



SCD Winter 2015 Newsletter

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Mondays in March; register online today!

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Place Your Order Online for the Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale



The Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale is open for orders online at treesale.sccd.org. Orders can also be placed in person or by mail. You can access an order form to print and mail at www.sccd.org or call 509-535-7274 to request a brochure by mail. The pick-up days and surplus sale are April 10 from 8am to 5pm and April 11 from 9am to 1pm.

This year, the featured specie is a drought tolerant grass called Dallas Blues (photo at left). It is sold in 1-gallon pots for \$8 each. Dallas Blues is a grass with bold appearance and can be used to make a screen, or it can be planted as an ornamental in a xeriscape or low-water landscape. The blades are blue and contrast with the pink colored plumage that blooms around August.



Like last year, the hot species are the edible ones like Blue Elderberry, Trailing Blackberry and Heritage Everbearing Raspberry (photos below). This reflects our customers' growing interest in food forests and permaculture. Look for the fork and knife icon in the brochure to find things that are easy to eat like berries as well as others that require creative preparation like Kinnickinnick or Woods Rose.



Another category of interest from last year was windbreaks. In response, we loaded our brochure with effective windbreak species including Rocky Mountain Juniper, Caragana, Norway Spruce, Scots Pine and Ponderosa Pine.

It's also a good year for Christmas Tree Planting from our selection. Concolor Fir, Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir, Grand Fir, Norway Spruce, and Scots Pine are all in stock and noted for their holiday uses on the National Christmas Tree Association website, www.realchristmastrees.org.

If you have any questions, call and ask to speak with one of our foresters, 509-535-7274.

**FROM THE
GROUND UP**



New Employee

We are happy to announce our new employee, Cori Turntine, as Contracts and Compliance Specialist!

Cori grew up in Spokane Valley and graduated from Eastern Washington University with her accounting degree in 2007. Upon graduation, she was hired by the Washington State Auditor's Office and was there until she accepted the position with SCD in November 2014.

"I'm excited to be working for SCD," said Cori. "The staff is great, the work is interesting, and I get to utilize the knowledge and skills I gained from my experience with the Auditor's Office."

Cori's position at SCD was created to increase efficiency with our complicated grants, loans, contracts and audits. This allows our field staff to get out of the office and get conservation on the ground!

Send an email to cori-turntine@sccd.org that says, "Welcome!" and receive a free SCD reusable shopping bag. First 5 only.



Water Resources Department Major Accomplishments of 2014

The Water Resources Department at SCD always has an impressive list of annual accomplishments, and 2014 was no exception. Not only did they continue their existing array of major programs, projects and events, they added two loan and grant programs to our offerings. These programs help landowners to protect water quality, and because they are loan based, they also benefit the taxpayer, giving conservation a financial return on investment as well as an environmental one.



On-Site Septic System Financial Assistance Program (OSS) – Our newest loan and grant program hit the ground running in July of 2014. Our IT Specialist, Barry Tee, took on new duties to become the OSS Loan Officer, and coordinated the completion of 32 sewer connection projects and one septic system replacement project - all within 6 months! Altogether, the SCD disbursed \$93,000 in loans and \$32,000 in grants to protect water quality

by addressing septic issues in Spokane County. This is a program that really helps homeowners, and the feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Through the OSS program, we have forged many new relationships with Spokane Regional Health, Spokane Utilities, SNAP, Community Development, and several local contractors and residents.



Livestock & Land Program – The L&L program was expanded in 2014 to include grant and loan funding for installing best management practices (BMPs) which helps ranchers and equestrians protect water quality. The program provided technical assistance to 27 residents and

installed 19 BMPs on seven different properties in Spokane County. These practices included: 5,610' of riparian fencing (three projects), three heavy use areas, six off-creek watering facilities, three waste (manure) storage facilities, three roof-runoff structures, and one livestock bridge. Ten more landowners have projects in progress with the L&L program. Using our past customers, we are developing a Peer to Peer Mentoring group that will demonstrate the effectiveness of the BMPs in their livestock operations and the benefits of working with the SCD. These mentors are passionate because the BMPs in the L&L program help them protect water quality, make chores more efficient, and increases their animals' health.



A New Role For Jim



Armstrong (left) accepts NE Area Employee of the Year in Nov., 2014.

Change is difficult...especially a major life change event. Retiring from the District after 32 years was a major event for me and very much a bittersweet experience. I was anxious to experience life beyond the daily grind, but am still inexorably connected to the wonderful vocation that was such a huge part of my life.

Fortunately for me, rather than going "cold turkey" I can wean myself away from that daily grind by coming back and working part-time. They actually want me to!

So as I write this, I am an hourly employee working on "special projects". I have a foot in both worlds, staying connected without being tied down. That also means never working on a Monday or Friday! I can let go a bit now and look forward to my new life as a retiree. Oh the possibilities...!

New FarmVet Programs & Partnerships

Service in the United States Armed Forces has always been honored by SCD Staff. Three of our 17 staff members and three of our seven board supervisors/associate supervisors have served in the military, as well as a long list of immediate family members who are veterans or are still in active duty.

Inspired by the film "Ground Operations: from Battlefield to Farmfield," SCD director Vicki Carter decided we could do more to transition Veterans from military service to agriculture.

Now, in partnership with WSU Spokane County Extension and Northwest Farm Credit Services (NWFCs), we are proud to offer a wide array of opportunities for Veterans.

Beginning Farmer Classes at SCC: Two continuing education courses are being offered during Spokane Community College winter quarter to help students evaluate the financial, personal and educational resources needed to start an agricultural operation; the program also helps students evaluate land for a farm, develop products and marketing strategies, and develop planning mechanisms to monitor and evaluate farm operations.

The first course is titled, Cultivating Success Sustainable Small Farming and Ranching, and the second is Cultivating Success Agriculture Entrepreneurship. Students register through Spokane Community College and the cost is \$50 per Veteran or active duty service, or \$125 per person.

The courses are based on the Cultivating Success curriculum developed by the University of Idaho and Washington State University. Students' certificates of completion will increase their access to assistance from several government agency and financial institution programs.



New Internship Program: The SCD has hired their first FarmVet Intern, William Hulings, a Veteran of the U.S. Navy. He is now a student at Spokane Community College. His schedule at SCD will rotate through our different departments and include hands on experience with staff and local farmers. Funding for his wages is provided by SCD and NWFCs. In the future, this program could grow to include several interns and focus more time on farms than with our staff.

Scholarships for SCD Classes - All SCD Programs feature scholarships or discounts for Veterans. This includes the Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program in March, Tree School on August 15, 2015, and the Small Farms Conference, November 13, 2015.

For more information on all of these programs, contact SCD Small Farms Coordinator, Pat Munts, at pat-munts@sccd.org or 509-535-7274.



SCD Supervisor Election Notice

Spokane Conservation District announces that an election will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, for the purpose of electing one Supervisor for a three-year term.

The polling place is located at 210 North Havana, Spokane, WA. The polls will be open from 7:30 am – 4:00 pm. Absentee and/or ballots will be available by mail by request to Elections Officer, Erica Johnson at 509-535-7274 or erica-johnson@sccd.org.

The filing deadline for candidates is February 10, 2015.

All registered voters who own or occupy land within the District, which includes all land within Spokane County except for the City of Deer Park, are eligible to vote and run for office. Citizens living within the city limits of Deer Park may vote and/or hold office if they also own land outside of those city limits.

Any person interested in the volunteer position can contact the District office at 509-535-7274 immediately for more information. All programs and services are offered without discrimination.

3rd Annual Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program in March



Our popular Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program has returned again to provide access to local experts on a variety of gardening and conservation topics.

The class will be held on four Monday evenings in March: 5pm-7:30pm on March 9, 16, 23 and 30. Each night covers two subjects taught by local experts. Past topics

include composting, attracting pollinators, landscaping with native plants, organic gardening and more. Speakers are provided from agencies like WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, WSU Master Gardener Program, City of Spokane Solid Waste Disposal Master Composter/Recycler Program, WA Native Plant Society, and Spokane County Noxious Weed Board.

A participant from the 2014 class said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program. It was well worth the money!"

Only 25 spaces are available! Register now at sccd.org/education.html. The cost to register is \$25 per person and Veteran scholarships are available. Classes are held in the upstairs conference room at the Spokane Conservation District office, 210 N Havana, Spokane, WA 99202.

For questions, contact Stacey Selcho, SCD Education Coordinator, stacey-selcho@sccd.org or 509-535-7274 ext 217.

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Gerald (Jerry) Scheele, Board Chair

Randy James, Board Vice-Chair

Jaki Shrauger, Board Auditor

Tom Miller, Board Member

Mary Sullivan, Board Member

The Spokane Conservation District is located on the southwest corner of the Spokane Fairgrounds at: 210 North Havana Street, Spokane, WA 99202. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30pm. 509-535-7274 | info@sccd.org

All SCD programs and services are offered without discrimination.

**FROM THE
GROUNDUP**