

# Water Ways



CHELAN COUNTY  
www.chelanpud.org

## It's never too late to Xeriscape

You've heard the word – now come see Xeriscape in action.

Visit the Wenatchee Valley Farmers Market Saturday, May 23, between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., where Chelan County PUD will present a colorful display of drought-tolerant plants and grasses. Learn how you can achieve more blooms with less water – saving money and resources. Pick up a brochure that explains the seven steps to a successful Xeriscape garden, and enter a drawing to win one of the plants on display.

The market has a new, roomier location this year at the former Public Works Building site on Worthen Street. Information on market activities for the season is available at [wenatcheefarmersmarket.com](http://wenatcheefarmersmarket.com).

**On July 18**, take a tour of the Riverfront Park Demonstration Garden hosted by WSU Extension Chelan County Master Gardeners. Volunteers will provide tips on selecting drought-tolerant plants for size, color and hardiness suitable for our region.

The tour runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's one of several planned around the Wenatchee area this summer as a fund-raiser for the Master Gardeners. Tickets are \$8. More information is available at [ncw.wsu.edu/mg](http://ncw.wsu.edu/mg) or by calling 667-6540.

The Xeriscape garden is a joint project of the Master Gardeners and Chelan County PUD. It's located along the Apple Capital Loop Trail near the Nile Saunders Steam Train. The garden is open to the public year-round, and brochures describing the plants are available at the site.

Xeriscape plants also fill the flower beds along the front of Chelan County PUD's Headquarters Building, 327 N. Wenatchee Ave. Step into the lobby to pick up a list of the plants and their characteristics.



*Master Gardeners will host a tour of the Riverfront Park Demonstration Garden on July 18. The garden, featuring drought-tolerant plants, is open for self-guided tours as well.*

Details on more than 60 plants and grasses are available on the PUD's Web site: [chelanpud.org](http://chelanpud.org).

## PUD water expert is "Operator of the Year"

Cary Eller, water quality program coordinator for Chelan County PUD, received the "Operator of the Year" award from the state Department of Health at a program in Wenatchee May 7.

Eller tests and inspects for water purity at 11 water systems, including the six systems operated by Chelan County PUD (rural Wenatchee, Squilchuck, Ollala Canyon, Dryden, Chelan Ridge and Chelan Falls). State regulations require that certified technicians test for water quality. Eller provides a much-needed service for small systems owned by regional associations that don't have their own water-quality expert.

*Continued on reverse*

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# Water Ways

**How to reach us**  
Conservation and Customer Services:....661-8008  
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*Cary Eller, PUD water quality program coordinator, left, receives the state Operator of the Year award from Denise Adotta Clifford, director of the state Office of Drinking Water.*

Denise Adotta Clifford, director of the state Office of Drinking Water, told Eller, "You don't do it just because it's a job... it's meaningful to you to know that people have safe

drinking water." She added, "You've gone above and beyond. A lot of these little systems would be struggling without your help."

Eller has worked for Chelan County PUD for 16 years.

The award is given to mark National Drinking Water Week, May 3-9.

## 5 water-wise tips for the summer

For many customers, water use goes up dramatically in the summer due to outdoor watering. Here are some tips for reducing your water bills during this irrigation season:

- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.

- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.

For more tips, visit [wateruseitwisely.com](http://wateruseitwisely.com).

## Xeriscape plant of the month: Snow-in-summer

Sounds refreshing, doesn't it? Snow-in-summer, or *Cerastium tomentosum*, is a fast-spreading ground cover that makes a fragrant white carpet. It blooms in the spring and likes partial to full sun. You can see snow-in-summer in the flower beds at the PUD Headquarters Building, 327 N. Wenatchee Ave.



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