



Hiking, Birding, and Books with Alan Bauer March 16th at the Museum

Volume 44 #6 March 2011

Article and photos provided
by Alan L. Bauer

Join professional photographer Alan L. Bauer for an evening of sharing his favorite adventures, photographs, outdoors locations, and laughs experienced while working on his most recent five hiking guidebooks published by The Mountaineers Books. Hiking thousands of miles in almost all corners of Washington State over the past eight years certainly offered Alan his share of magnificent bird, wildlife, and landscape photography opportunities in areas ranging from the shrub steppe of the Columbia Basin all the way

up to the tundra-like alpine settings of the high Cascades. Maybe it is the images taken while waiting a hour for a Blue Grouse to waltz his way, or the Badger who played peek-a-boo with him, or perhaps a stellar sunset over a mountain lake; there is a special story waiting to entertain you and hopefully educate you to better enjoy your own outdoor experiences in the year ahead! Through his photographic-intensive presentation Alan will share his favorite hiking destinations, wildlife stories, birding photographic opportunities, and silly mishaps from areas covered in *Best Desert Hikes-Washington* as well as core regions of the Cascades easily reached in his latest titles *Day Hiking-Central Cascades*, *Day Hiking-Snoqualmie Region*, *Day Hiking-Mount Rainier*, and *Day Hiking-South Cascades*, all published as part of the new Day Hiking series by The Mountaineers Books. These book titles will be available from Alan at a discounted price.

Alan's love for the outdoors was developed during his youth growing up on a large farm in Oregon and he has called Washington his home for the past 23 years. He has published six books with The Mountaineers Books during the last eight years and his photographic work has been

used in other titles. Alan's photos have appeared publications such as

On March 16, NCW Audubon Society presents Alan Bauer, author and photographer with a photo-filled presentation on hiking and wildlife watching around the state. The program will be at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center at 7:00 p.m. with the doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Join us afterward for refreshments and stimulating conversation and book sales at discounted prices!



Townsend's Warbler in an alpine larch
(*Larix lyallii*)

Backpacker,
Outdoors
Northwest,
CityDog,
Oregon
Coast, and
Northwest
Travel
magazines
among
many
others.
Feel free to
visit Alan's
website at www.alanbauer.com for
more information.





Daniel S. Kilby

The mission of North Central Washington Audubon is "to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of people and the biological diversity of North Central Washington."

NCW Audubon Contacts
President - Mark Oswood
 662-9087 moswood@nwi.net
Vice President - Jeff Parsons
 548-0181 jparsons@nwi.net
Treasurer - Teri J Pieper
Secretary - vacant

Education - Mark Oswood
 662-9087 moswood@nwi.net
Newsletter - Teri J Pieper
 630-6224 teripieper@hotmail.com
Membership - Mark Oswood
 662-9087 moswood@nwi.net
Conservation - Rachel Scown
 860-6676 raeplay6@aol.com
Bird Sightings - Torre Stockard
 birdsightings@ncwardubon.org
Science Officer - Don McIvor
 997-9456 puma@methownet.com
Programs - Bridget Egan
 433-7306 mtnegan@gmail.com
Webmaster - Torre Stockard
 webmaster@ncwardubon.org
Field Trips - Dan Stephens
 DStephens@wvc.edu

Board Members
 Penny Tobiska
 ptobiska@nwi.net
 Heather Findlay
 heather@eaglesun.net
 Nancy Warner
 nwarner@applecapital.net

Other Contact Information
 www.ncwardubon.org/
 info@ncwardubon.org
 ncwardubon.blogspot.com/
 PO Box 2934 Wenatchee WA 98807

Editor's Note



Marilyn and Chris Strickwerda sent me this bit of news from Chelan: "Two Great Horned Owls have been occupying two large trees on the lake front property of Dick and Roberta Simonds of Chelan. The Simonds spotted the Great Horned Owls about three weeks ago. The female remains in the split of a tree, apparently nesting, while the male owl is keeping a close watch on her from another tree. Photographer, Andy Simonds, took pictures on February 13, 2011."

Monday, the 21st, Ken and I were walking to dinner in Winthrop and heard a pair of Great Horned Owls hooting from a tall tree just behind Winthrop Motors. Despite falling snow and predicted sub-zero temperatures this week, it's the season for the owls to be courting and nesting.

Last month I asked for recommendations on apps for my new 'smart phone'. The birders' choice seems to be the Sibley Guide, however iBird received lots of votes. With the Sibley app I am able to see and hear the birds; I can limit my choices to those in my current geographic area; it will give side by side comparisons of similar birds of my choosing and I can also keep track of lists – something I'm not doing at this time. I considered adding my life list to the phone. For years I have simply ticked off the birds in a favorite field guide and although I like my electronic gizmo, I am loathe to give up books. And the app has more text information on each species than is found in the Sibley book.

A couple of weeks ago, I was skate skiing near Winthrop and noticed a large number of birds flying back and forth over the river, sometimes landing in the brush or on the snow. They reminded me of swallows but February is NOT swallow season despite a bit of a warm spell. As I got closer I could see they were Bohemian Waxwings, maybe more than 100, eating newly hatched bugs from the river!

North Central Washington Audubon Society Membership Form

Subscribe to NCW Audubon Wild Phlox One Year, Nine Issues \$15
 Separate subscription to Phlox not needed for NAS members in good standing

Donation: I would like to support NCW Audubon's programs of education and conservation. Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____

Please do NOT acknowledge my donation in the Wild Phlox

New Membership to National Audubon Society (NAS), includes one year Wild Phlox, \$20

(Renewals - Please renew your National Audubon Membership by filling out the forms sent to you by National and sending directly to NAS, thank you)
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See a Sage-grouse Lek With Dan Stephens

by Dan Stephens, Cashmere

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) recently declared the Greater Sage-Grouse its 'bird of the week'.

In a press release they gave the following information about this iconic bird of the shrub steppe:

The Greater Sage-Grouse has declined by more than 50% over the past 50 years; more than 40% of its historic range is no longer occupied.

Overgrazing, sagebrush removal, and the presence of invasive plants (e.g., cheatgrass) have degraded and fragmented habitat. Expanding energy development, particularly wind and natural gas, presents a growing threat, especially near the birds' strutting grounds (leks), where their distinctive booming courtship rituals echo across the landscape each spring.

The government recently ruled that listing the species as threatened was "warranted but precluded" by other priorities,

March 5th, Sage-Grouse field trip
Leave the Easy Street Park and Ride at
5:00 a.m. in Wenatchee. Yes, 5:00 a.m.
Visit a lek.

Return to Wenatchee by noon.
Led by Dr. Dan Stephens, Biology
Professor, Wenatchee Valley College
Contact Dan for more info at
(509)682-6752 or dstephens@wvc.edu

meaning that this declining species continues to receive no federal legislative protection. However, conservation plans in western states include strategies to protect "core areas" for the species on the 70% of their remaining habitat on public lands, and recent efforts are directing federal incentives to improve management on private lands.

ABC is working to ensure no net loss of suitable sage-grouse habitat, while maintaining or expanding the size and distribution of grouse populations. ABC is also working to ensure that wind energy development does not further harm Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitat.

The American Bird Conservancy conserves native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. To learn more about the organization see their website at www.abcbirds.org.

Okanogan Highlands Alliance Presents Highlands Wonders

by Julie Ashmore, Tonasket

Okanogan Highlands Alliance is a grassroots conservation organization. Since 1992 it has worked to protect the environment in the Okanogan Highlands. The Okanogan Highlands Alliance's mission is to encourage and support public education and participation in decisions involving the integrity, sustainability and prosperity of our community and the environment, and to provide a framework for ensuring environmental protection. OHA will guard against environmental degradation by taking decisive actions whenever necessary.

The Okanogan Highlands Alliance board and staff understand how important education is in protecting, restoring and preserving the highlands environment. And so, in addition to direct restoration and rigorous verification of monitoring and mitigation, OHA offers resources and information to community members. To this end OHA has launched a monthly series of presentations, workshops and discussion forums for local community

members, featuring the natural history of the Okanogan Highlands. This series is called Highland Wonders and includes dinner before the program and desserts and coffee afterward. Come and meet some new people and enjoy coffee, tea and desserts; leave with a better understanding of this watershed.

Highland Wonders programs for April and May:
On April 1st, Gina McCoy of the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife will present on the topic of Stream Morphology (what a healthy stream looks like). On May 6th, Virginia Gumm of the Loon Lake Loon Association will offer a presentation about loons, with up-to-date information on their status, recent changes in lead fishing tackle legislation, and what you can do to help support and protect local loon populations.

On March 4th, Highland Wonders presents Idie Ulsh on the topic of Feathered Architects: The Fascinating World of Bird Nests. From eagles to hummingbirds, Idie Ulsh will explore with us how and where birds make nests, and relate interesting facts about their construction. She has

photographed the nests of more than 30 species and done an extensive three year perusal of bird nest literature. In addition to her own photos she will include photos from many excellent local photographers and University of Puget Sound Slater Museum in this unique program. Idie Ulsh is well known for her bird and butterfly programs. She is a WOS member, past president of Seattle Audubon, founder of the Washington Butterfly Association, Master Birder, nature photographer and an independent college counselor.

When: Friday, March 4th; Dinner benefiting the Community Center at 5:00 p.m.; presentation at 6:30 with desserts, tea and coffee. **Where:** Community Cultural Center of

Tonasket, WA, located at 411 S Western Avenue in Tonasket (one block west of Highway 97, between 4th and 5th Streets). **For more information** see <http://okanoganhighlands.org/education/hw> or email julie@okanoganhighlands.org or call (509)433-7893

Extremes and Endurance – A Methow Valley Study Weekend Hosted by the Okanogan Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society

This June, plan to spend a weekend wandering the shrub-steppe and surrounding hills of the Methow Valley. The Okanogan Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society invites you to the statewide Study Weekend, June 10-12, in Winthrop.

Our best local botanists and plant enthusiasts – and many illustrious plant authorities visiting from around the state – will be leading 28 field trips on Saturday and Sunday. You can explore landscapes once scoured by mile-high glaciers, shaped by meltwater floods, and swept by frequent wildfire. Examine today's plant communities that survive temperature swings from 50 below to 106° F, and up to 66 consecutive summer days without rain. And experience the awe of intimately studying vibrant blossoms of surprising delicacy and the tiny pollinators that visit them – all thriving in these harsh conditions.

The conference begins Friday evening at The Barn in Winthrop, with a social hour followed by Dana Visalli's presentation "A Botanical Introduction to the Methow Valley." Dana is a gifted field botanist, educator, and publisher of *The Methow Naturalist*, a seasonal natural history journal.

On Saturday we disperse for field trips – ranging from the sagebrush hills of the Okanogan Valley to the transitional foothills of the North Cascades. You can visit the site of the Thirtymile Fire, listen for canyon wrens in Pipestone Canyon, practice improving your photography with Mark Turner, get tips on keeping your own nature journal, or choose any of the many other field trips.



Lewisia tweedyi
photo by Tom Forker



Clematis columbiana
photo by Tom Forker

Saturday evening we gather to dine and hear David Nunnallee's presentation "Native Butterflies and Native Plants – An Inseparable Combination." For 20 years David has actively studied butterflies in the Pacific Northwest; more than 200 of his butterfly photographs are currently published in field guides. He is a cofounder of the Washington Butterfly

Association, and coauthor of *Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies*, to be published in fall 2011 by Oregon State University Press.

On your Sunday field trip, explore privately owned unspoiled shrub-steppe, or examine transitional plant communities in the Cascade foothills with George Wooten. Or you could follow Don Knoke along Lost River, or visit Rob Crandall's Methow Natives, where Rob propagates a vast array of native plants. There are lots of other choices too.

You'll be well fed at this conference with locally

grown organic cuisine for breakfasts and dinner, and delicious sack lunches for field trips. The meal package covers you from Saturday morning through Sunday lunchtime.



Arginnis hydaspea photo by Idie Ulsh

In spare moments browse the book tables, where Richard Tinsley of the Central Puget Sound Chapter sells all the latest field guides and nature books. David Hutchinson of Flora and Fauna Books will be on hand with hard-to-find special editions and out-of-print books.

Learn all the details by consulting the Washington Native Plant Society website - www.wnps.org/ - and following Study Weekend prompts. You can register online or via U.S. Mail. But don't delay – registering early enhances the likelihood of your getting your top field trip choices.

The Methow Valley, an early June weekend, excellent field trips and programs... all of these make for a memorable botanical experience.

Bird Walk and Picnic in the Park

photo and article
by Teri J Pieper

Spring is on its way and so are the migrant birds. To welcome them, North Central Washington Audubon Society is hosting a Bird Walk in the Horan Natural Area followed by a BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch) Picnic in the park. This event will be Saturday, April 9th. We have reserved one of the picnic shelters for the picnic. Watch next month's Phlox or see our website for further details. Or, if you just can't wait to get an update, give our president, Mark Oswood, a call.



Barrows Goldeneyes photographed the first week of April 2010 at Pearygin Lake.

Jack Nisbet Talks About David Douglas

by Susan Ballinger, Wenatchee

The Wenatchee Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) invites members and nonmembers to a March 24, 2011 7-9 p.m. program featuring author, teacher, and naturalist, Jack Nisbet, speaking about the intrepid botanist-explorer, David Douglas, the subject of his most recent book, *The Collector*. The program will be held at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, 127 South Mission Street in Wenatchee. This program is jointly funded by the Humanities Washington and the Wenatchee Chapter, WNPS. Nisbet's talk will be plant-focused: Douglas is credited with the discovery of more than 80 Northwest plants and animals, and his name is most famously attached to the Douglas-fir tree.

Just twenty years after Lewis and Clark's explorations, David Douglas was the first European visitor whose sole task was to investigate the botany of the Northwest. He began his plant-hunting expedition in 1824 on behalf of the Royal Botanic Institute of Glasgow, funded by Britain's horticultural elite seeking new species to grow in English gardens. Douglas traveled 7,032 miles by foot, boat, and horse throughout the Northwest. In Oregon alone, he collected 650 plant specimens that were carefully catalogued and sent back to England and many were soon cultivated in English gardens. Nisbet's narrative is based on Douglas' letters and journal entries that described not just plants, but the landscape, the animals and the native peoples he encountered. During his research years, Nisbet revisited many sites during the same week of the year that Douglas had visited them. Nisbet's narrative includes aspects of Douglas's character that made him a difficult personality to be around, yet one that resulted in many close friendships. Douglas often traveled up and down the Columbia River system with a fur-trader brigade and he mingled and traded freely with tribal members along the way. Douglas plied the waters of the Columbia River paddling past the Wenatchee River Confluence several times during his explorations.

Jack Nisbet is the winner of the 2010 Pacific Northwest Book Award for his book, *The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest*. The Pacific NW Books Sellers Association (PNBA) awards committee members considered more than 200 titles nominated for work published in 2009 by a variety of Pacific NW authors. The association is a non-profit of independent bookstores located in five states. Nisbet is the author of several other books that explore the human and natural history of the Intermountain West, including *Purple Flat Top*, *Singing Grass Burning Sage*, and *Visible Bones*. Additionally, Nisbet has authored two books about fur agent and cartographer David Thompson: *Sources of the River* and *The Mapmaker's Eye*. The Washington State Historical Society Director, David Hicandri, calls Nisbet "one of the Northwest's great storytellers."

In January, 2011, Jack Nisbet became the first fellowship recipient of the Powell's Books Michael M. Powell Fellowship, to support original research projects on a Columbia Basin topic that falls within the initiative, "The Columbia River and the World." Nisbet will use the Powell fellowship to expand the global component of his research on David Douglas.

The Wenatchee Chapter is part of the Washington Native Plant Society, a volunteer organization whose members share a common interest in Washington's unique and diverse flora. The organization represents all levels of botanical knowledge, from professionals and experienced amateur botanists, to beginners just becoming curious about the beautiful plants and habitats of our state. For more than 25 years the Washington Native Plant Society has enjoyed educating itself and others about the value of plants native to the Evergreen State. Conservation and advocacy make the Washington Native Plant Society the voice for native plants. The Wenatchee Chapter offers monthly programs in the fall and winter, followed by wildflowers walks offered to the membership and the public in spring and summer.

The Owl and the Woodpecker at the Burke Museum

March 19 - August 7, 2011

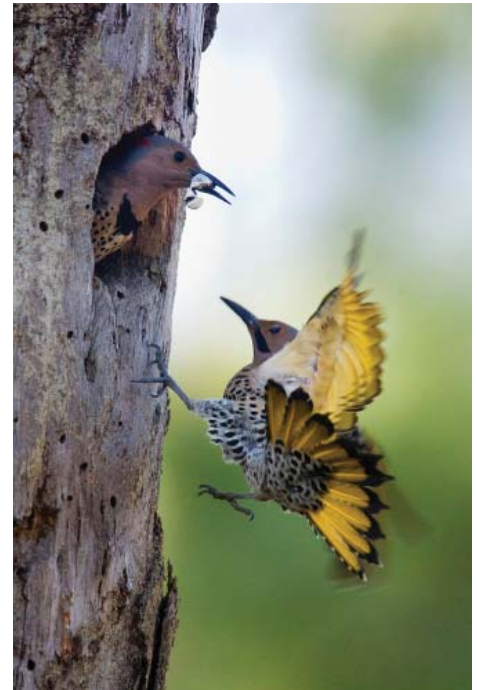
by Emily Sparling, the Burke Museum

In March 2011, the Burke Museum will premiere a new exhibit of conservation photography, based on the book *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, by acclaimed nature photographer and environmental conservationist Paul Bannick.

Like the book, the exhibit will introduce museum visitors to the most important species of owls and woodpeckers in North America, illustrating how they define and enrich the specific habitats on which they depend, and highlighting the critical importance of conservation. It will feature Bannick's extraordinary photographs, together with engaging text, vivid sound recordings, and specimens from the Burke's natural history collections.

The Owl and the Woodpecker was developed by the Burke Museum, created in partnership with Paul Bannick and Braided River, a partner of The Mountaineers Books. Major support comes from Microsoft, with additional support from Tom and Sonya Campion; Donors to the Burke Museum Annual Fund; Barbara Eddy, Educational Legacy Fund; Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation; Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation; The Mountaineers Foundation, Carl Skoog Memorial Fund; Norcliffe Foundation; and the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs.

The Burke Museum is the Washington State museum of natural history and culture and is dedicated to creating a better understanding of the world and our place in it. Open daily, the Burke Museum welcomes all visitors who are curious about the natural wonders of Washington state, the Pacific Northwest, and the Pacific Rim. Discovery awaits you. The Burke Museum is on the University of Washington campus at the corner of 17th Avenue NE and NE 45th Street. For more information on the Burke please see www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/



Yellow-shafted Northern Flickers.
Photo by Paul Bannick.

A Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker is startled to find his mate poking her head from their cavity just as he arrives.

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

photo and article
by Teri J Pieper

March 25 - 27

Celebrate the spring migration of the Sandhill Cranes at the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival. These magnificent birds winter in central California and the south west and are now beginning their return to the breeding grounds in northern Canada and Alaska. They stop in the spent corn fields near Othello to stock up on high energy food to help them continue the journey.

As of this writing, the final schedule is not available. However in the past the event has begun Friday with special birding tours and a speaker Friday evening. All activities begin at the Othello High School or the office of the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge in Othello. Saturday is a full day of lectures at the school and numerous field trips, many going to see the cranes and others more specialized, providing opportunities to see such species as Burrowing Owls! There is an authors'



table where festival goers can get books signed and talk to the authors about their work. Saturday evening features a banquet and an entertaining speaker. This year, Ken Bevis – WDFW's Watershed Steward for the upper Columbia – will have a presentation titled The Saga of Washington's Fish and Wildlife, a lofty topic, to be sure. He promises a multimedia adventure featuring photos, jokes, original music and more. Throughout the day, there are vendors set up in the gym and also bird-related art exhibits to view. More tours are available on Sunday. Tour guides and speakers include Mike and MerryLynn Denny, Jack Nisbet, Dr. Torre Stockard, Jim Danzenbaker, Heidi Newsome, and Brent Cunderla.

Tours and field trips do fill up so pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Watch the website www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/home.html for the complete schedule and updates.

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Happenings

by Sharon Lunz, Wenatchee

Wenatchee Environmental Film Series “Lords of Nature”

Tuesday March 15 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.,

Wenatchee Valley Museum

This 60-minute documentary uses stunning footage of top predators in the wild, and goes behind the scenes with leading scientists to explore the role the predators play in restoring and maintaining ecosystems and biodiversity. Following the screening, Jay Kehne of Conservation Northwest will speak briefly and answer questions. Film sponsored by Conservation Northwest; series presented by WVMCC, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust and Trust for Public Land. \$5 suggested donation.

Trail Work Parties

Tuesday, March 22, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 29, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Jacobson Preserve, Wenatchee Foothills

Every Tuesday April through June - 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Locations to be determined - please call.

Attention all trail users! We all love to get out there and have fun on the land, but our trails are in need of some TLC. Come and get your hands dirty with the CDLT at a trail work party and help take care of the trails we are all so fortunate to enjoy. Starting March 22nd, we will be working on the trails every Tuesday through the end of June. The first two Tuesdays, March 22nd and March 29, we will be working at the Jacobson Preserve. Meet us at the trailhead for some good, fun work. Bring gloves and hand tools (shovels, hard tined rakes, Pulaski, we will have some if you don't) and wear sturdy shoes and protective clothing. Water and snacks are also a good idea. We will provide a safety briefing, instruction on how to use tools, and guidance for those who have never done trail work before. Children are invited with adult supervision and all those under 18 will need a waiver signed by a guardian. Please No Dogs. Call or email Tina at (509) 667-9708 or tduffey@cdlandtrust.org for more specific information and to RSVP.

Barn Beach Reserve Presentations

by Gail Roberts, Plain

Friday, March 4, 7 p.m. in the Barn

Global Climate Change: From the Perspective of a Polar Scientist

Despite polls indicating that global climate change is not a major concern for most Americans, there is little doubt that it will become one of the defining issues of the 21st century. For those who live or work in polar regions the impact is already very obvious, and its ramifications for the rest of the world very serious. In this talk, Dr. McPhee will describe why research in both the Arctic and Antarctic is relevant to understanding climate change, and some of the startling changes scientists are seeing. He will also describe what they observe happening in the larger global context, and discuss why we should all be concerned about our collective use of fossil carbon. Interspersed with the technical details will be scenery slides from scientific expeditions to Greenland and Antarctica in the past year.

Saturday, March 19, 2 p.m. AND 7 p.m. in the Barn

Films in the Barn series: “The Age of Stupid”

Oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite stars as an old man living in the devastated world of 2055, watching “archive” footage from today. He wonders: Why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance? Pete plays the founder of The Global Archive, a storage facility located in the melted Arctic, preserving all of humanity's achievements in the hope that the planet might be habitable again. He pulls together news clips of “archive” news from

1950 to 2008, and focuses on six unforgettable human stories. This award-nominated film is a new documentary-drama-animation hybrid from Director Franny Armstrong and Oscar-winning Producer John Battsek, with rave reviews from around the world. In partnership with Icicle Arts.

Friday, March 26, 7 p.m. in the Barn

“Crossing the Gates of Alaska”

For a combined six months in 2007 and 2009, Dave Metz endured a 900-mile journey across one of the Earth's last great wildernesses, the Brooks Range of Alaska. Traveling completely on foot with his two dogs, he followed torrential rivers, crossed wind-scoured mountains, faced tormenting hunger and isolation, and marched across vast tundra and trackless woodlands. He hiked along caribou trails, faced down wolves, moose, and bears, waded countless rivers, dodged forest fires, tended his tired dogs, and dozed under the magnificent glow of the midnight sun. Through it all he searched within himself to find his own personal limits and aspirations. He learned to let go of those he lost and to embrace all that he had while connecting with the natural world in a way he never dreamed possible. In partnership with A Book for All Seasons. Book sales and signing available.

For more information, contact Gail Roberts at Barn Beach Reserve & Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest
groberts@barnbeachreserve.org (509) 548-7584

March Wild Phlox

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North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar

March 4	Learn about Birds' Nests with Idie Uish	Sponsored by the Okanogan Highlands Alliance. See page 3 for more information.
March 5	Visit a Sage Grouse Lek with Dan Stephens	A rare opportunity to see this iconic bird strut its stuff. See page 3 for more information.
March 16	Hiking, Birds and Books with Alan Bauer	An NCW Audubon Program See page 1 for more information.
March 19-August 7	Paul Bannick at the Burke Museum	Enjoy Paul's owls and woodpeckers in a museum setting. See page 6 for more information
March 24	Jack Nisbet talks about David Douglas	Sponsored by the Wenatchee Chapter of the Native Plant Society. See page 5 for more information.
March 25-27	Sandhill Crane Festival	In Othello. See page 6 for more information.
April 9	Bird Walk and Picnic	Celebrate Spring with NCW Audubon! See page 5 for more information.
June 10-12	Washington State Native Plant Society Study Weekend	Reserve your spot on the field trips soon. See page 4 for more information



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Visit the NCW Audubon Society website for updates on these and other events
www.ncwaudubon.org