

# The Conservation CONNECTION



KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FALL 2004

*Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship.*

## 2004 KCD Annual Meeting Recap

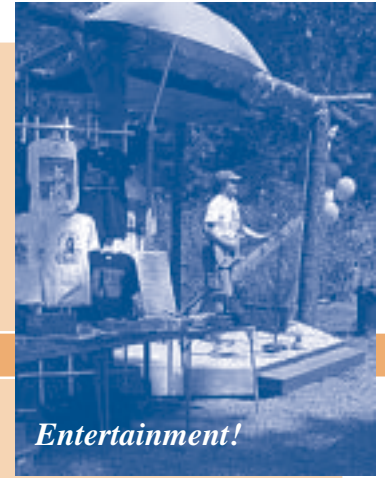
The King Conservation District's annual meeting was held on Aug 15<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the "Frog Frolic"

at the Shadow Lake Bog in the Maple Valley area. A good time was had by all as live music, food, door prizes, wetland walks, and several presentations were conducted.

*Cont'd on page 4...*



*Introducing the new Hedgerow Poster!*



*Entertainment!*



*Geoff Reed (left) awards Bill Knutsen as Conservation Landowner for 2004.*



*KCD Mascot!! Violet the Nubian Goat.*



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*Coming in the Winter Newsletter:  
2005 Annual Native Tree &  
Shrub Sale Information*

KCD telephone number change!  
*Sometime in October 2004, when  
calling the KCD office, you will be  
directed to our new telephone number.  
Thanks for your understanding!*

Change of Service Requested

935 Powell Avenue S.W.  
Renton, WA 98055  
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# Volunteer Opportunities



The staff of the King Conservation District invites you to participate in a variety of environmental restoration projects where you will learn about restoring streams and wetlands, using native plants to restore native plant communities, and engineering techniques to enhance fish and wildlife habitat. These projects are both fun and educational! Contact Amy (206) 764-3410 ext.129, [amy.tippery@kingcd.org](mailto:amy.tippery@kingcd.org) for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

## Fall/Winter 2004

Garden of Goo Native plants grown from locally collected seed are the corner stone of conservation and ecological restoration. Learn about and actively participate in growing native plants for stream and wetland restoration and enhancement projects. Activities include starting plants from seed and cuttings, and transplanting and maintaining nursery stock. Activities will occur at the King Conservation District nursery facility in Renton from **Scheduled volunteer events will occur from 9am until 1pm:**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>**



**Get Wet, Restore Wetlands!** Wetlands help improve water quality and provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. Learn about the benefits of wetlands while planting and maintaining buffers of native trees and shrubs. **Scheduled volunteer events will occur from 10am until 2pm:**

Totem Lake, Kirkland.....October 9<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Desire, Renton.....October 30<sup>th</sup> & November 6<sup>th</sup>  
Cedar River Montessori, Renton....November 20<sup>th</sup>

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*Please take a moment to fill out the following form if you would like to be added to our mailing list, receive notice of upcoming issues to view on-line, or if your address is changing.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to King Conservation District, 935 Powell Avenue. S.W., Renton, WA 98055 or call (206) 764-3410.

Thanks for participating! Your reply will ensure that the **Conservation Connection** will be delivered promptly.

To subscribe electronically please e-mail us at: [roseanne.campagna@kingcd.org](mailto:roseanne.campagna@kingcd.org).

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**Editor:** Geoff Reed  
**Design Layout:** Roseanne Campagna  
**Contributors:** Debbie Meisinger, Clare Flanagan, Bobbi Lindemulder

**King Conservation District** is a subdivision of state government created to promote the wise use of natural resources. A five-member board of supervisors, representing local interests, hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at our office in Renton. The public is encouraged to attend.

# Cooperator Profile



## Horse Logging Farm Tour

*For those who were unable to attend the great horse logging and forestry farm tour in July, we would like to share some of the event with you here.*

The tour was held at Judy and Jim Westall's property. They are stewards of 10 acres in Woodinville that include a horse farm and 5 acres of forested land that they hope to protect indefinitely.

The presenters included Bill Loeber with King County who gave a demonstration on low-cost, low-impact logging techniques; Melanie Ricklefs from Washington State Department of Natural



*Bill Loeber, King County Forester, demonstrating low-impact forwarding arch equipment that transports logs on wheels instead of skidding them along the ground. Bill can be reached at 206-296-7821.*



*Melanie Ricklefs, DNR, discussing diseases like root rot and beetle infestation. Melanie can be reached at 360-902-1395.*

Resources who talked about forest health; and Wes Gustafson, Logger featuring Star and Clyde, his logging team.

The Westall's were faced with the need to remove diseased trees from their forested land, and decided to work with a horse logger to reduce impact on the land that can happen with large heavy traditional logging equipment. This low-impact option does less damage to the environment since it doesn't require wide roads, fossil fuels and are less likely to damage roots of surrounding trees.

Judy and Jim were very pleased with the result that allowed them to protect a very beautiful and healthy forest that they are continuing to enjoy.

For more information contact, King Conservation District 206-764-3410 ext 125



*Wes Gustafson and team skidding a felled tree from wooded area. See more at: [www.the-working-horse.com](http://www.the-working-horse.com)*



*Clyde and Star doing a great job!!*

## Best Management Practices (BMP) Workshops

**Do you own livestock?** Are you ready to reduce mud? Manage manure? Grow more grass? Protect streams and wetlands? The King Conservation District is offering four **FREE** workshops on livestock management practices that will help turn your farm into a more useable place for you, your animals, and the environment. As a workshop participant, you will receive one-on-one guidance from District technicians on designing and implementing livestock management practices to address your specific circumstances. Attend all four workshops or only those that meet your needs.

Workshops will be held at the **King Conservation District Office** from **6:30 pm – 9:00 pm**. Contact Brandy Reed at (206) 764 3410 ext. 120 for directions and to register.

**Steams and Wetlands - Living with Livestock Near Water.** October 28<sup>th</sup>

**Mud Management - Record Rainfall, Record Mud.** November 4<sup>th</sup>

**Manure Management - Got Livestock? Got Manure!** November 11<sup>th</sup>

**Pasture Management - Growing Grass & Producing Forage.** November 18<sup>th</sup>

Rainwater Runoff - **turning problems into assets!** Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the MapleValley Community Center. To register contact [roseanne.campagne@kingcd.org](mailto:roseanne.campagne@kingcd.org), or at 206-764-3410 ext 125.



## The Grassland Reserve Program

**(GRP)** is a voluntary Farm Bill program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, shrub land, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands.

The program emphasizes support for working grazing operations; enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity; and protection of grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development, and other activities that threaten grassland resources.

### All enrollment options permit:

- Common grazing practices that maintain the viability of the grassland
- Haying, mowing, or harvesting for seed production, subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season, as determined by NRCS
- Fire rehabilitation and the construction of fire breaks and fences.

### GRP rental agreements and easements prohibit:

\* Production of crops (other than hay) that require breaking the soil surface, as well as fruit trees and vineyards; and any other activity that would disturb the surface of the land, except for appropriate land management activities included in a grassland resource management plan.

Offers for enrollment must contain at least 40 contiguous acres, unless special circumstances exist to accept a lesser amount. These special circumstances are determined by the NRCS State Conservationist. Each State will establish ranking criteria that will prioritize enrollment of working grasslands. The ranking criteria will consider threats of conversion, including cropping, invasive species, urban development, and other activities that threaten plant and animal diversity on grazing lands.

Enrollment options are: 30-year and permanent easements; 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, or 30-year rental agreements; and cost-share restoration agreements which may be used in conjunction with any easement or rental agreement. Program implementation is handled by both the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). Applications will be accepted by either agency on a continuous sign-up basis. Program funding comes through the Commodity Credit Corporation. For more information about GRP in King County contact the NRCS Office at (206) 764 3325 ext 124 or check the NRCS website at <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/> and click on Programs.

**Article contributed by: NRCS Field Office, Renton, WA 98055  
(206) 764 3325**

## Out of Africa

*by Bobbi Lindemulder, KCD Board Member*

I had a phone call from King County Ag Programs last month requesting a farm tour on our farm. It seems there was a visitor from Kenya in town and he would like to see cattle being raised in Western Washington. He was a member of the Maasai Tribe, historically a nomadic people who raised goats and cattle. Cattle are a measure of wealth in the community, and are an important aspect of daily living. Water, education, healthcare, and change are all huge issues with the Maasai.

I was also told that he traveled in traditional Massai clothing, and he spoke very good English, and could I oblige a visit? He was brought to our area by Central Kitsap Presbyterian Church. The church has an ongoing relationship with his village.

Sometime later, a car pulled up and out stepped a proud man. He was so polite, and asked many questions right away. He truly was adorned in his native clothing and some of the most beautiful beadwork!



*John Pulei and  
Bobbi Lindemulder  
in the field.*

**John Pulei** is the Headmaster and a teacher at his school (Iingarroj Primary School). He also has his own cattle and goat herd and is involved in agricultural issues. He was brought here to learn different ideas about education and to have our schools learn about their village life and their school. Also, a school in Kitsap County had gathered funds to help install a water holding tank at one of the schools in his village.

Much of the work in his village as well as others in the area is done through SIMOO (Simba Maasai Outreach Organization) an NGO (Non-governmental organization) that is run by all Maasai as a self-help organization for their people.

I took John and his group around. I showed him the farm boundary, explaining the way we manage cattle on the farm. We farm 120 acres, and I explained our ways of rotating pastures, mowing, and moving cattle around, and using a portion of it for hay.

*Cont'd on page 6...*

# Spotlight on Conservation



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Enumclaw Salmon Festival Saturday, October 16th

After a huge response to last year's Enumclaw Salmon Festival, the Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (Mid Sound) is proud to announce the Second Annual Enumclaw Salmon Festival on October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am till 5:00pm in downtown Enumclaw (located at Cole Street and Initial Avenue).

Mid Sound is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has been working with farmers and other landowners to restore salmon habitat on creeks and rivers of the Mid Puget Sound area for more than twelve years. Mid Sound assists private landowners in improving and protecting salmon habitat on their property by providing technical and financial assistance. While Mid Sound's projects improve salmon habitat, they also address landowner concerns such as flooding, bank erosion, invasive weeds, livestock water access, fencing, and replacement of failing culverts.

Many of Mid Sound's projects have been carried out in the Enumclaw area on Newaukum Creek.

This year's Festival features free workshops at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, as well as van tours to visit finished project sites and projects in progress. Anyone interested in learning more about Mid Sound's work is invited to attend the workshops and tours.

The Enumclaw Salmon Festival was founded to increase awareness of salmon and recovery of salmon habitat in local streams – it also offers a day of family fun with live music and entertainment, native dance performances, a fishing derby pond, the "Tour de Salmon" bike ride and great food, including a salmon bake by Coho's Restaurant.

For more information, please contact Nathalie Stamey at (206) 529-9467 or [nat@midsoundfisheries.org](mailto:nat@midsoundfisheries.org).



### Annual Meeting *cont'd from page 1*

Activities included the unveiling of our new Hedgerow poster we are producing with the Goodnature Publishing Company. It will be available in the next few months. Violet, the District's Conservation Goat, mingled with the crowd and demonstrated her noxious weed ability as she happily consumed some Japanese Knotweed.

Pieter Bohen from Cascade Land Conservancy made a presentation about their Green Seattle project.



*Max Prinsen, KCD Chair and owner of the Shadow Lake Bog recognizes one of his outstanding volunteers.*

Several Awards were presented for 2004 including:

- Conservation Landowner – Bill Knutsen
- Best Partnering Organization - People For Puget Sound
- Local Government Conservation Award – City of Renton
- Special Service Award – Chuck Natsuhara
- Wildlife Habitat Farms of the Year – Noelle Richards, less than 50 acres, and Bill Knutsen, more than 50 acres.

All award winners were awarded the District engraved "Rock" for their steady and long lasting contributions to local conservation efforts.



# Features



*These businesses support conservation practices. Thank you sponsors for supporting us in our ongoing programs. To become a sponsor, contact Roseanne Campagna at 206-764-3410 ex 125.*



The Maasai have historically been pastoralists, and a typical nomadic home was made of dung and mud, but they are now moving towards a village lifestyle. It seemed to fascinate John that we could manage our cattle on one place all year. They will be facing more difficult issues in relation to natural resource management when transitioning toward a village lifestyle.

The more we talked the more we had in common. We both vaccinate our animals annually, we upgrade to better quality bulls to improve the herd, we share information with other cattlemen and learn from each other. Most of all, agriculture is a way of life for both of us.

John: "What do you do with all the milk, then?"

Bobbi: "The calves get it".

John: "They get ALL of it!?"

Bobbi: "Yes, it makes them grow big and strong! Don't your calves get milk?"

John: "Yes, but only in the morning, then we separate the calves and WE get the milk the rest of the day".....but where do you get your milk?"

Bobbi: (sheepishly).... "At the store....it is a difficult business today, to be a dairy farmer".

John: "And all this goes to waste...shaking his head looking at the buildings and equipment".

Some things really hit home. You see, my husbands' family has been dairy farmers for many, many years. The milk house still stands and the parlor still has its milking machines hanging. When John saw this an interesting conversation ensued:

John: "Why do you not use these machines to milk your cows?"

Bobbi: "We no longer raise dairy cows".

John: "But your cows still give milk".

Bobbi: "Yes, but they are beef cows, not milk cows".

Later he got out of the car and exclaimed, "All this grass!" He was staring at the ground all around him. I explained that here in Western Washington the grass he sees now standing 10" tall will be grazed 3 or 4 times by the end of the season, plus we will take a cutting of hay off of it to be used during the winter months.

As the cows came closer to check out our visitors, he exclaimed about the calves, "They're so big!" I responded with, "You see, all that milk?" He shook his head up and down, "Ours do not get that big" "And the cows! If only I could take one back to Kenya!"

He talked about community education with farmers, and also a farm fair they recently held. There was a bull contest and many other activities. People could trade bulls, show their livestock, learn farming and animal husbandry techniques, also how to increase production in your herd or crops.

We also talked about problems with drought, forage, and clean water. Not just for the livestock, but for the basic necessities of life.

Before he left he adorned us each with a beautiful string of beads.

I sent them off with a jar of homemade pickles and some grass-fed beef to try. We were grinning from ear to ear.



## Fall Soil-Nitrate Testing

**Why?** The end of season soil-nitrate sampling should continue annually until management indicates nitrate-N levels are no longer a potential ground water problem. Soil sampling should occur between **August 15 and October 15** after crop harvest and before heavy rains.

Samplings should be separate from field to field, and submitted quickly after taken as microbial activity can increase the nitrogen content according to the NRCS.

*For more information on soil testing and assistance, contact the KCD office at 206-764-3410 ext 105.*

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## King Conservation District Contacts

Office Phone:

206-764-3410 Ext 105

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District Chair: Max Prinsen

Vice-Chair: Scott Wallace

Secretary/Treasurer: Matt Livengood

Member: Bobbi Lindemulder

Member: Richard Gelb

### KCD E-MAIL ADDRESS:

district @kingcd.org

WEB SITE: <http://www.kingcd.org>

