

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SPRING 2017

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

BACKYARD GARDENING PROGRAM

Cascadia's backyard gardening workshop was attended by over 25 gardening enthusiasts at the Community Garden in Wenatchee on April 15. The class, taught by five local gardening professionals and master gardeners, in conjunction with Cascadia Conservation District's urban agriculture program, focused on how to create and sustain a successful backyard vegetable garden in the Wenatchee Valley. Participants visited five stations, and after lectures were able to practice and have hands on experience with a variety of gardening techniques and tools. Topics ranged from selecting crops and setting up an irrigation system to composting in your backyard and how to keep backyard chickens healthy and productive! Top tips from the presenters on getting a great garden started in the Wenatchee Valley included:

- When planting seeds, use a soil thermometer to make sure conditions are right for planting. Soil that is too cold will doom the seed. It has been an unusually cold winter and spring so you need to make sure the soil is warm enough!

- When transplanting make sure to harden off your starts! The wind in the valley can ruin frail stems easily. Slowly transition them outside over 1-2 weeks.
- Have a dedicated irrigation zone for vegetables. Vegetables need more watering than a lawn. More organics (compost) in the soil and more mulching on top of the soil will mean less frequent watering.



Backyard Gardening workshop participants

Wondering how to save seeds or preserve all those tomatoes? Perhaps you could use some advice on how to prune trees properly or create a new worm bin, chicken coop, berry patch or flower border. If you have ideas on future agriculture workshops or general gardening questions, please let us know! Cascadia would like to hear from you so we can continue to offer classes that will interest and serve this community!

EARTH DAY!

Cascadia celebrated Earth Day at fairs in Chelan, Leavenworth, and Entiat where we spread the word about natural resources conservation and provided fun educational activities!



Cascadia also hosted an Earth Day Essay contest for middle school students in Chelan County. See the winning essays on our website: www.cascadiacd.org and look for them in an upcoming issue of the Wenatchee World!

Thank you to Stemilt Growers for your support of Cascadia's native plant sale and restoration projects through storage of plants and staff time!

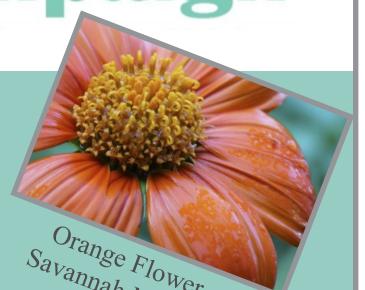
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Chelan County Clean Water Campaign

PHOTO CONTEST

Visit www.cascadiacd.org for complete contest rules & details and to submit your photo(s)!



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FIREWISE CHALLENGE

In 2016, Cascadia worked with the WA Department of Natural Resources on a Firewise Challenge for Chelan County. Cascadia committed to assisting eight communities through the Firewise Recognition Program. By the end of 2016, Cascadia had helped 11 communities receive national Firewise recognition status and was working with another six who will submit applications in 2017!

Washington state led the nation in 2016 for the number of new Firewise communities formed, and Chelan County had the highest number of new communities in the state! This great work is a testament to the motivated residents of Chelan County who are very dedicated to protecting their communities as well as the great partnerships between these communities, Cascadia, WA Department of Natural Resources, and other partners like the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition.



Representatives of the newly formed Firewise communities in Plain and Lake Wenatchee

On March 24, 2017, Cascadia and partners hosted an Era of Megafires event at Plain Community Church. (Find out more about the Era of Megafires series here: <http://www.north40productions.com/wildfire/>). At the conclusion of the event Cascadia presented representatives from the newly formed communities in the Plain and Lake Wenatchee area with their Firewise plaques and signs. We look forward to continued efforts with these great communities!

A huge thank you and congratulations to these new communities!



New Firewise communities recognition ceremony during the Era of Megafires event

FIREWISE CHALLENGE!

If your community is interested in adapting to life with wildfire, engaging in community planning, reducing future wildfire risks, and being eligible for funds for Firewise projects, contact Amanda Levesque Newell at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601 to see how we can help.



FREE YARD WASTE DISPOSAL OPPORTUNITIES!

In 2016, Cascadia, the WA Department of Natural Resources, Chelan County Natural Resources Department, the City of Chelan, and Department of Ecology partnered to offer three weekends where residents of Chelan and the surrounding area could dump their yard waste for free! This program was very successful in helping landowners prepare their properties to be more resilient in the face of wildfires. Over 50 landowners participated in dumping about 200 yards of material on these weekends.



About 200 yards of material was collected during the Chelan Transfer Station free yard waste dump days in 2016

COMING FULL CIRCLE!

In fall 2016, Cascadia used wood chips from the free dump days as mulch on stream restoration projects. Organic mulch is a fire hazard if anywhere near your structure, but as long as it is greater than 100 feet from structures it is a great way to retain moisture around plants and build nutrients in the soil.

To help landowners prepare for fire season, Cascadia, the WA Department of Natural Resources, Chelan County Natural Resources Department, the City of Chelan, and Department of Ecology are offering this great opportunity again this year!

2017 Chelan Transfer Station dump days will be May 12-13 and 19-20.

For additional information contact Cascadia Conservation District at (509) 436-1601.

The Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition is also offering free yard waste disposal days at the Dryden Transfer Station!

Dates are: May 20, June 2-3, and June 9-10. For additional information contact Director Hilary Lundgren, at hilary@chumstickcoalition.org.

The City of Leavenworth is offering free yard waste disposal (four bags per week) with your regular garbage service from April 4-May 11. For additional information contact: www.cityofleavenworth.com or (509) 548-5275.



Over 50 landowners participated in the Chelan free yard waste dump days in 2016



Wood chips from Chelan free dump days being used for restoration projects

The best offense...

Don't wait...



...is a good defense.

...until it's too late!

Cascadia offers free fire risk assessments. Contact Amanda Levesque Newell at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601 for additional info

CASCADIA'S PRESENCE IN THE ENTIAT COMMUNITY

Entiat's annual Kite Fest was held on March 18 this year at the Kiwanis Park on the north end of town. Over 400 people attended the event, which was hosted by the Entiat Valley Chamber of Commerce. Cascadia helped sponsor the event and had an information table where Jason Sims, Cascadia's Entiat watershed coordinator, engaged the public, flew a couple of kites, and performed another set of magic for the crowd.

On April 8, Cascadia brought the Bureau of Reclamation's Rolling Rivers interactive watershed model to the Ardenvoir Swallowfest to teach kids and adults alike about the importance of a healthy watershed. Rolling Rivers has always been a big hit with the young and young-at-heart and our experience at Swallowfest this year was no different. About 200 people attended the event.

The Entiat Earth Day took place at the school on April 20 and Cascadia was excited to participate. The entire elementary school, about 165 kids, participated in this fun event organized by the Entiat Valley Community Services Group. Several different organizations had booths set up with entertaining and educational activities. Cascadia brought our table length fish anatomy puzzle. This beautifully crafted wood puzzle depicts the internal and external organs of a fish. We played a game of Fish Anatomy Jeopardy with the students, where we would describe a fish organ and they would guess the part, then place it in the puzzle. The students also enjoyed doing fish origami as another component of Cascadia's station.



Kids enjoy creating and flying kites at Entiat Kite Fest
Photo by: Oly Mingo



Kids enjoy creating and flying kites at Entiat Kite Fest
Photo by: Oly Mingo

As many of the private landowners are aware, the Entiat is a very busy and highly monitored river. With several habitat projects already constructed, Cascadia has been actively engaging multiple landowners in preparation for the next round of implementation. In the years 2017 and 2018, Cascadia, Chelan County Natural Resource Department, Yakama Nation Fisheries, and Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will be working to complete several new habitat projects in the Middle Entiat. These entities have been working with about seven private landowners and two organizations within the project areas, the US Forest Service and the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. They have been coordinating together to plan and collect data. The projects are currently heading into the final design phase and a public meeting will be coming up soon to review the final plans and the draft Environmental Assessment. For additional information, contact Jason Sims at jasons@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601.

On May 9-11, Cascadia and partners will be at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery hosting Kids in the Creek, a hands-on environmental education program for high school 10th graders. Students

explore actual field methods for assessing aquatic and riparian habitat, water quantity, water quality and indicator insects, as well as an introduction to land use planning considerations. Kids in the Creek annually reaches over 300 students from 8-10 area high schools. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Amanda Levesque Newell at amandal@cascadiacd.org or (509) 436-1601. For additional information on this great program please visit the Kids in the Creek website, www.kidsinthecreek.com.

Entiat River Appreciation Saturday, July 29 10 am-2 pm at Entiaqua Park

Please join us for a day of fun and education at our Entiat River Appreciation community event - Saturday, July 29. It will include a scavenger hunt, family activities and entertainment, natural resource experts on hand to answer questions, and a free BBQ lunch!

AMERICORPS POSITION AVAILABLE

Join the Cascadia team as our Environmental Education Assistant from September 2017-July 2018!

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in natural resources conservation, teaching, and serving their community. Through AmeriCorps you will receive a monthly stipend and an education award upon the completion of your service. Plus, you will make meaningful connections and new friends in the community that will lead to future jobs and opportunities!

For additional information on AmeriCorps and this position please visit: <https://washingtonservicecorps.org/become-a-member/how-to-apply/wsc-positions/> or call (509) 436-1601.

Photo on the right: AmeriCorps members during Martin Luther King, Jr service day at Pybus Public Market in Wenatchee.



COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER (CCD)

POLLINATOR ARTICLE SERIES - ARTICLE 4 OF 5

Contributed by Nate Andreini, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District

One of the biggest challenges to face beekeepers in the last decade has been Colony Collapse Disorder. The most recent spike in this syndrome began to be noticed in late 2006. North American beekeepers experienced a dramatic loss of western honey bee colonies. Losses reported by commercial beekeepers by early 2007 ranged from 30% to 90% of their colonies.

The causes of Colony Collapse disorder are not known. Researchers believe a variety of factors may contribute to the disorder. The most commonly suspected factors are: pesticides and fungicides, including a class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids, pathogens such as mites, viruses and fungi, stresses due to trucking colonies frequently over long distances, and malnutrition. Studies have shown that the factors listed above have all been present, sometimes singly but often together in colonies that have succumbed to collapse.

In Washington State, the state legislature recently directed the Washington State Department of Agriculture to convene a work group to report on the challenges facing honey bees in Washington. The work group's report was released in December 2014. The key recommendations issued in the report fall into three categories:

- Honey bee health and habitat
- Data, resources and awareness
- Registration and taxation

Research published in 2009 by Dhruva Naug of Colorado State University showed a strong correlation between lack of quality habitat and the severity of colony collapse disorder in the U.S. Improvement of habitat and forage, therefore, appears to be a step in the right direction to reduce the impact of colony collapse disorder. Additionally, more research is needed to understand the causes of the disorder. To that end, the work group recommended expansion of the Apiary program at Washington State University. This includes funding a full time WSU extension/research-apiarist position as well as a full time WSU extension pollination ecologist. Furthermore, as research is limited by existing facilities, a new bee lab is recommended.

Many of the recommendations from the work group will require new funding. Please consider the public good honey bees provide and support legislation that seeks to improve honey bee health. Honey bees make it possible for us to grow the healthy, delicious fruits that enhance our lives and play such a large part in the state's agricultural sector.



Bee box hosting a colony of bees

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

CCD Regular Board Meetings

- May 18, 2017 3:30-5:00 pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee
- June 15, 2017 3:30-5:00 pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee
- July 20, 2017 3:30-5:00 pm at 14 N Mission St, Wenatchee

Entiat Habitat Sub Committee Meetings

- May 18, 2017 9:00-12:00 pm USFS Building, Wenatchee Rm
- June 15, 2017 9:00-12:00 pm USFS Building, Wenatchee Rm
- July 20, 2017 9:00-12:00 pm USFS Building, Wenatchee Rm

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meetings

- July 12, 2017 9:00-12:00 pm at Entiat Grange Hall

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Regional Technical Team Meetings

- June 14, 2017 9:00-12:00 at Community Foundation
- July 12, 2017 9:00-12:00 at Community Foundation

Board of Directors Meeting

- June 22, 2017 10:00-3:00, Chelan County Commissioners Hearing Room

Implementation Team Meeting

- June 6, 2017 10:00-3:00 at Sunnyslope Fire House

North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative Quarterly Meeting

- June 7, 2017 10:00-4:00 at Chelan Fire House

Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition

Free yard waste dumping event at Dryden Transfer Station
May 20th, June 2-3, June 9-10

IRIS Seeks Volunteers for 2020 Legacy Project, "Thinking Like a Community"

The Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) is distilling lessons gleaned from over 500 stories they have gathered in North Central Washington since 2005 and working to create a multi-platform book, "Thinking Like a Community," that they aim to release by fall 2020.

To help with this effort, IRIS is seeking volunteers from across the region to help transcribe some of the 300 recorded interviews they have gathered so far. Once completed, individual transcriptions are valuable for archiving, writing, and production. When combined with other success stories and resources, these transcripts will form a legacy for the next generation to build upon.

Transcribing can be done remotely, from anyplace in the region. To learn more about how you can help contact Nancy Warner, IRIS Legacy Project Director, at nancy@irisncw.org or 509-888-7374.

WSU Extension Chelan Douglas Counties 4-H

- May 20, 2017 Leavenworth Challenge Course Cleanup and Play Day

- June 19-23, 2017 4-H Low Course Facilitator Training

Contact Seth Wendzel 400 Washington St. Wenatchee WA 98801
PH: 509.667.6540



CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Please Remember to Recycle

Cascadia Conservation District has a blog:
Please check it out at:
<http://ccdconservationconversation.blogspot.com/>

Thank you to these funding sources for keeping important outreach projects and programs in operation!



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