



CONNECTIONS

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NORTHWEST COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

NWDC Open House: A Feast for the Cooperative Spirit

On a brisk October afternoon, friends of the NWDC streamed through the doors of the Washington State Grange in Olympia to celebrate Co-op month and to wish a warm farewell to Aaron Jones, NWDC Board Chair, who will be taking a new position in California in December.

Mr. Jones opened the event by welcoming guests and by reading Governor Locke's Proclamation of October as Cooperative Month.

Dave Warren, Manager of the Last Mile Electric Co-op, an NWDC project, informed guests of the goals and successes of his cooperative. The Last Mile is a renewable energy resource development co-op with 17 member organizations, five wind assessment towers set up and many other projects in the incubation stage. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) recently awarded NWDC and its partners, including Last Mile, \$300,000 to expedite a small wind turbine project. Over the next year and a half, Last Mile and partners will coordinate the installation of at least 10 small wind turbines on farms, ranches and rural facilities served by Northwest public utilities.

Mr. Jones introduced Senator Karen Fraser, who acknowledged Jones' dedication to economic development and wished him well in his new position in California.

Guest speaker Kitty Koppelman of the Olympia Food Co-op and Project Organizer of the

Thurston Union of Low-Income People (TULIP) Credit Union described the diverse roles the new credit union will play. By improving financial education and offering access to credit and savings services for members, TULIP seeks to balance the scales of economic power and to improve the potential of those living on the economic edge. Olympia Food Co-op, the Boeing Employees' Credit Union and the



NWDC Board Chairman, Aaron Jones and WA State Senator, Karen Fraser

Washington State Employees Credit Union are all donating partners in the new credit union.

Madina Cavendish, NWDC Project Director, presented door prizes to winning guests.

Mr. Jones presented longtime colleague Mr. Joel Merkel, Attorney at Law, with the Cooperative Spirit Award. Mr. Jones received the Cooperator of the Year Award from newly elected NWDC Board Chair Mr. Mark Johnson, Department of Technology Director at Centralia College.

Members of fledgling co-op *Mariposa Images* presented a

selection of their handmade knitted receiving blankets to an appreciative audience. A project of the NWDC based in Mattawa, Washington, *Mariposa Images* is composed of a small group of Hispanic women working toward establishing a marketing cooperative to facilitate sales of their children's clothing, gifts and crafts.

"Farmer/Producer Cooperatives" Workshop

The workshop, organized by Cascade Harvest Coalition to help current and future farmers maintain their local farming activities, is set for Friday, November 22, in Everett, WA.

The workshop will offer practical information on cooperative development as a business and marketing alternative for current and potential farmers. Participants will

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Northwest Cooperative
Development Center

NWDC is an association of consumer, producer and worker cooperatives in Washington, Oregon, Western Montana, Alaska, Idaho, Northern California and Hawaii. NWDC was founded by cooperatives in 1979 with the mission to promote and strengthen cooperatives in the Northwest. NWDC was formerly known as Puget Sound Development Foundation. In the spring of 2000, NWDC was reorganized and renamed in order to include a broader geographical area. The mission of the NWDC is to foster community economic development, primarily through cooperative business models.

NWDC Board of Directors

Aaron Jones, Chairman - WA Rural Electric Co-op Association

Mark Johnson, Treasurer - Group Health Cooperative

Art Siegal, Secretary - Group Health Cooperative

Al Ochoa - Ochoa Ag Unlimited Foods

Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney - District 46 State Representative

John Annaloro - WA Credit Union League

Leslye Teuber - Recreational Equipment, Inc.

Tom Von Muller - Bonneville Power Administration

David Howard - WA State Grange

David de la Vergne - Group Health Cooperative

Dan Coyne - WA Council of Farmers Cooperatives

Ken Duft - WA State University

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City Commended for Fair Trade Coffee Consumption

In addition to its distinction as the Washington State capital, Olympia has made a new name for itself as one of the fair trade coffee capitals of our country.

The city recently received the Fair Trader award at Olympia's Traditions Café, host site for a reception dinner and discussion. Equal Exchange, a worker-



From left to right: Grace Cox, Manager of Olympia Food Co-op, Arnaldo Camizan, and Madina Cavendish of NWDC with daughter, Emma.

owned co-op, and Peruvian coffee farmer Arnaldo Neira Camizan presented the award. NWDC staff members were invited as well.

The cooperative purchases fair trade coffee directly from farmers, eliminating the middleman, and farmers are guaranteed a minimum price of \$1.26 per pound. According to Equal Exchange representatives, farmer profit for non-fair trade coffee has dropped to 40 cents.

Olympia boasts a fair trade profile. Olympia Food Cooperative was the first worker-owned co-op to exclusively sell fair trade coffee. The Evergreen State College was one of the first in the nation to brew and sell the coffee on campus. The city was also home to the second family owned grocery stores in the country to market fair trade coffee.

Camizan thanked Olympia residents for improving the quality of life for more than 1600 small-scale coffee

growers in Peru. He said fair trade coffee is helping support college tuition for his daughter, who is studying to become an agricultural engineer. He added that fair trade coffee helps provide funds for housing and health care in his country.

UCA Campaign Underway

Fall signals United Co-op Appeal time, and NWDC is preparing for a successful campaign.

The Cooperative Development Foundation coordinates the UCA campaign. The goal is to raise funds to support qualifying 501 (c)(3) cooperative development organizations nationwide, which then use the funds to help disadvantaged communities improve their economic and social outlook.

This is the third year of fund-raising through UCA. NWDC was able to raise \$12,000 the first year and nearly \$22,000 last year. We thank all those who contributed to the campaign's success through donations or by distributing UCA materials.

For further information or to request a contribution form, contact Madina Cavendish at (360) 943-4241 or by email at nwcdc@qwest.net.

Funds Available for Minority Co-ops

The NWDC has USDA funds available for use by rural cooperatives comprised of minority members. Funds may be used to assist with co-op start-up activities or to improve the success of existing co-ops.

For eligibility requirements, further information or an application packet, call the NWDC office at (360) 943-4241 or email to nwcdc@qwest.net



WIND NEWS

LMEC Awarded USDA Value-Added Grant

The USDA Rural Development recently awarded \$150,000 to the Last Mile Electric Cooperative (LMEC) under the Value-added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program.

The project, titled "Our Wind Coop: Energy Independence for the Northwest," will be carried out with partner organizations NWCDC and Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (NWSEED).

Project goals include planning for effective cooperative ownership structures and marketing opportunities that will support installation of small wind turbines on farms and ranches in a five-state region that includes rural Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and Northern California.

This project was proposed in response to tremendous public interest in the development of small wind systems in the Pacific Northwest.

Harvesting Clean Energy Conference Planned

The Northwest Cooperative Development Center, in partnership with Climate Solutions and the Idaho Ag Summit, are co-organizing the third annual Harvesting Clean Energy conference and trade show.

The Center on the Grove in Boise, Idaho will serve as this year's host site for the conference. Scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, February 10 and 11, 2003, the event promises to draw a wide spectrum of attendees from the Northwest and beyond. The conference will be held in conjunction with the eighth annual Idaho Ag Summit.

This year's theme, "Charting the Way to Profitable Clean Energy Production" will focus on assessing feasibility, financing and installing

renewable energy systems. Attendees will listen to technology experts and farmers who have direct experience with wind power, biogas, biofuels and irrigation systems powered by renewable energy sources. They will discover practical resources from both the technical and project development arenas, and can talk to vendors of such systems and view their equipment on display.

For further information, please contact Diane Gasaway at (360) 943-4241 or by email at dgasaway@wreca.coop.

You may also find out more about the conference from www.harvestcleaningenergy.org



New NWCDC Chairman Elected

With the departure of NWCDC Board Chair Aaron Jones on the horizon, members elected Mark Johnson of Tumwater, Washington to the office at the October Annual Meeting.

Mr. Johnson's cooperative development experience and board member activity in the Northwest spans a quarter century.

Previously he served as Chair of the Northwest Cooperative Federation/Puget Sound Development Foundation, was a member of the National Business Cooperative Association Board and has participated as facilitator at a number of cooperative related conferences. In addition, he has served as trustee for

Group Health Cooperative for a number of years.

Mr. Johnson is currently employed as a Director of Technology and Computer Services at Centralia College. He's married, has a son and a grandson.

"Farmer/Producer Cooperative" Workshop

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learn how to find assistance for cooperative development and how to establish successful business and marketing cooperatives. The panel of speakers will include:

- **John Brugger**, USDA Cooperative Development Specialist
- **Madina Cavendish**, Project Manager of the Northwest Cooperative Development Center
- **Doc and Connie Hatfield**, Oregon Country Beef

For registration questions, please contact Mary Embleton at (206) 205-6372.

New NWCDC Members

During September-October, the following organizations and individuals joined NWCDC:

Organizational Members:

- Big Island Hydro-Electric Co-op
- Bio Rev LLC
- Washington State Grange
- Organization of Parent Education Programs

Individual Members:

- Mark Johnson, Centralia College
- Stephen Johnson, Washington PUD Association.



Northwest Cooperative
Development Center

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Yes! I want to be in the cooperative loop

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

- Please send me dues information for organizational membership
- Please send me dues information for individual membership
- Enclosed is a tax-deductable gift for the NW Co-op Development Center
- Please send me a receipt

Please detach and send to: NWCDC, 1050 Capitol Way South, Ste. B, Olympia, WA 98501