

The Conservation CONNECTION

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Spring 2007

Promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship.

Board of Supervisor News

KCD Board member and current chair, Matt Livengood, was re-elected for another three year term on the Board of Supervisors. Matt works for the Boeing Company and lives on a horse farm in the Maple Valley area. In addition to volunteering his time for the Conservation District he travels the country as a reining horse show judge.



"I want to thank all who participated in the last KCD election. I'm looking forward to continuing the work we began last year to increase our outreach to build stronger working relationships and partnerships with the agencies, organizations and individuals concerned with conserving and preserving our natural resources."

Veterans Conservation Corps

The District is pleased to welcome Mark Seery as a part time field coordinator for the VCC. Created in 2005 by the State legislature, the VCC is beginning to activate in King County and Mark is leading the charge. In addition to securing stable funding from the Veterans Levy passed by the voters in 2005 in King County, he is working on recruitment, training and placement of eligible military veterans on conservation projects with local government and non-profit organizations. Partnering with Green River Community College and Renton Technical College the District is helping to develop a training program and certification that will enable the VCC members to gain employment in conservation and restoration work. The KCD is excited to be a partner in this new program and we look forward to enlisting the services of the VCC. If you know a veteran who might be interested in joining the corps please call our office.



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Change 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 Roseanne, (425) 277-5581 ext 125, roseanne.campagna@kingcd.org, for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

Spring 2007

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 projects. Activities include starting plants from seed and cuttings, and transplanting and maintaining nursery stock. Activities will occur at the KCD Wetland Plant Cooperative Nursery facility in Renton from **9AM – 12 NOON**.

Scheduled volunteer dates include:

April: 20th and 21st

May: 4th, 5th, 18th and 19th

June: 1st, 2nd, 22nd, 23rd

Look for project updates and new announcements by visiting <http://www.kingcd.org>



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 (425) 277-5581.

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

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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.

Farm Program



Soil Testing- 2007 Pilot Program

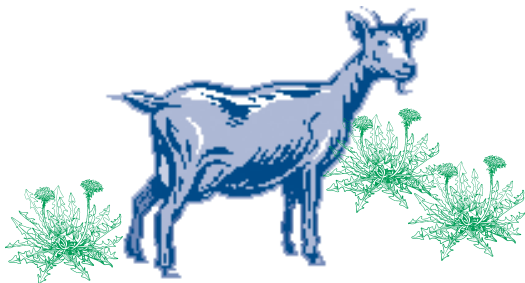
The King Conservation District will now be providing basic soil nutrient testing services to assist with the implementation of Farm Plans and soil nutrient management. For each land manager in our Conservation District, the first soil nutrient testing will be free*, as funds last.

Samples are sent to a certified lab for the following tests: *pH - soil and buffered, Nitrate, Phosphate, Extractable cations (Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium, Sodium), Organic matter, and Cation exchange capacity. Additional tests are available at a fee. Results of all testing are generally available within 2-3 weeks of receipt of samples.

We are offering this service in response to a perceived need for affordable, bare-bones nutrient testing. A list of private testing labs in the Northwest is available to anyone who requests it.

Please contact our office by phone Josh at (425) 277-5581 ext 130 for more information or email at joshua.monaghan@kingcd.org.

** Free basic soil nutrient service is available one time per cooperator (up to 5 samples). We are happy to help with future sampling, but future lab fees are the responsibility of the cooperator.*



The 2007 Native Plant Sale

This year's sale was a huge success. The total number of plants for both pre-order and walk-up sales was 36,000!!

Because of this huge response and interest to the sale, we apologize for short orders due to lack of

Compost Spreader Program

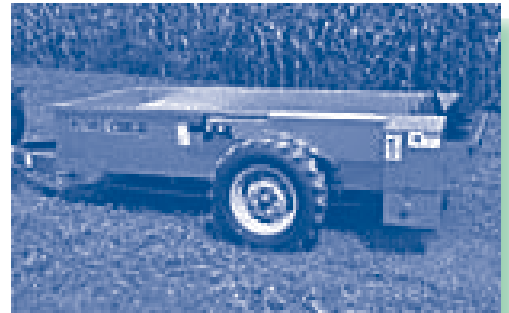
The King Conservation District is lending out a two-yard compost spreader to landowners in the District through our new Compost Spreader Program. The spreader is ground driven and can be towed by a small tractor or a pick-up truck. It is too large to be pulled by a riding mower. The spreader will be available for use from April 1st to August 31st.

Use of the spreader will be free, but requires recent soil test results for the land to be spread and a manure and nutrient management consultation with King Conservation District Staff. The consultation will include a free property walk-through with a King Conservation District farm planner to evaluate pasture, mud, and manure management needs. We can also discuss other King Conservation District programs.

In order to promote the agronomic application of compost, the KCD would like landowners to have current soil test. That, in coordination with a manure and nutrient consultation, we can help evaluate the proper application rates.

District staffers are happy to offer soil testing information and assistance to landowners as part of the manure and nutrient management consultation. For landowners with a current King Conservation District farm management plan, their plan serves as their manure and nutrient consultation and they will just need a follow-up of their plan. They only need to have a recent soil test result.

In order to save resources, by not driving back and forth across the county, the spreader will be reserved by neighborhood when possible. Please contact Jay Mirro for more information: 425-277-5581 ext 121 or jay.mirro@kingcd.org



stock, and tried to resolve these order discrepancies as best as possible.

If you'd like to participate next year, be sure to contact us and get on the mailing list - and be sure to get your orders in early.

Thank you everyone for participating.



2007 (EQJP)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

NRCS received 20 applications from landowners in King County for funding this year under EQIP. Applications ranged from dairy, crop, small livestock to forestry landowners requesting cost share to implement practices that will resolve resource concerns on their property. NRCS staff is currently working with 8 landowners to develop a conservation plan and contract for their property. Contracts and plans will be finalized and money obligated by mid April. This years' contracts will bring the total funds obligated to landowners in King County close to 1 million dollars.

EQIP is a federal cost share program providing financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. NRCS administers EQIP based on locally identified natural resource needs consistent with national EQIP priorities.

For more information on the EQIP or any other Farm Bill Programs or to submit an application for next years funding cycle, contact Clare Flanagan, Resource Conservationist, USDA NRCS, 935 Powell Ave, Suite C, Renton, WA 98057 at (425) 277 5580 ext 124. clare.flanagan@wa.usda.gov.



Livestock watering facility installed on a beef operation in King County under EQIP: Off-site watering troughs protects streams and ditches from contamination by providing alternative access for livestock to water as well as enhancing vegetative cover by proper distribution of grazing animals.

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.

Workshops & Events



Safergrass Workshop

Attention equine veterinarians, farriers & agency folks:

PRESTON, WA

Katy Watts of Safergrass.org is coming to Western WA! Katy Watts, a Colorado-based researcher who has been studying the effects of sugars and non-structural carbohydrates on horse health, will do a presentation for veterinarians, farriers and agency staff on factors affecting sugar content of forage and management of the carbohydrate intolerant horse. **Friday, April 20th, 1 pm to 5 pm. PRESTON, WA** For fees, pre registration & more details contact roseanne.campagna@kingcd.org or 425-277-5581 x125

Attention horse owners:

MONROE, WA

Safergrass Workshop for Horse Owners Have you been wondering about the sugars in grass and how this affects your horse's health? Do you hear conflicting info on whether morning time grazing is "safer" vs. evening? Are you horses in a "diet pen" still foundering? Do you have horses with Insulin resistance / Equine Metabolic Syndrome, Cushings or laminitis? Are you concerned that your horses may be at serious risk for metabolic disease? Based on your current pasture situation, do you know how to choose hay appropriate for your horse? For more information on managing pastures, not just for grass but also for horse health, join Colorado-based researcher Katy Watts of Safergrass.org for this all-day workshop. Katy Watts has been studying the effects of sugars, non-structural carbohydrates and common soil/forage mineral deficiencies on horse health. **Saturday, April 21st, 9am to 5 pm, at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds** Gain the latest information and current research on the prevention of grass founder in horses — & find out how you can manage your pastures to keep your horse healthier. Pre-registration, cost & more details Alayne@horsesforcleanwater.com, 425-432-6116.

These events are being sponsored by the King Conservation District, Snohomish Conservation District & Horses for Clean Water. Other partners include WSU Extension King County, WSU Extension Snohomish County and Pierce Conservation District.

The 7th Annual Backyard Wildlife Festival

Saturday, May 12th, 2007

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Tukwila Community Center
12424 42nd Avenue South

It is time to get the **7th Annual Backyard Wildlife Festival** on your calendars! It's a **FREE**, all-day event that educates and inspires people from throughout the Puget Sound to welcome wildlife – such as birds, butterflies, and other wildlife – into their backyards, workplaces, schools and other community spaces. The event hosts a variety of activities and educational opportunities on how to attract and support wildlife through sustainable gardening and landscaping practices.

Where the Water Begins – Land Management Practices for Marine Shoreline & Bluff Landowners

The King Conservation District, in partnership with Washington Sea Grant, will provide three free workshops for landowners who want to improve their understanding of near-shore and marine riparian ecology and learn about land management practices that reduce beach and bluff erosion and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Workshop participants will have access to free technical assistance from the District on designing and installing the practices covered in the workshops. The workshops will be held from 9 am to 2 pm at with dates scheduled during May and June, and held at the following locations. Call for dates-The workshops will include an indoor session followed by a field trip.

Camp Sealth Birdcage Facility on Vashon Island, WA
Saltwater State Park Concession Hall, DesMoines, WA
North Seattle Location - TBD

For more information and to register, contact Brandy Reed by phone at (425) 277-5581 ext 120 or by email at brandy.reed@kingcd.org

...more Events



2007 Farm Tour Schedule

Join the King Conservation District and Horses for Clean Water for guided educational tours. Educators and resource professionals as well as fellow horse owners will conduct tours with the purpose of providing a first-hand look at environmentally friendly ways to manage horses. Discover great ways to manage manure, banish mud, get rid of weeds and grow more grass!

REDMOND, WA

Saturday - April 28th 10am til Noon

Spring Your Horse Farm into Summer!

Tour this Redmond horse farm to learn about sacrifice areas & footing choices, dealing with paddock odor challenges, composting manure & utilizing the finished product, using free conveyor belting for mud management, and managing small pastures to make them more productive.

HOBART, WA

Saturday - June 9th 10am til Noon

Beyond Where the Blacktop Ends

Tour the Three Sisters Mule Farm, a private 10-acre equine property that lies above Hobart & is surrounded by Seattle's Cedar River Watershed. This pristine property is superbly managed for benefit of the mules & their humans — as well as for the environment. See a group sacrifice area, a composting shed, rotational grazing and more management techniques that reduce mud and help with chore efficiency.

BONUS: Learn about our unique Cedar River Watershed.

FALL CITY, WA

Wednesday - July 18th 6:30 til 8:30 pm

The Chore Efficient Horse Farm

This small farm is big on economizing. The horse portion of this property was carefully designed & built by the owners to maximize space and chore efficiency. Everything for 3 horses has been neatly arranged on 1 acre including barn, mud-free paddocks, arena, compost bins and pasture. Hear about cooperative arrangements with neighbors that results in sharing equipment. This farm enjoys a picturesque view of the Snoqualmie River Valley — & helps keep the waters clean, too! **BONUS:** Learn about King County Parks equestrian trails which are accessible nearby!

To register and receive directions contact the King Conservation District at 425-277-5581, ext. 125 or Roseanne.Campagna@kingcd.org

FREE!!! Hedgerow Poster for District Landowners!

Have you heard? A printed copy of the Puget Sound Hedgerows poster is available free-of-charge to individuals who reside within the boundary of the King Conservation District by visiting our office in Renton Washington.

Hedgerows of native plant species can provide numerous benefits, including

- Livestock exclusion from streams and wetlands
- Stream, wetland, and water quality protection
- Erosion Control
- Fish and wildlife habitat enhancement

Go to http://www.kingcd.org/pub_fis_hed.htm for more information on the value of hedgerows and techniques for establishing hedgerows with native plant species.

The poster is not available by mail through the King Conservation District. The boundary of the District includes most of King County, excluding the incorporated cities of Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton, Pacific and Skykomish. The poster can be purchased and mailed to an address of your choice by visiting the **Good Nature Publishing Company** at www.goodnaturepublishing.com.



Stink Current
(*Ribes Brateosum*)

King Conservation District Contacts

Office Phone:
425-277-5581 Ext 105

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District Chair: Matt Livengood
Vice-Chair: Scott Wallace
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Knutsen
Member: Bobbi Lindemulder
Member: Bob Vos

KCD E-MAIL ADDRESS:
district @kingcd.org

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