



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for September 1, 2022

Updated Updated District Directory is Available!

Recently, WACD published an updated district directory dated August 2, 2022. **That edition was updated and a new directory was published on August 30, 2022.**

Find it at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/contacts/>. That page is protected by a simple password to help block robots from harvesting your contact information. The password is eight characters long and is formed by the abbreviation (all in capital letters) for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and the year that WACD was formed. This year, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of WACD's formation in 1942. If those clues don't help you figure out the password, just drop a note to Tom or Ryan at oly@wacd.org to get it!

Dear weblinx,

1 – October Area Meeting Schedule

This year's schedule of fall area association meetings is set. WACD is working with the six host districts to prepare for the yearly sit-down between state leadership and local districts. Some necessary area association business includes electing representatives to the WACD Board of Directors and deliberating resolutions to send to WACD's statewide annual meeting.

- Tuesday, October 11th – Coupeville – NW Area Meeting hosted by Whidbey Island CD
- Wednesday, October 12th – Chehalis – SW Area Meeting hosted by Lewis CD
- Wednesday, October 19th – Waterville – NC Area Meeting hosted by South Douglas CD
- Thursday, October 20th – Davenport – NE Area Meeting hosted by Lincoln County CD
- Tuesday, October 25th – Clarkston – SE Area Meeting hosted by Asotin County CD
- Wednesday, October 26th – White Salmon – SC Area Meeting hosted by Underwood CD

WACD will maintain information about these meetings on the 2022 Area Association Meetings page at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/areas/>. Each host is preparing venue information and will be releasing registration information shortly.

September is the time to be working on resolutions to take to your area association

meeting in October. We will post (soon!) a helpful guidance document about resolutions to the [2022 Area Association meetings page](#).

2 – WACD Annual Conference: Save the Date

The 2022 WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting will be held on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after Thanksgiving at the Wenatchee Convention Center. WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer signed the contracts with the Convention Center for 2022 and 2023 on Monday.

This year marks WACD's 80th anniversary, a remarkable achievement by our conservation community. The draft annual conference page is available at:

<https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/>.

At this stage of planning, we are hoping to have a special session on Monday morning, November 28th, for new supervisors. WACD and the Conservation Commission will likely collaborate on content for this segment. We are also hoping to get a few high-level guests to help with presenting and discussing the Farm Bill. We'll have a WACD President's Reception. We are investigating if there is interest in having conservation district "poster sessions" in the hallways where you could have some one-to-one conversations about district projects and programs. [Your feedback is always welcome](#).

Anyone interested in serving on the Planning Team to help organize conference programming and the other aspects of a statewide conference is asked to contact [Ryan Baye](#).

3 – WACD Award Nominations Now Open

Each year, WACD seeks to recognize those in the community who went above and beyond in their roles. We seek to acknowledge the dedication and special work as noticed by peers and others impacted by the performance of a few special individuals. There are [seven awards now open for nominations](#), ranging from Associate Supervisor of the Year to Educator of the Year and more who might deserve recognition.

4 – WACD 2021 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Stay tuned for the final draft minutes from WACD's 2021 Annual Business Meeting. WACD plans to also make available the Zoom recording of the business meeting. These resources will be helpful to conservation districts as they craft resolutions for discussion and decision this fall.

5 – Plant Materials Center Update

The WACD Plant Materials Center folks are quite busy with fumigating fields so this paragraph will be the PMC update this week. The PMC will soon publish a position announcement for the position filled by their farm equipment wizard, Bill Mulder, who is retiring (congratulations, Bill!). PMC staff are maintaining contacts in the bare root growers community, especi

Fall nears: new schedule for the Five Things

For May, June, July, and August, WACD published the Five Things to Know newsletter twice a month. As fall approaches with all the area association meetings and inklings of potential legislation arise for the 2023 session, we are shifting the publication schedule back to weekly for September, October, and November.

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Conservation District invites everyone to 75th Anniversary open house | Orcasonian.com](#)
- [NACD Hiring Pacific Region Representative](#)
- [Communications and Marketing Specialist - Snohomish CD](#)
- [USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant Open for Applications](#)
- [Jobs: Natural Resources Technician — Clark CD](#)
- [Jobs: Stewardship Forester — Clark CD](#)
- [WSDA seeks Senior Nutrient Management Inspector, SW WA](#)
- [To Make Better Hires, Learn What Predicts Success | HBR](#)
- [Engineer in Training - Snohomish CD](#)
- [Community Conservation Program Manager - Snohomish CD](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. Many news articles that mention Washington State conservation districts are [shared on Flipboard](#). In the [WACD Reading List](#) we capture many articles of interest to segments of our community.

From your Executive Director

WACD's Director of Legislative and Member Services, Ryan Baye, took some well-deserved vacation time this week. One impact of that is I haven't had as much time to dwell on reflections about and for our conservation community. Thus, what follows below this paragraph is more stream-of-consciousness writing than I usually present. I hope the journey through the next paragraphs isn't too convoluted!

Do you look forward or look back?

Here's a quote in the context organizational leadership:

"If you want to steer your organization down the road to change, you have to keep looking forward, through the windshield. By the time opportunities appear in the rear-view mirror, it's too late to take advantage of them." – *Todd Whitaker*, [Leading School Change](#)

And a more personal reflection from Steve Jobs of Apple fame:

"You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something - your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life." - *Steve Jobs*

And finally this one by the singer Enya, which fits the upcoming change in seasons and the commencement of fall area association meetings and the WACD annual conference/meeting:

"The spring, summer, is quite a hectic time for people in their lives, but then it comes to autumn, and to winter, and you can't but help think back to the year that was, and then hopefully looking forward to the year that is approaching." - *Enya*

As I started looking for quotations to help frame my thoughts and my writing, I was intending to focus on looking forward and letting go of past hurts and problems. What was in my mind was simple: once the toothpaste is out of the tube, you can't really put it back. We can't change the past but we can change our future. The first two quotations seem to say opposite things, but they are actually both focused on the future. Enya's quote gently connects our reflections about what has happened with our hopes for what may yet happen.

Coming out of isolation

I am looking forward to the marathon of attending all six area association meetings. Those are always a combination of reactions to what happened in the past and hopeful ideas for what could happen in the future. They cover the concepts expressed in all three quotations. Most importantly, though, they let us reconnect on a more personal, visceral level. I think that is very impactful in 2022 after a few years of not meeting in person.

For example, COVID-induced isolation affected a club I belong to. We didn't meet in person for two years and virtual meetings didn't seem to have much positive energy. When we did get back together in one room, the energy in the room was fantastic. Rather than a ho-hum, it's-another-monthly-meeting kind of atmosphere, people were supercharged and really opened up with each other. It was the most social moment I have ever seen with this club. The spirit in the room was infectious and we've been able to carry that forward through several monthly meetings.

I hope we can do the same in our club/collaborative of conservation districts and partners around the State of Washington. More than ever, we are in this together. More than ever, we are challenged to respond well to more money for programs while still facing so many unknowns and barriers to success. The more energy we invest in looking at the path we've traveled, the less we may have for the journey ahead.

What comes next?

I'll close with some quotations that focus on letting go and being open to what comes next. I hope you find inspiration in a few of them. I certainly do!

"Let go of certainty. The opposite isn't uncertainty. It's openness, curiosity and a willingness to embrace paradox, rather than choose up sides. The ultimate challenge is to accept

ourselves exactly as we are, but never stop trying to learn and grow." – *Tony Schwartz*

"The beautiful journey of today can only begin when we learn to let go of yesterday." – *Steve Maraboli*

"Some people believe holding on and hanging in there are signs of great strength. However, there are times when it takes much more strength to know when to let go and then do it." – *Ann Landers*

"You will find that it is necessary to let things go; simply for the reason that they are heavy. So let them go, let go of them. I tie no weights to my ankles." – *C. Joybell C.*

Yours in conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director

tsalzer@wadistricts.org

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- [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.

We appreciate our great sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/#sponsors>



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

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