

# SHORE STEWARDS NEWS

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Island County, Washington

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*The newsletter was compiled by Scott Chase, Island County Shore Stewards Coordinator*

## Resources for Shoreline Landowners

This issue of the Shore Stewards News focuses on an update of resources and online tools available to you on a large variety of topics. We hope you find this information of value, and that you'll be able to use this information in the future.

### Mapping Tools

There are a number of excellent mapping tools available to the public, which can show you everything from bluff stability for your property to what it looked like in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, before the area was developed. Here are a few you may find of use.

#### Washington State Coastal Atlas:

This site is provided by the Department of Ecology, and can be used to learn about Washington's marine shorelines and the land areas near Puget Sound, the outer coast, and the estuarine portion of the Columbia River. This site has been updated, and offers a number of practical applications, as well as being easier to use. You can view aerial photographs of marine shorelines, locate different habitat types, physical features, see changes in land cover, check flood hazard areas, and much more. You can personalize and print your custom map with up to 54 map layers. To access the site, go to <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlus/>



#### Beach Accesses, Shellfish Safety, and Beach Closures:

An exciting new addition to the Coastal Atlas is a map that allows you to explore all of the public beaches and beach accesses in the region. You can choose what you want to search for by beach, city, county, or region. Or just zoom in on the map that appears when you link to this site: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlus/tools/PublicAccessResults.aspx> If you search by county, a map of the county will appear with squares representing each of the accesses, and a list will appear below showing all of those accesses. Click on a square and you will find available information on fees, parking, amenities, activities, and often photos on that access, as well as a link to aerial photos. These can range from the more elaborate, in the case of state or county beaches, to primitive accesses like road ends. You can then enter your address to get directions to the beach. Check carefully before heading out with your beach towel or boat: many of these may not be easily accessible. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands, for example, may only be accessible via boat, and not a location you can drive or hike to. And some road ends may only offer a beach that is the width of the road, with no available parking. Each access page has a link to the Public Trust Doctrine, which discusses the legal implications of using the access to walk across private lands. Use your best judgment and practice good stewardship.

This page also offers a link to beach safety, through the state's BEACH program, which monitors high risk swimming beaches during the summer months. There is also a link to the Department of Health webpage that gives information on the health of beaches, showing which ones are closed to shellfish harvesting.

## Coast Survey Topographic Sheets:

Ever wonder what your location looked like back in the 1800s? On this site, you can click on dots on a Puget Sound map to access a historical map of your location, or close to it. You probably do not have the software needed to use some of the features of the site, such as GIS-ready vector data, but you can download and print the map by clicking on “Original Scanned Image” on the right side of the page that appears when you click on the dot. It may take a few minutes to load, or longer if you have slow internet access:

<http://riverhistory.ess.washington.edu/tsheets/framedex.htm>



Another interesting historical site shows the Coastal Salish villages of Puget Sound. Click on your area and find out which tribes had villages nearby. This is not inclusive, and does not list all seasonal villages:

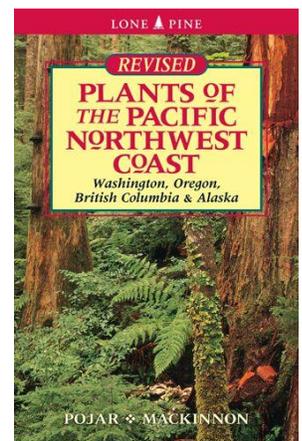
[http://coastsalishmap.org/start\\_page.htm](http://coastsalishmap.org/start_page.htm)

## Publications for Planting near the Shoreline

This page contains a list of several recommended books for planting on or near the shoreline in the Pacific Northwest. Later editions may be available for some of these books.

***Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska.*** Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon. This is a field guide to nearly 800 species of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, ferns, mosses and lichens. It features over 1,100 color photographs, and 1000 line drawings, color range maps, and a key to identifying the plants in each family. Revised 2004 paperback edition.

***Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest,*** Russell Link, University of Washington Press. Written by a wildlife biologist, this is a great source of information on: wildlife habitat and landscaping basics; birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects likely to be attracted to your property; specialty gardens for butterflies and hummingbirds; how to plant and maintain woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, and waterways; feeders and nest boxes, ponds and birdbaths; potential problems; wildlife viewing tips; extensive plant lists. 319 pp.



*Native Plants in the Coastal Garden, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* April Pettinger, Whitecap Books, Vancouver, BC, 2002.

*Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest.* Arthur Kruckeberg, University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA, 2003.

*Flora of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Manual.* C. Leo Hitchcock & Arthur Cronquist, University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA, 1973.

*Propagation of Northwest Native Plants.* Robin Rose, C. Chachulsky, D. Hasse, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, 1998.

*Woodland Garden (Planting in Harmony with Nature).* Forster, Roy and Downie, Alex. Firefly Books. Buffalo, NY. 2004. (Originally published in Vancouver, BC, Raincoast Books, 1999.)

*Trees and Shrubs that Tolerate Saline Soils and Salt Spray Drift.* Bonnie Appleton, Vickie Greene, Aileen Smith, and Susan French, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Beach. Publication Number 430-031, Posted January 2003 (Link at <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/trees/430-031/430-031.html> ; this is East Coast specific, and some plants listed may not be appropriate or available in our area.)

*Native Plant Guide.* Greg Rabourn (Program Manager), King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks website, <http://green.kingcounty.gov/GoNative/>.

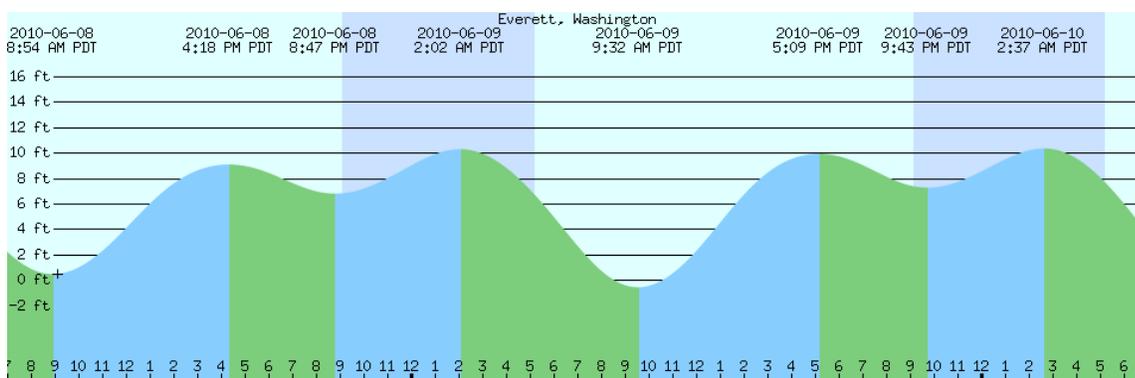
*Slope Stabilization & Erosion Control Using Vegetation: A Manual for Coastal Property Owners.* 1993, Publication #93-30. Online only: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pubs/93-30/>

*Vegetation Management: A Guide for Puget Sound Bluff Property Owners.* 1993, Publication #93-31. Online only: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pubs/93-30/index.html>

## Other Useful Sites

**Tide Tables:** [www.saltwatertides.com/](http://www.saltwatertides.com/) Enter location, date to begin tide table, and number of days.

<http://www.mobilegeographics.com/tides/pugetsoundTides.shtml> This site allows you to see tide graph by clicking on named location or map. Also allows you to check tides and currents, ship locations, and weather.



**Puget Sound Shoreline, Department of Ecology:** This is a very useful site for shoreline landowners. Learn about landslides, bulkheads, tips on buying property, erosion, trees, permits, etc. Not overly detailed, but can provide ideas on topics you may want to explore in more detail:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pugetsound/>

**Publications, Department of Ecology:** Extensive list of publications on a variety of issues that are of importance to shoreline landowners: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelan.html>

**Beach Watchers EZ ID guide to common nearshore creatures:** <http://beachwatchers.wsu.edu/ezidweb/>



**Telephone Hotlines: Use these contacts to report emergencies or check status**

**Oil Spills:** Must call both 1-800-OILS-911 *and* 1-800-424-8802.

**PSP or marine toxins:** 1-800-562-5632, or online [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm)

**Oiled bird sightings:** 1-800-22-BIRDS (only active when there is an oil spill)

**To report marine mammal strandings, deaths or injuries:** 1-866-ORCANET

**For more complete and updated whale information, go to the Orca Network website:** <http://orcانetwork.org/>

**To report derelict fishing gear, including nets you may have lost:** <http://www.derelictgear.org/>



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*If you would like to download or view previous Shore Steward newsletters, please visit <http://county.wsu.edu/island/nrs/shorestewards/Pages/Newsletter.aspx> An Index of newsletters is now available at this site. Your Shore Stewards Coordinator is Scott Chase, (360) 387-3443, ext 258, or email at [shorestewards@wsu.edu](mailto:shorestewards@wsu.edu)*