



CLINTON PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE

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CLINTON WATER FORUM

The Clinton Progressive Association is presenting a free forum on water issues affecting wells and septic systems in Clinton, the state of South Whidbey's groundwater, and the effects of pollution on personal and environmental health and on Puget Sound. The forum takes place on Saturday, March 13 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at Clinton Community Hall, Hwy 525 and Central Avenue.

Learn practical tips from presentations, workshops, displays and discussions with local and regional water quality practitioners. This is a wonderful opportunity for all South Whidbey residents to learn from local experts and discuss issues about water on Whidbey that affect them directly.

All participants will receive a free toilet leak test kit. Everyone will be entered in a drawing to participate in an afternoon expedition aboard the Service, Education & Adventure program vessel *Indigo* to learn more about the shoreline surrounding Clinton. SEA is partnering with Whidbey's ECONetwork to sponsor this and a series of local expeditions. To learn more about SEA go to their website at www.serviceeducationadventure.org.

"Water is the basis of all life," says forum organizer, Carol Flax. "We are surrounded by it here on Whidbey Island – we drink it, cook with it, keep our gardens and farms alive with it, bathe in it and play in it. We cannot survive without it. Yet so many of us mindlessly pollute it – we don't intend to, we act out of ignorance or just don't pay attention to the consequences of our actions. This not only affects the health of our environment, it affects the health of each of us who lives here. This forum will feature a number of fascinating and informative presentations as well as providing practical, easy actions that we can all take to make a difference."

Presenters include

Opening presentation:

Nancy Snow Research & Communications Specialist, Collaborative on Health and the Environment, *Water: What's in it (for us)?*

Water Panel featuring:

Aaron J. Henderson Environmental Health Director, Island County Public Health

Maury Hood Clinton Water District Commissioner and Immediate Past President of the Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts

Doug Kelly Hydrogeologist, Pacific Groundwater Group

Don Lee Co-chair of Island County Water Resources Advisory Committee (moderator)

Afternoon workshops:

Janet Hall Waste Wise Coordinator, WSU Island County Extension

Anza Muenchow President of South Whidbey Tilth, co-manager of Maha Farm CSA, organic food growing and nutrition educator

Stacy Smith, Natural Resource Planner, Whidbey Island Conservation District

Educator on the SEA expedition:

Todd Zackey - Coastal Geographer, Tulalip Tribes Natural & Cultural Resources Dept

There will be displays and information from:

Clinton Water District, Island County Environmental Health, Orca Network, People for Puget Sound, Service Education and Adventure (SEA), South Whidbey Tilth, Transition Whidbey, Whidbey Island Conservation District, Whidbey Watershed Stewards, and others.

Following keynote speaker Nancy Snow's presentation, *Water: What's in it (for us)?* there will be a panel covering water issues affecting wells & septic systems in Clinton, the state of our groundwater, and the effects of pollution on personal & environmental health.

Afternoon workshops include: rain gardens for safe handling of stormwater, compost as a fertilizer and herbicide alternative, and making safe, clean and simple household cleaning products.

Do you know what 'toxicins' are under your kitchen sink, in your laundry room or bathroom? Find out about your cleaning supplies and why they may be harming your septic system and the Puget Sound. Learn to make environmentally-friendly cleaning supplies and take home your own cleaning bucket with supplies. The *Clean and Simple* workshop is offered at half price \$7.50. This is a fabulous opportunity so register today for this fascinating and informative workshop.

Registration opens at 8:30 am at the event, but space is limited, so advance reservations are highly recommended. All presentations are free thanks to a grant from Puget Sound Partnership. The *Clean & Simple* cleaning bucket workshop costs \$7.50. Pre-registration for that workshop is necessary so that materials can be purchased ahead of time.

Lunch will be provided by Whidbey Island Nourishes. WIN is a non-profit, volunteer organization committed to providing nutritious meals on non-school days for children in need on South Whidbey. Lunches include a meat and cheese sandwich, string cheese, fresh fruit, veggie sticks, yogurt and home baked treat - plenty for lunch and a snack! Cost is \$6.00/ea and all profits go to WIN. For any special dietary needs, contact Mary at 360-579-2329 in advance.

Registration forms are available at local libraries and on the CPA web site:
<http://clintoncommunityhall.org>

For more information or to volunteer for the event, visit the website or contact:
info@clintoncommunityhall.org or 360-341-1614.