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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for September 2, 2021

Dear weblinx,

We extend to you our best wishes for the end-of-summer holiday known as Labor Day. This is a long weekend for many people. While Labor Day isn't about doing labor ourselves, nevertheless some of us will surely be doing projects around the house or helping friends and relatives to close out the summer and prepare for fall and winter.

Labor Day is a celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. We are all workers, so we hope you will take time to celebrate your achievements and those of the people you know and love. Along the way, why not celebrate our conservation community? We have come a long way since the Dust Bowl! [Read more...](#)

1. September is resolution time

September is the month when conservation district boards should be considering resolutions for consideration at area association meetings coming up in October. You may want to check in with your [WACD Area Directors](#) for any thoughts they may have. The resolutions process is described at <https://wadistricts.org/about-wacd/resolutions>.

2. News of FarmPAI program announced

The Washington State Conservation Commission reported that the Washington State Housing Finance Commission (WSHFC) approved the creation of the Farmland Protection and Affordability Investment (abbreviated as FarmPAI, and pronounced as FARM PIE) program. With initial funding of \$7 million, FarmPAI will be a source of financing for the acquisition of land for affordable farmland access and long-term conservation. [Read more...](#)

3. NACD awards deadline extended to September 10th

NACD would like your help in promoting the 2021 NACD Service Awards nominations, so they have extended the nomination deadline to Friday, September 10. The NACD Awards Program is a simple way to give national recognition to those in our lives whose contributions make an impact on the conservation of our natural resources. [Read more...](#)

4. WACD award nominations dues October 29th

The nomination forms for WACD's yearly awards are now posted on our main website. If there is someone in our conservation community you feel deserves recognition for their extraordinary effort this year, please consider writing a nomination. Nominations are due back to WACD by October 29th. [Read more...](#)

5. WACD annual conference updates

The WACD annual conference sessions are being planned for presentation virtually during the first three weeks of November. This is the most equitable arrangement for our members which also protects them from undue exposure to COVID-19.

For the annual business meeting, WACD has signed a contract with the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. However, due to the resurgence of COVID-19, that arrangement may become more fluid. For now, we are continuing to plan for a combined "hybrid" business meeting consisting of in-person events with a virtual component for those who wish to attend remotely.

We are beginning to develop web pages for the annual conference and business meeting. Although they are still very much in draft format, please feel free to visit them and offer feedback. Find them at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/>. We would love to hear from you.

Important bits from last week

Area Association meeting dates

Please "Save the Date" for this year's Area Association meetings. Also, look for more information to come from the respective host districts soon as they adapt their plans to new COVID restrictions.

- Wednesday, October 13th – SW Area Meeting hosted by Grays Harbor CD
- Thursday, October 14th – NW area Meeting hosted by Skagit CD
- Tuesday, October 19th – NC Area Meeting hosted by Okanogan CD
- Wednesday, October 20th – NE Area Meeting hosted by Ferry CD
- Tuesday, October 26th – SE Area Meeting hosted by Walla Walla County CD
- Wednesday, October 27th – SC Area Meeting hosted by South Yakima CD

We've published those dates on our [Hub calendar](#) and on [WACD's public website](#).

From your Executive Director

Together, celebrate our conservation community this Labor Day

My reflection this week attempts to connect the dots between the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, the emergence of unions in the United States, and conservation districts. Most of all, though, Labor Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the great achievements of our conservation delivery system and the people who make it work: you. The historical context in my reflection is intended to provide a stronger emphasis on the work you do for natural resources and society. [Read more...](#)

Weekly thought

This week I'm thinking of the courage of Brené Brown who espouses embracing our vulnerability. Putting it all out there takes courage because there is no guarantee we will succeed. We might fail. But there are keen lessons to be learned from such experiences.

"Failure is most useful when you give your best effort. If you fail with a lackluster effort, you haven't learned much. Perhaps you could have succeeded with a proper focus. But if your best effort fails, you have learned something valuable: this way doesn't work." Source: James Clear, plus read his thoughts on [The 3 Stages of Failure in Life and Work \(And How to Fix Them\)](#).

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
exec@wadistricts.org
(360) 999-5151 X101

Partners are important!

Find our list of partners at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/partners-sponsors/partners/>.

- [Friends of NACD](#) – Your contributions provide funding for technical assistance grants to conservation districts.
 - [Washington Conservation Society](#) – WCS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so your contributions are tax-deductible. If you make purchases through Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchases goes to WCS in support of their programs and initiatives.
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- [The Great Resignation Doesn't Have to Threaten Your DE&I Efforts | HBR](#)
- [NACD extends award nomination deadline to September 10](#)
- [Together, celebrate our conservation community this Labor Day](#)
- [Conservation Commission announces news of FarmPAI program](#)
- [What is on the threat board?](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: August 26, 2021](#)
- [Face Coverings and Vaccine Requirements: Where Things Stand as of August 23, 2021 | MRSC](#)
- [USDA to Invest \\$50 Million in New Cooperative Agreements for Racial Justice and Equity](#)
- [Pierce CD looks to fill executive director position](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. Also see the articles WACD staff are reading at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/wacd-reading-list/>.

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1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 999-5151