

Washington



Conservation Corps

CORPS NEWS

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MEMBERS BLOG ABOUT WCC

Erinn Unger (Port Angeles Trail Crew) and Paul Son (King County "Sockeye" Crew) are two corps members who document their adventures in the WCC through blogging online.

In an October posting, after attending NMOT and the AmeriCorps Kickoff, Erinn reflected on things she'd learned so far in the WCC:

1. Wolverine bites are nasty looking.
2. Don't get too cold. You could die.
3. Don't get too hot. You could die.
4. Giving androgynous CPR dummies non-gender specific names is fun. We had some good times, Pat.
5. Salad freezes when placed anywhere close to the freezer box in a hotel fridge. Spinach pops are not very good.
6. Hotel hot tubs can comfortably fit 10 trail crew members.
7. \$50 buys enough groceries to feed two tiny girls for a week, but lasts two pig-out guys barely two days.
8. "Hangry" is now part of my vocabulary. It is a fusion of "hungry" and "angry" which certainly applies to me sometimes.

(Continued, see *Blogging*, page 14)



Top: Plants at Auburn Mitigation site, Bottom right: Shea Dillon of the King County "Sockeye" Crew
Photos courtesy of Paul Son

WCC AIDS FLOOD VICTIMS, INCLUDING ONE OF OUR OWN

by Joye Redfield-Wilder, communications manager, Central Regional Office

When Jeff Newschwander with Central Regional Office's Toxics Cleanup Program returned home on Monday evening, January 17, he found the "seasonal" irrigation ditch at his house near Ellensburg overflowing its banks.

"This wasn't a problem for me, but posed a problem for our neighbors downstream," Jeff said. "I spent the next two hours out in our pasture with a shovel, trying to help divert water away from their house."

By the time he got back to his own home, however, the situation had quickly changed. The irrigation ditch was no longer the concern. Water was now crossing the road above his house and was already rising around the foundation and pouring into the crawlspace.

"It was apparent that, at a minimum, our subfloor HVAC ducting was going to be destroyed. At the current rate, it wouldn't be long before water crested our footings and reached our subfloor."

About that time, two blue trucks drove by with flashing yellow lights.

"I had no idea who they were, but they appeared to be driving around looking for homeowners in need of help. I yelled from my yard to get their attention," Jeff said.

WCC to the rescue

Within two to three minutes, at least 12 members of the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew were hauling sandbags across his yard and building a diversion around the north end of the home.

"The only questions they asked were: how can we help? And where do you want the sandbags? They never knew I was an Ecology employee."

Water continued to rise for another two hours.

Without their help, Jeff said he would have struggled to get sandbags placed in time to keep water from entering the home. The crews' diversion was so effective that Jeff was able to keep the crawlspace pumped out with two small sump pumps and save the HVAC ducting.

"I would like to express my

gratitude to a group of our fellow Ecology employees," he said. "I just want to say thank you, and let the WCC crews know what a difference they make."

Giving a hand in need

In all, 25 WCC members and staff across the state have responded to recent flooding.

"We had a great experience helping with the floods on Monday in Ellensburg," said Mike Stowell, WCC crew supervisor in Yakima. "We received a call at 6:15, just 45 minutes after getting off work for the day saying that our help was needed. Two crews from Yakima recalled all of their members and by 7:45 we had an additional 11 people in place filling, transporting and placing sandbags until just after midnight.

"All told we had three crews on site, one from Ellensburg and two from Yakima (3 supervisors and 13 corps members). We were glad to be able to give a hand to others in need."

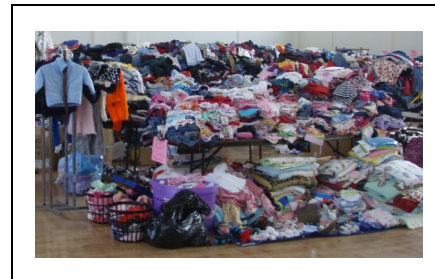
And like Jeff, the recipients of their services are probably just as grateful.

"I just want to say thank you, and let the WCC crews know what a difference they make."

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: WHITE SWAN FIRE

On February 12th, a chimney fire turned into a wind-fueled inferno, destroying 18 homes and leaving 120 people homeless in White Swan, an unincorporated community located on the Yakima Indian Reservation. Shortly after, donations began pouring in and it soon became apparent that more help was needed. Enter the WCC.

Initially 3 crews responded; from Ellensburg, Yakima, and Wenatchee with another crew joining the efforts the following days. Their efforts were focused on loading and unloading the numerous donations and sorting donated clothing, household items, and toiletries.



Piles of clothing donations await sorting at the Toppenish Armory

A VICTORY FOR PORT ANGELES' VICTORY GARDENS

Covered in dirt, backs sore, and hands riddled with blisters; and yet for two Port Angeles WCC crews, the physical discomfords were outweighed by an overwhelming sense of accomplishment. For this year's MLK service project, both Kelly Sutton and Justin Zarzeczny's crews teamed together to help local organization, PA Victory Gardens, transform an empty lot into the 5th Street Community Garden.

The garden plots are available for community members to rent, and is the embodiment of PA Victory Gardens' mission statement, which is to "empower people to grow food through access to community gardens and education."

Working alongside organizer and PA Victory Gardens representative Diane Martin, the crews organized and orchestrated an MLK Day work-party to break ground for the garden. While the garden is intended to provide space for those who may not have space at their homes to garden, it is also the intention of PA Victory Gardens and the City of Port Angeles to designate plots for the local food bank. With the help and support of volunteers, the 5th Street Community Garden will be able to provide food bank recipients with fresh and local produce come harvest season.

With the help of nearly 20 volunteers, we spent hours carving into the ground with shovels, lifting sod, mixing the underlying soil and clay lay-



Article submitted by Sahara Suval, Port Angeles crew member

ers, then breaking up the sod (with several stabs of one's tool) and returning it into the mix; a process called "double-digging." Double-digging is a way to aerate the soil, which will allow a more hospitable environment for a plant's roots to thrive and expand under the ground.

When the shoveling grew to be too much or for those who wanted to show their support but could not double-dig, there was a tiled mosaic piece to work on. Headed by corps member Taryn Heisler, the three-by-four foot mosaic was designed with the help of Diane Martin. It will be hung on the garden's tool shed, once completed. The mosaic shows a sun beaming over a sprout growing out of the ground above the words, "Community Garden." All of the tiles were put in place at the work-party, leaving the final steps to Heisler to complete before presenting it to PA Victory Gardens.

The mosaic, a mish-mash of different sized and colored tiles, is symbolic of the diversity of people brought together to help make the 5th Street Garden a reality, forming its own pattern. Many crew members remarked that they enjoyed meeting all of the volunteers and educating passers-by about the garden.

It is the hope of PA Victory Gar-

dens that community members will adopt and plant all of these newly created garden plots by springtime, further inspiring the city of Port Angeles to approve more community garden spaces. By working with Richard Bonine of City Parks, the 5th Street Community Garden was the first of hopefully many more community gardens in Port Angeles. While the garden currently contains only non-developed beds, there is a tool shed to be built and a seating area—all of which Diane Martin hopes will be adorned with community artwork.

All in all, this year's MLK service project was considered a great success and both Port Angeles crews were extremely proud to be a part of this community effort.

Diane of the PA Victory Gardens had this to say about the WCC's efforts:

"Not only were they hard working and very nice to work with, their effort has made all the difference in generating energy for our garden. We could not be more pleased and were very happy to get the impression that they felt that they were working on a worthwhile project."

"Their effort has made all the difference in generating energy for our garden."



Photo courtesy of Philip Siefker of the Port Angeles Crew

HAPPY VALLEY DREAMS BIG, BUILDS SCHOOL GARDEN ON MLK DAY



Article submitted by Stephanie Huck, NSEA crew member

Rain or shine, things looked up on Martin Luther King, Jr. day as volunteers came out to Happy Valley Elementary School grounds to get busy outdoors. Contributing a total of 252 hours, 99 volunteers built a shared school and community garden, which Happy Valley has been longing for.

The volunteers, kids and adults alike, helped to build Happy Valley Elementary 13 raised garden beds to be used by classrooms as well as the local neighborhood association.

The Whatcom County Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association WCC crew planned and designed the project with the Happy Valley Elementary School Principal Karen Tolliver, the Happy Valley PTA, Happy Valley Neighborhood Association, and other community members.

When the WCC crew approached Principal Tolliver with the idea of creating a school garden for MLK day she was excited, saying that the timing was just right. The idea of a school garden had been growing there. After that it all came together smoothly, with weekly planning meetings right up until it was time to get building!

Volunteers arrived bright and early on Monday morning and started getting to work by placing cardboard over the soon-to-be garden zone to keep down grass or weeds from growing up through the new gardens. Kids' kept busy pulling tape off the recycled cardboard. In the background, other adults and WCC crew members cut lumber and constructed the garden beds to be ready for the kids to get back in action with their shovels and buckets of dirt. Things progressed

quickly.

Building the beds and getting them ready with dirt, mulch, and cardboard was a breeze with so many volunteers and materials donated from local businesses, finishing even earlier than expected. Upon completion, some parents and teachers were in awe of the transformed school lawn.

All partners are working together to make sure the garden is successful throughout the seasons for the teachers, students, and neighborhood members. Happy Valley Elementary School is currently focusing primarily on the integrating theme of science this year and will incorporate the garden into their physical, earth and life science lessons. Principal Tolliver hopes that it will become a part of the Whatcom County School Garden Collective, a group experienced in "learning gardens."

Overall, the project was a great success and brought the Happy Valley community closer together from 3 years old to 57 - or just "too old" as some volunteers preferred sharing - working alongside one another with many new play-dates scheduled among parents and children. Now Happy Valley can make the garden their own, turning it into an experience for children to learn and grow.

"The timing was just right. The idea of a school garden had been growing there."



NSEA Crew and MLK Day volunteers

STATE-WIDE MLK WEEK OF SERVICE

BELLINGHAM

The NSEA crew shares their story on page 4. The Bellingham Crews worked at the Food Bank on MLK Day doing maintenance repairs. That evening, they staffed collection booths for a food drive at two local grocery stores.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the crew assisted Whatcom Volunteer Center's House to Home Network, a program that supplies furniture to formerly homeless people that have recently acquired housing. The crew spent the day delivering furniture to families in need.

On Tuesday, the Skagit Crew canvassed the Columbia neighborhood with 800 fliers and spoke with residents, seeking food donations. The following day, the crew returned to pick up the donated food and deliver it to the local food bank. In total, the crew collected just under 1200 pounds of food.

ELMA

The Hood Canal crew put the finishing trim and facial boarding on the lean-to roof of the food bank. The crew built this roof last year and returned to provide the final additions. They also sanded down the flagpole for painting.



NSEA Crew Member Sam Wiggins helps volunteers construct a garden bed

Later that week, the Hood Canal crew and Vanessa Lott's Olympia Spike crew assisted with renovation efforts at the old fire hall where they tore down walls and cleaned up debris.

MCCLEARY

The Hood Canal Crew spent Tuesday and Wednesday working at the VFW Hall in McCleary where they replaced carpet. Lott's Olympia Spike crew joined them again on Wednesday and removed intrusive invasive weeds around the property of the VFW.

MOUNT VERNON

The Skagit Crew joined the Individual Placements at Padilla Bay and Skagit Fisheries (Monte Richardson, Charlie Huddleston, Brittany Collins and Anna Mostovetsky) for their MLK project to move and expand the community Garden at the Padilla Bay Research center.

SEATTLE

The Seattle Parks Crew took a break from trail work to spend time at the Fremont Abbey, an Arts Center. The crew touched up the Abbey's walls with fresh paint, cleaned and organized

*"Everybody can be great.
Because anybody can serve.
You don't have to have a
college degree to serve. You
don't have to make your
subject and your verb agree
to serve.... You don't have
to know the second theory
of thermodynamics in
physics to serve. You only
need a heart full of grace.
A soul generated by love."*

*—Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr.*



Liam Fitzgerald and Rebecca Sheridan of the Seattle Trails Crew



Matthew Sabey and Jenny Burger of the CLC Crew

storage closets, and washed the building to alleviate moss growth in between the bricks to help stop mortar degradation. They also worked alongside volunteers to pick up litter around the neighborhood. After completing this work at the Abbey, the crew spent the rest of the afternoon pulling blackberries along the Burke Gilman trail at Sand Point. The UW Restoration Ecology program was sponsoring the work party.

Later in the week, this same crew helped to expand a local P-Patch by constructing a 6X3 foot rock wall, setting granite pavers as the framing for the new beds, hauling gravel and soil, and mulching to prevent nutrient loss while the beds are not in use. The crew hauled all the materials needed up half a steep city block to accomplish this project.

The Metro Parks Tacoma Crew worked with The Nature Consortium's Urban Forest Restoration project reintroducing native conifers and removing invasive species in the Duwamish greenbelt on Tuesday.

The Cascade Land Conservancy Crew spent a day with the University Heights Community Center and a day at the U-District food bank.

The Redmond Crew spent their time at the Seattle's Union Gospel Mission where they served food to the mission's guests, washed dishes, assisted the chef in preparing food for the next meal, and cleaned house.

The King CD Crew volunteered at three different places for their MLK week. On Monday, they were involved in a project building cabinets in low-income houses for United Way. On Tuesday, they participated in "Operation Sack Lunch", where they prepped food for lunchtime and passed out food to the homeless. On Wednesday, they volunteered their time at the Lake City Way Food Bank, where they coordinated the food line.

The King County DNRP crews worked on various projects in King County. In Seattle, this work included leading a volunteer work party for Friends of the Cedar River Watershed and working at the Lifelong Aids Alliance.

KENT

The three King County DNRP crews worked at the South King County Food Bank's canning facility in Kent. The crews prepared over 3,500 cans of carrots.

The Seattle Parks Crew traveled to Kent to assist Northwest Harvest in packing 170 variety food boxes to distribute to local food banks. In weight, the crew packed 4,080lbs of food for King County food banks in just three short hours.

TUKWILA

The Seattle Parks Crew assisted the Somali Community Services Coalition (SCSC), a program that provides services to the



Alex Sweeney of the King County DNR Crew

"There's only one rule I know of... you've got to be kind!"

—Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

refugee Somali population in King County. The crew helped SCSC by organizing a classroom equipped with desktop computers. In the process, the crew found the parts necessary to give a fully functioning computer system to a family in need. In total, the crew organized 13 sets of desktop computer systems. Crewmembers took part in updating the school's computers by installing new RAM cards. Other tasks included hanging coat racks in the classrooms as well as fixing chairs and cleaning glass doors and windows.



Aidan Riley of the Spokane Crew

SPOKANE

Kenji Toelken's Spokane Crew spent Monday at the Ronald McDonald house doing various chores, including the removal of snow and leaf remnants. On Tuesday, they worked at the Humane Society cleaning out kennels and helping with various chores. The crew spent Wednesday at The Habitat Store where they broke down wooden cabinets for recycling, loaded and unloaded trucks and sorted through mass amounts of tile.

Josh Estelle's Spokane Crew worked with Habitat for Humanity (H4H) both on a work site and in their store. The crew spent Tuesday and Wednesday working on a housing project alongside three H4H AmeriCorps members. They installed laminate flooring, painted doors and fixtures, caulked, installed molding, and worked

with power tools and saws. A few members of the crew assumed leadership positions on the second day to oversee flooring and painting, helping many of the non-WCC volunteers with skills taught the day before.

SHELTON

The Shelton crew spent MLK Day at Catalyst Park where the master gardeners association had built a garden for growing fresh produce for the food bank. The crew removed all invasive plants and cleared land for the expanding garden and upcoming orchard. They moved the garden fence and built a compost box on the outside to recycle produce that had passed its prime and create compost for future crops. They also dug ditches for waterlines to irrigate the garden and help boost productivity to grow food for hungry families for years to come.

Lott's Olympia Spike crew worked on a low impact trail in a wooded area of Catalyst Park. The service project had about a dozen volunteers and even the sunshine made an appearance. Before the end of the second day, the local community was already using the trail.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

—Dr. Seuss



Matt Stephens, Maria Savoca, Devin Gayton, Melissa Voss, and Bryan Conrad of the Olympia Spike Crew

TACOMA

The Metro Parks Crew worked with the University of Washington Tacoma Steps program for their Martin Luther King Day



Chris Benston and Shira Geiger-Gevirtz of the Piece County Crew

Unity Breakfast. They assisted with set-up, take-down and staffing for the event. The City of Tacoma Crew built 20 new garden beds at Stewart Middle School, constructed a brick landing pad for handicapped use and installed 200 feet of permeable piping for a future rain garden project. This crew also refurbished garden beds and planted natives at the Carson Group Home. Kristian Tollefson's Pierce County Crew organized a beach cleanup on the North side of Commencement Bay, one of the most plastic-ridden shorelines in the southern Puget Sound. The crew plans to follow up with an Earth Day event, collaborating with local high school students for further cleanup.

EVERETT

The Redmond Crew and Jacob Zarate, Snohomish IP, hosted a volunteer event at the Snohomish County Native Plant Program nursery where they taught volunteers how to repot plants, compost, and perform other maintenance tasks for the nursery.

Emily Whitney, Snohomish Marine Resources IP, worked with volunteers to collect mussel

samples to monitor water quality.

The Everett Crew worked with the Port Gardner Community and City of Everett's Charles Street Community Garden for the week. The crew constructed a storage shed from the ground up and assisted with other prep work at the garden.

WENATCHEE

The Wenatchee crews teamed up with Leavenworth's Upper Valley Mend. This organization meets community needs through programs including a food and clothing bank, an affordable housing land trust, and a free medical clinic. The crews painted in order to help prepare an adult assisted living home and a town home for a single mother with 3 kids.

ISSAQUAH

A King County crew spent their week with Seattle Tilth's Pickering Barn in Issaquah. Monday the EOS alliance AmeriCorps group joined them to transplant some large shrubs to free up space for larger beds and removed a grove of willows to make way for a new pathway. The group redistributed gravel from the old trail to the new and the soil from the trail to the raised beds to create the trail. On Tuesday,



Counterclockwise from top left: Wenatchee Crew Members Jon Melby, Janna Sargent, Lyra Seymour, Rachel Konrady, Caleb Hinderer, and Justin Pearson with members of Upper Valley Mend and the future homeowner

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

—Mohandas Gandhi

another WCC Crew joined to finish the pathway and build the new garden beds with soil, compost and mulch. They created an aesthetic creek bed that connected with the functioning wetland area. By Wednesday, the crews had completely finished all of the tasks intended so they helped prune some of the large shrubs and grub some nootka rose that had taken over.

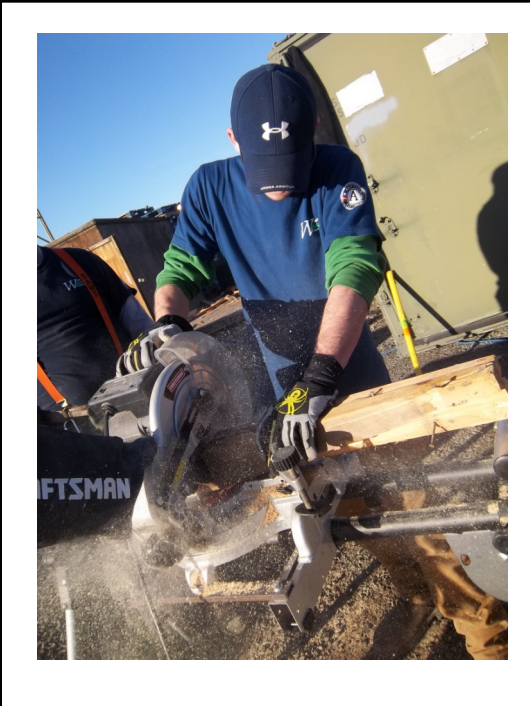
LACEY/OLYMPIA

The Nisqually Crew and Lacey area Individual Placements built a garden for John Rogers elementary school which will serve as a community garden for the Thurston county food bank. The garden included fencing the perimeter, installing a trellis for the front entrance, and a installing a greenhouse. The crew also created a gravel walkway. Shawn Zaniewski and Dave Coffey's crews also worked on school garden projects and did renovations at the Thurston County Food Bank.

The Mount Saint Helens crew assisted Kiwanis in Olympia. The crew split and stacked wood for families in need, cultivated the gardens for the surrounding food banks, burned yard clippings, and installed bean poles.

YAKIMA

The Yakima Crew spent their week of ser-



Trinity Peterson of the Yakima Crew

vice with the Union Gospel Mission. The crew helped the recycling program by sorting metal, paper and plastic while also recycling and sorting books and cardboard boxes, and helping with general maintenance at the facility.

The second Yakima Crew organized a donation drive for the benefit of Rod's House, a homeless youth drop-in center. The crew established four collection sites

around the city and advertised the event with a small flyer campaign. The results were staggering! There were enough donated goods to supply Rod's House for the entire year. The crew also spent time with La Casa Hogar, an organization that provides migrant women with educational opportunities. They worked on two projects, including the installation of a recycling bin to help educate their stu-

"I believe that each of us - no matter what our age or background or walk of life - each of us has something to contribute to the life of this nation."

—Michelle Obama



Brennon Murphy and Geoff Baran of Andy Quast's King County Crew

dents on how and what to recycle, and installation of new carpet and padding for one of their offices.

PORT HADLOCK

Owen French's Port Hadlock Crew recruited volunteers and partnered with Jefferson Land Trust and NOSC IPs Anna Sample and Aliina Lahti to do beach cleanup, historic bunker maintenance and campsite and trail maintenance at Fort Flagler State Park. The



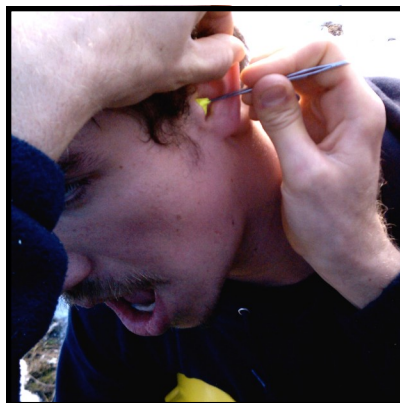
Port Hadlock Crew Member Austin Garcia and NOSC IP Aliina Lahti

crew also devoted one day each to Habitat for Humanity and the Adventuress, an historic wooden boat. Aboard the Adventuress the crew learned about what it takes to maintain a piece of history while painting, woodworking, mounting hardware and sanding. The boat was built in the early 20th century and is open to the public for tours.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."

—Muhammad Ali

CREW MOMENT: PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT



A crew member's earplugs have sunk too deep and Supervisor Tim Ascher must come to the rescue!

PUGET SOUND CORPS PASSES LEGISLATION, IS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR GREGOIRE



Witnesses to the signing of House Bill 1294 included SEA Program Manager Gordon White, WCC Section Supervisor Nick Mott, and Corps Members Anthony Foote and Janna Sargent

A labor of love for those involved, the Puget Sound Corps legislation, also known as House Bill 1294, was signed into effect on April 11, 2011.

This piece of legislation gives the Washington Conservation Corps federal funding in order to focus more effort on cleaning and restoring the Puget Sound vicinity. It will also consolidate existing WCC crews and IPs, currently housed within the Department of Natural Resources, into the Department of Ecology, effective July 2011.

According to Ecology spokesman Curt Hart, the new Puget Sound Corps will most likely focus on projects on public lands, possibly including removal of old, creosote-treated pilings, stream rehabilitation, and restoration planting to prevent erosion and restore wetlands.

It has not yet been decided how many crews and/or individual placements will be added to the program to support Puget Sound clean-up efforts. The new WCC members and staff will likely be added over the course of two years.

Like many of his fellow Corps Members, Anthony Foote (of Shawn Zaniewski's Olympia Spike Crew) was curious about the rumors of possible growth for WCC. His suspicions were confirmed after receiving a call from WCC Section Supervisor Nick Mott, asking him to provide testimony for the program before the state legislature.

After researching the bill, Anthony prepared a speech. He explained to legislators how he got into the Corps, what he had learned and what he hoped to see if the bill were passed. An explanation that was difficult to fit in his 3-minute time allotment.

"I hope to see a lot of work done on the Puget Sound," Anthony said. He recognized several issues affecting the area, including invasive blackberry thickets, and the need for trash clean-up and riparian plantings.

Anthony Foote, a native of the Puget Sound area, is a second-year corps member and hopes to use his AmeriCorps education awards to go back to school.

*"I hope to see a lot of
work done on the Puget
Sound."*

—Anthony Foote

RECOGNITION

GOVERNOR GREGOIRE RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS

John Minter, a frequent volunteer with Kristian Tollefson's Pierce County Crew, was recently recognized by the Governor for his outstanding level of service.

"John Minter's dedication to his nation and community did not end with the completion of his military service. Since the fulfillment of his Army commitment in 2009, John has volunteered over 200 hours of his time to various organizations. He has volunteered with the Veterans Conservation Corps and the Nisqually Tribe to enhance salmon spawning habitat.



Frequent volunteer, John Minter

In April 2010, while fellow students at South Puget Sound Community College were enjoying Spring Break, John was camping out with a Washington Conservation Corps crew restoring a trail on the Bogachiel River. Throughout the rest of that spring, John spent his weekends volunteering for the Olympic National Forest. Other volunteer work has included restoration work in Tacoma and joining the Washington Conservation Corps' Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service project where they assisted Citizens for a Healthy Bay in a massive effort to remove over 2.2 tons of debris from the beaches of Tacoma. Currently, John is studying biology at South Sound Community College, and helping the State's Department of Natural Resources map river and lake bottoms as an intern. He still volunteers on a regular basis."

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ECOLOGY'S AGENCY AWARDS

Nick Mott, Kevin Farrell, Melissa Bennett, and Russel Greer were given an Ecology team award in Environmental Stewardship for Energy Corps' work to protect and conserve the health, and long-term sustainability of our region's ecosystems.

"I'm proud of the positive difference our Energy Corps crews are making," said Gordon White. Energy Corps helps low income families and seniors save on their utility bills and reduce their carbon footprint.



Crew Supervisors Melissa Bennett and Russel Greer with Section Supervisor Nick Mott and Coordinator Kevin Farrell

NORTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT— NOMINATED BY ROLAND MCGILL

The WCC recognizes the North Yakima Conservation District crew supervised by Luke Wigle. They started the year without a direct supervisor and relied on each other and a second year corps member to make sure the work got done, and it DID!

The North Yakima Conservation District was very impressed with the crew's work ethic right from the start. When Luke stepped into the picture to lead the crew, they helped make it an easy transition and they became even more effective.

It impressed Luke how hard they worked and how little they complained, no matter the project or situation. They took direction without hesitation and functioned as if he



Lindsay Latham, Amy Knight, Pat Hurst, Luke Wigle, Zach Schut and Julia White

had been there the whole time. They rose to the challenge of not having a supervisor and succeeded because they put forth the extra effort.

KING COUNTY DNRP—NOMINATED BY JASON OUELLETTE

Kris Buitrago's crew is sponsored by King County Department of Natural Resources and Coordinated by Jason Ouellette. Amongst the crews accomplishments this quarter are having an outstanding attendance record with

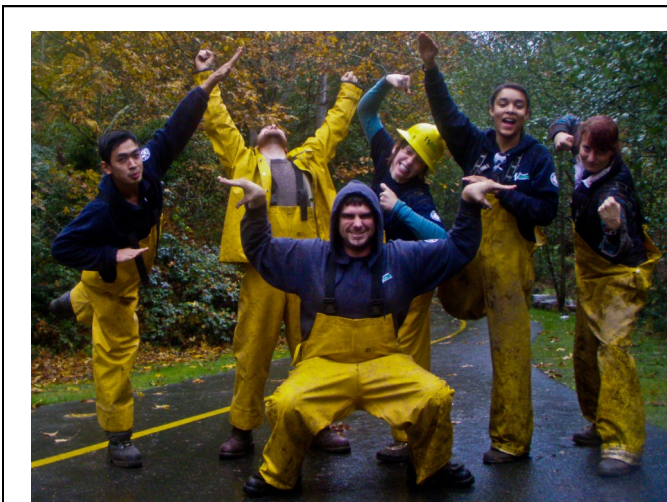
most members missing no days in the first quarter of the year. Great job!

In addition to great attendance the crew also ranks the highest of Jason's crews in terms of additional community service hours earned

outside the WCC. Activities include volunteering for Big Brother/Big Sister, Search and Rescue, and PAWS of Seattle.

One member is actively engaged in the Running Start program, and going to class full time in the evenings and another is applying for Peace Corps.

More importantly than all of those great accomplishments is the way that the crew has rapidly formed into a great team. They work to maintain positive attitudes on the job and challenge each other to do their best.



Paul Son, Max Litwin, Kris Buitrago, Shea Dillon, Sarra Tekola, and Michelle Manza

“Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.”

—Steve Jobs

SKAGIT FISHERIES/NORTH CASCADES—NOMINATED BY KEVIN FARRELL

Congratulations to Rob Crawford's Skagit County based crew for their recognition this quarter! Project coordinator Kevin Farrell said "Rob's members have continued to excel in the program.

Some highlights of this crew includes regular blood donations to the local Red Cross, volunteering their own time on Veterans Day to weatherize a disabled Vets home and install a wheelchair ramp, and working—without complaining—on some of the coldest days of the year in the net pens at the Marblemount Fish Hatchery!

The crew has a stellar attendance record with only 2 missed days amongst them. Their sponsors are constantly giving them 'thumbs up' for their professionalism and expertise."

All members of the crew are involved in volunteer activities outside of work and paint a great picture of what it means to be a WCC Corps Member for the communities where they live.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit."

—Aristotle



Caleb Dobey, Casey Clark, Supervisor Rob Crawford, Aaron Minney, Taylor Barker, and Matt Rowell

ECOLOGY IP—NOMINATED BY BRIDGET MASON

Johanna Ofner is the IP of the Quarter. We received the following from her sponsor:

"Ecology's Climate Policy Group would like to recognize the outstanding work of IP Johanna Ofner. Her contribution to the 'Pathway to GHG Emissions Reduction in Washington State Government' earned her the recognition of a 'contributing author.' The report on the progress the Washington State agencies have made to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions will be submitted to the Governor and the legislature and will be broadly distributed and published on various state agencies' websites.

Johanna created summaries that contain pertinent information, including charts, and tables. She demonstrates an excellent ability to organize, write, and present information in a clear and concise way.

She is an excellent team player, very responsive and takes every chance to volunteer for more work, all with a beautiful smile on her face. Her versatility is worth noting as she recently worked energetically to organize a recycled clothing fashion show, draft a proposal to start a new vegetable garden, and co-manage a new climate change photo initiative. IP Joanna impressed all of us and deserves the recognition. It is truly a pleasure to have her be part of the team."



Ecology's Climate Change IP, Johanna Ofner

BLOGGING—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Hammish" (pronounced 'hay-mish') is supposedly slang for "dank" which is supposedly slang for "awesome." My vocabulary is expanding with my biceps.

9. On my worst days, thinking about salmon and their crazy life cycle can make me feel better.

10. Go to the hotel continental breakfast early, otherwise the blueberry bagels are likely to be gone. Don't make the mistake I did.

11. Bodily functions are a constant topic of conversation, whether you're doing a head-to-toe assessment on an injured person or in the truck with your crew...or standing around with your crew or eating lunch with your crew or on the trail with your crew...you get the idea.

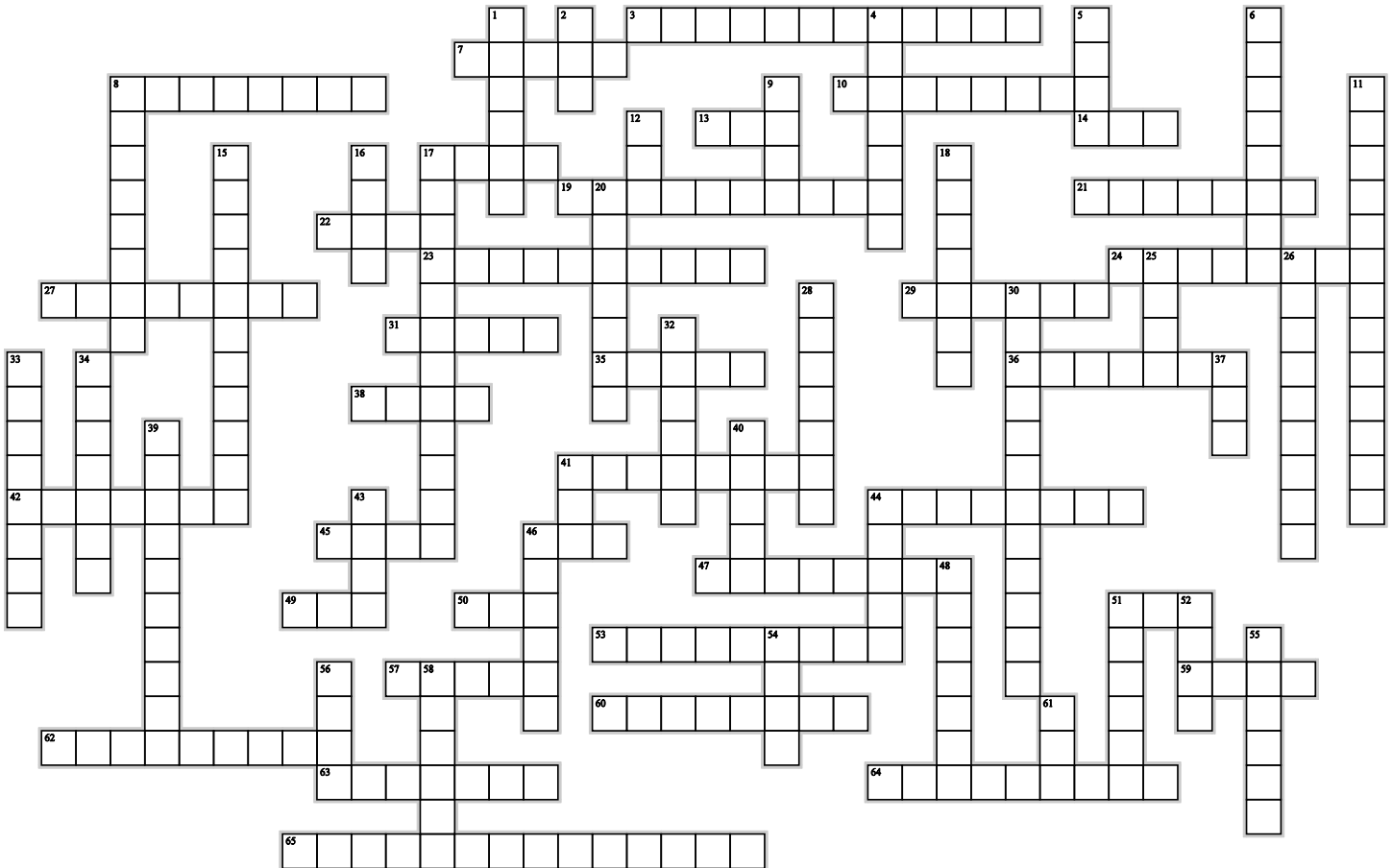
12. Washington Conservation Corps members got rhythm, baby. We did quite well during the Americorps kickoff doing a group musical game. We are also really, really loud. Really loud. Go us."

Paul Son noted the change of the seasons, "The days grow noticeably longer with every week that passes. Our mornings, on a cloudless day, are no longer started in darkness. We see the sunrise as we prepare for our days. I noticed myself and others take a moment to appreciate the beauty of these new mornings. The same also goes for the end of the day for the transition from afternoon to evening. I find myself describing many moments as poetically as I can. It brings my mind into the moment. It makes things more enjoyable. Try it."

Want to start your own blog on your experiences in WCC? Try one of these popular host sites: www.blogger.com, www.wordpress.com, or www.livejournal.com. Let us know if you have a blog to share by posting the URL on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/washingtonconservationcorps.

A FIGURE OF SPEECH

The crossword puzzle below has figures of speech that relate to the work we do (Example: "calm before the storm"), along with the traditional WCC crossword clues. First WCC Crew or Individual Placement to complete this page of puzzles will receive WCC swag.



EllipseCrossword.com

ACROSS

3. Moss tends to leave it alone (2 words)
 7. The raspberry clan
 8. ____ (second word) up the wrong ____ (first word)
 10. 3 petals, 3 leaves, 3 sepals
 13. ____ behind the ears
 14. Prefix for sphere and swale
 17. Family of square stems
 19. Osoberry, AKA (2 words)
 21. Red-flowering, Sticky, Stink
 22. A bird here is worth two in the bush
 23. What 2, 25, 56 contain (2 words)
 24. Pojar's name for botanical oddities
 27. Members of Pinophyta
 29. Native American word meaning deep water and popular springtime location for WCC
 31. Oemleria ovoid offspring
 35. ____ of my eye (2 words)
 36. What a dying one does to 55 (2 words)
 38. WCC's most recent disaster response
 41. Some make this out of molehills
 42. Nooksack word meaning "noisy water". Also Washington County
 44. One stone might take care of both (2 words)
 45. Superstitious knock
 46. It is the limit
 47. Oceanspray AKA (2 words)
 49. Hard row to ____
 50. A chopping tool to grind
 51. First certification earned in WCC
 53. Location of 38 (2 words)
 57. Dumb as a ____
 59. Pal
 60. WCC's 200 "likes"
 62. Clumsy coordination (2 words)
 63. Dangerous place to walk
 28. Saturated soil
 30. Location for largest known western red-cedar (2 words)
 32. It's in the air
 33. Japanese Giant
 34. Common inhabitant in 28
 37. Prefix for things ecological
 39. One who studies 4
 40. ____ of love
 41. Notable week in January
 43. Pin one on your nose
 44. Every rose has one
 46. Place of no trees
 48. Pushing up ____
 51. Bird or Bee that lays its eggs in the nest of others
 52. Solid as one
 54. As Pure as ____
 55. A drop in one
 56. Bite the ____
 58. Separate the trees from the shrubs
 61. Busy as a pollinator

DOWN

1. Arctic, Seashore, Nootka
 2. As clear as ____
 4. Myecium's fruit, in short
 5. Life and ____
 6. A Chinookan word meaning "swift water"
 8. Notable week in March
 9. Moss that shows its age
 11. Early miners and settlers used it as a salad vegetable
 12. Log Water Dwellers
 15. Declare something as your own (3 words)
 16. Capital of a county
 17. A place of agreement (2 words)
 18. 43 that has lost its sepals
 20. Resolutions turn it over
 25. As poor as ____
 26. Final effort (2 words)

WCC News and Events:

- Welcome to our 38 new corps members and 4 new supervisors!
- Sound Corps Cleanup Initiative passes in WA State Legislature, and is signed by Governor Christine Gregoire
- Earth Day was April 22, did you volunteer? Share stories and photos at www.facebook.com/washingtonconservation-corps

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State of Washington

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 200 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.

MAGIC MYCELIUM

Article by Bridget Mason

My friends and families know to keep mushrooms far away from me. I despise their taste, smell, and texture. Living in the land of plentiful fungi, I have tried to like them, but for as long as I can remember, my first reaction to mushrooms has always been yuck! I have been told at least a thousand times about "taste buds changing," so I force myself to re-try them every few years.

Last year, my close-minded attitude towards mushrooms began to change and, while I will likely never be a fan of eating the fungus, I can now certainly appreciate their majesty. I was attending the Society for Ecological Restoration Conference and learned there would be a presentation over dinner on mushrooms. The main course for the evening, of course, also included mushrooms. After my initial retch reaction, I decided to stick to the side items and see what the person had to say.

As I ate my dinner roll, Mycologist Paul Stamets, presented on how mushrooms might save the world. His passion and knowledge of these dank, dark, dingy little things made me realize that I probably should have taken that Mycology class in college. When so much in this world seems to have already been discovered, the world of mushrooms has a lot still hidden.



Photo taken by Davis Harsh, CLC crew assistant, in Magnusen Park, Seattle

Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of mycelium – a network of fibers on which the forest floor is built. WCC members often use mycorrhizal applications at restoration sites to help give their newly installed plants a fighting chance. Stamets' presentation opened my eyes to other uses for mushrooms – mycofiltration, mycotecture, mycoremediation, and the list goes on.

Mushrooms can clean up oil-contaminated soil. They can prevent or treat West Nile virus, cancer, and influenza. Mushrooms can filter wastewater and clean agricultural and industrial runoff. Fungi can act as a fungicide when

beneficial mushrooms are grown to ward off and compete with parasitic fungi. They are a natural insecticide. I was captivated.

At the end of the presentation, I bought Paul Stamets' book *Mycelium Running* and found myself, apparently no longer a mycophobe, asking to volunteer at their mushroom farm. It turns out that there are countless people wanting to do this same thing – and just as many willing to pay for it. Oh well, my mycophilia was short-lived.

You can view Paul Stamets' presentation here: <http://www.ted.com/talks/view/id/258>.