



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.



January-February 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January is always the time for new beginnings and ideas. Read on for activities that offer fresh opportunities in community settings joined by other conservation-minded people.

Meet the newest Wenatchee Naturalists by viewing this slideshow featuring each person's class project [here](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

■ Community Science Project

Feb. 14-17 [Great Backyard Bird Count](#)

Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days in as many places as you'd like. Scientists use the information to get the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations. Free.



■ Outdoor Education

Traveling Naturalists in the Classroom – Join WRI educators in Wenatchee School District 4th grade classrooms for 45-60 min. or for a full, 4-hour day. Assist with lessons in the classroom and on the school grounds focused on being a naturalist and scientist. Visits to Mission View, Columbia, and Lincoln elementary schools in

Wenatchee occur once a month. Contact: Naomi Liebhold, nliebhold@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org, 509-548-0181 x6.

■ Outdoor Education

Youth Field Days at WRI – Get 3rd-5th graders excited about nature during these school field trips at WRI's campus in Leavenworth. Assist WRI educators or lead small groups of students if you're comfortable after a training. Join in the fun for 3.5 hours or for a full 6.5 hour day. Contact: Will Crowley, 509-548-0181 x3 wcrowley@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

■ Community Science Project

Jan. 15-Feb. 15. Sign up for [National Audubon's Climate Watch](#) to survey bluebirds, nuthatches, goldfinches, and towhees. Participants read the [survey manual](#) and use a free app to submit data (paper forms also accepted).

■ Advocacy

Thurs. Jan. 23, 7-8:30pm. Join the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center at a [Community Listening Session](#). These fun, interactive discussions allow the public to express their individual and group opinions about the museum and how it could change to become a better place for the enjoyment of all residents. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be available. Other dates include Jan. 22, 23, 29, and 30.

SNOWSHOE OUTINGS

Saturdays in January & February (1-3pm)

Lake Wenatchee State Park Guided Snowshoe Hike. Park staff guide on snowshoe along the Wenatchee River, the shore of Lake Wenatchee, and surrounding forest. Meet at the North Entrance, 4.5 miles from Hwy 2 on Hwy 207. 2-mile loop route. Free. Need a valid Sno-Park permit for parking (can purchase on site).

Thursdays in January & February (10am-noon). [Snowshoe strolls at Wenatchee River Institute](#)

Join area naturalist guides for a snowshoe stroll along the Waterfront Park Trail in Leavenworth. All ages welcome! Snowshoes provided. Drop-ins welcome. Reservations appreciated and required for groups of 8+, call (509-548-0181 x5). Free.

Fridays (1-3pm) & Saturdays (10-noon) in January. Snowshoe Tours at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. Join area naturalist guides on a one-mile snowshoe trail along beautiful Icicle Creek, learning about native wildlife and ecology along the way. All skill levels are welcome, with snowshoes, gaiters and poles provided at 2790 Fish Hatchery Road. Cost is \$12 per person. [Register](#). Contact: Katie Churchill 509-548-0181 ext. 3.

Saturdays, Jan. 25 and Feb. 1 (10-noon).

Guided Snowshoe Hikes for Families at Squilchuck State Park. [Register](#). We'll learn the basics of walking with snowshoes, then go on an easy snowshoe walk, stop and read a snow-themed book, learn about winter animals, & enjoy hot chocolate back at our cars. Adults: \$8.00/\$8.50 (City of Wenatchee resident/non-resident) Children: 12 & under \$5.25/\$6.00. Snowshoes are provided by the City of Wenatchee. Kids ages 6 & up. Bring water and snacks, dress warmly and wear sturdy, waterproof shoes. 1.5 - 2 hrs. total. This program is offered in partnership between CDLT and the City of Wenatchee.

Friday Jan. 24 (5-7:30pm) [Planetarium & Moonlight Snowshoe Stroll Extravaganza](#). Meet by 5pm at WRI's Red Barn, 347 Division St. in Leavenworth and prepare for cold, nighttime

temperatures. The planetarium experience and snowshoe stroll will end by 7:30pm with hot cocoa at the ready as a warm up. Snowshoes provided. Cost is \$22 for WRI-members and \$28 for non-members. For more information, contact Rachel Bishop at 509.548.0181 x5 rbishop@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

BIRDING OUTINGS

Weds., Jan. 15 & Feb. 19 (7:30-10:00am) 3rd Wednesday Bird Walks with [North Central WA Audubon Society's Friends of Horan](#). Meet at Walla Walla Park Swimming lagoon to walk trails in the park and in the Horan Natural Area and see birds. No RVSP. Free

Sat. Feb. 8 (8am-5pm) [NCWAS](#) Birding Field Trip to the Waterville Plateau, Bridgeport Bar, and Columbia River. Spend the day birding a variety of habitats where we expect to find a nice mix of resident and migrant species that winter in our area. Please bring a lunch, snacks, liquids, and dress for the weather. Carpool cost: \$25 per vehicle to be shared equally by riders. Limited to 11 birders. To sign up, email Mark at s697striata@frontier.com or 253-297-0705.



WORKSHOPS

Fri. & Sat. Jan. 24, 25, 31, & Feb. 1. Kari Bown's 2020 Willow Gathering Basket Class The [Methow Valley Interpretive Center](#) is excited to announce this series of four classes. You will make a willow gathering basket and learn all aspects of basketry including how to sustainably and ethically gather materials. For questions, accommodations or to register contact Kari Bown- 509.997.1345, karianderic@hotmail.com.

[Register now](#) for **Apr. 17-19 Healing Arts in Nature: Yoga, Birding, and Nature Art Retreat** at Sleeping Lady Mountain Retreat with artist Heather Murphy and yoga teacher, Joanna Dunn.

TALKS, PROGRAMS & FILMS:

Tues. Jan. 14, 7-8:30pm. Talk, *Nature's Secret Pantry: Wild Foods of Spring* with award-winning author and culinary adventurer Langdon Cook. [Red Barn Events](#) at Wenatchee River Institute, by donation.

Tues. Jan. 14, 7-9pm. Double feature films:
1. *Protected: A Wild and Scenic River Portrait* follows river paddler, author, and conservationist Tim Palmer through the enchanting waters of Oregon's Wild Rivers Coast, which has the highest concentration of National Wild & Scenic Rivers in the US.
2. *The Passage* by filmmaker Nate Dappen chronicles parallel canoe trips up the Inside Passage, the first one his parents completed in 1974, and the second they completed as a family in 2017. [Wenatchee Valley Museum's Environmental Film & Speaker Series](#). By donation.

Thurs. Jan. 23 6:30-8:30pm Film and Q&A, *United By Water* film follows the first tribal canoe journey and gathering at Kettle Falls since the Ceremony of Tears in 1943. Narrated by famed author Sherman Alexie, it documents this inspiring journey in 2016. There will be a Q & A with John Sirois of Upper Columbia United Tribes and other Wenatchi tribal members following the movie showing. [Red Barn Events](#) at Wenatchee River Institute, by donation.

Tues. Jan 28, 7-9:00pm, *The Eagle Huntress* documentary film is about a Kazakh nomad girl in Mongolia who is fighting to become the first female eagle hunter in twelve generations of her family. By donation. Part of the [Wenatchee Valley Museum Environmental Film & Speaker Series](#).

Weds. Feb. 12, 7-8:30pm *2019 Hood River Arctic Adventure* discussion & slide show. Locals Gordon Congdon, Paul Hessburg, Gary

Womeldorff, and Andy Dappen spent 23 days canoeing the Hood River, an Arctic river flowing northeasterly from the lakes of Nunavut (northern Canada) to the Arctic Sound. [Red Barn Events](#) at Wenatchee River Institute, by donation.



RESOURCES featuring Ponderosa Pine

[Read how to successfully compost ponderosa pine needles](#), turning them into garden-ready, pH-neutral compost. Research conducted by WSU extension scientists.

Read the [Awkward Botany](#) blog posts, [Pine Cones Are Like Hangers for Pine Tree Seeds](#) and [Pine Cones and the Fibonacci Sequence](#). Read the cautionary tale about [why NOT to make pine needle tea](#) out of our Pacific NW native conifers, especially Ponderosa!

A few more pine-y links to explore:

- Dyck Arboretum: [Pine Cone Botany for Beginners](#)
- Arboretum de Villardebelle: [Pine Cones](#)
- Audubon: [The Clark's Nutcracker and Its Obsessive Seed Hoarding](#)
- All About Birds: [How Clark's Nutcrackers Find Buried Seeds Under A Blanket Of Snow](#)
- Scientific Reports: [Journey of water in pine cones](#)