



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.



Spring 2018

## A NOTE FROM SUSAN:

The hills are greening up with spring in the air. I've filled this eNews with options to get outside, join with others, and support local conservation. Plan now how you will celebrate Earth Day 2018 - read on for ideas!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Citizen Science Project**  
**Apr.-Oct** [eBird projects at CDLT Horse Lake and Mountain Home](#). Join Susan Ballinger on Thurs. mornings as part of a team conducting bird surveys. Learn more on CDLT website.
- **Stewardship**  
**Apr. 12, 4:30-9:00pm Prep. for Arbor Day**, volunteers are needed to help prepare plants at Ballard Ambulance, 1028 N. Wenatchee Ave. 7pm break for pizza & door prizes. Wear sturdy shoes, bring gloves & a jacket. No RSVP needed!
- **Stewardship**  
Mar. 31 & Apr. 14, 9am. **Annual Spring Work days at Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center, Entiat**. Rake & improve trails, replace & install signs, remove brush & work on a lookout. Dave Spies 509.670.4875 or [daves60@aol.com](mailto:daves60@aol.com)

### ■ Stewardship

**Backpack sprayer training Apr. 11 3-4:40pm or Apr. 17 10-11:30am**. Many weed control volunteer dates available in the coming months. Learn more and RSVP Neal Hedges [neal@cdlandtrust.org](mailto:neal@cdlandtrust.org)

**Apr. 25 9-3pm CDLT Fence Building, Horse Lake Reserve**. Build a 0.1 mile section of wildlife-friendly fence. Dig postholes, pound post, pull & staple wire. Rain date is May 1. RSVP to Neal Hedges [neal@cdlandtrust.org](mailto:neal@cdlandtrust.org)

**May 9 & 15 9-3pm. Fence removal at CDLT Horse Lake Reserve**. Work involves cutting brush, removing and rolling rusty barbed wire, & pulling out fence posts. Learn more & RSVP to Neal Hedges [neal@cdlandtrust.org](mailto:neal@cdlandtrust.org)



## Education

Volunteers needed for youth outdoor education programs offered by Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center- **Youth on the Columbia** (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup>) on Wed., Thurs., & Fri. in May & June at Confluence State Park – mornings (9-11:30) and afternoons (12-1:45). Training offered Monday, Apr. 23 (9-noon), or you train by watching a station in action. 16 total days need volunteer help, so consider adding this into your volunteer life! RSVP & learn more: Debbie Sawyer [dsawyer@wvmcc.org](mailto:dsawyer@wvmcc.org).

## ■ Education

**Apr.-June volunteers needed for [Field Days at Wenatchee River Institute](#).** - learn more and see all dates.

## ■ Education

**Apr. 16-20 Wenatchee School District's 5th Grade Science Field Experience** – Facilitate student exploration as a nature guide/hike leader at our local at Saddle Rock. Volunteers needed for full (8am-2pm) or half days (8-11am or 12-2pm), or to assist with set-up or take-down.  
**Apr. 30-May 1-3 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Shrub-steppe Hill Hike.** Volunteers need at art & wildlife stations (9am-1pm) or to assist with set-up or take-down. For both, contact Teresa Hagan- SRC Assistant-(509) 341-4382, [science\\_resource@wenatcheeschools.org](mailto:science_resource@wenatcheeschools.org).



## EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

**Thurs. Apr. 19 2pm “Climate Change, Climate Justice,”** a Wenatchee Valley College Speaks Talk by Livia Millard & Joan Qazi at Wenatchi Hall. Free & open to the public.

**Sat, Apr. 21, [Chelan Earth Day Celebration](#)** at RiverWalk Park. 29<sup>th</sup> annual celebration with food, entertainment, booths. 9-4pm.

**Sat. Apr. 21. Pybus Mark 10am-2pm.** Sustainable Wenatchee will offer sign-ups for the ECO Challenge – open and free for all <https://www.facebook.com/sustainablewenatchee/>

**Sun. Apr. 22. 9am-3pm. CDLT Trail Work Party at Horse Lake Reserve.** A new 1.5 mile “Burt’s Trail” will be built by hand. This is arduous but rewarding work – lunch, snacks, & tools provided. Please RSVP online <https://www.cdlandtrust.org/> or contact Hanne: [hanne@cdlandtrust.org](mailto:hanne@cdlandtrust.org) , 667-9708.

**Sun. Apr. 22, noon-4:00pm, Lion’s Club Park [Leavenworth Earth Day Community Fair](#)**- a community celebration of fun activities, music, exhibits, local food, and a silent auction to benefit the community. In its 9<sup>th</sup> year, the founding organizers include Wenatchee Naturalists Lisi Ott and Barbee Teasley. Visit the website to learn how you can volunteer either before or during the fair <https://leavenwortheearthdaycommunityfair.wufoo.com/forms/qt8gt341pbulmw/>

**Sun. Apr. 22, Climate Conversations NCW Interfaith gathering, Gratitude For Our Water,** 2pm at Walla Walla Park, by coyote statue. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1467174906883952/>



## HIKES & FIELD TRIPS:

**Tues. Apr. 17, 2:00-5:00pm WNPS/CDLT Upper Valley Nature Walk at Leavenworth Ski Hill Thursday**, Join Connie McCauley to explore the Ski Hill area, looking at wildflowers, birds, and wildlife. The walk 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- [hillary@cdlandtrust.org](mailto:hillary@cdlandtrust.org)

**Wed. Apr. 18 5:30-7pm WNPS Coyote Dunes Natural Area Wildflower Walk**, Meet at 32<sup>nd</sup> Place Trailhead, Apple Capital Loop Trail, East Wenatchee. We'll walk north along the Loop trail and then use sandy footpaths within the sand dunes. RSVP to walk leader Susan Ballinger [skylinebal@gmail.com](mailto:skylinebal@gmail.com)



**Fri. Apr.27, 10:00 – 2:00 Quincy Area Wildflower Walk.** A chance to explore the spring bloomers at either the Beezley Hills or Babcock Bench. The final location will be decided prior to the trip based on the best blooms. We will explore early blooms in the shallow lithosols mixed in with deep soiled sagebrush biscuits near Quincy. Meet at the East Wenatchee Park and Ride at 10:00am to carpool. We can pick up additional folks at the rest area west of Quincy before heading on to our destination. Access to both sites are on well-maintained gravel roads. Plan on being back to the East Wenatchee Park and Ride

by 2:00pm. To join this trip, contact Molly Boyter at [mboyter@blm.gov](mailto:mboyter@blm.gov) or [509-665-2137](tel:509-665-2137).

### **Apr.27, 10:00 – 2:00 Wildflower and Wind Power Walk 2018 Wild Horse Windfarm, Kittitas County**

Explore the vast array of shrub steppe wildflowers at the Wild Horse Wind Facility. Enjoy the guided wildflower walks, presentations, displays, and wind turbine tours. Wildflower Walks will be offered mid-week, by appointment, April through May. **RSVP**  
**Required: [wildhorse@pse.com](mailto:wildhorse@pse.com)**



## PROGRAMS & FILMS:

**Mon. Apr. 2, 6-7:30pm, [The Buzz About Bees](#), Wenatchee River Institute Barn.** Second of 4 classes by members of the NCW Beekeeper's Association.

**Wed. Apr. 11, 7pm [H2OMG! Making Sense of Water Scarcity in an Insecure World](#)**, by Washington Humanities speaker, Rachel Cardone at Wenatchee River Institute. By donation.

**Tues. April 10, 7pm Wenatchee Valley Erratics Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute Ice Age Megafloods of the Pacific Northwest.** Ice Age megafloods, from at least three different sources, left a dramatic mark on the Pacific Northwest that is clearly visible today. The evidence for dozens of floods from glacial Lakes Missoula and Columbia, as well as Lake Bonneville, will be examined via maps, drone videos and other imagery. Bruce Bjornstad is a licensed geologist/hydrogeologist and author

who specializes in the Ice Age Floods. He recently retired as a Senior Research Scientist at Battelle's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. During his 35-year career he has written numerous documents and reports on the geology of eastern Washington, as well as two geologic guidebooks on Ice Age megafloods. His research, books, and aerial videos may be viewed at his website, [BruceBjornstad.com](http://BruceBjornstad.com). This program is free & open to the public at the Wenatchee Valley Museum.

**Thurs. April 12, 7pm Washington Native Plant Society Wenatchee Chapter, *Plant Conservation in Utah: Lessons for WA*** by Walt Fertig, WA Natural Heritage State Rare Plant Botanist. Program is free & open to the public at the Wenatchee Valley Museum.

**Tues. Apr. 17 7pm Environmental Film & Lecture Series *Leave It to Beavers***. Evening sponsor, Trout Unlimited, will highlight beaver ecology, history, ecosystem services. Suggested donation \$5. Wenatchee Valley Museum.



## FESTIVALS:

May 18-21, [Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest](http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com). Registration opens on April 10. Sign up now to be a volunteer.

May 5-7, Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival - <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/> a terrific way to start learning peeps!

May 12-14, [Yakima River Bird Festival](http://www.yakimabirdfestival.com), in Ellensburg - register now for this new festival!

## LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES

Citizen input is requested as part of local and state government decision-making processes. The Wenatchee Naturalist program is not advocating for any positions, but offering information to support citizen engagement on local natural resources issues.

1. **Wenatchee Outdoors** shares this announcement: <http://wenatcheeoutdoors.org/> It's a critical time for a proposed non-motorized wintertime recreation area in the Stemilt Basin that would provide 5.5 square miles of motor-free terrain for cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, and winter walking. Years of planning have gone into this effort and now public support through emails (submitted to the county between March 30 to April 30) are needed to make this effort a reality. For more information and a map, [see this article](#).

2. **WA Dept. of Ecology** seeks public comment on the proposed Chelan County Shoreline Management Plan. Changes for the current law include reduction of shoreline vegetation buffer widths and "up-grading" parts of Lake Wenatchee, Fish Lake, and Lake Chelan to "urban" designation. Contact Chelan County Planning Dept. to request documents. Wenatchee Naturalist, Jane Zanol ([janezanol@me.com](mailto:janezanol@me.com)), has researched these issues, and can share detailed information, suggested action, & direct how to submit comments. TBA: 1-month comment period



All photos taken by Susan Ballinger on April 16, 2017 at Coyote Dunes Natural Area, Apple Capital Loop Trail. In order: Golden Current (*Ribes aureum*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Large-fruit desert parsley (*Lomatium macrocarpum*), Arrowleaf Balsamorhiza (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), Winged dock (*Rumex venosus*), Gray's lomatium (*Lomatium grayi*).