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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for September 30, 2021

Dear weblinx,

Meetings of Washington's six area associations of conservation districts are next month, and next month starts tomorrow! In November, WACD holds the 2021 annual conference for member districts and partners.

1. WSCC announces appointment of Interim Director

The Washington State Conservation Commission's board of commissioners has unanimously approved the appointment of Kirk Robinson as the interim director. Kirk's first day will be **Monday, October 18**.

WSCC will be seeking participation from conservation districts, SCC staff, commissioners, and our partners as part of the executive director search process. Until that comes to pass, you may [email Chairman Dean Longrie](#) with your comments and feedback.

2. WSCC announces 2022 meeting schedule

During the September 16, 2021 Commission Meeting, Commissioners approved meeting locations and dates for 2022. In the event that in-person meetings are allowed, the meetings and tours will take place on the following dates, conservation district hosts, and locations:

- **January** 19 & 20, 2022 – Snohomish CD – Everett/Edmonds
- **March** 16 & 17, 2022 – Thurston CD – Olympia/Lacey
- **May** 17, 18, & 19, 2022 – Lincoln CD – Davenport/Spokane
- **July** 20 & 21, 2022 – Kittitas County CD – Ellensburg
- **September** 14 & 15, 2022 – Pacific CD – Long Beach/Other TBD
- **December** 1, 2022 – WACD Annual Meeting – TBD

3. How do you benefit from NACD membership?

WACD National Director Doug Rushton has produced a comprehensive summary of benefits that NACD members can access. NACD benefits fall into four main buckets: (1) advocacy, (2) communications and education, (3) direct services to districts, and (4) leadership development.

[Learn more...](#)

4. Updated District Directory available

Find the latest edition of the **District Directory** at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/directory/>. That page is password-protected to help reduce unwelcome use of your contact information. Get

the password from Tom or Ryan at oly@wacd.org.

5. Tree of Heaven and Spotted Lanternfly concerns

The Washington Invasive Species Council, in partnership with the Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington Noxious Weed Control Board, and others, is asking people to **report any sightings of tree-of-heaven to the Washington Invasives app** (find it on [Google Play](#) and in the [Apple App Store](#)). The goal of this campaign is to collect data on the range and density of this noxious weed in addition to raising awareness about the risk of [spotted lanternfly](#), which is an invasive species not known to be in Washington.

Spotted lanternfly would have a profound impact on the grape and apple industries as well as dozens of other economically important crops. Tree-of-heaven serves as the preferred host for spotted lanternfly, so targeting it is one way to increase resistance to the introduction of spotted lanternfly. [Learn more...](#)

In other news...

Deadline for WACD award submissions is October 29th

Every year, WACD recognizes special accomplishments by individuals in natural resource conservation in recognition of the outstanding work accomplished by those in our community. Nominations can be made by anyone, and usually take only a few minutes to write.

We have many awards available to help recognize and celebrate people in all aspects of our conservation work:

1. **NEW THIS YEAR – Associate Supervisor Award** – A conservation district Associate Supervisor (or equivalent) who has made an especially valuable contribution to district conservation programs or to the state conservation movement. All associate supervisors (or equivalent position) appointed by their local conservation district are eligible to receive this award. 2021 will be the first time WACD recognizes the contributions of associate supervisors to our community.
2. **Eugene Schloz Outstanding Supervisor Award** – An active district supervisor or associate supervisor who made an especially valuable contribution to district conservation programs or to the state conservation movement.
3. **Wayne Reid “Young Tiger” Award** – A supervisor or associate supervisor with six years or less who has made an extraordinary effort to assist their district to meet its goals in a short period of time.
4. **Wildlife Farmer of the Year Award** – A cooperator actively engaged in farming, ranching or forestry on over 50 Acres.
5. **Wildlife Steward of the Year** – A cooperator actively engaged in farming, ranching, or forestry on less than 50 Acres.
6. **Conservation District/Tribal Partnership Award** – A successful CD-tribal partnership that demonstrates successful regional conservation.
7. **Special Service Award** – For anyone who has provided assistance on a CD-sponsored project and has made an outstanding achievement and contribution in the field of conservation.
8. **Vim Wright “Building Bridges” Award** – A person within the arena of conservation working to foster understanding, partnership, and greater conservation through collaboration.

9. Conservation Educator of the Year award

10. Conservation District of the Year

Find the form you need to nominate someone at <https://wadistricts.org/wacd-awards>. There is no better time than today to get the ball rolling toward important, welcome recognition.

Area Association meetings are just around the corner

October is annual meeting time for the six area associations of conservation districts in Washington State. 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

If you haven't received information about your area association meeting, or perhaps have misplaced it, WACD is collected information for all six area meetings on the WACD Hub at: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/areas/>

From your Executive Director...

Reflection

In keeping with the idea that appreciating our people is important, I picked up a new book last weekend. [The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace: Empowering Organizations by Encouraging People](#) speaks to the need to express our appreciation and some approaches to doing so. Clearly, the idea that appreciating the great value our people bring to work every day resonates with me. The strength of our conservation delivery system is our people so it's important to do what we can to help them grow and succeed. One quote that hits the heart of the matter is: ***"Why is feeling appreciated so important in a work setting? Because each of us wants to know that what we are doing matters."***

My reflection only skims the surface because I haven't completed the book. If the topic sounds interesting to you – and I hope it does! – [read my latest Executive Corner column](#).

Weekly thought

I'll double down on the concept of appreciation with a quote this week from Stephen King:

"Don't let the sun go down without saying thank you to someone, and without admitting to yourself that absolutely no one gets this far alone."

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
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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.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [New book: The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace](#)
- [Washington Invasive Species Council seeks sightings of invasive Tree-of-Heaven](#)
- [Ecology seeks to fill a Nonpoint Water Quality Specialist position in Lacey](#)
- [How you benefit from your NACD membership](#)
- [Lewis CD is recruiting for an Administrative Assistant](#)
- [NRCS Washington to host Regional Conservation Partnership Program informational webinars](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: September 23, 2021](#)
- [September Board meeting well attended](#)
- [District dues update: September 20, 2021](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: September 16, 2021](#)

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/>.

We appreciate our great sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts. Links: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/partners-sponsors/sponsors/>



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