



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.



March, 2018

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

■ Citizen Science Projects

April 7, 10am-4pm, Sagebrush Songbird Survey Training.

Experience new adventures exploring the back country to survey for



Sage Thrasher; Sagebrush, Brewer's, Vesper, and Grasshopper Sparrow; Logger head Shrike and more. Join volunteers covering eastern Washington to help conserve our birds and their habitats. This is citizen science research to improve species distribution models for sagebrush songbirds. In a team, you will count birds at one or more sites on a monthly basis during the spring (April 12- June 15). You enter bird data into eBird where it becomes part of the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Priority Habitat & Species database, and, is available for conservation planning and restoration. Training is provided—learn survey protocol and songbird ID in the field! Sign up for 2018 survey sites with new friends. WA Audubon provided photo by Mick Thompson
 Training Location: Whisky Dick Wildlife Area from Old Vantage Hwy. Contact Wenatchee Naturalist, Richard Scranton, rscran4350@yahoo.com for exact location.

Read an update about Pygmy Rabbit recovery efforts on Douglas County in [Foster Creek Conservation District's enews](#). Contact project leader, Jon Gallie at jon.gallie@dfw.wa.gov.

■ Education

This spring, join other fun-loving adults who help school children find and identify birds using kid-sized binoculars. Many dates and times available both weekdays and weekends.

No birding skills needed, just a desire to guide children to become nature observers. Add your name to NCW



Audubon's *What's That Bird?* crew list by contacting Mark Oswald at 509.662.9087, moswood@nwi.net.

PHOTO CONTEST:

Announcing the 2018 NCW Audubon Bird Photography Contest. Submit by 3/30/18.

Learn more at: <http://www.ncwaudubon.org/photocontest.html>



FESTIVALS:

Plan now to enjoy a regional bird festival, all mostly run by dedicated local volunteers. All usually require registration for trips.

<http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/> Othello Sandhill Crane Festival, March 23-25, Othello, WA

<http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com/> Harney County Migratory Bird Festival April 5-9, Burns, OR

<http://www.olympicbirdfest.org/> Olympic Peninsula BirdFest April 13-15, Sequim, WA

<http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/> Grays Harbor Shorebird & Nature Festival, April 27-29, Hoquim, WA

<https://www.ycic.org/yakima-river-canyon-bird-fest> Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest, May 11-13, Ellensburg, WA

<http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/> May 17-20, Leavenworth, WA

Find a [bird festival on any USFWS Wildlife Refuge](#) here.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS:

Monday, March 5, 6-7:30pm. *A pollinator's garden: helping bees without keeping them*, by Julie Winters. 1st of 4 once/month classes. [Wenatchee River Institute](#) Admission by donation.

Saturday, March 10, Gardening Seminars at 10am, noon, 4pm, part of the KPQ Home Expo, offered by Chelan/Douglas Master Gardeners. <https://www.facebook.com/wsuchelanmastergardeners>

PROGRAMS & FILMS:



Thursday, March 8, 7pm, at 120 Cottage Ave., Cashmere. Hear UW Herbarium Collections Manager, David Giblin, talk about the soon-to-be released Flora of the Pacific NW 2nd Edition. Wenatchee Chapter, Washington Native Plant Society Free and open to the public.

Tuesday March 13, 7PM *A River Film*, at Environmental Film & Lecture Series, Wenatchee Valley Museum. Sponsored by Trout Unlimited Washington. \$5 suggested donation.



Tuesday March 20, 7PM Film *Elwha: A River Reborn* at Environmental Film & Lecture Series, Wenatchee Valley



Museum with speaker Lynda V. Mapes, a Seattle Times Reporter. \$5 suggested donation.

Saturday, March 24, 10am. Wildflowers & Native Plants Community Walk, [Cowieche Canyon Conservancy](#), Yakima, WA. Call 509.248.5065 or email info@cowichecanyon.org



NEW RESOURCES:

Read the [Xerces Society's new report](#) on 2017-18 overwintering Monarch butterflies along California's coast.



Become a Springcaster! <https://www.usanpn.org/nn/lilacs> Your observations of your backyard common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) can enhance decades of lilac phenology observations across the US. Watch a video to learn how at Nature's Notebook.

[Can Gray Jays Survive the Winter?](#) Read this cover story in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's winter issue of Living Bird magazine.

Read Wenatchee Naturalist, Mora Bauman, newest post on her blog, [The Columbia River Rolls On](#) and winter article in the [Wenatchee World](#). Mora is busy planning a May community forum about the upcoming Columbia River US/Canada treaty negotiations. Stay tuned!

Check my article celebrating spring mud on the [Wenatchee Naturalist website](#)