

Triangle Cove Watershed

NEWSLETTER

Working with you to improve water quality in your watershed

Island County Public Health

Spring 2014



How can you make your yard friendlier for Triangle Cove?

Solve Drainage Problems

Add Buffers and Borders - Create a tree and shrub border to soak up runoff before it enters the street or a nearby waterway.

Add a Rain Garden - A rain garden is a shallow, landscaped depression with amended soils and attractive plants designed to soak up rainwater before it leaves your property.

Collect Rain water - Use rain barrels and cisterns to slow runoff and conserve water. Use it in your yard and gardens.

Reduce Yard Maintenance

Less Lawn - Reduce the size of your lawn. Lawns require the most water, maintenance and costly amendments.

Layered Plantings - Use trees and shrubs of varying heights to catch raindrops, prevent erosion and add variety.

Native Plants - Add native plants, and with a little TLC (tender loving care), you can have a beautiful, low-maintenance landscape, even on difficult sites.

Improve Your Yard's Aesthetics and Functionality

Add Permeable Pathways - Select from one of several design options to provide paths through your garden and improve drainage at the same time.

Birds, Bees and Wildlife - Increase plant diversity in your yard and provide for birds, bees and wildlife. It will bring you more joy and less maintenance.

And Remember... Camano Island is on a sole-source aquifer, meaning there are no outside sources of drinking water other than the underground aquifer. Protect it by making a few changes and reduce your water usage as well. Learn more by taking a sustainable gardening class, limiting or discontinuing use of chemicals, and observing your yard closely. Don't forget to pick up pet waste and contain livestock manure properly.

Barnum Family~History on Cove

By Lois Ruskell, Snohomish Conservation District

Anyone who has lived on Camano Island very long, especially in the Triangle Cove area, has likely heard the Barnum name. There is Barnum Point, the site of a hilly historic farm and pioneer home east of Triangle Cove. There is the Inn at Barnum Point, a local landmark since 1991. There are also many members of the Barnum family, still in the area, who have made this piece of Island County home for six generations.

Bob Barnum, and his sister Carolin Barnum Dilorenzo (right), still own property on Barnum Point, along with several cousins. Carolin is the proprietor of the Inn at Barnum Point, which she built on the family property.

Carolin and Bob's grandfather, Sterling Jones Barnum, bought the original 125 acres and a mile of beach in 1904. The family, including three small daughters, Marie, Margaret, and Katherine (their brother Robert was born a year after the family settled on Camano) came over in a boat, with all their belongings on a barge. There were few roads on Camano, much less a bridge from the mainland. Sterling used oxen to haul cedar out of the woods and down a "skid" road to a Cedar Mill at Driftwood Shores. Roads were scarce and narrow so oxen could manage the loads better than horses. Sterling became a road commissioner, and later a Justice of the Peace. Education was important to the Barnum family so with the help of neighbors, a one room school house was built on the property.

When Carolin and Bob's father Robert was born a year after the Barnum's landed on the shores of Port Susan, the family lived in a small house close to the beach with no running water or electricity. A phone line came across the channel from Driftwood shores. During storms, when the wind was from the south, water would come up in the house. That's when, according to Bob, "the floors got washed". The family cleared land and eventually grew 40 acres of strawberries and potatoes. They raised sheep and Rhode Island Red Chickens. One cow gave the children milk. The three Barnum sisters' job was to pick strawberries and dig the potatoes. Young Robert's job was to take the potatoes and berries into Stanwood by boat to sell or trade for needed items. He planned the trip by the tides, to make rowing easier.

Bob Barnum has never lived in his house on Camano Island. Currently living in Eugene, Oregon, he rents his house and comes up to visit when he can. Father Robert built the house when he retired in 1952 and lived there with his wife Marie until his death in 1981. Marie Barnum, now 102 years old, lives at Josephine Sunset Home in Stanwood. Bob and Carolin grew up in Seattle. Before the home was built, their Dad and Uncle Earl Stay built two three-sided shelters (and a four-seater outhouse!) that the family



Siblings Bob Barnum and Carolin Barnum Dilorenzo with Triangle Cove in the background.

used when they visited the farm on weekends. Carolin remembers shooing the bats out before they settled in for their visits. Sisters Marie Barnum (O'Neill), Margaret (Stay), and Katherine (Roberts/Hedges) all came back to retire on the property and many of the third and fourth generation are now living here.

One item that Carolin shows all her guests is the fossilized Mammoth tooth that her father found coming out of the bank on the beach below the Inn. He had seen a tusk several years earlier, but once exposed to the elements, it eventually disintegrated.

Carolin has also amassed a large collection of photos and newspaper articles that highlight the primitive life on Camano Island before roads, electricity, and modern homes. She has a book listing the court trials held in the old house on the beach when her grandfather was Justice of the Peace. This family definitely has a long history on Camano Island, and hope new residents to the Island will care for it as their family has since 1904.

Bob and Carolin feel lucky to have caring neighbors, cousins nearby to visit, and the beauty that surrounds them at Triangle Cove. They hope it stays that way. Neighbors helping neighbors, people caring for the land and the local feel they grew up with. The Barnum's also have concerns about the steep bluffs that have eroded over time and the natural resources in Triangle Cove that could be impacted by more homes and septic systems.

With ever-increasing taxes, and after exhausting all avenues to try and sell some of their land as a park, Bob and Carolin are regretfully hoping to sell one parcel of their land which includes 45 acres and one half mile of beach.

Bob and Carolin want to see the land preserved, but the tax issue has made it difficult for the siblings to hold onto all of the land. They hope to find a buyer, and neighbor, who will be a good steward of this special place.

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Earth Day at Camano Plaza April 19 - Come celebrate Earth Day!



Camano Plaza 10 AM - 4 PM

Join your friends and family at the Camano Plaza April 19th for free trees, demonstrations, kids activities and more. There will be posters created by 5th Grade students at Utsalady Elementary to celebrate Earth Day on display in several Plaza shops. Free.

For questions on these events, call Kathryn at 425-923-9870.

Sustainable Gardening & Build Your Own Rain Barrel ~ April 26

at the Chalet in Camaloch (behind Camano Plaza)

Sustainable Gardening

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Register at link below

Make Your Own Rain Barrel

1 PM - 3 PM

Cost \$30 - includes barrel, fixtures, and instruction.

Register and prepay here:

<http://camanoisland.eventbrite.com>



Triangle Cove is Part of a Water Pollution Survey

Island County Department of Natural Resources

The Triangle Cove watersheds make up one of the largest drainage basins on Camano Island. The watersheds include areas like Camaloch, Camaloch Golf Course, Camano Hills, Camano Plaza, Barnum Point, Driftwood Shores and vicinity. Kristoferson Creek, which provides habitat for salmon, is the primary drainage feature flowing into Triangle Cove. A National Estuary Program grant to Island County is focusing on water quality improvements in the Triangle Cove area. The Department of Ecology's 303(d) impaired waters list identifies Kristoferson Creek as exceeding water quality parameters for fecal coliform bacteria, pH, and dissolved oxygen. The tidelands in Triangle Cove are currently unclassified by the State Department of Health for shellfish harvest.

What is Being Done to Help Clean Up the Cove?

A shoreline survey is in progress to sample water quality draining into the cove. The water test results will soon be available online. The source of bacteria will be identified (i.e. failing septic systems, pet or livestock waste, or wildlife). Education and outreach activities are being offered. On-going septic inspections and compliance monitoring has begun. Help with agricultural best management practices is available for farms and rural landowners.

Save the Date!

Second Annual Open House

Enjoy some snacks, meet your neighbors, and learn about our progress in protecting Triangle Cove. Join us on:

August 14, 2014

5:30 pm to 7 pm

Camano Multi-Purpose Center

("blue building next to CASA")

141 East Camano Drive,
Camano Island

Free - bring your neighbors!

Resources

The Snohomish Conservation District offers free site visits. Funding is available to help landowners within Triangle Cove watersheds to install stream fencing, off-stream watering, compost bins, sacrifice areas, and streamside planting projects.

Island County Public Health has technical and financial assistance for on-site sewage system problems, as well as classes (see below).

Septic Classes for Homeowners

Inspecting your onsite septic system saves you money and helps protect our groundwater. **Septic 101** provides the basics of owning and operating an on-site septic system. Septic 101 is the first requirement for the HOST-HomeOwner Septic Training Program certifying Island County homeowners to inspect their own systems. Only conventional gravity and conventional pressure systems are able to be inspected by homeowners. This class can be viewed on the web or attended in a traditional lecture style.

Septic 201 provides the opportunity for a homeowner to watch a full inspection of a system. Septic 201 is an excellent way to become more knowledgeable about inspection requirements before hiring a professional. A homeowner may also take this class to become certified to inspect their own system (conventional gravity and conventional pressure systems only). The usual cost of \$25 for a homeowner septic inspection certification will be waived for verified residents of Triangle Cove watersheds.

Class sign up available on-line at: <http://www.islandcountyeh.org/Page/105>. Follow this pathway: Programs - Onsite Sewage (Septic) Systems - HomeOwner Septic Training Program.

Class Dates and Times

Septic 101: Thursday, July 17, 6-7:30 pm

Septic 201: Thursday, July 17, 7:30-9 pm

Septic 101: Monday, September 8, 6-7:30 pm

Septic 201: Monday, September 8, 7:30-9 pm

All classes will be located at Four Springs Lake Preserve
585 Lewis Lane, Camano Island. Location information here:
<http://www.fourspringshouse.com/Home/Location>

This water quality effort to identify and control pollution is funded by the Washington Department of Health, the Washington Department of Ecology and the Snohomish Conservation District Island County Assessment and supported by Island County Public Health and Snohomish Conservation District.