

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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**REMINDER!!
BURN PERMIT
FILL-IN FORMS NOW
AVAILABLE**

New burn permit forms are now available for downloading to your computer. These fillable MS Word documents are posted at the WWCCD website: www.wwccd.net. These forms can be saved for future use making filling out field detail sheets easier than ever.

TODD KIMBALL TO SERVE THREE YEAR TERM AS WWCCD SUPERVISOR

The Walla Walla County Conservation District held its 2012 Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election on Thursday, January 26th, 2012, at the Walla Walla Regional Airport in the Blue Mountain Community Meeting Room.

Todd Kimball is a veteran Board member who has served Walla Walla County in this capacity for two three-year terms. During this time, he has served in every officer position on the Board from Chairman to Member-at-Large and now serves as Treasurer. Todd had filed to run for re-election but since he ran unopposed and collected 25 valid county elector signatures, he was automatically elected in accordance with conservation district election guidelines.



**DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
TODD KIMBALL**

The Washington State Conservation Commission will validate the election when they meet in May.

For the second straight year, the Annual Meeting was enjoyed by nearly 100 people in attendance. Presentations by Rich Koenig, WSU, Travis Hillman, Ag-Teq, Cary Peterson, DOE, Dave Maiden, Walla Walla County Weed Board, and WWCCD staff members Mike Denny, Jeff Klundt, and Larry Hooker were well-received. Three pesticide license re-certification credits were offered to participants for both Washington and Oregon.



MARGUERITE DALTOSO RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM DISTRICT MANAGER RICK JONES

The highlight of this year's meeting was special recognition of WWCCD's Administrative Assistant Marguerite Daltoso for her 30-years of service to the District. Marguerite came to work for the District back when there was only one District employee—Marguerite!

JOURNEY BENEATH THE SKIN OF THE EARTH

There are more living creatures in a shovel-full of soil than human beings on the planet, yet more is known about the dark side of the moon than about soil. These are just a couple of the fascinating facts visitors can learn from a new exhibition, *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil*. The Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (MAC), a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate, will host *Dig It!*, an exhibition on loan from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, on view in Spokane from February 4 - September 22, 2012.

The 5,000-square-foot exhibition reveals the complex world of soil and how this hidden ecosystem supports nearly every form of life on Earth. *Dig It!* includes interactive displays, hands-on models, videos and soil samples. Visitors can explore soils found in their own backyard with 54 soil samples representing each U.S. state and territory and the District of Columbia. Visitors will discover a world teeming with life. In fact, so many organisms contribute to the health of soils that scientists have not even named them all.

Dig It! shows how every type of soil is unique. Visitors can observe the way water moves through different soils in tumbler tubes containing sand, silt, and clay. The flow of water through soils can affect minerals and gases and all life that depends on soil.

"One mission of this exhibition is to educate about the importance of soils," said Lynn Bahrych, Commissioner, WA State Conservation Commission (WSCC). Bahrych was on temporary assignment to the MAC as the *Dig It!* Project Manager. "Soils impact so much in our daily lives – nutrition, climate, health and environmental issues. This exhibition offers visitors a chance to understand the important connections between soils and our culture."

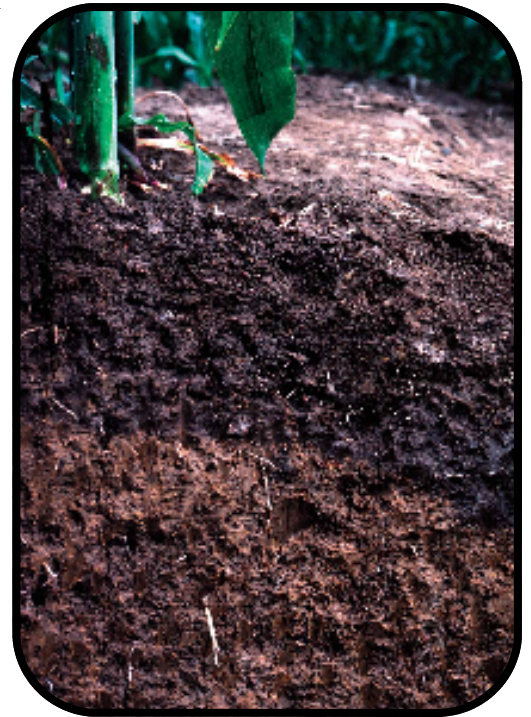
Many activities have been programmed around this exhibition – something for all ages and all learning types. There will be school field trips, 'dirty' art projects, lectures by learned soil scientists and movies. A living history day for the whole family is planned for spring, planting a victory garden on the MAC campus, Earth Day participation, tree planting and more. This summer, a MAC teen docent program will be in place in the galleries offering even more hands-on fun.

After examining soil close up, exhibition visitors can step back and see the "big picture" with a world map and interactive stations that present the connection between soil and global systems. Models demonstrate the roles of soil around the house and the formation of soil in commercial and residential construction, dams, playing fields, neighborhoods, roads and in food production. An evocative video explains soil's role as a "secret ingredient" in such household goods as medicines, food, wine, textiles, paint, cosmetics and pottery.

Dig It! was created with the support of the Soil Science Society of America and the Nutrients for Life Foundation, which is underwritten by The Fertilizer Institute. *Dig It!* is sponsored locally by broad network of partners, including the Spokane Conservation District (SCD), the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the WA State Society of Professional Soil Scientists, and others. Local sponsors enabled the MAC to bring this exhibit to the Inland Northwest. "This is the most ambitious exhibition ever dedicated to soils, a resource as important to life on Earth as water and air," said Patrick Megonigal, soil scientist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, located in Maryland. Megonigal is the exhibition's lead curator and will be in Spokane to participate in the February 4 opening activities. With him will be Barbara Stauffer and Siobhan Starrs, Exhibition Developers from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH).

Additional information about this exhibit is available at <http://forces.si.edu/soils>.

The Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture is located at 2316 W First Ave. in Spokane, WA. The MAC is open Wednesday – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. More information about the museum is available at www.northwestmuseum.org or by calling 509-456-3931.
By: Rebecca Bishop, Communications & PR Manager, Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture.



*Profile showing soil horizons—
NRCS Photo Gallery NRCSIA99344*

ACCIDENTAL BURNS! As you realize, it is imperative that you make an effort to put accidental fires out with the equipment you have in the field. Call your local Fire District if the fire is beyond your efforts to control. Following the burn, it is best if you notify WA Dept. of Ecology or the WWCCD Burn Permit Technician to let them know the location and estimated acreage. If this is done, all that will probably happen is that you will be asked to fill out a burn permit application, explain the circumstances and to pay for the acres burned.

A NEW SHALLOW AQUIFER RECHARGE PROJECT ON STONE CREEK

In early August 2011 the District was contacted by the project managers at Son Bridge Community Center in College Place. They asked if the Walla Walla County Conservation District could provide technical assistance with a situation nearby along Stone Creek. After a site evaluation and upon hearing their goals for the site, recommendations were made for them to consider:

- ◆ Remove a constricting, inadequate culvert through which Stone Creek flowed
- ◆ Create a high flow release channel that would drain into a shallow basin to the west of their property

In the following weeks a partnership was formed between Paul Rasmussen and Bob Wood of the Son Bridge Community Center, Rick Henry of the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC), Jon Rickert of the City of College Place, Mark Gilbert of Gilbert Auto Sales, and Mike Denny, WWCCD. Rick Henry, hydrologist for the WWBWC and Mike Denny sat down with the other partners on four occasions. The result was an agreement that the goal of the project would be to develop a shallow aquifer recharge site on the property.



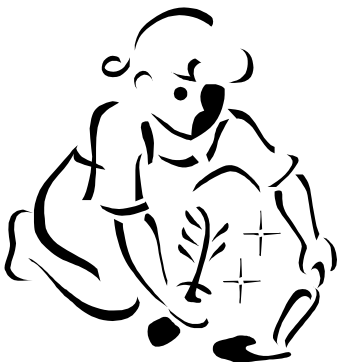
SHALLOW AQUIFER RE-CHARGE SITE NORTH OF COMMERCIAL DRIVE

In late October 2011, a contract was signed by the landowners, the WWBWC and the City of College Place to install a wet season shallow aquifer recharge channel that will overflow from Stone Creek into a shallow basin that has already been designated as a critical wetland site by the City of College Place. Rick Henry along with Troy Baker created a working map of the site's hydrology after field surveying the site. The site was then visited with Tom Schirm, Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) for his suggestions and approval of the proposed project. Rick Henry then became the technical lead on this project and in late December final plans were approved by the Spainhower family, owners of the property with the shallow basin. In January 2012, the wet season overflow channel was constructed and a new shallow aquifer recharge site was created.

The great assistance of all those that worked to get this project completed is greatly appreciated. Special thanks goes to Mark Gilbert and to the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council's Rick Henry for his persistence and willingness to do a small but valuable project along Stone Creek. All funding for this project came from the WWBWC. *By Mike Denny, Riparian Habitat Coordinator, WWCCD*

WALLA WALLA FOURTH GRADERS' ARBOR DAY PROJECT

This is the fifth year the Walla Walla County Conservation District has supported the National Fourth Grade Foresters Program in the local schools. On Arbor Day, April 11, 2012, a total of 620 fourth graders from Berney, Blue Ridge, Edison, Green Park, Sharpstein, Dixie, Waitsburg, Prescott, Rogers Adventist and Assumption Catholic Elementary Schools will all receive a tree to take home and plant. This year we are adding the Touchet Elementary School.



Organizations like the Walla Walla County Conservation District cover the cost of the individually packaged evergreen trees, so there is no cost to students, teachers or schools. The trees are important because they take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and help clean the air everyone breathes. The trees are packaged in workshops that employ adults with disabilities through the Fourth Grade Foresters Program.

Marguerite Daltoso, who represents WWCCD said "We are delighted every year to support this fine program and to hear how the students and their parents enjoy planting their own tree, taking care of it and watching it grow." She said our motto is 'Leave a Legacy, Plant a Tree.' As a result, the youngsters become members of the Fourth Grade Foresters of Washington State.

FISH SCREEN & METER FUNDING STILL AVAILABLE

The WWCCD still has funding available for both NOAA compliant fish screen installations and metering. If you need either a fish screen or meter, get your name on the list!

A PARTNERSHIP THAT WORKS

The Walla Walla County Conservation District (WWCCD) is a Special Purpose District that depends on YOU, the landowner/operator, as it is YOUR CD. We are a group of dedicated professionals that have the ability to help you do all kinds of outstanding projects that enhance and increase your ability to produce more with added efficiency. We are capable of doing all phases of a project in-house, from planning and design, to implementation and completion. Production and sustainability over the long term are what we at the WWCCD strive for. We can assist a landowner with a small in-stream barrier removal project as well as help irrigation districts with multi-million dollar irrigation efficiency projects.

The WWCCD works hard to find project funding through grants that we apply for from all kinds of sources. With your cooperation, we contribute to the improvement of life in Walla Walla County. Your projects help create jobs important to the local economy. The WWCCD and our key professional partners work hard to greatly improve life for all residents in this unique river basin.

Walla Walla County landowners and operators provide many opportunities for great conservation on our working lands. Smart conservation is what allows private landowners to position themselves for success in a very competitive global market place.

The WWCCD does most of its work on private lands for YOU to assist YOU in reaching YOUR goals for production and sustainability. The WWCCD has a long history of working with and for landowners to improve irrigation, restore riparian buffers, meter water use, provide technical advice on farming practices, design and engineer capital projects and act as a buffer between regulatory agencies and landowners. We work for you every day. Any private landowner seeking information or looking for assistance on a project to improve their ability for long term sustainable production should come see the folks at the district office. We are co-located with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Walla Walla USDA Farm Service Center at 325 N. 13th Avenue. Come see us or call 509-522-6340. *By: Mike Denny, Riparian Project Coordinator*

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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Ed Chvatal, Secretary
Todd Kimball, Treasurer
Guy McCaw, Member

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Greg Kinsinger, Restoration Project Coordinator
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Mike Denny, Riparian Project Coordinator
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Larry Hooker, Ag. Projects Coordinator
Lisa Stearns, Civil Engineering Technician

NRCS Staff

Ed Teel, District Conservationist
Jessica Taylor, Soil Conservationist
Tracy Daily, Soil Conservation Tech.

Check out the WWCCD
website at www.wwccd.net

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