

# CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

FALL 2021

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT: WUNDERBAR FARMS



Written by Elizabeth Jackson, Cascadia Conservation District  
Photos provided by Wunderbar Farms

**Congratulations to Wunderbar Farms - the latest Salmon-Safe certified farm in Chelan County!**



**"Fresh Local Flowers: Think Beautiful, Live Simply, Make A Difference." Customers are greeted by these words of encouragement when they visit Wunderbar Farm's website.**

As you may have guessed, Wunderbar Farms specializes in growing fresh cut flowers to sell to florists, DIY brides, event planners, and retail customers through a subscription series and at the local Farmers Market. As you tour the Cashmere property, you will discover a diversity of vegetables, fruits, flowers, poultry - all produced using Salmon-Safe practices.

Mary Rossing and Joel Walinski, the owners of Wunderbar Farms, are no strangers to flower production as they have been growing flowers commercially for four years, adding new varieties by expanding the growing season and space each year, including a high tunnel hoop house. Currently, they utilize about 0.75-acres to produce fresh cut flowers.

The owners first heard about Salmon-Safe practices through Cascadia. Since



**The two-acre farm uses Salmon-Safe practices and is comprised of cropland, agricultural open space, outbuildings, and their renovated home.**

**For Mary and Joel, the eco-label has been the start of some engaging conversations regarding their best management practices, and their values, as they strive to be good stewards of the little piece of productive land in the Wenatchee River Valley.**

most of their production practices already aligned with the guidelines they pursued the Certification as a way to communicate their conservation efforts to their customers. Initiatives implemented include: conserving water, following organic standards, composting, and restoring the streambank along their property. The Salmon-Safe certification recognized these flower grower's mindfulness of the impact their agriculture can have on local water sources, especially since Mission Creek runs alongside the farm.

An efficient irrigation system is very important to their operation, since a private well is their only water source for the farm and their home. A drip irrigation system allows them to conserve water but also provide the optimal amount of moisture needed for high-quality crop production. Wunderbar Farms reduces soil moisture lost to evaporation by covering their produce and flower beds with an organic mulch or landscape cloth. This practice was especially important during the extreme heat events of this past summer, giving the owners peace-of-mind as they did not have to worry about installing an irrigation ditch or the nearby creek running dry.



**Wunderbar Farms takes pride in knowing that the water used on their land drains directly to the water table below, allowing this precious natural resource to be recycled on site.**

Wunderbar Farms has received positive feedback from customers since receiving the Salmon-Safe Certification this summer. As a customer, you can look for the Salmon-Safe sticker attached to their bouquets. Wunderbar Farms found Cascadia Conservation District to be very helpful in guiding them through the Salmon-Safe process and assisting with the more technical aspects of the application, such as designing the maps and narrative. Looking to the future, Wunderbar Farms would love to work with Cascadia again on programs that benefit their farm and the community.

Learn more about Wunderbar Farms at [www.wunderbarfarms.net](http://www.wunderbarfarms.net).  
Learn more about Cascadia's programs at [cascadiacd.org](http://cascadiacd.org).



LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Non-Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 40  
Wenatchee, WA  
ECRWSS

Cascadia Conservation District  
14 N Mission St  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

# LOCAL COMMUNITY'S HARDWORK PAYS OFF IN FIRE FIGHTING EFFORT

*Written by Jane Vaccaro,  
Morning Sun Firewise Community Leader*

Recipients of a 2020 Firewise Community grant award to improve perimeter protection around their development, Morning Sun residents were recently gratified to see the goals and results of the grant be put to use within a year. The occasion was the recent August 15th, 25 Mile Fire in Lake Chelan.

Morning Sun Estates (MSE), a residential community on the South Shore of Lake Chelan is in a DNR-designated high-risk wildfire area. In the 2015 Chelan Complex Fire, the community was under Level 3 evacuation orders and a staging area for firefighters and the burnout operation along the South Shore.

Since 2017, MSE residents have worked extensively on preparing defensible space around their homes. The 2015 Chelan Complex fire drove home for many residents, our vulnerability to wildfire and the fire-prone landscape in the Chelan Valley. The community voted in 2018 to formally establish a Firewise Committee and pursue national Firewise Recognition. MSE attained Firewise Recognition in 2019.

The Firewise Committee consulted with community partners that included the Cascadia Conservation District, Chelan County Fire District #7 Fire Chiefs, and the Department of Natural Resources liaison. The purpose of this consultation included obtaining professional input and resources for our strategic fire risk reduction plan, and building partnerships.

One area consistently identified as a potential problem for wildland firefighters was an approximate 600-foot-long dirt road that goes to a dead-end turnaround, obscured by brush and overhanging branches. The vegetative growth could impede the passage of fire trucks and obstruct visibility and line of sight for firefighters.

Wildfire structure protection crews used this area as a key staging site in the 2015 Chelan Complex. Local resident knowledge and consultation with community partners reinforced the concept that opening this road to a clear line of sight from the road entrance to the end was a safety consideration for firefighters and improved ingress and egress for emergency vehicles and community members.

When the structure protection teams associated with the 25 Mile Fire began to arrive on the Lake Chelan South Shore in August 2021, the teams once again identified the perimeter of this community as an area suitable to protect resident's properties and other values at risk all along the South Shore.



Based on ongoing work from community residents and the work accomplished in the 2020 grant, the visiting wildland firefighters and local CCFD #7 staff were able to quickly lay hose line, and use cleared space for

water storage ponds to fill fire hoses. The crews could also move more quickly to establish protection strategies on adjoining properties along the South Shore including wildlife habitat. Ultimately fire crews established 9 miles of hose lay, dozer line, and hand trails as a contingency plan, but did not end up having to set a backburn.

Listening to the 25 Mile Fire Incident Commander daily briefings it was impressive to hear the amount of work they were accomplishing given stretched resources.



**SALMON-SAFE**  
An eco label for North Central Washington Farms



Do you want your farm to be recognized for your efforts protecting water quality and salmon habitat? Then, consider becoming Salmon-Safe certified! Cascadia can provide FREE Salmon-Safe assessments to farmers in Chelan County at no cost.

The Salmon-Safe label is known on the market, allowing your natural resource stewardship to be easily visible to customers, restaurants, and grocery stores. Certification can deliver increased sales as well as efficiency benefits from implementing Salmon-Safe practices such as reduced irrigation and pest management costs. Cascadia's free assistance can result in a 3-year certification cycle for eligible farmers. Certified products can range from eggs to apples to flowers.

In addition, the Salmon-Safe certification demonstrates how your environmental practices can help protect surface water, including drinking water sources for residents, while conserving clean water for endangered Chinook and threatened steelhead and bull trout.

## Healthy Agriculture, Healthy Rivers

How Salmon-Safe growers make a difference:

- Optimizing water use
- Protecting water quality through low input IPM and nutrient management practices
- Using soil conservation techniques
- Maintaining healthy riparian and instream habitat conditions
- Contributing to overall habitat quality on the farm

How does the certification process work? Farms are assessed by independent inspectors on science-based guidelines in six primary areas: stream area management, efficient water use, erosion and sediment control, integrated pest management, livestock management, and biodiversity conservation.

If you are an interested consumer looking for the salmon safe label on your product (wine, food, cider etc.) visit <https://salmonsafe.org/buy-salmon-safe/> for a list of certified producers. If you have a local farm, orchard, vineyard, or cider operation and are interested to learn more about the benefits of becoming Salmon-Safe, contact Elizabeth Jackson at (509) 436-1601 or [elizabethj@cascadiacd.org](mailto:elizabethj@cascadiacd.org).

## WELCOME ABOARD MARK



Cascadia is excited to have Mark Ingman join the team as a Resource Specialist II!

Mark grew up hiking and camping with his family and friends in Western Washington. His education and background are in water resources, project management, small-scale agriculture, and irrigation efficiency.

Mark has worked for several small-scale farms and for the Oregon State University extension service.

At Cascadia, Mark assists landowners and partner organizations to coordinate habitat restoration efforts within the Entiat Watershed. In his spare time Mark enjoys growing food and spending time outdoors with his wife and two young boys.

## FAREWELL KEN



After 4 years with Cascadia, Ken Muir is moving on to on new challenges with WDFW.

During his time with Cascadia, Ken focused on aquatic habitat restoration and project development in Chelan County. He helped implement some large projects on the Entiat River and developed our Beaver Dam Analog restoration capacity.

His latest projects include working collaboratively with Trout Unlimited and Cascade Fisheries, helping landowners address their aquatic habitat concerns and developing implementation projects.

Ken is sticking around the watershed, and we look forward to working with him in his new capacity. Thank you for all your hard work, Ken! We wish you well.

## FAREWELL SOPHIE



Cascadia's summer Resource Technician Sophie Kandul's time on the team has come to an end.

Sophie spent the summer maintaining and monitoring our recently completed riparian restoration projects. She also participated in our outdoor youth education programs, Kids in the Creek and Kids in the Forest this fall.

During her time here Sophie fell in love with the area and hopes to return to Washington some day. For now she's heading home to Kentucky to reconnect with family and friends.

Thanks for all your hard work Sophie and we wish you the best for your next adventures.

## 12 MONTHS OF NATURAL BEAUTY

**Thank you to all the wonderful photographers who made our 2021 photo contest another big success, and congratulations to those who captured the twelve winning photos!**

The twelve winning photos, two per each of the six categories, are listed below and to the right. Please visit the photo section of our Facebook page (link at [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)) to see all entries.

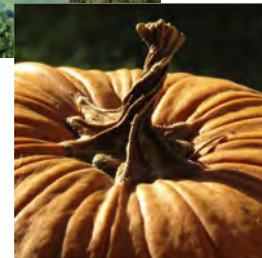
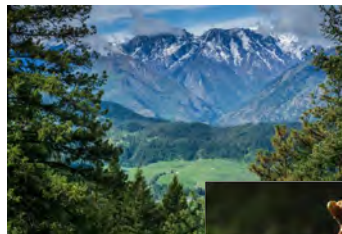
The 2022 Picture Chelan County stewardship calendar featuring the winning photos will be out in early December. Funding for the calendar is provided by: WA Department of Ecology, US Bureau of Reclamation, and other local sponsors as featured in the calendar.

Visit Cascadia's office at 14 N Mission St. in Wenatchee to get your calendar! Please call ahead at (509) 436-1601 to arrange pick up due to limited office access for COVID-19 related measures.

### THE 2021 WINNING PHOTOS ARE BELOW:

#### Agriculture:

- Peshastin Valley by Dale Blair
- Pumpkin with a Twist by Alan Moen



#### Landscape:

- Lenticular Cloud by Debra Nava
- View of Cascades from Horse Lake Road by Debra Nava



#### Plants:

- Chipmunk under Glacier Lilies by Karen Eadie
- Yellow-Veiled Amanita by Tiffany Theden



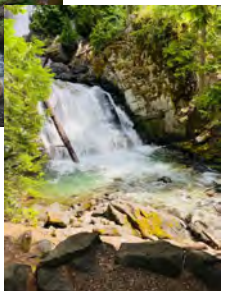
#### Recreation:

- Campfire Stare by John Barnes
- Fall Colors In The Cascades by Brendan Morrison



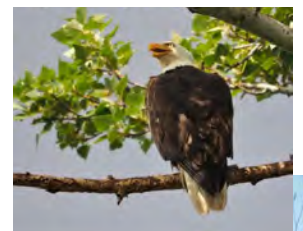
#### Water:

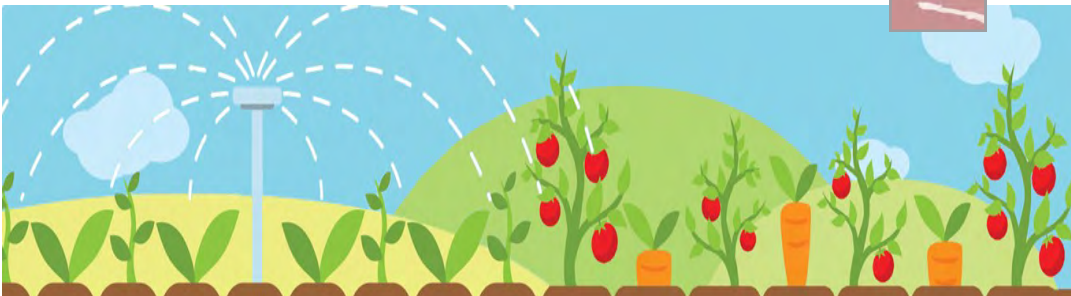
- Forest Treat by Brad Brisbine
- Waterfall by Makeilee Johnson



#### Wildlife:

- Eye of the Eagle by Guy Miner
- Mule Deer Bucks in Velvet by Guy Miner





## DID YOU KNOW: THERE ARE MORE SOIL MICROORGANISMS IN A TEASPOON OF HEALTHY SOIL THAN THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THE EARTH!

Each spring and fall, Cascadia is providing free soil tests and water quality conservation plans to landowners that own or operate a farm or have livestock in Chelan County. If you are curious as to why your pasture or crop yields have decreased or weeds have taken over, it is time to test your soil.

### SOIL TEST RESULTS OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS TO:

- Increase plant growth, yields, and quality,
- Purchase less fertilizer & amendments for pastures, lawns, and garden
- Improve livestock forage for less supplemental feed.

Fall soil tests can tell what your crop has used over the growing season and if you are efficiently applying nutrients in the spring. Spring soil tests tell you what nutrients are needed for crop establishment or pasture health for the upcoming growing season.

Cascadia is available throughout all four seasons to provide free technical assistance. Contact Elizabeth Jackson at (509) 436-1601 or [elizabethj@cascadiacd.org](mailto:elizabethj@cascadiacd.org) to schedule a consultation.

*Source: NRCS-USDA, 2021.  
Fact sheet: soil health nuggets.*

## WE NEED YOU...

...TO JOIN OUR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS...



Cascadia Conservation District is self-governed by a Board of Supervisors who work to establish priorities, set policy and direct the work of Cascadia staff. Registered voters residing in Chelan County who are interested in guiding local conservation efforts are encouraged to run for office or apply for appointment. Board members are unpaid volunteers who serve a three-year term and must be available to attend monthly meetings. We have one elected and one appointed position to be filled in early 2022.

Cascadia also encourages community members to attend our monthly meetings, and consider becoming an associate supervisor to offer additional local expertise and perspective on community natural resource concerns. These positions are also voluntary, with no specific term and are established by appointment of the Board. Your input is welcome!

### ...AND TO VOTE !

The next election will be held in early 2022. Watch our website for information, official dates and other announcements. Please call (509) 436-1601 with election questions.



**CASCADIA**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

14 N Mission St Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 436 -1601 • [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)

#### Staff Members

Mark Amara, *Archaeologist*  
Kirk Beckendorf, *Environmental Educator*  
Kathleen Deason, *Administrative Assistant*  
Patrick Haggerty, *Forestry Program Manager*  
Valerie Hampton, *Financial Coordinator*  
Mark Ingman, *Resource Specialist II*  
Elizabeth Jackson, *Resource Specialist II*  
Kim Lancaster, *Archaeologist*  
Amanda Newell, *Education & Outreach*  
Nada Wentz, *Office Assistant*  
Ryan Williams, *Executive Director*

#### Board of Supervisors

Junell Wentz, *Chair*  
Dillon Miller, *Vice Chair*  
Amy Bridges, *Auditor*  
Jim Bartelme, *Member*  
Kurt Hosman, *Member*  
Josh Koempel, *Associate*  
Larry Cordes, *Associate*

The Conservation Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis by Cascadia Conservation District and reaches all 37,800 households in Chelan County.

This newsletter is funded in part by grants from the Washington State Conservation Commission and other public and private granting entities.

Please Remember to Recycle



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings\*

Nov 19	Call our office for details	1:30 - 4:00 pm
Dec 17	Call our office for details	1:30 - 4:00 pm
Jan 21	Call our office for details	1:30 - 4:00 pm

\*Space is limited. Call-in or video conference options are available. Watch our website or call 509-436-1601 for updates.

### Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

TBD Call our office for details 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Chelan PUD

#### The Power Hour with Chelan PUD - Livestream & Podcast

Wednesdays: Nov 10, Live on Facebook At 12:00 pm  
Dec 1, & Jan 19 and YouTube

Live Q&A with Chelan PUD's energy solutions team to answer your questions about energy efficiency, Chelan PUD rebates, lowering your electric and water bills, and more!

Live on Facebook and YouTube: [youtube.com/chelanpud/live](https://youtube.com/chelanpud/live)  
For more info and past episodes visit [chelanpud.org/powerhour](https://chelanpud.org/powerhour)

### Friends of Northwest Hatcheries

A non-profit organization whose focus is to support natural resource stewardship and education. Explore their growing list of at home education resources at: [www.friendsofnwhatcheries.org/](http://www.friendsofnwhatcheries.org/)

### Salmon "On-Line" - Virtual Salmon Festival

Enjoy this special collection of virtual resources for this year: [www.salmonfest.org/index.php/salmon-fest-on-line/](http://www.salmonfest.org/index.php/salmon-fest-on-line/)

### Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Meeting

Dec 9 Virtual - see [ucsrp.org](http://ucsrp.org) 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

### Wenatchee River Institute

#### Indigenous Language Class - nxaʔamx̌ín

Beginning Oct 27 for 5 weeks Virtual 4:00-5:00 pm

Join Annette Timentwa, Language Curriculum Coordinator for the Colville Confederated Tribes Language Department, for this 5-week introductory class on the nxaʔamx̌ín language, spoken by the Chelan, Entiat, Moses-Columbia, and Wenatchi people.

### Red Barn Event: Stories of People in North Central Washington

Nov 2 The Red Barn at WRI 7:00-8:30 pm

Join WRI in the Red Barn for an author presentation with Wenatchee Valley local, Rod Molzahn, on his book *What They Found: Stories of People in North Central Washington*.

### Red Barn Event: Orca – Shared Waters, Shared Home

Nov 16 The Red Barn at WRI 7:00-8:30 pm

Join WRI and journalist, Lynda V. Mapes in the Red Barn to explore the natural history of the orca and the unique challenges for survival of the Southern Resident group that frequents Puget Sound. More info & all event registration at: [wenatcheeriverinstitute.org](http://wenatcheeriverinstitute.org). For questions contact Rachel Bishop at [rbishop@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org](mailto:rbishop@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org).

## HAS YOUR PROPERTY BEEN AFFECTED BY RECENT WILDFIRES?

Cascadia has staff trained in post-fire recovery who can do a free assessment of your property and provide recommendations regarding erosion control, seeding, flooding, noxious weeds and more. Our staff can also help you connect with financial assistance programs that may be available to farmers and landowners post-fire.

Contact us at (509) 436-1601 or [patrickh@cascadiacd.org](mailto:patrickh@cascadiacd.org).