

The Conservation CONNECTION



Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship.

DISTRICT SUPERVISOR ELECTION— March 23RD

The annual election for one position on the five member Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday March 23rd from noon until 7:00 PM at the following locations: All registered voters are eligible and encouraged to vote. At press time no one has officially filed for this position.

KCD Office—

935 Powell Ave SW, Renton

UW Center for Urban Horticulture—

3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

Snoqualmie Valley Senior Ctr.—

4610 Stephens Ave, Carnation

Enumclaw Senior / Community Center—

1350 Cole Street, Enumclaw

All qualified electors occupying land with the King Conservation District boundary (most of King County) are eligible to vote in this public election. The purpose of this



election is to fill position #1 for a 3 year term. Supervisor duties include, but are not limited to, attending monthly board meetings, meeting with elected officials, and to working with District and State Conservation Commission staff to oversee program direction and financial and administrative management. The King CD has a full time staff of 12 and an annual operating budget of approximately one million dollars each fiscal year. A Board member serves with no compensation but is entitled to reimbursement of expenses.

The election for district supervisor is not on the November general ballot along with other special purpose district elections (water and sewer commissioners etc) because the cost to be on this ballot are too prohibitive. All 48 of Washington's Conservations Districts hold elections in the first quarter of the year in this manner as directed by State statute RCW 89.08.

For more info contact Geoff Reed @ 206-764-3410 x103 or geoff.reed@kingcd.org.

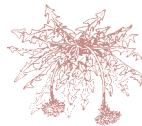
In Memory Timothy Wallace - 1955-2004



King CD lost a co-worker and friend on January 31st. Tim Wallace, the District's Engineering Technician, died suddenly at his home near Issaquah. Tim's quiet competence, calm demeanor, technical skills, and his humor and friendship are greatly missed by all of us.

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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 Debbie (206) 764-3410 ext.119, debbie.meisinger@kingcd.org for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

Winter/Spring 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.

Volunteer events will occur 9am to 1:00pm. Scheduled volunteer dates include:

March: 12th, 13th, 26th, 27th
April 2nd, 3rd, 16th, 17th
May 7th, 8th, 21st, 22nd

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 event:

**March 20th Totem Lake Wetlands
Kirkland from 10AM - 2PM**



Earth Day 2004 - April 24.

Join the King Conservation District on one of many stream and wetland enhancement projects to celebrate Earth Day 2004. Project will focus on planting trees and shrubs at a local salmon stream.

Scheduled volunteer event:

**April 24th Newaukum Creek
Enumclaw from 10AM - 2PM**

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

[Http://www.kingcd.org](http://www.kingcd.org)

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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.

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Design Layout: Roseanne Campagna

Contributors: Debbie Meisinger, Joshua Monaghan, Clare Flanagan, Jay Mirro

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



Paxhia Farm



Deb and Al Paxhia have lived on Vashon Island since 1984 before purchasing their 12 acres in 1992. Their dream for what used to be a Rhododendron and Azalea nursery was to have 2-3 mares, 2 foals, and 2 yearlings on their horse farm at any given time and operate a Dutch Warmblood breeding facility.

They heard about the King Conservation District from a neighbor who had previously done a farm plan. Their biggest concern was mud, mud, and more mud!

Reducing mud would mean improvement in several areas including pasture management, gutters for buildings in confinement areas, and footing materials to control runoff. Manure management would be another aspect of their plan.

They first divided the space with new fencing into paddock areas with room for two horses per run including a shed. The paddocks are long and narrow, and approximately .3 acres. The 5/8's inch gravel footing was added near

the sheds and most of the run – with an area of hogs fuel at the farthest end. The hog fuel gives an area for the horses to roll since they don't use footing in the sheds. They added rubber mats for the sheds, which stopped mud in those areas and provided a dry surface for feeding.

They also kept their livestock off the pastures during the winter months to protect it from compaction and overgrazing.

They devised a composting area with large cement blocks surrounding a cement pad. This composted manure eventually goes to organic farmers on the island. They would gladly use it on their own pastures if they had access to a manure spreader.



Deb says, "I just love the frogs. When they start croaking I will know spring is really here."

At the time of their farm planning process, they enrolled 7 forested acres into the King County Open Space program giving them some relief on property taxes. The KCD made another visit to develop a Wetland Buffer Enhancement Plan. This is in their future plans for completion.

Deb and Al see eagles and many bird species on their farm. When the frogs start their symphony it's an incredible sound. Deb and Al are seeing more wildlife, and that the combination of open pasture areas mixed with the wooded areas are giving the wildlife a great habitat.



Deb believes that the practices implemented in the farm plan are keeping her horses healthier. They are not suffering abscesses and their hooves are staying harder.

All the best management practices incorporated into this plan will help improve water quality, enhance the scenic beauty, protect wildlife habitat, and provides a cleaner environment for their horses.

The new arrangement of paddocks and pastures allows them to keep a total of 11 horses. Deb, still working full time, has extra help for the chores during the week. But with the better management of the facility, she also finds time to ride more often!



Dear Conservation Connection Subscriber,

We would like to thank you for your interest in receiving our newsletter and supporting our work. The Conservation Connection covers current, local natural resources issues and agricultural interest features; as well as the annual native plant sale information and educational and volunteer events. In light of our growing readership base and a desire to reduce mailing and printing costs, we are offering the option of receiving an electronic newsletter to those of you with e-mail who prefer to receive publications in an electronic format. If you do not want to receive the newsletter electronically, simply do nothing and we will be happy to continue sending you the newsletter via regular mail.

To subscribe electronically please e-mail us at:
roseanne.campagna@kingcd.org

You will need to include your name as it appears on the newsletter mailing label and e-mail address. You will then be notified via e-mail when each issue of the Conservation Connection newsletter can be read from our web site at www.kingcd.org.

Dairy Page



DAIRY NUTRIENT PLAN CERTIFICATION:

Washington State Department of Agriculture recently announced that 80% of the state's 599 licensed dairy farms met the Dec. 31, 2003 deadline imposed by the state legislature to implement nutrient management plans to protect surface and groundwater. Of the 20 percent not meeting the deadline, 4 percent are new dairies with later deadlines, and 11 percent had applied for an extension.

In King County 71% of licensed dairies met the December 31st 2003 deadline. The remaining producers have filed for an extension, have 2004 deadlines or chose not to comply with the certification requirement. A fine of \$100 a month will be imposed on producers who did not comply and who did not file for an extension.

Remember, certification of the plan means that producers will continue to maintain soil, manure and application records and continue to improve nutrient management on their farms as well as protecting natural resources.

If your plan needs revising or if there are changes in your operation since the plan was written contact the Conservation District and arrange to have it revised.

WATER QUALITY TESTING:

Assistance and information is available to producers who are interested in taking water samples on their property from streams and ditches to evaluate fecal coliform counts and to determine if they meet the requirements of WA Water Quality Standards. A list of approved laboratories, prices and sampling procedures is available upon request. Call Clare Flanagan (206) 764 3410 ext 124.



WA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INSPECTION PROGRAM:

As you are aware, the WA State Department of Agriculture has taken over the Inspection of Licensed Dairies in the state from the Department of Ecology as well as inspection of all AFO/CAFO operations. The Department has recently hired two inspectors and they are currently recruiting for a third. **Kirk Robinson** is the Lead Dairy Nutrient Management Inspector and is located in Olympia. He will be covering facilities in SW Washington which includes the **Enumclaw area of King Co.** Kirk has extensive experience as a dairy and beef farmer as well as over three years with the Thurston Conservation District providing technical assistance to landowners. Kirk can be reached at: 360 902-1928.

The inspector for **North King County** will be based in either Mt. Vernon or Bellingham and will cover a large area in the NW Region. The Dept of Ag is currently recruiting for this position. In the meantime, Neil Lanning will handle the NW area. Neil can be reached at (360) 902-2052. Producers should expect to see inspectors in the field conducting inspections and getting to know the area. The King Conservation District has been informed by the Dept. of Ag that any producers who intend to apply manure before the recommended guidelines in their farm plans should contact the Dept. before doing so. The contact and number to call is Lori Cross (360) 902 1982.

EQIP: (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

King County received 34 applicants for the federally funded 2004 EQIP Program. Applicants ranged from commercial dairies to small livestock owners and horticultural operations. For information on the EQIP Program or to check on the status of your application contact the NRCS Field Office in Renton (206) 764-3325.

TWO MORE KING COUNTY DAIRIES CALL IT QUILTS:

King County had two dairy farms in the Snoqualmie Valley cease milk production in the past few months. Norman Brook Farms, where milk was bottled on site and sold locally decided to close their facility last fall. Carnation Farms founded in 1909 decided to sell off the remainder of their dairy herd in January, much to the regret of everyone in King County. The Nestle Company, which bought Carnation Farms in 1985, decided it was no longer productive to continue milking with the low price of milk and high cost of operation. Carnation Farms not only functioned as a highly productive dairy but also an exceptional educational resource.

HORSE FARM TOURS

Tour a Vashon Island Breeding Farm - Join us on **Vashon Island** for a free educational tour of an Arabian breeding farm on Saturday, **April 24th**, 10am - noon. This farm features confinement areas for each of the 13 horses with no mud, composting bins for manure management, 7 acres of pasture with cross fencing. See baby horses, too!

Commercial Boarding Stables Tour. Tour a boarding facility that actually has pastures in the summer and no mud in the winter! Cascade Farms in **Enumclaw** has won environmental awards & recognition for their excellent management techniques. See creative techniques for composting & managing manure, view wildlife enhancement areas. Wednesday evening, **May 19th**, 6:30 to 8:30pm.

To register and receive a map contact the King Conservation District at 206-764-3410, ext. 125 or roseanne.campagna@kingcd.org

Upcoming Events



2004 CANON ENVIROTHON HOSTED BY KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The 2004 NW Regional Envirothon will be hosted by the King Conservation District. The event will be held at the Lake Wilderness Arboretum and Park on March 22nd, 2004 from 8 am until 4 pm.

The Envirothon is the largest Natural Resources Environmental Competition in North America. It is a problem solving competition for high school students, grades 9 through 12. Students are challenged to use critical thinking skills and conduct a hands-on investigation of environmental topics in five categories: Water, Soil, Forestry, Wildlife and a Current Environmental Issue. This year's theme is "Natural Resources Management in an Urban Environment".

Teams rotate through field test stations and answer relevant questions provided by professionals in the natural resources industry. The goals of the competition are to give the participants a deeper knowledge of the effect our land use actions have on the environment, the interactions and inter-

dependencies of our environment, and to have a great time learning. Winning teams also have scholarship opportunities, and the experience of working with peers and professionals who share the same interests.



The NW Washington Regional Envirothon is open to teams from King, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties. The winning teams will be eligible to compete at the state level competition in May, and those winning teams will compete at the international event this July at Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, West Virginia.

For more information on the Envirothon, you can visit the website at www.envirothon.org. Contact Roseanne Campagna, roseanne.campagna@kingcd.org, at the King Conservation District at 206-764-3410 ext 125 to answer questions or request assistance.



GET THE LATEST 'DIRT' AT THE SMALL FARM EXPO

Puget Sound-area small farmers and rural landowners can get the most current information on livestock, crop and resource technologies, land management and more at the 3rd annual Small Farm Expo, March 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the King County Fairgrounds in Enumclaw.

The Small Farm Expo has expanded this year to include valuable horticulture information in addition to livestock and crop production resources. The Expo will feature hands-on demonstrations, exhibits, educational presentations, vendors and more!

For more information, please call Mary Ann Bentley at 206-205-3206 or visit www.metrokc.gov/wsuc-ce/farmexpo.

FIREWISE WORKSHOP FOR RURAL LANDOWNERS

Learn about defensible space, reducing fuel loads around your home, and more at this upcoming workshop on April 8th in Carnation.

For more information contact Janice, Washington Department of Natural Resources at 360-802-7060, or janice.pacific@wadnr.gov.



WASHINGTON STATE ARBOR DAY - APRIL 14TH!

Beginning in Nebraska, it is now the 130th year that as a nation we have recognized the value and benefits that trees provide to the community by setting aside a day to plant and care for trees. In recognition of Arbor Day, King CD will be giving one free fir seedling to everyone who stops by the following locations on Wednesday, April 14 between 10 am and 3 pm or while supplies last.

Larry's Markets –

12321 120th Place NE, Kirkland
699 120th Ave. NE, Bellevue
10008 Aurora Ave. N, Seattle

Thriftway –

501 South Grady Way, Renton



Other Topics



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.

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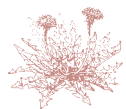
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FINDING A WAY FOR PEOPLE AND FISH TO CO-EXIST: WATERSHED PLANS NEED YOUR INPUT

Do you want to have a say in the management of your watershed? Do you have ideas about how to protect and restore salmon habitat? Opportunities to weigh in are coming up this year.

Scientists are busy sampling, surveying, and analyzing how salmon depend on the streams, rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound shoreline of King County watersheds. Citizen-stakeholder committees are currently developing plans to protect and restore each watershed. Each plan will likely include a mix of habitat protection and restoration projects, incentives, programs, and regulations tailored to meet the needs and opportunities found in each watershed. Each plan will be firmly rooted in science but also will be shaped by the values of people who live, work, and play in the watershed.

Now's the time to sign up to receive notices of upcoming meetings and other public input opportunities. You also can sign up to be notified of volunteer restoration events. To sign up, contact Dennis Clark, 206-296-1909, dennis.clark@metrokc.gov. To learn more, visit: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/Wrias/index.htm>

If you care about land and water stewardship or if you have good ideas about how people and fish can co-exist, *please sign up now!*

DID YOU KNOW?

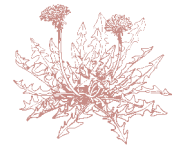
Most mushrooms in our yards, even though not mostly not edible, are good for the environment, degrading waste products and returning them to the soil. Even more important are the mushrooms that are associated with trees as mycorrhizae. Without this mutualistic association most trees would not survive. Killing these fungi would effectively kill your trees.

PLANT SALE WRAP-UP

Thanks to everyone who purchased native trees and shrubs from us this year. Thanks to you, thousands of plants will be hard at work providing fish and wildlife habitat, controlling soil erosion, protecting water quality and beautifying our landscape.

There is still time to buy native plants directly from the Skagit Conservation District and the WACD (WA Assoc. of Conservation Districts) plant nursery near Mt. Vernon. The **Open sale date is Saturday, April 17th**. There will be excellent buys at this sale of remaining inventory left in cold storage.

See www.skagitcd.org or call 360-428-4313 for more info on species availability, times and directions.



King Conservation District Contacts

Office Phone:

206-764-3410 Ext 105

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Vice-Chair: Scott Wallace

Secretary/Treasurer: Lynn Sullivan

Member: Bobbi Lindemulder

Member: Richard Gelb

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district@kingcd.org

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