



Walter A. Forsberg

(March 11, 1927 to July 1, 2009)

A farmer and conservationist through and through, Walt passed away on July 1st while making hay on his cattle farm near the Elwha River.

Walt has been an important part of Clallam Conservation District for over 32 years, serving on the Board as a Supervisor or Associate Supervisor since 1977. He received his 30-year pin from the Washington State Conservation Commission in 2008 for his years of service to the Conservation District.

As a lifelong Clallam County resident, farmer and forester, Walt brought wisdom and insight to the Conservation District. His upbeat attitude and wonderful smile will be missed by all.

Staffing Change

Janell Kiphart, after keeping the office in line as our administrative assistant for over four years, has decided to leave the Conservation District.

We will miss Janell's attention to detail and great sense of humor, which she still had even while lugging tables in the snow for our plant sale (as seen in the picture).



Janell plans to volunteer for our plant sale and other projects that come up. We wish Janell the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Horse Logging Demonstration

Dates: Sunday, July 26

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Location: Port Angeles

Greg Lange, *Draftworks Horse Logging* in Port Angeles, will demonstrate low-impact logging techniques using his team of Belgium draft horses. The demonstration will include "worst first" single tree selection stand management, directional falling of a tree and ground skidding. Greg will also show participants how to assess tree health by looking for "nature's" tree marking paint to indicate damaged and diseased trees.



This workshop is **free**; however, space is limited. Please call the Conservation District at 360-452-1912 ext. 5 to register and receive driving directions.

WATER CONSERVATION AROUND THE YARD



It's shaping up to be another very dry summer. As of July 1, the Dungeness River Audubon Center reports a total of 8.28 inches of rain for the year, which is actually slightly above normal. May precipitation was nearly 50% more than average, but June's was only about 25% of the long-term average. And, unusually hot weather in June and early July resulted in rapid melting of a below average snowpack. So as usual, water is likely to be in short supply later this summer.



So what can we do? The short answer is: "Use less water." The greatest percentage of water use is for irrigation. Farmers have very few options for reducing the amount of water they use. Most farmers in our area are already fairly efficient. Homeowners, however, can do quite a bit to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation.

It's best to design your landscaping in such a way to minimize your irrigation requirements, such as minimizing the size of your lawn and landscaping with drought-tolerant plants. Clallam Conservation District offers classes and workshops throughout the year to help homeowners design water-saving, environmentally friendly landscapes. Over 200 people have participated in these educational events so far in 2009! Unfortunately, it's a little late in the season to make changes to your landscape. So, we offer the following tips to help you cut back on irrigation water use this summer: Because most irrigation water is used on lawns, that's where you can conserve the most water.

Properly Maintain Your Lawn— healthy turf is more tolerant of drought

- Mow high (2 or 2 ½ inches or higher). Taller turf shades the soil and promotes deeper roots that can access more moisture from the soil.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn. They mulch the soil and add nutrients as they decompose. Mulching mowers work best.
- Irrigate the lawn with deep, infrequent watering to encourage deeper roots.



Don't Over Irrigate or Under Irrigate Your Lawn

- Sandy or gravelly soils cannot hold much water. Anything over about one-half inch of water per irrigation is probably too much, resulting in wasted water leaching beyond the root zone. Sandy, gravelly soils typically require almost weekly irrigation during the heat of the summer.
- Clay and silt loam soils can take one to two inches of water per irrigation and can go several weeks between irrigation applications.
- Allow your lawn to go dormant. One inch of water for each dry month is sufficient to allow it to bounce back when the fall rains come.

Mulch Annual and Perennial Beds

A 2- to 6-inch layer of mulch over your planting beds and around trees and shrubs helps keep the soil cool and moist. Organic mulch such as compost, grass clippings, wood chips, leaves, or bark will also provide organic matter and nutrients to the soil as it breaks down. Soils with increased amounts of organic matter absorb and retain water better. The plants will be healthier, too, thus more tolerant of drought.

Start planning a more environmentally friendly landscape that you can begin implementing this fall. Plan to attend one of our Landscaping with Native Plants in late September.

For more information on natural lawn and garden care check out the following Seattle Public Utilities website: [http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Yard/Natural Lawn & Garden Care/](http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Yard/Natural_Lawn_&_Garden_Care/)

Three Crabs Area Study Complete

The final report for this study was completed this spring and is available at our website http://clallam.scc.wa.gov/three_crabs_study.htm or by calling (360) 452-1912 ext. 111. The goal of this project was to identify actions that would address flood hazards, water quality problems and salmonid habitat limiting factors associated with the streams, upland and nearshore areas between the mouth of the Dungeness River and the mouth of Cassalery Creek in eastern Clallam County.

LANDOWNER PROFILE:

Brian & Joanna McLean

Most people driving on the Hoko-Ozette Road near Clallam Bay would never know that Brian and Joanna McLean's 40-acre farm existed. Obscured by a heavily wooded driveway is one of the most unique farms in Clallam County - our only working cranberry bog. Every fall the McLean's harvest cranberries from their 2.2 acre bog and sell them to Oceanspray. Not only do the McLean's tirelessly farm their cranberry bog, but they also work hard to conserve the natural resources on their property.



Brian and Joanna on their newly constructed heavy use area.



CREP planting



New stock water system

The McLean's began working with the Conservation District in 2006. Their first project entailed enrolling 3.8 acres along Trout Creek, in the Big River watershed, into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in 2007. The program paid for the planting of nearly 2,000 trees and shrubs to shade out the invasive reed canary grass along the creek. CREP also funded a fence to keep the McLean's horses out of the creek and installation of a watering system to replace the creek water the horses had been drinking.

The McLean's didn't stop there with their conservation improvements. They worked with the Conservation District to develop a farm plan in 2008 leading to the implementation of a rotational grazing system and improved manure storage. After battling muddy conditions to clean up horse manure in the winter 2008-09, they were more than ready to build their heavy use area in the spring once the ground dried out.

In June of 2009 the McLean's completed their graveled heavy use area. They are very excited to have this mud-free area to confine their horses in the winter. It will enable them



BEFORE

to keep their horses off the wet pastures so they won't damage the grass plants. They also use the new heavy use area during the summer as part of their rotational grazing system, confining their horses when the grass stubble height is below 3" or when their horses start to put on too much weight. They are also excited about the ease of removing manure from the heavy use area. They cover their manure piles with a tarp and spread it on the pastures in the spring for fertilizer.



AFTER

Great job Brian and Joanna! It has been a pleasure working with you.

Clallam Conservation District is non-regulatory agency that works with landowners on a voluntary basis. We have programs to help landowners off-set the costs of making improvements to their land that conserve natural resources. To learn more about participating in programs such as those the McLean's took part in, please contact the Conservation District at (360) 452-1912 ext. 109.

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If you are interested in becoming a newsletter sponsor, for \$50 per year your name or the name of your business will be printed four times in the sponsor section of the newsletter, or for \$100 per year, your company business card will also be printed once a year.

The Conservation News is published quarterly and is currently reaching over 3,300 mailboxes and is available for review on our website. Your support will help us reach more people interested in getting involved in local conservation efforts.

For information on becoming a sponsor, please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5.

Visit our website at <http://clallam.scc.wa.gov>

Clallam Conservation District is a subdivision 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 USDA Service Center, 1601 E. Front St., Bldg/Suite A in Port Angeles.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Joe Murray, Chair
- Ben Smith, Vice-Chair
- Don Hatler, Auditor
- Nash Huber, Member
- Marilyn Pollock, Member

DISTRICT STAFF

(360) 452-1912 ext. 5

District Manager: Joe Holtrop

Admin. Assistant: Vacant

Conservation Planners:

- Meghan Adamire, Jennifer Coyle-Bond & Gary Dougherty

NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jim Poffel

(360) 452-8994 ext. 101

Want to help us save a tree???
Our newsletter is available in email format, so if you would like to help us conserve resources give us a call at (360) 452-1912 ext. 5 or send an email to gcd-info@wa.nacdn.net to start receiving the electronic version of our newsletter.



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