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Pinchot finds his place in ecosystem

By **JEFF GREEN**

He goes by Marco, but that's only part of the story. His full name is Gifford Pinchot IV.

That's Gifford Pinchot, as in the man who became the first professional forester in the U.S. and founded the first forestry school in the nation at Yale University, and whose legacy includes the Pinchot National Forest northeast of Vancouver and a famous falling out with preservationist icon John Muir.

Marco Pinchot grew up in upstate New York, moved to Washington at age 17 and graduated from The Ever-



Marco Pinchot

green State College in 2000 with a degree in ecology. He started working with Taylor Shellfish south of Shelton in late June two days after receiving master's degrees in business administration and environmental education from the Bainbridge Graduate Institute.

"I work a lot directly with Bill Taylor and Bill Dewey," he said. His job also includes teaching people about shellfish and water-quality issues in Puget Sound. He's also helping develop a sustainability program for the venerable shellfish firm that, among other things, will help measure the en-

vironmental impacts of the firm's operations.

"It's really quite diverse," he said of his job. He recently arranged a tour with the Puget Sound Partnership to show their members a geoduck farm. He also monitors media reports, especially stories about the shellfish industry. Besides those duties, he's teaching 4-H Club members in Quilcene about hard work and the shellfish industry.

"People don't know all the benefits and good this company does," he said of Taylor Shellfish. "We are a socially and environmentally con-

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He's from an eco-friendly family

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scious company."

The firm has a very good record for social activism, he said, noting its concerns for fair pay, health insurance and workers' rights. "They have a very strong ethic for it," he added. "People are very loyal to this company ... You can't fake that kind of loyalty."

His nickname dates back to his childhood when he accompanied his mother on the road when she sold blacksmith and fireplace tools in rural New York and her father took to calling him Marco after Marco Polo. His father ran a blacksmithing business and dairy farm in the Cooperstown area.

Great-grandfather Pinchot was a strong conservationist, but sought practical approaches. "Conservation means the wise use of the Earth and its resources for

the lasting good of men," was one of Pinchot I's quotations.

"His conservation message was way ahead of the time," Marco said. "Each generation has lifted the next up on its shoulders." Marco's father, for example, was a consultant to Fortune 500 companies for 25 years and is also a co-founder and president of the Bainbridge Graduate Institute.

Marco said he learned about Taylor Shellfish through the institute and that his father had heard about the firm. Taylor, he said, is a real leader as a "triple bottom-line business" that includes social, environmental and economic practices as a foundational point of sustainability.

"Unless we practice conservation, those who come after us will have to pay the prices of misery, deg-

radation and failure for the progress and prosperity of our day," his great-grandfather said.

Pinchot I and Muir were at one time friends and fishing buddies, Marco said. Muir helped found the Sierra Club and advocated wilderness protection, while Pinchot believed the nation's natural resources should be used wisely and effectively. "The greatest good to the greatest number for the longest time," he said.

The two men had a falling out over the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a hydroelectric dam proposed in the Yosemite National Park for providing water to San Francisco, 150 miles to the west. Muir fought against the dam, while Pinchot supported it. Congress approved it in 1913 and Muir died a year later.