

Visit with Raptors: September 15, 2018

Ninth Annual HawkFest

Join the Chelan/Entiat Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society and Hawkwatch International this fall for the ninth annual HawkFest! This free family event combines fun activities in Pateros with a field trip to the Wells Wildlife Area, and morning and afternoon carpool trips to the Chelan Ridge Hawkwatch site. This all starts at Memorial Park in Pateros, Washington on September 15th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chelan Ridge sits 5675 feet above sea level along the flyway of migrating raptors. Biologists who live at the Ridge during the migration season will offer insight into what it is like to live and breathe raptors and show how the birds are banded and tracked. This amazing experience includes environmental education and interpretation conducted by on-site educators, Forest Service personnel, and volunteers. During the day, there will be four carpool trips from Pateros to Chelan Ridge. From there you can hike $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the observation deck watching the sky for migrating raptors overhead. Visitors will then get a close encounter with raptors such as Cooper's Hawk as they are banded and released.

HawkFest is scheduled to coincide with the peak of southbound migration of raptors at Chelan Ridge — the best place in Washington to view fall migrating raptors. Past festivals have brought several hundred people to see hawks up close, enjoy Memorial Park, and spend the day learning all about raptors. So please join us for the 2018 festival!

In Pateros, there will be fun for all ages. We will have a number of booths featuring live birds, optics, birdhouses, and interactive games for children.

We also plan to have 2 workshops on raptor natural history: Thursday night, September 13th, in Chelan; and Friday night, September 14th, in Pateros. Both will take place between 7 and 9 pm.

Sign up for Events Here:

To sign up for the Thursday/Friday night workshop, the Wells Wildlife Area field trip and the Chelan Ridge carpool trip, [please contact Richard Scranton at rscran4350@yahoo.com](mailto:rscran4350@yahoo.com).

Carpooling up to the ridge:

The carpools will leave from Memorial Park on 4 separate times: 8 AM, 10 AM, Noon and 2 PM. We will limit the number of participants to 15 for each trip. When signing up, please specify which hour you would like to go up to the ridge.

We need volunteer drivers. Please let us know if you can drive and how many extra people you can take in your vehicle. The road can be bumpy and all-wheel-drive is recommended.

Field trip to Wells Wildlife Area:

The Wells Wildlife Area field trip will be led by Audubon board member Virginia Palumbo and local expert birder Meredith Spencer. The area provides habitat for a variety of waterfowl. The Department of Fish and Wildlife developed extensive riparian habitat on the unit providing dense cover for wildlife.

The field trip goes from 8 AM to 11:30 AM. You can go on this trip and still sign up for the 12 PM or 2 PM trip to the ridge.

Please arrive ½ hour early for the Wells Wildlife field trip and the carpool up to Chelan Ridge. The departure point for both will be at Memorial Park in Pateros, behind the bakery at the large shelter.

Workshop with Dave Oleyar from Hawkwatch International:

Dave comes to HWI after teaching upper level undergraduate courses in population ecology and conservation biology in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Science at the University of Idaho. He loves sharing his passion for ecology and conservation with others whether it is in the classroom, at a public talk or seminar, on a walk in the field, or over a pint at the local watering hole. His workshop will be about all things raptors but may drift to other natural history topics including bats and owls.

Please be clear which workshop(s) you wish to sign up for: Thursday evening in Chelan +/-or Friday evening in Pateros.

We will post precise locations for these workshops soon.