



Wenatchee Naturalist's mission is to cultivate awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the Wenatchee River region by developing an active corps of well-informed community volunteers.



May 2016

A NOTE FROM SUSAN:

Greetings Wenatchee Naturalists! Please plan to pick up your service pins and free *Conifer Cone ID photo field guide*. Stop by the CDLT Office, 18 North Wenatchee Ave, during business hours.



Wenatchee Naturalist, Marilyn Sherling, photographer

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

■ Citizen Science Project

Take part in on-going citizen science eBird projects for Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. Volunteers are invited to join Susan Ballinger in monthly monitoring outings through November at Mountain Home Preserve (5/19, 6/16, 7/14) and Horse Lake Reserve (5/12, 5/26, 6/16, 7/21). Skills development training outings are offered on Wednesday mornings. Details on CDLT website. RSVP: susan@cdlandtrust.org.

■ Citizen Science Project

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife **pygmy rabbit** project is on-going into fall. It is super fun to catch and hold rabbits! No experience necessary. Contact Shea Gibbs at (509)754-4624 x243 Shea.gibbs@dfw.wa.gov

■ Stewardship

Did you know we have new invaders in our Foothills? New weed species are showing up, likely transported in on fire-fighter vehicles and equipment and CDLT Stewardship Director, Neal Hedges, wants to have an early detection program in place. CDLT is partnering with Chelan County Weed Board's Julie Sanderson to host a workshop to train trail users to ID 13 targeted weed species and then provide location information to CDLT. This workshop is free and open to all. Free materials provided.

June 7 (6-8PM) at Chelan PUD Auditorium, 327 N. Wenatchee Ave.) and an optional field session **June 15 (6-8PM)**.

■ Education

Wenatchee River Institute's **Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest is May 19-22**. Do you have **photography** skills to share? Can you help out our sponsors by dropping off **Bird Fest Flags** at local businesses? Would you like to be part of our **Welcome Team** at Bird Fest Central? Do you enjoy working with **kids in nature**? If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, **WE**

WANT YOU! Contact Brook Hinton to learn more: bhinton@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org or

call her at 509.548.0181. Sign up at <http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.org/volunteers/>

■ Education

Our local Audubon Society and the Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club are helping the Wenatchee Valley Museum offer all day *Youth on the Columbia* field experiences. Contact Penny Tobiska (ptobiska@nwi.net) to learn more and sign up. Dates available through June and more adult helpers needed.



Education

The annual **Kids in the Creek** program in the Entiat, which is headed up by Cascadia Conservation District, is looking for a few more volunteers. This awesome hands-on, and sometimes feet-wet, educational program is for high school students. Cascadia has a need for volunteers to head up some stations, especially on Tuesday, May 10. The event is on **May 10, 11 & 12**. More information about the event can be found at kidsinthecreek.com. If you'd like to help out, please email AmandaL@cascadiacd.org.

CLASSES:

June 5 Grass Identification Workshop
9:00-3:30, \$35* offered in Twisp, co-sponsored by the Methow Conservancy and Okanogan Chapter Washington Native Plant Society.. Grasses make up a major part of the plant flora of the Methow, but how do you tell one grass from another? There are over 100 species of grass



in the Methow. Watershed. Join botanist Dana Visalli for a day in the lab and in the field, learning how to both recognize and key out some of our local grasses - and how to tell grasses from sedges and rushes. You'll have a chance to work with loupes and microscopes too. To register or for more information, contact Mary at 509-996-2870 or mary@methowconservancy.org.

WORKSHOPS:

The Xerces Society's pollinator program is pleased to announce



THREE upcoming short courses in Washington, in partnership with the [King County Conservation District](#). All three courses are open to the public, and require advanced registration.

Friday June 3 (9-4:30), Enumclaw, WA
Conservation Biological Control. This workshop focus is on beneficial insects and science-based pest management strategies.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beneficial-bugs-on-the-farm-attracting-insects-to-control-pests-tickets-23850332988>

Saturday June 4 (9-4:30), Woodinville, WA.
Pollinator Conservation. Focus is on how to protect 7 enhance populations of pollinators, especially bees, in agricultural settings.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/farming-with-native-pollinators-creating-a-place-for-bees-and-bugs-tickets-23849822461>

Sunday June 4 (9-12:30PM), Seattle, WA.
Urban Pollinators. Focus is how to build a place for native bees and butterflies while beautifying your garden. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/native-pollinators-in-the-city-gardening-for-seattles-bees-and-bugs-tickets-23849088265>

FESTIVALS:

May 19-22, 2016. It isn't too late to register for a **Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest Field Trip!** <http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.org/>. On Saturday, lots of free family oriented activities, displays, and vendors will be on hand (10AM-2PM) on the grounds of Wenatchee River Institute, with no registration needed. Between 11-1PM, you can get up close and personal with a live bird-of-prey! Then attend a free guided bilingual nature walk at Sleeping Lady and the Songbird Concert at Snowy Owl (by donation).

wildfire. USFSW materials available at: <http://www.fws.gov/greatersagegrouse/education.php>
Audubon Society has devised fun lessons and materials at <http://rockies.audubon.org/kids-page>

FIELD TRIPS:

Upper Valley Nature Walks at Ski Hill Thursday, May 12, 2016 - 6:00pm

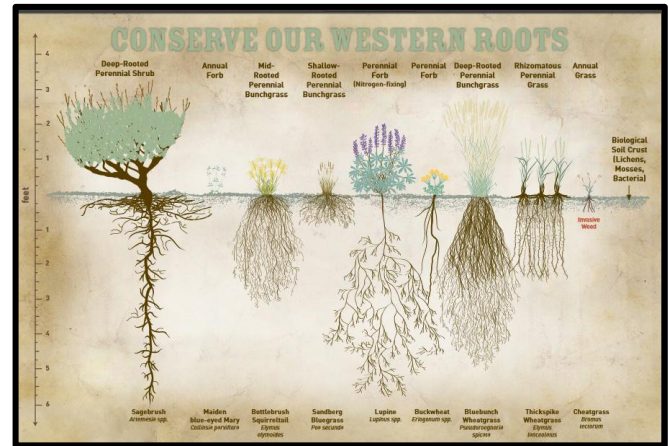
At 10701 Ski Hill Drive in Leavenworth. Join Connie McCauley to explore the Ski Hill area, looking at wildflowers, birds, and wildlife. Walks will cover 2-3 miles for about 2 hours, depending upon conditions and interest of the group. Connie has explored these hills for 40 years and enjoys sharing her local knowledge with all ages and backgrounds. Meet at the Ski Hill Parking lot on 10701 Ski Hill Drive in Leavenworth. RSVP appreciated but not required. Contact Hillary at (509) 667-9708 or hillary@cdlandtrust.org to RSVP. Future dates include: **Tuesday May 31 6 PM, Thursday June 2 6 PM, and Thursday June 9 2 PM**

Wildflower Wednesdays. Attend a 1-hour stroll in the Wenatchee Foothills with CDLT's Susan Ballinger. Times and locations vary. Upcoming outings include **May 11 (6-7PM)**, Balsamroot Trail at Horse Lake Road, **May 18 (9-10AM)**, Jacobson Preserve, **May 25 (6-7PM)** at Jacobson Preserve. No RSPV needed. Learn more at <http://www.cdlandtrust.org/whats-new>

Thursday Theme Walk-and-Talks in the Wenatchee Foothills. May 12, 19, 26 (6-7PM)
CDLT's Walk & Talk Series continues through June and is a great way to get out for your weekly nature boost. These walks are designed for anyone, are not strenuous, only an hour long and each one has a fun topic taught by a local expert. Walks last from 6-7 pm every Thursday. These low-key walks cover a very short distance staying close to the trailhead and all levels of walking ability can be accommodated. Visit the CDLT website to view a trailhead map and learn more. No RSVP needed <http://www.cdlandtrust.org/node/1323>.

NEW RESOURCES:

A terrific new visual has been created for use in Western States to show the value of native shrub-steppe plants. Both a postcard and mini-poster are available. **New curricula** have been created to teach students about shrub-steppe ecosystems, including



POSTER: <http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Conserve-our-Western-Roots-Poster-FINAL-LOW-RES-041516.pdf>

POSTCARD <http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Conserve-Our-Western-Roots-Postcard-LOW-RES-041516.pdf>



Wenatchee Naturalist Joanne Dalinkus took part in the May 4 CDLT Wednesday Wildflower Walk.



The May 5 *Thursday Walk-and-Talk* featured Local Historian Chris Rader (right) Bill Layman (left) is the upcoming speaker on May 12 at Saddle Rock Trailhead, telling Native American stories inspired by Saddle Rock.

Photo by **Wenatchee Naturalist, Leslie Bigos.**