



WORC Annual Conference

“Bringing Our Soils Back to Life”



November 14-15, 2017
Semiahmoo Resort | Blaine, WA

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, November 14 – Tour & Member Meeting!

- NOON** **Meet at Birch Bay Square for Bus**
8115 Birch Bay Square St #100, Blaine
- 12:15 PM** Lunch served on the bus
New Tour Site – Edaleen Dairy & Ice Cream
Learn about the Edaleen Dairy, digester, nutrient recovery system & enjoy a dairy delight at Edaleen’s Ice Cream Store
- 12:40 PM** Depart for tour
- 1:00 PM** **Tour of Edaleen Dairy Farm**
9409 Depot Rd, Lynden, WA 98264
[Please wear appropriate shoes & clothing!]
- 2:15 PM** **Stop at Edaleen Dairy Store for Ice Cream!**
9593 Guide Meridian Road Lynden, WA 98264



- 2:45 PM** **Return to Birch Bay Square**
9565 Semiahmoo Pkwy, Blaine, WA 98230
- 3:15 PM** Proceed in own vehicles to Semiahmoo
- 3:30 PM** **New! Optional Semiahmoo Compost Tour**
Tour begins once we arrive to Semiahmoo!
- 1:00 PM** **Conference Registration Begins**
Semiahmoo Pre-Function Room
- 4:30 PM** **WORC Annual Meeting** (All Welcome)
Victoria Room
- 5:30 PM** **Dinner on your own**
- 7:00 PM** **President’s Reception** – (All Welcome)
Refreshments and Networking
Sponsored by: Silver Springs Organics

Wednesday, November 15th, 2017

- 7:00 AM** Conference Registration, Breakfast Buffet
& Visit Exhibitors
Breakfast Sponsored by: Powerscreen of Washington, Inc.
- 8:00 AM** Welcome & Introductions
President, Michele Riggs, Natural Connections
- 8:15 AM** **“Bringing Our Soils Back to Life and Saving Civilization”**
Keynote, Dr. David R. Montgomery, Professor of Earth and Space Sciences at the UW, Seattle

Growing a Revolution cuts through debates about conventional and organic farming, showing how a soil health revolution could bring farmland soil back to life. Combining ancient wisdom with modern science, Montgomery offers a vision where agriculture becomes the solution to environmental problems, helping feed us all and cool the planet.
- 9:15 AM** **“Dairy Manure-Derived Fertilizers for Use in Raspberry and Blueberry Cropping Systems: Evaluation for Agronomic, Soil Health, and Food Safety Efficacy”**
Chris Benedict, Whatcom County Extension
Session Sponsored by: Seattle Public Utilities

This talk will cover an on-going trial looking at various manure-derived nutrient sources, their impact on soil health, food safety risk.
- 9:45AM** Break & Visit Exhibitors
Sponsored by: Soiltest Farm Consultants, Inc. & Recology CleanScapes
- 10:30AM** **“Restoring Ag Soils with Manure Based Compost, Blends and Applications”**
Gregg & Kyle Ovenell, Ovenell Farms
Session Sponsored by: WA State Department of Ecology

An overview of handling and composting agricultural waste streams, what the farmer expects from compost, and complying with food safety regulations.

11:00 AM "Climate Preparedness and the Role of Biosolids"

Kate Kurtz, formerly King County Wastewater

Around the world soils are being depleted of organic matter, while simultaneously the challenges of climate change include drought, erosion, and crop failure. Biosolids and other organic amendments such as manure and compost have quantifiable benefits to mitigating these challenges. For example, the benefits of King County using their biosolids as a fertilizer replacement has the CO₂ emissions equivalents of taking 8,000 cars off the road each year, while also improving soil structural qualities.

Session Sponsored by: City of Tacoma

11:30 PM "Compost Pelletizing for Agricultural Production"

Thad Schutt, Royal Organic Farms

Compost is now ready for modern, precision agriculture. Pelletized compost can be placed directly through the seed drill or shanked into the soil for side banding using a grower's existing equipment. Placing compost efficiently into the seed/root zone eliminates the need for specialty spreaders and tillage for incorporation. Find out how a precision application of compost can increase your net profit.

12:00 PM Lunch, Awards & Visit Exhibitors

Lunch Sponsored by: Engineered Compost Systems

1:15 PM "Restoring Agricultural Soil Sustainability"

Randy Honcoop, Honcoop Farms

Recognizing soil degradation on my raspberry farm and exploring restorative changes in inputs, including dairy manure, to achieve a sustainable production system

1:45 PM "Beneficial Soil Biodiversity that Improves Food Safety"

Dr. Bill Snyder, Professor of Entomology at WSU, Pullman

We have found that a diverse community of insects and soil microbes is capable of rapidly removing animal feces from vegetable farms, while also killing human-pathogenic E. coli. Organic farming builds biodiversity among the beneficial soil organisms with the potential to improve food safety.

2:15 PM Ice Cream Social & Visit Exhibitors

Sponsored by: Soiltest Farm Consultants, Inc.

2:45 PM "Reducing Organic Waste and Improving Soil Systems with Biochar"

Mark Fuchs, Washington State Department of Ecology

Washington has abundant organic resources in waste systems and across the landscape. We will present organic waste resources on-line data, waste characteristics and use for renewable fuels and power, and to create stable carbon and recover fertilizer value. We briefly cover conversion methods for extracting heat and power, biochar production and characteristics, co-composting biochar and the historic and current practices for biochar use in increasing soil carbon and productivity.

3:15 pm "Dairy Lagoon Nutrient Extraction with Vermicomposting"

Austin Allred, Royal Dairy

Learn about the basic process Royal Dairy uses to take manure water, pull out nutrients and use efficient water for irrigation. The process of turning corn, hay and other feeds into milk, manure, plant food, worm castings back into irrigation water.

3:45 PM Drawing and Closing Remarks

President, Michele Riggs, Natural Connections

Many Thanks to the Conference Committee!

Hats off to all of the Conference Committee Members whose dedication and hard work have made this year's Conference possible...

Jetta Antonakos, Mary Harrington, Tamara Thomas, Samantha Fleischner, Dan Corum & Scott Deatherage

Thank you to our sponsors and displayers for their generous support and participation in making this Conference a success!

