



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## **5 Things to Know for November 17, 2022**

Just a week-and-a-half until members gather together in Wenatchee for WACD's 80th-anniversary conference!

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# Conservation



## **Is Everyone's Business**

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## Dear Thomas,

We are a week-and-a-half away from opening the 2022 WACD annual conference. Today's edition of the Five Things focuses strongly on the annual conference and business meeting. Next week we'll shift our Five Things focus to legislative matters, both current and future.

### 1 – WACD annual conference update (November 28 & 29)

#### Specific changes:

- **Conference web page on the Hub is updated.** If you are typing the link, use the short link ( <https://hub.wadistricts.org/conference> ), otherwise the full link is a bit faster: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/>
- **More than 100 people are registered** and more registrations are coming in daily. It looks like we can a good-sized bunch of people this year!
- **Many speakers are confirmed.** Find them on the [Sessions tab](#) and photos/bios on the [Speakers tab](#).
- **The sponsor list is growing.** [Support from our sponsors](#) offsets some costs of the conference, allowing more people to participate. They provide welcome information and the conference is a great time to have an in-person conversation with them. Reminder: sponsors are welcome year round!
- **Partner reports are available.** WACD's partners are key members of our conservation community. We encourage you to [review their posted reports](#).
- **Don't forget about the Envirothon auction!** This year's [Envirothon Auction](#) is back in person and Washington State Envirothon (WSE) needs your support. The auction will be held on Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm. Donated items are still being accepted by filling out this form. A few suggestions include gift certificates, baskets, beer or wine, or locally crafted items. All proceeds will support the Washington State Envirothon team on their road to the North American competition. With your support, WSE hopes to help students prepare themselves for this year's competition and to become future leaders in the environmental and natural resources fields. WSE greatly appreciates any contributions, big or small.

#### Monday, November 28

On Monday, the focus of the conference is inward. Monday morning features a session for new supervisors which should also be of value to new managers. Monday afternoon we have conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion, including stories of what people are trying and capturing issues and concerns from the community. After that is a poster session (hallway displays) with conservation districts and vendors to talk with, too. We close the day with a President's Reception to celebrate WACD's 80th anniversary and have dinner together.

#### Tuesday, November 29

On Tuesday, we flip to a more outward view. The opening session will have several partners greeting attendees before we launch into learning about work on the new Farm Bill. Then we'll hear from our lobbyist, Brynn Brady, and two legislators about what they see coming in the next legislative session.

After lunch, the Washington State Conservation Commission has a full afternoon of future-focused topics for attendees. A banquet dinner will be held that evening, along with the

Envirothon auction.

Here are some of the speakers you'll see at the annual conference:



## 2 – Annual business meeting update (November 30)

On Wednesday, November 30, the Association's members will gather to do six things:

- Approve the minutes of last year's business meeting
- Hear reports from WACD committees and work groups
- Discuss and decide on resolutions
- Discuss and decide on bylaws changes proposed by the Board of Directors
- Elect WACD officers
- Address new business brought from the floor

Find links to information on the [Business meeting tab](#) and on the [Resolutions tab](#).

### 3 – WACD Board of Directors meeting Monday, November 21

WACD's Board of Directors will hold a regular business meeting at 6:00 pm on Monday, November 21st. The meeting notice and draft agenda are available on the Board Meetings page at: <https://wadistricts.org/board-of-directors>

### 4 – Preparing for the DEI session on November 28

As part of WACD's work to perform the tasks in WACD's three-year DEI action plan, a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion resources page was published: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/resources/dei/>

We recommend that you review the information on that page. This is especially important if you will be attending the DEI session on Monday, November 28th. If nothing else, please read the first section on Getting Started with DEI. That should help create a productive frame for you as you hear and participate in the Monday afternoon session.

### 5 – Plant Materials Center update

It has been a busy week for WACD's Plant Material Center staff and crew! They have been working on frost control to protect plants from damage and simultaneously trying to complete fall seedbed planting. They are taking a week off from their regular updates, but you can read all previous updates at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/topics/wacd/pmc/>

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## Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Taking Soil Health Principles to Practice: SoilCon 2023](#)
- [2023 Legislature convenes](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: November 10, 2022](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: November 3, 2022](#)
- [OACD Recruiting for Executive Director](#)
- [NRCS has a new website](#)
- [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#)
- [Committees vote on resolutions](#)
- [Committees review resolutions](#)
- [Riparian Plant Propagation Program Manager](#)

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

### *I am thankful for many things*

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am thankful for many things. Something I am thankful for is the greater awareness I now have for how other people perceive and respond differently than I do. I always assumed others experienced the world the same way I did; I am thankful that my eyes are now open wide to this epiphany. That moment when you recognize that your perceptions are so utterly different than another person's view of the same thing is a powerful moment!

Thanksgiving Day is celebrated by some not as a moment to remember with thanks our collective journey to this moment and to this place, but instead as a [day of mourning](#). What we were taught in school may not always reflect the reality that was experienced by various people in past times.

This is a confusing thought because we were raised to trust our teachers and believe what they taught us. Why would they knowingly teach us false or inaccurate information? Because they didn't do it knowingly. They passed on what they learned.

It's hard to feel thankful when you confront this idea head on, when you grasp that at some point in the past, descriptions of events were characterized in a way to make those events good and wholesome for one group of people. Even though I wasn't there, I'm uncomfortable facing this realization.

And yet...I do feel thankful. While I can't change the past, I can work on contributing to a better future. In that context, I am thankful to be part of a community that cares deeply about people and natural resources. I am thankful that so many people in our conservation community passionately "bring it" every day as they serve their local communities.

I am thankful we have people brave enough to speak from their hearts and thankful that we have people humble enough to pause and really listen to what their peers are saying. I am thankful that I can find value in every person I meet, no matter their background or station in life.

As a geologist, I know very well that we share this big rock in space. We are all dependent upon the limited natural resources available to us. Unlike many people, we also understand that how we use those resources affects not only the present, but also the future. We each come from a different mental/emotional/cultural space, and this makes our conversations richer as we work to ensure that the people we serve have the natural resources they need today and for generations to come.

With so much negativity available to us through so many venues, it can be hard to remember how precious it is that we can come together over this shared concern. Despite the many differences in our backgrounds and upbringing, the glue that binds us together is our concern for people and natural resources. This powerful force transcends our many delightful differences. I am thankful to be part of such a great, caring community of people.

Always yours in conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director

## 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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## Pass it on!

Please pass this newsletter on to others in our conservation community so they can subscribe and be as informed as you are!

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1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 999-5151

MailPoet