



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## Five Things to Know for July 20, 2023

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### Ron's Celebration of Life

A memorial has been announced, 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 6, 2023 at the Calvary Chapel Church in Olympia located at 919 Division St. NW, Olympia, WA 98502. Additional information is available in the [full invitation](#). An online viewing option will be available at the [YouTube page for the Calvary Chapel Church](#). Also available is [Ron's obituary](#), for anyone interested in learning more about his life.



Remembering Ron Shultz  
*September 10, 1963 – July 1, 2023*

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## FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

**1 – Heather Wendt Hired as Director of Development & Engagement**

WACD is happy to announce the selection of Heather Wendt as our new Director of Development and Engagement.

Heather comes to us after more than twenty years with Benton and Franklin CDs, starting as a Resource Conservationist and rising to Assistant Manager. She has been recognized for her outstanding performance multiple times and we are very happy to have her join the Executive Office.

Heather will begin August 1st in this newly created position. Her main focus will be developing new business opportunities for WACD and helping to provide long-sought educational opportunities for district supervisors. You can read [Tom's announcement](#) on the WACD Hub.



## 2 - WACD Dues Letter

Each year, WACD seeks funding from our member-districts to continue its operations. We hope the organization has justified your financial support, and will continue to do so. A letter written by WACD's Executive Director Tom Salzer and attached to this year's dues statement that was sent to all conservation districts is [now available on the WACD Hub](#) if it wasn't shared at your most recent district meeting.

## 3 - State Legislative & Elections Update

WACD Lobbyist Brynn Brady provided a [mid-month update](#) on 2024 campaigns for statewide and legislative elections, including newly announced candidates for Governor, Attorney-General, and Public Lands Commissioner.

## 4 - Area Director Vacancies

WACD is still seeking Supervisors to serve on its Board of Directors. There are current vacancies in the NW, SC, and SE areas. There are two representatives from each of WACD's six areas to the state association's Board of Directors. The Board oversees the actions of the association, the activities of WACD staff, and the operations of WACD's Plant Materials Center. Please contact [Ryan Baye](#) if you are interested or have questions.

## 5 - Tom on Vacation, Contact Ryan

WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer is honoring a last wish from his mother and several requests from his wife's family by taking a long vacation, the first in several years. Tom should be back in the saddle around Monday, August 7. Until then, please contact Ryan Baye by [email](#) or by phone (360-999-0361) for assistance with WACD matters.

## Upcoming

### 2023

- **August 23-25:** [NACD Pacific and Southwest Region meeting — South Lake Tahoe, CA](#)
- **September 18:** [WACD Board of Directors meeting](#) — online
- **September 20-21:** [State Conservation Commission tour and meeting — Clarkston, WA](#)
- **November 27-29:** WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting — Wenatchee, WA
- **November 30:** [State Conservation Commission meeting — Wenatchee, WA](#)

### 2024



## **(Interim) Executive Corner: The Essence of Joy**

### **From Ryan Baye**

For those who knew Ron, you might be wondering if this picture was photoshopped. Because he was a die-hard Huskey fan, seeing him in Cougar gear left me in shock when I found it. All I can tell you it was taken in early 2011 where's he's posing with former WACD Lobbyist Jim Jesernig. I thought it was a photo worth sharing with our readership and make it the inspiration for my (Interim) Executive Corner.

Ron was never quiet in his support for the University of Washington. I've heard stories about his epic rivalries with Washington State University alumni in our community, sometimes ten or fifteen years after a notable event. From what I saw first-hand, joy was at the center of that competitive spirit. He did it because it made him happy. It seemed to spark something special, not just within him but also those he jousts with when UW would win the Apple Cup.

Finding those gold nuggets can be precious. Last week I put over 1000 miles on the WACD vehicle driving to five conservation district meetings around the state. It was my second road trip of the year, after a eight-day jaunt in May visiting seven CDs. After both road trips I found myself energized and excited to re-engage with work that previously felt a little grey and dull. Getting out from behind my computer to see the landscape, visit with some of our member-districts face to face, and listen to what everyone is working on sounds exciting to me.

We all have different activities that get our engine revving. It makes sense, we are all different people with different backgrounds and different experiences. Or as the poster read in my childhood bedroom, "If we're all thinking alike, no one is thinking very much". But finding that essence of joy isn't easy. And what makes us happy can also change over time as different aspects of our lives change.

When individuals don't have those moments of happiness and contentment, it causes our community to suffer. We all want a happy and healthy community, because people at their best can give their best. Ron seemed to find a lot of joy in his work, and I say that because not many people spend their lives in politics and government policies if they don't enjoy it. I'd

argue that satisfaction made him better at his job.

I'll close with an encouragement to everyone who reads this, please take stock of what holds an essence of joy for you. If you're looking for a starting point, Julie Andrews' "My Favorite Things" provides a good list including raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens in *The Sound of Music*. Whether it be a collegiate rivalry, a roundtrip, or crisp apple strudel, find those things that make you happy and live your life to the fullest.

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## Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Heather Wendt Hired as Director of Development & Engagement](#)
- [WACD Dues Letter](#)
- [Washington State Legislative & Elections Update – July 19, 2023](#)
- [Conservation District, Colville Tribes and ranchers work together to restore Antoine Valley Creek | Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune](#)
- [What is South Sound GREEN?](#)
- [No-Till Drill Seeding Machines Now Available to Rent at Farm Store Thanks to Lewis County Conservation District Program - The Daily Chronicle](#)

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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