

April is Earth Month in Pierce County

Since April 22, 1970, communities across the United States and the world have celebrated Earth Day. This year, Pierce County, Tacoma, and many local cities are planning a number of initiatives and events to help our environment. Read on for descriptions of a few local Earth Day events and come out to do something for our water, land, plants, and wildlife.

The game will feature special Earth Day promotions and a fundraising component for local volunteer and non-profit groups. For more information about the fundraising opportunities, contact Ryan Latham, Tacoma Rainiers group event coordinator (253) 722-1041 or rlatham@tacomarainiers.com.

Parks Appreciation Day!

April 16 marks the 10th anniversary of Parks Appreciation Day in Pierce County. A combination celebration of Earth Day, Arbor Day, and National Parks Week, Parks Appreciation Day has been a wonderful event for dozens of local parks that have benefited from a few hours of sweat equity and elbow grease from community volunteers. Playgrounds get built. Brush is cleared. Woodchips are spread. Equipment is repaired. Best of all, citizens come together to improve these parks that add so much to our quality of life.

For more information about Parks Appreciation Day 2011, visit the Tacoma Metro Parks website: www.metro-park-stacoma.org. This site includes links to participating parks throughout Pierce County, or you can contact your local park district or city park department for information about specific parks. □

Inside...

Conservation Corner

- Farm & Home Classes
- PCD Board of Supervisors Election

On the Farm

- Spring Farm Reminders
- Manure Composting

In the Stream

- New! Milton Lake Program
- Spring Fair
- Red Salmon Creek Ivy Pull
- Earth Day at First Creek
- Puyallup Rain Gardens
- In Memory: George Cathcart

Also

- Knotweed Project Update
- Ag Coordinator Moves On
- Calendar of Events

Coasters and Coffee Sleeves for Puget Sound!

During the week of April 24, you might notice something different on the next visit to your favorite coffee shop, restaurant, or bar. Specially designed coffee sleeves and coasters with the "Puget Sound Starts Here" message will be distributed from Greenwater to Eatonville, from Gig Harbor to DuPont.

Funded by a grant from the Puget Sound Partnership, the coasters and coffee sleeves include stormwater facts about Pierce County, and tips for things you can do to keep our streams, rivers, and the Sound clean. There is also a contest encouraging you to post pictures with the coasters or coffee sleeves on the Puget Sound Partnership's Facebook page for a chance to win prizes, and organizers are planning special events at some of the participating businesses during the last week of April.

Rainiers Celebrate Earth Day During First Homestand of the Season!

The home of the 2010 Pacific Coast League Champion Tacoma Rainiers has undergone a major remodel over the off-season. Be one of the first to experience the new stadium during the season's first homestand, when the Rainiers, City of Tacoma, and others host "Puget Sound Starts Here" Night at the Rainiers on April 21 during a game with the Colorado Springs Sky Sox.



Coasters like these, plus similar coffee sleeves, will be distributed around Pierce County during the week of April 24 as part of a public education campaign on stormwater.

Conservation Corner

CONTACT US:

PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MAIL FOR BOTH THE DISTRICT AND STREAM TEAM CAN BE SENT TO:

P.O. Box 1057
Puyallup, WA 98371

OFFICE LOCATION:

5430 66th Avenue East
Puyallup, WA 98371

 Like us on Facebook

Get out and Vote in the District Supervisor Election!

The Pierce Conservation District will conduct an election on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, for a position on its Board of Supervisors. The person in this elected position serves on the Pierce Conservation District Board from 2011-2014. The position is currently filled by Anders Ibsen of Tacoma.

District Supervisors serve in a volunteer, unpaid position for three years. Their primary duties are to provide policy, fiscal, and administrative oversight for the District, and to represent the District in its relationships with other entities. Election and appointment law is detailed in

(continued on page 10)



Classes for the Farm and Home

Managing Mud, Manure, and Pastures

*Friday, March 25
6-8 p.m.
Gig Harbor*

Mud, manure, and pasture management are key components to a healthy farm. Attend this workshop and learn valuable information about all three.

Find out what materials are being used to keep paddocks dry, and learn how to install them correctly. Learn how to turn the mountain of manure into a useful soil amendment for your pastures or garden. And learn how to transform that patch of weeds and bare soil into lush pasture to get the most grazing for your animals this summer.

Also, to help you get through the rest of the winter, learn some band-aid measures that can be used now to make your and your livestock's lives a little better until permanent solutions can be implemented in the summer when things dry out. A class notebook will be provided to each participant.

Increasing Pasture Productivity

*Wednesday, March 30
6:30-8:30 p.m.
King Feed, Eatonville*

Improving pasture productivity not only improves animal health, but your bottom line as well. Join the Pierce Conservation District as we review techniques that boost forage quality and quantity including installing safe and effective cross fencing, fertilizer application based on soil test results, composted manure application, and grazing management strategies.

Rainwater Collection for the Home and Farm

*Monday, March 21, 6-7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 4, 6-7:30 p.m.
Tacoma*

On October 12, 2009, the Washington State Department of Ecology issued an Interpretive Policy Statement that clarifies the long-standing water right ambiguity associated with rainwater harvesting: A water right is not required for on-site storage and use of rooftop collected rainwater.

Rainwater harvesting is valued as a water conservation tool to reduce demands on more traditional water supply sources. With so much rain falling in western Washington, it seems counterintuitive to imagine a need for an additional water supply. However, the need becomes more obvious when you realize that when the rain isn't falling (summer) we use the most water (irrigation). The easiest and smallest scale (but effective!) rainwater harvesting technique is to divert downspouts into rain barrels to augment irrigation needs.



Class participants are led through the rain barrel assembly process in one of the District's 2010 classes.

Thanks to funding from the City of Tacoma's Make a Splash grant and in collaboration with the UW-Tacoma Environmental Program, the District will sponsor two rain barrel workshops this spring – just in time to begin collecting home rain water for spring and summer gardening. At the workshop, participants will construct their very own rain barrel to take home. All the materials are provided, and the class will be instructed by Dan Borba from Natural Rain Water. Each class is limited to 25 participants and only one barrel per household. Past classes have filled quickly, so call now to register: (253) 845-9770 ext. 106.

Natural Yard Care

*Tuesdays, March 29, April 5, and 12
6:30–8:30 p.m., City Hall, Gig Harbor
Wednesdays, May 4, 11, and 18
6:30–8:30 p.m., Peninsula Light, Purdy*

The Pierce Conservation District and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department present two opportunities to attend the free, fun, and informative "Natural Yard Care" workshop series this spring. During this three-part series, speakers will cover topics that include basic garden design, selecting the right plants for your site, vegetable gardening, lawn care, composting, garden pest manage-

ment, rain gardens, and more. Each workshop will feature different topics with different speakers each evening. Please call Geoff Rinehart, TPCHD, at (253) 798-4587 for more information or to register. Space is limited and pre-registration is encouraged.

Spring Weed Management

*Saturday, April 2
1-3 p.m.
Sunnycrest Nursery, Key Center*

Controlling weeds in the spring with good management and fertilizer techniques will help maximize productivity and extend the growing season for pastures. During this workshop, we'll examine the benefits and application strategies of common fertilizers and control techniques to help you determine the most equitable solution for problem weeds on your property.

Mother Earth News Fair

*June 4 and 5
Puyallup
Fairgrounds*



Mother Earth News magazine has been helping folks live self-reliant, sustainable, meaningful lives for more than 40 years. With an audience of more than 3 million readers worldwide, it is the larg-

est and longest-running environmental lifestyle magazine on the planet. The Mother Earth News Fair will bring the magazine to life!

This fun-filled, family-oriented sustainable lifestyle event will feature dozens of practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops from the leading authorities on: Renewable Energy, Small-scale Agriculture, Gardening, Green Building, Green Transportation, and Natural Health. There are anticipated to be 120 workshops and 250 exhibitors.

In between sessions, attendees can enjoy an array of entertainment options, organic local food and beverages, as well as outdoor gardening and livestock demonstrations. Plus, save on great deals from dozens of regional and national vendors featuring sustainable lifestyle products and services, including books, tools, seeds, crafts, organic foods, clothes, solar gadgets, and more!

In lieu of holding the Small Farm Expo in March, the Pierce Conservation District and WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center will co-host the small scale agriculture stage, and you can also visit our booths in the Centennial Building.

Find out more about the Mother Earth News Fair at: <http://www.motherearthnews.com/fair/Puyallup.aspx#ixzz1CG5mIXGq>.

Chicken Management 101: Small-Scale Egg Production

*Date TBD, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center*

More and more residents of Pierce County are expanding their idea of eating local from veggie gardens in the back yard into the realm of raising chickens and enjoying fresh laid eggs. This spring the District and WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center are offering a class for these new "urban chicken farmers." A diverse team of experts are speaking to the class on topics such as: municipality regulations, coop design, breeds, feed and water, diseases and insects, waste management, and egg management.

Last year's class quickly exceeded available room capacity, so don't wait to sign up! Register online at <http://county.wsu.edu/pierce/agriculture/Pages/default.aspx>.



Unless otherwise indicated, please call René or Erin at (253) 845-9770 to register for the workshops. A map will be sent to you upon registration. □





Spring Farm Reminders

Spring is often marked with a flurry of activity, especially if you have a small farm. Don't forget about the following services available from the Pierce Conservation District to help make at least some of those spring chores a little easier.

Soil Sampling

If you are thinking of amending your pastures or commercial crops this spring, sampling your soil is the first step to maximizing production. You can save yourself money and time by not over or under applying amendments that will meet the spring nutrient needs of growing plants. Under the District's soil sampling program, your first test report with recommendations is free. Call your area's farm planner to set up an appointment now!

Manure Spreader Rental

When you are planning your spring chores, don't forget that the Pierce Conservation District has a Frontier 25-bushel manure spreader available for rent to Pierce County residents to help implement your manure management program. This ground driven spreader connects to a small garden tractor or ATV and is ideal for farms storing less than 50 yards of material. The spreader is most easily loaded into a trailer; a long bed pickup truck may work but is more difficult. Call for more information and to reserve the spreader.

Manure Share List

The Pierce Conservation District has a free program that benefits livestock owners, gardeners, and the environment! The manure share program puts gardeners searching for free fertilizer in contact with livestock owners that have too much manure. A list of farms with excess manure is available at the District office.



Livestock manure is a great garden amendment. Contact the Pierce Conservation District to obtain the list of farms participating in the manure share program.

Gardeners contact the participating farmers to obtain information on where and when to pick up the free manure. Participating livestock owners are encouraged to fully compost their manure and bedding in order to make their product more desirable to gardeners. Please call the Conservation District to obtain the Manure Share Farm List, or to have your farm entered into the exchange.

Chicken Processing Equipment

Current Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations allow farmers raising less than 1,000 birds to process and sell them directly to customers. Small poultry producers wishing to process birds for personal use or to expand their product offerings and increase on-farm income may rent the District's poultry processing equipment. The equipment can process up to 100-200 birds a day and is easily transported in a pickup truck. For more information or to reserve the equipment, contact Mike Baden at mikeb@piercecoun-tycd.org or (253) 845-9770 x 104.

Unless otherwise indicated, contact René at renes@piercecoun-tycd.org or (253) 845-9770 or Erin at erine@piercecoun-tycd.org or (253) 884-9474 for more information on the opportunities listed above. □



Composting an Important Part of Manure Management

Manure management is often an overlooked and underappreciated farm management tool. Establishing a good composting cycle on your farm will take material that is just lying around making a mess and turn it into a product that can benefit your farm, garden, and pocketbook. The entire process of collection, composting, curing, and reapplication onto growing pastures can take a little know-how, a little time, and a little bit of machinery, but the benefits and value far outweigh the costs.

Basic Components

Carbon (straw and wood shavings), nitrogen (manure), water, and oxygen are all the building blocks you need to start your own black gold production process. Piled in a mound at least 3' x 3' x 3', natural microbes will start to break down the raw materials into a rich, earthy smelling mixture over time. If a pile is too heavy or wet, these microbes quickly use up the available oxygen and die off, resulting in a smelly pile that does not progress. By turning the pile, injecting air into the pile, or even inserting perforated pipes to allow better air flow throughout the pile, the bacteria will thrive and continue to break down additional material. A well-tended manure pile can decrease in volume by 50-70% over the course of one to three months.

Process

Ideally, a compost bin will have three separate storage areas, but two bins can also get the job done. The first bin holds fresh material including livestock

manure, bedding, waste hay, feed, and garden waste. Keep kitchen scraps, meat, dairy, and fats out, as they will attract rodents or other animals that you may not want in your compost pile.

When the first bin is full, transfer it to the second bin. After turning, decomposition in the pile will cause an increase in temperature, but it should cool back down over a span of about two weeks. Most typical compost piles will not generate sufficient heat over time to kill off pesky weed seeds. However, this aging and natural breaking down process makes the nutrients in the raw materials more readily available to plants. Frequent turning and management of the compost pile will improve the end product by helping to create a homogenous mixture.

When the first bin is full again and the second bin has been allowed sufficient time to heat and cool down, move everything over to the second and third storage areas. The final bin is useful for curing the aged material, while the first and second bins keep the process going.

Application

Compost should be applied onto fields and garden areas when vegetation is actively growing in the spring and early fall. Applying raw or aged manure onto frozen, flooded, or dormant fields can lead to surface water pollution, leaching into groundwater, and loss of usable nutrients that could have saved you on fertilizer costs. Unless advised by a recent soil sample, apply

a 1/2 - 1" layer of aged manure onto the fields per spring and fall application. Spreading more can result in inefficient use of nutrients and possible smothering of small plants.

Machinery

Theoretically, all a farmer needs to successfully complete the composting process are the raw materials, a pitchfork, and a wheelbarrow. With larger piles, turning the pile and unloading the finished product out of the bins for application will most likely require a small tractor to get the job done. These can be rented from machinery rental companies, and on long holiday weekends, you may get a bonus rental day.

Although a dump trailer or small pickup can be used to get the material out to the fields, a manure spreader is another useful tool to make the process easier. Spreaders make quick work of a large pile by applying a relatively even layer as it broadcasts or drops your precious soil amendment onto hungry fields. Unfortunately, manure spreaders are rarely available through machinery rental companies. However, the Pierce Conservation District has a ground driven manure spreader available for rent from March through October.

If you decide any or all of this is too much work, but you know you need to take care of your manure mountain, contact us for a list of companies that either take, transport, or spread manure. □

Manure Spreader Rental

The District's 25-bushel manure spreader is available for rent to help you improve pasture productivity.



In the Stream

Spring Stream Monitoring Schedule

Quarterly stream monitors should schedule their stream sampling between March 21, 2011, and June 14, 2011. Bi-monthly volunteers are scheduled to monitor during March and May. We have had a wet winter and many of our streams are experiencing higher flows, so take care when entering a stream to collect samples or measure flows.

Volunteers can choose to follow a quarterly, every other month, or monthly stream monitoring schedule, depending on which works best for each individual. You may give Isabel a call at (253) 845-2973 if you have any questions about which monitoring schedule you should follow. □

Lake Monitoring

Now in its twelfth year, Stream Team's volunteer lake monitoring program begins another season in the City of Lakewood on Sunday, May 1.

Lake volunteers will be contacted in April to arrange equipment drop-off and to schedule a refresher on monitoring protocols.

Additional lake monitoring volunteers are always welcome, so please let us know if you are interested. If you are a resident of American, Gravelly, Louise, Carp, Steilacoom, or Waughop Lakes and would like more information on the program or monitoring, please contact the Stream Team office.

Spring Fair

Stream Team is once again hosting a hands-on activity at the Spring Fair in Puyallup, and we need your help!

At this 4-day event, volunteers and staff are paired together to offer the Stuff-A-Fish activity. This is a fun way to engage young fairgoers and their families, and provides us an opportunity to talk about the other great programs and projects Stream Team does around Pierce County.

The Spring Fair is open April 14-17 and shifts are available in three-hour increments. Each volunteer will get free entrance tickets that are good for the whole day! Contact Melissa Buckingham to sign-up at (253) 845-2973 or melissab@piercecountycd.org. □

New Lake Program Coming to Milton

A new volunteer monitoring program will get underway this spring in Milton for residents of the Surprise Lake watershed.

The program kicks-off on Wednesday, April 20, with an informational meeting on lake processes, a discussion

of the issues facing Surprise Lake, and an overview of the new volunteer lake monitoring program. We will also discuss the Stream Team program and how local residents can help monitor Surprise Lake. This meeting will be held at the Milton Senior Center located at 1000 Laurel St. and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

For those interested in monitoring Surprise Lake, a training will be held May 1 to go over water quality testing equipment, sampling schedule, and monitoring protocol. Volunteers will collect both observational data and samples for lab analysis twice a month from May-October.

Both the introductory meeting and training are open to anyone interested in learning more about lakes. For more information or to register, please contact Stream Team. □



Photo courtesy of City of Milton.

The City of Milton is partnering with Stream Team to start a volunteer monitoring program on Surprise Lake.



First Creek's First Year

It has been just over a year since First Creek Middle School, the University of Washington-Tacoma, City of Tacoma, and Pierce Stream Team began a partnership focused on cross-educating the middle school and college students on topics such as stormwater, water quality, and restoration. Through this partnership, students from both schools collect water samples and data to be analyzed by the college and the city, which the city then uses to make management decisions regarding the creek.

Additionally, the students have worked hard over the course of three restoration events to enhance nearly an acre of habitat behind the middle school.

And the good work continues! On April 16, in celebration of Earth Day, students will be joined by community members to complete this section of planting by installing 300 native trees and shrubs. Other activities for the event include testing First Creek's water quality, grubbing out stubborn blackberry, and pulling Scot's broom starts. This event will take place from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Contact Stream Team to register or obtain more information. □

At 2010's Earth Day planting, volunteers cleared garbage from the site as part of the restoration work. Here Lia Wetzstein, UW-T, rolls a tire up the slope so students can plant a native shrub in its place.



Red Salmon Creek Ivy Pull with Nisqually Land Trust

Pierce Stream Team is partnering with the Nisqually Land Trust to lend support to recently expanded efforts to restore habitat along Red Salmon Creek, near DuPont. The Land Trust's efforts are supported by funding from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service's "Partners for Conservation" program. The Stream Team will be helping with concerted outreach efforts to landowners in the Red Salmon Creek watershed, which is made up of several small tributaries and supports wild salmon runs.

The kick-off event will be an ivy pull on March 12, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on the Nisqually Land Trust's Bannister

property. This project aims to remove non-native vegetation, restore forest and riparian habitat, and educate Red Salmon Creek neighbors in an effort to minimize the further spread of Scot's broom, Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and other weedy species. The land trust currently owns 40 acres in the Red Salmon Creek watershed, and has restored 14 acres to date.

Register for the ivy pull by contacting the Nisqually Land Trust at staff@nisquallylandtrust.org or (360) 489-3400 to receive directions and other information about the event. Youth 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult. □



In the Stream



Volunteers Needed for Rain Garden Projects

Rain garden projects continue to gain momentum and popularity around Puget Sound. An example of low impact development, rain gardens aid in disconnecting homes, offices, and other buildings from the stormdrain system. This in turn decreases both the amount of pollutants from surface water run-off and the overall volume of stormwater run-off that enters our local waterways. Rain gardens use plants and soil to filter stormwater and allow it to replenish groundwater supplies.

The City of Puyallup, which has implemented three neighborhood rain garden clusters since August 2009, plans to install three more in 2011. The first event will take place in the 1700 block of 6th St. S.W. on May 21, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Neighborhoods and installation dates for the

remaining two events are still being determined, but will take place in mid-late summer. All three neighborhood rain garden clusters will benefit the Clarks Creek watershed, which continues to suffer many environmental degradations such as impaired water quality, poor salmon habitat, and excessive aquatic plant growth.

Volunteers are needed to help with the rain garden installations. If you have contemplated installing a rain garden yourself, this is a great opportunity for some hands-on experience. Or if you just like being part of something progressive to help your local environment, then these events are the thing for you! Contact Stream Team for directions and additional information (253) 845-2973 or streamteam@piercecountycd.org. □

STREAM TEAM INQUIRIES:

Jayme Gordon
Stream Team Coordinator
jaymeg@piercecountycd.org

Isabel Ragland
Stream Team Assistant
isabelr@piercecountycd.org

Melissa Buckingham
Urban Conservation Program Coordinator
melissab@piercecountycd.org

Chris Towe
Stream Team Technician
christophert@piercecountycd.org

5430 66th Avenue East
P.O. Box 1057
Puyallup, WA 98371
(253) 845-2973



Photo courtesy of Stewardship Partners.

Interested in learning more about the what, how, and why of rain gardens?

Attend one of the following free workshops:

Rain Garden Workshop

May 12, 6-8 p.m.

*WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center
Register at (206) 292-9875 or
sg@stewardshippartners.org*

Natural Yard Care Series

Gig Harbor, Purdy

See page 2 for dates, times, and registration information.



In Memory

George Cathcart, a longtime Stream Team volunteer, passed away in December at the age of 96. Originally from Pennsylvania, George was a retired Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force who fought in WWII and served until 1966.

Thirty years later, in 1996, George and his wife of 58 years, Magdalena (Lee), began volunteering with Stream Team. When they weren't traveling the world, George and Lee monitored local streams, helped plant trees, and staffed the Stream Team booth at outreach events such as the Puyallup Fair.

George and Lee were involved in many other military and conservation related endeavors. Among other things, they were active members of

Trout Unlimited, and helped create a fishing program for the American Lake Veteran's Hospital.

For many years, George and Lee were the unofficial stewards of Murray Creek, which begins behind Madigan Army Hospital and empties into American Lake on Camp Murray. They organized work parties, pulled reed canary grass, planted the streambanks, and made sure personnel on Fort Lewis and Camp Murray didn't forget about taking care of the creek.

An avid fisherman, hunter, gardener, and woodsman, Stream Team remembers George for the many years he spent working to restore streams and salmon runs in Pierce County. □



George Cathcart (December 5, 1914 – December 17, 2010) with his wife Lee.

Photo courtesy of the Cathcart family.

Knotweed Control Program Update

Since 2007, the primary focus of the Nisqually Knotweed Control Project has been to eradicate the presence of knotweed, a very aggressive and noxious weed species commonly found growing along riparian corridors. Its primary form of distribution is through root and stem fragmentation, thus making properties along the flowing waters of rivers, creeks and streams prime candidates for dispersal. Knotweed can affect the health of an ecosystem by competing with and crowding out native vegetation, reducing nutrient inputs which can negatively affect aquatic food webs, contributing to soil erosion, and destroying habitat for local wildlife.

The last few years of knotweed control efforts through the Nisqually project have produced great results within the watershed. In 2010, a total of 180 acres of knotweed in the upper and lower watershed was treated, and 78 miles of surveying work was accomplished through stream walking and by boat.

Although past control efforts have kept the presence of knotweed in check within the lower watershed, the lower main stem of the river is still surveyed annually by raft and jet boat to treat any re-sprouts or new infestations of knotweed that may arise. This past treatment season, members of the Pierce Conservation District staff, along with members from the Nisqually Tribe, Tacoma Power, Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked in collaboration during float trips to help keep the lower watershed knotweed free.

A solid stand of knotweed lines the bank of a tributary to the Nisqually River.



In the upper watershed, District technicians treated 2.6 river miles of new, heavily infested areas along the main stem of the river. This means a total of 5.6 miles of surveying has been completed in the upper watershed, from just outside the Mount Rainier National Park boundary, down to Ashford.

(continued on page 10)



District's Ag Coordinator Moves on to Bigger Fields

At the end of January, the District's Agricultural Assistance Program Coordinator, Sarah Wilcox, began a new job with the Cascade Harvest Coalition.

Sarah was hired by the District in 2006 to develop and oversee a program to support Pierce County's agricultural community. If agricultural lands and productivity are to be viable, they must have markets and consumers. Sarah jumped right in with a passion rooted in her own background of growing up on a small farm in Kitsap County, and family ties to the berry fields of the Puyallup River valley.

In her time at the District, Sarah was responsible for many accomplishments. Chief among them is the Mobile Meat Processing Unit, which was unveiled in June 2009 and has since helped process

thousands of pounds of locally raised meat for Pierce County farmers and their customers. Sarah has also been behind the "Pride of Pierce County" marketing campaign; distribution of Pierce County grown produce to low-income seniors through the Senior Food Box program; recently developed signage to help local growers market and promote their farms; and financial and marketing support to many of Pierce County's farmers markets. In addition to all of these great accomplishments, Sarah also participated in the development of community gardens in Tacoma and elsewhere in the county, the Tahoma Food Policy Coalition, and much more.

Sarah's hard work, creativity, and dedication to a viable agricultural community in Pierce County will be sorely missed. □

("Knotweed Control Program Update" continued from page 9)

Aside from the Nisqually, plans are underway for another knotweed control project this summer to take place along South Prairie Creek. Continued education and outreach to private land owners - as well as anyone else who is interested in learning about this invasive species - is also in the works for later this year. Be sure to check out upcoming issues of the Tahoma View for future knotweed bending events and workshops. Not only are these events a great way to get involved in your local community, but they also serve as a way to meet others who share the same interest in the protection of our local ecosystems. □

("...District Supervisor Election!" continued from page 2)

Chapter 89.08 RCW, along with responsibilities for District Supervisors and Conservation Districts in general.

The Pierce Conservation District uses the "by-mail" process for its elections. There are two methods for voting in the

District election:

- **In Person:** You may appear at the Pierce Conservation District office between 4-8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, and vote in person. You will be required to show identification to verify that you are a qualified voter.

To be considered qualified, you must be a registered voter who resides within District boundaries.

- **By Mail:** You can request a ballot to be mailed to you by providing your name, address, and legal signature to the District Elections Officer, Selena Corwin, at the contact information listed below. To have your vote counted you must be a registered voter who resides within District boundaries. **Ballots must be requested by 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, 2011, to be placed on the list for the 2011 election.**

For further information about District elections or about the District in general, please contact Selena Corwin, Interim Executive Director at (253) 845-9770 or admin@piercecountycd.org. □

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Event Calendar



March

- Mar 12 • **RED SALMON CREEK IVY PULL.** DuPont, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Contact the Nisqually Land Trust for more information (360) 489-3400.
- Mar 21 • **RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP.** UW-Tacoma, 6-7:30 p.m. Contact René to register (253) 845-9770.
- Mar 25 • **MUD, MANURE, PASTURE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP.** Gig Harbor, 6-8 p.m. Contact Erin for more information (253) 884-9474.
- Mar 29 • **NATURAL YARD CARE WORKSHOP.** Gig Harbor, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Geoff Rinehart, TPCHD, for more information (253) 798-4587.
- Mar 29 • **PCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION.** PCD office (Puyallup) or by mail. Contact Selena for more information or to request a ballot (253) 845-9770.
- Mar 30 • **PASTURE PRODUCTIVITY WORKSHOP.** Eatonville, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact René for more information (253) 845-9770.
- Mar - TBD • **CHICKEN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP.** WSU-Puyallup, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Visit <http://county.wsu.edu/pierce/agriculture/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.



April

- Apr 2 • **SPRING WEED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP.** Key Center, 1-3 p.m. Contact Erin for more information (253) 884-9474.
- Apr 4 • **RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP.** UW-Tacoma, 6-7:30 p.m. Contact René to register (253) 845-9770.
- Apr 5 • **NATURAL YARD CARE WORKSHOP.** Gig Harbor, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Geoff Rinehart, TPCHD, for more information (253) 798-4587.
- Apr 12 • **NATURAL YARD CARE WORKSHOP.** Gig Harbor, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Geoff Rinehart, TPCHD, for more information (253) 798-4587.
- Apr 14-17 • **STREAM TEAM BOOTH AT THE SPRING FAIR.** Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup. Contact Stream Team to volunteer (253) 845-2973.
- Apr 16 • **FIRST CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT.** Tacoma, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact Stream Team for more information (253) 845-2973.
- Apr 16 • **PARKS APPRECIATION DAY.** Contact your local Parks Department for volunteer information.
- Apr 20 • **SURPRISE LAKE MONITORING MEETING.** Milton, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Stream Team for more information (253) 845-2973.
- Apr 21 • **PUGET SOUND STARTS HERE NIGHT AT THE RAINIERS.** Cheney Stadium, Tacoma.



May

- May 1 • **LAKEWOOD LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM BEGINS.**
- May 1 • **SURPRISE LAKE MONITORING TRAINING.** Milton, 1-4 p.m. Contact Stream Team for more information (253) 845-2973.
- May 4 • **NATURAL YARD CARE WORKSHOP.** Purdy, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Geoff Rinehart, TPCHD, for more information (253) 798-4587.
- May 11 • **NATURAL YARD CARE WORKSHOP.** Purdy, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Geoff Rinehart, TPCHD, for more information (253) 798-4587.
- May 12 • **RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP.** WSU-Puyallup, 6-8 p.m. Contact Stewardship Partners for more information (206) 292-9875.
- May 18 • **NATURAL YARD CARE WORKSHOP.** Purdy, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Geoff Rinehart, TPCHD, for more information (253) 798-4587.
- May 21 • **RAIN GARDEN INSTALLATION.** Puyallup, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Contact Stream Team to volunteer (253) 845-2973.



June

- June 4 & 5 • **MOTHER EARTH NEWS FAIR.** Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup.

Who We Are:

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The Tahoma View

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- **Spring Projects & Activities**
- **Classes & Workshops**
- **PCD Board Elections**

The Tahoma View is published quarterly. Call (253) 845-9770 to receive this free publication, or if you wish to be removed from the mailing list.

Editors: René Skaggs and Jayme Gordon

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