



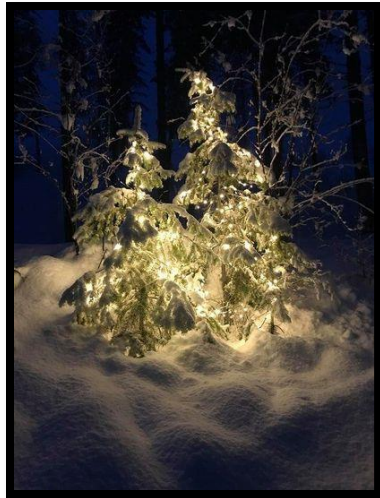
Wenatchee Naturalist's mission is to cultivate awareness, understanding, and stewardship of the Wenatchee River region by developing an active corps of well-informed community volunteers.



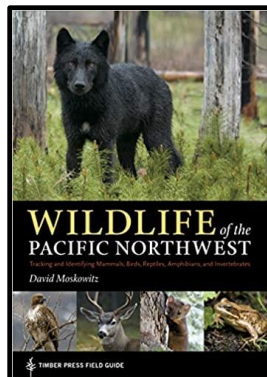
Solstice 2021

A NOTE FROM SUSAN

Winter greetings as we experience the darkest time of year. During this season of cold, I invite you to explore indoor options for experiencing all that the Wenatchee Watershed has to offer. I've prepared this Solstice edition with enticing ways to enlighten and deepen your personal connection with our winter wonderland.



Winter is a good time to puzzle over animal tracks seen in snow. Tracking resources include my trio of blog posts about [tracking dogs and cats, rabbits and squirrels](#), and a finale [one-act tracking tale](#). The Timber Press field guide pictured is my go-to choice for learning our region's wildlife tracks. Website resources include [The Methow Naturalist](#)



printable [mammal tracks guide](#) and a host of other [resources](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Community Science Project

Dec. 21st – [North Central Washington Audubon Society](#) is

launching a community-science project to formally document hummingbirds on Solstices and Equinoxes. Residents who maintain a heated hummingbird feeder are invited to register to conduct a 1-hour protocol. Read more about this project on the Wenatchee Naturalist [blog](#).



FIELD TRIPS

First Wednesday Bird Walks [North Central Washington Audubon Society](#) in-person field trips, [Monthly walks at Horan Natural Area](#) are

on the first Wednesday of the month, from 7:30-10 am. Free. Stay as long as works for you.



FIELD TRIPS

January – February Guided Saturday Snowshoe Strolls at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery (\$15/adult) led by [Wenatchee River Institute](#) naturalist guides. See Calendar with links to register [here](#).

January – February Snowshoe Stroll at Wenatchee River Institute, Thursdays, 10:00 am - Noon, led by a knowledgeable naturalist. See Calendar with links to register [here](#).

MOVIE NIGHTS

YouTube video series *Wildlife Wednesdays*- over 50 short (3-8 minutes) and lively films– bats, to weasels, to nature journaling to serotinous cones. Applies to Pacific Northwest; produced by Montana Dept. of Wildlife and Parks.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0wlcM9ZecPJkU7KXimfbsdyRDHPi3ifk>

This Land is Part of Us: Washington's Shrub-steppe Ecosystem (11 minutes)

<https://youtu.be/NfhM9vLQD-0>

Sagebrush County: Backbone of the West by Vimeo for Audubon Rockies (3 minute)

<https://vimeo.com/audubonrockies>

Sage-Grouse Explained by Vox for Audubon Rockies (6.5 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6BzZcKyJiI>

Why Bears? Features all worldwide bear species in a short video by ecologist and conservationist, Chris Morgan. <http://whybears.org/film>



Black bear eating whitebark pine cone, Lake Caroline, September, 2021. Photo: Susan Ballinger

Colville Confederated Tribes Dept. of History/Archaeology videos:

Film: False Promises: The Lost Land of the Wenatchi. (57 minutes).

<https://www.cct-hsy.com/wenatchi-indians/>

Legends and Landscapes: Coyote Stories Along the Columbia. (23 minutes).

<https://www.cct-hsy.com/coyote-stories-along-the-columbia>

Everything Change: Recollections of Ida Nason. (28 minutes)

<https://www.cct-hsy.com/everything-changes>

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

An Introduction to Lichens, Wed., Feb. 23rd, 6:30 – 8:00 pm (Pay what you can) at Wenatchee River Institute. Register [here](#).

Looking to connect with others for outdoor learning? I am offering three all-outside short classes through [Wenatchee Valley College Continuing Education](#). *Introduction to Conifers* (Jan. 18 & 20), *Winter Waterbirds* (Feb. 1, 8 & 15), *Beginning Birding* (Mar. 8, 15 & 22).

POETRY

The Poetry Foundation website offers a lovely [Collection of Winter Poems](#), including this:

Winter Trees

BY WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS

All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are
completed!
A liquid moon
moves gently
among
the long branches.
Thus having
prepared their
buds
against a sure
winter
the wise trees
stand sleeping in
the cold.

