

# SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPEAKERS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

**TREETURE™ PROGRAM** — Treetures™ are whimsical fantasy characters created to teach children (**Preschool thru 3rd grade**) about the parts of a tree and the way trees function. The community of

Treeture™ characters represents the spirit of tree planting and tree care and combines environmental education with entertainment. Skagit Conservation

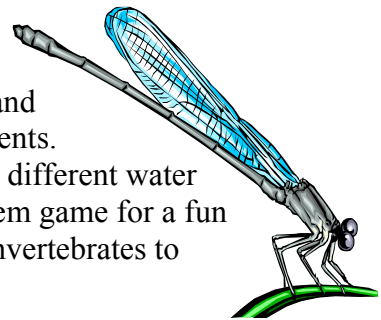
District has purchased a professionally made Treeture™ costume (similar in appearance to the characters you would see at Disney World) that is available to make scheduled 30-40 minute classroom presentations.

Learning the names of the Treetures™ and the jobs they do, for example, Sprig, Blossom,

Chlorophyllis, Doc Barkley, etc., helps children understand how a tree functions and how important trees, plant life, birds, animals, and insects are to keeping our planet healthy. For more Treeture™ fun, visit their website at [www.treeture.com](http://www.treeture.com).



**MACROINVERTEBRATE MAYHEM!** — Investigating the world of macroinvertebrates to estimate water quality is a fun and educational way to explore the relationships of ecosystem components. After an overview of the typical groups of insects that are found in different water quality conditions, students will play the Macroinvertebrate Mayhem game for a fun and active way to learn about the vulnerability of different macroinvertebrates to environmental stressors and water quality.

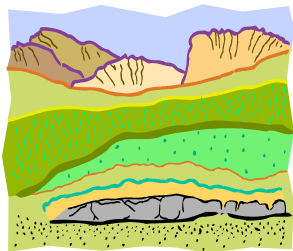


**ENVIROSCAPE WATERSHED MODEL** — This model illustrates how materials and pollutants are washed into our local waterways. The model, along with the 69-page *User's Guide*, can lead to discussions about the hydrologic cycle, water quality, land use, ecosystem health, fish and wildlife habitat, and a variety of other science and social science issues. Skagit CD staff are available to present the model, or it may be borrowed for use by local teachers.

***NATIVE PLANTS / TREE PLANTING activities*** — A Resource Technician from the Skagit CD may be able to assist your class with stream enhancement, tree planting, or class garden activities and provide information on native plants species. Arrangements can be made to acquire plant materials and equipment from the Skagit CD that can be used for planting activities. This is a great way to get students actively involved in caring for local watersheds and help them understand the importance of streamside vegetation and its role in the concepts of ecological balance, aquatic environments, and riparian habitat.



***CONSERVATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT***— A Resource Technician from the Skagit CD can work with agricultural youth involved in **4-H and Future Farmers of America programs** to develop conservation plans that minimize land use impacts on water quality.



***SOIL PRESENTATION*** — A technician may be available to speak to **4th grade classes through adults** about soils in Skagit County, soil formation, soil horizons, soil texture identification using the Ribbon Test, and use of the *Soil Survey of Skagit County* handbook. *Sammy Soil Saver* puppet presentations are available for **grades K-2** (see Materials and Manuals flier).

***WATER QUALITY MONITORING kits*** are available for use by teachers and students. These kits by LaMotte Company are easy to use and give approximate values of important water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, and temperature.



***OTHER***—Curriculum is flexible for classroom presentations. If teachers have other ideas for fun and educational activities in the classroom, please feel free to call and share them. We are open to suggestions!

If you are interested in or have questions about any of this information, please don't hesitate to call or email Cindy Pierce ([cindy@skagitcd.org](mailto:cindy@skagitcd.org)) at Skagit Conservation District, (360) 428-4313, or contact us through our website [www.skagitcd.org](http://www.skagitcd.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

Conservation Districts are legal subdivisions of state government that administer programs to conserve natural resources. Conservation Districts work with local landowners and residents, offering technical assistance, cost sharing, information, and education necessary to encourage good stewardship of our environment.