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Dave Roseleip

The mission of the AgForestry Leadership Program is to develop effective leaders for today and tomorrow. This monthly e-newsletter is designed to inform our investors, friends, and the AgForestry Network of the leadership roles and activities performed by graduates across our state.

Dave Roseleip, President

AgForestry Graduates are working at various levels of leadership, making a difference for our agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries and rural communities.

- **Dan Newhouse** (Class 4), Sunnyside, was appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire to be Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture.
- **Scot Cocking** (Class 13), Farmington, is the President of the Washington Pork Producers Association.
- **Karen Bishop** (Class 20), Coupeville, co-owner of Ebey Road Farm, Inc., serves on the Boards of the Northwest Ag Business Center in Mt. Vernon, the Community Foundation for Coupeville Public Schools, and the Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation.
- **Rick Small** (Class 9), Walla Walla, owner of Woodward Canyon Winery, is the current chair of the board of directors of the Washington Wine Commission and a member of the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers. He helped found the Washington Wine Quality Alliance and is recognized for helping put Walla Walla and Washington State on the world map of wine destinations.
- **Cindy Mitchell** (Class 16), Olympia, recently received the Community Service Award from WFPA for her leadership during recovery from the devastating December 2007 storm and floods. Her work resulted in the delivery and set up of replacement homes for at least seven families in the Boistfort Valley who lost their homes during the storm.
- **Cheryl DeHaan** (Class 28), Lynden, photographed the pictures and compiled the educational text for the new book [Food for the Body, Mind, and Soul...Whatcom County Agriculture.](#)
- **Eric Keller** (Class 27), Deer Park, was re-elected to the Deer Park School Board and is serving as the president this year.
- **Robert Meier** (Class 13), Montesano, was elected President of the Washington Forest Protection Association at the association's Annual Meeting in November.
- **David Harlow** (Class 2), Palouse, is the chair of Washington Association of Wheat Growers Research Committee.
- **Vicki Scharlau** (Class 10), Cashmere, is the Executive Director of the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers and a board member of the National Grape and Wine Initiative.
- **JoAnne Krupke** (Class 23), Edwall, is the Chair of the Washington Wheat Foundation, which works to economically advance the small grains industry.
- The [Good Fruit Grower](#) Advisory Board includes the following Leadership Program Alumni: **Denny Hayden** (Class 8), Franklin; **Jim Kelley** (Class 11), Kennewick; **Vicky Scharlau** (Class 10), Cashmere; **Mark Tudor** (Class 7), Grandview; and **Chris Van Well** (Class 18), Wenatchee.
- **Sarah Griffith** (Class 30), Olympia, donated socks and fleece blankets to the Union Gospel Mission in Tacoma in December. Class 30 has collected over \$300 in spare change to give to "Socks for Sarah."

- **Deborah Moore** (Class 16), Moses Lake, is the Regional Chair of the Western States Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET). The mission of the Council is to enhance national support and understanding of the land-grant university system's food and agricultural research, extension and teaching programs.
- **Bill Dewey** (Class 19), Shelton, received the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Environmental Hero Award for the countless hours he spent protecting **water quality, marine resources, and supporting sustainable aquaculture.**
- **Ruth Nicholson**, formerly Siguenza (Class 25) will mark seven years for her private facilitation and mediation practice in April 2009. She has had a number of large projects balancing urban growth, economic development and endangered species conservation in the southwest, the Missouri River basin, and the Bering Sea. She is now one of only 43 assessors in the world who evaluate facilitators for the international professional credential in facilitation, the CPF (Certified Professional Facilitator). She also teaches facilitation and graphic facilitation. Ruth's work has led her to jobs in nine different countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and the Caribbean.
- **Jaime Pinkham** (Class 9), Vancouver, has a new job with the Archibald Bush Foundation in Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the Vice President to help them launch their nation building initiative working with the 23 tribes in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Jaime stated, "Rarely does a day go by where I don't rely on an AgForestry lesson or experience. Some are more subtle than others. But, every time I feel ready to try out something new in life, there is no doubt that my restlessness has AgForestry written all over it."
- **Leo Garcia** (Class 12), Cashmere, is the Director of the Latino Agriculture Education Program. The program is designed for vineyard field workers covering basic viticulture, including plant physiology, cell formation, and soil and water management, as well as some math, English language, and civics.
- **Brian Thompson** (Class 14), Rochester, accepted a volunteer assignment through ACDI/Voca to set up a soil testing program to assist newly privatized farming operations with soil fertility issues and decision making in the Republic of Tajikistan.
- **Cathy Lear** (Class 20), Port Angeles, is the Habitat Biologist at Clallam County. She heads up the county's Natural Resources team, which focuses on natural resource protection and recovery efforts.
- **Jim Wilcox** (Class 1), Roy, and his brother Barrie were honored by the Senate for the centennial of Wilcox Farms.
- **Jim Ely** (Class 4), Tacoma, received the "Qilu Friendship Award" from Shandong Province, China.
- **Rose Merritt** (Class 21), Bow, launched Rosabella's Garden Bakery and is well known for her 5 pound apple pies. Rosabella's is surrounded by 50 acres of gardens comprised of apples, pears, plums, berries, and flowers.
- **John Townsley** (Class 21), Spokane, is working on aviation related transportation policy for Washington with the Governor's Aviation Planning Council.
- **Jim White** (Class 9), Colfax, is the chair of Washington Association of Wheat Growers Transportation Committee.
- **Claudia Coles** (Class 14), Bellevue, is the manager of the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Program.
- **Alex McGregor** (Class 6), Colfax, and the McGregor Company received the 2008 Agricultural Retailers Association Retailer of the Year, which is a recognized symbol of quality and prestige.
- **Eric Hall** (Class 27), Shelton, president of Angels for Orphans, spent nearly two weeks in Ukraine delivering shoes and coats to orphaned children.
- **Barry Armstrong** (Class 20), Silver Creek, is the District Manager for the Ryderwood Tree Farm purchased by Sierra Pacific Industries.
- **Aaron Esser** (Class 24), Ritzville, is the extension agronomist for the Washington State University extension in Lincoln and Adams counties. Aaron presented a workshop which focused upon winter wheat varieties and variety selection.
- **Rick Dunning** (Class 23), Battle Ground, is Executive Director of the Washington Forestry Association. He recently noted that Washington State has more than 200,000 small forest landowners who own 2 acres or more and 89,000 who own 10 acres or greater of forest land.
- **Bruce Nelson** (Class 6), Farmington, was re-elected for another five-year term on the Northwest Farm Credit Services Board of Directors.
- **Dave Hedlin** (Class 7), Mount Vernon, is a member of the Northwest Farm Credit Services Board of Directors.

Leadership Links

Information on new ideas and projects from the WSU College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resources can be found in their e-letter "On Solid Ground." ([click here](#))

- **Dain Craver** (Class 18), Royal City, spoke at the Washington State Horticultural Association's convention. He stated that more funding for research will be needed in order for organic tree fruit growers to survive in the future. Out of 178 people at the convention responding to a poll, 34 percent were growers and 41 percent said they worked with organic orchards. **Aaron Young** (Class 28), Malaga, serves on the Planning Committee for Chelan County and on the Builder's Association for Chelan County.
- **Jim Kelley** (Class 11), Kennewick, was crowned the 2008 Cherry King at the annual Northwest Cherry Institute meeting, recognized for his years of industry service and dedication to the sweet cherry industry.
- **Mike Gempler** (Class 12), Yakima, is the executive director of the Washington Growers League.
- **Chris Bieker** (Class 20), Spokane, is the Outreach Coordinator of the USDA Farm Service Agency.
- **Vicky Christiansen** (Class 12), Olympia, has accepted the position of State Forester for Arizona.

If you wish to submit information on the leadership activities of an AgForestry Graduate, please [*click here*](#).

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