



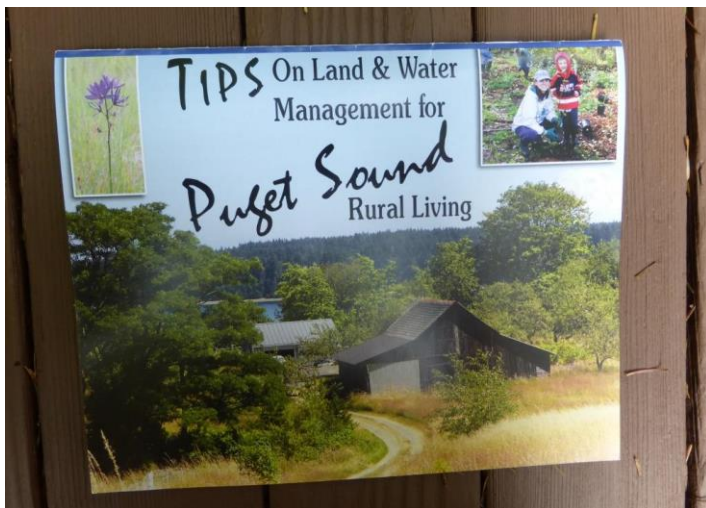
Sunday, May 17, Annual CVA Picnic, 1-3 pm at Crescent Creek Park featuring Sofia Gidlund of Pierce Conservation District

Since 2004, the Pierce Conservation District has charged a \$5 per parcel assessment to fund its basic water quality and agricultural assistance programs and services. Add in grants and direct contracts, and the District's annual budget exceeds \$2,000,000. These funds are used to conduct environmental project planning and implementation to benefit the residents of Pierce County.

Crescent Valley residents can 'get their money's worth' by attending our picnic and learning what Sofia can do for us:

Get practical tips for enjoying the rural environment without negatively affecting neighbors, wildlife, and the watershed. Sofia will share tips on composting, soil and pasture health, erosion prevention, managing mud and wet areas, and much more. We will use her models to plan sustainable property development.

In addition, residents of the watershed will find that the [website for the Conservation District](#) is full of useful information for living in land zoned R10 and Biodiversity Management Area (BMA).



To attend the picnic, please RSVP Lucinda Wingard 253-858-3647

Why does the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan emphasize planting native species in our landscapes, open spaces, and green belts?

Read this excerpt from *National Wildlife*:

Chickadees Show Why Birds Need Native Trees

4/28/2015 // By [Laura Tangley](#)

Last spring, my Washington, D.C., yard became one of more than 100 study sites in a [three-year research project](#) to investigate **how nonnative trees in cities and suburbs affect the availability of food for birds during the breeding season**. The research focuses on the [Carolina chickadee](#), "a common backyard species that, like most birds, feeds insects to its young," says [Desiree Narango](#), the University of Delaware and [Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center](#) (SMBC) doctoral student who is conducting the project with help from a team of field assistants.



During the breeding season, Carolina chickadees and other birds need *a lot* of insects—in the case of chickadees, more than 5,000 per clutch of hatchlings. Contrary to popular belief, “most birds do not reproduce on berries and seeds,” explains [Doug Tallamy](#), an entomologist at the University of Delaware and one of Narango’s advisors. **“Ninety-six percent of terrestrial birds rear their young on insects.”**

Because native insects did not evolve with nonnative plants, most of them lack the ability to overcome the plants’ chemical defenses so cannot eat them. Caterpillars, a particularly important food source for birds, are especially picky about what they feed on. Like the famous monarch butterfly larva, which must have milkweed to survive, **more than 90 percent of moth and butterfly caterpillars eat only particular native plants or groups of plants.**

To convince homeowners to plant more of these insect- (and bird-) friendly natives, “we need to **put numbers on the consequences of landscaping with nonnative plants,**” Tallamy says.

To certify your property as “wildlife friendly”— visit

[National Wildlife Backyard Wildlife Program](#)

