

## CORPS NEWS



### VOLUNTEER PROJECTS BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Maintaining the Adventuress</i>	2
<i>Brighter Futures Youth Center</i>	3
<i>The Food Bank Garden's new compost</i>	4
<i>A new face for Parent to Parent</i>	5
<i>Ellensburg receives recycling bins</i>	6
<i>Noxious Weeds</i>	8

**By Mariska Kecskes, Forterra IP**

For the past five years, the First Creek Middle School Environmental Science Club has partnered with the Green Tacoma Partnership to host an annual Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) day of service. The main focus of the project is to help restore First Creek, which runs behind First Creek Middle

School in East Tacoma. This was the second year that the Forterra WCC Crew and I helped lead this event, which ultimately drew a crowd of 155 volunteers.

(FORTERRA continued on page 7)

**More MLK project stories inside!**



Forterra WCC members Mary Reding, Felice Gallego, and Mariska Kecskes at a planting event during the MLK week of service. Photo courtesy of Bridget Mason.

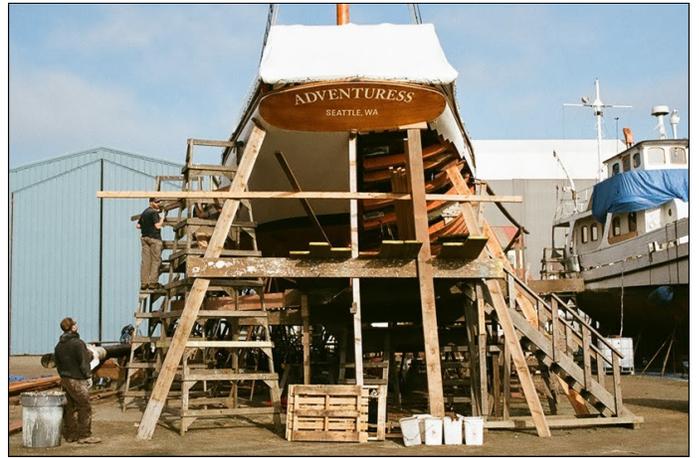




## MAINTAINING THE ADVENTURESS



WCC members Ryan Barker and Chelsea Krimme painting the hull.



From the stern, dry docked for the winter.

During this year's MLK week the Olympic Peninsula crews sanded, painted, and helped with general maintenance of the Schooner Adventuress. The vessel spends the bulk of its time near Seattle being used by Sound Experience to teach youth about sailing. During the winter months, it is generally ashore in Port Townsend for maintenance.

Built as a whaling and expedition ship in 1913, the Adventuress never caught the intended whale but went on to join the San Francisco Bar Pilots. After spending some time in the coast guard during World War II, the Adventuress ended up in in Seattle in 1952 becoming an educational vessel with the ability to carry 3,500 passengers.



Blocks and hull, to be sanded and repainted.

Photos by Nick Stevens.

# BRIGHTER FUTURES YOUTH CENTER

Community Youth Services enlisted the help of a Tumwater Spike crew on Monday, January 20th to install a fence and help with landscaping needs at their Brighter Futures Youth Center in Olympia. WCC staff members and 18 other volunteers also assisted with the day's projects.



Volunteers fill a wheelbarrow with mulch to be distributed on the flower beds.

In a note from Robyn Harris, Program Officer with the Washington Commission for National & Community Service, she said that the center, "is now more welcoming, private, safe, clean, and ready to serve the community."



Zach McGill of the Tumwater Spike crew works with other WCC members to build a fence at the site (above and right).



Marcee Peterson (WCC Admin staff) and her daughters, working hard, spreading mulch.



Photos courtesy of Serve Washington.

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: what are you doing for others?"*

*-Martin Luther King Jr.*

# ECOLOGY’S FOOD BANK GARDEN GETS A NEW COMPOST

During the MLK week of service, a Tumwater Spike Crew along with nine Olympia area IPs built a hot compost container for Ecology’s Food Bank Garden. The 3-bin compost system will allow Ecology’s volunteer gardeners to turn garden scraps into fresh soil. This improved method of handling in-garden waste material replaces the uncovered piles of garden debris at the back of the garden.



Jen Soper, Kirsten Miller, and Jackson Barnes do some weeding in the garden.

Members also planted garlic, weeded, and cleared garden beds of last season’s plant debris.



Maureen Puffer and Cameron Watson cut boards for the compost bin.

*“A benefit of the new hot compost system is the ability to quickly turn discarded plants into healthy soil.”*



Team effort helped make the building process go smoothly. Michelle Bahnick, Tucker Brown, Amanda Hacking, Kate Nagel, and Jaimie Liljegren assemble the bins.



Compost trolls hide in the finished product. Amanda Hacking, Michelle Bahnick, Cameron Watson, Jacob Solberg, Tucker Brown, Maureen Puffer, Billy Kaupu, and Kate Nagel.

Photos by Janna Ryan.

# NISQUALLY CREW GIVES PARENT TO PARENT A NEW FACE

South Sound Parent to Parent is a non-profit organization in Lacey providing resources and connections to families and individuals with special needs.

After three days of help from the Nisqually crew, the Parent to Parent building was repainted, a fence removed, and landscaping and walkways were maintained.



Alex Mesick, enjoying the art of touch ups and painting edges.



Jose Garibaldi Brambila paints over old paint after the crew spent a day preparing the surface for a new coat.



Sean McGrath cuts in around a utility box on the Parent to Parent building.

Photos by Janna Ryan.

# DOWNTOWN ELLENSBURG RECEIVES NEW RECYCLING BINS

By Cassandra Anderson, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group IP

While brainstorming MLK service project options, Josh Perry, Nicole Fenton, Jesse DeBock, Eric Anderson and I noticed a need for recycling bins in downtown Ellensburg. We decided this would be a great community-based project that would benefit the city. We met with folks from the City of Ellensburg, Ellensburg City Council, and the Ellensburg Downtown Association and presented a professional grade recycling bin design. They approved our design and during the MLK service week we built four recycling bins for downtown Ellensburg.



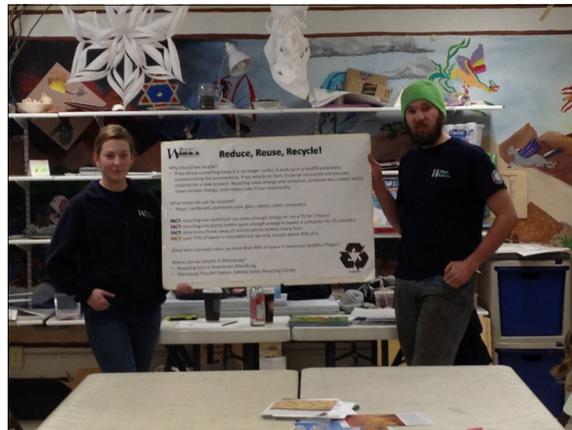
A completed recycling bin built by Ellensburg WCC members. and students.



Jesse DeBock and Nicole Fenton help kids paint recycling themed artwork on the recycling bins.

*“This was a fun community service project, all the while creating a more environmentally friendly downtown Ellensburg.”*

Using high-grade plywood, coated with a weather-resistant, finish we built the bins. After that we welded metal frames to make the bins durable and sturdy. Because of a partnership with a local art gallery, Gallery One, children who are enrolled in the program had the opportunity to paint the bins.



Nicole Fenton and Eric Anderson hold up a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle poster to be displayed by the recycling bins in the Ellensburg community.

The finished bins look excellent and we're getting ready to place them downtown. The City of Ellensburg approved the final, painted, bins and agreed to take on the cost of emptying the bins weekly under their contract with Waste Management. This was a fun community service project, all the while creating a more environmentally friendly downtown Ellensburg.

## FORTERRA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Student volunteers were in full force, with groups representing First Creek Middle School, Lincoln High School, UW-Tacoma, University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University. These students, as well as many others, dedicated their morning to the cause. We planted 50 native trees and shrubs, hauled 20 cubic yards of mulch, and wrestled 50 cubic yards of invasive plants and garbage out of the ground. Volunteers contributed 547.5 hours of time!



Anthony Mason, volunteer, plants a tree.

The crew and I had a blast leading these enthusiastic volunteers, teaching them about restoration, keeping them safe, and most importantly, helping them have a rewarding experience. Yet, this was one of those events that was rewarding for us as well.

Working with Forterra, whether on the crew or as an IP, means you experience a lot of volunteer events. You quickly learn how difficult it can be to engage others in restoration.

To see so many individuals resist the temptation to stay home and instead truly come together for a “day on” in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is inspiring. It gives one hope that communities truly can come together to care for their environment, and ultimately, for each other.



Mariska Kecskes, Forterra IP, digs a hole during the volunteer event.

*“Volunteers contributed  
547.5 hours of time!”*

## ANSWERS FOR LAST MONTH’S ‘CAN YOU NAME THESE PLANTS?’...

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A) Licorice Fern, <i>Polypodium glycyrrhiza</i> | E) Douglas Fir, <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> |
| B) Vine Maple, <i>Acer circinatum</i>           | F) Trailing Blackberry, <i>Rubus ursinus</i> |
| C) Oregon Grape, <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>      | G) Sword Fern, <i>Polystichum munitum</i>    |
| D) Big Leaf Maple, <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>     |  |



Like us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/washingtonconservation-corps](http://www.facebook.com/washingtonconservation-corps)

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call 360-407-7248. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

Washington Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc)

**February 2014**  
**Volume 10, Issue 4**  
**Ecology Publication # 14-06-006**



## THE DIRT ON NOXIOUS WEEDS

By Kate Nagel, Garden Coordinator and Outreach Assistant IP

*Have you ever wondered what makes a weed 'noxious'? And who decides which plants are noxious weeds rather than just a gardening nuisance?*

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board serves as an advisory committee to The Washington Department of Agriculture on noxious weed control in the state. The board helps direct and educate communities and counties about the weed laws in the state.

### Common Weeds versus Noxious Weeds

According to the board, "the classic gardener's definition of a weed is a 'plant out of place'—that is, any plant that's growing where it's not wanted."

A noxious weed, however, is a legal term. These invasive plants damage the local environment or agriculture by preventing the essential natural plant species from flourishing. Wildlife and fish suffer because of these non-native intruders. Noxious weeds also

cost farmers, ranchers, and orchardists crop yield and added expenses for herbicides.

### Noxious Weed Classifications

**Class A**—Invasive plants that are new to the area and still rare. Landowners are required to eradicate Class A species in order to wipe them out before they spread.

**Class B**—Invasive plants that have become a problem in some areas, but are rare in others. The main goal is to prevent spreading to new areas and to control where they are a problem.

**Class C**—These invasive plants are already widespread. Because of the extent of their range, landowners are only required to control these plants if they directly threaten the environment.

**Quarantine List**—It is illegal to sell or distribute plants on this prohibited plants list. All Class A are included on the list.

To view the noxious weed list updated by the board, visit: <http://www.nwcb.wa.gov>



*Cytisus scoparius*, also known as Scotch Broom, is a Class B noxious weed. Photo courtesy of King County Noxious Weed Control Program.

## ABOUT THE WCC

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) was established in 1983 as a service program for young adults between the ages of 18-25. The WCC is offered through the Washington Department of Ecology and continues the legacy started by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The WCC has been an AmeriCorps program since 1994. Today, the WCC has 278 members working on projects in every part of the state. Our partners include Federal, State, Local, and Tribal organizations. For more information please visit our website: [www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc).