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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.

- **Rod Dolan** (Class 1) accepted a new position as the CFO of Dorsey & Whitney law firm in Minneapolis.
- **Rob Cerqui** (Class 20) is running for the State House of Representatives in the 25th district.
- **Lois Ruskell** (Class 30), Public Outreach Director of the Snohomish Conservation District, recently received the Northwest regional Employee of the Year award from the Washington State Conservation Commission. Lois was recognized for her work as acting manager for Whidbey Island Conservation District as well as her work helping landowners with conservation projects.
- **Bruce Nelson** (Class 6) has been the chairman for 2007 and 2008 of the National Farm Credit Council working on national legislation, regulation, and strategic planning. Bruce is also the Chairman of the Board for Northwest Farm Credit Services based out of Spokane.
- **Rick Anderson** (Class 4) is the Chair of Washington Farm Bureau State Labor Committee and Washington Labor and Industries Employment Law Advisory Committee.
- **Sandi Swannack** (Class 28) became a certified instructor for the American Heart Association.
- **Mary Hunt** (Class 10) is on the Board of National Association of County Officials and is the President of the State Association of County Commissioners.
- **Roberta Martin** (Class 19) started her own catering company, Pearadise Catering. Roberta built her catering company on the values and experiences learned when growing up on the apple and pear orchard in North Central Washington. She offers a wide range of menu ideas and planning options for the health and/or allergy conscious person.
- **Jim White** (Class 9), Former Washington Wheat Commissioner, was instrumental in consolidating the state grain organization into the Washington Grain Alliance, an amalgamation of the Washington Wheat Commission, the Washington Barley Commission, and the Washington Association of Wheat Growers.
- **Mike Mosman** (Class 23) has recently been promoted to Senior Vice President at Port Blakely Tree Farms. In addition to managing the Resources Department, he will direct global and regional timberland strategies for Port Blakely's forestry divisions in the United States and New Zealand.



L to R: Lynn Bahrych, Conservation Commission Board Member, Lois Ruskell, Mark Clark, Executive Director, Washington State Conservation Commission

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." [\(click here\)](#)

- **Blake Murden** (Class 29) has been promoted to Wildlife and Fisheries Manager. Blake will lead the Wildlife Department, focusing on the management of Port Blakely's wildlife and aquatic resources.
- **Teresa Loo** (Class 27) has been promoted to Communications Manager. Teresa will lead the new Communications Department for Port Blakely Tree Farms, focusing on internal and external communication and public relations.
- **John Gorman** (Class 8) retired from Green Diamond Resource Company after 34 years of exemplary service for Simpson, Green Diamond, and the forest industry.
- **Rod Christensen** (Class 14), of the Far West Spearmint Administrative Committee in Kennewick, has made six trips to China in the past ten years to promote U.S. mint oil and study Chinese production techniques. In 1998, Rod visited plots of less than an acre where mint was cut by hand and processed in small quantities by water distillation. In 2007, Rod found swathers cutting 40-acre fields and a new steam distillation system.
- **Chuck** (Class 16) and **Sharon Podlich** (Class 20) hosted a group of 22 fruit and juice producers from Eurasia, with interpreters and a U.S. Department of Commerce guide. Chuck and Sharon pressed cider, made doughnuts, and gave a tour of their orchard.
- **Bruce Beckett** (Class 16) has accepted a position heading up the public affairs and policy work for the Cascade Land Conservancy.
- **Jim Ely** (Class 4) is teaching in China. He visited China with Class 4.
- **Mark Urdahl** (Class 25) was appointed by the Governor to the Community Economic Advisory Board.
- **Ted** (Class 11) and **Pam Durfey** (Class 8) own Natural Selection Farms and in 2003 ventured into raising canola on ground fertilized by biosolids. In 2006 they built Washington State's first commercial oil seed crushing facility.
- The Washington State Forest Practices Board includes the following Leadership Program Alumni: **Vicki Christiansen** (Class 12), **Dave Somers** (Class 11), **Doug Stinson** (Class 11), **Carolyn Dobbs** (Class 6), and **Norm Schaaf** (Class 9).
- **Representative Dan Newhouse** (Class 4) spoke to the participants of Class 30 at their Agriculture Issues Seminar in Yakima. He related the role of the Leadership Program in encouraging his participation in the Washington State Legislature.

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

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