



Cheryl Lovato Niles
Water Resources Educator



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



WSU Whatcom County Extension

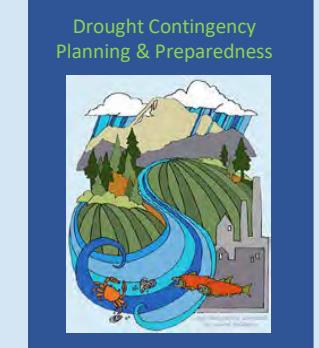
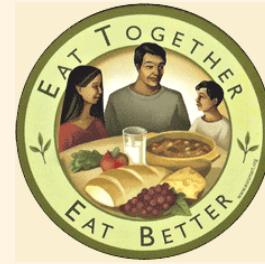
4-H

Community Horticulture

Commercial Agriculture

Family & Community Health

Natural Resources



WSU Whatcom County Extension

4-H



Community Horticulture



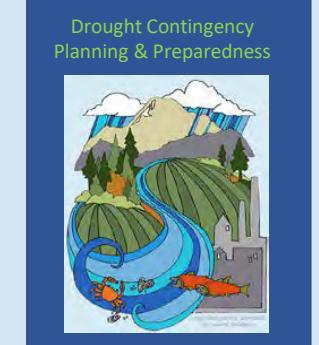
Commercial Agriculture



Family & Community Health



Natural Resources





Sustainable Landscaping

Photo by City of Burien





SALMON SUMMIT

November 13, 2025

Four Points Hotel & Conference Center
Bellingham, WA

Logo by Paul Cline, Member of Lummi Nation

*Reconnecting Habitat
Restoring Rivers
Recovering Salmon*



Photo Credit: Ian Smith

PLANNING TEAM



Helped plan and
deliver
Salmon Summit
conference



Molt Search
program

Sea Grant & WSU
Partnership



European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*).



Sustainable Landscaping

Photo by City of Burien



Gardening Green courses teach participants how to:

- **Cultivate healthy soils,**
- **Conserve water,**
- Grow a naturally beautiful landscapes,
- Keep our lakes, streams, beaches and bays clean



Gardening Green courses teach participants how to:

- Cultivate healthy soils,
- Conserve water,
- **Grow a naturally beautiful landscapes,**
- **Keep our lakes, streams, beaches and bays clean**

Gardening Green courses help to protect our lakes, streams, beaches, and bays . . .



Image by Ruth Lauman/Waterside Magazine.



Photo by A. Guddal



Photo by Ian Smith



JIP, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

From pollutants associated with common landscaping practices which migrate to these waters.



Photo by Matt Rath/Chesapeake Bay Program CC BY-NC 2.0

Courses teach landscaping success while minimizing the use of weed and feed, pesticides, and herbicides....



...and synthetic fertilizers...

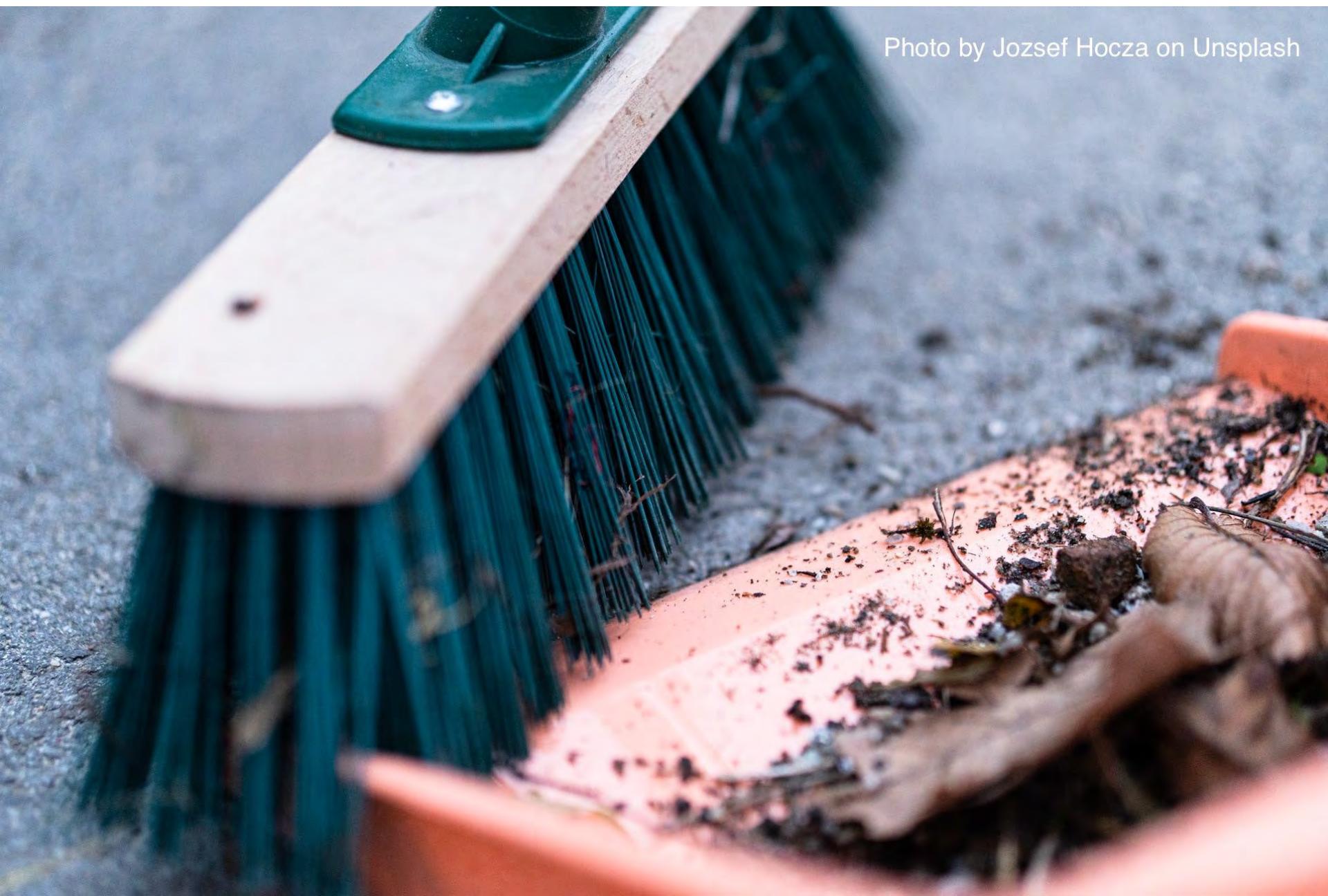


Teach the importance of preventing soil erosion ...



... and material runoff

Photo by Jozsef Hocza on Unsplash



GARDENING GREEN

Sustainable Landscaping Course

Learn how to

- Cultivate healthy soils, and conserve water,
- Reduce maintenance,
- Create naturally beautiful gardens that are bird and pollinator friendly, and
- Help to keep our lakes and rivers clean

And create a customized landscaping plan

*Participants receive a coupon from
The Garden Spot!*

Saturdays 10am-12pm

February 22 – March 22

SWFA Station 21, 4518 Cable Street, Bellingham



Learn more and register: (360) 778-5812 | clniles@wsu.edu
extension.wsu.edu/whatcom/nr/gardening-green/

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



***"Loved everything
about it."***



GARDENING GREEN

Sustainable Landscaping Course

Learn how to

- Cultivate healthy soils, and conserve water,
- Reduce maintenance,
- Create naturally beautiful gardens that are bird and pollinator friendly,

And create a customized landscaping plan!

Fridays 1-3 pm

April 25 – May 23, Birch Bay Activity Center
or

Thursdays 6-7:30 pm

April 24 – May 15 Online via Zoom, and
in-person on Saturday May 17, 10 am to 12 pm



*"Loved everything
about it."*



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extension.wsu.edu/whatcom/nr/gardening-green/

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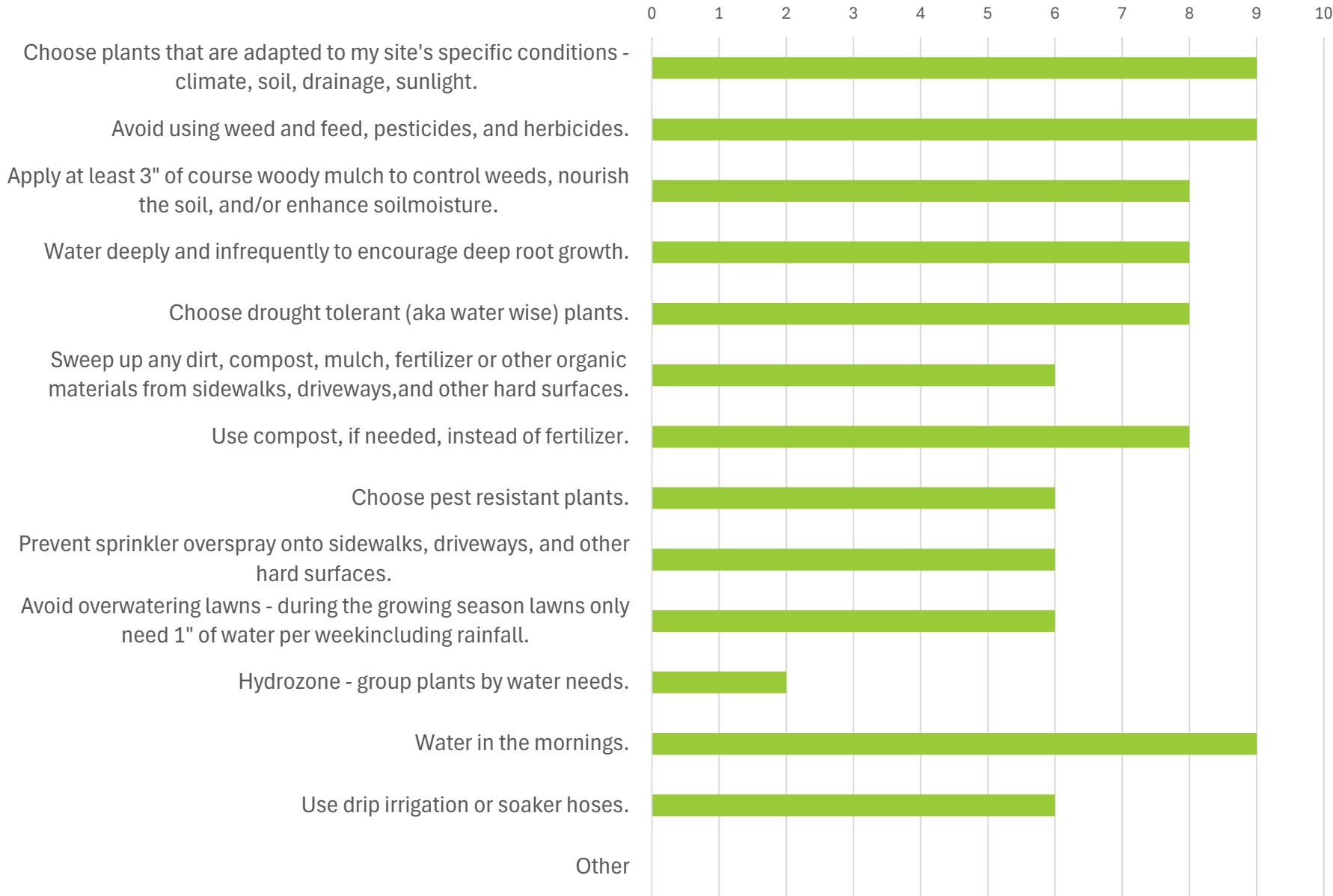


Thirty-one participants attended some of the sessions.

Twenty-five participants completed the courses.



Please indicate which of these Gardening Green practices you have used
or that you plan to use in the future?



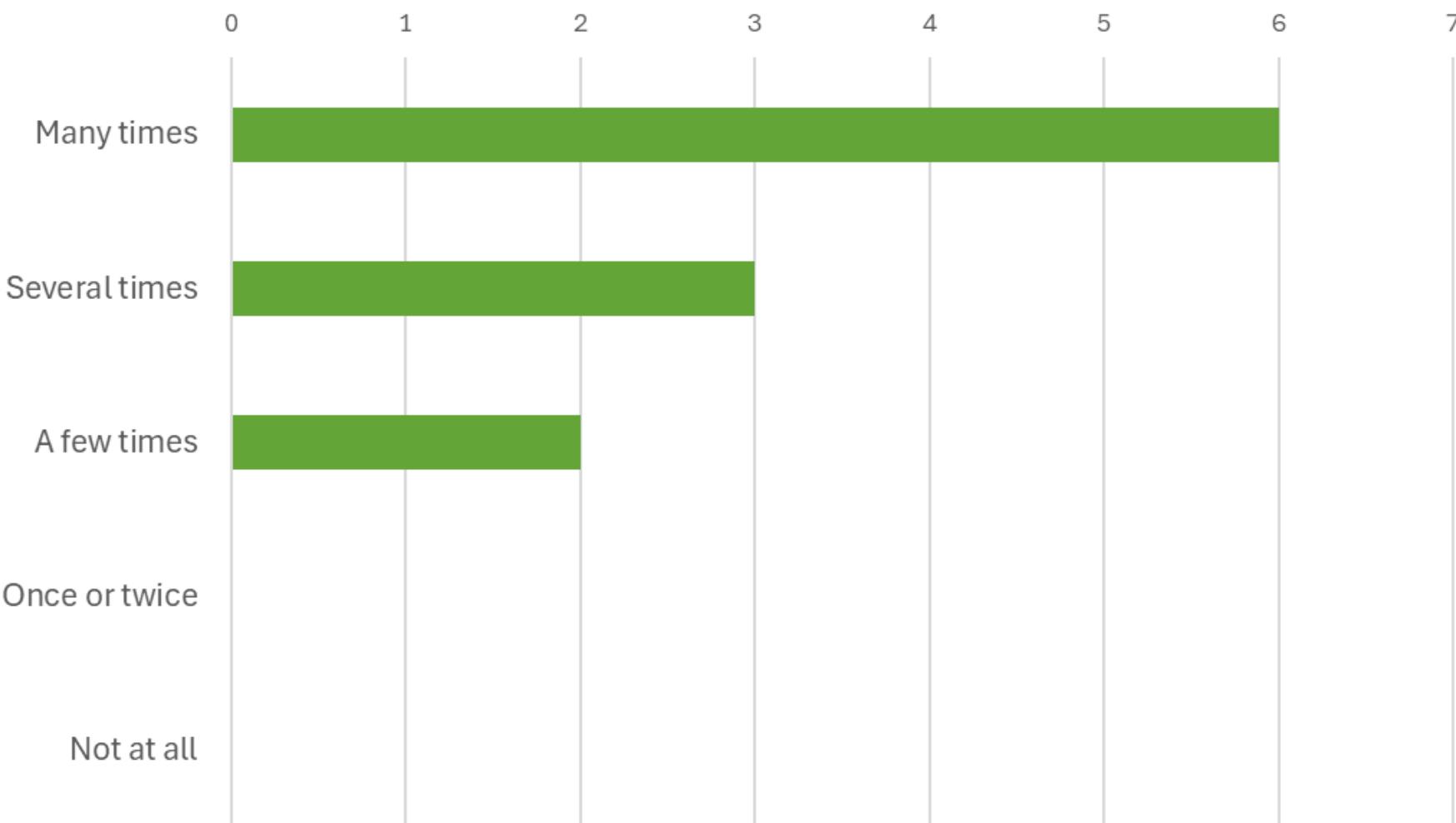
13 survey respondents

Most frequently adopted practices:



13 survey respondents

How many times, if at all, did you talk to one or more friends or neighbors about what you learned in the Gardening Green course?



11 survey responses

Q. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about the class, or your experience using the recommended gardening practices, or anything else?

“It was a great class.”

“I learned so much from Cheryl. I love the extra supporting material she gave us and so much good information to find answer to questions we may have into the future.”

“It was so fun to go to class and get good ideas on what to plant and where.”

“I really love the class. Especially the weed lady.”

“I learned so much. Thank you for offering it.”

[View this email in your browser](#)



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Gardening Green Into the Weeds

August 2025



Photo above by Mersaleashwara CC BY-SA 4.0

Dear Gardening Green enthusiasts,

I hope you are as delighted by the rain as I am. What a gift for our landscapes at this time of year! This month's newsletter focuses on some great resources to help you identify weeds and pests. Sun Tzu was right, knowing your enemy is the foundation of success, at least in the garden! You'll also find a link to tips for better lawn watering, more information on a wetland menace with a pretty face, and an opportunity to glean sea lettuce for your garden on Friday, August 8!

The Gardening Green newsletter has almost 300 subscribers.

The newsletter covers sustainable landscaping practices and weed management strategies.



Gardening Green Into the Weeds

August 2025



Photo above by Mersaleashwara CC BY-SA 4.0

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Landscaping practices covered:

- Deadheading - the benefits of leaving some seed heads for the birds
- Benefits of planting in the Fall
- Lawn watering
- Drip irrigation
- Nourishing your soil with compost
- Conserve water by planting in the spring
- Resources for picking great plants including drought tolerant plants
- May is Wildfire Awareness Month
- Planting for pollinators
- Fall weeding tips
- Benefits of mulch in the landscape
- Combat soil compaction



Gardening Green Into the Weeds

August 2025



Photo above by Mersaleashwara CC BY-SA 4.0

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Weed Related Content

- Ground beetles as weed seed eaters
- Himalayan blackberry
- Purple and garden loosestrife
- Weed and pest ID resources
- Scotch broom
- Poison hemlock
- Creeping perennial weeds (thistle, bindweed, and horsetail)
- Weed Identification Garden
- Can I compost my weeds?
- English ivy

I have been invited to provide additional Sustainable Landscaping education in 2026 to:

- The Washington Native Plant Society
- The Loomis Trail Neighborhood



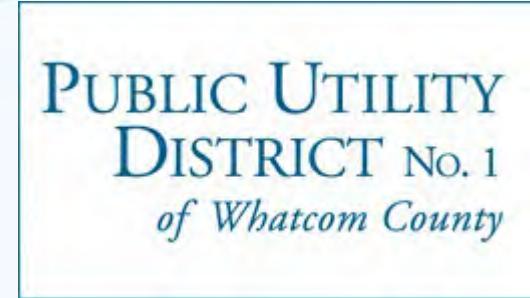
Photo by City of Burien



Whatcom Watersheds Information Network



- a diverse group of citizens, agencies, non-profits, and businesses involved in local water and natural resources education. WWIN is an apolitical, non-advocacy organization.



WW Whatcom Watersheds Information Network



WRIA 1
Water Resource
Inventory Area 1



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Whatcom Watersheds Information Network



WWIN's mission is to help protect & restore our local waters and watersheds through information exchange, collaboration, education, and public engagement.



Three Primary Activities:

- Speaker Series
- Water Week
- Skill-building trainings for natural resource professionals

2025 Speaker Series Topics



Bellingham SeaFeast
WW
Whidbey Watersheds Information Network
W

BEAUTIFUL BIVALVES

A culinary and cultural exploration of shellfish

Saturday, April 12

2pm at Drayton Harbor Oyster Co.
685 Peace Portal Dr, Blaine, WA 98230

Celebrate Shellfish & Protect Our Waters

Join local experts for fun, informative talks on oysters and ocean life. Start your day with a beach clean-up at Blaine Marine Park (meet at Starbucks) at 11am, then enjoy delicious food and conversation at Drayton Harbor Oyster Co. with a portion of proceeds supporting SeaFeast's conservation efforts!

Adam Schleicher
Chef at Drayton Harbor Oyster Co.

Katherine Garrah
Restoration Ecologist & Outreach Biologist at Drayton Harbor Oyster Co.

Steve Seymour
Co-Owner of Drayton Harbor Oyster Co.

Ple'lā'e'lut • Laura Williams
Shwowe Tan • Cougar Woman

COME FOR THE CLEAN-UP, STAY FOR THE SHELLFISH!



SPEAKER SERIES EVENT

Drinking Water 101

Tuesday, May 6
5:30-7 pm via Zoom

Register for this free event on Zoom

- Where does your drinking water come from?
- How is it kept clean and safe for you to drink?
- Are you thirsty to learn more about municipal drinking water, water associations, or well water?
- Do you have questions or want tips for conserving water?

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Ingrid Enschede, Senior Water Quality Planner,
Whatcom County Public Works

Aneka Sweeney, Education and Outreach Manager,
Whatcom Conservation District

Peg Wendling, Water Quality Technical Supervisor, City of Bellingham
George Kaas, Commissioner, Water District #7

Hayli Hruza, Environmental Health Supervisor for Drinking Water & Onsite Sewage Systems programs, Whatcom County Health & Human Services.

To learn more and register for this free event, visit:

www.whatcomwin.org/speaker-series

Questions? Contact: Cheryl Lovato Niles clniles@wsu.edu

Another Public Speaker Series Event coordinated by:





To learn more and register for this free event go to:
www.whatcomwin.org/speaker-series

Questions?

Contact Dana Flerchinger; dflerchi@co.whatcom.wa.us

Another Public Speaker Series Event coordinated by:



SPEAKER SERIES EVENT

Bull Kelp Monitoring in Whatcom County

**Presented by: Jeff Whitty, Kelp Program Manager at the Northwest Straits Commission and
Eleanor Hines, Whatcom County MRC Volunteer**

**Monday, June 16th
5:30 – 6:30pm via Zoom**

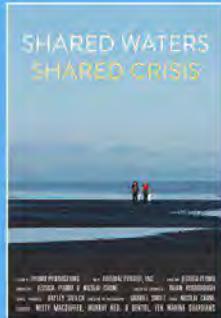
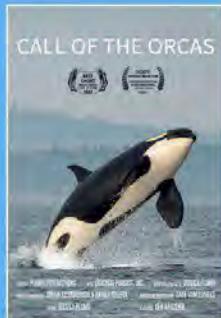
[**Register for this free event**](#)

What is bull kelp?! Tune in to learn about the importance of bull kelp and the efforts being done to monitor and protect this marine species in Washington State.



Shared Waters of the Salish Sea

Screening and Conversation with the Film Maker



Thursday September 25th
3:00pm - 4:30pm
Doors Open at 2:45pm
Blaine Public Library

Join us for a screening of three short documentary films from Original Pursuit and Plumb productions about two iconic, threatened species of the Pacific Northwest: The Southern Resident Orcas, and the Chinook Salmon they need for survival.

Q&A after with Filmaker Jessica Plumb after the screening of the films.





To learn more and register for this free event visit:

<https://www.whatcomwin.org/speaker-series>

Questions? Contact Cheryl Lovato Niles; cniles@wsu.edu

Another Public Speaker Series Event coordinated by:



SPEAKER SERIES EVENT

Stormwater Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, September 16
12:00-1:00pm via Zoom

[Register for this free event on Zoom](#)

The way that water moves across the landscape, and the materials it touches along the way have a big impact on water quality and quantity. Improper planning can lead to pollution, erosion, and flooding. As cities and neighborhoods grow, we think about how developments change the movement of water. Stormwater planning helps keep us and our neighbors healthy and safe. Come learn about Stormwater Science and the processes used by County planners to ensure Stormwater success!

GUEST SPEAKER:

Michael Kershner, Stormwater Planner
Whatcom County Planning & Development Services



Photo Credit: Sally Webb

To learn more and register for this free event visit:
<https://www.whatcomwin.org/speaker-series>

Questions? Contact Cheryl Lovato Niles; cnliles@wsu.edu

Another Public Speaker Series Event coordinated by:



WWIN SPEAKER SERIES EVENT

Next Steps for Clean Water: Science, Tools, & Incentives for the New Drayton Harbor TMDL

Thursday, October 23
5:30-6:30pm
at the Blaine Public Library
[Register for this free event \(recommended\)](#)

Drayton Harbor and the streams that flow into it have high levels of fecal bacteria. To make the water safe again, the WA Department of Ecology has developed a draft Drayton Harbor Water Quality Improvement Plan known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL plan will help partners clean up the watershed to make it safe for swimming and fishing. Come learn about the new science, tools, and incentives that you can use to help!

GUEST SPEAKERS:

James Kardouni, WA Department of Ecology
Aneka Sweeney, Whatcom Conservation District

Most events were offered online. These were recorded and are posted on our website. www.WhatcomWin.org

Home About Events Whatcom Water Week The Network Resources

Stormwater Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, September 16 2025 from 12 - 1 pm, online via Zoom

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Presented by
Michael Kershner, Stormwater Planner with Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

A video thumbnail for the 'WWIN Speaker Series Event: Stormwater Lunch & Learn'. The thumbnail shows a scenic view of a body of water with mountains in the background. A red play button is in the center. Below the thumbnail is a 'Watch on YouTube' button.

Bull Kelp Monitoring in Whatcom County

Monday, June 16 2025 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm, online via Zoom

What is bull kelp? Tune in to learn about the importance of bull kelp and the efforts being done to monitor and protect this marine species in Washington State.

Presented by
Jeff Whitty, Kelp Program Manager at the Northwest Straits Commission and
Elaine Hines, Whatcom County MRC Manager



WW
Whatcom Watersheds Information Network

Whatcom Water Week

September 13th - 21st

Fun Events All Week!

whatcomwin.org



Water Week 2025 included 40 Events,
Hosted by 21 different organizations.
More than 2,400 people participated.

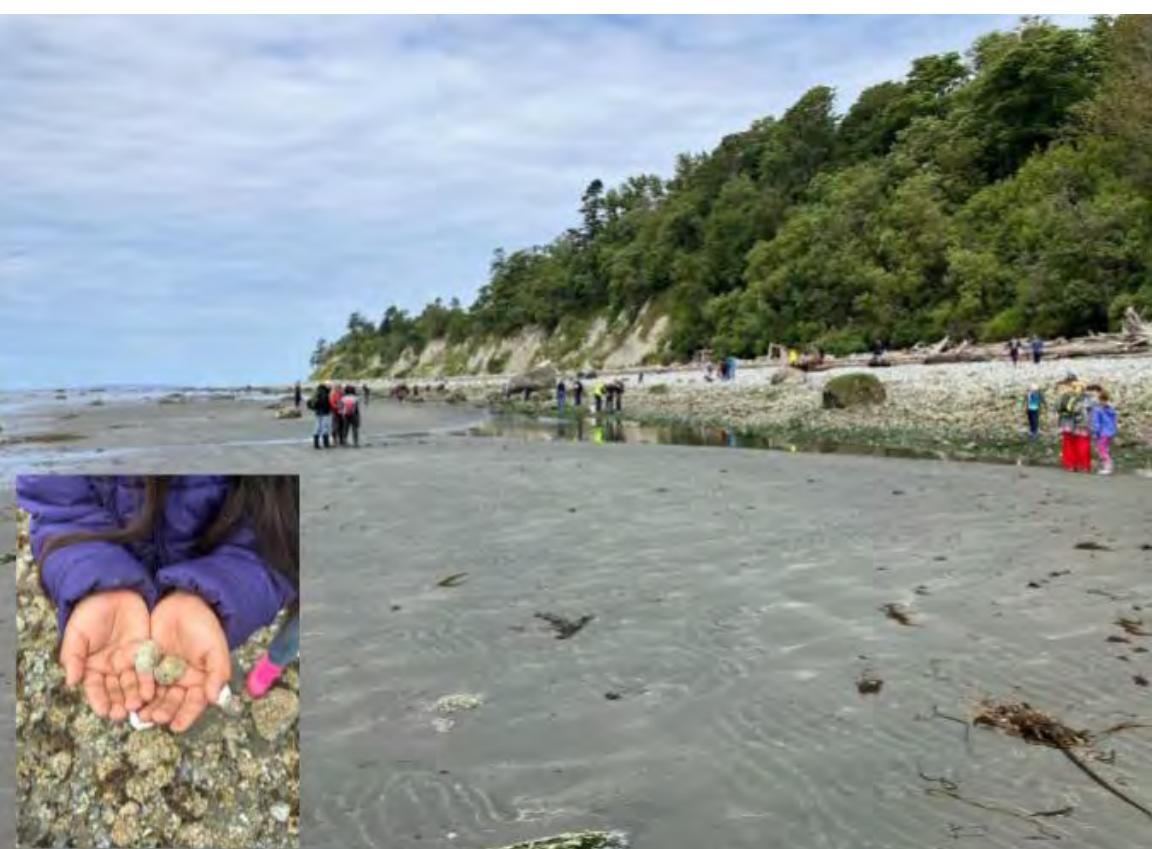
September 13-21, 2025

Purple text indicates a young kid/family event focus.

"All Week" events: StoryWalk at Taylor Dock; StoryWalk at Little Squalicum Pier; We Scoop Photo Contest; Water Week Photo Contest

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
First Splash Regenerative by Design Bioluminescence Tour Slammin' Salmon Social	Little Storytime Family Beach Walk Library Explorers	Little Storytime Bellingham Drinking Water Treatment Plant Tour	Bellingham Post Point Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour Pet Waste Pop-Up Bioluminescence Paddle Little and Preschool Storytimes	Create A Cloud Birch Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour Trivia at Stones Throw Bioluminescence Paddle and more!	Managed Aquifer Recharge Site Tour Lynden Water Treatment Plant Tour Wonder Walks Wild Things Bioluminescence Paddle	Run with the Chums Essentials of Sea Kayaking Pink Salmon Sighting Evening Sail on Bellingham Bay Bioluminescence Tour
21	Details here! 					

Whatcom Water Week
Water- It's Everybody's Business



Events included:

Family Beach Walk at
Semiahmoo County
Park

Hosted by Garden of
the Salish Sea
Curriculum

Whatcom Water Week

SEPTEMBER 13 - 21



Pink Salmon Sighting
in Glacier

Hosted by Nooksack
Salmon Enhancement
Association

 **Whatcom**
Water Week
SEPTEMBER 13 - 21

Forest Scavenger Hunt

Hosted by the Whatcom
Land Trust





TRIVIA

\$2 BUY IN // TEAMS UP TO 4

7-9PM

Water-themed
trivia

Hosted by Stone's
Throw



Whatcom Water Week

SEPTEMBER 13 - 21

Birch Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour



Slammin' Seafood Social aboard *The Hannah*

Hosted by SeaFeast



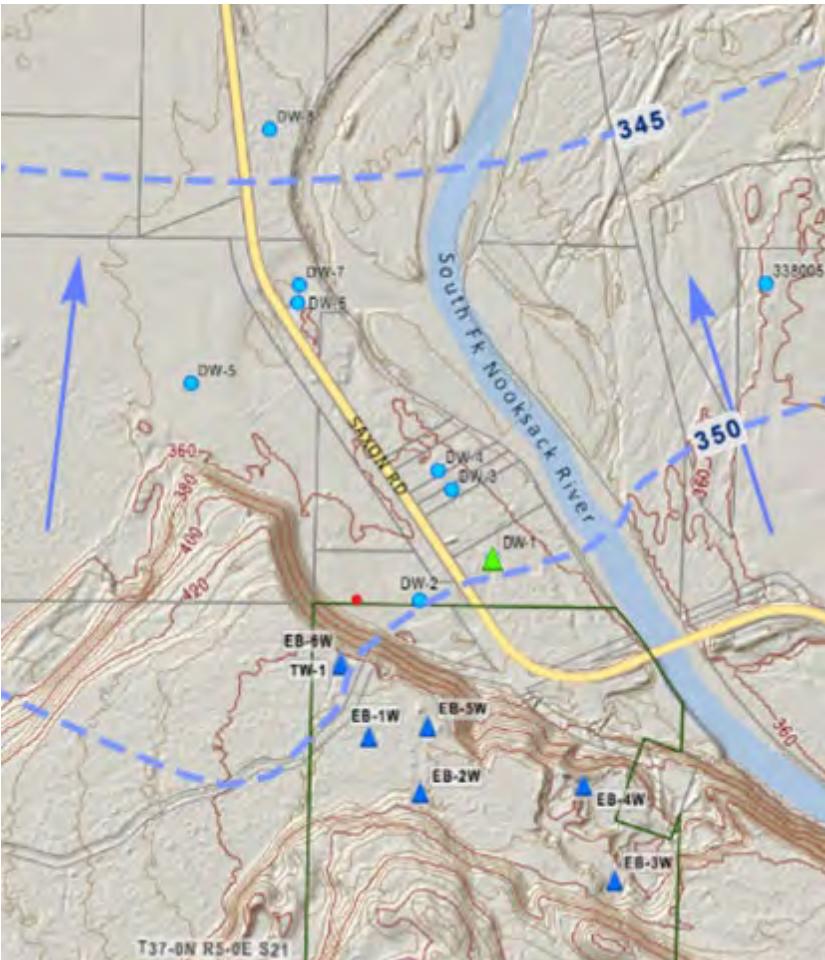
Beach Clean-Up at Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve

Hosted by Re Sources



Managed Aquifer Recharge Site Tour – South Fork Nooksack River

Hosted by the City of Lynden and Associated Earth Sciences



The project goals include increasing late summer Nooksack River flows to improve aquatic habitat for salmon and other species, offsetting decreases in snowpack, creating mitigation flow for the City of Lynden, opportunities for downstream surface water rights, and addressing public health concerns for users of certain downstream water wells.

We help to promote the County's "We Scoop" Photo Contest during Water Week.



WWIN's Photo Contest celebrates local waters:

2025 Photo Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone that entered photos in the 2025 Annual Water Week Photo Contest!



Reef Net Fishing in Bellingham Bay

Vanessa Story

Category - Working for Water



Toby Having a Blast of Zoomies in South Fork

Armando Ortiz

Category - Favorite Water Spot



Foggy Morning Paddle at Taylor Dock

Becky Finkbonner

Category - Best Phone Photo



Lorna Swims with Swans

James Lindquist

Category - Fan Favorite



Wood Ducks in the Thick of It

Paul Brennan

Category - Sponsor Favorite



Birch Bay Waterslides

Alyssa Meaker

Category - People Having Fun



Seastar in Hand During Beach Exploration Naturalist Event at Point Whitehorn

Alexi Guddal

Category - Protecting and Restoring Our Water

Thank You!

2025 Sponsors!

Interested in Being a Sponsor of the
2025 Whatcom Water Week? [Click Here](#)



Pacific Surveying & Engineering



WILSON
ENGINEERING



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION





*WWIN provides **free skill-building trainings** to our members and other natural resource educators.*

In 2025, WWIN offered training on
Conflict Engagement

Training Objectives:

- Gain insights into the psychological factors that drive conflict
- Enhance your ability to communicate without causing defensiveness
- De-escalate difficult situations
- Foster an environment where open dialogue and diverse viewpoints are valued

BUILDING WATERSHED COLLABORATIONS

Engaging Conflict Productively

June 6, 2025, 9:30-1:30

Coffee & Refreshments 9:15-9:30; Program Starts at 9:30

WECU Ferndale Education Center

5659 Barrett Road, Ferndale

Training Objectives

- Gain insights into the psychological factors that drive conflict and learn to identify the root causes of disagreement within environmental collaborations.
- Enhance your ability to communicate without causing defensiveness, de-escalate difficult situations, and engage conflicts constructively.
- Foster an environment where open dialogue and diverse viewpoints are valued, leading to more resilient and effective watershed stewardship efforts.

9:15-9:30 Coffee and Morning Refreshments

9:30 Welcome

9:35- 1:25 (Lunch Break at 12:00pm; Light Lunch Refreshments Provided)

- What is conflict?
- Focus
- Relate
- Act

1:25-1:30 Closing

Training in
Engaging Conflict
Productively

26 natural resource
professionals
attended.

17 provided feedback.

Participants reported
that their knowledge
and skills improved.

14 indicated they
would use what they
learned in their work,
and

2 indicated that they
might use what they
learned in their work.



SALMON SUMMIT

November 13, 2025

Four Points Hotel & Conference Center
Bellingham, WA

Logo by Paul Cline, Member of Lummi Nation

*Reconnecting Habitat
Restoring Rivers
Recovering Salmon*



Photo Credit: Ian Smith

PLANNING TEAM



Helped plan the
2025 Salmon
Summit conference

PLANNING TEAM



Planning Team consisted of:

Lummi Nation

Whatcom Watersheds Information Network

Nooksack Indian Tribe

WSU Whatcom County Extension

Whatcom County

Whatcom Public Utility District #1

Whatcom Watersheds Information Network

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

WRIA1 Integrated Management Program

Whatcom Land Trust



Salmon Summit 2025

Reconnecting Habitat, Restoring Rivers, Recovering Salmon

Logo by Paul Cline, Member of Lummi Nation

Conference sessions focused
on research and restoration
in the Nooksack Basin

Session I - Nooksack Basin
Salmon Populations, Status,
and Productivity

Session II - Instream
Restoration and Effectiveness
Monitoring in the Nooksack





Salmon Summit 2025

Reconnecting Habitat, Restoring Rivers, Recovering Salmon

Logo by Paul Cline, Member of Lummi Nation

**Session III - Riparian
Restoration, Innovative Fish
Passage, and Floodplain
Planning**

**Session IV - Estuary and
Nearshore Habitats, and
Urban Streams**

226 people attended





Conference presenters included staff from:



- Whatcom County
- Whatcom Conservation District
- City of Bellingham
- Lummi Natural Resources,
- Nooksack Indian Tribe Natural Resources,
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission,
- Western Washington University
- Northwest Straits Foundation
- Environmental Science Associates

Logo by Paul Cline, Lummi Tribal member

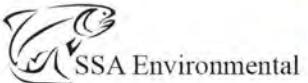


We Gratefully Acknowledge Our SALMON SUMMIT SPONSORS

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CHUM SPONSORS



The Salmon Summit was made possible by tremendous sponsorship support!



MOLT SEARCH

A **regional** early detection program for
Invasive European green crab in the
Salish Sea



European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*).

European green crabs are an invasive crab which threaten shellfish farming, recreational shellfish harvest, Dungeness crabs, and salmonid habitat (eelgrass beds)



European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*).

Timeline of spread into Inland Washington waters

2012: First Salish Sea detection
(Sooke, BC)

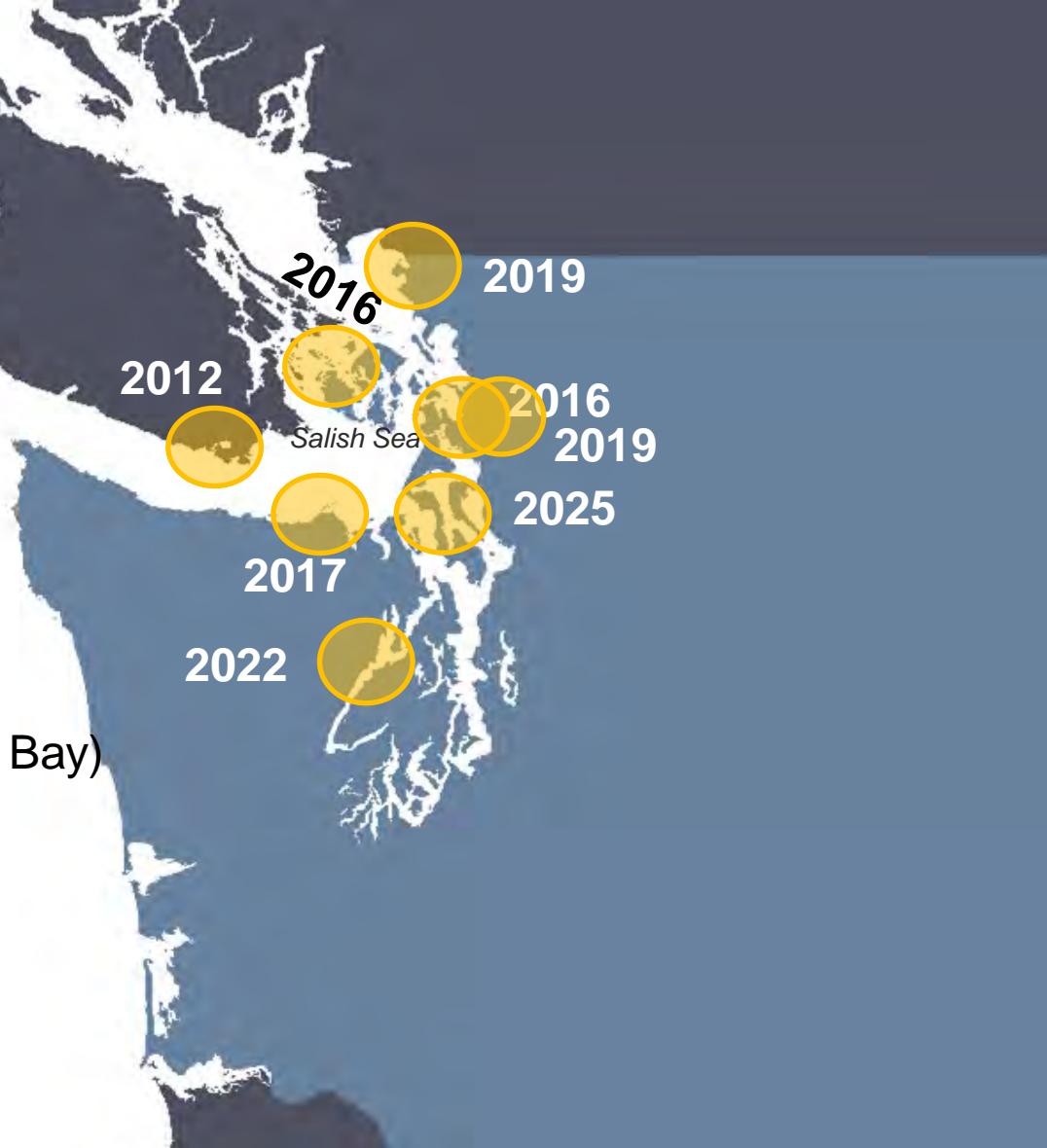
2016: First inland WA detection
(San Juan Island and Padilla Bay)

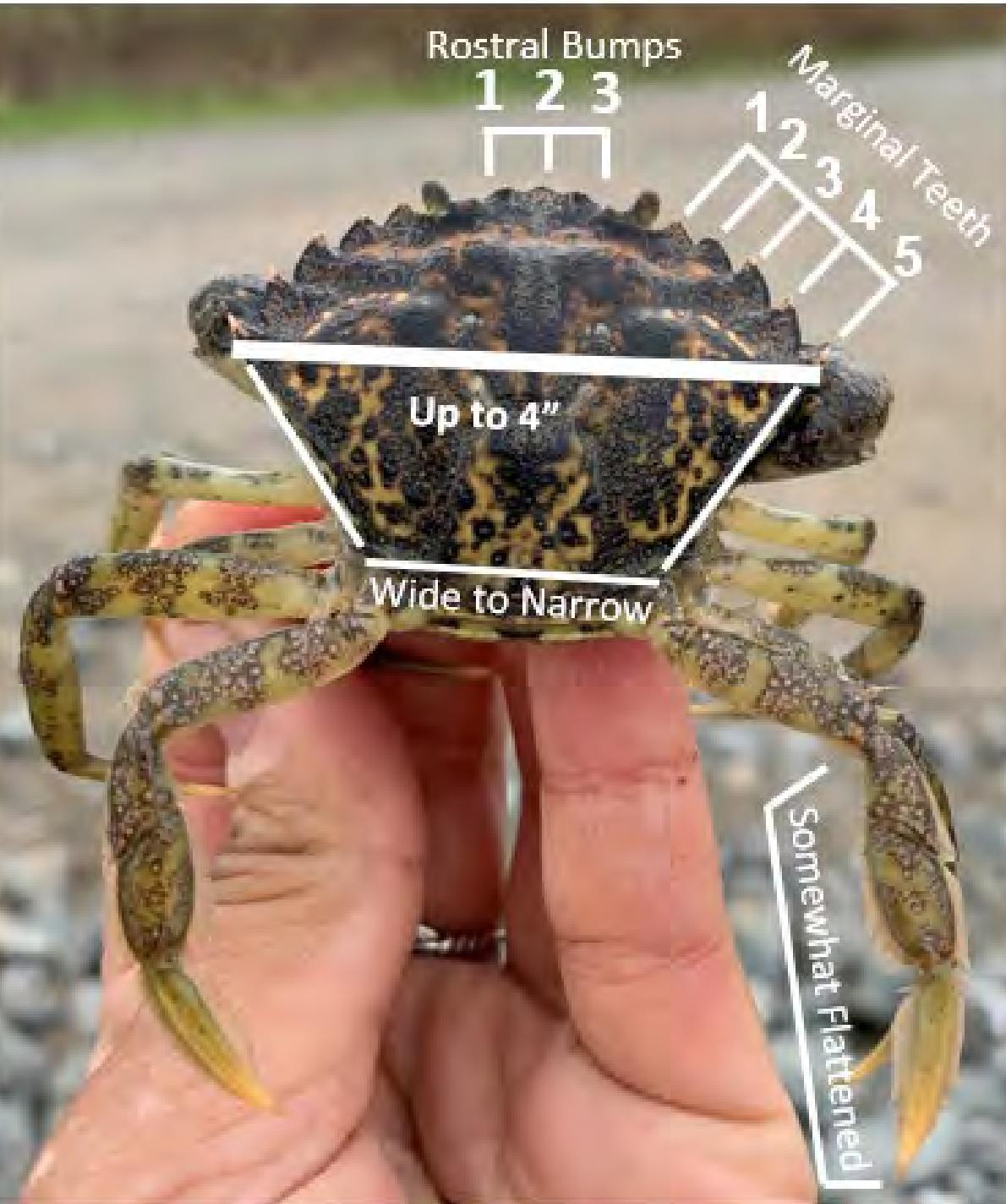
2017: First inland hotspot detection
(Dungeness Spit)

2019: Substantial spread
(Whatcom/Skagit)

2022: First detection in Hood Canal

2025: First detection on Whidbey Island

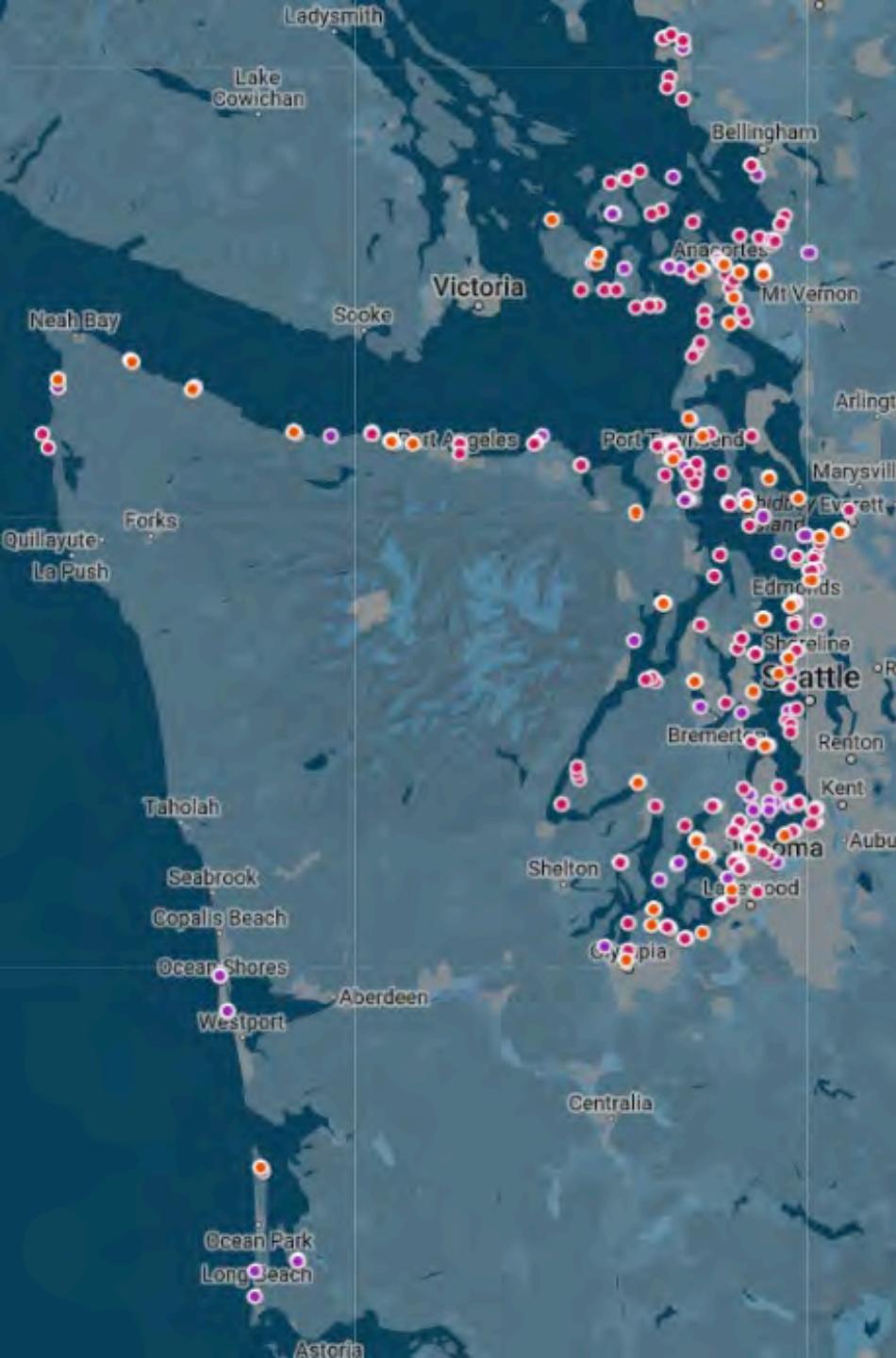




Molt Search
teaches
community
members how to
identify the
European green
crabs...

...how to conduct systematic searches for their shed shells (or 'Molts'), and how to report their findings via MyCoast app





In 2025,

400 attendees learned Molt Search protocols at trainings hosted by staff of the

10 organizations attended our annual Train-the-Trainers, and

Over 1,750 reports have been submitted.

And Molt Search led to:

- New detections on Whidbey and San Juan Islands.
- New trapping access in Hood canal

MOLT SEARCH

Funding from
Washington Department
of Fish and Wildlife
supports this
collaboration with Sea
Grant



Photo by Candace McDaniel from StockSnap



Thanks! Questions?