



THE DIRT

New Officers Elected at October Board Meeting

Four officers were elected to serve as the Executive Committee for AgForestry for the 2022/2023 board year including:

- Justin Hall as Chair
- Chery Sullivan as Vice-Chair
- Nate Putnam as Treasurer
- Mel Calloway as Secretary

Four new board members, elected in September, were provided a half-day onboarding session introducing them to governance responsibilities for AgForestry. The new members include:

- Lon Inaba, Class 12, General Manager of Yakama Nation Farms, Wapato
- Brian Saylor, P.E., VP/General Manager, Green Diamond Resource Company, Shelton
- Leo Garcia, Class 12, retired Director/Faculty, Horticulture, Wenatchee Valley College
- Patti Case, Class 18, retired Green Diamond Resource Company, Mason County

Class 43 Update

Class 43 traveled to Vancouver in October for their third seminar in Module 3: Leadership and Systems Thinking. The class engaged in dialogue with local farmers to learn about the state of agriculture in Clark County and implications to the greater food system. On Thursday, the class was joined by Class 31 members Aja DeCoteau and Cherie Kearney to gain understanding of the Columbia River



System. Aja kicked off the day and again met with the class later in the day. Cherie traveled with the class for the day, and was joined by Jeremy FiveCrows with CRITFC (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission) to provide interpretation for the tours. The class wrapped up Friday with an introduction to systems thinking and facilitated reflection with WSU's Holly Henning, AgForestry Curriculum Advisor.

Class 44 Update

Class 44 began its journey last month at WSU Pullman. Alumni gathered to welcome the new participants as they arrived at every corner: on the street, in the parking garage, on the elevator, in the hallway, and at the entryway to the meeting room. Vicki Christiansen (Class 12), retired Chief of the US Forest Service, opened the first session with a powerful story about the role of values in leadership. The theme continued through the entire seminar and the class has begun the process of wrestling with and clarifying their own values and leadership philosophy. Kevin Reil (Class 13) provided an inspiring and insightful discussion on Friday morning and the final speaker, Trymaine Gaither, Special Assistant to the Provost for Inclusive Excellence at WSU,



walked the class through mindfulness practices before their final reflection and wrap up. Diving in, the class engaged speakers and alumni with deep, thoughtful questions about leadership, established group norms, and embraced every opportunity to practice their public speaking.

Content Partners Now Includes Central Washington University

AgForestry has long held formal relationships with content partners around the state, most notably with WSU. Now the list includes CWU along with Whitman, Gonzaga, and UW. Some relationships include a contractual deliverable but overall, content partner agreements honor mutual interest in collaboration between the universities and AgForestry in supporting the development of individual and collective leadership capacity across the spectrum of organizations and communities within the State of Washington. Providing a proven vehicle for leadership development is consistent with the missions of AgForestry and the institutions. With the goal to mutually support leadership development, these agreements address appointing a site coordinator to work with faculty and staff to host a specific AgForestry seminar. The institution agrees to assist with:

- facilities for classroom sessions, tours, and places for meals
 - host a reception for not only the AgForestry class, but also alumni and faculty
 - review of objectives and recommend how they can be achieved with faculty
 - schedule speakers and workshops
 - coordinate with media to highlight AgForestry and the seminar being hosted
- The benefit to the institution is showcasing campus and faculty with increased opportunities to network with existing and future industry partners and to help cultivate new leaders in Washington State.

Alumni in the News

[Click here](#) to read all about new Board member and Class 12 graduate Lon Inaba.



IAPAL

Last month Hannah Poush, Program Director, attended the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership (IAPAL) Annual Conference in Ottawa, Ontario. The group was hosted by the Rural Ontario Institute. IAPAL gathers program staff from around the US, Canada, and Scotland to share ideas, brainstorm, build camaraderie, and tackle shared challenges of delivering leadership programs to natural resource industries.

Hannah Poush and Kathy Roe, Kentucky Ag Leadership Program, with the Usher of the Black Rod at the Canadian Senate Chambers.

In Remembrance



Bob Falkner, Class 9



Alex McLean, Class 1



Linda Weyns, Class 2

Thank You to our Supporters!

Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Clark County Farm Forestry Assn.

Stu (15) & Janet Fraser

Larry (2) & Lois Gueck

Rick (26) & Deon Rae Herndon

Lon (12) & Sheila Inaba

Tristan (32) & Joelle Klesick

Doug (13) & Deborah (16) Moore

Rianne Perry (35)

Chuck (16) & Sharon (20) Podlich

Kerry Shiels (35)

Senator Mark (10) & Ginger Schoesler

Kathy (37) & Jack Troupe

Ron (22) & Jan Wesen

Mike (19) & Jean Youngquist
501 Consultants, Inc. (10 & 42)
Washington Wine Industry Foundation

Endowment Legacy Contribution

Randy Smith (8)

Matching

Weyerhaeuser – Travis Keatley (33)
Northwest Farm Credit Services – Matt Kloes (36)

Grants

Rayonier Advanced Materials Foundation
Washington Wheat Foundation

Up Coming Events

- **Thurs., Dec. 1 – 5:30-7 – Norwood Wine Bar, Wenatchee (Class 44)**
 - Thank you Larson Gross for hosting.
- **Thurs., Dec. 8 – 5:30-7 – Reininger Winery, Walla Walla (Class 43)**
 - Thank you, Kelly Tucker (19) for hosting. Thank you, Sarah McClure (31), Lori Stonecipher (34), and Sharla Wagoner for providing appetizers.
- **Thurs., Feb. 16 - Time TBD - River's Edge Restaurant, Olympia (Class 44)**
 - Thank you Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA) for hosting.
- **Mark your Calendar! Fri., April 21 - Class 43 Graduation - Spokane**

Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation

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