups on the island and to have materials available to answer many of the questions we all have had about island living.

March 31st is the tentative date for the first Camano 101 program. Your February and March newsletters will have further information on this and future programs, including the groups who will be there and what will be available. We are excited to offer this to our community and look forward to meeting everyone!

Sound Waters: A "One Day University" on Whidbey Island

WSU Beach Watchers presents Sound Waters, a one-day "university" for everyone dedicated to exploring the natural world of Island County. Whales, tidal waves, seafood safety and earthquakes are just a few of the 60+ classes offered, taught by an expert in that field, including UW faculty, biologists, and government experts.

Sound Waters will be held on February 5, 2005 at the Coupeville Middle and High School. Registration opens at 8:30 am, then the day will begin with a talk from our keynote speaker, Curtis Ebbesmeyer, on the science behind the objects that wash up on our beaches.

Afterwards, throughout the day, over 60 small class sessions will be offered--each one focusing on the natural history of Puget Sound. An optional lunch will be provided, and between classes enjoy free coffee and treats as you view displays focusing on the ecology of Island County and the surrounding waters.

Cost for the whole day is \$25.00 per person. You can register online or download a printable version (in PDF format) to send in. Class size is limited and will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. Teacher clock hours are available. **Registrations must arrive by January 24!** For further information and brochure, call (360) 679-7327, or go to <http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/> and click on the Sound Waters heading in the right column.

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Tsunamis!

We have all seen the devastating damage from the tsunami this past month. But did you know that a tsunami once caused many deaths at the south end of Camano Island in the early 1800s? According to Hugh Shipman, coastal geologist with the Department of Ecology, historical accounts by the Snohomish tribe describe a large landslide at Camano Head (the south tip of Camano) that buried a small village and sent a tsunami south towards Hat Island, where other natives lived. Tribal accounts describe the sound as being like thunder, and that a large amount of dust was created, but there was no mention of shaking. This shows us that earthquakes are not the only geological events that can cause a tsunami in Puget Sound. Evidence of this landslide can still be seen. For photos, see the website: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/shorephotos/scripts/photosearch.asp?id=ISL0715> and <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/shorephotos/scripts/photosearch.asp?id=ISL0536>

So what would the effects of an earthquake off the coast cause in Puget Sound? The OGI School of Science & Engineering in Oregon is currently working on a computer model that would predict what impact a tsunami would have from Alaska to San Francisco Bay. This would include maps that would show the effects on the bays and narrow inlets that make up much of our West Coast, including Puget Sound. The West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska monitors all potential tsunamis on the West Coast; their website is wcatwc.gov/. Part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Center's tsunami warnings would be broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio, marine radio, television and commercial radio stations.

In Island County, brochures on tsunamis are available through Island County Emergency Services in Coupeville, (360) 240-5572.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 19, Weds, 7 pm: Pam Pritzl talks about "Birding On Camano Island". Sponsored by Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Camano Multi-Use Center (the blue building between C.A.S.A. and the Camano Health Center.)

January 20, Thurs, 7 pm: Island County Commissioner Bill Byrd will talk about how your county government functions, the county budget, and the different departments you might have need to contact in the future. Very informative! Camano Multi-Use Center.

February 5, Saturday, all day: Sound Waters. Information in body of newsletter above.

March 31st, Thurs, time to be determined. "Camano 101". Full details in Feb. & March

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