



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.



Fall 2020

A NOTE FROM SUSAN:

As we continue to weather the pandemic, I am emerging from a six months hiatus with this fall e-News. We all have a new awareness of how much we depend upon each other as collaborators and team-mates to collectively strive to make our world a better place. During this stay-at-home time, we can encourage one another to deepen our connections with nature by observation, study, and learning. I hope you'll find something of interest in this e-News that will provide joyful substance for your mind and body!

I invite you to check out my own Coronavirus [Curious About Blog series](#) that features plants and animals that thrive in habitats adjacent to our Wenatchee watershed homes, with 31 articles posted to date! Don't forget to use the [Wenatchee Naturalist](#) website as a go-to source for local natural history. The next in-person 50-hour Wenatchee Naturalist course is tentatively set to start in spring, 2021.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

■ Community Science Project (from inside your vehicle)

Become a winter raptor survey project volunteer, completing a monthly driving route in our area,



Nov.-Feb., to record birds-of-prey. Full project information at <https://www.ecaudubon.org/winter-raptor-survey> Routes are currently available for Othello, Warden, Moses Lake, George, Quincy, Ellensburg, Beverly – Smyrna, Orondo - Waterville – Palisades. Contact Jeff Fleischer at raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com. This is an excellent socially distanced way to volunteer with members of your household, mostly inside your vehicle. Using a camera allows you to consult with local experts to confirm species ID.

■ Stewardship-Socially Distanced

CBFIC has many 1-2 person volunteer projects, including painting the lookout deck, sanding & staining signs, and brushing trails.

Contact Dave Spies for details 509.670.4875 or daves60@aol.com



■ Stewardship-Socially Distanced Become a CDLT Stewardship & Trail Volunteer.

Fall projects include plantings, brushing, and trail work throughout the Wenatchee watershed. Contact CDLT's Olivia Schilling at olivia@cdlandtrust.org to be placed in a group email list. Olivia sends out emails announcing specific dates/times.

■ Stewardship as a Photographer

Oct. 1 is the entry deadline for the 2020 Cascadia Conservation District Calendar photo submission.

Anyone can enter up to 10 photos taken in Chelan County during 2020 https://cascadiacd.org/photo-contest_347.html.

ONLINE CLASSES

Tues. Sept. 29, 6-7:15pm. *The World of Wildlife Tracking*, with Marcus Reynerson. Free. [Register](#) with Wenatchee River Institute.



Thurs. Oct. 1-29, *Introduction to Botany for Plant ID Enthusiasts* Five 2-hour interactive online sessions offered by WNPS Fayla Schwartz. \$95 register at: <https://www.wnps.org/events/workshop-introbot20>.



Cornell Lab of Ornithology Bird Academy. Browse their course catalogue to find a class that fits your interest and level. Classes priced starting at \$29.99 for “Be a Better Birder: Hawk & Raptor ID archived series,” Free Courses include “eBird Essentials,” Visit: <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/course-list/>.



The [Xerces Society](#) offers free webinar series that are posted to their [YouTube channel](#). Playlist Topics include *Gardening for Invertebrates*, *Discover the Insects Around You*, *Gardening for Pollinators*, and *Bumblebees and Community Science*. Their Xerces Classroom series is terrific. I recommend [Xerces Classroom: Freshwater Mussels](#), to learn about native mussels in the Wenatchee watershed.



FREE ONLINE TALKS

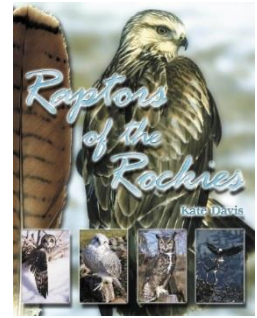
Tues. Sept. 22, 7- 8:30pm [Daniel Mathews: Trees in Trouble](#). Red Barn Event by Wenatchee River Institute. This free event will be streamed on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WenatcheeRiverInstitute/>

CWU Geology professor, Nick Zinter, has launched a new “[Nick from Home Livestream](#),” 28-part series on geology of the North Cascades. Watch at 6pm Weds, and 9am Sundays, or

archived episodes. Watch past episodes about [Icicle Creek Bedrock](#) and many more.

[Raptors of the Rockies.](#)

Meet founder and Director of Raptors of the Rockies, Kate Davis. She introduces 3 live imprinted birds and shares photos and stories from her 32 years of experience in raptor ecology. This is one of many programs of the [Swan Valley Connections](#). Explore their [wildlife videos](#), prepared from remote wildlife camera footage for their rare carnivore monitoring project.



Geared for Master Naturalists, explore the [Swan Valley Almanac series](#), short films including [Episode 8: Herpetology](#) and episodes about ravens, dippers, butterflies, western larch and more. There are many parallels between Montana’s Swan Valley and the Wenatchee watershed.



Watch archived talks offered by the Methow Valley Interpretive Center. Their [August Last Sunday series](#) featured native film-maker, Derrick Lamere on his film, “United by Water.” Ex. Director, David LaFever, is doing a series “Notes from the Center” featuring important cultural plants. Watch “[Time of Chokecherry](#)” and “[Saskatoon](#)” to learn about 4 important berry foods and ethical gathering.

[Seward Park Audubon](#) in Seattle offers a free speaker’s series with past events featured on [Presentation Rewind](#). On Oct. 15, register to watch Thor Hanson talk about his book *Buzz*.

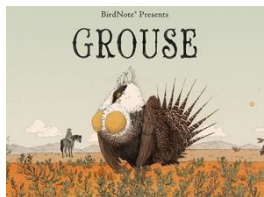


[Camas Meadow with Randy Lewis](#), a P’Squosa/Wenatchi Colville Tribal member, is featured on Nick Zintner “Nick on the Fly” #9.

Washington Native Plant Society offers free [archived Zoom presentations](#). Check out Wenatchee Valley Chapter’s program -[Biocrust based Restoration in WA Sagebrush Communities](#) with Lydia Bailey.

PODCASTS

[Grouse](#) is an eight-part podcast series about sage grouse. It is produced in partnership with BirdNote Presents and distributed in collaboration with Boise State Public Radio.

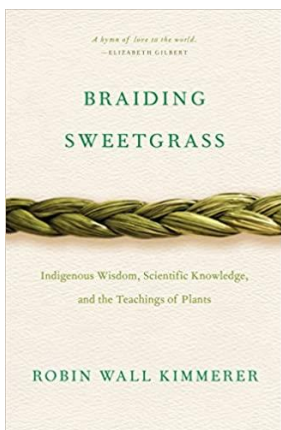


[Nature Centered](#), a new podcast series. *Episode 9: Create a Bird-friendly Habitat* features naturalists John Schaust and Brian Cunningham talking about elements of a bird-friendly habitat.



What I'm reading!

Botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. She brings both lenses of knowledge together with a lyrical writing style.



SHRUB-STEPPE WILDFIRE RESOURCES

I wrote a blog in July about [shrub-steppe wildfire](#), and included a list of resources: Want to learn more about shrub-steppe ecosystems and fire? Check these out!

WILDFIRE OF THE SHRUB-STEPPE

1. Guest Blog post by Ellen Kuhlmann, [Plant Recovery After Fire](#).
2. Article by Susan Ballinger, *Wildfires Effect on Local Landscape*.
3. *Plant Adaptations and Fire* by Ellen Kuhlmann Article from the Doulgasii, Washington Native Plant Society

4. Susan Ballinger Powerpoint: East-side Cascades Shrub-steppe Ecosystems: [Ecological relationships to wildfire](#)
5. [Sagebrush Ecosystem Curriculum](#). View PowerPoint Presentation titles "[Fire and the Sagebrush Ecosystem](#)" and "[Succession in the Sagebrush Ecosystem](#)"
6. Poster: [Sagebrush Ecosystem Web of Life](#)

CONSERVATION ISSUES: INVASIVE WEEDS AND WILDFIRE

1. [Unraveling Sagebrush Community Change to Manage for Resilient Sage Grouse Habitats](#). Sage Grouse Initiative/ Intermountain West Joint Venture. *Excellent discussion & illustrations on succession, root morphology, & the impacts of invasive annual grasses in shrub-steppe plant communities.*
2. [Tackling Invasive Species & Wildfire in the Great Basin](#). U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service & U.S. Bureau of Land Management. 00:05:20.
3. [What About Cheatgrass?](#) Resource Card Background Information, Pacific NW National Laboratory.
4. Short introductory article by Susan Ballinger about shrub-steppe, [We Can Help Keep Nature in Balance](#).
5. [Taking the Pulse of our National Parks: Sagebrush Steppe Vital Signs](#).
6. [Conserve our Western Roots](#)– A powerful graphic poster and postcard.