



South Douglas News

South Douglas Conservation District

Winter 2022

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

CHIPPING DAY—MAY 2022

We will be offering FREE wood chipping in early May.

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 April 15.



South Douglas CD, in cooperation with Department of Natural Resources, has funding that can pay for 100% of fuels reduction on Badger Mountain. Thinning your trees, reducing the amount of undergrowth, and opening up the forest floor can help save your forest when fire hits. Improved wildlife habitat and forest health and access to the forest land are benefits that are achieved. Call the office to make an appointment to assess your land and get those forests healthy.

Tree and Shrub Sale—Page 4

POSTAL CUSTOMER
LOCAL



Tree of Heaven or Tree from Hell?

Mike Lesky, Supervisor

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a primary and preferred host of the Spotted Lantern Fly. The Spotted Lantern Fly was identified in the Northeast United States in 2014. These identifications have been confirmed. (Recently, it was thought to have been spotted in Okanogan County but luckily this so-called report proved to be false.) This insect feeds on 70 different plant species with a strong preference for grapevines, orchards, maple trees, black walnut trees and willows.

Spotted Lantern Fly



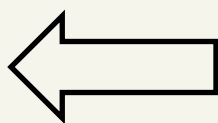
The tree of heaven got its name from the fact that it grows super-fast and can easily reach 80 feet in height. This tree is native to Asia and Japan. In the late 1700s it was introduced into the eastern United States. This tree can easily grow 10 to 15 per year and just about anywhere, even in cracks of rocks and concrete. The tree of heaven is easy to identify—after about two years the bark looks like the skin of a cantaloupe. This tree is allelopathic which means that parts of the tree such as leaves, stems, bark, etc. contain a pre-emergent natural herbicide that prevents other plants from growing around or nearby these trees. Hence, when you get one you get an entire clan of trees of heaven. There goes the neighborhood.

Tree of heaven is an incredibly good imposter. It looks like other tree species that we have living in our area, - black walnut, and sumac. However, even to the untrained eye, there is an easy way to identify the invasive tree of heaven. By its smell - if the tree smells like cat urine, then it is not a cat, but a tree of heaven. The tree of heaven has compound leaves like sumac and black walnut. However, there is one distinction that will confirm the identity of this tree. Trees of heaven have a single leaflet at the end of their compound leaf, whereas walnut and sumac do not. Both the sumac and black walnut trees have leaflets that are serrated along the margin of the leaflets. The tree of heaven leaflets margins are smooth with no serrated edge margin. Serrated leaf edge margins look like that of a serrated knife. And if you run your finger along the edge you can feel the finely serrated edge.

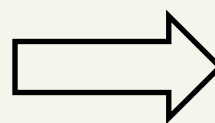
Last word of caution: once the tree of heaven gets its roots ahold of a growing spot it is extremely difficult to get rid of. Along with its allelopathic properties, it is a very prolific producer of upright root suckers coming up from the earth, generating an almost impenetrable stand of trees. If this tree is allowed to grow in a place for two seasons or so you will have years of work to complete its removal. Be incredibly careful if you do have to walk through or around these trees -the leaves, bark, stems of the tree can cause irritation or rashes. This so-called tree of heaven is anything but heaven, beware.



Tree of Heaven



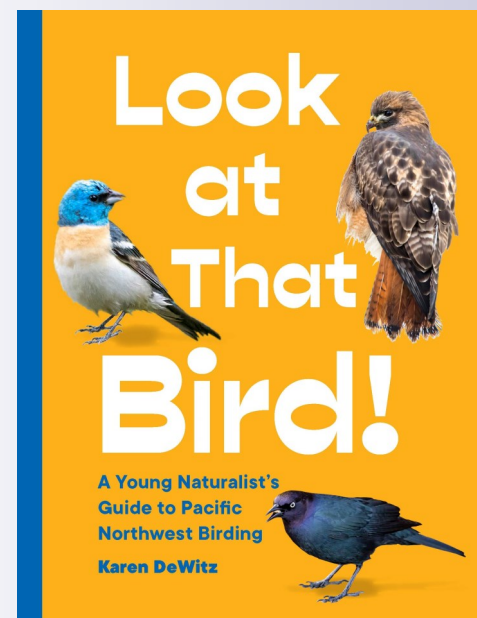
Staghorn Sumac



Help map tree of heaven locations by reporting sightings at: invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting

What is that bird?

This new book will help you identify the birds that visit your yard and in the wild. Although stated for young naturalists, it is also good for beginner and advanced bird watchers. The photos, descriptions and notes for over 50 Pacific Northwest birds are clear and detailed. It guides you on how to find and identify birds, attract birds, protect birds and more. You can get it at the library or order it from your local bookstore.



Kestrel box anyone?

NCW Audubon is continuing a long-term project that involves placing and monitoring American Kestrel boxes on the Waterville Plateau. These small, beneficial birds of prey, although fairly common, have diminished throughout North America. Hopefully providing nest boxes will help these small falcons stabilize their population over time. We are recruiting citizen volunteers and researchers to help us learn more so these birds can flourish on the Plateau.

We are replacing nest boxes throughout Douglas County that were lost in the 2020 fire and looking for new locations. We need help from private landowners willing to allow us to put a box (or boxes) on their property. With no cost to the private owner, we would come out, and with your input, find a good spot to place and monitor a box.

By volunteering, you would be helping Kestrel populations and be part of an important Community Science project. Plus, Kestrels help control mice and grasshoppers in the surrounding areas. If interested in participating please contact Audubon board member Richard Scranton at rscan4350@yahoo.com.



Birds, Bats and Bees, Oh My!

- September 10, 2022—NCW Fairgrounds Community Hall
- Speakers on local bats, honey bees, native bees and pollinators, blue bird trail on Waterville Plateau, birds of North Central Washington.
- Watch our website, newsletter and Facebook page for more information.



Spraying for mosquitos, spiders and other insects directly impacts what birds eat. A single pair of breeding chickadees must find 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to rear one clutch of young, according to Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware. Even though seeds are a nutritious winter staple, insects are best for feeding growing fledglings. Surprisingly, **insects contain more protein than beef**, and 96% of North American land birds feed their young with them. Although fly maggots and spiders might not be to your taste, to a chickadee, these are life-saving morsels full of fat and protein. So eliminate standing water and slap those pesky mosquitos. The birds will thank you.

Annual Tree and Shrub Sale—April 2

Native and adapted trees, shrubs and wildflowers will be available for pre-order. Catalogs can be mailed out to you, or you can go to our website and see our catalog online. You will have to print out an order blank and mail it to the office before the deadline, March 21. Pickup will be at the Lion's Den at the Waterville Fairgrounds April 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will have several "impulse" tables for sale as well.



Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. Warren Buffett.

COST SHARE PROJECTS 2020-2021

- Fuels reduction – Badger Mountain, East Wenatchee
- Solar water tank - Palisades
- Irrigation upgrade - Orondo
- 5 dams and terraces, grassed waterways
- 2 wildlife habitat enhancements
- 4 chipping days (each May and November)

SOLAR LIVESTOCK WATERER PALISADES



GRASSED WATERWAY WATERVILLE PLATEAU



3,000 feet developed



Sunflower cover crop

Lindsey Morrison -Reelected!

Lindsey has been elected for another term as a supervisor. Her expertise in the orchard industry has been a great asset to our board. Thanks, Lindsey.

Eileen Bone—five year pin!

Eileen has been an associate supervisor for the district for five years. We have appreciated her input on projects, help at various events and ideas on how we can better serve our cooperators. She has taught us to reach out to all our public, not just the farmers and ranchers. Thanks Eileen. See you at the Tree Sale!

South Douglas Conservation District

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Please recycle.

