

Shore Stewards News

GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES FOR LIVING NEAR WATER | ESTABLISHED 2003

WSU EXTENSION ISLAND WSU ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION | SUMMER 2026 – ISSUE #141



Free Community Resource Fair

Camano 101

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

Learn about community programs
and enter into a rain barrel giveaway!

10 am - 1 pm • Camano Center

Learn more: bit.ly/camano-101



WSU EXTENSION
Island County

Camano 101 - Living on an Island *Free Community Resource Fair for Camano Residents*

As a WSU Shore Steward you may already be aware of all of the wonderful environmentally focused organizations and resources among our community - although with new programs being developed and added all the time you might be surprised what else you can learn!

At this special event we (WSU Island County Extension) will be offering a hands-on workshop all about worm bins. Did you know that worms can help “eat your garbage?” and produce compost for your garden! We will also be offering a demo on Rain Barrells. Contrary to some beliefs, collecting your rainwater is completely legal and a perfect way to reduce your water consumption! We will be offering a giveaway for both a Rain Barrel, and a Wood Worm Bin to two (separate) lucky winners at the event.

Continued on next page...



This month's issue:

CAMANO 101 - ISLAND LIVING

TIPS FROM ISLAND COUNTY

**TWO NEW WSU EXTENSION
PROGRAMS**

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAMANO 101 - FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR - CONTINUED

With all of the wildfires burning around our state you can prepare yourself for a variety of natural disasters by talking with the folks from Camano Preparedness.

Professionals from Island County Noxious Weeds, Shore Friendly Program, and On-site Sewage/Septic System Homeowner Support will be there to answer questions.

Please join us in welcoming our new groups this year: Puget Sound Public Farms, South Camano Grange, Camano Historic School House, and Camano Forest School (did you know Camano has an awesome outdoor preschool?)

This is just a sampling of the many who will be a part of the event. We just need YOU there to help it be a success!

We look forward to seeing you
Saturday, September 12th
10 am - 1 pm at the Camano Center

To our Whidbey Island readers, please note that a "Whidbey 101" event is being planned for Oak Harbor, and the details will be announced soon!



BIG THANK YOU TO THE CAMANO CENTER FOR HOSTING THIS EVENT

Island County On-Site Septic Inspections for Homeowners

As you may recall, managing waste is the first **Shore Steward Guideline** and keeping your septic system healthy is an important step!

Is your septic system due for its routine inspection? Island County's **On-site Septic Inspection Incentive Program** can help assist in paying for your next routine inspection.

How Often are Inspections Due?

- Annually - for systems with electricity
- Every 3 years - for conventional/gravity systems

Inspections can help identify small issues early, helping you avoid costly repairs, emergency pumping, system backups, or a full septic replacement later on. Maintaining your system also is beneficial to the environment, as leaking and failing septic systems can lead to pollution contamination of your watershed.

Visit the **Island County website** for more details



On-Site Septic
Management Plan



Shore Friendly Program | Island County

Free Marine Waterfront Guide from Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Did you know Fall is the sweet spot for shoreline planting? 🌿🐟

This time of year is a great time to start ordering your native plants for your properties. Many native plants, shrubs, and trees are well adapted to our coastal environment and help to create structure for the soil in return helping to reduce erosion. Planting in autumn gives the plants an opportunity to benefit from the winter rains helping to get them established for the following year. **Grab this free shoreline guide**

Featuring Two New WSU Extension Programs: Washington Naturalists and WSU Climate Stewards Certificate



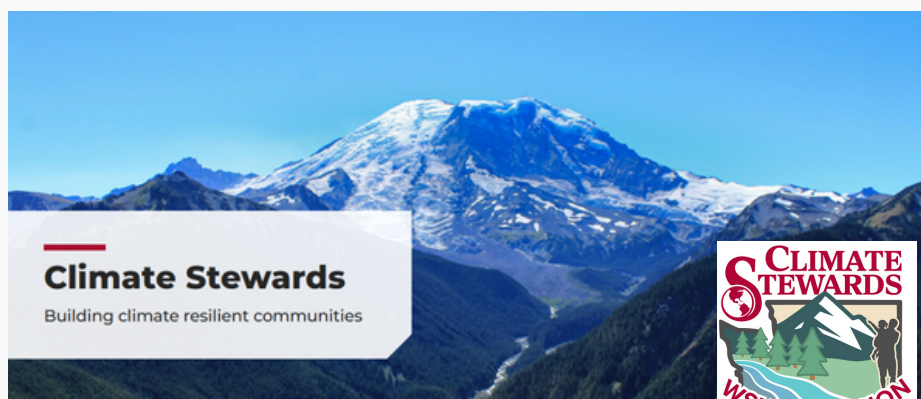
Are you looking for ways to deepen your commitment to environmental stewardship? Or perhaps you want to become more knowledgeable about climate change impacts, mitigation, and local resilience efforts?

WSU Extension has two non-credit community-focused programs that are perfect for those looking to expand their awareness and engagement at a local level.

Washington State Naturalist program aims to educate individuals seeking to volunteer with organizations doing environmental education, stewardship, and research. This is a WSU legacy-program that is a collaboration between WSU Extension and the School of the Environment. The program works to increase public awareness and knowledge about the environment, conservation, scientific inquiry, and ecosystem function to promote stewardship.

Program graduates gain skills and knowledge to make informed decisions on environmental issues and serve their communities as environmental educators, stewards, and community scientists. This is an 8 to 12 month commitment as a program participant and volunteer for one of WSU's partner organizations. Washington Naturalists is a state-wide program offered via zoom

Visit the [Washington Naturalist website](#) for more information and to apply.



WSU Climate Stewards Certificate program provides a tool set where both the public and environmental professionals can learn how to work together to set achievable climate goals. The next cohort is being planned for Spring 2027.

Visit the [WSU Climate Stewards website](#) for more information and to apply

Climate Stewards Certificate Course

WSU Climate Stewards Certificate participants receive community and communication skills training and climate science education in earth & climate systems, coupled with an understanding of ecosystems with a focus on those within Washington State.

Course Overview

The Climate Stewards course combines online learning with in-person or video classes plus field learning experiences in earth systems, water management, energy, agriculture, and other related topics. In addition, you will receive training in communication skills and goal setting, so you can use your Climate Stewards knowledge to make an impact in your community. A volunteer commitment is not required for this program.

Coursework, speakers & field learning

The six-unit course is covered in ten weeks and is comprised of:

- Online education materials, assignments and quizzes
- Regular meetings (virtual) with guest presenters, interactive discussions and activities
- In-person field learning experiences in select counties

Upcoming Events

Bioluminescence Education Program with Island County Sound Water Stewards

August 29 @ 9:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Camano Island State Park 2269 Lowell Point Road

Participants can meet state park staff and Sound Water Steward volunteers at the Camano Island State Park Amphitheater to learn more before heading down to explore the beach and look for bioluminescent plankton, Noctiluca.

MRC Stewardship Day at Cornet Bay

September 1 @ 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Cornet Bay & Hoypus Point Restoration sites
160 Cornet Bay Rd, Oak Harbor**

Join the Northwest Straits Foundation and Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) in the ongoing stewardship of Cornet Bay & Hoypus Point on Whidbey Island!

Once a month volunteers will spend the morning nurturing the site and native plants with activities such as weeding, watering, and spreading compost and mulch. Bring your Discover Pass, a water bottle, your favorite garden tools and gloves.

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

WSU Community Litter Cleanup Program (CLCP)

Join the WSU Extension Community Litter Cleanup Program (CLCP) each Tuesday for weekly organized cleanups, OR clean anytime independently through the Purple Card program. A purple card from CLCP comes with grabbers, bags, and gloves, and allows you to dispose of any beach cleanup material for FREE at the Island County transfer stations.

Contact [WSU Extension](#) in Coupeville at 360-639-6060 or email jana.mcgehee@wsu.edu to sign up!

September 2026 Dates on Whidbey Island

September 1 – Monroe Landing

September 8 – Ft. Casey Boat Launch & Campground Beach

September 15 – Freeland City Park

September 22 – Windjammer City Park

September 29 – Keystone Beach



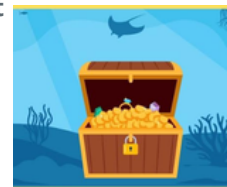
Whidbey Children's Day September 12 @ 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM South Whidbey Community Park

Join Sound Water Stewards for the return of this FREE, outdoor community festival filled with laughter, play, and connection. It will be a joyful day dedicated to childhood, creativity, and the amazing network of support that makes our island such a special place for families.

Pack a picnic, stroll along the activity trail, and jump into fun games for all ages. Enjoy live music, delightful entertainment, and plenty of surprises along the way! While you're there, explore the many local resources available to support your family and discover new ways to stay connected in our vibrant community. Visit the [event website](#) for more info.

Sound Water Stewards Treasure Hunt September 12 @ 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Do you have unwanted gold, platinum, or sterling silver jewelry, or other items made of precious metals hidden away? Are they broken, old, or not in style?



Give your forgotten treasures a powerful new purpose and receive a charitable tax deduction! Donate your items to fund Sound Water Stewards' vital marine-life preservation, education, stewardship, and community science programs.

Attend in person or provide your donated items in advance. Donations are being accepted up to September 12th in any condition – no cleaning or polishing required.

All proceeds benefit [Sound Water Stewards](#).

WSU Eco Book Group Monthly Meet-up

Monday, September 14, 12:15-1:15 pm

Private residence on Camano

([contact](#) Heather Vitiaz for details)

On the second Monday of each month Camano Island residents gather together to discuss a book focused on sustainability, environmental justice, waste reduction, re-use, and other related topics.

This is a no-obligation book and discussion group. All are welcome! Gatherings are typically at the Camano Island Library.



CLCP volunteer shows trash found from a recent beach clean-up

Upcoming Events - Continued



A Day at the Beach with Sound Water Stewards
Saturday, October 3rd, 11 am - 2 pm
Camano Island Library

Bring the kids to this family-friendly event that brings the fascinating wonders of our local beaches indoors! With microscopes to look at phytoplankton, marine-themed displays and decorations, quiz stations and more, this program helps kids discover the incredible beach ecosystems in their own backyard.

Sponsored by **Sound Water Stewards of Island County.**



- Saturday, October 17th -
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

CAMANO ISLAND LIBRARY

848 N Sunrise Blvd., Camano, WA 98282



BEYOND PLASTIC POLLUTION

A Bennington College
 class taught online
 by former US EPA
 regional administrator,
 Judith Enck



Class meets via Zoom
 from 7-9 PM ET on
 Wednesdays for
 seven consecutive
 weeks

This class is open to anyone highschool aged and up, anywhere.

Beyond Plastic Pollution Class
Wednesdays, Sept. 9 - October 21st, 4-6 PM (PT)

Bennington College's Center for the Advancement of Public Action and Beyond Plastics offers this online class Open to people of all ages who love to learn for a cost of \$100.

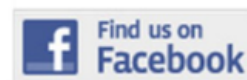
This in-depth masterclass on all things plastic pollution-related, including the serious impacts on our health!

For more info visit the **[Beyond Plastics course website](#)**

If you would like to download or view previous Shore Steward newsletters, please visit
<https://shorestewards.cw.wsu.edu/news/>



Island County
 WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
 EXTENSION



Support Island County Shore Stewards!

If you would like to see this program continue to make a difference, please consider donating to the **[WSU Island County Excellence Fund](#)**. Your tax-deductible donation will help ensure future funding for newsletters, demonstrations at local events, and to make sure that the program and educational materials continue to be free for shoreline landowners and others interested in protecting our islands.

Thank you for your contribution!

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.
Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.