

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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WANT TO VOTE ABSENTEE IN THE WWCCD SUPERVISOR ELECTION?

*An absentee ballot may be
picked up from the District
office at 325 N. 13th Ave.
in Walla Walla or by call-
ing 509-522-6340 Ext.
101. The deadline is Jan.
20th, 2012.*

2012 WWCCD ANNUAL MEETING & SUPERVISOR ELECTION

Thursday, January 26, 2012

7:45 to Noon

Walla Walla Regional Airport Community Room

The Walla Walla County Conservation District will hold 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. Coffee and rolls will be available at registration beginning at 7:45 a.m. Chairman Guy McCaw will call the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. This year we have applied for 2 pesticide credits for the day's program. Todd Kimball has accepted his nomination for re-election to our board for a third 3-year term. Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Agenda (Subject to Change):

7:45 Sign in; Coffee & Rolls

**8:00 Welcome, Introductions, Opening of Polls: Guy McCaw,
District Chair**

8:10 WWCCD Activities & Annual Report

8:30 What's New in Precision Farming: Travis Hillman, Ag-Teq

9:30 Break—Make sure you vote!

**9:45 Crops & Soils presentation, Rich Koenig, WSU Crops &
Soils**

10:45 Ag. Burn Program: Kary Peterson, WA-DOE

11:15 Walla Walla County Weed Control Efforts

- False Indigo Bush Control Trials, Jeff Klundt
- Japanese Knotweed Eradication, Mike Denny
- Pesticide Changes & Bio-control, Dave Maiden

QUALITY PROJECTS ENHANCED BY

HIGH QUALITY VOLUNTEER WORK

On October 12th, seventeen Walla Walla University students met at the Whitman Mission National Historic Site to finish planting along Doan Creek and to perform some weed control in a section along the creek. In four hours of work, these hard working students planted 275 native trees and shrubs and also cleaned out almost a mile of kochia, pigweed and lamb's quarter that had over-grown a section of shoreline of the creek.

The Doan Creek Restoration Project is the direct result of a great partnership between the National Park Service (NPS), the Walla Walla County Conservation District and Walla Walla University (WWU). The project was originally considered in 2002 with planting started in 2007. At that time, six species of native willow whips were planted along a newly restored stream bed. Under the direction of Roger Trick, NPS and the WWCCD staff, the riparian habitat zone was planted with the help of many volunteers from Whitman College and WWU. This important project now has a thriving riparian zone that stands greater than 20 feet in height. Thanks to the leadership of the NPS, partners and student volunteers contributed to the restoration of a cold water creek that is benefiting fish, farmers and visitors to the Walla Walla Valley.



Volunteers plant hard stem bulrush along the edges of the Brewer Wetland

On October 24th, Mike Denny joined 16 Whitman College students and staff members of the Whitman Mission National Monument for a three hour weed removal effort on the hill around the Whitman Monument (obelisk). The group pulled hundreds of mare's tail, Russian thistle, yellow-star thistle and kochia plants. These students did an outstanding job and are to be commended. Whitman College's Dr. Bob Carson provided student volunteers for this valuable project.

Then on November 12th and 13th, Tom Dwonch, Director of the Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT) and volunteers dug hard stem bulrush tubers along Highway 12 with the permission of Don Shute, Washington State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT). On the 13th, Mike Denny joined Tom and two members of the BMLT to plant the bulrush tubers along the shoreline of the southernmost pool of the recently created Brewer wetland. More than 275 tubers were planted. These native bulrush plants will provide great cover to hundreds of species of animals, help filter the water and provide shade and thermal cover during extreme hot and cold weather patterns that seem more common these days.

Volunteers are so important to this valley and all kinds of projects. Please strongly consider joining in as a volunteer. Sometimes it is as a weed puller and other instances as a source of experience and knowledge. Please consider volunteering when given the opportunity.

Our thanks go to the staff of the Whitman Mission National Monument, the Blue Mountain Land Trust, the volunteering students of Whitman College and Walla Walla for understanding the great value of these conservation-based projects and the partnerships that work so well. *By: Mike Denny, Riparian Project Coordinator*

AGRICULTURAL BURN FEES TO INCREASE!

The WWCCD has been informed by WA-DOE that field burning fees are planned to be increased to \$3.75 per acre in July 2012. This will allow Ecology to be available to make burn calls seven days per week. Learn more by attending the WWCCD Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election on Thursday, Jan. 26th, 2012.

NEED TO PLANT GRASSES, SHRUBS OR TREES?

WWCCD & NRCS CAN PROVIDE SOLID

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Before you go to the expense of planting grasses, trees or shrubs, a good bet is to obtain solid recommendations from professionals who have a proven track record of successes in the field. At your local USDA Service Center in Walla Walla, both the Walla Walla County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service have people on staff who can give solid advice and help you avoid costly planting failures.

Failures are due to several factors but there are some that stand out and are preventable.



Properly prepare your seedbed: This means that the soil should be firm enough to walk across and not leave a footprint deeper than 1/4 inch. And while weeds cannot be eradicated, action needs to be taken to reduce the seed reservoir in the soil to give the sprouting seedlings a fighting chance for survival. It is helpful to know the history of what herbicides have been used in the past since some chemicals have residual action that may inhibit plant growth and survival.

Select adapted grasses appropriate for the intended use: Plants selected must be adapted to your particular rainfall zone and soil types. Consider the intended use when making

a selection. Habitat plantings such as for upland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plantings or riparian buffers along streams perform best with a mix of adapted grasses. If the intended use is pasture for livestock, mixes are not recommended. With grasses of varying palatability, livestock will use only the most tender and flavorful grasses and underutilize the rest. Over time, this will result in a half stand of “wooly” unpalatable plants and a much lower productivity and carrying capacity.

Base seeding rates on amounts of Pure Live Seed (PLS):

PLS is seed that will grow and discounts hard seed, weed seed, and other inert materials that may be in the seed lot.

The seed tag will show the purity of the lot and the germination percentage of each species in the lot when a mix is used. As a general guideline, don't plant before November 1 or later than March 15



Select woody plants adapted to your site and the intended use: Again, soils and precipitation zones have an important bearing on which plants to select. Fortunately, we have a great many native trees and shrubs adapted over a wide zone of conditions in Walla Walla County. Consult with the WWCCD Staff or NRCS to help decide. By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator.

NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR MEETING?

As part of the WWCCD Outreach & Education effort, we are available to speak regarding who the Walla Walla County Conservation District is and what we do!

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER RIGHT:

A Workshop for Washington State Water Right Holders

Are you wondering if you have a water right, or are you unsure about how to read your water right? Do you have questions about trust water rights or how you can protect your water right?

“Understanding your Water Right: A Workshop for Washington State Water Right Holders” will be the topic of two upcoming workshops at the William A. Grant Water & Environmental Center on the Walla Walla Community College Campus. With two sessions scheduled to convene at 2:00pm and again at 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, the informational program and format at each session will be the same with a panel of local water experts available to answer audience questions.

These two community workshops are hosted by the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership and WWCC William A. Grant Water & Environmental Center. You will have the opportunity to understand the basics about Washington state water rights to help you if you own land with water rights, want to buy or sell land with water rights, or want to trust, bank or transfer water rights. You can also attend to learn more about opportunities to manage your water rights under the unique local water programs offered by the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership.

Please mark your calendar to attend on January 25th, and contact Maureen at (509) 524-5206 or maureen.johnson@wwcc.edu if you have any questions.

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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Check out the WWCCD
website at www.wwccd.net

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