

CORPS NEWS



Clear winter day in Olympia. Photo by Maggie Counihan

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Helping "Little Bit"</i>	1-2
<i>Go GRuB Grow</i>	3-4
<i>Cowlitz Collection</i>	5
<i>Beard Competition</i>	6
<i>Crossword</i>	7
<i>Production Highlight</i>	8

HELPING A "LITTLE BIT" ON MLK DAY

BY: BECKY SNIJDER VAN WISSENKERKE, PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRANKOWSKI CREW

I think most people would agree that sunshine plus horses equals a superb way to spend a day. The WCC Redmond crew spent our MLK day repairing fencing at Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center. We toured the facilities and learned about how they team up with horses to help disabled children and adults. Highlights from our time include being



Kaylee Kautz and Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke help at Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center.



Little Bit cont'd. p.1

stalked by a friendly barn cat, helping our community in front of an audience of horses, and escaping the wrath of blackberry for a day. It was nice to experience a new territory of work. We did face difficulty with some stubborn section of fencing, but we succeeded in the end! Our host was happy with our work and tried to convince us to come back in the future to tackle the encroaching blackberry. It was nice to receive such appreciation and know that a little bit of work goes a long way toward helping others.



Tori Henderson and Kaylee Kautz work on the fencing.



Jake Hixon and Albert Skoczylas dig a little bitty hole.



Albert Skoczylas, Jake Hixon, Blaze, Tori Henderson, Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, and Kaylee Kautz

HELPING NORTHWEST HARVEST



Branden Ellsworth , Emily Carlson, and Samantha Black, of King County DNRP, serve food at Northwest Harvest, a statewide hunger relief agency.

SWEET DEALS!

Did you know:

Members & Supervisors can:

- Receive 15% off at Verizon stores
- Open an account at Washington State Employees Credit Union

Make sure to bring verification, such as a pay stub, to show you are a state worker.



GO GRUB GROW!

BY: JAMIE LILIJEGREN, DEPT. OF ECOLOGY COASTAL MONITORING IP



IP's and Crew Members pause for a picture while working at the Kiwanis Garden. Photos by Maggie Counihan

January kicked off a great start to 2015, with myself and 11 other Individual Placements participating in farm work for the Kiwanis Food Bank Garden and helping out at GRUB; a local community garden, for MLK Day. Our group weeded, spread manure, limed fields, turned compost, removed blackberry, moved downed trees from the property and overall got down and dirty to make a difference! Volunteering at these places was an excellent way to give back to my community because each organization has created activities and programs that benefit various groups of people in Olympia. The Kiwanis garden grows a large supply of fresh vegetables for the food bank downtown and GRUB participates in CSA boxes, helps build garden boxes for people, and has developed their own school for youth to come learn about gardening and social issues affecting the world today. Volunteering for these organizations was an incredibly satisfying way to spend MLK Day and I feel like I have truly helped my community.



Tilling garden plots after spreading compost and lime.

"Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something."

– Carl Sagan

GRuB, p.3

GRuB Facts:

- Built over 2,300 backyard & community gardens since 1993
- 15 years of agriculture based alternative education, employment and drop-out prevention programs
- More info at: www.goodgrub.org



One of the 4 Kiwanis Garden plots on the Capitol Campus



Brian Andrews, Twyla Blanksma and Baxter Seguin (DNR IP's) move concrete blocks along a muddy path at GRuB



Alex Storvick (DNR IP) and Chelsea Rae Oldenburg (GRuB) haul piles of brush by tarp

“Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible.”

–Maya Angelou

HAIKU TO FISH GRINDING

BY: JENNIFER STORVICK, NISQUALLY CREW MEMBER

Winter! Rain, blankets
 Tea and cocoa. Wind blows, cold
 Bones. Crunch, snap, grind, plop.

SEND US MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED
 IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!
 Please send your stories,
 photos, and updates for
 publishing to Maggie Counihan
 at
maggie.counihan@ecy.wa.gov



Jennifer Storvick ready to process a fish for research. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Storvick

COLLECTION ON THE COWLITZ

BY: NATHAN DOUGHERTY, RABEKKAH RANDALL, JEREMY BOLLIN AND ALEXA FOSTER,
TUMWATER SPIKE CREW MEMBERS



Learning about the Cowlitz Hatchery after a rewarding day volunteering with the Tacoma Power Company. Photo courtesy of Alexa Foster.

Our crew, based in Tumwater and supervised by Nancy Toenyan, volunteered at the Tacoma Power Company for MLK Day. We collected litter on the bank of the Cowlitz River at the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery - a high-traffic area for fishermen. The litter consisted of everything from fishing line, hooks, cans, glass bottles to articles of clothing and food wrappers.

As we worked, we interacted with the fishing community and received an overwhelmingly positive response. By the end of the day, we had collected eight 55gallon trash bags.

When the fishermen saw the mass of refuse we hauled out of their beloved fishing spot, they became inspired to take action as well. Tacoma Power reported that they collected an additional eight bags.

During the later part of our afternoon, John Roe, an employee of Tacoma Power volunteered his time to give us a tour of the Cowlitz Salmon hatchery. We witnessed the daily procedures of the hatchery, and learned about how they deal with issues such as high nitrogen levels in the river during certain months of the year. We were excited to discover that the hatchery also donates their excess fish to homeless shelters annually.

It was an extremely rewarding experience to put effort into a project and to know that it had a direct impact on the community in a tangible way.

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give"
-Winston Churchill

COMING UP AT MARCH TRAINING: THE 3RD ANNUAL BEARD & MUSTACHE COMPETITION!

WHEN: MONDAY, MARCH 16TH, 2015 @ 7:30 PM

WHERE: CISPUS MEETING HALL

PRIZES: WCC SWAG, GEAR AND RANDOM GOODIES FOR YOUR BEARD

Rules: For "Full" beard and "Partial" beard contestants, beards and mustaches must be made up of your own hair that is still currently growing from your face. "Full Beard" is self explanatory and "Partial Beard" means mustache, goatees, etc. For "Artificial" beard contestants, anything goes. Each contestant will come up on stage, state their name, crew or IP sponsor, and tell the story behind their beard or mustache. A short performance is encouraged.

Judges: A panel of 5 judges made up of supervisors and office staff. Judges cannot enter the competition.

Scoring: Judges will rate contestants on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the top score. The judges will rate the contestants on:

- Beard/mustache length
- Bushiness
- Creativity
- Presentation
- Showmanship
- Style

The first place winner from each category will go against each other for our Grand Champion

Tie-breaker: If two or more contestants are in contention for a podium finish and have tied scores, audience cheers will determine who continues on.

CATEGORIES:

Full Beard
Partial Beard
Artificial Beard

Prizes Awarded to **1st Place** in all categories.

GRAND CHAMPION chosen from 1st place winners

January Crossword Answers

Across

4.PACIFICCHORUSFROG 5.DRAGONFLY
7.TIMESQUAREBALLDROP 10.RHODODENDRON
14.KIRIBATI 15.WOODYGUTHRIE

Down

1.ECYCLE 2.GREGORIAN 3.CONFETTI
6.COLUMBIANMAMMOTH 8.PETRIFIEDWOOD
9.AULDLANGSYNE 11.ORCA 12.FATHERTIME
13.BLACKEYEDPEAS 17.LUNAR 16.WALLAWALLA
18.STELHEADTROUT

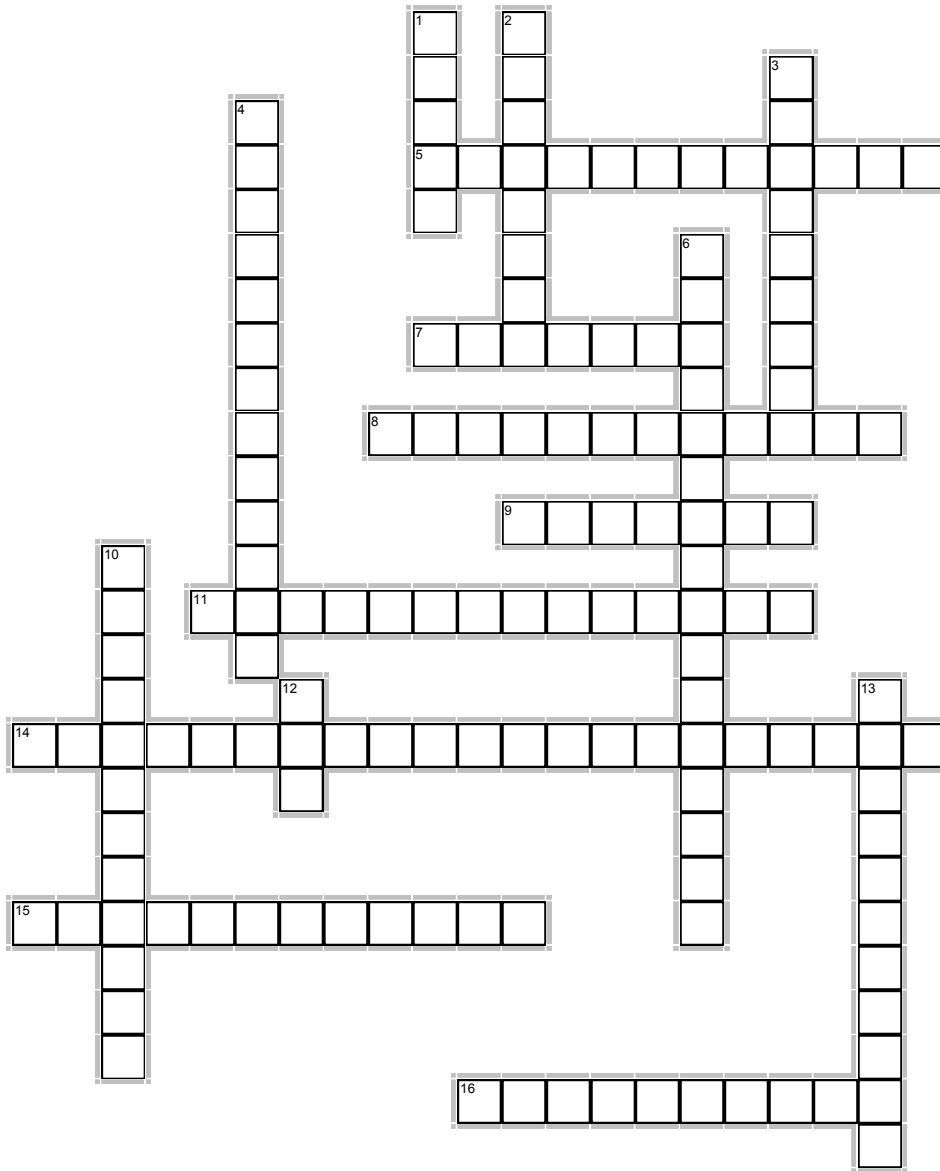
*"The best thing
one can do
when it's raining
is to let it rain."*

*-Henry
Wadsworth
Longfellow*



Contestants from last year's competition pose with Judge Ernie Farmer

GROUNDHOGS & PRESIDENTS



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

5. Phil appeared on which famous talk show?
 7. He is on the five dollar bill
 8. Home to Phil the groundhog
 9. Groundhogs ____ when afraid
 11. He played Lincoln
 14. George Washington's age this year
 15. Film with Bill Murray
 16. This president is on the one dollar bill

Down

1. He resigned from office
 2. He had the shortest term in office
 3. His face is carved in granite
 4. Holiday honoring Washington and Lincoln
 6. Predicts the arrival of spring
 10. Scientific name for Groundhog
 12. He had the longest presidency
 13. Groundhogs are ____

1st crew or IP to send in answers will receive a prize!

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

-William Shakespeare



Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/washingtonconservationcorps

Accommodation Requests:

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-7248. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Washington Department
of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc

February 2015
Volume 11, Issue 4
Ecology Publication
#15-06-004



PRODUCTION REPORT REFLECTION: POWERFUL FORCES OF TREES

BY: STEVEN LEWIS, NISQUALLY CREW MEMBER

Standing beneath the shade of dense trees with nothing but the sound of rustling leaves high above, I'm lulled into a peaceful place. Ancient beings that beget all the flurry of life above and below its branches, trees seem almost God-like. But trees, like any deity, wield both the potential for nourishment and destruction. The seed that grew for tens, hundreds or maybe even thousands of years must one day succumb to gravity, rot, or on occasion, gale force winds. In an instant the quiet, benevolent giant will fall, crushing all beneath its shade. It was a Monday morning. Our crew huddled shoulder to shoulder, front seat and back of the Ford. All of us peered out the sides and windshield, looking for fallout of the previous week's storm. No more than a few minutes driving down the gravel road did we find a roadblock. A cottonwood tree had fallen across the gravel and onto a section of boardwalk. The section was gone, crossbeam and handrail alike. Some of the trunk still stood, splayed and jagged. The morning itself was calm, and daylight was just cracking. It was as if nature were trying to lull us away from the thought that it held such destructive power. But here in front of all our eyes it was obvious - the might of fiber and fundamental forces. I remembered a video I had seen in high school, of a woman crying at the base of a tree, asking for forgiveness, shouting out her love and thanks. It seemed odd that anybody could have such reverence for a tree. But if people could have reverence for the invisible and distant, why was it so hard to see the beauty of a tree? Life is dependent on them, and in an instant, life could as easily be smited by one. It is easy to forget about them because they are so plentiful, and so quiet, sometimes they seem like a painted backdrop of a movie set. But they are real and active in all our lives. I'm not saying we should cry for a fallen tree, but maybe spend a moment in gratitude for all they do.



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 around 300 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.