



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT: MCMANUS ORCHARD HOSTS CCD BIOCHAR WORKSHOPS

WRITTEN BY: MARCY BARTELHEIMER

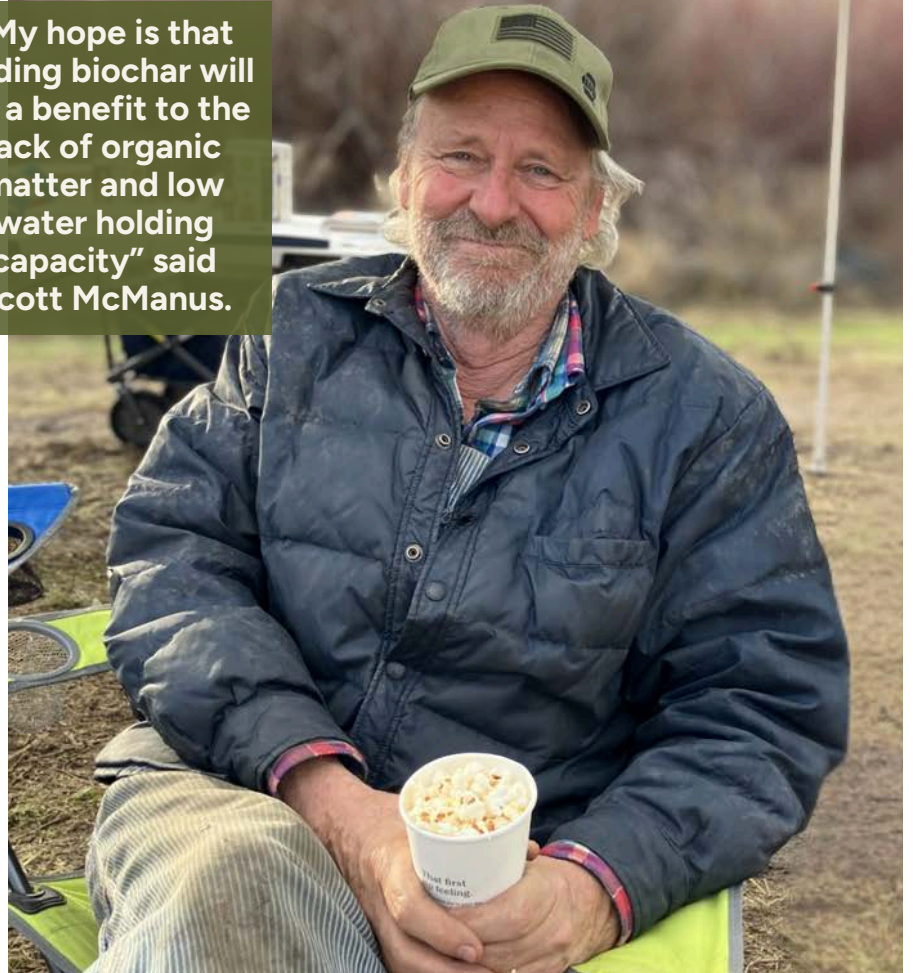
Through funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission, Cascadia hosted two biochar workshops this year for agricultural producers. Biochar, created by burning wood in a low-oxygen environment, is a carbon-rich material with promising benefits for soil health.

The first workshop, held December 10, was a small, hands-on event that introduced the unique considerations of burning orchard wood in a kiln. The second, on March 20th had nearly 40 participants and demonstrated the biochar production process with the Ring of Fire kiln.

We can't talk about the workshops without acknowledging the McManus Family, who graciously hosted both events at their Cashmere orchard and provided removed trees and old firewood as fuel. Scott McManus, a third-generation orchardist, has been interested in biochar for over a decade and in conservation for even longer. When he learned that Cascadia had kilns available, he jumped at the opportunity to host. As he put it, "I have all these piles, and the wood is just so big, so let's give it a try."

While Cascadia's biochar program has traditionally focused on forestry applications, applying it in an orchard setting offered valuable new insights. For example, apple and pear wood burn more slowly and require thorough drying. Proper preparation of the wood pile during orchard removal is one of the most critical, and time-intensive, steps in the process.

"My hope is that adding biochar will be a benefit to the lack of organic matter and low water holding capacity" said Scott McManus.



Scott McManus, enjoying the view of the biochar kiln with his favorite snack at the Dec. workshop. McManus had been interested in biochar for years and was excited to find out that Cascadia now owns kilns. Photo by Elly McManus

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1350 McKinnick St, Ste B
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Grants & Cost-Share Available

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE PERSONAL
CONSULTATION WITH ONE OF OUR EXPERTS!

Cascadia is committed to community empowerment. Our programs and services are tailored to produce sustainable practices, protect natural resources, and engage communities in fostering a healthier ecosystem. When you partner with us, you aren't just investing in and improving your own land, you're benefiting the lands and waters your fellow community members and wildlife call home. We provide technical and financial assistance for soil, water, forest, fish, and wildlife conservation efforts. Contact us to learn more!

INFO@CASCADIACD.ORG OR (509) 436-1601



LANDOWNER SPOTLIGHT CONT.

Biochar’s porous, negatively charged structure makes it especially beneficial for improving soil water holding capacity and nutrient retention, particularly in sandy soils. After seeing the process and hearing the experts, such as Korina Stark from Circular Spring, share their knowledge, participants left the workshop inspired and eager to try making biochar on their own.



In a post-workshop survey, one participant shared: “The whole workshop was excellent. Everyone who presented had a lot of useful information and were very knowledgeable and experienced in their fields. When we signed up, we thought we’d come and go throughout the day because six hours seemed like a long time. But the time flew by, and there was so much to learn that we didn’t leave—we didn’t want to miss anything!” *Photo by Marcy Bartelheimer*



Workshop participants, through the heat haze of the biochar kiln, on March 20th. *Photo by Laura Rivera*

As interest in biochar continues to grow, Cascadia looks forward to building on these workshops, supporting producers in exploring new ways to manage woody debris, improve soil health, and invest in the long-term resilience of their operations.

For additional information please contact Marcy Bartelheimer at marcyb@cascadiacd.org or 509-436-1601 ext. 3.

Thank you to the Washington State Conservation Commission for funding the ag. biochar workshops, soil testing, and a few of ESR’s new farm tools!



ESR Farm and Food Tool Library

Why buy when you could borrow?

Pressure Canner

BCS with Spreader



Photo from gopresto.com



Photo from [BCS America](http://BCSAmerica.com)

The Eastside Rebuild Tool Library has 900+ tools, including a recently updated Farm and Food Tool Library! Several new tools include a BCS walk behind tractor with flail mower and spreader, dehydrator, pressure canner, and freeze dryer.

Learn more or get involved:
eastsiderebuild.org/eastside-rebuild-tool-library

For a FREE* soil test,
scan the QR code
or visit
tinyurl.com/3euxb5v2



Tests will be given on a first-come, first-served basis for those that are eligible.

Chelan County
Soil Testing
Program



CASCADIA NAMED "ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR" BY THE WA-BC CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY (AFS)



Pictured above - left to right starting with back row: Judy Neibauer (AFS), Kirk Beckendorf (CCD), Amanda Newell (CCD), Jason Lundgren (Cascade Fisheries - partner & fellow award recipient!), Mark Ingman (CCD). Front row: Lucas Lachica (CCD), Elizabeth Jackson (CCD), Alex Harwell (CCD), and Josh Williams (AFS).

CONSERVATION FAIR AND BOARD ELECTION A SUCCESS

Cascadia and local partners welcomed over 200 community members at our 2nd annual Conservation Fair!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our Conservation Fair and helped make it such a meaningful community event. We loved seeing so many neighbors take part in the hands-on activities and conversations throughout the day. We look forward to following up on many of those conversations and working together in the future!



A big thank you to our partners! Wenatchee Valley Fire Department, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Eastside Rebuild, Sustainable NCW, CAFE, Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, and Trout Unlimited: Thank you for showing up to share resources, knowledge, and support with our community.

We are so grateful for our partners and local businesses who generously donated items for our raffle. Thanks to Tiny Farm LLC, Wild Birds Unlimited, Chelan Valley Botanicals, Chelan Rams Landscaping, Derby Canyon Natives, Eastside Rebuild, CAFE, Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, Laura Rivera and Tom Hampton, and Michele McKay. We were able to raffle off 11 items!

RIVERSCAPE TEAM WELCOMES THEIR SEASONAL TECHNICIANS BELLE, ELLY, AND LOGAN!



Pictured above - left to right starting with back row: Alex Harwell, Belle Adolf, Logan McDiffitt, Chace Witmer, Mark Ingman. Front row: Lucas Lachica, Elly McManus, and Miranda Boyd.
*See bios for the entire team on our website, cascadiacd.org!



We're also especially grateful to the local landowners who made the trip and shared their experiences working with Cascadia, and for the incredible example they set as responsible stewards of their land. Jim Chedister, Seth Christian, and Pete Teigen (pictured above). It has been a pleasure working with you!

“*Cascadia had all these resources that I didn't even know I needed or wanted at the time. Cascadia has great connections to other resources & agencies. What started as a simple project brought me into contact with other programs and agencies. BDA's, YN, stream restoration, Cascadia PBA, Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue chipping, and WA DNR ... I would have not known about any of these had I not contacted CCD. I hope it's a win-win for all.*”

-Jim Chedister

We at Cascadia look forward to working with more Chelan County residents and continuing to support our community's conservation efforts.

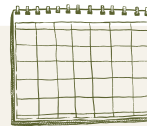


KIDS CORNER: HEALTHY RIVER SCAVENGER HUNT

Funded by:
 DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Having good water quality is important for everyone, and everything in our watershed! Head to a nearby river or lake and try to find the items below then decide if it is good or bad for water quality. Then discuss or research solutions to improve the area!

<p>Plastic Straw</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>A bird at the river</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Throwing trash away</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Plastic bottle</p> <p>😊 😞</p>
<p>Grass</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Salmon fry</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Plastic cap</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Bare eroded soil</p> <p>😊 😞</p>
<p>Paper bag</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Bird</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Styrofoam Cup</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Someone throwing dog poop in the trash</p> <p>😊 😞</p>



Meetings & Events

CASCADIA CD BOARD MEETINGS

May 8, June 12, July 10 from 1:30-4:00 pm at Cascadia's office - 1350 McKittrick St, Wenatchee. Call-in/Zoom options are available.

ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING

May 13, 4:00-6:45 pm, Entiat Fire Station, 2200 Entiat Way. Food & soft drinks provided. Call/Zoom available. For more info: (509) 436-1601.

SEE MORE EVENTS AT CASCADIACD.ORG

Funded by:
 DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A local hub of natural resource funding and expertise for all people in Chelan County.



We're non-regulatory. We work with landowners and community members as partners to conserve natural resources.



We provide funding and expertise that empowers people to practice conservation where they are, whether on a farm or in their own backyard.



We offer educational programming and resources for teachers, K-12 students and adults that strengthen connections to our natural world.

📍 1350 McKittrick Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801

📞 509-436-1601

✉️ info@cascadiacd.org

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Miranda Boyd, Habitat Restoration Crew Lead
Chace Witmer, Habitat Restoration Crew Lead
Belle Adolf, Seasonal Technician
Logan McDiffitt, Seasonal Technician
Elly McManus, Seasonal Technician

The Conservation Quarterly is published on a quarterly basis by Cascadia Conservation District and reaches over 39,220 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 Recycle



Monthly ENEWS has launched!

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