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## Time and Perseverance: Completing the Yesler Boardwalk Project

By Sadie Normoyle, WCC Outreach and Sustainability Individual Placement AmeriCorps Member

After three years, and three different crews of Washington Conservation Corps AmeriCorps members supporting the project, supervisor Junior Fuimaono and crew completed the Yesler Swamp Boardwalk in June!

The Yesler Boardwalk provides a 1,000+ foot-long walking corridor through Yesler Swamp, a wetland located on the shores of Lake Washington. Our Tacoma Spike crew, led by Junior Fuimaono, began the first of three construction phases on April 9, 2014. Construction was meticulous- as it involved precision along with challenging physical tasks including running a 100-pound jackhammer, manual pin driving, and packing other heavy materials. Yesler Swamp is managed jointly by the University of Washington, Friends of Yesler, and the Department of Natural Resources.

The good news for the Tacoma Spike crew and those looking forward to enjoying the boardwalk: the project is complete as of June 22, 2016! In addition to Junior Fuimaono, former WCC project developer and current Ecology Spill Responder Shawn Zaniewski played a lead role in this project. Congratulations to all AmeriCorps members who supported the boardwalk! To see more photos and learn more about Yesler Swamp check out their website: <http://yeslerswamp.org/>



The completed boardwalk at Yesler Swamp. Photo by Friends of Yesler Swamp.

### SEND US MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please send your stories (800 words or less), photos, and updates for publishing to Sadie at

Sadie.Normoyle@ecy.wa.gov



Supervisor Junior Fuimaono (left) and WCC AmeriCorps members while helping with the final phase of the boardwalk project. Photo by Friends of Yesler Swamp.

# Alumni: Where Are They Now?

By: Bonnie Meaux: Tahuya Trail Crew AmeriCorps Member 2013-2015



Photo by the Washington Conservation Corps.

## When did you join the Washington Conservation Corps?

I joined WCC in March of 2013 as a member of the Tahuya trail crew.

## How long did you serve?

I served for two years. The first year and a half I was on the Tahuya trail crew, and I finished out my last six months on the Urban Forestry crew.

## What was your favorite part of WCC or a favorite memory?

It is difficult to choose one thing. Our crew deployment for disaster response in Oso, the Mills Canyon Fire response, and the Crupina spike are experiences that immediately come to mind. All three assignments took me out of my comfort zone, but the lessons I took home were invaluable. I enjoyed being challenged and learning what I was capable of both physically and mentally on a daily basis.

## What did you take away from your experience?

I took away a whole new outlook on life! It has given me a great base to continue growing as a co-worker, leader, and steward of the land. Oh, and a great resume too.

## What are you doing now?

I am going into my second season fighting fire for the Forest Service on Entiat Initial Attack Hand Crew. I bump into quite a few WCC alumni out on the line!

## Advice for current members?

My advice for current members is to jump at every opportunity presented to you. Network! Take advantage of your trainings! All of the trainings I took have greatly benefited me post WCC, both professionally and personally. Learn from your mistakes, and be open minded to others! Diversity is a beautiful thing. There is always some newfound wisdom to take home from your experiences. But mostly, HAVE FUN!

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## WCC Responds to West Virginia Floods



A group photo before departure. Photo submitted by Stuart Johnson and Luke Wigle.

Two WCC crews, led by Supervisors Luke Wigle and Stuart Johnson, left on July 8, 2016, for a 30-day disaster response deployment to West Virginia. In late June, large-scale flooding occurred in several communities and the call was made for disaster relief volunteers. Luke Wigle flew ahead of the crews to set up operations, while the rest of the crews arrived by truck four days later.

The two crews, along with other disaster response volunteers, are supporting response efforts across four counties in West Virginia: Greenbrier, Nicholas, Kanawha, and Clay. WCC AmeriCorps members are assisting with Volunteer Response Centers (VRCs) as well as mucking and gutting homes. AmeriCorps member Kirstin Craig, serving in Clay, writes in an email update, "We had a big storm in the middle of the day that blew out power to the town. We're staying at the local middle school but had to get creative tonight with light...we're making strides each day." Thank you for your continued service, WCC AmeriCorps members! The crews deployed are scheduled to return home on August 7.



# Puget Sound Corps Crew and WDFW Earn Conservation Award

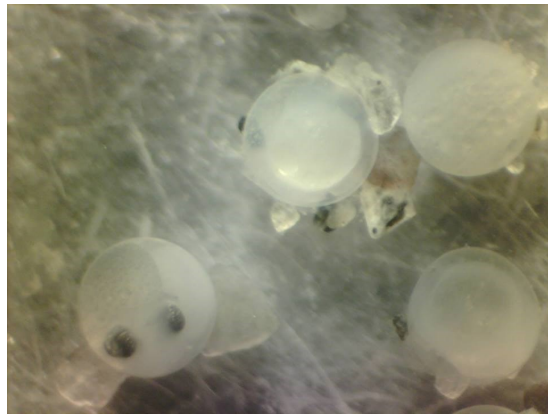
By Sadie Normoyle, WCC Outreach and Sustainability Individual Placement AmeriCorps Member

In April, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Intertidal Forage Fish Monitoring Program and our own Puget SoundCorps AmeriCorps crew earned the “Conservation Organization of the Year” Award from the Washington British Columbia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

According to WDFW, the award “recognizes the Department’s ongoing efforts to expand understanding of forage fish habitat and biology. These fish play a critical role in the food web, providing energy and nutrients for marine mammals, seabirds, salmon and people.” The award recognized the projects completed by Phill Dionne, a scientist with the Habitat Science Division at WDFW, and the Puget SoundCorps crew led by WCC supervisor Caleb Dobey, for their efforts to “identify and characterize spawning habits.”

Another project geared towards statewide conservation efforts is WDFW’s ongoing capture and recycling of monofilament fishing lines. These monofilament lines can damage native species and their habitats. In order to reduce the amount of these lines in waterways and shorelines, WDFW along with our Puget SoundCorps crews have been installing recycling bins at parks, lakes, rivers, and coast waters in Thurston, Pierce, Mason, and Kitsap Counties. These bins not only reduce the amount of monofilament fishing lines laying around, but also increase education about the problems these lines can pose when disposed of improperly.

Great job, WDFW and Puget SoundCorps Forage Fish crews! Your efforts and projects are continuing to make our waterways and shorelines a safer, healthier place for all species.



If you look closely to the left you can see the unmagnified fish eggs! To the right are forage fish eggs under a microscope.

Photos by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.



For more information on the monofilament recycling program visit:  
<http://mrrp.myfwc.com/home.aspx>

For more information on the Forage Fish project visit:  
[wdfw.wa.gov/conser.../research/projects/marine\\_beach\\_spawning/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/conser.../research/projects/marine_beach_spawning/)



## Supervisor's Corner: *Lisa Potter*

### What is a favorite moment or memory of being a WCC supervisor?

A favorite memory is when my crew rocked Truck Tetris at June Elective Training! Granted, we watched others go first and stole their moves, but that's just working smart.

### Which hand tool is your favorite, and why?

As a former trail worker, I always used to say the Pulaski was my favorite- one of the most versatile tools around. But now, I'd say our Snohomish County special homemade herbicide wipers made out of kitchen tongs, foam, and gorilla glue- designed for wiping each blade of Yellow Flag Iris when we serve in the ecologically sensitive and beautiful Hooven Peat Bog. They are a creative solution to a difficult-to-kill plant, keep the treatment as precise as possible, and are pretty fun to use!

### Briefly describe your path to WCC?

I got started with conservation the same way many others have: as a college graduate with student loans to pay off and a lack of clear direction as to what I wanted next. I found the California Conservation Corps' Backcountry Trails program, where I spent 5.5 months in the wilderness of Northern California maintaining trails, and got hooked on projects outside in beautiful places and the crew life. Running an Emergency Response crew for the Texas Conservation Corps led me to meet some impressive folks in blue T-shirts while deployed to New Jersey after Hurricane Sandy. I decided one day I would land a Crew Supervisor position with this organization, and this year the timing finally worked out.

### Where is your hometown?

Wherever my car (Reba) and my dog (Sasha) are.

### Number of months as a supervisor?

Almost 4 months.



Lisa Potter felling hazard trees in central Texas.

Photo submitted by Lisa Potter.

## Paddle to Nisqually Volunteer Opportunity Reminder

The WCC is honored to have been asked to assist with the Canoe Journey 2016, Paddle to Nisqually! This event continues an inter-tribal celebration and annual gathering of Northwest indigenous nations. For more information and history of this event, check out Coordinator Kevin Farrell's article in the June Newsletter:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1606020.pdf>

WCC members are invited to assist during two timeframes: July 29-Aug. 2, and August 4-7. Both timeframes will have opportunities to see ceremonial events take place. Volunteer shifts range from a full day to a few hours. Members interested in this opportunity can email desired volunteer date(s) to Kevin (Kevin.Farrell@ecy.wa.gov) and include "Paddle to Nisqually" in the email subject line.

# San Juan Islands: Habitat for Butterflies

By Taylor Ann Schmuki, WCC Everett DNR Crew AmeriCorps Member

Island biology has stumped and mystified researchers and scientists for years. From Darwin's diversified finches to entomologist E. O Wilson's island biogeography theory, these water-bound land masses seem to change the rules of conservation. San Juan Island is no exception.

Excluding the lack of mammal diversity and the uniquely colored red-foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), San Juan National Historical Park is home to an endemic species called the Island Marble. Now don't let the white wings of this butterfly fool you into thinking it's the common Cabbage White; the unique marble coloring underneath the wings sets this butterfly apart.

These threatened butterflies were once found on mainland Washington, but died off in 1908. Then an entomologist performing a survey at American Camp (an old U.S. Army camp on San Juan Island) in 1998, noticed an unusual butterfly who likes to sit on mustard plants. This turned out to be one of the few remaining populations of Island Marbles.

Our recent project on the San Juan Island was pulling thistle, restoring a nursery, and installing fences to protect the invasive mustards which are so essential to Marbles' lifecycle. Excluding some other wetland species of plants, the butterfly seems to have co-evolved with mustards to the extent that if the plant dies, so will the egg or juvenile butterfly. While on the island, we released eight Island Marble butterflies into the habitat which will become a permanent enclosure for the butterflies. During the release we also watched their behaviors to see how the butterflies interact with the environment. In a year's time a population count will take place to see if the population is becoming more stable. Overall, it was an experience that none of us are sure to forget, and I can only think that E.O. Wilson would be proud.



The Everett DNR Crew releasing Island Marbles into San Jan National Historical Park.

Photos submitted by Taylor Ann Schmuki.

## WCC AmeriCorps Member Recognition Awards Due July 31

WCC is accepting nominations for AmeriCorps Member Recognition Awards in the following categories: Community Service, Environmental Stewardship, and Disaster Response. Nominations will be accepted **through July 31 2016** with award presentations at WCC regional debriefs. Sponsor, supervisor, peer, and self-nominations are accepted. The nomination form with more information is available on the WCC website [forms page](#). Email your completed form to [WCCNominations@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:WCCNominations@ecy.wa.gov).

*Leslie Schiesswohl Community Service Award*

*Exemplary Environmental Stewardship Award*

*Disaster Response Award*



## Supervisor's Corner: *Alex Papiez*

### What is a favorite moment or memory of being a WCC supervisor?

I am still pretty new with the WCC, only 3 months so far, but a favorite moment was the second project I did with the crew. It was a tree planting project with Mason Conservation District (MCD) on the Skokomish River. The MCD crew was fun to collaborate with and the site had its own qualities. In order to get to the site we had to cross a side channel of the river using a canoe and rope, to haul ourselves and the plants/gear. The project was full of adventure, good laughs, lots of wildlife, and plenty of bee dodging. It was a great project to break the ice with the crew and got us all on the same page.

### Which hand tool is your favorite, and why?

Pocket Knife, because it's easy to carry, never in the way, and always handy to cut, open, carve/whittle, eat apples with and even as a last resort weapon against wild critters. Don't be the person wishing you had a handy dandy pocket knife!

### Briefly describe your path to WCC?

I graduated from Western Washington University, with a BA in Geography, Music and Minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). While in college, I was a Wildland Firefighter during the summers on an Engine Crew for the WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR). I did two seasons down in Pacific Cascade Region around Capitol Forest, and two seasons as an Engine Leader up in DNR's Northwest Region near Bellingham. Like many of those in the WCC, I've had a long passion for the outdoors and enjoy snowboarding and mountain biking. After reading Aldo Leopold's: A Sand County Almanac in college, I realized that the greatest form of recreation is conservation, and to truly connect with the land you need to put in time and hard work.

### Where is your hometown?

Olympia, WA.

### Number of months as a supervisor?

3 months.



Alex Papiez hiking up Aasgard Pass leading to the Enchantments.

Photo submitted by Alex Papiez.

## WCC Snapshots



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1. (Left) The two photos show the similarities although they are years apart. The photo on the right is during a July 4 celebration at a Civilian Conservation Corps camp (similar to Cispus) in Trinity National Forest. (Photo and layout idea submitted by Matthew Evinger).
2. IPs Elyssa Kerr & Cathy Bradley, serving King County DNRP, check wildlife cameras at Big Springs Creek. Photo by Bobby Woelz.
3. The King County DNRP crew, led by Supervisor Alicia Kellogg, posing on a cleared trail during a spike along the new Olallie Trail (next to Mount Washington). Photo submitted by Rebekah Graham.
4. The "spray crew" during the Crupina spike, getting ready to fire-line buckets of water from Lake Chelan to get the herbicide packs ready to spray invasive *Crupina vulgaris*. Front to back: Kyla Caddey, supervisor Ashlie Arthur, Matthew Hilliard, Corrielle Stoner, Robert Lopez, Zoe Loutos, Liv Froehlich, and James Gudgeon. Photo submitted by Kyla Caddey.
5. IP Emily Carlson with the King Conservation District staff and volunteers at the King County Fair. Photo submitted by Emily Carlson.
6. Emily Carlson fires off an airhorn to signal the start of the NW Regional Washington Envirothon, a hands-on environmental science competition for high school students. Photo submitted by Emily Carlson.
7. The Snohomish Spike crew (led by Nelson Lee) and Snohomish County DNR crew (led by Paul Argites) with DNR Aquatics Project Coordinator Micki McNaughton, before heading out to remove invasive species Yellow Archangel and Scotch Broom for Skagit Land Trust. Photo submitted by Nick Saling.
8. IP Coordinator Bobby Woelz (left), IP member Kevin Alexandrowicz (middle), and supervisor all-star David Coffee (right) search for invasive *Crupina vulgaris* to hand pull on a steep hillside above Lake Chelan. Photo submitted by Kyla Caddey.





Learn more on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/washingtonconservationcorps](http://www.facebook.com/washingtonconservationcorps)

**Accommodation Requests:**

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology, 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.

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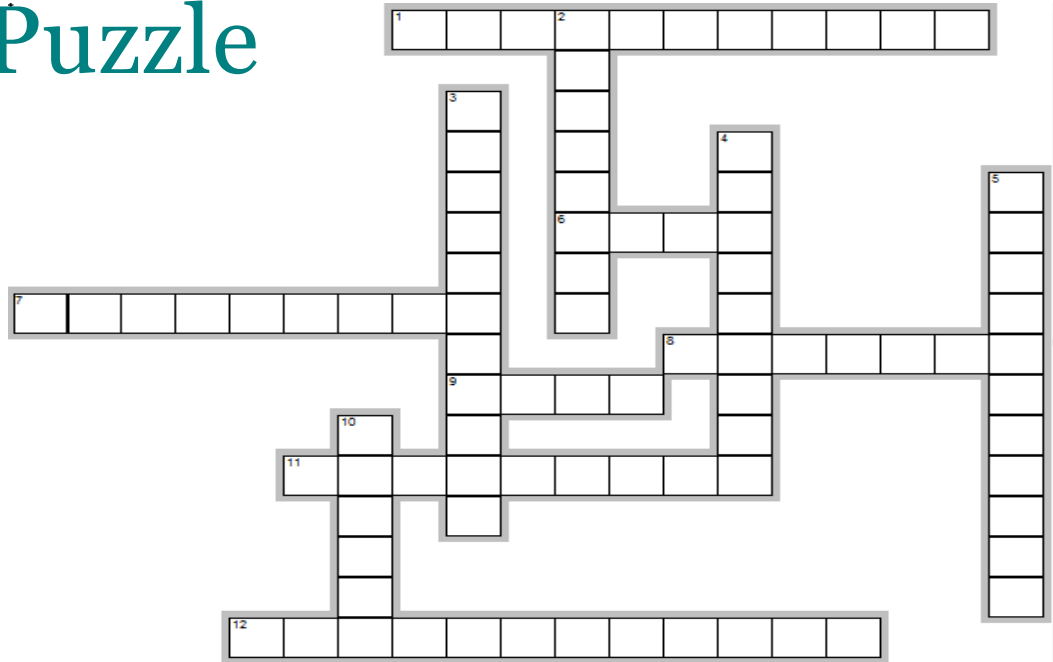
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**DEPARTMENT OF  
ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# Crossword Puzzle

*First person or crew to email sadn461@ecy.wa.gov the correct answer gets a prize!*



## Across

1. Spider found in Washington. Also the name of a Marvel Character.
6. More people \_\_\_\_ to work in Seattle (rather than drive) than any other similar sized city.
7. A name for carnivorous dinosaurs.
8. Neighborhood in Seattle with a troll under the bridge.
9. The number of regional Ecology offices.
11. Annual entertainment convention in San Diego.
12. Longest running scripted television series (hint: it's a cartoon).

## Down

2. Before being called Washington, it was called the Territory of \_\_\_\_.
3. Event the space needle was built for.
4. The creator of the Simpsons attended this college.
5. Number of federally recognized tribes in the State of Washington.
10. First name of the author of the Harry Potter series.

*Answer to last month's Riddle!  
Darkness (or the dark)*



## 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 serving 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).