



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.



December, 2016

A NOTE FROM SUSAN:

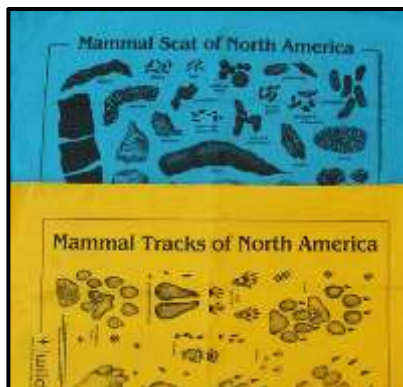
2016 has seen a bounty of volunteerism in support of local conservation! Check the website to make sure I have your photo on the [Volunteer Stories](#) page. At our November Wenatchee Naturalist gathering, we celebrated the next group of volunteers who have now earned their 20+ hour pin. Read each volunteer's story and see photos on [Wenatchee Naturalist website](#). **Matt Honor***, **Kristen Bates****, **John Brandt***, **Erin Davidson**, **Pamela Amoss**, **Mara Bohman**, **Kate Tollefson****, **Casey Leigh****, **Cindy Simmons**, **Gary Provo**, **Lessa Broker**, **Bill Deuters****, **Hillary Schwirtlich***, **Jan Woodley**, **Amanda Sherling****, **Leslie Bigos****, **David Hillestad****, **Pete Teigen**, and **Patti Milos****.

*Also earned 50+ hour pin

**Also earned 100+ hour pin.

News Flash-

Mammal Tracks or Scat Bandanas are back! Every Wenatchee Naturalist who has earned their 20-hour pin receives their choice.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

■ Citizen Science Projects

[Audubon Society](#) Christmas Bird Count – now the 116th year. Anyone is welcome to join a team-contact the leader to sign up to participate (logistics planning requires advance notice).

Thurs. Dec. 15, Bridgeport. Leader Meredith Spencer (509.686.6551 merdave@homenetnw.net)

Sat. Dec. 17, Leavenworth. Leader Gretchen Rohde (design@thedesignranch.com)

Wed. Dec. 28, Chelan. Leader Dan Smith (509.682.9653 seasley@nwi.net).

Sun. Jan. 1, Wenatchee. Leader Dan Stephens (509.679.4706, dstephens@wvc.edu).

Sun. Jan 1, Twisp. Leader Dave Rudholm (509.429.1105 davidrudholm1@centurytel.net)

Mon. Jan. 2, Okanogan/Omak. Leader Heather Finlay (509.429.8167 heather@eaglesun.net).



Hooded mergansers are often spotted on Christmas Bird Counts. Photo: David Hillestad

Winter Pygmy Rabbit Project The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has a great opportunity for volunteers/Citizen Scientists to help collect data that help guide the ongoing reintroduction effort of this endangered species within the Columbia Basin. WDFW has been



releasing pygmy rabbits into the wild annually since 2011. With each passing year, it becomes more challenging to monitor the success of these efforts as their numbers and

distribution on the landscape grow. To document survivorship of released pygmy rabbits and the amount of area being recolonized by wild-born pygmy rabbits, we survey suitable shrub-steppe habitats when adequate snow has accumulated in the winter. Their unmistakable tracks, scat, and burrows are easily detected in the snow; where we will record the location, some basic data, and collect scat samples for genetic analysis. Interested volunteers should be able to handle a full day of hiking/snowshoeing (5-10 miles) in the shrub-steppe, comfortable in cold temperatures (dress like you are going cross country skiing), and use a hand held GPS unit. Surveys will be conducted from December through February as weather and snow conditions permit. Interested volunteers should contact Jon Gallie (jon.gallie@dfw.wa.gov) for details and scheduling – mostly week days and some weekend dates available

[Sagebrush Songbird Survey](#)- WA Audubon & WDFW Year 3 Citizen Science Project. New and returning volunteers welcome! **Save April 1-2, 2017** as an early holiday gift. The “**Gold Standard**” for Sagebrush Songbird Survey field training! Three extraordinary instructors: WDFW’s **Matt Vander Haegen** and **Dr. Michael Schroeder** plus **David St George** Training site: Nature Conservancy’s Moses Coulee Field Station and WDFW Sagebrush Flats Wildlife Area Mileage and hotel reimbursement RSVP to Christi Norman at cnorman@audubon.org

Save March 22-23 for eBird trainings with the Chelan Douglas Land Trust and WDFW: March 22, 6-8 pm Wenatchee, CDLT Conference Room, 18 N. Wenatchee Ave. RSVP to Susan Ballinger at susan@cdlandtrust.org OR March 23, 9-11:30, Leavenworth, Wenatchee River Institute, 347

■ Stewardship

[Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary](#)- Environmental Stewardship begin in our own backyards. Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife offers suggestions for making your property a better place for songbirds and other wildlife. Once you are ready, apply for certification. The website includes [Woodworking and other projects](#) to make for backyard wildlife and helpful tips for winter bird feeding.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS:

[Methow Conservancy Winter Tracking Classes](#)
Saturday January 7th & Saturday February 4th, 8:30am – 12:30pm

Explore the winter landscape of the Methow Valley with professional wildlife tracker and educator, David Moskowitz. Learn how to identify and interpret wildlife tracks and signs so that you can connect with the hidden lives of the creatures that share this land with us! Two separate half-day field-classes with David are offered, He is an extremely knowledgeable wildlife track and sign teacher who makes tromping around in the cold snow really fun. Sign up for either of the days for \$45/person. Registration is necessary and space is limited to 12 people/day. Contact us at 996-2870 or mary@methowconservancy.org to reserve your spot.



Cougar tracks in mud along the Methow River

Certified Interpretive Guide training

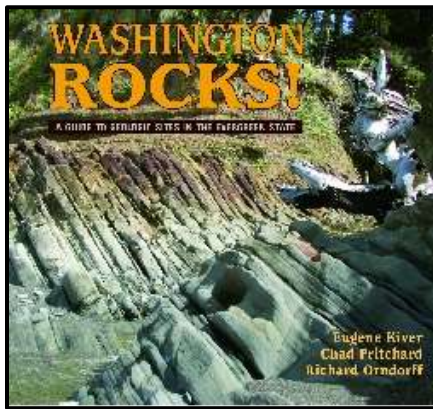
Monday, January 9 through Thursday, January 12, 2017, The REACH Museum in Richland, Washington is hosting a Certified Interpretive Guide training by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). The 32-hour training course (8:00am to 5:00pm each day)

is designed for anyone 16 and over who delivers interpretive programs to the public, and combines theory with practical skills. This workshop is great for anyone working in a museum, nature center, or leading tours of any kind. The total cost, including materials and NAI certification, is \$390. If you wish to take the course without NAI certification, the cost is \$240. See the link for registration and more information: https://www.interpnet.com/nai/nai/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=CIG010917R
Contact Pauline Schafer for more information - (509)943-4100 Extension 113 paulines@visithereach.org



PROGRAMS & FILMS:

Tues. Dec. 13, **The Tectonics of Washington, Rocks!** Wenatchee Valley Erratics Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute will meet at 7:00 P.M., at the Wenatchee Valley Museum, 127 South Mission, Wenatchee. Explore Washington's rich tectonic and geologic history with Dr. Chad Pritchard. Dr. Pritchard is Assistant Professor of Geology at EWU. Using a few of the 57 natural wonders presented in



his new book, "Washington Rocks!", he will show how tectonic changes have controlled Washington's landform developments over the last ~1.4 billion years, setting

the stage for the Ice Age Floods. Focusing on sites in Central Washington, he will discuss general plate tectonics, current hypotheses of geologic structures, and features that have been preserved in the rock record of our geologically diverse state. The program is free & open to the public.

NEW RESOURCES:

Check out the website's **TOPICS/RESOURCES:** [WA Native Conifer Identification](#) and [books and resources](#) to explore, the [Bibliography](#) of all natural history books to put onto your Christmas wish list, and helpful [Buyers guides](#) for binoculars.

Seasons Greetings – Susan Ballinger

