



from the GROUND up

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An educational conference for arborists, foresters, forest landowners, and backyard gardeners.



NACD Summer Tour in Spokane

SCD to host tour for nationwide audience

SCD staff will host “Soil Health on the Palouse,” a 4-stop tour including direct seed operations at Rolling Hills Farm, McCoy Grain Terminal, a drive-thru tour of Washington State University, Red Barn Farms, and Steptoe Butte State Park.

The lunch will feature Washington Agriculture *from Apples to Wine* and a Palouse Conservation Farm Equipment Show. Lunch speakers include Ken Casavant, WSU, Ag Economics & Transportation; Nick Zentner, Central Washington University, Eastern WA & Palouse Geology; Kay Meyer, PNDSA, Farmed Smart Certification; Jack Field, Washington Cattlemen’s Association; and Tanna Engdahl, Tribal Outreach.

The tour is the final event of the National Association of Conservation Districts summer board meeting held in Spokane, July 10-13. Participants will include state and national policy makers, conservation district board supervisors and staff from around the country, and experts in soil health and agriculture.

For more information, visit nacdnet.org/events/summer-board-meeting.



Working Ahead

Landowners work with SCD to stay ahead of regulation

If you live near a body of water, you may receive a letter from the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) stating that you are in violation of water quality. These letters often come as the result of an anonymous complaint (eg. neighbor, passerby) or part of a more organized assessment completed by Ecology staff. Either way, if you receive a letter, you will have to make some decisions on how to handle it. The Spokane Conservation District stands ready to work with landowners to prevent receiving a letter or to find a resolution after receiving a letter.

The SCD has programs and cost-share to address the conditions and issues that Ecology assesses: bare ground with exposed soil upslope of waterway (left photo); active or potential contaminated runoff; slumping streambanks and erosion; livestock access to channel areas and shorelines, including trails and paths (right photo); overgrazing of grasses and/or absence of woody riparian vegetation; livestock feeding & manure accumulations near a waterway.

The SCD has successfully worked with several landowners facing these letters, keeping landowner costs at a minimum while making notable improvements in their operation. SCD recently worked with one landowner who was concerned about receiving a letter from Ecology and decided to be pro-active about his highly visible operation on Hangman Creek. The landowner worked with SCD staff to devise a plan that moved the entire operation completely off the creek. The project cost-shared on fencing, new watering, and includes plans for installing a heavy use area. The landowner was excited for all of the improvements. Now, instead of worrying about a letter from Ecology, he can focus on how his new operation can be expanded.

Being pro-active about their operation or farm is the best thing a landowner can do to avoid a letter from Ecology. Landowners should evaluate their own property. How does it look from the roadside? Do they have any of the conditions presented in this article? If so, then they may want to consider making some changes and be pro-active. This can be done individually, or they can request help from the SCD or another consulting entity.

For more information, please call Walt Edelen at 509-535-7274 and ask for an obligation free assessment of your operation at no cost to you.

Tree School, August 15, 2015



TREE SCHOOL

Tree School, an educational conference for arborists, foresters, forest landowners, and backyard gardeners will be held August 15 from 8am-5pm at the WSU Spokane Phase 1 building. This year the theme is *Wildfire: Yesterday and Today* with keynote presentations by Jack Nisbet and Mary Verner. There will also be 20 different concurrent seminars so that each participant can attend 5 classes of their choosing like Backyard Blueberries, Common Bark Beetles in Eastern Washington, "Android" Forestry, Design Review, and Forest Weed Identification and Management. Several classes are available for continuing education credits for WA Pesticide licensing, International Society of Arboriculture,



Meet Wendy Knopp

New Board Supervisor

We are happy to welcome our newest board supervisor, Wendy Knopp, Vice President of AgVision at Northwest Farm Credit Services. Wendy has already been working with the SCD Director Vicki Carter on our new *Vets on the Farm* program.

“I began to learn about the purpose and mission of the SCD and how it helps to serve the landowners in the community where I live and work,” said Wendy. “I hope to contribute to the successful outcomes on projects that are important to the producers the SCD serves.”

She ran unopposed in the SCD Board Supervisor Election in March. The photo above shows Wendy in the Fairfield Parade promoting *Vets on the Farm*.

Arbor Day Events



On April 14, SCD Forester Garth Davis joined Liberty Lake Mayor Steve Peterson and Liberty Lake Parks Director Jennifer Camp to commemorate Arbor Day with the planting of a Little Leaf Linden at Pavilion Park. Jennifer organized the Arbor Day event with the National Arbor Day Foundation. The SCD provided seedlings for the Fourth Grade Foresters Program, and coordinated the selection, purchase and planting of the commemorative tree. Liberty Lake has been part of Tree City USA for 12 years. SCD supports several communities to maintain their Tree City Status. Likewise, SCD staff makes the rounds to about a dozen local Arbor Day and Earth Day events every spring.

and Society of American Foresters. This year, Tree School will also have a vendor fair. We are looking for more vendors to take advantage of this opportunity. The cost for a vendor booth is \$100, but includes registration for the event, a \$50 value. Sponsors and vendors support will help keep this educational opportunity affordable for participants.

For more information, and to register, visit sccd.org/forestry.html. Veterans are eligible for scholarships and should contact Erica Johnson, erica-johnson@sccd.org to apply.



Patriotic parade entry to raise awareness about new opportunities

The SCD *Vets on the Farm* program has been met with enthusiasm and promise at every turn. With such amazing initial support, we're taking our patriotic International Farmall Tractor and going on a tour of small town parades to raise awareness of the opportunities for Veterans and for existing farmers. The photo above shows our booth and tractor at the Fairfield Flag Day Parade.

The *Vets on the Farm* program will pair Veterans with farmers or ag-related businesses to complete an internship paid by *Vets on the Farm*. If you are a farm or business owner that could use a *Vets on the Farm* intern, contact Vicki-Carter@sccd.org to get started or look for us at the following parades:

Cheney Rodeo Parade: July 11, Settlers Day in Deer Park: July 25



Trout in the Classroom Program Trout Release Days

This year, Education Coordinator Stacey Selcho, outfitted three more schools with set-ups for Trout in the Classroom – Michael Anderson Elementary, Longfellow Elementary, and Medical Lake High School. Eleven schools throughout the county participated reaching over 800 students. Trout releases started in April and ended in May; where students culminate their TIC program by releasing their fish into a local water body and participating in various educational activities. TIC is an integrative, interactive way to educate students about science and their environment. For more information about how to get Trout in the Classroom in your school, contact Stacey Selcho at 509-535-7274 ext 217 or stacey-selcho@sccd.org.