



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-June 2019

AN INVITATION: Join the NCW EcoChallenge- May 6-19

[NCW EcoChallenge Info and Registration](#)

The 3rd annual [Sustainable Wenatchee EcoChallenge](#) is a free community-wide competition. Participants challenge themselves to try new environmentally-friendly behaviors for two weeks, choosing behaviors (over 100 options) & reporting your progress daily. You will learn how to reduce your carbon footprint & have a chance to win daily individual prizes & cash for the nonprofit agency of your choice. Create your own team, join an existing team, or participate as an individual. This is a great way to earn your 20 hour volunteer pin next November as a Wenatchee Naturalist!

New! Wenatchee Area Field Guide

This new local [field guide](#) is light-weight, waterproof, and will fit into your pocket. Funded by the Wenatchee Naturalist program & available for \$8.95 at Pybus Market Info Desk, the Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce, downtown Arlberg's, and



Wild Birds Unlimited. Includes birds, mammals, insects, herps, trees, shrubs, flowers.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

■ Community Science Project

Become a [Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper](#).

Western monarchs need our help -- now more than ever. The [Xerces Society](#),



in collaboration with other researchers and biologists, is studying the mechanisms behind the critically low western monarch population, how the population fluctuates, and how to respond to the situation effectively. You can help us to build this knowledge by submitting sightings of monarchs (caterpillars, chrysalises, and adults) and milkweed to the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper. You can submit data through the website linked above, or use the [free Monarch SOS iOS app](#).

■ Community Science Project

May-Sept. 6-11am eBird projects at CDLT Horse Lake and Mountain Home. Join Susan Ballinger to conduct bird surveys at Horse Lake Reserve (May 16, Jun 20) and Mountain Home Preserve (May 23, Jun 27). RSVP to Susan's cell: 509.669.7820

■ **Community Science Project**

May-June: Join Susan Ballinger conducting weekday plant monitoring projects in the Wenatchee Foothills and at Mountain Home Preserve for CDLT. Add your name to the group email listL susan@cdlandtrust.org.



Golden current (*Ribes aureum*) is coming into bloom in the Wenatchee Valley this week.

■ **Stewardship**

[Be part of a weed team!](#) Many dates from **May to July**. Timing of weed control treatments depends on stage of plant growth & favorable weather conditions so we keep a flexible schedule. Many projects involve using backpack sprayers & a few rely on mowing with string-trimmers and hand-pulling. Contact Olivia Schilling, CDLT Stewardship & Trails Assistant at olivia@cdlandtrust.org or (509) 667-9708 to get on our Weed Warriors list so you can receive emails on upcoming volunteer opportunities for weed control.

■ **Education**

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

There is so much going on over four days! Writing workshop. Songbird concert. Birders barbeque. Birding by ear. Songbird ecology. Birds and beer. Family activities and the list goes on. While most trips and events require registration and a fee, some events are free and do not require registration. Please visit the festival's website to view the Bird Fest program, for more information and registration. www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.org |

Tuesday May 7 & Thursday May 30, 2-6 pm. [Leavenworth Ski Hill Wildflower Walks.](#)

Join Connie McCauley to look at wildflowers, birds, and wildlife. 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. Co-sponsored by WNPS and CDLT



Susan's late April photo of *Trillium ovatum* at the Ski Hill

Wednesdays, June-Sept. [Plain Valley Adventure Women.](#)

Weekly outings to bring women together to explore nature and connect in a fun non-competitive way. \$160/season; \$20/drop-in.

May- October. The Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) Wenatchee Valley Chapter offers many free local field trips – visit

<https://www.wnps.org/wv-events> to see dates and walk descriptions. RSVP required for walks.

Sun. May 12, 11am [Wildflower and Wind Power Walk: Mother's Day Edition.](#)

Puget Sound Wind Energy's Wind Farm is a fantastic place to see native shrub-steppe wildflowers including the rare hedgehog cactus. RSVP Required: wildhorse@pse.com. Check out the visitor's center and see a 360-degree view of Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, Mt. Hood, & the Columbia Basin. Wildflower walks can be booked mid-week by appointment through May.

CLASSES, FIELD TOURS & WORKSHOPS:

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest - 16 – 19 May 2019

Event Producers: Wenatchee River Institute (WRI) and North Central WA Audubon Society.



May 4, June 1, July 13 all-day Saturday [Geology Bus Tours](#) by Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center. \$40/members; \$45 non-members. Register soon- these fill quickly!

May 15 & June 19 7:30-10am. 3rd Wednesday bird walk at Walla Walla Park and Horan Natural Area. Led by NCWAS [Friends of Horan](#). Meet at the restrooms by the lagoon. No RSVP needed.

May 3 & 12, Spring Saunters, 10am-noon at Leavenworth's Waterfront Park Trail. Join area naturalists from Wenatchee River Institute for a free guided spring tour. Meet at 347 Division St. at 10am - drop-ins welcome.

PROGRAMS & FILMS:

Weds. May 29 7-8:30pm. *History of the Salmon Decline in the Columbia River* with speaker Jason Lundgren, [Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group](#) Ex. Director. By donation. WRI Red Barn Event at Wenatchee River Institute.

Wed. May 8, 8-9pm at Wenatchee Valley Brewing Company. *Science on Tap! Wildfire and Canada Lynx* by Bill Gaines. Chat about how wildfires may be affecting Canada Lynx. Come early to purchase a beverage and raffle tickets. WRI event.

RESOURCES:

Remember to use the [Wenatchee Naturalist](#) website as a quick reference! Helpful pages for spring include:

- [Plants & Plant Communities](#)
- [Wildflowers & Grasses ID](#)
- [Birds](#)
- [Bibliography](#)- find the perfect natural history book for Mother's Day, Father's Day, or Graduation!

Visit Artist & Naturalist Mary Kiesau's [website](#) - *Mountain Kind Natural History and Photography*. You can subscribe to her free e-newsletter and sign up for her workshops and walk, all based in the Methow Valley.

Subscribe to the [Methow Naturalist](#)- a quarterly paper journal and website of natural history in the Methow valley and on the east slope of the North Cascades. \$10/year or more.

Print your own posters and postcards and spread the word about the importance of shrub-steppe habitat <https://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com/roots/>



A singing sage thrasher on top of big sagebrush in Douglas County, late April 2019. Photo: Susan Ballinger



The late spring allowed me to see sagebrush violets (*Viola trinervata*) still blooming in late April in Douglas County.