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WASHINGTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

2017 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

2017 Conservation Education Mini-Grant

Washington State Envirothon



The 2017 Washington State Envirothon Competition was held at Camp Waskowitz in North Bend, WA on Thursday, May 18th. In total, 9 WA State high schools participated in the competition, including 66 students and team advisors. Okanogan H.S. won first place in the competition with additional “best test” awards in Aquatic Ecology. The Science and Math Institute in Tacoma (SAMI) came in a close second, with Tekoa H.S. (Whitman County) not far behind.

EDUCATION

2017 Conservation Education Mini-Grant

Ferry CD ~ Bringing Agriculture Back to Curlew



Bench materials for the new greenhouse were purchased with a generous grant from Washington Conservation Society. The cedar benches were designed, built, and finished on-site by Anthony Houston of Ardea Woodworks. We have started garden plants and houseplants that will be available for sale at spring baseball / softball games and at the April 12th Science Fair. Mrs. Warner's class will also take advantage of the greenhouse for their pizza garden and other botanical lessons. Mr. Baker's class will use it for their long-term investigation of growing apple trees.

EDUCATION

2017 Conservation Education Mini-Grant

Lincoln County CD ~ Davenport Community Garden Renovation Project



BEFORE



AFTER

With the help of the Conservation Society Mini-grant, a National Association of Conservation Districts Urban Agriculture Grant, and several other local grants and community fund-raising, the garden was rebuilt from the ground up. The Community Garden now provides an inviting space for the public to gather and learn about water conservation practices, xeriscaping (reduce/eliminate the need for watering), and native plants thru educational programs. A paver pathway and ADA compliant garden boxes have made the garden accessible. A gazebo has created an area for educational programs, 4-H demonstrations, agriculture classwork, and demonstrations on "Farm to Table" sustainability.

EDUCATION

2017 Conservation Education Mini-Grant

Benton CD ~ Salmon Summit



BCD Salmon in the Classroom Program culminates with a special outdoor educational event called "Salmon Summit." In April 2017, BCD's Salmon Summit served 2,653 students. During the event, elementary students attended field stations to learn how science is used in natural resource management, including fish tagging, agriculture, conservation, and recycling.

EDUCATION

2017 Conservation Education Mini-Grant

Lloyd Odell ~ Growing Lunches from Lunches, Part 2



With the help of funds from a 2016 WCS mini-grant, the Republic High School Environmental Science class successfully reclaimed an old greenhouse which had been converted to a storage shed. During the next year, a Horticulture class was offered, partly because of student interest which grew out of the previous year's greenhouse project. The project continued, an evaporative cooler was purchased with funds from the 2017 WSC mini-grant, the composting program was expanded, and many more plants were grown.

Conservation Education Mini-Grant Applications FY18

6 Applications Were Received & Ranked by the Sub-committee:

- Benton CD ~ Salmon Summit Support
- Envirothon ~ WA State Envirothon Competition Support
- Palouse CD ~ Capturing the Palouse Grant
- Underwood CD ~ Environmental Education Programs Support
- Ferry CD ~ CHS Growing Lunches from Lunches
- Grant CD ~ Trout in the Classroom Support

LEAVING A LEGACY

- ❖ Created to honor conservationists for their outstanding dedication and service to our natural resources.
- ❖ 2 New Inductees
- ❖ Book is Available Electronically



"Given the proper support, local people will get the job done if they know the goals, the rules, and that something measurable can be accomplished. None of us individually knows the solution to a problem, but together we do."

Wayne Reid



Signing of 1988 agreement between Washington State Dept. of Ecology and Washington State Conservation Commission

Wayne Reid

WA State Conservation Commission
Palouse Conservation District

Wayne Reid served as the WSCC's third Executive Director, he was a supervisor for Palouse CD for 16 years and Past President of WACD. NACD President Gerald Digerness asked Reid to serve on the Infrastructure Task Force; however, due to his failing health he was unable to attend. Reid shared his thoughts in NACD's Tuesday Letter regarding the forces shaping the future of the conservation district movement, below is an excerpt:

"Our programs, clients and relationships must be examined because we have been thrust into the mainstream. We have sought this and now we are here, though, from the district standpoint, we may not be totally prepared for our responsibility in natural resource care and environmental improvement. However, the district movement has as its strength the delivery of measurable accomplishments through the conservation team..... I have been in the district movement as a client farmer, district supervisor, president of a state association, NACD Council member and, for the last 17 years, director of a state conservation agency. I think we have potentially the finest system for resource conservation that could be created. Therefore, my comments will assume what Phil Glick assumed as he and M.L. Wilson prepared the Model for Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Law - the need for a strong legal entity, locally governed, which is recognized and respected by local clients as the entity that will lead in getting conservation on the land."



Vim Wright receives the Washington State Environmental Excellence Award, 1986

Photo Courtesy Estella Leopold



Violet "Vim" Wright (1926-2003) during oral history recording, Seattle, 2002

Photo Courtesy Estella Leopold

<http://www.historylink.org/File/9788>

Violet "Vim" Wright

WA State Conservation Commission

1926 - 2003

Vim Wright saw a lot in her 76 years. From an impoverished childhood in Istanbul, to society life in Baltimore with adoptive parents, to eventually becoming a primary player in Washington state environmental issues, Wright was known for her vitality and determination. Known as an environmentalist, Wright's real skill was in politics and networking. Her cause was that which didn't have a voice -- plants, animals, and the land they called home. She made it her life's work to be the voice for these entities that could not speak for themselves.

In 1994 Wright decided she wanted to work to save farmland and help farmers. She was appointed to the Washington Conservation Commission. Even though she was the only non-farmer of the group, Wright had the environmental experience and skills they needed, and she quickly earned the trust of the group. She was elected chair of the commission twice in recognition for her leadership skills. She slowly built relationships with farmers, who were often apprehensive of environmentalists, and although other environmentalists were often suspicious of her new direction at first, she helped many of them see the value in preserving farmland and partnering with farmers.  [By Elise Fogel, HistoryLink.org Essay 9788](#)

NetWork for Good

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Support our Conservation Legacy - Donate in Honor of a Conservationist

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Honor or remember someone with your gift?

Current Board of Directors

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

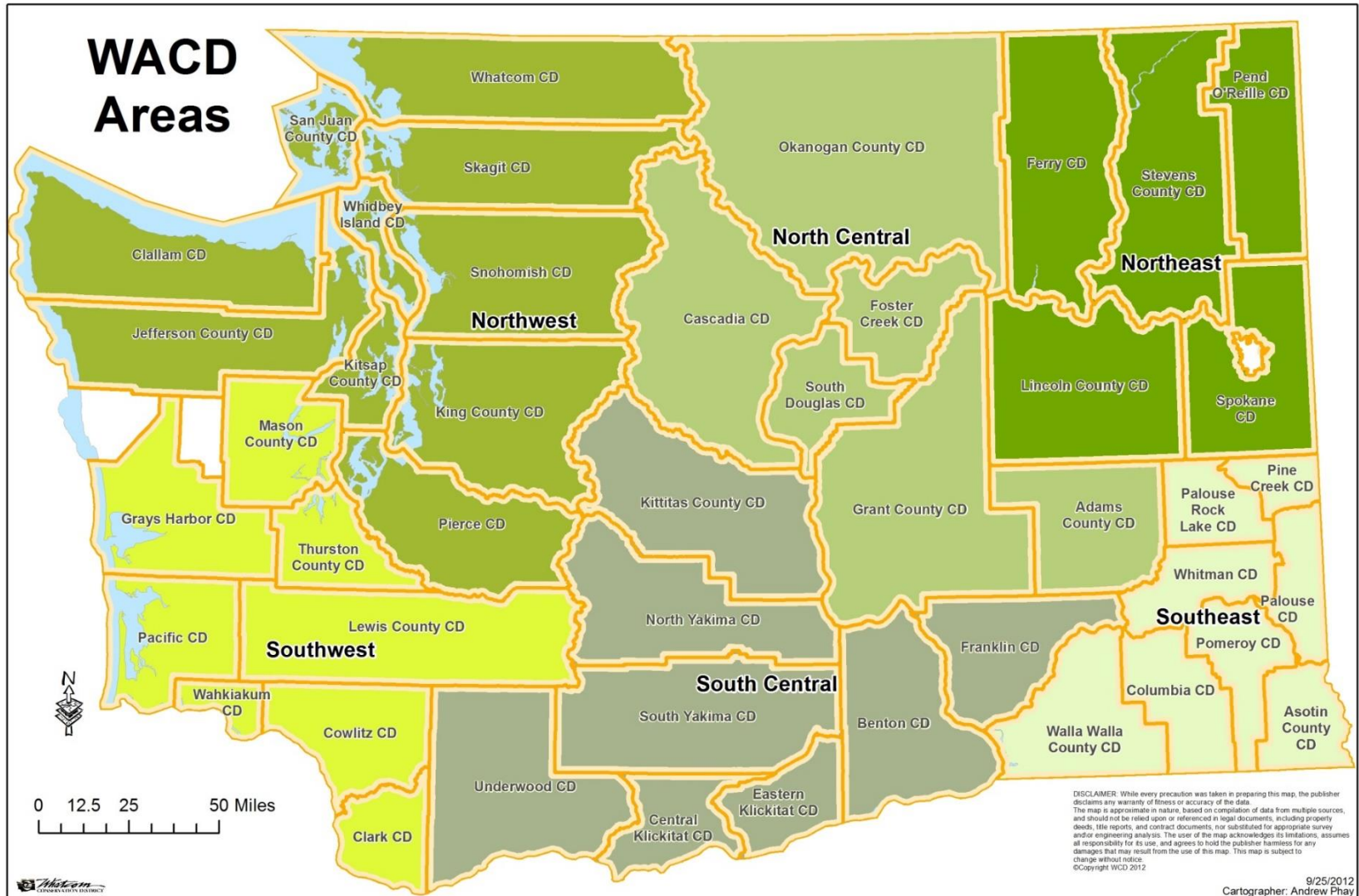
Current Officers

- ❖ President ~ Larry Davis
- ❖ Vice President ~ John McLean
- ❖ Secretary – Treasurer ~ Heather Wendt

Election of Officers

Nominations?

WACD Areas



FUTURE GOALS AND PROJECTS

- ❖ WCS to Assist in Seeking Funding for Development and Implementation of Supervisor Leadership and Training Program
- ❖ Continue to explore ways we can use our Network for Good account to fundraise for our Conservation Education Mini-Grant Program.