



South Douglas News

South Douglas Conservation District

Fall 2022

Assisting cooperators to adopt, implement and promote conservation practices which encourage good land stewardship and the protection of natural resources.



BIRDS, BATS AND BEES—SEPTEMBER 10



Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 10. From noon to 4:30 p.m. at the NCW Fairgrounds.
601 N Monroe Street, Waterville.

We are having a FREE short course on birds, bats and bees of North Central Washington. Local experts will be talking about these critters that are important for pollination, pest control, seed dispersal and our enjoyment.

- ◆ Backyard Beekeeping—Peter Hill and Matt Regan will give the basics of keeping honey bees.
- ◆ Bats of North Central Washington—Emily Jeffreys, WA Fish and Wildlife, will talk about bats and their important role in the ecosystem. How do you attract bats to your yard? How do you keep them out of your hair? Emily will also talk about current bat research going on in NCW.
- ◆ Getting to Know your Pollinators—Angie Orpet, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, will teach us about the good insects who pollinate your plants and how to invite them into your yard and fields. She will touch on beneficial insects as well.
- ◆ Birds of Douglas County—Marilyn Sherling, NCW Audubon and Chelan Douglas Land Trust, will present an overview of her personal birding trips in Douglas County. She will highlight birds found in specific locations and during different seasons of the year.
- ◆ Blue Bird Trail—Jacque Clenents, Waterville, has a passion for bluebirds. Putting up blue bird houses, monitoring the use of the nests and promoting bluebirds is one of her many projects. Jacque will talk about the varieties of bluebirds, types of nests and houses.

We would like pre registration so we know how many are coming. Go to our website, facebook page or give us a call at 509 745 9160. Walk-ins also welcome.



WHAT'S THAT BIRD?

Have you tried the free Merlin App? You can download it on your phone, make it specific to this area and it will identify the birds that are chirping and singing around you. It is quite sensitive and can pick up birds in the trees you cannot see. One of the few times you need your phone in the garden.

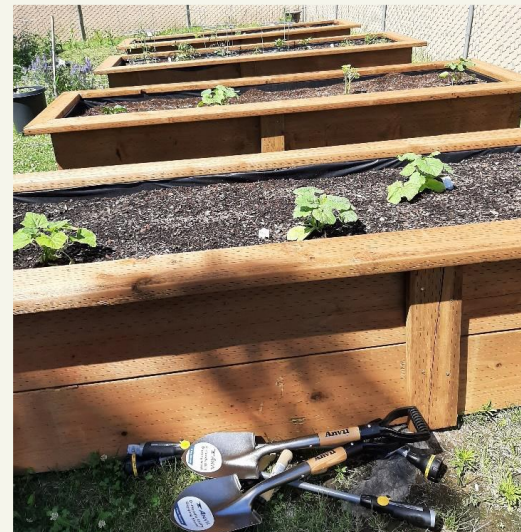
POSTAL CUSTOMER
LOCAL



Cost Share Projects 2022



NEW GARDENS AT GRACE HOUSE
A Washington Conservation Commission grant built a raised bed garden at Grace House in East Wenatchee. Grace House is a residence for women and children who are displaced due to a number of factors. They are learning skills to rebuild their lives and become more self sufficient. Learning gardening skills provides them an opportunity to grow their own fruits and vegetables. Involving the kids teaches them how their food is grown while enjoying family projects. Thanks to volunteers who built the projects, WSU Extension SNAP-Ed educators and the Master Gardeners who are providing assistance in gardening and produce preparation.



CELEBRATION LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNITY GARDEN



The Community Garden on Eastmont next to the Confluence Health Clinic was discontinued this year due to new apartments going in. A definite need for a new garden prompted Celebration Lutheran to develop the garden they had started on church property. We were able to provide them with funding to install an irrigation system that allowed more efficient use of the water they had available. Church members volunteered to do much of the manual work needed. We had Mike Lesky, one of our supervisors, review the project, and Margaret Viebrock, WSU, assisted in the project as well. We hope to continue working on community gardens as funding becomes available.



TERRACE REPAIR

Erosion can damage dams and terraces in dryland agriculture fields up on the Waterville Plateau. Spring runoff and summer storms, while bringing needed moisture, can destroy the structures that hold the water on the fields. Most repairs involve moving tons of dirt to reinforce the terraces once again.

We have funded many terrace repairs. Normally, the farmer does the work or requests help from a neighbor. Some are simple fixes, and some require an engineer to design the new structure.

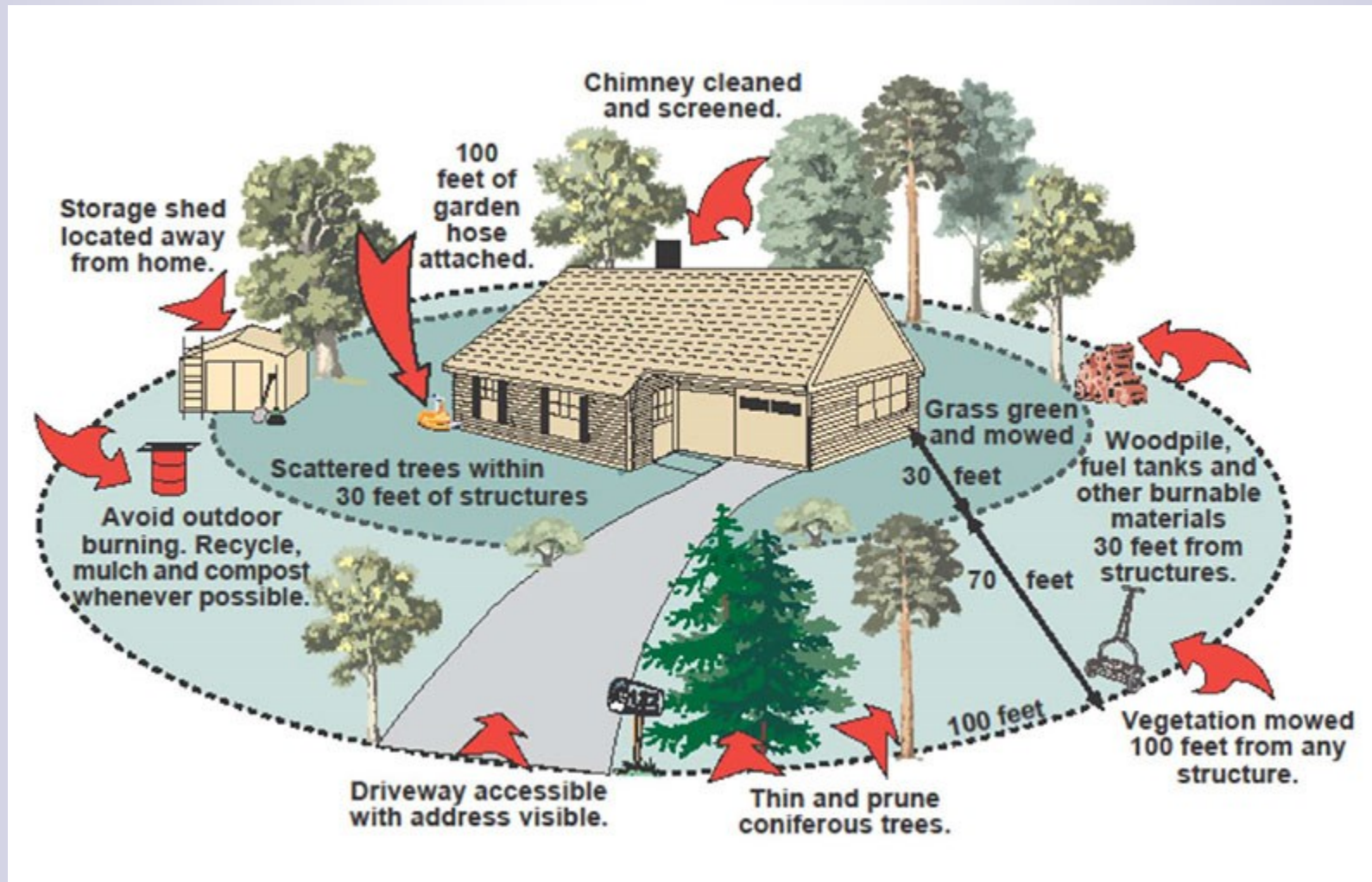


OTHER 2022 COST SHARE PROJECTS

Fencing destroyed by 2021 Batterman Fire replacement
Fuels Reduction on Badger Mountain with support of WA DNR

Wildlife Habitat planting
Fuels Reduction Project at Sun Cove Estates

Are You Ready for a Fire?



Call it Firewise. Or Fire Adapted. Or Defensible Space. Whatever term you use, it is important that you plan for a possible wildfire coming to your home. Even though it has been a wet and cool spring, it will heat up. And with that heat, the possibility of wildfires is a genuine threat. Think ahead. Plan your escape route. Decide what you will take with you if evacuation is imminent. Have you arranged for outside livestock and pets?

With Covid restrictions eased, we are once again able to get out for Firewise assessments on your property to see where you might improve your fire resistance. Call the office for a free assessment.

FALL CHIPPING EVENT

We will be offering FREE wood chipping in early November.

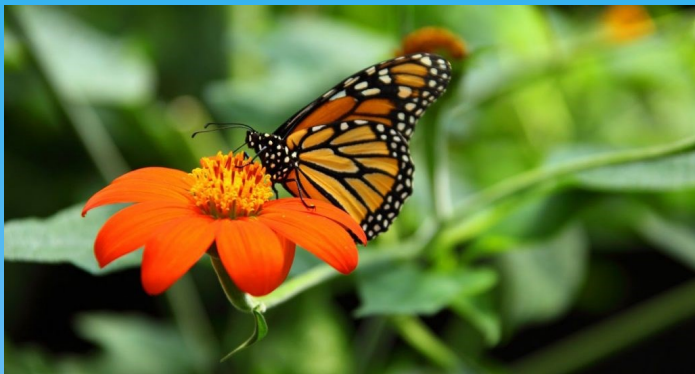
This is a great way to get rid of those branches you have been gathering while staying at home. **Guidelines of what the piles should look like are on our website.** The chips will stay with you. They are good for mulch or walkways. Some landowners have had the chips put into a trailer and hauled down to the Stemilt Organic Recycling Center in south Wenatchee.

This program is paid for through a Washington Conservation Commission grant. Landowners from Waterville down to Rock Island have reduced fire danger around their homes as the piles that were ready to be chipped were reduced to mulch and chips. This program is intended to create a defensible space around homes and outbuildings in case of fire.

Contact us at 509-745-9160 for more information. **Register by October 15.**

The Washington State Department of Agriculture announced that it would follow new guidance on the naming of the invasive pest it's been battling the last couple years. *Vespa mandarinia*, often referred to as the "Asian giant hornet" or "murder hornet," is now the "northern giant hornet" according to the Entomological Society of America (ESA).

BUTTERFLIES AND FIREWISE
Carolyn Kelly



We are in the middle of the gardening season. We are also in the middle of the wildfire season. As I have worked this spring in several garden spots, both here at home and for a dear friend, I have come to a startling conclusion: Less is more.

I have always planted lots of everything! The more the better! The bigger the better! But this year, my mantra changed. Less general plantings of everything that is available at the garden center. More thoughtful

plantings of natives. (Available, of course, from the South Douglas Conservation District!) More plantings of infrastructure. By that, I mean rocks, which are plentiful and certainly native to our landscape. (And they don't burn!)



More pruning and removing old tinder prone vegetation. Sometimes it hurts to remove old and dear plant friends. We get used to seeing what has been there for many, many years. But when plants, especially evergreens, get overgrown and crowd our houses, outbuildings and sheds, they become a very flammable and dangerous fire hazard. So, less of those around our immediate zone, means more safety!

But I've found that I actually have more now. More natives that attract the local butterflies, birds and bees. Less pruning, watering, and weeding. A bit more money in my pocket, as a plethora of potted annuals can be costly! More time to sit for a bit on the deck and listen to the bees hum. So, as we plan for future gardening projects, consider less is more, and make time to sit and smell the native roses!

AUGUST IS NATIONAL TREE CHECK MONTH

Take 10 minutes this month to check the trees in your yard, along your favorite walks and parks for signs and symptoms of invasive pests and harmful diseases. The earlier these pests are detected, the greater likelihood of protecting your trees. WA Department of Natural Resources has an excellent Facebook page to identify pests that may be in your area. If you suspect you have found a pest, you can take a photo and send to DNR or identification.

South Douglas Conservation District

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Please recycle.

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Do you have a project in mind?

Over 70% of our funding is spent on cost share projects on the ground. Depending on the source, this can help pay for up to 100% of a project. Normally we fund 75%, with the landowner providing 25% of cost, often in time dedicated to the project. What do we fund? We follow Natural Resource Conservation Services Best Management Practices (NRCS BMP) and can involve conservation practices that protect our natural resources. We have funded fuels reductions, windbreaks, wildlife habitat, dams and terraces, irrigation upgrades, livestock waterers and more. If you have a project that would safeguard or improve our land and water, give the office a call. If we can't help, we may be able to find someone who can.