



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.



## Summer, 2016

### A NOTE FROM SUSAN:

Happy Summer! If you are in downtown Wenatchee, stop by the CDLT office to pick up your service pens: I have a labeled box at the front desk so it is quick and easy. And, I'll be awarding pens at our next social gathering in late November, so keep tally of your hours! Enjoy some time outside with your nature journal and maybe sign up for a summer citizen science project.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

#### ■ Citizen Science Projects

**Pygmy Rabbit Recovery Project** has a great opportunity for volunteers/Citizen Scientists to help provide information that WDFW will use to evaluate the success of the ongoing reintroduction effort in Douglas and Grant Counties. WDFW has released young pygmy rabbits into the wild since 2011 and with each passing year, it becomes more difficult to monitor the success of the releases as they recolonize more area (the number and distribution of surviving adults). To do this, WDFW surveys suitable shrub-steppe habitat habitats and record the location of the unique burrows pygmy rabbits establish as well as collect pellet samples for genetic analysis. Interested volunteers should be able to handle a full day of hiking in the shrub-steppe, hot temperatures, and be able to use a hand held GPS unit. Surveys will be conducted in late

summer/early fall 2016. Interested volunteers should contact Jon Gallie ([jon.gallie@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:jon.gallie@dfw.wa.gov), 509.665.3391) or Shea Gibbs ([shea.gibbs@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:shea.gibbs@dfw.wa.gov)) to get more details on these efforts. Training will be provided.

**Camas Meadow, June 16.** Each year, Rare Care works with DNR and Forest Service to monitor Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow (*Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*) at its largest known population at Camas Lands near Leavenworth. Work is done in groups to collect data on permanent plots as well as count individuals in other areas to map the population.

Contact Wendy Gible ([rarecare@uw.edu](mailto:rarecare@uw.edu) 206.616.0780) if you are interested in helping out with the monitoring, and she will give you the details.

#### Goathead Warriors

Volunteers who are enthusiastic about ridding the Apple Capital Loop Trail of those pesky puncture vine plants have joined forces to create the Goathead Warriors. They are looking for groups or individuals who can adopt a "zone" along the loop trail and keep it puncture vine free by digging up those goathead plants before they drop their seeds. The Goathead Warriors will also have work parties, and they will supply the garbage bags and heavy duty gloves. Here is a link to their [www.goatheadwarriors.com](http://www.goatheadwarriors.com).

**The Friends of Enchantments** will start a trailhead naturalist program this summer in partnership with the United States Forest Service to help protect the Enchantments. A training for volunteers for the program has been tentatively set for June 23 (we are hoping for a Saturday, instead). The training will start at 11 a.m., with participants meeting at the Wenatchee River Ranger Station in Leavenworth and traveling to the Stuart Lake Trailhead.

The trailhead naturalists will share Leave No Trace ethics and collect encounter data (the number of people and their destination) at the Stuart Lake and Snow Lakes trailheads. The volunteer commitment consists of at least six days of the volunteers' choice during the season (7 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Volunteers will receive a free one-year Northwest Forest Pass. If interested, please send the Friends of Enchantments a paragraph about your background and why you are interested in volunteering in the program ([enchantmentfriends@gmail.com](mailto:enchantmentfriends@gmail.com)). The information will be forwarded to the Forest Service. Since this is a pilot program, the Forest Service will select a limited number for the training and participation.

## CLASSES:

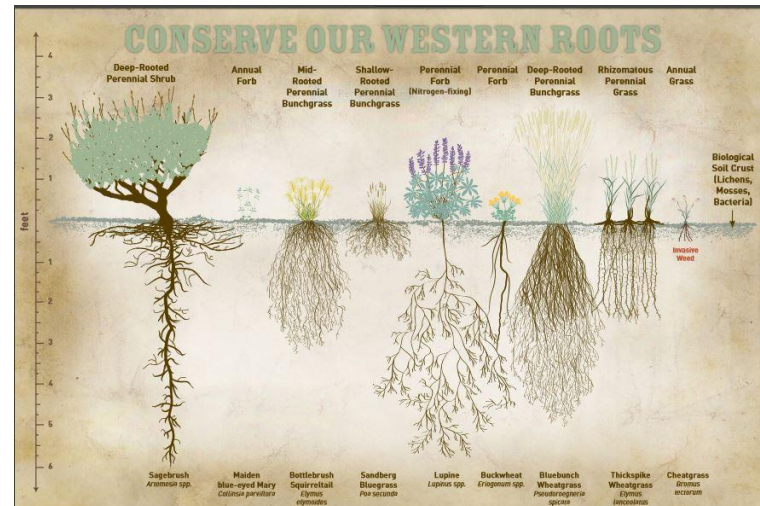
**Saturday, June 25 An Attentive Ramble in the Natural World with Libby Mills.** Explore Icicle Gorge. Explore the world slowly with new eyes and leave with a deep sense of engagement in nature. WRI course - Registration closes June 18. [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/3Qb0QSDXDRBXuksLly4VGg](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/3Qb0QSDXDRBXuksLly4VGg)

**Fall Wenatchee Naturalist course, Sept.-Dec, 2016.** Invite your friends to sign up for the next course at [https://wv.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassListing.ClassListingDisplay&int\\_category\\_id=3&int\\_subcategory\\_id=90](https://wv.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassListing.ClassListingDisplay&int_category_id=3&int_subcategory_id=90)

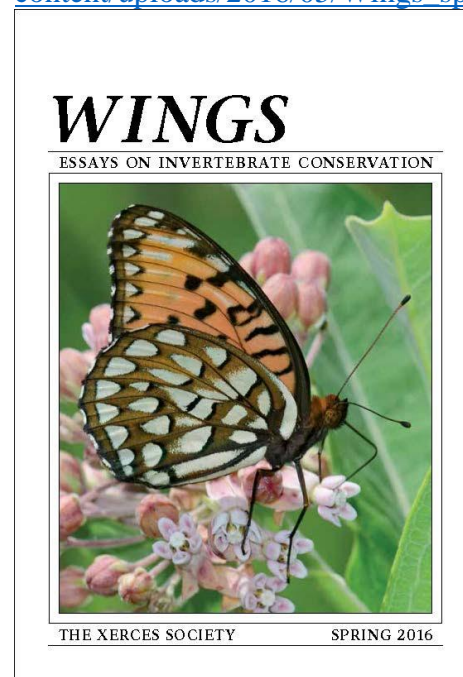
## NEW RESOURCES

**Roots Matter:** In sagebrush country, most of the plant matter grows below ground like an upside-down forest. Conserving these western roots -- and

the healthy, diverse plants that grow them -- protects our soils, helps the land retain water, and supports critical ecological functions. To rekindle conversations about why roots matter, the Sage Grouse Initiative has developed two new visuals that give a glimpse of the hidden world beneath our feet (and livestock's hooves!). Download the new poster and postcard to learn more about conserving western roots. (<http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com/roots/>)



**Xerces Society** –read the latest issue of this magazine, entirely about butterflies and moths. Download it at [http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Wings\\_spring2016.pdf](http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Wings_spring2016.pdf)



## PROGRAMS & FILMS:

**Tuesday, June 14, Wenatchee Erratics, Ice Age Floods Institute** 7PM program at the Wenatchee Valley Museum. *What happened in western Washington during the Ice-Age Floods? How does that affect living there today?* Dan McShane, engineering geologist and principal with the environmental and geology consulting Stratum Group in Bellingham, will show how the last Ice Age formed current western Washington landscapes. Western Washington is still rapidly transforming and adjusting to post-glacial shaping. Understanding its glacial history is critical in assessing geologic hazards, and that history continues to evolve. As an example, Dan will present the Oso landslide, and other landslides, in the context of Ice Age and post-Ice Age events that led to the landslides. And then give an overview of unique landscapes associated with the last glacial period and post-glacial processes. He will talk a bit about Bretz' work on the west side, before he took on the scablands. Be sure to check out Dan's blog, "Reading the Washington Landscape" at <http://washingtonlandscape.blogspot.com>

**Friday, June 10, 6:30 PM -Film: "Our Local Epic" at WRI's The Barn.** Trout Unlimited brings this film about the series of events that lead to the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone River being saved from development.

## WENATCHEE NATURALIST IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Bill Deuters

Bill has created a new weeding tool and he is seeking a good name for it! Bill heard about a tool being made in the Midwest made by modifying a garden spade, so he decided to make something similar and cheaper for our local knapweed and salisfy. He found an example on the internet, cut down a lightweight narrow spade into a tapered weeding fork shape, sharpened it, and turned the D handle 90 degrees (like a handsaw). He made four, kept one and gave the rest to frequent weeders for testing and feedback. He calls it the "Kmapweeder," but would like a more exciting name. So far, "Knapper Zapper"

and "Knapinator" have been nominated. Send your ideas to Bill, pictured below with his tool, at [wedeters@nwi.net](mailto:wedeters@nwi.net)



Mock-Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) is blooming earlier than usual in our valleys.

