



WASHINGTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

2023 Report of Accomplishments



OUR MISSION

The mission of Washington Conservation Society is to promote natural resource conservation efforts in Washington State by providing a philanthropic center for investments in citizen-led, voluntary-based conservation projects, activities, education, and outreach efforts.



WHAT WE DO



- ❖ Support educational opportunities for youth by sponsoring Conservation Education Programs in Washington State.
- ❖ Support conservation of natural resources by utilizing our 501 c (3) status and acting as a pass-through entity for district's seeking grants.
- ❖ Honor the life-long dedication and service of notable Washington State conservationists by including them in our Leaving a Legacy booklet.

EDUCATION

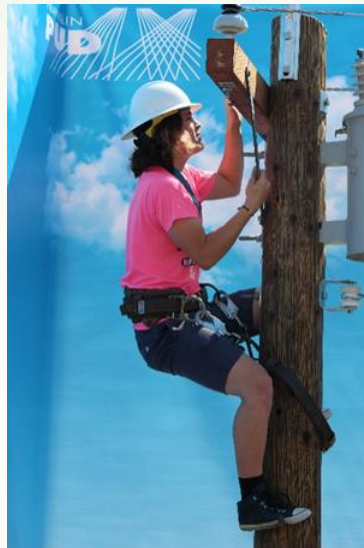
2023 Conservation Education Mini-Grants Update



Underwood CD - The FY23 Mini-Grant from Washington Conservation Society was aimed at supporting three educational programs with local schools. UCD partnered with WPSIS to educate and involve 15 White Salmon 4th grade students on the topic of the invasive Tree of Heaven. Stream Surveys were conducted with approximately 100 White Salmon students providing monthly water quality testing field experiences for 4th graders. UCD also partners with several other entities to collaborate and conduct Water Jam, an annual two-day event involving 400 3rd- 5th graders.

EDUCATION

2023 Conservation Education Mini-Grants Update



Benton & Franklin CDs - used funds from the Washington Conservation Society Mini-Grant (and others) to co-host the first annual Tri-Cities STEM Career Academy. 16 high school students from 11 different high schools completed the program held June 20-23, 2023, at Kennewick High School, in Kennewick, WA. Highlights from this event include building a hydropower model, racing a solar car, building and flying a drone, and one-of-a-kind fields trips to Ice Harbor dam, CHS Sun Basin Growers, PNNL, Benton PUD, Energy Northwest and more! Thank you, Washington Conservation Society!

EDUCATION

2023 Conservation Education Mini-Grants Update



Envirothon - Students from across Washington state gathered in person for the exciting two-day annual Washington State Envirothon Competition on Thursday, May 25th, 2023. The event was hosted by Pierce Conservation District at the Soundview Camp and Retreat Center on the Key Peninsula. 62 students were in attendance, making up 12 teams from 11 different schools across Washington state. 19 volunteers helped facilitate the event from conservation districts and partnering agencies. Competing in Envirothon for the first time, Walla Walla High School in Walla Walla claimed top scores in Aquatic Ecology, Soils, and Wildlife, as well as first place overall.

EDUCATION

2023 Conservation Education Mini-Grants Update



Ritzville Grade School - Ritzville Grade School Outdoor Education Club, was launched thanks to the support from the Washington Conservation Society. The Outdoor Education Club program was designed to provide environmental/conservation education activities for students in 3rd through 5th grade and outdoor leadership opportunities for high school students in 9th through 12th grade. Twenty-four unique students registered to participate in the Outdoor Education Club and of those students, 13 registered every week.



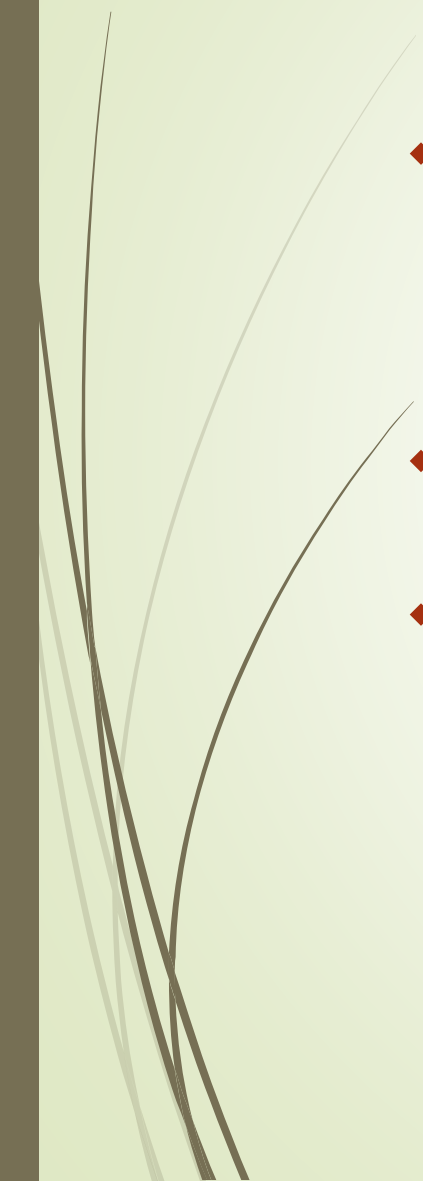
Conservation Education Mini-Grant Applications FY24

5 Applications Were Received

- ❖ Benton CD ~ Salmon Summit West
- ❖ Underwood CD ~ UCD Youth Education
- ❖ Envirothon ~ Washington State Envirothon Competition
- ❖ Ferry CD ~ Outdoor Education Program
- ❖ Thurston CD ~ South Sound GREEN Watershed Education



LEAVING A LEGACY

- ❖ Created to honor conservationists for their outstanding dedication and service to our natural resources.
 - ❖ 5 New Inductees, see next pages.
 - ❖ Book is Available Electronically
- 

Albert Lloyd Roberts

Okanogan Conservation District
October 16, 1956 – April 9, 2023



Albert never seemed to get flustered or bothered by anything. Problems and challenges were just puzzles to be solved and often with sarcasm and extra strength coffee.

Albert was born into a ranching family in North Dakota and was proud to be a fourth-generation farmer. His life partner and soulmate of 37 years, Carey, remains on the ranch they created up Haley Creek Road. Albert is survived by his three children: Paloma Benoliel (Fall City), Deneb Hunter (Terri) (Bellingham), and Teo (Lauren) Hunter (Tukwila) and eight grandchildren.

Albert was known for his ability to make mechanical things work, and maybe more miraculously make something out of nothing into a fully functioning machine or piece of hardware. He was an ardent supporter of getting conservation on the ground and ensuring voluntary actions were championed while pushing against regulations. Albert was also known for his community activism. Not only did he serve as a supervisor for the Okanogan Conservation District for 20 years, 18 of which as the Auditor, but he was also a long-time chair of the Okanogan County Planning Commission, a member of the Okanogan Grange, co-founder of Okanogan Slow Food, and more.

David Christian Johnson

Rock Lake Conservation District

September 27, 1956 – October 17, 2021

David was born in Colfax, WA to Charles Dale and Joyce Aileen (Bafus) Johnson. He grew up on the farm in the Endicott area attending school there. Following high school, he attended Washington State University where he received a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education. While in college he participated in the marching band playing the baritone. It was there that he met his wife, Pamela Robison. They were married on June 28, 1980, in Seattle, WA. He received his first teaching position with the Endicott School District where he was a teacher for 38 years. He taught Science, Ag, and Woodshop, and was a coach for various sports. David served for 6 years as a supervisor on the board of the Rock Lake Conservation District.

Following in the footsteps of his father, David spent many years farming, building the farm of his dreams, and eventually being able to farm with his sons. Rebel Creek Farms was his pride and joy.



David loved gardening, his dogs, coaching many young people in baseball and basketball, trapshooting, and being a Cougar fan.

Joe Camenzind III

Pacific Conservation District

July 11, 1932 - September 23, 2020

Joe was born in South Bend, Washington. He was married for 66 years to Eleanor (Jacobsen) Camenzind. Joe and Eleanor had three children, eleven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren and counting. Joe loved life, his farm, and his family. He had a unique sense of humor and so many lifelong friends of all ages. He would always say "You're welcome as the flowers in May." He served in the military from 1952 to 1954 and was in the reserves until he was discharged in 1961.

Joe served on many boards, he was a board member of the Federal Land Bank of Chehalis for many years, the weed board of Pacific County, the planning board of Pacific County, the Pacific Conservation District for 25 years, and was an Elk member for 67 years.



Those who knew him, referred to him as 'Poppa Joe.' He often had little hard candies in his pocket to distribute to those he liked or wanted to get to know.

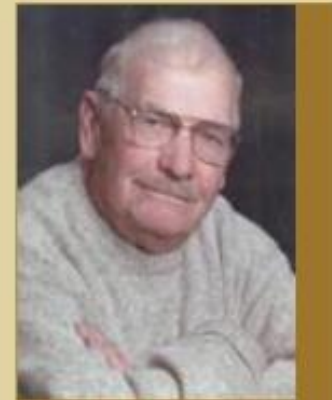
Lester Raymond Rataezyk

Columbia Basin Conservation District

June 26, 1940 – August 28, 2012

Lester Raymond Rataezyk was born in Nyssa, Oregon on June 26, 1940. He graduated from Ephrata High School in 1958. After high school, he served in the National Guard for 14 years. Les loved restoring old vehicles and belonging to the local auto and tractor clubs.

Lester was an extremely active conservation district board supervisor who was instrumental in leading several conservation initiatives and the growth and development of our conservation community in the Columbia Basin. Notably, Les was an early advocate of no-till drill farming. He had the first no-till corn planter in the Ephrata area and was responsible for buying the first conservation district-owned no-till drill in the basin. Additionally, during his 14 years on the board, Lester was responsible for recruiting several board supervisors and consolidating Ephrata, North Grant, and Quincy Conservation Districts into what is now the Columbia Basin Conservation District. Lester was also well known for his lifetime of farming outside of Ephrata and enjoyed many outdoor activities, including canoe racing with other conservation district supervisors, family members, and NRCS staff.



Throughout his life Les enjoyed canoe racing, running, collecting, and restoring antiques and was often seen in the local parades with his truck.

Ronald 'Ron' Shultz

Washington State Conservation Commission

September 10, 1963 - July 1, 2023



Ron's quick wit, laughter, bright smile, and generosity will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Ron was born in New London, CT, to James A. Shultz Jr, and Patricia A. (Jones) Shultz. Ron spent his early years in Edmonds, WA, until moving to Tenino, WA in 1974. Ron then went to Centralia College, before earning his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Washington. Ron continued his education and received his Law Degree from the University of Puget Sound School of Law.

Ron's outstanding career included Director of Policy and Inter-governmental Relations at the WA State Conservation Commission. In this position, Ron enthusiastically represented both farmer and conservation interests with wisdom and compassion. Ron also held the position of Agency lead on the Puget Sound Partnership, directing wetland mitigation issues, and supported the Office of Farmland Preservation. Ron was the Former Director of Programs and Acting Executive Director for the Puget Sound Partnership and was the Natural Resources Advisor to then-Governor Gary Locke, as well as Policy Director for Audubon Washington.



Creating a Legacy

2023 Inductees



DEAN LONGRIE

CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT



JERRY SCHEELE

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



FRED COLVIN

THURSTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board & Officer Elections

The slide features a light green background with a dark green vertical bar on the left. On the right side, there are several decorative, curved green lines of varying thicknesses that sweep across the page. A thin vertical green line is positioned to the right of the main text.



Elected Board of Directors

- ❖ North Central ~ John McLean
- ❖ South Central ~ Heather Wendt
- ❖ Northeast ~ Hilary Sepulveda
 - ❖ Northwest ~ Larry Davis
- ❖ Southeast ~ Jerry Hendrickson
- ❖ Southwest ~ Doug Rushton



Elected Officers

President ~ Larry Davis

Vice President ~ Doug Rushton

Secretary – Treasurer ~ Heather Wendt



FUTURE GOALS AND PROJECTS

- ❖ Continue partnering with CDs as a grant pass-through
- ❖ Promote Conservation Futures Scholarship Program
- ❖ Development of Funding Opportunities to Support WCS Programs