



Washington Conservation Corps Corps News



Artwork by: Bradley Naragon,
WCC Member 2001-2003

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Member Recognition

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) crew has produced an amazing amount of work since the beginning of the year including planting over 250,000 fescue plants as part of the ongoing oak prairie restoration in southeast Thurston County. The crew also put together a number of large greenhouses in which The Nature Conservancy plans to raise native plants. Their efforts were recently featured in an Olympian News article. Like many others who have the privilege of working alongside this crew, Roland McGill, WCC Project Coordinator, was impressed with the speed and quality with which the greenhouses were constructed.

The TNC crew has even found time to do several community service projects on their weekends including a high visibility riparian restoration project with the Squaxin Island tribe. Words like “professional, enthusiastic, positive, and competent” are all words consistently used to describe the crew’s work. Congratulations for this recognition and thank you for all of your hard work!

The City of Bellingham crew and individual placements organized an outstanding MLK community service project (more about their project on pg 3). Additionally, the crew held together and maintained their excellent field work during the recent transition between Crew Supervisors. Special recognition goes to Adam Jackson and Cassidy Geppert for their leadership during this transition. Also, thanks to former supervisor, Nick Saling, for putting this group together and having them in the position to succeed. Sue Madsen, City of Bellingham sponsor, had this to say about this great group of Corps Members:

“This year’s WCC Crew and our IPs have just amazed us with their positive attitude and can-do approach. It is obvious that they enjoy their work and are a true team. They are an integral part of the City of Bellingham’s restoration program, and working with them on a daily basis has been a real pleasure.”

Kaci Radcliffe is the individual placement with the City of Bellingham’s Environmental Resources. In addition to her typical work duties, she has been working with City staff and the Lummi Tribe on planning a memorial ceremony for local children who lost their lives in the 1999 Olympic Pipeline Explosion. She has also volunteered on the weekend with a local conservation group helping with a wildlife study, and volunteered on Halloween for Trick or Treat for UNICEF.

Rebecca Britten is the Environmental Education Assistant with the City of Bellingham. In addition to her outstanding efforts with the City, Rebecca has been part of a leadership team for a high-school youth organization; she volunteers her time weekly to assist with this group. Additionally, Rebecca volunteers with a group for developmentally challenged adults. Rebecca has been volunteering for the Community Art Studio in preparation for Bellingham’s “Procession of the Species Parade” on May 5th. She has taken a lead role as volunteer coordinator for this event.



TNC Crew (L to R): Ted Wiley, Tyson Webb, Shawn Zaniewski (sup), David McArtor, Michael Mseitif



City of Bellingham Crew (L to R): Tanya Hladik, Kevin Walters, Chris Matson, David Row, Nick Saling (former sup), Adam Jackson, Andy Barry, Lauren Williamson, Liz Anderson, Cassidy Geppert, & David Lofgren



Kacie Radcliffe



Rebecca Britten

Bellingham Crews Organize Drive to Assist Local Food Bank

Article by Kaci Radcliffe, City of Bellingham Individual Placement

The Bellingham Food Bank serves over 7,000 residents, many of whom are families with young children. These infants require formula, baby food, and diapers, many of which were in short supply at the food bank. With this knowledge, we decided that we [City of Bellingham crews and Individual Placements] could create an infant food and supply drive for our MLK Week of Service project. Early on in the project, we decided to expand our efforts and build food storage/distribution boxes to meet this need. We set a goal to collect a years' supply of formula (200 canisters) and build ten to twelve storage boxes.

The WCC Infant Food and Supply Drive took place at four grocery stores in Bellingham from January 17th - 21st. We set up a table outside where volunteers asked customers to pick up formula, baby food, and diapers inside the store.

Overall, we collected:

- 325 cans of formula
- 1,700 jars of baby food
- 230 boxes of baby cereal
- 200 packages of diapers
- 300 miscellaneous items
- \$1,700 monetary donations



(Left): Volunteers and WCC members display donated items at Cost Cutter on Lakeway; (Above): Tanya Hladik, Mike Cohen (Exec Director of BFB), and Kaci Radcliffe delivering donations.

The combined value of all the collected donations totaled almost \$12,500. Additionally, the food drive exceeded its formula goal by 1.5 times and collected hundreds of other targeted items. During the food drive, the WCC crew also paired up with the Homeport Learning Center to build 14 large storage boxes. With a great team effort, all the boxes were built within two days and ready to deliver at the end of the food drive.

The WCC accomplished its community service goal while participating in a tradition of national service. Through this event, volunteers and community members were empowered and bridges to sponsors and at-risk youth were built. We attribute the success of our event to these partnerships and to the generous spirit of our community, which stood up to meet this need and help one another.

Event partners include: Builders Alliance, Hardware Sales, Windsor Plywood, Mt. Baker Plywood, The ReStore, Applied Digital, City of Bellingham, Home Port Learning Center, WWU Circle K, Bellingham Food Bank, Washington Conservation Corps, Americorps, Washington Reading Corps, Bellingham Herald, Cascadia Weekly, Whatcom Independent, Fred Meyer at Lakeway, Haggen at Barkley Village, and Cost Cutter at Sunset and Lakeway. Thank you to all of our partners for making this event such a huge success!

Summit for Salmon Education

By Brian Tornow, Steph Drake, Tyler Clemens, John Moore, & Kyle Graunke

WCC's Everett crew would like to take this opportunity to introduce a new avenue to support environmental education and pacific salmon. As a part of their civic engagement efforts, they have chosen to support their sponsor's new Restoration Education for Young Stewards program (REYS). REYS is a free research-based environmental education program offered to public schools: grades 4 - 12. The program provides hands-on information, broadening students' understanding of stream ecology, salmon biology, and conservation. This integrated outdoor approach to teaching is deeply aligned with state science standards and is proven to improve students' WASL scores.

In order to support this commendable program, the crew has embraced the challenge of a benefit climb to Washington's tallest peak, Mount Rainier. This physically rigorous endeavor necessitates months of training without a guarantee of ever attaining aspirations of the summit. In addition to current sponsors, such as REI and Starbucks, we hope that this venture inspires more donors to abet this meritorious cause. Charitable donations would be greatly appreciated and can be sent to "Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force ATTN: WCC Rainier Fund" at PO Box 5006, Everett, WA 98206.

The Leaflet

Featuring: Cattail (*Typha* species)

Article by Duffy Trails

Have you ever found yourself, mouth watering, jeans rolled up, shin deep in thick black mud, with an armload of cattails resting on your shoulder? If not, then you are really missing out! Just about everyone recognizes the cattail which is found in the wet shallows of lakes, ponds, swamps, rivers and estuaries throughout the country. I find it odd that nearly as many people do not use it as a food source. The Cattail is often referred to as the "supermarket of the swamp" as it has more uses than a cat has lives.

Spring is a great season to get to know the Cattail as an edible. Before the plants flower, young stalks can be harvested and peeled to uncover their crisp white cores. These shoots are a great source for beta-carotene, niacin, riboflavin, thiamin, potassium, phosphorus, and vitamin C and the flavor is similar to cucumbers. They are great raw, mixed into salads, steamed, pickled, cooked in soups, and perfect for stir-frying.

As the season progresses into late spring and early summer, the two-part sausage looking flowers (male pollen producer is on top, female seed bearer is just below) can be gathered when they are still green in color. Cut the stem just below the lower flower, remove the husk, boil and eat them as you would corn-on-the-cob (see recipe below).

During this same time of the year, the male flowers produce a bunch of yellow pollen. This pollen can be collected and added to regular flour and used in breads, muffins, and pancakes or added to dishes like oatmeal or yogurt as a healthy topping. This pollen is a potent source of minerals, enzymes, protein, and energy similar (but better) to the expensive bee pollen supplement, which can be purchased in capsules at health food stores. Sometimes, when conditions are favorable, it is possible to harvest the stalk cores, green flower heads, and pollen all at the same time.

During the fall, winter, and early spring, the rhizomes and root stalks can be harvested for their starchy potato-like flavor. The cattail leaves have been utilized for making mats, bedding, caning material for chairs, and baskets. The fluffy down produced from the female flowers has been used for insulation, wound dressings, bedding, pillow stuffing, torches, and tinder.

As I am writing this, Earth day is just around the corner. I hope that in addition to your typical ways of celebrating this important holiday, I encourage all of you to get out there and try some wild edibles.

Raw Cattail Soup

Ingredients:

2-1/2 cups almonds
10 cups water, or as needed
2 cups thinly sliced cattail shoots
1/4 c fresh spearmint leaves or other mint leaves
The juice of half a lemon

Get up early before work and cover the almonds with water and let them soak in the refrigerator (they will swell up a bit as they absorb the water). After work, take a shower and then puree the soaked almonds (about 2 cups at a time, with about 3 cups of water at a time) in a blender. Pour the almond-water puree through a colander lined with cheesecloth or thin fabric into a bowl. Squeeze as much of this almond milk out of the pulp into the bowl. Discard the pulp and mix the remaining ingredients with the almond milk. Serve chilled. This should make plenty of dinner for you and your sweetie with enough for your crew to try the next day.

Cattail on the Cob

Ingredients:

Cattail flower spikes (immature)
Garlic, minced
Butter, melted

After work, take a shower and cook green immature cattail flower spikes in boiling water until tender (about 5 min). Remove the cooked cattail spikes from the water and roll them in the melted butter and minced garlic that you have heated in pan (if you really like butter roll them twice and maybe dip them a few times like Oreos in milk - if you love butter, treat yourself, go ahead and pour a glass and sip it on the side). Eat the cattail spikes like you do corn on the cob.

Gumboot Chitons, Giant Algae Scrapers in Our Midst

Article by Tom Sentner, Redmond Crew Member

I recently started volunteering at the Seattle Aquarium to gain some experience in science interpretation and communication and to put some community service hours towards the Ed Award. The experience has been fantastic so far, with the aquarium providing hours of training in sessions known as "Aquaversities". These sessions teach volunteers both the basic science and some of the deeper research and issues behind the exhibits at the aquarium and the greater Puget Sound system.

Also valuable is the process of trial and error new volunteers go through when learning to communicate with visitors. I imagined myself giving my own little lectures, presiding over my tidepool domain, but it turns out there is a lot more that goes into successful communication and enrichment. The aquarium gives new volunteers a lot of support and direction on how to get visitors involved and learning for themselves, having fun and being interested, instead of bored stiff. After some time, I think I am starting to get a little better at working with visitors.

One of my favorite inhabitants of local rocky tidal communities on the Washington coast is the gumboot chiton. The gumboot chiton is the largest species of chiton in the world, growing up to 13 inches in length. It has eight bony plates protecting its dorsal surface, but unlike other species of chiton, a fleshy mantle covers them. The chitons feed by scraping algae off rocks with a chainsaw-like tongue called a radula, while 20 different species of algae are found growing on mantles of gumboots themselves. The teeth of the radula are tipped with a mineral called magnetite, and can be picked up with a magnet. Some researchers think this property is used for navigation, similar to a compass. They are nocturnal, and are almost identical to their ancestral forms, which existed 500 million years ago. The gumboot chiton is just one of many fascinating organisms that make Washington's beaches worth studying and conserving. Chiton facts provided by the Monterey Bay Aquarium field guide.

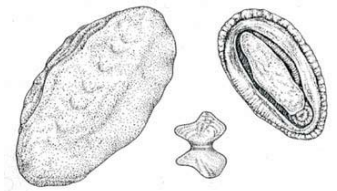


Photo courtesy: www.alaska.net/scubaguy

Where Are They Now?

Interview by Bridget Mason, WCC Outreach Coordinator

Many people fall in love with restoration work while in the WCC. Since time within this program is limited to 2 years, former members must seek lifelong careers elsewhere. A handful of fortunate Alums have been able to secure a position in this beloved field. Below is an interview with Dave Timmer who served in the WCC over 6 years ago and has found a way to continue this valuable work.

WCC: What did you do while in the WCC?

DT: I worked on a Riparian Restoration Crew in the Nooksack River Watershed. Whatcom County and the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) sponsored my crews. Our main tasks were to control invasive plants, build exclusion fences, plant native vegetation along the streams, and care for a small native plant nursery. I also headed up spawning salmon surveys and vegetation monitoring programs.

W: When were you in the WCC?

DT: I was on the Whatcom County crew in 2000 and with NSEA in 2001.

W: What have you done since then?

DT: During my 2nd year with the WCC, I accepted an invitation to attend the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources to obtain a M.S. degree in Natural Resource Management. While in school, I studied the science of restoration ecology while working on tallgrass prairie and oak forest restoration projects at the University's

Nichols Arboretum. After graduation, I moved back to Washington to work one season with the National Park Service on an old growth monitoring project in Olympic, North Cascades, and Mt Rainier National Parks.

W: Where are you working now and what are you doing?

DT: I currently work for the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians' Natural Resource Department. I am the Riparian Restoration Supervisor. I recruit, design, and implement riparian planting projects throughout the Stillaguamish River Watershed. To complete the on-the-ground portion of these projects, I coordinate the activities of a busy corrections crew and local volunteers. It's a great job.

W: Did your experience in the WCC help you get your current position OR other positions you have held?

DT: My WCC experiences gave me some great contacts, invaluable fieldwork, and helped me narrow down options for graduate school. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys outdoor work and is interested in getting into the Natural Resource Management field.



Dave Timmer

The 3 Musketeers Volunteers

By Kayla Saville, Individual Placement at Nisqually Wildlife Refuge

Jan Weiser, Fran Shroeder, and Enid Larson, are amazing volunteers, actively working with WCC members in the environmental education and Weed Warrior programs at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. They are always energetic and enthusiastic while hard at work pulling weeds, leading students on the trails, supervising students in a restoration project, or setting traps for green crab monitoring. They arrive together, carpooling to Olympia from Kent and Auburn, and would be at the Refuge everyday if they could. All very active, these ladies bicycle, bird, run marathons, hike in the

backcountry, snowshoe, and more! They are an inspiration to the Refuge staff and me. Jan, Fran and Enid have an infectious passion for the outdoors, which they freely share with AmeriCorps members, staff and students they work with, as well as the habitats and wildlife of Nisqually NWR itself, through their dedicated volunteer efforts. These three wonderful women were recognized at a volunteer recognition awards ceremony held on April 16th sponsored by the Washington Commission for National and Community Service, hosted by Governor Christine Gregoire.



Enid, Fran, and WCC members monitoring for European green crabs on the Nisqually salt marsh (2005); Fran, Jan & Enid at Nisqually NWR, (January 2007); Jan admires some poison hemlock she just uprooted (January 2007).

April 22nd is Earth Day-April is Earth Month!

There are over 160 events planned in Washington State for Earth Day 2007. Attend an environmental film festival, learn about piscine reproduction, volunteer to beautify a park...check these events out at www.earthday.net.

A great event being held later this month will be hosted by Sarah Clarke, the individual placement at South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. Sarah is inviting the public to participate in an event where art and science meet. A realistic chum salmon mural will be painted by interested children and adults. Individuals will create their own scales on the salmon, with a palette specific to the scale's location on the fish. The creation of the mural will coincide with Arts Walk on Friday April 27 and Saturday April 28, 2007. Local Olympia businesses, such as Dumpster Values, are generously donating supplies to create the mural.



If you are unable to participate in an earth day project, here are some small things you can do on your own to become just a bit more eco-friendly:

- **Switch to swirly bulbs.** A Compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL) lasts years longer than typical incandescent bulbs and use one-quarter the electricity.
- **Hang your clothes out to dry.** Save up your dirty clothes to form larger loads and hang them on a clothesline.
- **Go paperless.** Pay your bills online and, when available, sign up to avoid receiving paper bills each month.
- **Shut down rather than standby.** Your computer screen saver might save your monitor, but it does not save energy. Shut down to save some real electricity-and money.
- **BYOB: Bring your own bag, cup, etc.** Next time you head to your favorite coffee place, bring your own mug. If you head to the grocer, bring some cloth bags. Some places even offer incentives for doing so (e.g. 10% off your purchase price).
- **Go native.** Native plants require less watering and maintenance than non-natives do. Look for tips on going native at www.dnr.metrokc.gov.
- **Compost.** Decrease the amount of garbage you generate by up to 20% through composting. All the tips to get you started are available at <http://gardening.wsu.edu>.
- **Make a Statement.** If you see wasteful practices in your city, speak up. Contact city hall and voice your concerns.

Martin Luther King Jr Week of Service

The Martin Luther King Junior Holiday (MLK Day) has turned into a Day On - rather than a Day Off - for people around the country. Volunteerism on MLK Day has grown steadily since 1994 when Congress passed legislation encouraging Americans to celebrate the King Holiday as a day of service reflecting Dr. King's life and teachings. With a mini-grant from the Corps Network (formerly NASCC), the Washington Conservation Corps expanded MLK Day to MLK Week of Service in which members statewide organized 20 service events that lasted from 1 day to 2 weeks. The results of these great projects are below.



- Built a hoop house for the Gleaners Coalition, greenhouse-warming tables for Left Foot Organics, and a vegetable washstand for Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB)
- Prepped 2 community gardens for spring planting. The P-Patch garden in Everett and a WCC Giving Garden in Olympia will soon harvest produce planted by the WCC
- Purchased and organized the supplies for 31 Disaster Preparedness kits.
- Adopted 2.5 miles of highway near Everett
- Raised over \$3,400 for non-profit organizations. The Everett Crews (Sup. Mark Hopf and Jordan Ottow) raised money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society by organizing a Polar Bear Swim at Leschi Park in Seattle and the Spokane Crew (Supervisor Kenji Toelken) held a book drive/sale to raise money for Doctors Without Borders.
- Provided storm cleanup service at Camp Sealth.
- Painted walls and murals in 2 community centers. The Redmond Crew painted the walls of a senior center and the King County Crew (sup Justin Zarzeczny) partnered with City Year AmeriCorps Members to paint walls and murals at Seattle's Union Gospel Mission.
- Renovated/Repaired 2 organizations dedicated to animals. The West Sound Wildlife Shelter (Bainbridge) received a new Great Horned Owl enclosure. Animals as Natural Therapy (Bellingham) received some new shelves and a tool shed.
- Assisted local families build/rebuild their homes. The King County Crew (supervisor Peter Nevin) assisted Vashon Household and the Nisqually Crew deconstructed the remains of a home destroyed by fire. The Snohomish County Crews assisted Habitat for Humanity. The Skagit Crew assisted flood victims (Hamilton, WA).
- Chopped and delivered 3 truckloads of firewood to low-income families.
- Collected, organized and distributed food at food banks in 3 counties. Food banks include Northwest Harvest, the Bellingham Food Bank, and Thurston County Food Bank.
- Performed a play featuring the Little Rock Nine re-enactment at a local middle school with City Year.



Top to Bottom: Hoop house built for the Gleaners Coalition, WCC Members (Isaac Brown, Jessica Asplund, Andrew Quast, & Liz Meyer) celebrate completion of a mural for Seattle Gospel Mission, Katie Curl builds frame for West Sound Wildlife Shelter, Ryan Andrews and Dangelei Fox sort food donations at Northwest Harvest.

Hungry for a Good Cause

Article by NSEA Crew Members: Megan Brady, Alex Karpoff, and Emily Pease

Imagine you have just paid for what you assumed to be a feast. Those around you look quizzically at their random lottery tickets. You do not yet realize that you have drawn your lot. Seated on the floor in between a small grouping of individual chairs and three dining tables you ponder whether you signed up for a feast or a famine. The room fills up with people of all sorts and the evening begins.

“More than one billion people live in poverty. Eight hundred fifty million people suffer from chronic hunger. A child dies from hunger or a preventable disease every 2.9 seconds. That’s 30,000 children a day.” The speech begins with a few simple but shocking facts from Oxfam America, an international organization supporting human rights and one of the beneficiaries of the event. The stage was set and the crowd of diners sat quietly while contemplating the facts.

On February 6, 2007, over one hundred Bellingham residents gathered at a Hunger Banquet organized by the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association WCC Crew. Split into three different economic classes which accurately depicted the inequities that exist worldwide; sixty percent of the attendants found themselves seated on the floor, twenty-five percent were seated auditorium style, and the remaining fifteen percent dined in the lap of luxury at tables clothed in white linen. After being told what their percentage represented in terms of education, health care, housing, and occupation they were served their dinners; the large majority eating only from communal bowls of rice while staring hungrily at those who felt lucky to receive



NSEA Crew: Emily Pease, Megan Brady, Justin Lamb (sup), Alex Karpoff, Andrew Cutter, Annalisa Barron

beans with their rice and those who felt guilty for enjoying complete pasta dinners donated by a local restaurant.

“It wasn't until the group discussion started that I knew that we had pulled it off,” says Emily Pease. “It was in that moment that I realized all of the traumas, all the stress of putting an event together, were worth it.” Though the event was a big success, raising approximately \$1200 to benefit Oxfam America and the Bellingham Food Bank, it was not without its trials. Megan Brady elaborates, “A week before the event our caterer mysteriously vanished, nobody made a reservation until the last thirty hours, and moments before dinner was served one of our featured speakers was hospitalized.” In the end, the crew felt greatly rewarded by their efforts. Stepping away from their normal line of work opened their minds to a new type of activism. “We got it done, and we could get it done again,” Megan concludes as the crew burst into laughter.

Sponsor Recognition

Article by Nick Mott, WCC Project Coordinator

The Washington Conservation Corps sends out special thanks to the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). The King County DNRP and WCC partnership goes back many years and continues to grow. King County is firmly in support of the ideals and goals of the WCC and works hard to assure each Corps member gets the fullest experience possible. Education and member development is an important component of the WCC, and King County DNRP offers additional trainings and learning possibilities throughout the year. Previous trainings have included:

- Pesticide applications
- Noxious weed workshops
- Reclaimed water
- Small engine repair
- Project planning/permitting
- Science seminars

King County DNRP ensures that day-to-day service projects are also a learning experience, with field personnel being present on-site to explain the background and environmental impacts at the beginning of each project. Often times, projects are selected with an eye for diversity and skill attainment. Corps members are afforded the opportunity for crew exchanges, emergency response opportunities, and job shadowing, when requested. Special thanks to Paul Adler, Cody Toal, and all other King County field staff that make this partnership incredible!



(L to R): Paul Adler and Cody Toal, sponsors

Want to nominate an outstanding sponsor?

Tell your coordinator about an outstanding sponsor deserving special recognition!

Contact:

Roland McGill: 360.407.6077
Nick Mott: 360.407.6946
Bridget Mason: 360.407.6706

WCC Crossword

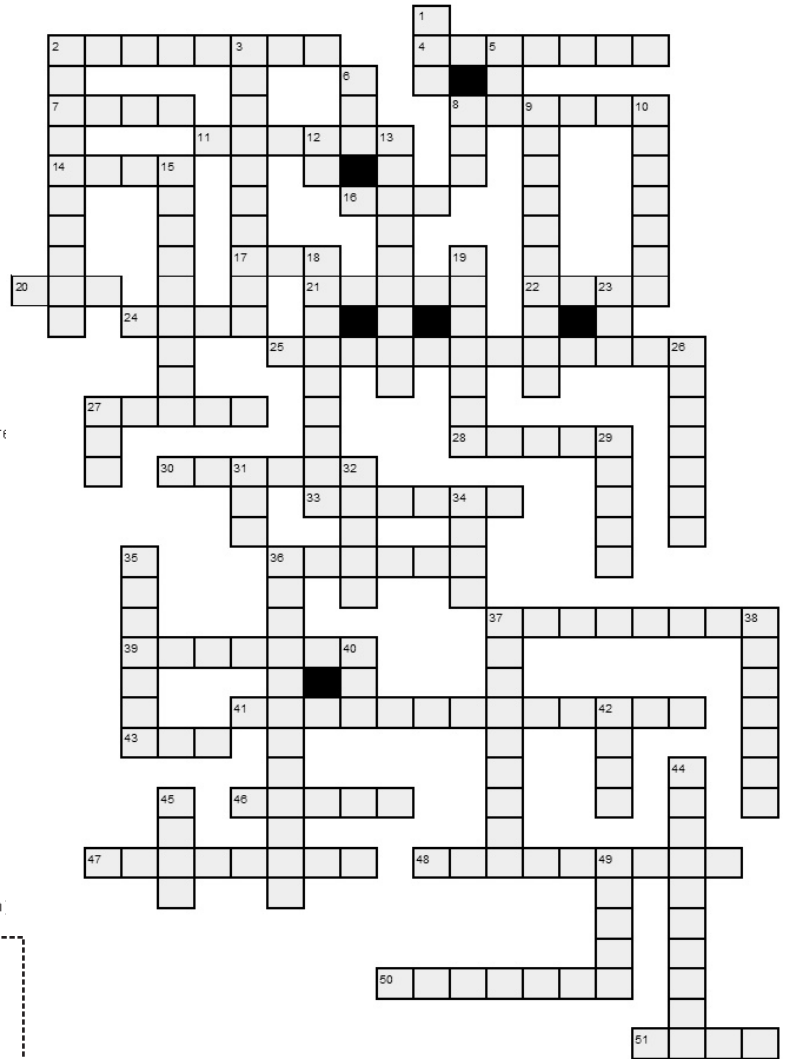
Training, tools and day-to-day WCC activities

Down

- 1 _____ Berry
- 2 Spring stomping grounds
- 3 75,000 members strong
- 5 Gas mixer
- 6 WCC's ancestor (acronym)
- 8 Grand, noble, doug
- 9 *Halodiscus discolor*
- 10 Easternmost crew
- 12 Not on a crew (abbrev)
- 13 Crew deputy
- 15 Lives 2 years +
- 18 Eternally eternal
- 19 Cross-country service site
- 23 Nurse _____
- 26 3 crews reside here
- 27 Not a day off (acronym)
- 29 Head honcho
- 31 On northern peninsula (acronym)
- 32 *Alternative name*
- 34 Orange honeysuckle (e.g.)
- 35 Auditory cork (2 words)
- 36 It's our middle name
- 37 Unpaid
- 38 Sought after seat
- 40 Missouri storm
- 42 Immature beetle
- 44 Goes from salty to fresh
- 45 WCC summer job
- 49 Tree of Life

Across

- 2 Primary assistance
- 4 Water Wom
- 7 Regional fish helpers (acronym)
- 8 Common Washington hazard (pl)
- 11 Nettle genus
- 14 Culprit of number 46 Across
- 16 Endangered salmon asylum (acronym)
- 17 Salmon eggs
- 20 Rock bottom
- 21 Pulse, breathing, temperature, blood pressure
- 22 Pruner, saw, telephone
- 24 AmeriCorps' parent agency (acronym)
- 25 Fort Worden, et al (2 words)
- 27 Retains water
- 28 Farm implements (pl)
- 30 Spade
- 33 Local
- 36 Featured mollusk
- 37 Crupina _____
- 39 Axe blade + grub hoe
- 41 Human side effect (2 words)
- 43 Locates locations (acronym)
- 46 Affects anaphylaxis
- 47 Nude plant
- 48 Alternative to #42 down
- 50 0° Latitude
- 51 Mysterious substance details sheet (acronym)



Scrambler

To solve this puzzle, unscramble the letters below to form as many words as you can. Fill in the words in the grid provided.

U F E F R B

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

National Response Efforts

Residents of the Southeast U.S. breathed a sigh of relief as hurricane season came and went quietly. Unfortunately, the true danger came in February on Groundhog's Day, when severe thunderstorms and tornados struck Florida. The storm killed 20 people, destroyed thousands of homes, and left thousands of households without power. The President declared a state of emergency in 4 counties.



The WCC sent 24 people to assist with recovery efforts in Lady Lake, Florida shortly after the tornados struck. Lady Lake is a small town so the loss of 7 people and destruction of over 100 homes was a devastating blow to the community. WCC Members worked alongside other volunteer organizations, including the Christian Contractor's Association, Volunteer Florida, and Conservation Corps from California, Minnesota, and Alaska. WCC Members lived alongside 90 other AmeriCorps volunteers for a month as they assisted Lady Lake residents in clearing debris and installing tarps on roofs.



Frozen tree split in thirds

Just one week earlier, 12 of our most experienced sawyers left for Aurora, Missouri to respond to severe winter storms. The ice storms that hit the Midwest this winter left a mass of debris, most of which was vegetation. The WCC assisted Missouri residents in moving the debris from roads and homes. In all, 44 Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis were eligible for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Thank you to the following WCC Members and Supervisors who volunteered for these efforts:

Missouri

Tricia Bays
Gina Carani
Ted Dewees (sup)
Paul Griffith
Sammy Harvel
Chris Humann
Sam Lanz
Bob Milner (sup)
Laila Murfin
Joey Phelan
Anjolene Price
Kyle Thompson

Florida

Melody Abel (sup)
Mitchel Brown
Kevin Clarke
Tyler Clemens
Joe Clardy
Dave Coffey (sup)
Rob Crawford (sup)
Stephanie Drake
Emily Dore
Sarah Hanley
Kiana Kahlbaum
Hillary Levine

Brittany Melo
William Middleton
John Moore
Amy Shimanek
Devon Tincknell
Brian Tornow
Kylie Tillman
Jordan Turner
Kieron Weidner (sup)
Nicholas Wooten
Maria Zupan
Trisha Zurbrugg

Dear Mr. Spath:

Your organization is outstanding. We live in Lady Lake, Florida, the town in central Florida that was hit by the tornado during the first week of February. We live on 75 acres of uplands, wetlands and naturally forested land that we have been nurturing and protecting for the past 20 years. The powerful tornado destroyed the front part of the property and our part of Lady Lake was littered with debris from the mobile home park that was destroyed 1/2 mile away. We were doing our best to clear the lake out and then FEMA gave all residents a March 1st deadline to take all the debris to the roadside for pickup. We asked for an extension, which they could not grant. We called our county collection service, told them our problem and they contacted your organization. The next day, your crew and another AmeriCorps crew from the state of California arrived. We felt that they all were angels sent to relieve us.

They all were so energetic and in such good spirits, it lifted our burden in many ways. We took pictures of them eating lunch on the deck and asked for their names to remember them forever for their great help. Kieron Weidner, Steph Drake, Brian Tornow, Tyler Clemens, Matt Moore and Nick Wooten were a joy to talk with. Their tireless efforts in hauling the destroyed mobile home parts and clearing out some of the fallen trees were truly appreciated. Since all of these wonderful people were from the states of Washington and California, we called them our West Coast Angels.

-The Gerholds, Lady Lake, Fl.

Washington Conservation Corps

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E-MAIL:

kdan461@ecy.wa.gov

WEB: www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc

Appear in Corps News!

Seeking articles, creative writing, and artwork. Please send your work to Bridget Mason at brim461@ecy.wa.gov or Snail mail to WCC Headquarters by the quarterly due date:

- April 10: Spring
- July 10: Summer
- October 10: Fall
- January 10: Winter

About Our Organization

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) was established in 1983 as a job training program for young adults between the ages of 18-25. The WCC is a program offered through the Washington State Department of Ecology and continues the legacy left by the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. The WCC has been an AmeriCorps Program since 1994.

The program provides work experience and skills for projects that support conservation, rehabilitation, and enhancement of Washington's natural, historic, environmental and recreational resources. Today the WCC has nearly 150 members working on various projects in every part of the state. WCC partners include Federal, State, Local, and Tribal organizations. For more information, please visit our website.

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