



NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Port Angeles area resident and co-owner of SisterLand Farms, Christy Cox was elected to the Clallam Conservation District board of supervisors on March 12, 2019. Election results are not official until certified by the Washington Conservation Commission at their May meeting.

The three-year term held by Sequim resident Matt Heins, one of two state-appointed supervisors, expires this spring. Matt has applied for re-appointment.

CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2018 was a banner year for sustainable landscaping outreach and education with 394 people participating in 18 classes and workshops. And once again, our native tree and shrub sale was a huge success with over 25,000 plants sold.

One shallow aquifer recharge project was completed and we started construction on another in late 2018, bringing the total number of completed SAR sites in the Dungeness Valley to six. These projects utilize the irrigation conveyance system to divert water from the Dungeness River when it is running consistently high with snowmelt (May 15-July 15) and infiltrate it into the shallow aquifer. This mitigates impacts from wells and helps reduce the draw-down on small streams in late summer.

The piping of about 2,000 feet of irrigation ditch also started in 2018, and work continued on the planning for the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir south of Sequim. Several grant proposals for land acquisition and final design work were submitted and a grant award was announced earlier this year. Clallam County will administer the grant to transfer the property from the State Department of Natural Resources to Clallam County, and complete final reservoir design and permitting.

Additional accomplishments for 2018 include:

- Technical assistance to 61 farms
- 8 conservation plans prepared or updated
- 8 riparian restoration (CREP) projects
- 520 feet of stream fencing
- 3 heavy use areas
- 2 stock watering facilities
- 103 soil tests processed
- 51 participants in 3 horse and livestock workshops
- 164 attendees at 6 presentations on district programs
- 400 elementary students participated in watershed education activities (in partnership with Feiro Marine Center)



Expenditures for 2018 totaled \$564,421. Grants – primarily state – comprised 88 percent of revenues. Conservation practice implementation, not including staff time, accounted for roughly 36 percent of expenditures.

Field Workshop: Landscaping with Native Plants

WHEN: Saturday, April 20 from 9:00am to noon

WHERE: Dungeness Recreation Area

COST: FREE, but pre-registration is required. Register online at <https://clallamcd.org/workshops> or call 360-775-3747 x 5.

Hike trails near the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge with Conservation District Executive Director, Joe Holtrop, and learn to identify over 25 native trees and shrubs and how to incorporate them into your landscape.

Largest Plant Sale to Date

Thank you to everyone who ordered native plants this year. The convenience of our new online ordering system helped contribute to the largest plant sale we have ever had. Over 400 orders were placed, exceeding our past highest sale year by 100 orders.

A special word of appreciation goes out to 37 wonderful volunteers who helped us unload, sort, package (as seen in the photo) and distribute over 27,000 plants. They braved snow and frigid temperatures to donate 265 hours of their time. Without the help of these amazing volunteers the plant sale truly wouldn't be possible for our small staff of four, three of which are part-time employees.



And a huge thank you also goes out to Steve Johnson for the continued use of his facilities at Lazy J Tree Farm. Remember to keep your plants well watered as we go into the dry months.

Soil Testing

It's a good idea to get a soil test for your gardens, lawns and pastures before adding manure, compost or fertilizer. For \$20, Clallam Conservation District will ship your soil sample to a lab to test the nutrients your soil may need (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur) and soil pH to help you achieve optimum growing conditions.

We loan out soil probes for easy collection of soil samples. For more information, call our office or visit our website at www.clallamcd.org/soil-testing. Soil tests are accepted on the **1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in our office from 9:00am to 4:00pm**. Test results take up to three weeks to return from the lab, and we will help you interpret the results to amend your soil.

Assistance Available to Improve Private Forestland

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance for private forest landowners through a competitive program. Applications can be submitted at any time.

You may receive financial assistance to implement conservation activities such as:

- forest management plans
- hazardous fuels reduction
- riparian area improvement
- pre-commercial thinning
- tree planting
- sediment reduction from forest roads

Contact your local resource conservationist Kirk Sehlmeier, located in Port Angeles at 360-406-5449 or by email at kirk.sehlmeier@usda.gov, to learn more about how NRCS may benefit you and your land.

UPCOMING FARM WORKSHOPS

Chickens 101

WHEN: Thursday, March 28 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM

WHERE: Coastal Farm & Ranch, 990 E. Washington St., Sequim

COST: FREE but please register at <https://clallamcd.org/workshops> or by calling 360-775-3747 ext. 5 to ensure we have enough workshop materials.

We are partnering with Coastal Farm and Ranch to help new and existing chicken owners with their chicken-keeping ventures. The clinic will cover general care of chicks, housing, chicken tractors, reducing mud in pens, and composting manure.



Less Weeds, More Feed

WHEN: Thursday, May 23, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

WHERE: Letiz Farms Inc., 259110 US-Hwy 101, Sequim

COST: FREE, but please pre-register at <https://clallamcd.org/workshops> or call 360-775-3747 x 5.

Learn how to identify and control poisonous and noxious weeds, and manage, improve, and renovate pastures. Feel free to bring weeds from your pasture for identification. Presenters include Clallam County Noxious Weeds Coordinator Cathy Lucero and Conservation District staff.

Weed Watch: Nightshades

Hairy nightshade and black nightshade look very similar, and are the most common species of nightshade found in Clallam County. Nightshades look like tomato or potato plants, and the flowers mature into small, dark colored berries. **All parts of the plant are toxic to livestock.** There have been several reported deaths in our area of horses and livestock due to nightshade ingestion.



Hairy Nightshade

Nightshades grow well in disturbed and/or cultivated areas and are commonly found growing in sandy arenas, barnyards, over-grazed pastures, burn piles and cultivated gardens. Hand pulling is the best method for eradicating nightshade. Plants should be pulled before they flower and bagged up and disposed of to ensure they don't go to seed.



Silverleaf Nightshade

The less common silverleaf nightshade has short, silvery-white hairs and flowers that are blue or violet. It is classified as a "Class A" weed, which requires property owners to eradicate existing infestations and prevent new infestations.

Local Weather Data At Your Fingertips

Washington State University coordinates the AGWeatherNet program, which provides access to current and historical weather data from 175 automated weather stations from across the state. The weather data, advisories, and customized weather alerts can help improve production and product quality, optimize resource use and reduce environmental impacts. Weather variables are recorded every 5 seconds and summarized every 15 minutes and include air temperature, relative humidity, dew point temperature, soil temperature at 8 inches, rainfall, wind speed, wind direction, solar radiation and leaf wetness.

In Clallam County there is a station in Sequim. Data is available at: http://weather.wsu.edu/index.php?page=station_details&UNIT_ID=330039

Conservation Sponsors

Conservation News sponsorships cost \$50 a year for business names printed every issue or \$100 for a name every issue and a business card once a year.

Newsletter sponsorships help offset the costs of publishing and distributing our *Conservation News*, which reaches 4,000 readers four times a year.

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Clallam Conservation District is a sub-division of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Clallam Conservation District office, 228 W First St., Suite H in Port Angeles (top floor of the Armory Square Building).

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Murray, Chair
Ben Smith, Vice-Chair
Don Hatler, Auditor
Matt Heins, Member
Robert Beebe, Member

DISTRICT STAFF

(360) 775-3747

Executive Director: Joe Holtrop
Admin. Assistant: Judy Minnoch
Conservation Planners:
Meghan Adamire & Jennifer Bond

Office Hours

Tues. - Thurs. - 9:00am to 4:00pm
Mon. & Fri. - by appointment

Over 1,600 people are having their newsletter delivered via email. Call us at (360) 775-3747 ext. 5 or send an email to: info@clallamcd.org to start receiving your newsletter electronically.

WANT TO HELP US SAVE A TREE?

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CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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