



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

5 Things to Know for October 6, 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/>

Conservation is Everyone's Business

The theme for the 2022 WACD annual conference is: **Conservation is Everyone's Business!**

Conservation



Is Everyone's Business

Ryan Baye, WACD's Director of Member and Legislative Services, found this slogan in the WACD archives from a long past WACD annual conference. The concept still holds true so we have resurrected that theme for WACD's 80th-anniversary annual conference in Wenatchee.

Dear Thomas,

1 – Area Association meetings start next week

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

WACD staff will be attending every area association meeting so over the next two weeks, we may be a bit slower to respond to your requests than usual.

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.

Procuring branded items for conference attendees is underway. We have a draft framework for the conference and are still identifying key speakers for sessions.

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 concerns people may have with incorporating inclusion into their district programs and services. After that, attendees will be able to visit vendor tables and talk about conservation projects at district poster sessions. 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 – Conservation Month is March

The Washington State Conservation Commission has designated March 2023 as Conservation Month.

During the month of March, and in the weeks leading up to it, the Commission will engage in broad public outreach on the work of conservation districts to encourage public engagement with districts. The idea of a conservation month was one of the 4 items identified by the JCE [Joint Committee on Elections] as something that could be done to increase district engagement and hopefully increase public participation in conservation district elections.

The Commission also approved a legislative approach that supports the recommendations of the [Joint Committee on Elections](#) plus some compromise language that was helping to move those recommendations forward. Transparency was important to legislators, so if districts were on the general election ballot, supervisors would have to file a financial disclosure statement with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). The idea behind having a Commission-required financial statement is to provide some disclosure while not invoking the more detailed reporting that would be required in a PDC financial disclosure statement.

5 – Plant Material Center news

Along with an update from the PMC, we bring news of the Missouri Gravel Bed project headed by Assistant Nursery Manager John Knox. That project is presented in **Promising News for Autumn Bare Root Planting** ([click here for the PDF document](#)). Register to hear John Knox (PMC) speak to this on October 20 (registration is free): [Extending the Bareroot Planting Window Tickets, Thu, Oct 20, 2022 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

You can read more about this in the [October 6 PMC update!](#)

Middle Fork Hoquiam Tidal Restoration Project

Grays Harbor Conservation District's ten-minute documentary film captures a local tidal habitat restoration project that was six years in the making. This film, showed to attendees of the Commission tour of Pacific CD two weeks ago, provides a first-hand look at the planning and construction that took place in the summer of 2021 to restore rare Sitka spruce tidal habitat on the Middle Fork Hoquiam River at a site developed over a century ago as a railroad log dump. See it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6PXDeASxw8>



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.](#)

Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: October 6, 2022](#)

- [WACD PMC seeking Farm Operations Supervisor](#)
- [Okanogan Land Trust Seeks a Conservation Associate](#)
- [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](#)

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

Local Work Groups

The National Conservation Planning Partnership, aka the NCPP, recently published guidelines on Local Work Groups. That information may prove helpful to you as you work through the LWG process. Get the PDF: [LWG Guidebook.pdf](#) | [Powered by Box](#)

Oregon and Washington working together?

I will be attending the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts' annual meeting early in November. The OACD Executive Director and I are talking about how we may be able to work together to more effectively support and guide certain conservation programs. Many of the conservation needs in Oregon are much the same as in Washington. She may also attend our WACD annual conference.

Staff capacity is limited

WACD's staff capacity is somewhat reduced this season as other responsibilities tug at our time and energy. We may need some volunteers to help with the WACD annual conference. You would be doing things like welcoming attendees, shepherding individual sessions, and guiding attendees to particular places like vendor booths, poster sessions, and meeting rooms. I'm sure we can offer reduced registration for volunteers so if you'd like to help us out, please [contact Ryan and me](#).

A new way to get the District Directory

We have been experiencing a mysterious problem with a few of our websites, and that problem has interfered with the ability to download the latest District Directory. Let's just call it "The Directory" for a moment. If you took those two words together with no space between them, and added that to <https://hub.wadistricts.org/> then you would have direct access to the

Directory. Maybe describing it this way will fool the robots that roam the web, looking for personal information to harvest. I hope so! If you have trouble getting the Directory, please [reach out to Ryan and me](#) and we'll send you the direct link.

Conservation district successes

If you would like to see a collection of news stories about Washington conservation districts, check out the [Flipboard online magazine](#) we maintain. It looks great on a mobile device but it works fine on a desktop or laptop computer, too.

Closing thoughts from James Clear

Some thoughts from James Clear, a writer and thinker I follow...

He starts by talking about negativity, concluding with this statement:

Negative things happen. Negative mindsets make them harder.

And then he moves on to success and failure:

Balancing success and failure is a tricky thing. I'd say 8 or 9 times out of 10, you should be succeeding. Build momentum. Accumulate advantages. Feast on the feeling of success and let it feed your desire to do more.

But 1 or 2 times out of 10, you should be failing. Push yourself and reach beyond your current grasp. Force yourself to try uncomfortable things. Occasionally you will surprise yourself and the rest of the time you will learn.

Win enough to keep progressing. Lose enough to keep learning.

Yours in conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director
tsalzer@wadistricts.org

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.

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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