



# South Douglas News

## South Douglas Conservation District

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

WINTER 2026

### South Douglas CD Seeking Supervisor. Be Sure to Vote!

South Douglas Conservation District will have a mail in ballot election for an elected supervisor position March 16, 2026. Mike Lesky currently holds the position and will run again.

The five member Board of Supervisors meets on the first Monday of each month, except August. The supervisors set policy and direction for the Conservation District, serving a three year term without compensation. They oversee conservation practices in southern Douglas County, promoting education and protecting natural resources. Currently, the district continues working on the Tree and Shrub Sale, water quality projects, a cost share program for its cooperators, weed management, fuels reduction and participating in the Voluntary Stewardship Program.



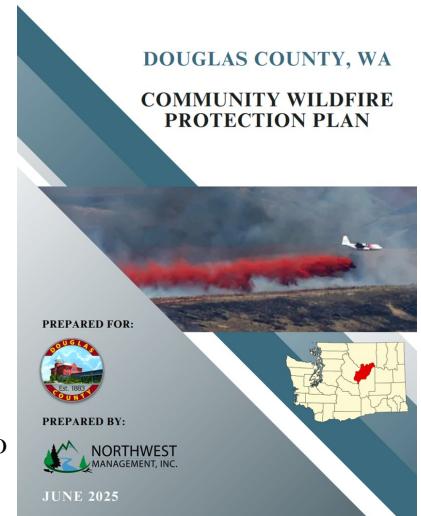
If you need a ballot call (509) 745-9160 by February 23. Completed ballots must be received by the office by 3:00 p.m. on election day—March 16. Check our website for more information and requirements the position.

#### Spring Chipping

Watch this newsletter for Spring Chipping Event. It is usually in May, working around the contractors schedule. We provide chipping within the SDCD boundary, from north of Waterville down to Rock Island. Check the website to see the requirements and get started on those piles now.

#### **DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN IS COMPLETE**

The plan is designed to help Douglas County identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuels reduction treatments and essential infrastructure. We have limited printed copies or visit our website for a pdf version. Thanks to all who were involved in this project.



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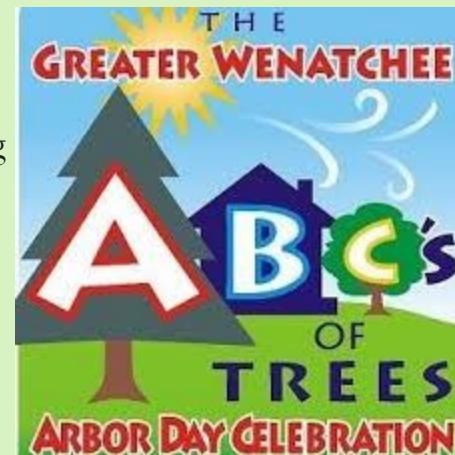
## Arbor Day Sale—April 11, 2026

The Greater Wenatchee Arbor Day Association is organized for the purpose of educating the public about the care and growth of trees and shrubs; and for the purpose of distributing trees and shrubs and supporting tree planting and related activities; and for the purpose of celebrating National Arbor Day.

Saturday, April 11th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., (except East Wenatchee will be open till 3 p.m.)

We will be at 4 locations this year:

- \*Wenatchee—Foothills Community Center, 1312 Maple St, Wenatchee  
(across the field from Foothills Middle School-formally known as Wenatchee Senior Center).
- \*East Wenatchee City Hall –271 9th St NE, East Wenatchee
- \*Entiat City Hall –14070 Kinzel, Entiat
- \*Cashmere—Martin's Market, 130 Titchenal Way, Cashmere (off of Hwy 2)



We are pleased to offer 4 varieties of plants. Some are in limited supply. A donation of \$5 per plant is appreciated.

- *Abies fraseri* Fraser Fir
- *Syringa vulgaris* White Lilac – drought tolerant (after two years)
- *Cornus sericea* Red Osier Dogwood – native and drought tolerant (after 2 years)
- *Rosa woodsii* Woods Rose – Native and drought tolerant (after 2 years)

For more information visit [www.gwarborday.org](http://www.gwarborday.org)

## Pollinator License Plates



At long last, the Washington honey bee and pollinator plate will be available soon! The exact date isn't set, but the Department of Licensing says manufacturing and preparations are on track for a February release. As soon as the Department of Licensing is ready, WASBA (Washington State Beekeepers Association) will widely publicize the link to find the plates online. They will be auctioning the right to choose the plate you want from those assigned to WASBA. The available plates will be listed in the auction, starting with "BE00001." The auction is to choose which plate you want; DOL gives no free plates away. You must have a car, pickup, or motorcycle that can be licensed in Washington to qualify for the plate.

Proceeds go to the Washington State Beekeepers Association for research, educational activities, and related materials.

**And,** the Pacific Northwest Beekeeping Conference will be in Wenatchee this year.

Mark October 2—3 on your calendar. It will be at the Wenatchee Conference Center. Check out [WASBA.org](http://WASBA.org) for more information.

## Not all Sunflowers are Created Equal

When planning your pollinator garden this spring, look for plants that produce a lot of pollen or nectar. Some sunflowers are very showy and are excellent as cut flowers in a vase, but you need the messy ones with seeds and pollen. Native sunflowers are an excellent choice. *Helianthus* produces nectar and pollen that attract and sustain pollinators, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, beneficial wasps, and beetles. *Helianthus* is also an important host plant for 69 moths and butterfly species. By attracting butterflies and associated caterpillars, it offers a food source for many species of birds. Beyond insects, sunflowers produce nutritious seeds eaten by finches, sparrows, and other songbirds, and their dense summer foliage provides shelter for wildlife. Because of their height and structure, sunflower stalks also act as perches and hunting platforms for predatory insects and even small birds. Even non natives like the Mammoth or Mexican sunflowers are enjoyed by all.



## Annual Tree and Shrub Sale

The annual tree and shrub sale is set for Saturday, April 4. It will be at the Douglas County Fire District in Waterville. Close to town, the Waterville Firepersons will be available to answer questions about fire prevention. Catalogs will be available early March. It is advised to preorder to get what you want, but we will have the popular impulse tables the day of the sale. If you want a catalog mailed to you, let the office know. It also will be available online—watch the website for the current catalog. It will show 2026.

Most of the plants are native or adapted to our weather. Evergreens, deciduous and wildflower plants will be available. Gardening related vendors may also be at the sale.



## Conservation Districts Annual Meeting—February 18

South Douglas and Foster Creek Conservation District and Douglas County Crop Improvement will hold their annual meeting to update the public on current projects and programs on February 18. Hosted this year by Foster Creek CD, it will be held at the Pioneer Hall in Mansfield. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. with the meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be a roundtable discussion on CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) hosted by NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) and (FSA) Farm Service Agency. Douglas County Crop Improvement will hold elections and talk about new wheat varieties available. Lunch will be served.

## Garden Spring Clean Up

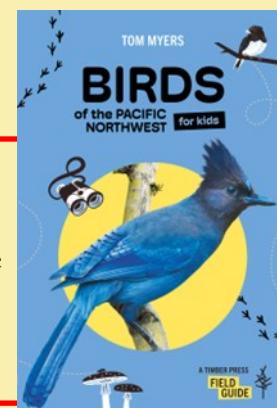
Spring will soon be here and we are all anxious to get out in the garden. Seed catalogs are dog eared, tools are sharpened and cleaned and you have seen a few small green things poking up. But wait—it isn't quite time to start clean up yet. Many pollinators and other insects rely on winter cover for protection against late season frosts or another inch of snow. While there are no hard fast rules, the Xerces Society has these guidelines:

- ◆ Have I put away the snow shovel, gloves and winter coats? If not, it is too early. Go back in and finish your book.
- ◆ Would I plant tomatoes now? Below 50 degrees at night, most gardeners know to keep those starts in the greenhouse a bit longer. If is too cold for tomatoes, it is too cold for pollinators.
- ◆ Is my lawn growing tall? While some cool season lawns begin growing when the temperature reaches 50 degrees, if your lawn is tall enough to mow it is probably safe for pollinators. For pollinators wait a little longer to mow. No Mow May is a movement to allow grass and wildflowers to grow unmown until after May, creating habitat and foliage for early season pollinators.
- ◆ Are apples and pears through blooming? Most flower between mid April and mid May. If you wait until after bloom, you can help the “late blooming pollinators.”

Don't worry— you will have plenty of time to toil the soil when it has warmed up.

### Book Review

Birds of the Pacific Northwest for Kids by Tom Myers is a great book. The title says it is for kids, but anyone who likes birds will enjoy it. Lots of photos and information for all bird watchers. It is at the library. Check it out.



## The Richard Hendrick Kestrel Conservation Project

### Richard Scranton



The North Central Washington Audubon Chapter has been monitoring American Kestrel boxes in Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan County for the last 5 years. A high percentage of the boxes are in Douglas County on the Waterville Plateau.

Currently, more than 40 volunteers are monitoring 215 Kestrel boxes across the region, collecting data that will help establish baseline information on productivity and population trends to support future Kestrel conservation efforts.

#### Data from the volunteers' work in 2025:

- Volunteers made 1,266 inspections with an average of 5.9 inspections per box
- There was a total of 363 nestlings of which 357 fledged
- We banded 269 nestlings

#### Data from the volunteers' work over the past 5 years:

- The number of boxes that we now monitor: 215
  - 1,000+ box visits a year averaging over 5 visits per box.
  - Over the years we have fledged a total of 1,000+ birds
  - On average 43% of the boxes fledge one or more young
- Every year around 90% of the eggs that are laid fledge.

We still would like to add more boxes up on the Waterville Plateau so if any landowners are interested in participating in this project, please contact Richard Scranton at [rscran4350@yahoo.com](mailto:rscran4350@yahoo.com)



(Side note: We have had a box at our place for the last four years, south of Douglas. Every year, four or five fledged. Our pair is particular in that they like to nest in the well house wall where the flickers had nested in the past. Even though a perfectly good nesting box is right next to the hole in the wall. This year the Audubon chapter is putting up a camera to watch them closer. I can't wait!)

Richard Hendrick (1942-2020) lived in Brewster. He was involved not only in the kestrels projects, but also built houses for wood ducks, kept bees and helped ban kestrels and small owls. He was awarded 2009 Volunteer of the Year from WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife for his many contributions. He always came to the Tree Sale, sometimes buying whatever was left to improve his land for wildlife.

#### South Douglas Conservation District

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[www.southdouglascd.org](http://www.southdouglascd.org)

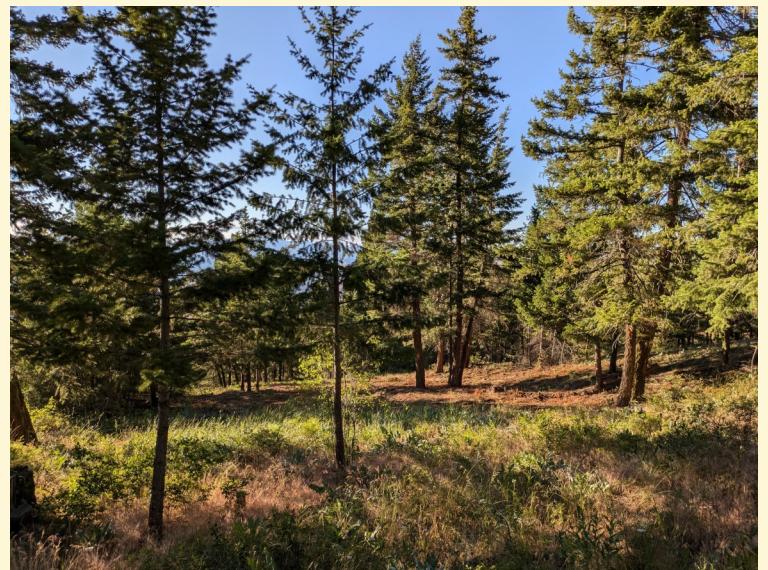
Staff Member  
Carol Cowling, Coordinator  
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**Board of Supervisors**  
Carolyn Kelly, *Chair*  
Mike Lesky, *Vice Chair*  
Justin Grillo, *Auditor*  
Lindsey Morrison, *Member*  
Joe Sprauer, *Member*



**Please recycle.**



Fuels reduction project on Badger Mountain decreases the risk of fire. Working with DNR, we can fund up to 100% of costs. We have worked on over 500 acres with 20 landowners. Do you have some land up there?