



Leaving A Legacy

A visual history of late conservationists whose selfless dedication to the sustainability of our natural resources has left a lasting impact on conservation throughout Washington State.

A publication of the
Washington Conservation Society



Washington Conservation
Society

Eighth Printing – Digital
November 1, 2018

Washington Conservation Society
c/o WACD Plant Materials Center
16564 Bradley Road
Bow, Washington 98232

President: Larry Davis

Booklet Design: Rachel Rooks
with edits by H. Wendt



The idea for a memorial foundation was started in April 2007 by then-WACD President Fred Colvin to honor Bill Broughton, a Washington State Conservation Commission staff member, who passed away earlier that year. A committee was appointed and after a few months all of the paperwork had been completed and sent to the proper agencies, and the Washington Conservation Society (WCS) was classified as a non-profit charitable organization under IRS Section 501(c)3.

The idea for this memorial record came from the first discussions of the appointed committee and the WACD Officers & Directors. There has not been any kind of record keeping of the early days of the conservation movement and the key people who were instrumental in forming the districts, state association and conservation commission. Therefore, with this and future editions of the memorial book, a record has been started and will be updated annually, prior to the WACD state convention, to honor conservationists for their outstanding dedication and service to our natural resources.

The Spokane Conservation District needs to be acknowledged for allowing Rachel Rooks to put this record together for the WCS. Also, thank you to the conservation districts that submitted biographies and pictures used in assembling this book.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gerald Scheele".

Gerald Scheele, Past President
Washington Conservation Society



Brian Abbott

Pierce Conservation District



In 1999 Brian was awarded the Washington State District Employee of the Year in recognition of all his accomplishments.

Brian Abbott was Pierce Conservation District Manager from 1996-2000. Within 3 years of becoming manager Brian grew his team from three employees to ten. He wrote countless grants and brought in over half a million dollars to hire additional staff, acquire vehicles, and upgrade the computer equipment. He created the District website, set up its email system, and set up a computer network with a server. He added a fish passage program which worked to remove fish passage barriers throughout Pierce County.

Brian was not an all work, no play kind of manager. He created a culture where the district team felt like a family. Brian left the District to work for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board at the state Recreation and Conservation Office in 2000. Eventually he became the Executive Director of the Washington State Salmon Recovery Office. His legacy lives on at the Conservation District today.

Mark Andrews, Jr.

Cowlitz County Conservation District

May 18, 1932-March 17, 2008

Mark Andrews was born in Longview, Washington, and was a lifelong resident of Kelso, graduating from Kelso High School and later from the University of Washington Law School; he became a local attorney and juvenile judge pro-tem.

An avid outdoorsman, he was a tree farmer throughout his career (Andrews Tree Farm). He served on the Board for the Cowlitz Conservation District as both an associate supervisor and supervisor, from the mid-1980s until March 25, 1993.

- Cowlitz County Farm Forestry Association- Board member, President: 1964-1965
- Co-Conservationist of the Year: 1984
- Forest Stewardship- Ambassador Volunteer Program: 1991
- Washington State Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year: 1992



The Ambassador Volunteer Program was a landowner mentoring program established at the Cowlitz Conservation District.

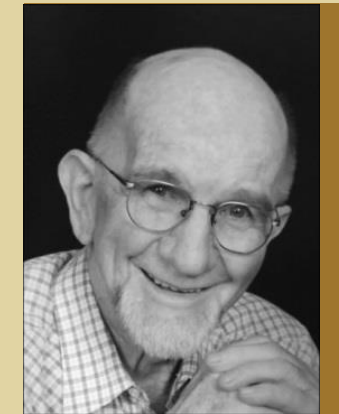
Dick Barr

Snohomish Conservation District

May 11, 1933-February 12, 2015

Dick was a proud dairy farmer who retired in 1997 and will be remembered for his generous spirit. He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 60 years, Rita.

Dick served as a supervisor on the Snohomish Conservation District Board from 1970 – 1985. He was also a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, NW Dairy and Farm Equipment Show and Noxious Weed Boards. Dick was also the Snohomish County Dairy Family of the year in 1975, and was a longtime member of Tualco Grange. He thoroughly enjoyed his annual hunting trips to Montana, eagle watching, hiking and the Seahawks.



Family, hunting, and serving his community were all important to "Gone Hunting" Richard (Dick) Barr.

Ernie Bay

Pierce Conservation District



Ernie was often seen on the Puyallup River trail riding his bicycle and was never shy about sharing his love and admiration for the many unique insects found in the Puyallup River Watershed.

Ernie Bay joined the Pierce Conservation District Board of Supervisors in 2004 at a pivotal time. He helped gain approval of the District's first special assessment. He had focus and was tireless in his pursuit of his passion for improving the environment and livability in Pierce County. Ernie was instrumental in establishment and growth of the Foothills Rails to Trails organization. Today, the Foothills Trail includes 28 miles of asphalt, ballast, and dirt trails and a 4.1 mile asphalt trail along the Puyallup River.

In addition to his considerable prowess at community organizing he was an accomplished academic, holding a PhD in entomology. He was Executive Director of the Washington State Research Center in Puyallup, and during his tenure he led a campaign to fund and build the Allmendinger Center, which serves to this day as a center for discussion and action to preserve and promote farming as a way of life in Pierce County.

Bill Bonsen

Whatcom Conservation District

January 28, 1939 – November 23, 2017



Bill was a soft spoken, yet highly respected man. He lived a life of service, serving in the National Guard, serving the farming community, serving his church community at First Reformed Church, and most of all, serving his family.

Bill was born in Bellingham and graduated from Lynden High School in 1957. He married Marie Bovenkamp and together they had 3 children: Coni, Greg, and Grant.

In November 2017, Whatcom CD and the county community said goodbye to our colleague, mentor, friend, and public servant - Bill Bonsen. His tireless commitment to serving landowners in Whatcom County started in 1959, with NRCS, and then Whatcom Conservation District in 2006.

Bill cared about the environment, and he cared about the many dairy and berry farmers in Whatcom County. Bill always greeted you with a smile. He literally walked acres and acres of farms in his career, and farmers honored him by calling him "friend". He was trusted and admired by all who worked with him.

In 1958, Bill began what was to be a 59-year career working as a Soil Conservation Specialist, first with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. After 47 years, Bill officially retired in 2005, but he couldn't quite give up the job he loved so much and went back to work part-time for the Conservation District, working right up to the last week of his life. Bill designed hundreds of lagoons, wildlife ponds, and drainage areas throughout Whatcom County.

Daniel 'Dan' Broeckel

Whitman Conservation District

May 20, 1932 – May 16, 1994

Dan was born in Dusty WA to Ed and Bertha Schmauder Broeckel and was raised by his aunt and uncle, John and Lousia Schoeff. He married Darlene Scaros November 22, 1953. Dan did not like farming but bought land at Dusty then moved to Colfax. He went into partnership with his brothers in Hay, WA area on Big Alkali Road where he farmed for 31 years.

Dan was a member of the Colfax First Baptist church. He served many years on the board of the La Crosse School district. Dan also served as a supervisor and former chairman of the Whitman Conservation District from 1979 to 1994.

Dan is survived by his wife, Darlene; four children, Ron, Conie, and Cory Broeckel of La Crosse; and Randy Broeckel of Yakima.



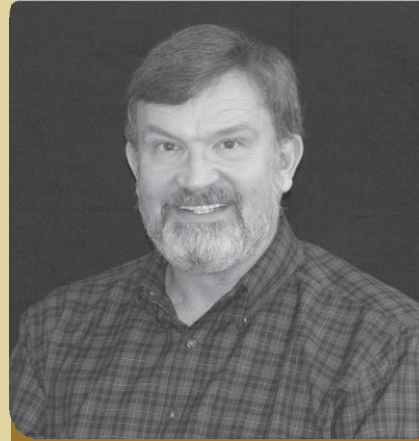
Bill Broughton

Washington State Conservation Commission

Bill Broughton, Eastern Washington Regional Manager for the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), passed away in February 2007.

He graduated from Washington State University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Economics, after serving in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. He worked for Broughton Land Company in Dayton for 15 years and was active in various community and agricultural organizations.

From 1982-1984 Bill took part in Washington State's Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Training Program, and in 1990 became the Eastern Washington Regional Manager for the WSCC, where he worked with 15 districts from the Canadian border down to the Oregon border, knowing 75 supervisors on a one-on-one basis.



As one colleague said, "My lasting impression of Bill will be standing afar, watching him interact with district supervisors and staff...he is the model for which we all strive."

R.E. Cornelius, Sr.

North Yakima Conservation District

August 11, 1931 - November 8, 2013

In 1968, R.E. began serving a 40 year volunteer career as a board member in soil and water conservation with the Ahtanum/Moxee Conservation District. In 1972 all local districts consolidated and became the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD), where he was elected the Chairman of the Board by his peers and served in that capacity until his 2008 retirement.

During his 40 years of service, R.E. was elected twice to serve as President of the Washington Assoc. of Conservation Districts from 1979-1982, where he led the legislative fight for more local conservation money. These days were the highlight of his farming career and the days when he met and maintained many special friendships with other local farmers.



R.E. was quoted as saying, "I got to live my life the way I wanted to and it don't get much better than that." A man of few regrets, he was most content at home looking out amongst his expansive farm.

Wes Cornwall

Spokane County Conservation District



Wes had the longest record, at the time of his death in 1992, of continuous service as a supervisor with 40 years!

John Wesley "Wes" Cornwall was an ardent spokesman for soil and water conservation.

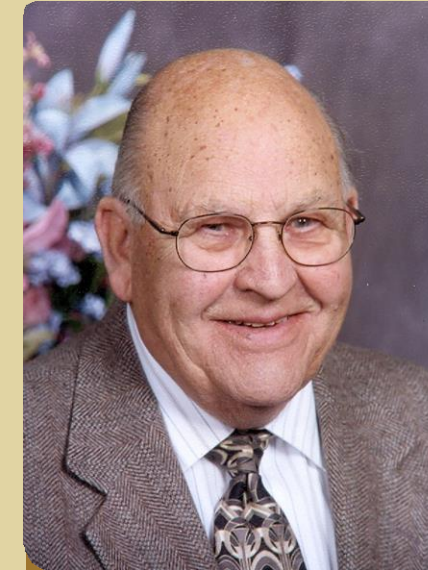
He helped establish the Washington State Conservation District Law in 1939, and became a supervisor of one of the first conservation districts in the state, the Latah Rock Creek District, which became part of the Spokane County Conservation District.

Wes farmed 15 miles southeast of Spokane on land that was homesteaded by his grandfather over 100 years ago.

Gerhard (Gay) Digerness

Washington State Conservation Commission

February 19, 1913-November 17, 2010



Gay is survived by his four children, 15 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

Gerhard (Gay) Digerness was born in North Dakota in 1913 and moved with his family to Poulsbo, Washington, at age four. His family soon moved to Bainbridge Island and operated a small poultry farm. He started his career as a teacher and principal of Kingston and South Colby elementary schools, and after five years in the education field he left and became a dairy farmer.

Gay served as a long time Board Member of Whatcom Conservation District and was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Washington State Conservation Commission. In 1963, the Commission hired him as a field rep, where he worked until his retirement in 1975. Gay passed away on November 17, 2010, at the age of 94. He was preceded in death by his wife of 72 years, Bernice.

Donald 'Don' Doty

Whitman Conservation District

June 23, 1930 – June 1, 2000



Don was born June 23, 1930 in Colfax to Wayne and Mary Schoeff Doty. He married Lorene Dee Ackerman in Colfax July 2, 1951. They operated the family farm at Mockonema until retiring and moving to Colfax in 1993.

Don served on the District Board from 1976 to 1994. He was a member of the Community Bible Church and served on the church board. Dan also served eight years in the National Guard.

Don is survived by his wife Dee; 3 sons; Doug Doty in Asotin, Steve Doty, Spokane, and Kevin Doty of Colfax; and 3 grandchildren.

Jim Druffel

Palouse Conservation District

Jim Druffel served the lands, resources and people of the Palouse Conservation District for over 27 years. He held steadfast beliefs in proper resource management and based his decisions on the wisest use of those resources. He was an early pioneer in the use of no-till farming on the Palouse in the Rimrock Country bordering the Snake River, where limited rainfall makes any kind of farming a challenge. Through trial and error and at great risk to his family's farming business, he proved that success could be achieved.

His long tenure with the Palouse Conservation District provided knowledge in helping shape the direction and decision-making process that have guided our programs and helped ensure our goals are always met. He had the ability to look at a challenge, provide thoughtful insight, seek differing views, and reach a defensible conclusion. We will miss his counsel and his humor.



Jim would state, "You know, these folks make great claims of being environmental activists, but me...well, ***I would rather be known as an Active Environmentalist.***"

Dr. Fred Ellis

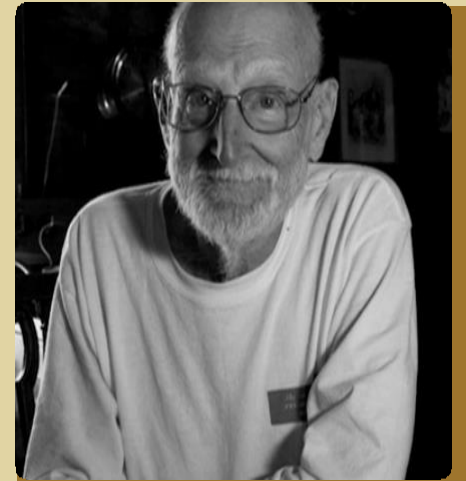
San Juan Islands

1916-2010

Fred Ellis' conservation legacy in the San Juan Islands began with his first visit to Shaw Island in 1936. When the Orcas Line Company abandoned its plan to log Shaw for cordwood in the 1950s, Fred and his family purchased their large family homestead in Parks Bay for \$200 an acre. Since then, Fred and his wife Marilyn, and their family has methodically acquired more than 1,000 acres on Shaw Island and an additional 400 acres of important agricultural land on Lopez Island. All of these places have been permanently protected through gifts of land and conservation easements made to the San Juan Preservation Trust and the University of Washington.

- Founding member of the San Juan Preservation Trust
- Founding member, along with his wife Marilyn, of the Friends of the San Juan

As Fred would often say,
"isn't it fabulous?"



In his later years, Fred was quick to share his favorite quote attributed to E.O. Wilson, a Harvard biologist and theorist:

"Man will be defined not by what he has created, but rather by what he has chosen not to destroy."

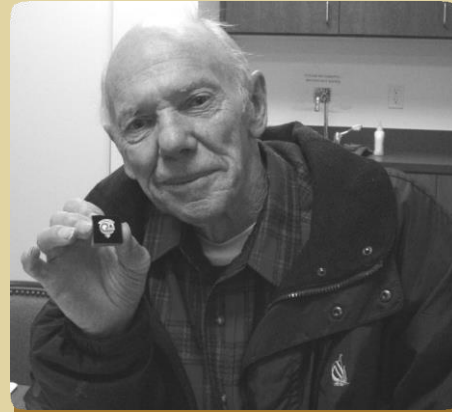
Walter Forsberg

Clallam Conservation District

Walt Forsberg was Clallam Conservation District's longest-serving supervisor, serving in that capacity for 24 years beginning in 1977; he also served as an associate supervisor for an additional eight years, until his death in the summer of 2009.

A graduate of Washington State College, Walt was a dairy farmer for most of his life. He sold the dairy in the late 1990s but continued to operate the farm, raising beef cattle and managing forestland for timber.

Walt's grandparents were members of the Port Angeles Puget Sound Cooperative Colony, the first of several utopian collective communities around Puget Sound in the late 1800s and early 20th century.



Walt received a service pin in recognition of his 32 years on the board of the Clallam Conservation District, both as a Supervisor and Associate Supervisor.

Richard 'Rich' Geiger

Mason Conservation District

April 12, 1957 – September 22, 2016

Richard Joseph Geiger was born on April 12, 1957 to Herman and Phyllis Geiger in Billings, Montana. He was the oldest son of eight siblings.

Rich attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. While at Gonzaga, Richard was an ROTC Cadet and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. After graduation, he was commissioned by the U.S. Army. He served as a lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne Division and left the Army as a major. He earned his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Washington. In 1981, he married Josephine Ferranti. Together, they moved to Germany, North Carolina, Texas, California, and made a home in Washington. They had two daughters, Richelle (28) and Sara (21).

Rich was a civil engineer for the Mason Conservation District. His brilliant mind and kind leadership style made him a great mentor and colleague. He was deeply dedicated to his work and the Puget Sound. His legacy will live on with the work he has done in the Skokomish River Valley.



Rich was an avid fisherman and a passionate trombone player who played with local jazz bands.

Everett Glover

Snohomish Conservation District



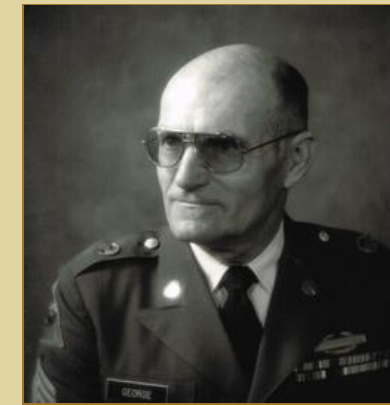
Everett Glover was a board member for the Snohomish Conservation District for over 20 years. He was a Lake Stevens-area dairy farmer, school board member, and high school booster. Everett was also active in the United Dairymen's Association, Northwest Dairymen's Association, National Milk Producers Federation, the Darigold board and the Snohomish Cenex board. He was a Seattle Mariner fan as well, never missing spring training in Peoria, Arizona!

Everett regularly visited farmers to support and encourage their work and to find out what problems needed to be addressed. He encouraged in-depth discussions in the board meetings, and voted with his conscience on all issues, never wavering from his strongly-held views. He played a lead role in facilitating and securing funding for Snohomish Conservation District operations.

Walter A. George

South Yakima Conservation District

August 20, 1924 – October 7, 2014



In December 2011, Walt was honored by the Washington Mint Growers Association with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Walt George was born on August 20, 1924, in Elberta, Alabama. In 1932 Walter and his family moved to Sunnyside. He was drafted into the Army in 1944 and honorably served his country with Company B, 38th Infantry Regiment, 7th Armored Division and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious combat service during the Battle of the Bulge. In 1946 he started farming with his father and brothers.

Walt George served 30 years on the South Yakima Conservation District as a district supervisor and associate supervisor; he was the Chairman of the 208 Water Quality Committee for Yakima County whose work the Governor adopted. In addition, he served on the Diamond Fruit Growers board, Supervisor of Drainage #19, Chairman of Water Quality Committee for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and Area President for the South Central Area for the Water Quality Committee. He also contributed to the founding of the Washington Asparagus Growers Association.

Steve Graves

Underwood Conservation District

July 28, 1916 – September 9, 2011

After graduating from high school in Indiana, Steve Graves traveled to the Northwest and fell in love with the Columbia Gorge area. Later he bought a farm northwest of Lyle, Washington, where he and his wife Barbara began farming three years after Underwood CD was formed.

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts “Eugene Schloz Memorial Award” was presented to Steve in 2001. Underwood Conservation District granted Steve the “Dedicated Service Award” that read, “With Gratitude and Selfless Dedication and for Providing Conservation Leadership to Our Community,” for 46 years of service as a district supervisor from 1956 to 2002.

In 1991 the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recognized his farm as “Wildlife Farm of the Year.”



Steve Graves, recipient of the first “Supervisor Emeritus” award given by the Washington State Conservation Commission.

Bernice Graves-Devore

Whatcom Conservation District

1914-2012

Bernice served as Washington State Educational Chairperson for 15 years through the Washington Association of Conservation Districts in her capacity as an associate supervisor and supervisor for the Whatcom Conservation District. She helped to organize the week long Western Washington Natural Resources Youth Camp for High School students, preparing the program and collecting partial scholarships. Bernice was also instrumental in bringing the Envirothon competition to Washington State.

Bernice graduated from Western Washington College of Education in the spring of 1943 and began her 33 year teaching career in the Meridian School District. In the fall of 1951, she moved to the Ferndale School District. She retired in the spring of 1976. That year she was honored by the National Association of Conservation Districts as Conservation Teacher of the Year for both Whatcom County and Washington State.



Bea encouraged teachers to teach “the wise use of our Natural Resources.”

Peter "Pete" Guglielmino

Stevens County Conservation District

Pete was born on October 15, 1957 in Colville, the son of Don Minot and Kathleen Lois (Dompier) Guglielmino. Following high school, he attended Eastern Washington University. During his junior year, a freshman by the name of Patricia "Patsy" D. Coulter caught his eye. They exchanged wedding vows on September 11, 1982 in Northport after Pete completed his B.S. in Geology and graduated in 1981.

Pete spent his life engaging in his passion of cattle ranching and sharing the ranch life with guests at Bull Hill Guest Ranch, which he built in 1995. Pete was also past president of the Stevens County and Washington State Cattleman's Associations and Cattleman of the Year recipient. Pete served on the Washington State Governor's Trade Mission, National Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, Stevens County Soil Conservation District, Stevens County Planning Commission and the Providence Hospital Fund Raising Committee.



He filled the room in his humble presence and raised the rafters with his unforgettable laughter.

Ken Hafer

Stevens County Conservation District



Ken donated over 5000 volunteer hours in his 33 year legacy as a Stevens County Conservation District Supervisor.

Ken Hafer was born in 1925 on a farm near Chewelah, Washington; one mile from Sunnyvale Farms which he established in 1943. In 1945 he became steward of 400 acres and milked 80 to 100 dairy cows. In 1983 he retired from the dairy and began producing hay and grain. In 1993 he decided to lighten his work load and travel.

Ken was elected in March 1960 and served through January 1993. Although he came on board SCCD “Green”, he was a “Lifer” in the county who accomplished the goal of “Local people solving local problems”. He saw the District’s net worth grow from \$32,000 in 1978 to \$201,300 in 1992. As a supervisor he was commended for faithful, dedicated service above that expected of a volunteer and wanted to preserve the land and leave it in better condition than it had been found.

Kurt Harder

Franklin Conservation District

1964-2009



Kurt graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Agricultural Mechanization.

Kurt Harder, a fourth generation rancher and wheat farmer from Kahlotus, Washington, served as a supervisor on the Franklin Conservation District board from 2006 until his passing in 2009.

In addition to his service on the FCD board, Kurt served as the chairman of the Franklin County Farm Service Agency Committee, President of the Franklin County Wheat Grower’s Association, and Fire Commissioner for the Kahlotus Fire Department, just to name a few.

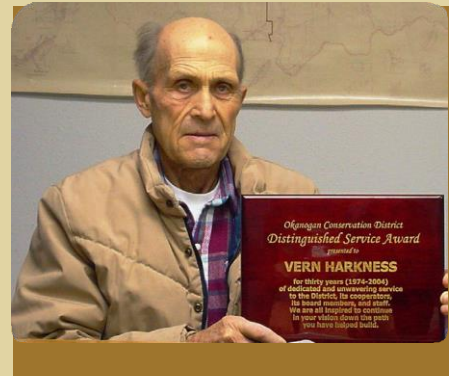
Kurt was always ready to listen or lend a hand. We will greatly miss his wonderful sense of humor and his infectious chuckle.

Vern Harkness

Okanogan Conservation District

Vern Harkness was a rancher, farmer, family man, and long-time supervisor for the Okanogan Conservation District. He grew up in the small ranching community of Havillah where he helped his parents with their ranch and headed to Washington State University, and then to serve a tour of duty in Korea. Not long after he returned to Okanogan County, he married Donna Corbin and began a family.

Vern was elected to the Okanogan Conservation District board in March 1974 and served 30 years. He served as a member, secretary-treasurer, vice-chair and chair. He rarely missed a monthly meeting and often offered to help with additional tasks. He worked hard to help form the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board, and was a member of the Okanogan Cattlemen's Association. He will be remembered for his quiet determination, pleasant demeanor, and his devotion to conservation.



Vern retired from his voting position on the Okanogan Conservation District board on April 1, 2004. He was presented with a Distinguished Service Award for his 30 years of dedicated service.

Clark Hedrick

Stevens County Conservation District

Clark Hedrick was born here and never left. Hedrick's father homesteaded a hilltop overlooking the Colville Valley in 1902. During the Depression, Clark and a brother paid \$7 an acre for the adjacent farm. This was his home for a lifetime. They raised cattle, sheep, hay and timber. The goal was to keep the land, farm the land and love the land. Clark farmed so the soil wouldn't wash away, and logged timber so there was always something left. He felt you should treat the land right and it will treat you right.

Clark Hedrick served as a Stevens County Conservation District Supervisor from 1960 to 1998. He was chairman for 15 years and founder of the Stevens County Forestry Contest. The Clark Hedrick Award; a chrome-headed axe, was first presented to the winning forestry contest team in 1997. Annually the award honors Clark Hedrick for his long time support and participation. Stevens County is a better place because of Clark Hedrick.



Clark Hedrick served as a Stevens County Conservation District Supervisor from 1960 to 1998.

Tim Herdrick

Lincoln County Conservation District

September 18, 1964 - June 19, 2008



Tim with his wife Sheri.

Tim Herdrick was born in Almira, Washington in 1964 to Dennis and Nancy Herdrick. He was married to his wife Sheri for 23 years and they had three children: Cassandra, Caitlin and Hayden. Tim was a Board member for the Lincoln County Conservation District beginning in 2000 until his death eight years later.

He was dedicated to the District, farming and to conservation. He donated a great deal of time to various projects with the District and was always ready and willing to help out when needed.

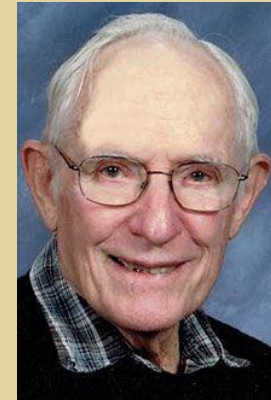


Tim's wife and children accepting an award in his honor in 2008.

Paul N. Hinderer

South Douglas Conservation District

September 5, 1933 – January 30, 2015



Paul was heard to say on more than one occasion, "If there is one drop of water running off my ground, I want to capture it." Stop the water from moving, reduce soil erosion and increase yields, it's a win win.

Paul was born to Melinda and E.P. Hinderer as an unexpected twin on September 5, 1933, in Waterville, WA. Following college, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve and continued farming. Paul and his brothers, Mark and John, purchased their first piece of farm land at age 15, beginning his lifelong love of farming.

Paul Hinderer was also an active member and past chairman of the South Douglas Conservation Board for many years. Paul's staunch advocacy for sound farming practices, including the construction of countless dams and terraces. For his conservation efforts he was recognized with the 2015 Conservation Farmer of the Year awarded by the South Douglas Conservation District. He was also a lifelong supporter of 4H and member of the United Lutheran Church.

Family was Paul's other greatest pride. He was blessed with his loving wife of 49 years, Lois; three children, Shannon (Mike), Susan (Jason), and Garth (Naoko); and seven grandchildren.

Terry Lee Holloway

Pend Oreille Conservation District



Terry had other loves in her life that included quilting, gardening and her animals. Terry's love, devotion and willingness to help her family were her greatest virtues.

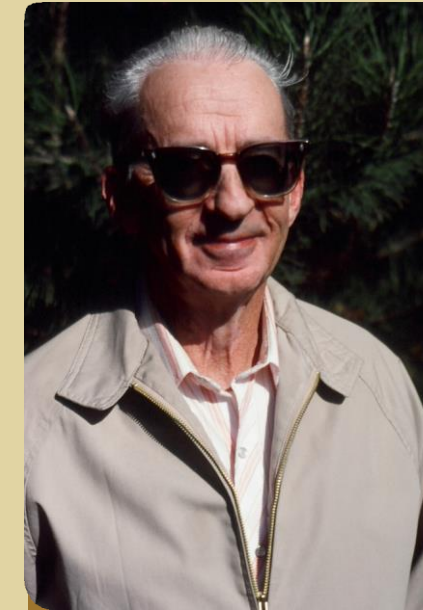
Terry loved her work at the Pend Oreille County Conservation District where she was the District Administrator. Her career was always close to her personal philosophy, wanting to take care of the world she lived in.

Her work included Natural Resource Specialist at the Oregon Department of Natural Resources and the Stevens County Conservation District. She also worked as a Hydrologic Technician for the Kalispell Tribe of Indians, as a Hydrologic Technician at the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, and as a Hazardous Waste Technician at Tooele Army Depot Chemical Agent at a Munitions Demilitarization Site.

Terry was also an active member of the Pend Oreille County Planning Commission and the former manager of the Pend Oreille Valley Farmer's Market in Newport, WA.

George Huffman

Spokane County Conservation District



George and his wife Helen were instrumental in starting the District's tree sale in 1970, which is still going strong 41 years later!

George Huffman was a farmer and rancher near Deer Park, Washington, in north Spokane County, raising registered Red Angus cattle, hay and trees.

He served on the North Spokane Conservation District Board of Supervisors until the consolidation of the four districts in Spokane County occurred in November 1973. After the consolidation, he continued to serve the Spokane County Conservation District until March 1994.

During his tenure on the Board, George was very active on the WACD Forestry Committee. George passed away at his home in 1996.

Howard Jaeger

Cowlitz Conservation District

April 9, 1933-November 9, 2009

Howard Jaeger was born in Vancouver and graduated from Kalama High School. After a 25 year career with the Army he retired to his tree farm (Sky Ranch) in Cowlitz County.

He began serving as a Supervisor on the Board for the Cowlitz Conservation District in 1980, where he served for 10 years. He was an associate supervisor from 1990-2002 and was a supervisor again from 2002 until 2009, for a total of 29 years of service.

- Washington Association of Conservation Districts- President and Regional Manager
- Long-time member and president of the Kelso Kiwanis



Howard was instrumental in creating the WACD Plant Materials Center in the late 1980s.

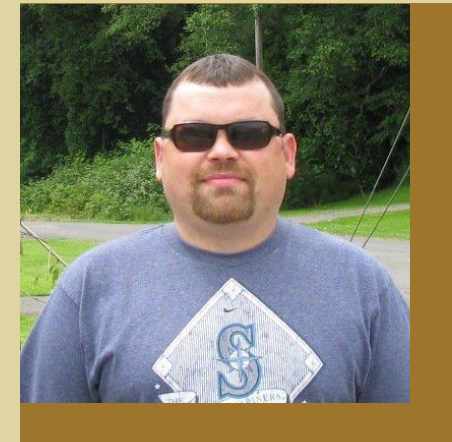
Michael Allen Johnson

Grays Harbor & Pacific Conservation Districts

April 13, 1971 – February 2, 2013

Michael was born April 13, 1971 in Aberdeen. He was very involved with salmon recovery and worked as the manager for the Grays Harbor and Pacific Conservation Districts. He served on and was actively involved in the AgForestry Class 35; Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council since 2011; Pacific County Marine Resources Committee Coordinator since 2006; Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership (vice chairman /planning) since 2006 and also the Willapa Bay WRIA #24 lead entity coordinator since 2001.

His favorites quotes were, “Live, love, laugh”; “It is what it is”; “It’s not the size of the dog in the fight it’s the size of the fight in the dog”; “Never, ever give up”; “Don’t mistake kindness for weakness”; “There is a greater purpose in life than just me”.



Mike loved being outdoors fishing and hunting and he enjoyed baseball, basketball and spending time with his family.

Robert Kiser

Cowlitz Conservation District

November 19, 1939 - September 30, 2010

Robert Kiser was born in Kelso, Washington, on November 19, 1939. He was raised on the family dairy farm in Lexington. After a tour in Korea with the Army, he began working for the US Forest Service in John Day, Oregon, which is where he met and married Gayle Magee in 1967. He retired from the Umpqua National Forest in 1994 and returned to his family farm.

Bob was active in the Washington Farm Forestry, the Cowlitz Conservation District, and other civic duties. He loved fishing, hunting, and digging clams. He added to his beehive every year by taking care of swarms when people called. His two Airedale terriers went everywhere with him, whether in the truck or out in the boat.



Robert is survived by his wife Gayle and their two children and three grandchildren.

Edward 'Ed' Kuhn

Spokane Conservation District

October 15, 1928 - November 9, 2015

Edward was born in Saskatchewan, Canada to John and Alvina Kuhn. As a young boy his family moved to Washington State and settled in Edwall, WA where he grew up on the family ranch and farm. In 1951 he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Upon leaving the Air Force, Ed and his wife Lavone settled in Edwall, WA where he pursued his dream of farming and ranching in partnership with his father.

Ed Kuhn first became a supervisor for the Sprague-Harrington Conservation District in 1959, serving that District until 1969 when he became a supervisor in the Southwest Spokane Conservation District. Ed was instrumental in promoting and facilitating the consolidation of the 4 original districts in Spokane County in 1974. Ed continued as a Supervisor for the Spokane Conservation District until he stepped down in the spring of 2002. After resigning from the Board, he continued as an Associate Supervisor until 2007 after serving conservation districts for more than 48 years.



Edward's retirement years, his much loved activity was dancing. Besides farming, it was his favorite subject to talk about.

Everell “Duke” LeBaron

Whidbey Island Conservation District

Everell “Duke” LeBaron was born and raised in Berkeley, California. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of California. He worked in wholesale food in the Bay Area before moving to Seattle in 1971, where he owned two service stations.

Duke received a Masters of Science degree in Appropriate Technology from Antioch University in Seattle in 1971. He owned a business “Wood Stove and More Store,” selling wood stoves and designing passive solar homes. Duke developed a mini-farm on a West Seattle city lot. In 1978 he purchased property on Whidbey Island, and moved there full-time in 1986, where he had a business, “Earth Gentle Products,” which morphed into selling paper products made from recycled material. Duke completed the WSU Livestock Advisors Course and raised poultry, sheep, and pigs for many years. He also worked part-time in a feed store for 15 years.



Duke served on the board of the Whidbey Island Conservation District for two non-consecutive terms of three years each.

August “Augie” Luft

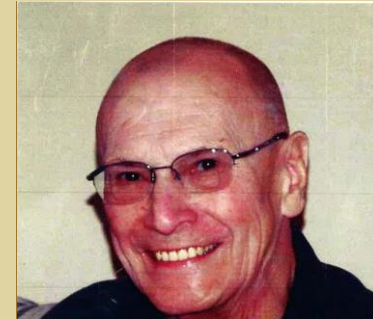
Whitman Conservation District



Augie played in the famous Codger Bowl in Colfax.

Augie was born September 3, 1917 at Dusty, WA. to John and Katie Bafus Luft. He lived his early life in Dusty and later moved with his family to Lancaster and then to St. John. Augie enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1941. His crew flew thirty bombing missions over Germany and the first daylight mission over Berlin. Following his honorable discharge Augie went back to the family farm to work. Once home he organized a town baseball team. At one of the games he met his future wife Willene Lee. They were married June 1, 1957.

Augie was a member of Peace Lutheran Church, the Endicott Gun Club, Colfax Golf Course and the Dusty Co-op. He also served for several years as a member of the Endicott School Board and as chairman. He was a long time member of the Colfax Elks and of the Whitman County Conservation District as a supervisor and associate. While on the Conservation District Board, he brought the three county districts together to meet once a month. He was also honored as the Wildlife Farmer of the Year in 1993.



George was best known for his organizational skills.

George Mahoney

Clark Conservation District

George Mahoney was born May 22, 1924. George served in China, Burma and India in the U.S. Army during WWII. He continued military service in the National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve, culminating his military career with the rank of Colonel, as Chief of Staff for the 104th Division. After retiring from the military, George worked as a volunteer for the Clark Conservation District, becoming an Associate Supervisor in 1991. George served as an Associate Supervisor for 16 years. During his tenure as an Associate Supervisor George organized accounts and grant contracts, assisted with internal audits, committee meetings, the district's tree sale and any other task that would move the district forward. “He was a remarkable man and I always enjoyed his forthright and positive approach to solving problems.” Tom Salzer, former WSCC Regional Manager.

George was well respected in all circles, receiving numerous awards and commendations from the military and Clark County for his work. In 1991 he was awarded an accommodation by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) for his outstanding leadership to the District. In 1997 he was recognized again by the WSCC with a commendation for his exemplary service.

Norm McClure

Okanogan Conservation District



"We must have passion for the land and compassion for the people" - **Norm McClure**

Norm McClure was a member of the Board of Supervisors for the Okanogan Conservation District for 42 years and invested more than 50 years in the ranching business.

He graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology, and then received a Master's degree in Range Management from the University of Idaho.

- Member of the Society for Range Management
- Member of the American Legion and the Washington Conservation Coalition
- Lobbied for state and federal legislation
- Supporter and advisor for the Washington State University Range Management Department

Vickie Mesman

Skagit Conservation District



Vickie was known for her kindness and generosity.

Vickie, the only girl of six children, was born in Yakima, Washington to Victor and Martha Robert. She was raised on the family sheep ranch in Sunnyside, Washington where she was active in 4-H and FFA throughout her youth. She graduated from Sunnyside High School in 1978 and went on to receive degrees in Agricultural Education and General agriculture from Washington State University.

Vickie was a manager for the Skagit Conservation District for a number of years before working for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. As a young mother of two, Vickie decided to slow down and switch careers to run the Co-Op Pre-School single handedly for a few years. She continued to serve as a Skagit Conservation District associate supervisor until her death. She also served on the Skagit County Dairy Women Board for which she was the current treasurer and in the past served as president/vice president. Vickie passed away on August 18, 2014.

Chan Noerenberg

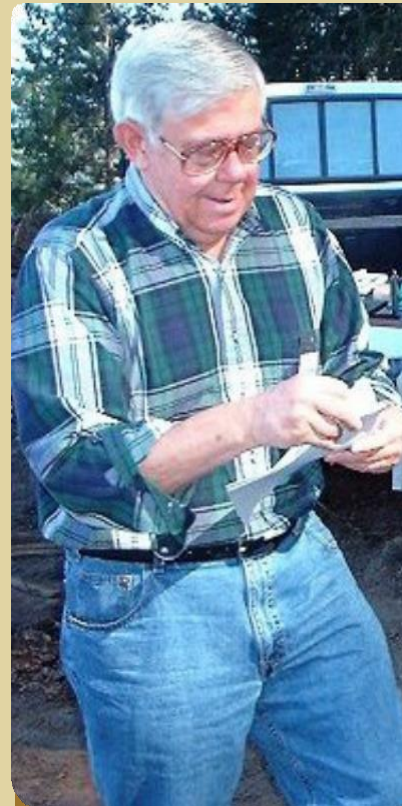
Cowlitz Conservation District

June 2, 1927-August 13, 2008

Chandler “Chan” Huntington Noerenberg was born in Portland, Oregon in 1927, and graduated from R.A. Long High School in Longview, Washington. He attended Washington State College where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, this is also where he met his wife Joan, to whom he was married for 49 years.

After a 34-year-long career with Union Oil Company, he retired to his family tree farm (Darb Hill Tree Farm). He served on the Board for the Cowlitz Conservation District as a supervisor from 1993-2000.

- Cowlitz County Farm Forestry Association-board member, Secretary and Chapter President
- Washington State Farm Forestry Association- Secretary, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice and President



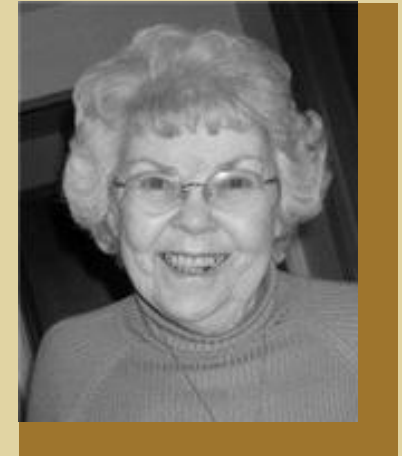
Betty Norton

Skagit Conservation District

Betty was born to Thomas J. and Mary E. Whalen in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She married Robert A. Norton on October 14, 1950. Together they had 6 children.

Betty was a homemaker and mother extraordinaire. She was an active member of the PTA. Betty worked outside of the home part-time at the Skagit County Auditor's Office and at Hellen's Needlework.

Betty's concern for the environment and the farmlands of Skagit County brought her to a 12 year position on the board of the Skagit County Planning Commission. From that she joined the Skagit Conservation District Board of Supervisors in 1981 and became its chair in 1989. She remained in that position until her retirement in 2007 and then served as an associate supervisor. She also served as Chair of the Plant Materials Center Administrative Committee for six years. Betty passed away on October 16, 2014 at the age of 84.



After her son, Clifford's death in 1980, Betty co-founded the Skagit County chapter of the Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who have lost a child.

Jim O'Brien

South Douglas Conservation District
September 21, 1948-May 25, 2010

Jim O'Brien was born on September 21, 1948, in Waterville and passed away on May 25, 2010, after a long battle with cancer. For the past 30 years he had served as an elected or associate supervisor for the South Douglas Conservation District.

Jim was also a wheat farmer and cattle rancher. He was not only involved with the conservation district, but also with various community and state organizations. He helped out with the NCW Fair each fall, church functions, district tree sales, school activities and wherever someone needed a hand.



Jim with his mother, Mary

David Mead Palmer

Grays Harbor Conservation District
July 12, 1937 - August 30, 2016

David Mead Palmer, son of George and Eva (Sanborn) Palmer was born in Alameda, Calif., in 1937. Dave graduated from Grants Pass, Oregon High School. While on a scholarship with U.S. National Bank, he moved to Portland, Ore., where he started his data processing career. He joined the IBM Corporation in 1961 and worked for them for 30 years.

The Black River fish kill of 1989 caught David's attention and interest. For the next decade, he was deeply involved in water quality and flooding issues. This led David to be the Founding member and 1st Chairman of the Chehalis River Council. He expanded that interest as a member of Board of Supervisors, Grays Harbor Conservation District, Board of Directors Chehalis Basin Land Trust member, Governors Watershed Coordinating Council member, Department of Ecology SW Region Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Member of the Critical Issues Council, Chehalis.



In 2001, he was awarded the Environmental Excellence Award from the Department of Ecology, it is the highest award for recognizing environmental excellence in the state of Washington.

Wesley L. Raistakka

Wahkiakum Conservation District

February 11, 1938-April 19, 2015



Growing up, Wesley spent time commercial fishing with his father on the Grays and Columbia rivers. This childhood experience shaped his career choice.

Wesley Lawrence Raistakka, born Feb. 11, 1938, in Astoria, Oregon. He attended college, served in the U.S. Army and subsequently graduated from Humboldt State University in California with a degree in Fisheries Biology. Wesley then worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a Fisheries Biologist at several fish hatcheries throughout the United States.

Following retirement, Wes returned home to the Seal River area and had lumber sawed from trees on land that he owned. From this, he and a long-time friend built his home. This land was originally acquired from the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1885 by his grandfather Lars Olson (Kaukua), who was one of the earliest Finnish immigrants in the area. Wesley also served on the Wahkiakum Conservation District board for 14 years.

Wayne Reid

WA State Conservation Commission Palouse Conservation District



“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 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” (1992).

Robert (Bob) Schmidt

Spokane County Conservation District



Bob was a member of the Pomona Grange and the Plaza Grange for 35 years; he was also a volunteer firefighter for Spokane County Fire District #3.

Bob Schmidt was born on May 9, 1930 to Walter and Maida Schmidt of Plaza, Washington. He received his BS from Washington State College in 1953; he was president of the WSC Associated Students of the College of Agriculture, president of the Washington State Chapter of Alpha Zeta, and a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife of 24 years, Helen Kammerer.

After graduating from WSC, Bob returned to the family farm and formed a farming partnership with his brother Dick until 1987. One of his most memorable achievements was his many years with the Spokane County Conservation District, where he served as chairman for eight years and as a supervisor for 20 years. He was instrumental in being a part of the initial groundwork and planning for our present water quality and soil conservation laws and recommendations affecting urban, industrial, and agriculture in Spokane County.



Ralph on the evening of receiving his service plaque from the district.

Ralph Seward

Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District

Ralph Seward spent countless hours of dedicated work for the cooperators of the Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District; receiving a plaque for his 18 years of service as a supervisor before he retired in 2009.

Ralph passed away on October 1, 2009, and his presence and dedication will be greatly missed.

Alick Simchuck

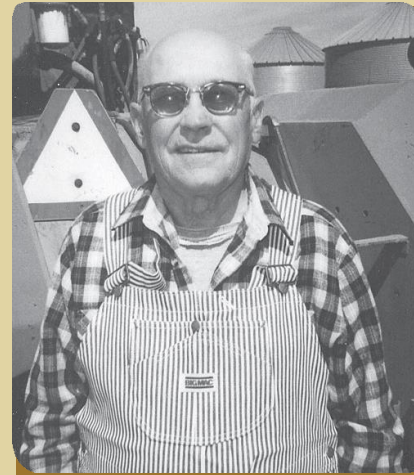
Spokane County Conservation District

1918-2009

The Spokane County Conservation District lost a dear friend with the passing of Alick Simchuck in March 2009.

Always generous with his time, skills and resources, Alick served on the Board of Supervisors from 1986 until the spring of 1992, when he became an associate supervisor.

He will always be thought of with the fondest of memories and will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.



In 1970, Alick was named Farmer of the Year for his conservation efforts on his acreage in the West Plains area.

Gerald 'Gerry' Stubbs

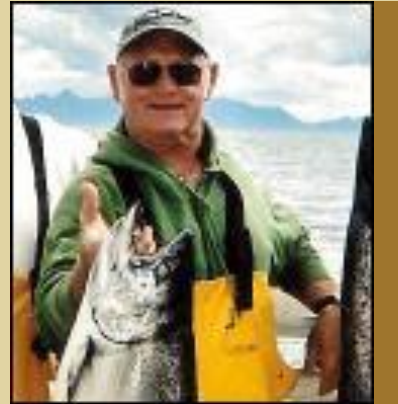
Whitman Conservation District

April 6, 1936 - June 11, 2016

Gerry was born in Madison, WI to Merle and Erna (Domke) Stubbs. He attended the University of Idaho for one year before enlisting in the Navy. Following his military service, he worked in the family business, Stubbs Seed Services. In 1972 he and his wife Angie moved to LaCrosse to farm with her parents.

He was passionate about conserving soil through no-till farming and he was always open to trying new crops and progressive farming techniques, for which his family will forever be grateful. When asked why he wanted to take on the risk of no-till farming late in his farming career, Gerry would say "Because it's the right thing to do!"

Gerry was a past member of the LaCrosse School Board and the Whitman Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. In 2005, he was honored as the national "Champion of Conservation" by the Conservation Technology Information Center.



He was a lifelong farmer whose goal was to leave the land in better condition than when he received it.

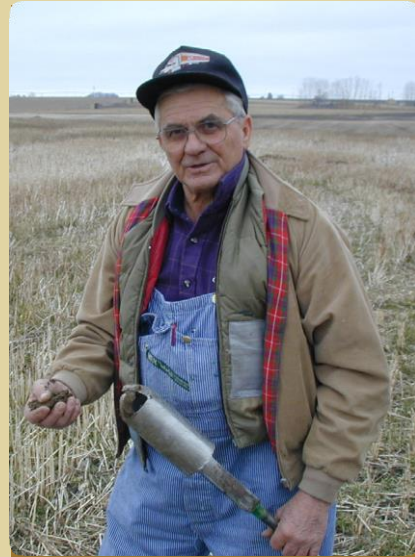
Hank Tessitore

Franklin Conservation District

Hank Tessitore was a farmer and loved farming. He served as a supervisor on the Franklin Conservation District board from 1986-2002.

Hank was a member of the first generation born in the US to Italian immigrants, Frank and Cesarina Tessitore. Hank was raised on the family farm where he worked alongside his parents and teams of horses and mules. Hank and his family moved to Eltopia, Washington, during the summer of 1956. Hank loved his farm and was frequently late for dinner, church, and other social gatherings because he was “farming.”

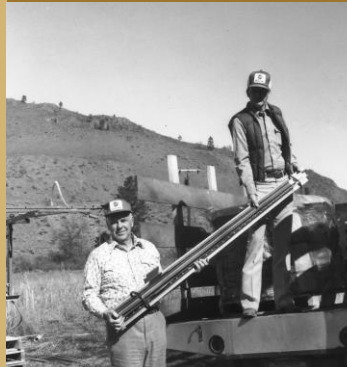
Hank served on many community committees. He was on the Eltopia School Board, support 4-H livestock auctions at the fair, coached Little League baseball, as well as helping with other community panels and boards.



Hank prided himself on his onion harvests and trips to deliver onions to Zip’s Drive-In in Spokane.

Floyd Thornton

Okanogan Conservation District



Floyd Thornton served on the Okanogan Conservation District's Board of Supervisors from January 1982 to March 1997. He was a longtime farmer in northern Okanogan County where he raised cattle and had an orchard operation.

There he, and the Okanogan Conservation District, had a demonstration bank stabilization project on the Okanogan River. This project allowed others to see how they could not only protect the stream from sediment delivery, but also allow them to avoid losing part of their land to the river.

Floyd was also a member of the Okanogan County Cattlemen's Association, and was influential in the formation of the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board. He was a strong advocate for conservation districts and voluntary conservation.

Margaret Tokach

Stevens County Conservation District



When Chairman Tom McKern asked Margaret to serve the Board as an associate supervisor her cheerful reply was, ***"I would like that very much!"***

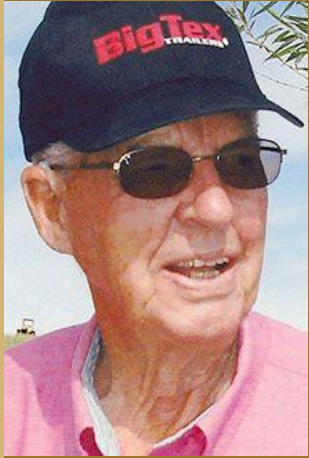
Prior to her service as a Stevens County Conservation District supervisor, Margaret Tokach was a regular and willing volunteer for the District; helping out with tree sales and youth activities such as the land judging contest. She served as an associate supervisor beginning in 1998 and was appointed a supervisor in November 2002, and was elected Treasurer in May 2004, where she served until her unexpected death in July of 2005.

She took her duties as treasurer seriously and she took a particular interest in cost-share programs and enjoyed District tours, highlighting their work with landowners.

Margaret was a Master Weed Advisor through the Cooperative Extension and worked for the Weed Board from 1996 until her death. She enjoyed preparing for and competing in weed exams and won 1st place in the State Weed Quiz in Yakima in 2001.

Tex Lavern Troutman

Foster Creek Conservation District



Tex loved living on Pearl Hill. He was a loyal friend and a good neighbor.

Tex L. Troutman, 87, of Bridgeport, Washington passed away on August 1, 2014. He was born September 6, 1926 in Bridgeport to a pioneer family in Douglas County. Tex married the love of his life, Janis Pryor on March 6, 1948. Tex and Jan began their career as third generation Pearl Hill farmers, moving on to the homestead place in 1951. They lived there for thirty years raising their three children, wheat, cattle, and later apples. Tex was an accomplished horseman, and cattle rancher.

Tex was active in the Foster Creek Soil Conservation District and served as Supervisor. He was selected Conservation District Farmer of the year in 1982. He served on the Bridgeport School Board, Douglas County Fire Department District 3, Washington Cattlemen's Association, was a member of the Lion's Club and a charter member of American Legion Post 0218.

Violet "Vim" Wright

WA State Conservation Commission

1926 - 2003



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>

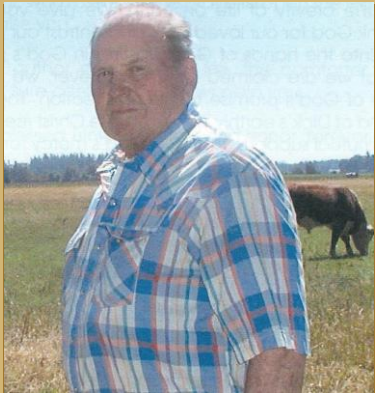
Vim Wright saw a lot in her 76 years. From an impoverished childhood in Istanbul, to society life in Baltimore with adoptive parents, to eventually becoming a primary player in Washington state environmental issues, Wright was known for her vitality and determination. Known as an environmentalist, Wright's 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](#)

Richard 'Dick' Yoder

Whatcom Conservation District

March 16, 1934 - October 29, 2016



He cared deeply about his family, his cows, his land, his community, and his obligations as a citizen.

“If you don’t vote, don’t bitch.”

Dick was born in Los Angeles County (CA). He joined the U.S. Navy in 1952 after graduating from Hemet High School. He married Karen Bounds in 1956. After moving his parents to Custer (WA), he and Karen decided to move their family to Blaine (WA).

Dick and Karen started and continued to dairy and row crop farm for many years while raising their family. Over time, Dick, Karen and son Dale started a small, registered Polled Hereford cattle ranch. As that herd got bigger, the dairy herd got smaller. Eventually, the dairy cows were gone.

Dick ran for the Board after the county contacted him under the Critical Areas Ordinance. He was not happy with the process because there was no problem on his ranch. Recognizing the District and county were partners; Dick believed that by serving on the Board he could contribute toward improvements in how landowners were contacted. Landowners now get a friendly invitation from the county to help improve water quality and District staff follows up with a personable call. Dick’s leadership made a difference. He served 11 years on the Whatcom CD board of supervisors.

During his Board tenure he was a strong advocate for farmers and ranchers. Though spare with his words, when he spoke, people listened. He listened, too, and could be persuaded by sound argument, facts, and others walking the talk.

Over the years, Dick also participated in the American Polled Hereford Association, American Hereford Association, Whatcom County Agriculture Advisory Committee, Whatcom County Cattlemen’s Association, and the Washington State Cattlemen’s Association.

Richard Zones

South Douglas Conservation District

1953-2010

Richard Zones, District Manager for the South Douglas Conservation District, and supervisor for 10 years before that, passed away on September 29, 2010, from complications of a stroke. Only 57 years old and a lifelong resident of Waterville, Richard was involved in many community activities, earning him Waterville Citizen of the Year.

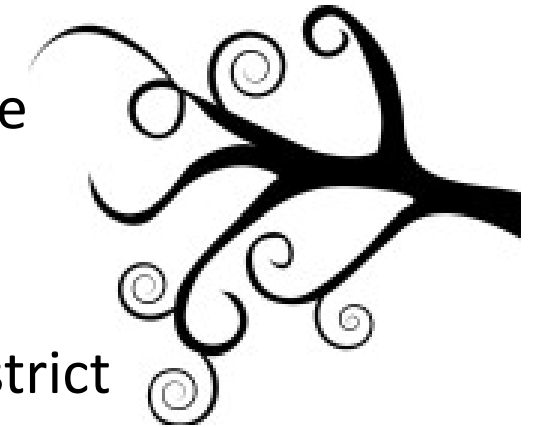
A Waterville Fire Department member for over 40 years, Richard was always willing to help. His work at the District involved organizing and managing the equipment rental program, cost-share agreements, conservation plans, Envirothon, tree sales and whatever else was sent his way.



Richard's love for cooking didn't help the waistlines of those enjoying his ribs, spaghetti and dessert specialties.

In Memoriam

Information is forthcoming on the following conservationists and will be included in future editions.



Don Gladson, North Yakima Conservation District

John Snider, North Yakima Conservation District

Les Wadekamper, North Yakima Conservation District