



Celebrating 2020- Pandemic Style *Wenatchee Naturalist* Volunteer Recognition



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.

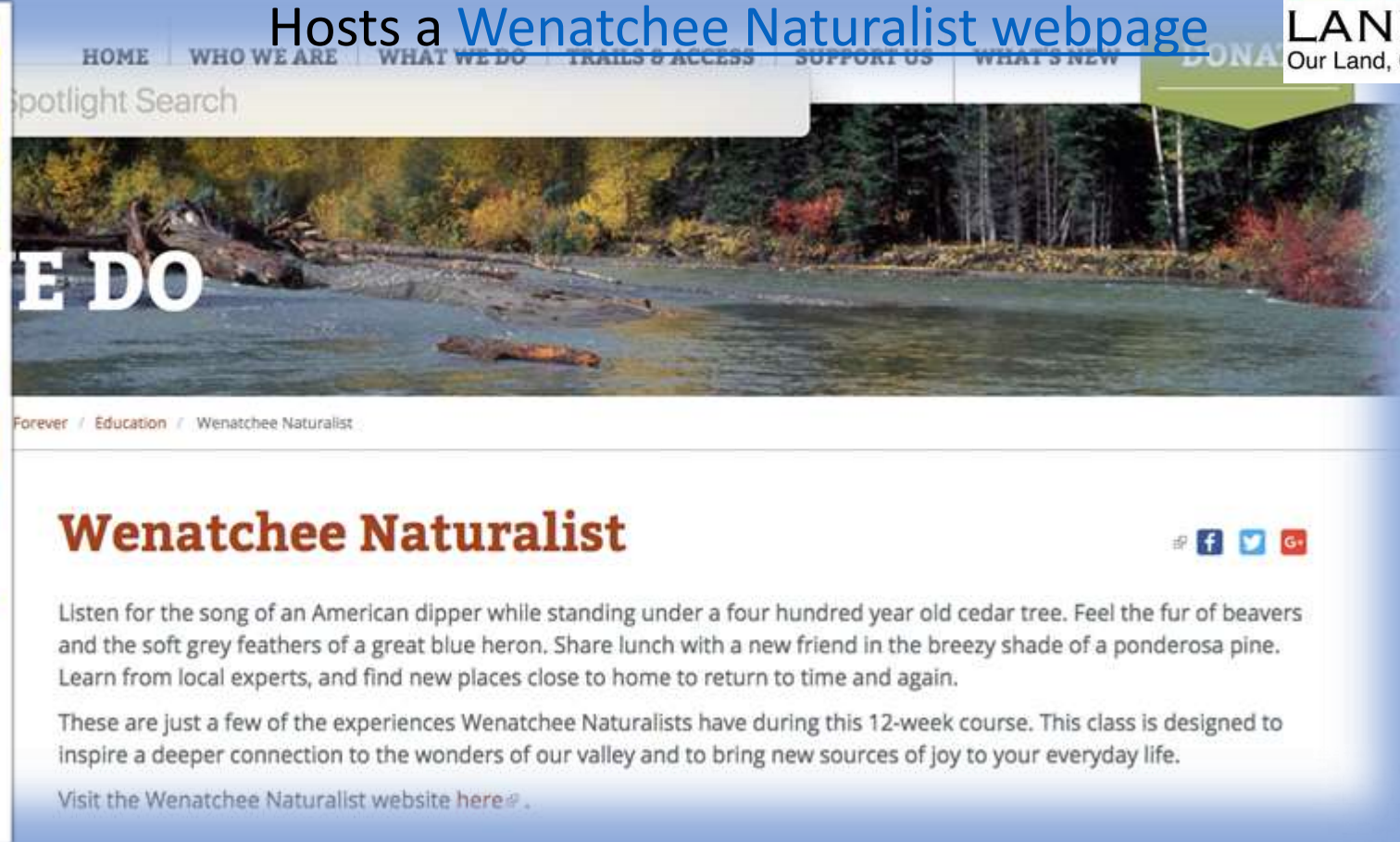


Thank you CDLT for Post-course sponsorship

Distributes the Wenatchee Naturalist eNews



Hosts a [Wenatchee Naturalist webpage](#)



Volunteer Pledge for Conservation

As a Wenatchee Naturalist graduate, I pledge to help foster awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the Wenatchee River region in my community.

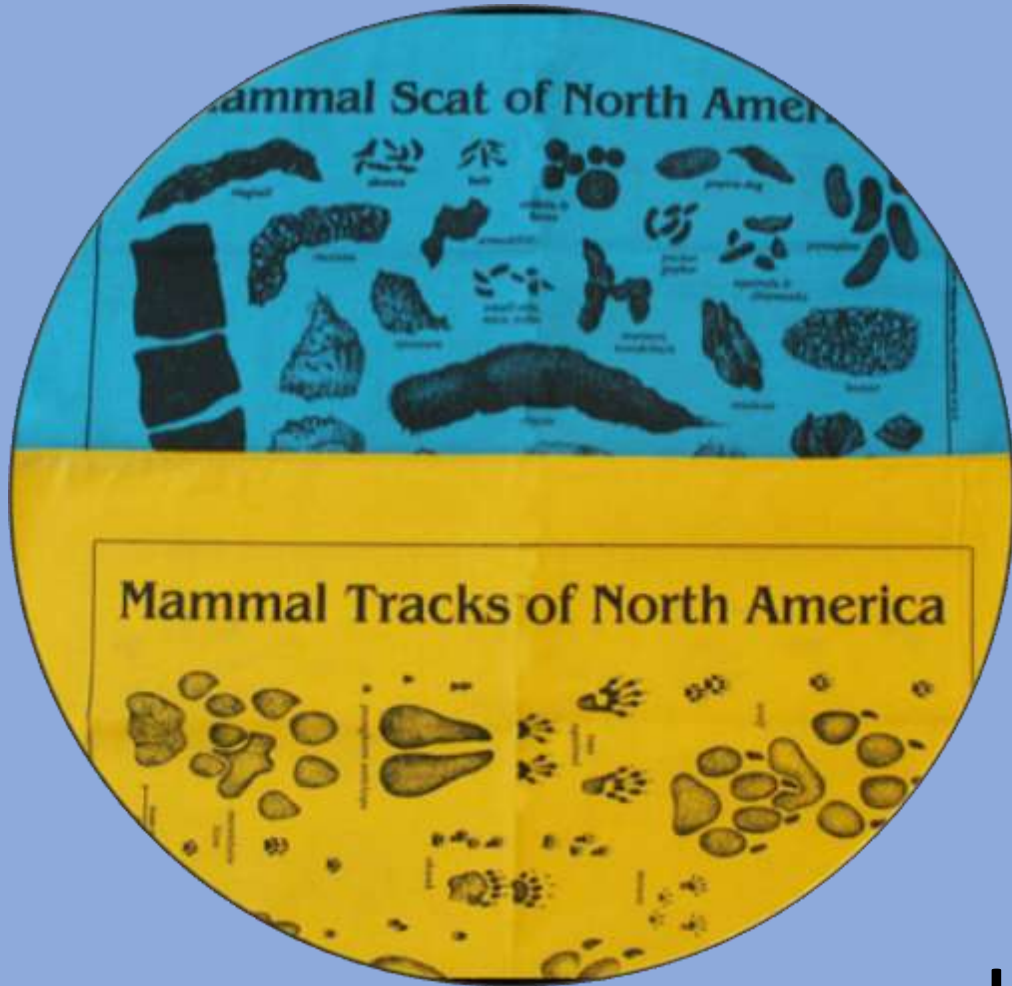
- Each person can choose the type of service that best fits their interests, abilities, and time constraints.
- There are four basic areas of service:
- **Board Service and Stewardship Projects**
- **Education/Interpretive**
- **Community Science Projects**
- **Program Support**



Volunteering is a learning opportunity. It will expand, and awaken new skills and talents that can be invaluable in making our world a better place for all living things. Participate in as many volunteer opportunities as it takes to find your tribe, passion, niche, and purpose.

-Monica Maxwell,
Wenatchee Naturalist

**20+ hours volunteering
for conservation- no time
limit!**



**Within 2 years of course
completion, recognizing
100+ volunteer hours
50+ volunteer hours**

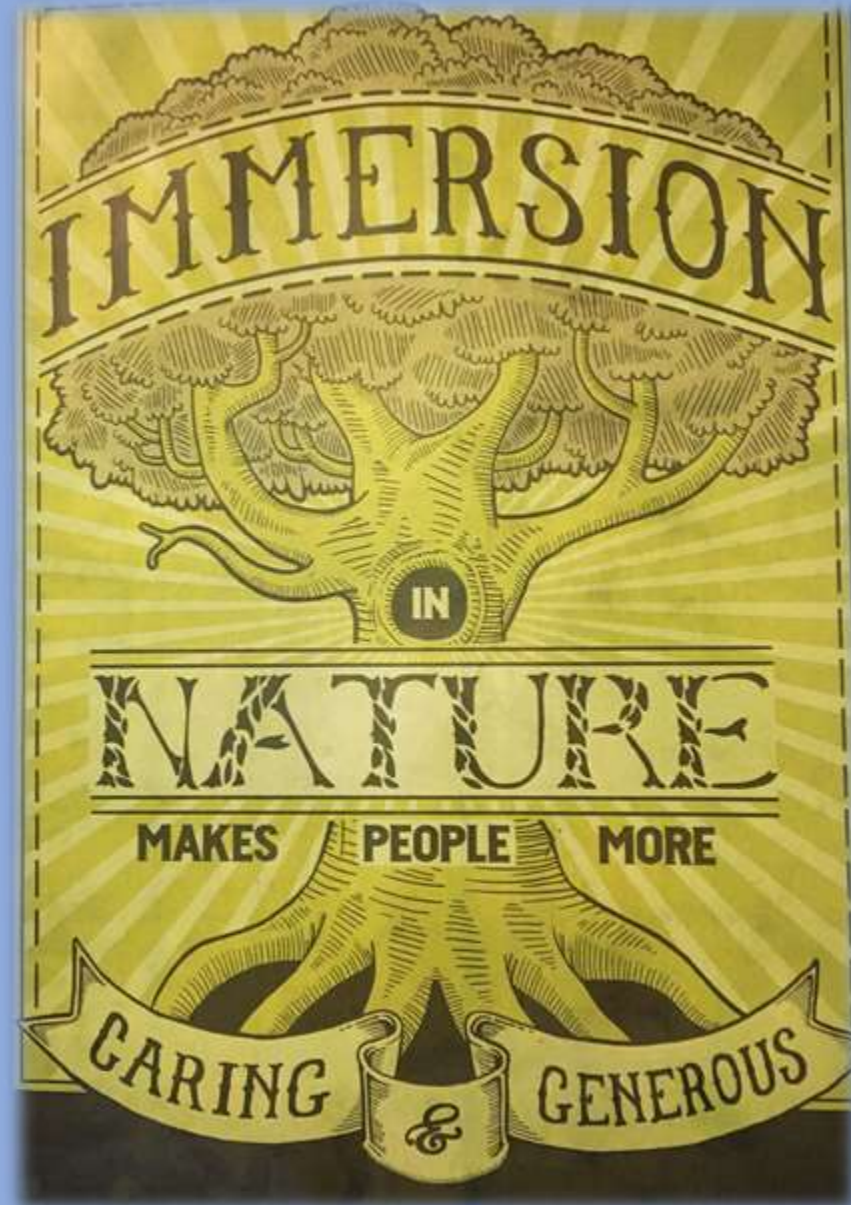


Hours collected annually

Why a Service Pin program?

...It is important to share and celebrate local volunteer stories as inspiration and encouragement to others who then contribute in ways that uniquely fit their own talents, time, and passions...

--Susan Ballinger,
Wenatchee Naturalist founder



Numbers to Celebrate! - 11 classes

207 Total number of Active Wenatchee Naturalists*

48 Teachers (K-college)

65% have earned a 20+ hour service pin (134 people)

17% have also earned a 50+ hour service pin** (35 people)

26% have also earned a 100+ hour service pin**(53 people)

10,879 TOTAL volunteer hours in support of conservation

*Excludes 21 people who have moved away within 2 years of class completion, 3 youth, & 1 deceased

** Volunteer hour tally is kept for two years of course completion.

Class of Fall 2017

Dr. Petra Swidler
is a
Developmental
Pediatrician
at Confluence
Health



Petra Swidler 20+ hours service pin

I work with children and their families that have challenges beyond compare in COVID 19 times. I tell them all the time to get out and enjoy nature's classroom.

I tell my families in COVID 19 times:

It is time to go back to the basics now. Enjoy the company of your loved ones and take them outside to see what beautiful surroundings they live in. Nature can be your best classroom. And then I give them examples on how to do it

- *find the colors of the rainbow by looking at flowers;*
- *count the trees they pass;*
- *make an ABC out of natural materials;*
- *build a shelter out of twigs;*
- *dam a creek with rocks*

Class of Fall 2018



Katja Rowell

20+ hours service pin

Katja, joined by her husband and 15-year old daughter, are community science family volunteers:

Conduct once/month Winter Raptor Survey for the Bend, OR Audubon during 2020/2021. Katja's daughter is the best birder in the family.

Volunteered for the Christmas Bird Count, tallying bald eagles and a golden eagle and counting almost 900 identified birds

Collected big sagebrush seeds at Horse Lake Reserve, part of the CDLT initiative.

Katja says, Feeling like we are giving back to the land that has been vital to our mental health during COVID has been a gift and a joy.



24 people Class # 11 Fall 2019

2 year period post-course ends Dec. 2020-
extended to Nov. 2021 due to Coronavirus
Pandemic

- **20+ Hour Pins awarded to:** Caroline Woolmington, Stu Smith, Dan Wilkerson, Monica Maxwell, Wendy Sharp, Patrick Bodell, Lloyd Thompson, Laura Reichlin
- **20+ Hour Teacher Pins awarded to:** Elisa Lopez, Clare Morrision, Susan Miller, Heidi Hartness
- **100+ Hour Pins awarded to:** Patrick Bodell, Lloyd Thompson, Dan Wilkerson, Laura Reichlin, Wendy Sharp, Monica Maxwell. Stu Smith
- **800 Volunteer hours reported**
- **52% of class members have earned a 20+ Hour pin to date**



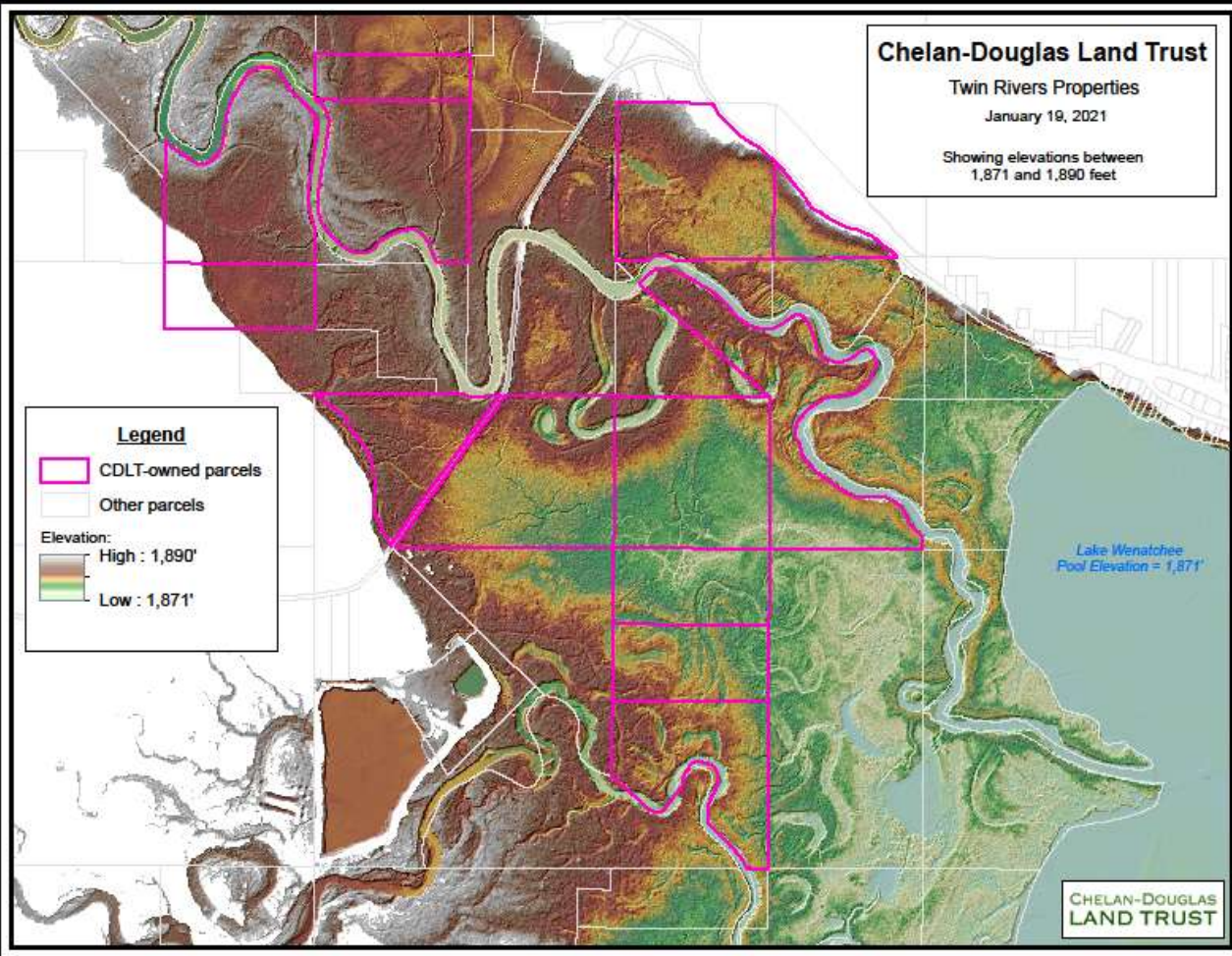
Class of Fall of 2019

Stu Smith

20+, 100+ hours service pin

Stu used his background in computerized mapping to help the Land Trust extend their in-house Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capability.

CDLT can use the public geospatial data that Stu gathered for them to help analyze, monitor, and map the Land Trust's properties.



Stu designed this map for Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. He likes it because it's colorful and shows the interesting terrain hidden beneath the vegetation canopy.

Class of Fall of 2019

During 2020-2021, Caroline and her daughter, Olive, explored below their feet, digging for bugs and planting seeds.

They observed and watered our garden throughout the spring, and enjoyed the fruits of their labors come summer.

They enjoyed many bird and owl walks, as well as attempted to identify tracks and scat along the trail

Carolyn applied her professional skills to select activities and books to read with Olive

Caroline Woolmington 20+ hours service pin



Class of Fall of 2019

As a bike commuter, Wendy picked up aluminum cans, tire weights, nuts and bolts and all manner of odd small metal pieces during 2020. In December she took 287 lbs. of metal to the recycling facility in East Wenatchee, worth \$19.37.

This saved .449 metric tons of CO2 emissions, when compared to the estimated emissions associated with the manufacturing of virgin aluminum or steel.

This is equivalent to avoiding the carbon emissions from:

1114 miles driven by an avg. passenger vehicle

50.4 gallons of gasoline consumed

495 pounds of coal burned

57263 charges of a smartphone

<https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

Wendy volunteered as a community scientist, entering Bird sightings into eBird



Wendy Sharp 20+, 100+ hours service pin



Susan Miller

20+ hours teacher service pin

Class of Fall 2019

Jan. 15-17, 2020

Susan served as a teacher & chaperone at Outdoor Winter STEM Camp at Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp, for 5th graders from Lincoln Elementary School in Wenatchee.

Susan led snowshoe hikes, explored animal tracks & signs, helped build snow forts, & taught about the night sky, Greek myths, and constellations.

She stayed with 6 students in a cabin, making sure every student had a fun adventure.

Susan is an Intervention Specialist for Wenatchee School District.



Class of Fall 2019

Monica Maxwell here with my adventure partners Ahsoka and Tarkin.

Naturalists know all things are connected so building partnerships with other like-minded people and organizations is essential, as well as uplifting and FUN.



Monica Maxwell 20+, 100+ hours service pin

I'm a volunteer board member, social media & website administrator for North Central Washington Audubon Society. *Like, follow, join, and share.* Facebook: North Central Washington Audubon Society Instagram: @NCWAUDUBON Web: <https://ncwaudubon.org/>

My goal is to inspire others with my curiosity, passion, and excitement by sharing educational and interesting facts about birds and conservation.

Class of Fall 2019



Lloyd Thompson

20+, 100+ hours service pin

During 2020, I had the chance to “teach” my two granddaughters for remote school and do lots of trips. We have explored, collected, and observed nature. Trips often were delayed by scat or dead animals along the way as we tried to identify the animal as well as its diet or how it died. Geology was included as we talked about how the area was formed while gathering and identifying various types of rocks which we found. We took the time to look, listen and think as we explored and had a blast just experiencing nature.

Lloyd is a community science volunteer, exploring new regional routes for the Bend, OR Audubon Winter Raptor Survey. *For hours, my oldest granddaughter and I drive and look for raptors... Our favorite route is through Baird Springs with only a few paved miles on the 65 mile route we often see only a few cars during our four hour plus trip.*



Sowing big sagebrush seeds



Class of Fall 2019

Heidi Hartnell

20+ hours teacher service pin

Heidi is a Cashmere School District kindergarten teacher, and she:

- Developed and taught a year-long curricula to connect the students to their local outdoor environment.
- Designed and taught a workshop for educators, introducing resources and methods to use to adjust curricula for outdoor education.



A pre-COVID January 2020 kindergarten activity introducing native mammals

Class of Fall 2019



Dan Wilkerson

20+, 100+ hours service pin

Served as a COVID at-home teacher for 3 granddaughters, using his blueberry farm as an outdoor classroom and summer camp:

- Designed art lessons based on sketching animals and landscapes and held a backyard bee-keeping workshop.
- Held backyard birding-watch lessons and led the making of bird feeder Christmas ornaments
- Helped his daughter, Heidi, assemble grant-funded nature backpacks for children in her Kindergarten classroom.



Class of Fall 2019

I have absolutely loved volunteering with and serving on the board for the Wenatchee River Institute. It has been so fulfilling to be able to use both my new skills AND my skills gained from 20+ years in the business world to help an organization and cause that is so valuable to our region and our planet. Getting to see and experience young people and families seeing and experiencing our natural world brings me so much joy, and I know we are sowing seeds for a lifetime of conservation and care. WRI is truly dedicated to their mission of connecting people, communities and the natural world, and it shows through their world-class programming, enthusiastic and dedicated educators, and their passionate board. I am truly honored to be a part of such an amazing organization and community!

Laura Reichlin

20+, 100+ hours service pin

Serves as a volunteer board member for Wenatchee River Institute, supporting a wide variety of ways:

- Board officer and committee chair
- Endowment Campaign Chair
- Created brochures, flyers, postcard mailers, and slideshows.



Elisa Lopez

20+ hours teacher service pin

Class of Fall 2019



Since completing the Wenatchee Naturalist course I continued to bring natural science education to 4th grade classrooms in NCW. My favorite activity was called Bergmann's Rule. Students learned about heat retention differences between large and small animals. We used cans to act as the animals, hot water as the body heat, felt as the fur, and students tracked heat loss over time outside in the playground during the winter.

Through Team Naturaleza, my team and I provided snowshoeing opportunities for the Hispanic/Latinx community where we focused on winter adaptation strategies of plants and animals. Also a lot of body sledding and fun!

Class of Fall 2019

Patrick Bodell

20+ 100+ hours service pin

Community Science Volunteer for
Project FeederWatch, the Great Backyard Bird Count
and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count

As a NCW Audubon Society member through his store, has given 1000+ bird posters, and 100/Phlox newsletters/month. Does his best to spread the word in-person and via social media to customers about local bird-related events and news as it happens.

Patrick reflects, Bird feeding has brought many people some much needed joy and stress relief; it soothes the soul and provides calm. Birds bring us peace. Bird feeding, and by extension, birding, can help keep what's important in context and front of mind. It teaches patience and we all need more of that right now!



Class of Fall 2019



Clare Morrison

20+ hours teacher service pin

During 2020, Clare served as a bilingual librarian for North Central Regional libraries. Here are a few of her nature-engagement projects:



- Guided the selection of books for the CDLT StoryWalk at the Jacobson Preserve.
- Partnered with CDLT to create a window display of children's books that connect families to nature.
- Served on the steering committee for Team Naturaleza.



Wenatchee Naturalist Inspirational Story of the Year

Voluntary 2020 Board Service in support of Conservation

Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center:	Chris Mallon, Dave Spies
Wenatchee River Institute:	Laura Reichlin, Gro Buer, Annette Jouard
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust:	Suzanne Hartman, Jack Mynatt, Bruce Williams
North Central WA Audubon Society:	Richard Scranton, Monica Maxwell, Mark Oswood.
Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest Committee:	Jane Zanol, Richard Scanton
Team Naturaleza Steering Committee:	Clare Morrison, Marjorie Ludwick, Hillary Clark
Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center:	Barbara Brink
Icicle Center for the Arts:	Sandra Phenning
Sustainable Wenatchee:	Elisa Lopez, Betsy Dudash
Erratics Chapter, Ice Age Floods Institute:	Brent Cunderla
Wenatchee Outdoors:	Ariana Jones, Pete Tiegen
Local Chapter, Washington Native Plant Society:	Casey Leigh, Susan Ballinger
Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club:	Patricia Fitzgerald
Youth on the Columbia Program:	Penny Tobiska

Featured Community Science Project: Winter Raptor Survey

Project Summary:

In an effort to get a better understanding of the biology of wintering birds of prey throughout Oregon, Idaho, Washington, the California portion of Oregon's Klamath Basin, and the northeast corner of Utah, the East Cascades Audubon Society located in Bend, OR sponsors an extensive survey project designed to reveal population levels, distribution, and densities for raptor species that choose to winter in the project area.

There are over 300 primary volunteers that have surveyed 451 routes this winter throughout the project area encompassing more than 27,000 miles of survey transects. Volunteers in this large citizen science project conduct surveys during November through March under the guidance of a Project Coordinator who assists with volunteers needs as well as receives all data collected on the surveys.

Monthly summary charts that display survey results are prepared and distributed to all project participants and also installed on the ECAS website (ecaudubon.org). Additional charts and files, also on the website, are produced after the survey season that display data in various ways. Also on the website is a link to an extensive power point presentation complete with audio tracks that provides information about the project including charts, species density and distribution maps, and hundreds of high quality photos that help identify all 31 species that have been found on our surveys.

2020 Wenatchee Naturalist volunteers:

Lloyd Thompson

Marilyn Sherling

Amanda Sherling

Katja Rowell

Richard Scranton

Susan Ballinger

Jane and John Zanol



Want to get involved for 2021?

Contact Coordinator:

Jeff Fletcher

raptorrunner97321@yahoo.com

Thank you to all Wenatchee Naturalists engaged in Conservation Volunteerism

I look forward to a future in-person gathering where we can celebrate both 2020 and 2021 volunteerism for conservation. Together we are making our watershed and our world a better place for the future.

- Susan Ballinger

