



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## 5 Things to Know for September 29, 2022

**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/>

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Dear Thomas,

### 1 – Area Association meetings are just around the corner

Area meeting invitations are now collected at posted on the area association meetings page at:  
<https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/areas/>

Please note that in many cases, you will need to RSVP a few weeks before the event. If you are thinking of attending, please check out the invitation to see the agenda and any requirements for attendance.

### 2 – WACD Annual Conference update

WACD's 80th anniversary [annual conference and business meeting](#) are a little more distant than the October area association meetings. These events are scheduled for November 28, 29, and 30 (Monday-Wednesday) in Wenatchee.

We plan to have some commemorative items for attendees, branded with the Washington State conservation C logo and, in some cases, the theme for the 80th anniversary events:

### *Conservation is Everyone's Business*

, Ryan Baye, found a nearly identical slogan from the 1963 WACD Annual Meeting in Wenatchee, so in honor of our past, we are resurrecting it for this year's meetings.

Monday: November 28th: We'll have a special session in the morning for new supervisors. After lunch, we are planning a session on inclusion that will include stories from conservation districts and discussion of concerns that have been raised. After that, attendees will be able to visit vendor tables and talk to conservation district folks as they present "poster sessions" on a successful district program or project. Before dinner we'll have a President's Reception, then

dinner.

Tuesday, November 29th: Tuesday morning dawns with a focus on the future, i.e., the Farm Bill. We are still seeking a keynote speaker and are hoping to get some high-level folks to attend to help us all understand what's ahead with the Farm Bill. After lunch, the Washington State Conservation Commission has an afternoon of program topics to share. We'll have a banquet dinner that night and it appears the Envirothon auction will be happening then, too.

Wednesday, November 30th: Wednesday will be the annual business meeting where we hear about the work of WACD and where voters discuss and decide on resolutions.

### 3 – Return of the Wildlife Awards!

After hearing the renewed interest in honoring the local co-operators CDs work with day in and day out, the Board of Directors voted to re-authorize the awarding of WACD's Wildlife Farmer and Wildlife Steward Awards. In addition, there will be recognition for large and small scale co-operators. Please consider writing a nomination for one of the new awards or [one of the other eight awards](#) WACD hopes to grant this years. All nominations are due October 28th.

- Wildlife Steward Award - [Nomination Form Available Here](#)
- Large Farmer Award - [Nomination Form Available Here](#)
- Small Farmer Award - [Nomination Form Available Here](#)

### 4 – San Juan Islands CD celebrates 75th anniversary

WACD congratulates the San Juan Islands Conservation District on their 75th anniversary since the district was formed. Much has changed in 75 years, but one thing that hasn't changed is the focus of conservation districts in serving private landowners in their community. SJICD excels at this.

If you'd like a glimpse of the festivities from their recent celebration, some [photos are collected in a two-slide PowerPoint file in PDF format](#). These photographs are a snapshot of their event!

### 5 – Preliminary report on the effectiveness of riparian programs

At the end of the 2022 legislative session, in the final budget, funding was set aside for the Office of Financial Management dedicated to evaluating the effectiveness of voluntary and regulatory riparian programs.

A preliminary report by the law firm hired to conduct the evaluation is now available on OFM's [website](#). A final version is yet to come, but we expect it to adhere rather closely to the preliminary language. We also expect this report (and another one being prepared by WDFW) to color the upcoming conversations with the new Legislature.

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## Washington Conservation Society

### Environmental Education Mini-grants

A key goal of the Washington Conservation Society (WCS) is to support educational opportunities for youth by sponsoring environmental/conservation education programs in

Washington State. To that end, the WCS will set aside an annual contribution, the amount to be determined by the WCS Board of Directors, which will be utilized to provide grants to members to assist in funding environmental/conservation education programs for youth as the first priority for funding. [Applications are accepted until November 1st.](#)

### **Leaving a Legacy Program**

Each year, WCS publishes Leaving a Legacy, a memorial and celebratory book of conservationists who have made a notable impact on the natural resources in Washington State. Inductees include past and present Supervisors, district volunteers, and agency partners. The book includes photos and biographical information. More information about the program and a digital copy of [the book can be found on the WCS website.](#)

If you are aware of a past conservation district supervisor or employee who has passed, please reach out to the WCS folks so that they can seek information for the Leaving a Legacy book.

### **Become a Member**

The goals of the WCS are to support conservation activities, natural resource education programs, and to recognize and honor individuals who exemplify the ethic and practice of sound conservation principles. Your membership directly supports WCS's Environmental Education Mini-grant Program. [Become a member today.](#)

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## **Recent Posts on the Hub**

- [We Are in Period of Transformation](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: September 22, 2022](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: September 15, 2022](#)
- [CARCD is Seeking an Executive Director](#)
- [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](#)

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.

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## **From your Executive Director**

## WACD DEI Resources page

Last week, I wrote an [Executive Corner column](#) that ranges across a variety of topics that eventually lead to announcing the new [WACD DEI Resources page](#) on diversity, equity, and inclusion. I repeat that announcement here so that folks who might be interested in this topic don't miss it.

Your WACD staff are working hard to prepare a great annual conference for you. I look forward to visiting with you in Wenatchee at the end of November!

Yours in conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director  
[tsalzer@wadistricts.org](mailto:tsalzer@wadistricts.org)

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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.

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## 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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