

CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2012

ENTIAT RIVER APPRECIATION 2012: WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Cascadia Conservation District, the City of Entiat and the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit will co-host a fun filled day on the Entiat River in early August.

The 3rd Entiat River Appreciation event will take place on Saturday August 4th. The day's activities begin at 9:00 a.m. with your choice of participating in an on-the-ground cleanup at Entiaqua Park or floating a one mile reach (experienced people only) of the river for trash collection.

The morning's work will be followed by a volunteer appreciation party beginning at noon. The party will include a free barbeque, live music, and family oriented games and activities, including a visit by Smokey Bear. To RSVP for this fun-filled family event or for additional information please visit www.cascadiacd.org or call 509-664-9370. We hope to see you there!

We are also inviting streamside landowners to take advantage of this opportunity to clean up their own waterfront area. These landowners can participate by bringing debris they collect on their property (excluding hazardous chemicals) to Entiaqua Park for disposal and then stay for the barbecue. Two years ago, one landowner brought an old rusted car frame that had long littered their streambank. Landowners are encouraged to call us with any questions about this opportunity.



Debris removed from the Entiat River during the Entiat River Appreciation event



Entiat River Appreciation volunteers

We would like to thank all the local organizations and businesses listed below that helped make this great event possible.

Partnering agencies include: the City of Entiat, Entiat Watershed Planning Unit, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Chelan County Fire District 8, US Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, Chelan County Natural Resources Department, Trout Unlimited, and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.

Entiat community groups and local businesses include: the Tree Board, Entiat Grange, Entiat Valley Community Services Group, Entiat Food Center, Cooper's Store/Restaurant in Ardenvoir, Log Cabin Restaurant, Mom's Kitchen, Entiat Shell Station, Numerica Credit Union, and Crunch Pak in Cashmere.

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PHOTO CONTEST

DEADLINE : OCTOBER 1

See contest details and submit your photo(s) at www.picturethewenatchee.com.



BANDING TOGETHER TO BENEFIT POLLINATORS

This spring, the organizations working within our office building came together to install a demonstration pollinator garden in conjunction with a sign replacement project.

The purpose of this project, spearheaded by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Cascadia Conservation District (Cascadia) employees, was to create a USDA-certified "People's Garden" that demonstrates how native and select non-native plants—with a focus on drought-tolerant species—can be used to increase habitat for native bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.

Many of our native bees don't fit the stereotyped image of a bee (black-and-yellow-striped, living in a hive, and apt to sting) so they are easily



Planting a silky lupine

overlooked. Out of sight, out of mind, they quietly get along, and in doing so provide the vital ecosystem service of pollination.

Almost all flowering plants require pollination. Eighty percent of the world's food crops and a significant portion of our local economy depend on pollinators.

Native bees are exceptionally efficient workers, and can even be found out foraging on natural and agricultural lands in cold, wet weather when the non-native honeybees are unwilling to come out of their hives.

Unfortunately, pollinators are on a massive decline in the United States and have been almost exterminated in other parts of the world. This pollinator garden is an opportunity to celebrate and inform visitors about the work pollinators do to provide our nation with healthy foods and why we need to care about the preservation of healthy pollinator populations.

In April and May 2012, the lawn on the 0.2 acre "island" at the entrance to the Forest Service headquarters parking lot was removed. Two work parties of community volunteers and Cascadia, NRCS, and Forest Service employees planted over 60 native and ornamental shrubs and flowers and created pathways throughout the plantings.

This fall, a native bunchgrass mix and more wildflowers will be seeded in the area surrounding the garden and existing tree trunks will be turned into native bee nesting structures.

In 2013 we hope to install educational signs throughout the garden that will inform visitors of the benefits of native pollinators, dispel common "stinging insect" myths, and provide guidelines on how we all can create quality habitat that will contribute towards pollinator conservation efforts.



Children learn the types of plants that attract pollinators

A big thank you to all the agencies and organizations in this building that have contributed funds, labor, and/or expertise to this project: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Cascadia, and NRCS.

As all gardeners know, gardens require upkeep! If you are interested in volunteering to help us maintain this pollinator garden, or would like to receive additional information about how to create your own pollinator garden or landscape safe for pollinators, please contact Amy Hendershot at (509) 664-9303 or Cascadia at (509) 664-9370 or visit our website at www.cascadiacd.org. And be sure to come and visit the pollinator garden at 215 Melody Lane in Wenatchee!

MY KIDS IN THE CREEK EXPERIENCE

BY MARCI NELSON AND JULIA LEACH

For the field work of a Research Assistant job, I recently put on a pair of bulky chest waders to collect fish in a stream. The giant, awkward rubber engulfing my body brought me back to my *Kids in the Creek* experience. As I stood waist deep in a muddy stream, giant net in hand, I couldn't help but smile while thinking about how much that one-day field trip back in 10th grade directed my life.



Students collect bugs from the Entiat River at the Invertebrate Investigator station

On the field day, I was fascinated with every insect and animal that I encountered. Being able to participate in the data collection and understand the science of it all introduced me to a new and exciting side of biology! I wanted to know the reason behind all of what we were doing and was especially curious about how I could do this "when I grew up."

Years later, as I begin my career in the conservation biology field, I still stare at every insect and point out all wildlife to others in hopes that they can understand my fascination.

Thank you to all who make *Kids in the Creek* possible. Each year, you show roughly 300 local students how important it is to take care of this earth and help guide a handful (like myself) towards future career successes.

In addition, it is exciting to see how *Kids in the Creek* is evolving to become accessible to a broader audience. In 2012, three big projects will give other communities the information and tools to start a Kids in the Creek program in their neck



Waders allow students to enter the river in order to get the best hands-on learning experience possible

of the woods. First, with the assistance of the North Central Education Service District, the Kids in the Creek curriculum is currently being updated to reflect its alignment with National Standards.

Also, the local group of resource specialists has created training videos that give step-by-step information for other professionals to successfully run each station. Soon, these videos, along with much more, will be housed on the brand new *Kids in the Creek* website, to be launched in early September. Stay tuned!

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE LANDOWNERS

Rod Grams, a pear grower in Monitor, no longer has to fix leaky irrigation pipes and move hand lines to irrigate the trees.

Last year, Grams replaced his rusty steel mainline with PVC pipe and converted hand lines to microsprinklers in a 10-acre pear block. It was something he'd wanted to do for a while, he said, but the cost would have been a financial burden. Then, he found out about financial assistance programs from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Cascadia Conservation District (Cascadia).



Rod Grams obtained EQIP funding to upgrade his irrigation system, as well as to monitor water and nutrients

Grams received funding from both programs, which covered more than 80 percent of the cost of the irrigation system upgrade.

“It worked out really great,” he said. “The mainline was old and rusty and always springing leaks. And it’s nice to go out and turn on a valve instead of changing the hand lines.”

Now Grams also monitors soil moisture using probes to assess when to irrigate and how much water to apply. Apart from the new system being more convenient, it has reduced his water use by two thirds. Grams is not saturating the soil as he was before.

NRCS funds can also be obtained for nutrient management. Growers can receive funds on a per-acre basis towards the cost of taking soil samples and developing a nutrient management plan based on local land-grant university guidelines.

When Grams began monitoring soil nutrients he found he’d been over-applying fertilizer. The hand lines also delivered so much water it washed the fertilizer down through the soil. With the microsprinklers, he can apply less water, which also means he can use less fertilizer.

Eligible Projects:

- Irrigation systems and mainlines
- Soil moisture monitoring and equipment
- Soil testing and nutrient management
- Noxious weed control
- Wildlife habitat planting and structures
- Mulching
- Variable frequency drives for pumps
- Pasture renovation and reseedings
- Pasture management plans
- Windbreaks/shelterbelts
- *Other projects may also be eligible

Deadlines to apply:

- NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Call to inquire
- Cascadia CD Landowner Assistance Program: September 12

Grams’ next project is to build nesting structures for blue orchard bees (mason bees). These consist of 4- by 6-inch posts with holes drilled into them where the bees can nest. The posts are buried two feet in the ground. The native blue orchard bees forage for pollen in cooler weather than honey bees, and Grams thinks that if they become established in his orchard, he might only need one hive of honeybees per acre rather than the two he uses currently.

NRCS and Cascadia are non-regulatory agencies that work with private landowners.

“The financial help and expertise of NRCS and Cascadia makes for a superior result. The process was easy and personnel responsive,” said a previous program cooperator.

People are welcome to apply to NRCS and Cascadia programs at any time; however, the deadline for this year’s funding is September 12 for Cascadia. Call to inquire about NRCS deadlines. Please call (509) 664-9370 if you are interested.

FAREWELL JULIA!

AmeriCorps Member Julia Leach is moving on.

During her 10½ month term with Cascadia, Julia worked with staff on numerous new initiatives, like our Pollinator Garden and Picture the Wenatchee Photo Contest, as well as ongoing projects, like Kids in the Creek and our annual Native Plant Sale. She brought a level of dedication, insight, and enthusiasm to her work that we truly value. Thank you Julia and best wishes!



FAREWELL MIKE!

Resource Specialist Mike Sandidge is moving on.

During his time with Cascadia Mike conducted landowner outreach in the Entiat and Wenatchee watersheds that resulted in many successful riparian planting projects. Mike also assisted with construction of several conservation projects. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors!

“The program was extremely helpful in helping me acquire this essential tool (high tunnel) I otherwise would not have been able to afford. It was efficient and painless! Thank you so much!,” said another program participant.

Funds are available for many types of projects. See eligible projects listed in the box above.

*Parts of this article were adapted from Geraldine Warner’s article titled, *Saving Resources*, which was recently featured in Good Fruit Grower magazine.

UPPER WENATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED FAIR AND CLEANUP

Join us for the 2nd annual Upper Wenatchee River Watershed Fair!

The Ponderosa Community in Plain, in partnership with Cascadia Conservation District and other local agencies and organizations, will host a fun and educational family event at the Ponderosa Community Clubhouse on Saturday, August 25th.

Come learn about many of the exciting efforts that are helping to keep our watershed vibrant and healthy for the sake of the river, the people, the forest and the wildlife who live here.

The Fair will include hands-on educational activities and information booths hosted by natural resource professionals and outdoor recreation experts from 9am -12pm, followed by a FREE salmon lunch. After lunch Cascadia and the Picture the Wenatchee Watershed Stewardship campaign will host an on-the-ground river cleanup and a float on the Wenatchee River to remove debris.



Children learn about the bugs in our rivers at the Macro-invertebrate & Habitat station



Fair attendees learn about fish habitat and conditions that affect fish health

Be Part of the Solution!

Studies indicate that the Wenatchee River does not meet water quality standards set to protect human health and fish habitat. Help improve water quality by joining us Saturday, August 25 for the Wenatchee River cleanup. Learn more at: www.picturethewenatchee.com.

For additional information or to RSVP please contact Doug Pendleton at DougPen@nwi.net.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Cascadia Conservation District Board Meetings

August 9, 3pm-5pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee
September 20, 3pm-5pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee
October 18, 3pm-5pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee
Please contact Cascadia's office for more information: (509)-664-9370.

Entiat Habitat Subcommittee Meetings

August 16, 9am-12pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee
September 20, 9am-12pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee
October 18, 9am-12pm at 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee

Wenatchee Habitat Subcommittee Meetings

Third Wednesday of every month.
Contact Mary Jo Sanborn at (509) 667-6532 for more information.

Entiat River Appreciation

August 4, 9am-2pm at Entiaqua Park
River clean-up and native planting followed by a volunteer appreciation party.

Upper Wenatchee River Watershed Fair

August 25th, 9am-12pm at the Ponderosa Community in Plain
A fun/educational fair to promote stewardship in the Upper Wenatchee watershed, followed by a lunch, and then a float of the Wenatchee River to conduct a clean-up.

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) meeting

October 3, 9am-12pm at the Entiat Grange Hall, 14108 Kinzel Street

2nd annual 'Feast of Field and Stream' Dinner

September 2, 6pm at the Methow Valley Ciderhouse in Winthrop
Trout Unlimited's Washington Water Project (TU-WWP) will host a dinner to honor local farms participating in Salmon-Safe. For more information and tickets, go to www.brownpapertickets.com/event/254217 or contact Jeri Timm at 509-881-7690.

Blue Star Coffee Roasters (www.bluestarcoffeeroasters.com) in Twisp will donate a portion of the sales of their new 'Guatemala Magnolia' roast to support TU-WWP's in-stream flow projects that restore historic steelhead spawning/rearing habitat in the Methow and Okanogan watersheds.

Join the Adopt-a-River Program

All you need to help keep our local waters clean and safe is a group of friends, family, or co-workers. For additional information and to register contact Chelan County Natural Resources Department at www.co.chelan.wa.us/nr/education/river_clean_up.htm or call Matt Shales at 667-6436.

Cascadia Conservation District has launched a blog: Cascadia's Conservation Conversation!

Please check it out at: <http://ccdconservationconversation.blogspot.com/>



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801
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