



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Five Things to Know for November 24, 2023

In this issue:

1. **Thank You, Sponsors!**
2. **WACD Annual Conference Information**
3. **WA State Shrubsteppe Resiliency Virtual Presentation**
4. **WACD Board Retreat**
5. **Envirothon Auction Items Reminder**

Also:

- Support Washington State Envirothon
 - Upcoming Events
 - Executive Corner
 - Latest Posts on the Hub
 - Latest on the Reading List
 - Thank you 2022-2023 sponsors, welcome to 2023-2024 sponsors
-
-

Thank you to the 2023 WACD Annual Meeting Sponsors



1 – Thank You, Sponsors!

Thank you to the 27 entities and individuals who partnered with us on this year's conference. Their funding is crucial to helping us deliver the best training and content to our member conservation districts. We value their partnership and appreciate their support.

To learn more about our sponsors visit our sponsors page on the HUB:
<https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2023meetings/conference/#sponsors>.

2 – WACD Annual Conference Information

The Conference is Next Week!

Regular Registration has ended but you can still register. [Register here](#). Reserve your lodging accommodations using one of the methods shown below.

Not Attending in Wenatchee? Participate Virtually

The Annual Conference and Business Meeting will also have a virtual participation component so those unable to travel to Wenatchee can still participate. [Register for virtual participation here](#).

Hotel Accommodations

There are three ways to make hotel reservations at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel:

1. Call the hotel directly at [509-662-1234](tel:509-662-1234) and indicate you are booking with the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.
2. Call the hotel's toll-free line at [800-716-6199](tel:800-716-6199) and ask for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts conference to book the room.
3. Reserve online at [Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel](#).

We look forward to seeing you in Wenatchee!

Conference Speakers

The details for our speakers have been finalized, we are thrilled to highlight a few more of them below:

- **Dr. Allen Sutton** – Executive Director for Equity Education, WSU
- **Caleb Griffin** – Pacific Region Representative, NACD
- **Nate Gallahan** – State Public Affairs Specialist, NRCS

You can view our entire conference schedule and speaker bios on the WACD Hub [Annual Conference page](#).



3 – WA State Shrubsteppe Resiliency Virtual Presentation

Join us on Monday November 27th at 10 am for a special presentation by WDFW & WSCC staff on the **Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI)**.

During the 2021 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$2.35 million from the state general fund to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to restore and protect shrubsteppe habitat in Eastern Washington amid the threat of wildfires. These operating funds are to be appropriated each biennium (two-year period). An additional \$1.5 million of capital funds to rebuild wildlife-friendly fences in prioritized areas will be available through June 2023.

WDFW formed a steering committee in partnership with the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to make decisions on how to use new state funding to benefit wildlife by restoring shrubsteppe habitat, implementing species-specific recovery actions, and supporting working lands in Eastern Washington.

This is an all-virtual presentation that is being offered in addition to our regular conference programming. You do not need to be registered for the conference to attend. [Click here](#) to join the presentation.

4 – WACD Board Retreat

The WACD Board of Directors voted at their meeting this week to hold a work session/mini-retreat on Monday morning, November 27th from 9 AM - 12 PM at the Wenatchee Convention Center as part of the Annual Conference. Information will be posted on our Board of Directors page [online](#).

5 – Envirothon Auction Items Reminder

Do not forget to bring your auction items to the WACD Annual Conference to support the Envirothon. **Money raised during this auction will allow Washington State Envirothon to continue opening doors to the environmental field for all students.** The Envirothon competition is an experiential and educational gateway for students across Washington state to display their knowledge and passion for critical environmental topics. Today's Envirothon students will become tomorrow's leaders in the stewardship of our natural resources!

Support Washington State Envirothon



Support Washington State Envirothon

at WACD's 2023 Annual Meeting Auction

November 28th, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

All proceeds will support the WA State Envirothon team on their road to Nationals.



For more details or to make a donation please contact Chloe Steffes at chloe.steffes@kingcd.org

Upcoming Events

2023

- **November 27-29:** [WACD Annual Conference and Business Meeting](#) — Wenatchee, WA
- **November 30:** [State Conservation Commission meeting – Wenatchee, WA](#)

2024

- **January 8:** [Washington State Legislature short session begins](#)
- **January 15:** [WACD Regular Board Meeting](#)
- **January 18:** [State Conservation Commission meeting – Lacey, WA](#)
- **February 10-14:** [NACD 78th annual meeting – San Diego, California](#)

Executive Corner

Why the WACD annual conference is necessary

As I write this, I'm in that strange moment between Thanksgiving gluttony and the nervous anticipation of another WACD annual conference and business meeting. Part of me wants to take a nap, maybe do a little online shopping, or just take the day off. The other part of me is mentally massaging all the bits and pieces required for WACD to deliver a great conference experience to our members and partners. Which side won? Well, I'm in the office, working on this newsletter and packing boxes for the trip to Wenatchee on Sunday!

Why might I be a bit nervous? I'm thinking about the people in our conservation community. We are quite the blend of unique individuals! We have extroverts and introverts. People who live for the detail and people who see the world as if it was painted with a very wide brush. Some folks adore the rigor that rules provide and help everyone adhere to those rules; others see rules as something more flexible, perhaps more like guidelines *à la* Hector Barbossa:

"First, your return to shore was not part of our negotiations nor our agreement, so I must do nothing. And secondly, you must be a pirate for the Pirate's Code to apply, and you're not. And thirdly, the Code is more what you'd call guidelines than actual rules." — [Hector Barbossa](#)

We have people who govern and people who are governed. Scientists, writers, artists, even poets. Farmers and ranchers and forest owners, oh my! Elected officials, appointed officials, and folks who want to be officials.

We have people who track the money and people who love the technology. Talkers and listeners, movers and shakers. People who are overtly passionate about this work, and quiet doers who are the rocks we all lean on, whether we realize it or not.

Our community has people who bring peace and grace with them whenever they enter a room, and people who touch others with their always vibrating bubble of energy. We have optimists and pessimists, people who hope and those who see the world through a more cynical lens.

In this cacophony of disparate, divergent people and their points of view, how in the world are we to come together in a spirit of camaraderie and collegiality? This is what keeps me up at night. The web that connects all of us — our belief in voluntary conservation — is simultaneously fragile and resilient. It is fragile when we let our passion overrule our intellect. It is resilient when we recognize ourselves as we gaze around the room. What is terribly important is to extend grace and patience to each other, just as we would like those courtesies extended to us.

And now I'm coming to the part about why the WACD conference is so important. It is important because it brings us all together to celebrate the invisible glue that connects us. That act strengthens our connection with each other. We debate issues, and as we encounter points of view that differ from where we stand, we learn to appreciate that many of our conservation issues are more convoluted, more complicated, and more contradictory than we might have imagined.

We hear from board members and agency people, from elected officials and conservation professionals, and from many others as each issue is discussed. Eventually, we learn the will of the majority. When the majority view aligns with our point of view, we cheer. When it doesn't align with how we think or with our beliefs, we feel pain or frustration or even anger. (Please be aware that as resolutions are debated and decided, some of your community members are feeling validated and some are feeling pushed away.)

Every year there are surprises during the conference. To close this missive, let me draw a frame around what has made calendar year 2023 so unique and challenging for many in our community:

- We lost a person who believed in the conservation delivery system 1,000% and gave himself to it for many years. I was privileged to work alongside Ron Shultz during my time with the State Conservation Commission. He was a tireless, doggedly persistent champion of conservation districts. To say he will be missed barely scratches the surface. It is hard to imagine a WACD conference without him there. I will feel the echoes of his years of contributions even as I occasionally catch myself looking for him.
- Our State Conservation Commission has been taking some hits because of the transition from one Executive Director to another. At the same time, the number of Commission staff continues to grow. There is tension in the system as the Commission works through the process of replacing leadership and growing its own capacity. Even though this journey has felt a bit rocky at times, we are headed to a better destination!
- Wow, there are a lot of new people in our community! What a blessing to see so many new faces at all layers of our conservation community. This presents each of us with opportunities to help people feel welcome and heard. It's too easy for those of us who have been around the block a few times to accidentally squash the energy of new community members. I urge you to instead be a sponge that listens to their ideas (no matter how crazy they might seem!). Soak up some of their energy. They are, after all, the future of our community!

OK, that's deep enough. WACD staff are looking forward to seeing everyone in a few days. At times, we may seem too busy to talk, but do it anyway. Serving you is why we are here, after all!

My closing quote is from Eeyore, and I hope we can hear his voice in our minds as we swirl together in a wild dance of ideas, learning, and perspectives!

| “A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference.” — [Eeyore](#)

Always yours for conservation,

Tom Salzer, WACD Executive Director

Latest Posts on the Hub

- [Asotin County CD is seeking a Resource Technician](#)
- [Whidbey Island CD is seeking a Stewardship Forester](#)
- [Clark Conservation District annual native plant sale coming soon - The Reflector](#)
- [Skagit Conservation District receives grant for Colony Creek](#)
- [Clackamas SWCD WeedWise Specialist - Mt. Hood](#)
- [Palouse CD: Education & Outreach Manager](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. We capture many articles of interest to our community in the [WACD Reading List](#).

Latest on the Reading List

- [Gray and Oregon Road fires were among the most destructive in Washington history | The Spokesman-Review](#)
 - [How researchers, farmers and brewers want to safeguard beer against climate change | AP News](#)
 - [USDA plant hardiness zone map update gardeners climate warming : NPR](#)
 - [Climate change is hastening the demise of Pacific Northwest forests - Columbia Insight](#)
 - [Farm bill, funding updates | WAWG](#)
 - [Addressing the Elephant in the Room | Psychology Today](#)
-

- [AgWest](#)
- [AGPRO](#)
- [Arrowleaf Consulting](#)
- [Aspect Consulting](#)
- [Banner Bank](#)
- [Country Financial](#)
- [BFI Native Seeds](#)
- Larry Davis (individual sponsor)
- [Edward Jones](#)
- [Enduris](#)
- [envu](#)
- [JTI](#)
- [KR Creative Strategies](#)
- [McGregor Company](#)
- [Monaghan Consulting](#)
- [Odessa Trading Co.](#)
- [Plants of the Wild](#)
- [Rainier Seeds](#)
- [RDO Equipment Co.](#)
- Tom Salzer (individual sponsor)
- [Springbrook Express](#)
- [Tapteal Native Plants](#)
- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [Washington State Conservation Commission](#)
- [Weyerhaeuser](#)
- [Wilbur-Ellis](#)

Thank you to 2022-2023 sponsors

Our generous sponsors for 2022-2023 have helped carry us forward to the 2023 annual conference, and we thank them very their wonderful support.

Welcome 2023-2024 sponsors!

We have a great list of sponsors for WACD's 2023 Annual Conference. While you will recognize some of these entities as long-time supporters of conservation, many are new. Their support helps WACD provide the annual conference and business meeting at a reasonable cost for our members.

WACD encourages you to consider patronizing sponsors in appreciation of their important support: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/#sponsors>

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!

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Visit the Hub to stay informed!

<https://hub.wadistricts.org>

We welcome your [feedback](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#) | [Contact WACD support](#) | [Send us feedback](#)

1219 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 999-5151

MailPoet