



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.



**April- May 2021**

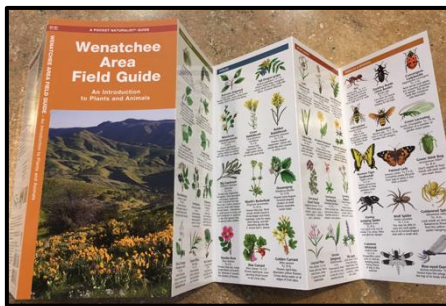
## A NOTE FROM SUSAN

Spring has arrived and the serviceberry shrubs are in full bloom in our valleys. I invite you read my [blogs](#), including my recent piece about the [Hummingbird Highway](#). All during the Pandemic, I've been writing "Curious About" posts to connect readers to nature just outside our doors, including blogs about [Yellow Bells](#), [Serviceberry](#), or [Osprey](#).



## Wenatchee Area Field Guide

This [field guide](#) makes a perfect gift for upcoming spring holidays. It is light-weight, waterproof, and will fit into your pocket. Funded by the Wenatchee Naturalist program, it is available for \$8.95 at the [Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce](#), [Wild Birds Unlimited](#), and [A Book For All Seasons](#) in Leavenworth.



## 2021 FESTIVALS

**Apr. 22-25**, All Virtual [Harney County Migratory Bird Festival](#), Burns OR. Print your own birding map for Harney County, attend 1-10 live ZOOM talks, watch the keynote talk by [Kenn Kaufman](#), or solve a live mystery using clues and a map.

**Apr. 24-30** *Do-It-Yourself*, [Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival](#) Virtual 2021, Hoquiam, WA. Check out resources including tide tables, self-guided routes, and family activities. Shorebirds are in the area from Early April through Late May, you should be able to see shorebirds eating and resting throughout Grays Harbor. *Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge is open Sunrise to Sunset, 7 Days a week*, and we invite you to enjoy a year-round trail.

**May 13-16**, Hybrid 19<sup>th</sup> Annual [Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest](#).



Registration opens April 8. Free events include a Thursday evening virtual reptile talk, self-guided Fish Hatchery walking tour, virtual workshops, and small-group in person field trips. The virtual keynote speaker, [Dennis Paulson](#), will talk about bird adaptations.



## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Sat. Apr. 17 (10am - 2pm) [Sustainable Wenatchee](#)'s 4th annual Earth Day Fair celebrating the 51st anniversary of Earth Day! Enjoy educational booths, take-home activities for kids, and shop local, eco-friendly goods. Check out a Link bus, several models of electric vehicles, and bring your pup to visit the Earthwise Pet van! This FREE event is located in the west parking lot of Pybus Public Market. All-outdoors, socially-distanced, and masks required. We urge those interested in our Earth Day Fair to stay home if they aren't feeling well. This event is approved by the Chelan Douglas Health District and will follow all precautions.

## 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](#).



Showy milkweed at Coyote Dunes

### ■ Community Science Project

**May 5 & Jun 2** eBird CDLT Mountain Home. Join Susan Ballinger Mountain Home Preserve RSVP to Susan's cell: 509.669.7820

### ■ Stewardship

Be part of a CDLT weed warrior team! Weekday dates for 2-hour, small groups to hand-pull weeds at CDLT's Lower Sleepy Hollow from **May to June**. Timing of weed control treatments depends on stage of plant growth & favorable weather conditions so we keep a flexible schedule. Email Susan ([susan@cdlandtrust.org](mailto:susan@cdlandtrust.org)) so you register for an upcoming volunteer work party.

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

**Apr. 27, 7pm.** *Heather Ecology and Restoration Efforts with Kelly Baraibar*, USFS Biologist. Hear about efforts along the North Cascades Highway to restore subalpine habitats. Free [Register here](#) for the Wenatchee Valley Chapter, Washington Native Plant Society program.



[Celebrate Native Plant Appreciation Month](#) by attending the featured keynote speaker, [Doug Tallamy's talk, A Guide to Restoring the Little Things that Run The World](#). Live on Apr. 10 at 10am (Talk will be archived and available to watch later).

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

**Tues. Apr. 27 7pm** [Wenatchee Valley Museum Environmental Fire Series- Promised Land](#), register now, by donation. *Promised Land* is an award-winning social justice documentary that follows two tribes in the Pacific Northwest: the Duwamish and the Chinook, as they fight for the restoration of treaty rights they've long been denied. In following their story, the film examines a larger problem in the way that the government and society still looks at tribal sovereignty.

**Thurs. Apr. 15, 6:30pm.** [A Night of Storytelling: Discovery in Nature.](#) Wenatchee River Institute will feature 8 local story-tellers sharing their own 5-7 minute stories. Free: join by Facebook Live or Zoom.

Watch one of [the Methow Conservancy's Archive of 2021 First Tuesday programs.](#)

| January 5th: Updates from the Cascades Wolverine Project. [Watch this dynamic hour-long presentation here.](#) The [Cascades Wolverine Project](#) is in its fourth year of monitoring wolverines in our North Cascades and engaging the community to study this elusive alpine species. Project co-founder David Moskowitz shares photos, videos and stories from the project's research, including a refresher on wolverine ecology. **November 10th:** [Watch the very insightful discussion from our November First Tuesday with Ashley Ahearn.](#) Ashley shared her thoughts and stories from the creation of her podcast [Grouse](#) -- reflecting on the nature of the rural urban divide, among many important topics.

## FIELD TRIPS

**April-May** The [Washington Native Plant Society \(WNPS\) Wenatchee Valley Chapter](#) offers many in-person free local field trips in small groups for 2021. Read the full [2021 Schedule](#) for details. Offerings includes walks at Leavenworth Ski Hill, Sam Hill, Beebe Springs, Chelan area, and more.

**Apr.-May** Visit the [Puget Sound Wind Energy's Wind Farm](#) near Ellensburg to see native shrub-steppe wildflowers including the rare hedgehog cactus. Check out the 360-degree view of Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, Mt. Hood, & the Columbia

Basin. The visitor's center is closed for 2021, but people are welcome to explore the grounds.



**Apr.-May** [Chelan-Douglas Land Trust](#) is offering small group field trip outings on weekday evenings or early mornings. Check the [website](#) for details.

## 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!



## APRIL IS POETRY MONTH:

Below are some of the most Poetry popular activities from the Challenge. You can revisit weekly blogs to see all 60 options:

From [Week 10](#): Read poems written by Native American poets, including Spokane/Coeur d'Alene tribal member Sherman Alexie on the [Poetry Foundation website](#).

From [Week 9](#): Read Ashia Ajani's piece in the Sierra Club magazine, "[Eight Black American Eco-Poets Who Inspire Us](#)."

**Wenatchee Valley College (WVC)** is offering free public events to celebrate Poetry Month:

WVC's Sustainability Committee Earth Day/Poetry Month Celebration  
**April 22nd (Earth Day!), 1 PM, free and open to the public, [register now](#)**

These two visiting writers are wise and engaging ambassadors of sustainability. [Scott Sanders](#)' essays so beautifully place people and social justice at the heart of sustainability. [Ross Gay](#) is something of a superstar right now. His genius lies in bringing people together through poems that celebrate joy and delight even as he leads efforts at community gardening. Listen to [Krista Tippett's interview with him](#).

[Terrain.org](#) Earth Day/Poetry Month Celebration  
**April 26th, 2021, 6 PM, free and open to the public, [register now](#)**

WVC professor and published poet, [Derek Sheffield](#), will give a reading and talk with [J. Drew Lanham](#) and [Jane Hirshfield](#). Drew Lanham is a wildlife biologist, ornithologist, professor, and author. Jane Hirshfield has been working with world leaders for many years to make sure poetry and science work together to meet the challenge of the climate crisis. It's no accident that she's paired along with another living legend, Jane Goodall, in this episode of [Science Friday](#).

## EXPANSIVE READING

What's on your bedside table? Please share titles you are reading that Wenatchee Naturalists would also enjoy. Here are a few titles I am reading.

