



# San Juan Islands Conservation District News

*Friday, September 04, 2009*

## **In this issue of *Conservation and Stewardship***

- [Conservation District Update](#)
- [Farm and Forestry Planning News](#)
- [Low Impact Development News](#)
- [Project Highlight: Port Stanley Lagoon, Lopez Island](#)
- [Education and Outreach](#)

## **Conservation District Update**



### ***NEW at the DISTRICT New and Returning Faces at the San Juan Islands Conservation District***

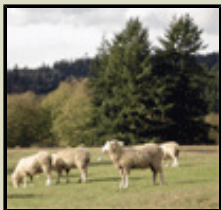
In November of 2008 we welcomed our new District Manager, Susan Key, from the San Juan Nature Institute. We also recently welcomed two new board members. Thor Hansen (San Juan) was appointed to our Board of Supervisors by the Washington State Conservation Commission and Shannon Hoffman (Lopez) was elected in our 2008 election. Vicki Heater (Waldron) was re-appointed while Pete Walmsley (Orcas) was re-elected in our 2009 election. Jerry Rasmusen (San Juan) has agreed to join us as an Associate Member of the Board along with Bill Humes (Orcas). All new and returning District members are dedicated to the conservation of natural resources in San Juan County. We thank outgoing District Manager Ron Zee, former District Board Chair Jerry Kasperek, former Vice Chair Thom Pence and former District and Fiscal Manager Bill Hamilton for their dedication. They are all greatly missed.

The 2009 San Juan Islands Conservation District Board of Supervisors is composed of the

following members; Pete Walmsley-Chair, Henning Sehmsdorf-Vice-Chair, Vicki Heater-Auditor, Shannon Hoffman and Thor Hansen. The Conservation District holds monthly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month and the public is always welcome to attend. Visit our website for locations and times.

**For More Information Contact us:** 360.378.6621 **Web:** [www.sanjuanislandscd.org](http://www.sanjuanislandscd.org) **Email:** [info2007@sanjuanislandscd.org](mailto:info2007@sanjuanislandscd.org)

## Farm and Forestry Planning

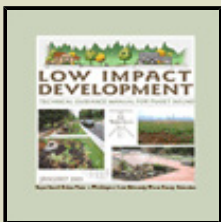


### ***SUSTAINABLE FARM/FORESTRY PROGRAM***

The San Juan Islands Conservation District envisions a long-term balance of conservation and agriculture made possible through locally based assistance and coordination of voluntary natural resource enhancement options. One goal is to maximize productive ecosystems while contributing to the economic livelihood of landowners. Customized management practices contribute to increased agricultural productivity, surface and ground water protection and improved habitat. Voluntary conservation opportunities include a wide variety of technical assistance and incentive programs.

Agricultural producers and foresters are encouraged to sign up for USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program. The program provides financial cost sharing to help private farm and forest landowners implement conservation practices. Some examples of practices available for cost sharing are those that help reduce the impact of livestock on surface and ground water, those that save water through more efficient irrigation system installation, tree planting and thinning. Farms must produce an annual gross sale of \$1000 of agricultural products. Forestlands must have a forestry plan, or a history of timber harvest and/or forestland management activities. Applications are at our Friday Harbor office or on our website.

## Low Impact Development through Site Assessments



### ***SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PROGRAM***

The Conservation District works to assist county residents who want to live lighter on the land. We offer **free site visits** to help you protect your vegetation, soil and water through site assessments and Low Impact Development recommendations.

Low Impact Development (LID) is an innovative site planning approach with a basic principle that is modeled after nature: retain vegetation, limit impacts to the soil and manage rainfall at the source using decentralized micro-scale controls. The goal is to encourage vegetation and mimic a site's natural hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate and detain runoff close to its source. LID addresses your site through small, cost-effective landscape features located at a small-scale residential level. These landscape technologies can be applied not only to open space and farmlands, but also rooftops, streets, parking lots, sidewalks and lawns. A LID approach can protect natural resources easily and can be applied equally well to new development and retrofit projects.

Contact us for your free *How to Build A Raingarden Manuel* Call 360.378.6621 or email your address to [d.kinsey@sanjuanislandscd.org](mailto:d.kinsey@sanjuanislandscd.org)

## Project Highlight: Port Stanley Lagoon Restoration, Lopez Island



The Swifts Bay Watershed and Port Stanley Lagoon restoration project on Lopez Island is an ongoing success. This project demonstrates one way San Juan County landowners can play a role in the Puget Sound 2020 cleanup efforts. Through cooperation with neighboring landowners a new tide gate was installed and modified in addition to restoration planting of native plant species. This is an on-going restoration project that began with a replacement of the *Swifts-Bay Tide-Gate*. The new Tide-Gate allows natural salt water to flush a fresh water drainage lagoon at Port Stanley on Lopez Island, WA. The newly engineered tide gate was installed in 2006 through a collaboration with Ducks Unlimited and San Juan County Public Works Department and the San Juan Islands Conservation District to encourage wildlife, waterfowl and fish habitat. The project is located 3 miles south of the Lopez Island ferry landing at Port Stanley.

Habitat restoration and farm planning work together to improve water quality and natural processes while improving the health of our soil and water resources. The Port Stanley Tide Gate and Lagoon Restoration project on Lopez Island demonstrates a watershed approach to improving water quality as well as fish and wildlife habitat by working with landowners in the upland as well as the shoreline. The upstream farms have worked with our farm planner to develop and implement plans that encourage sensible management of water resources as well as grazing and manure management that increase land productivity without harming soil and water resources. The landowners adjacent to the lagoon have provided support and feedback to improve the project and its success. Crabs and small fish are visible in the now brackish waters. Collaborative efforts in habitat restoration in addition to farm and forest planning are going to be important in the efforts to cleanup Puget Sound by 2020.

# Education and Outreach



The San Juan Islands Conservation District is committed to assisting residents and landowners who want to conserve and enhance the natural resources of San Juan County for the future by taking action today. The District is a non-regulatory agency that promotes the land ethic of Aldo Leopold, noted American forester, ecologist and conservationist.

*“The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land.”*

*-Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949*

The San Juan Islands Conservation District creates and distributes educational material on natural resources conservation and stewardship. We conduct educational workshops for San Juan County based on needs and grant requirements. Please contact us with your ideas. Recent workshops include Water Resources, Low Impact Development, Pasture Management and Native Plant Use.

Look for our monthly articles in the **Project: Home** section of in the Islands Weekly, Islands Sounder and the Journal.

**Conservation:** Engaging people in managing the environment in a manner that does not spoil, exhaust or extinguish resources.

**Stewardship:** Caring for the land in ways that respect its environmental and economic vitality.

**Sustainability:** Seeking an ecological balance that provides for economic prosperity and social equity to be achieved across generations.

