



THE DIRT

WATCH FOR YOUR BALLOT TO ELECT NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The slate of candidates to be presented to the membership includes four newcomers and five incumbents who are running for another term. This year AgForestry built a Nominating Committee that included the past chair of the board along with a representative from each of the six areas. The committee met to review its charter, understand its role, identify the “holes” on the current board in terms of skill set and/or experience as well as the natural resource area represented. In addition, the committee discussed the number of board seats to be filled. They sought out candidates that would serve to diversify the board in terms of area represented, skill and experience, natural resource background and in particular their “sphere of influence”.

A shout-out to the Nominating Committee for their work with thanks to: Audrey Gravley (21), Phyllis Gleasman (19), Mike Gempler (12), KayDee Gilkey (16), John O’Callaghan (28), Dennis Swinger, Jr. (38), and Blayde Fry (24).

YOU'RE INVITED!

AGFORESTRY ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Hold the date!

-AgForestry annual meeting of members

-**Wednesday, September 28:** 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

-Zoom Meeting ID: 899 0925 3568, Passcode: 811772

-Program updates, election results, and more

-Stay tuned for more details!

-[Register here!](#)

CURIOS CONVERSATIONS VS POLARIZATION

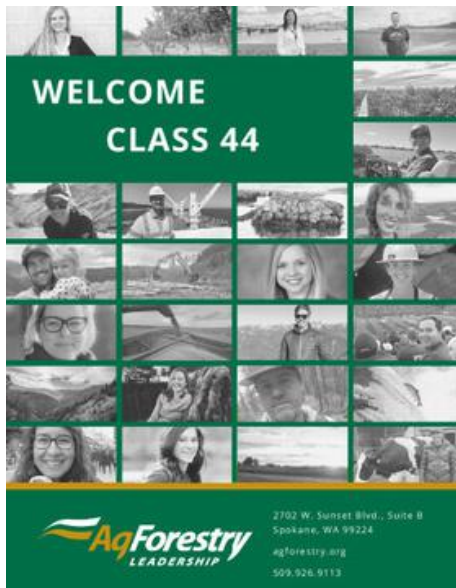
We hear you. Your concern about polarization. Asking if we're capable of having honest, curious conversations about contentious topics? Do we know how? Can we talk about policy, politics, police or—egad!—the color of our skin?

"Depolarizing Conversations About Race" is a workshop designed for those who want to develop more skills for listening to others and expressing their own views about race and racism in ways that lead to more productive conversations, even when vast differences exist. This workshop seeks to improve the 'culture of conversations' around race and provide constructive alternatives to polarized and judgmental exchanges that dominate current conversations.

AgForestry has partnered with Braver Angels, an organization that works to "bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic". This workshop will focus on race, but the skills apply to any polarized conversation, if you take this workshop, you will be:

- More skilled in expressing views in a way that the other person can hear you
- Better at listening to people who have differing views on race, and related public policy, so they feel heard
- More able to find common ground when it is present

When? Tuesday, November 1, 2022 – 9 am – noon. [**Click here to register.**](#) (no charge)



ANNOUNCING: CLASS 44!

Did you meet the new cohort in the recent announcement? Class 44 begins their AgForestry journey in Pullman, October 12 – 14!

CLASS 43 – LEADERSHIP AND SYSTEMS THINKING

Next month Class 43 kicks off their second year starting in Sunnyside then Vancouver, Mount Vernon, Walla Walla, and Vietnam before graduation in Spokane next April. Each seminar now includes a focus on understanding various systems and how they interconnect. The class will explore a variety of topics, tours, and projects in each area. Curriculum Advisor, WSU’s Holly Henning, will provide an introduction to systems thinking models and a framework that the class will use in reflection at each seminar. Class members also play an integral role in seminar planning in their area; thinking critically about how to tell their story and welcome their classmates.

Don't forget seminar receptions are back!
Click here to sign up for one near you.

CLASS 42 DONATES IN PUERTO RICO; BRIAN AND DONNA LOUCKS MATCH FUNDS

Class 42 is donating over \$2,000 to Siempre Vivas in Puerto Rico with the help of matching funds from Brian (Class 7) and Donna Loucks.

Puerto Rico has the highest per capita rate of women murdered by their partner in the world, with an estimated 60 women murdered in 2020. Class 42 met with Siempre Vivas’ founder, Dr. Luisa R. Seijo Maldonado to learn the group provides support services for those trying to leave abusive relationships as well as support for children from abusive homes trying to break the cycle. Siempre Vivas is a local, grass roots organization.

After hearing powerful stories of gender violence and the work Siempre Vivas is doing to change the future, Class 42 was inspired to provide a donation that will make a meaningful difference in the work the organization is able to do.



WHAT WE'RE READING

Atlas of the Heart by Brené Brown
Recommended by Erica Christie-Jones (Class 43)

Quote: "Our connection with others can only be as deep as our connection with ourselves. If I don't know and understand who I am and what I need, want and believe, I can't share myself with you."

Brené Brown continues to put out groundbreaking work addressing emotions and the importance of connection in our lives. What I loved most about this book is how it forced me to look inward to identify how I process emotions and how that process affects not only my connection with others, but most importantly my connection with myself. This book breaks down 87 emotions that get at the heart of what the human experience is all about. Ultimately, after reading this book I feel more comfortable building meaningful connections through sharing my story in a more authentic and vulnerable way.

THANK YOU TO OUR JULY SUPPORTERS

Butch (1) & Judy Wiswall
Christina (18) Van Well
Hemphill-O'Neill Company
Jack & Connie Bloxom
John (32) & Diana Ison

Julie Stangell (35) & George Bennett

Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S.
Mike (15) & Sharon Ingham
Mike (19) & Jean Youngquist
Sarah (31) & Dan McClure
Stephan (31) & Deidre Dillon