



artwork by Steven D'Amato

## Bag It, the Movie

See it at the Museum, March 20

compiled by Mark Oswood and Teri J Pieper

Join us March 20, at 7:00 p.m. for our showing of the film *Bag It* at the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, 127 South Mission Street, Wenatchee. This film is sponsored by NCW Audubon Society; the Environmental Film Series is presented by WVMCC, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and the Trust for Public Land. *Bag It* has won numerous awards at US and International film festivals. The eye-opening film has been making its way around the festival circuit and racking up the honors including awards at the Sedona International Film Festival, Monterey Blue Oceans Film Festival, Princeton Environmental Film Festival, Mountainfilm in Telluride, Port Townsend Film Festival, Eco Focus Film Festival, Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival, Hawaii Waimea Ocean Film Festival, and Ashland Independent Film Festival.

Filmmaker Jeb Berrier embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world while making a pledge to stop using plastic bags. *Bag It* follows “everyman” Jeb as he navigates our plastic world. Jeb is not a radical environmentalist, but an average American who decides to take a closer look at our cultural love affair with plastics. The 80-minute

documentary addresses the questions of: What is plastic made of? Is it recyclable? Does it decompose when it ends up in the landfill? Does plastic have negative health effects? What are our alternatives?

**Americans use 60,000 plastic bags every five minutes**, disposable bags that they throw away without much thought. But where is “away?” Where do the bags and other plastics end up, and at what cost to the environment, marine life and human health?

***Bag It***  
A documentary film at the  
Wenatchee Valley Museum and  
Cultural Center takes a hard  
(but funny) look at plastic  
March 20, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
\$5 suggested donation

“Think about it—why would you make something that you’re going to use for a few minutes out of a material that’s basically going to last forever, and you’re just going to throw it away? What’s up with that?” — Jeb Berrier

The website for *Bag It* has a press kit with several good resources. One

is a curriculum plan with lessons for students from elementary to high school. One lesson explores a typical lunch kit and makes suggestions for reusable substitutes for the throw-away items. Another objective teaches students to recognize single-use items and explores what happens to them after their single use. The link to the press kit is at the bottom of [www.bagitmovie.com/index.html](http://www.bagitmovie.com/index.html). Another link takes you to a ‘Bag It town tool kit’. This walks you through the process to create a municipal ordinance to ban single use bags in a community.

For more information on what happens to improperly disposed of plastics see <http://5gyres.org/>. According to 5 Gyres “*The short-term convenience of using and throwing away plastic products carries a very inconvenient long-term truth. These plastic water bottles, cups, utensils, electronics, toys, and gadgets we dispose of daily are rarely recycled in a closed loop. We currently recover only 5% of the plastics we produce. What happens to the rest of it? Roughly 50% is buried in landfills, some is remade into durable goods, and much of it remains “unaccounted for”, lost in the environment where it ultimately washes out to sea.*”

The mission of the  
**North Central Washington Audubon Society**  
 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."

# Wenatchee Foothills Trails Closed Until April 1st

by Bridget Egan, Chelan Douglas Land Trust

Even when the weather seems to be more like spring than winter, the Wenatchee Foothills Trails north of Fifth Street and the trailhead parking areas at Horse Lake, Day Drive, and Canyon Number One Road remain closed to protect mule deer habitat. Survival for deer is a battle against starvation – a deer may lose up to thirty percent of its body weight during the winter. Pregnant does and fawns particularly struggle with limited fat reserves. Dogs, on or off leash, and the mere presence of humans often cause deer to flee, wasting their precious energy. It is tempting for folks to get out on the trail to experience the snow melt, but the closure is the most important time to avoid stressing deer. Recreationalists looking to get out in the winter have many other local options. Jacobson Preserve, Saddle Rock, and Dry Gulch all have great trekking potential. Visit [cdlandtrust.org](http://cdlandtrust.org) for a map of the Wenatchee Foothills trails and more information. Thanks for being stewards of our wonderful local resources!

## North Central Washington Audubon Society

Officers, Chairs, Board Members

President - Mark Oswood | 662-9087 | [moswood@nwi.net](mailto:moswood@nwi.net)

Vice President - Jeff Parsons | 548-0181 | [jparsons@nwi.net](mailto:jparsons@nwi.net)

Treasurer - Teri J Pieper | 630-6224 | [teripieper@hotmail.com](mailto:teripieper@hotmail.com)

Bird Sightings - Torre Stockard | [birdsightings@ncwaudubon.org](mailto:birdsightings@ncwaudubon.org)

Conservation - Rachel Scown | 860-6676 | [raeplay6@aol.com](mailto:raeplay6@aol.com)

Education - Mark Oswood | 662-9087 | [moswood@nwi.net](mailto:moswood@nwi.net)

Email Master - Marie Garrett | 669-1800 | [marieg@wildblue.net](mailto:marieg@wildblue.net)

Field Trips - Dan Stephens | [DStephens@wvc.edu](mailto:DStephens@wvc.edu)

Membership - Mark Oswood | 662-9087 | [moswood@nwi.net](mailto:moswood@nwi.net)

Newsletter - Teri J Pieper | 630-6224 | [teripieper@hotmail.com](mailto:teripieper@hotmail.com)

Programs - Bridget Egan | 433-7306 | [mtnegan@gmail.com](mailto:mtnegan@gmail.com)

Science Officer - Don McIvor | 997-9456 | [puma@methownet.com](mailto:puma@methownet.com)

Web Master - Torre Stockard | [webmaster@ncwaudubon.org](mailto:webmaster@ncwaudubon.org)

Penny Tobiska - [ptobiska@nwi.net](mailto:ptobiska@nwi.net)

Heather Findlay - [heather@eaglesun.net](mailto:heather@eaglesun.net)

Nancy Warner - [nwarner@applecapital.net](mailto:nwarner@applecapital.net)

Other Contact information

Website - [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org)

Email - [info@ncwaudubon.org](mailto:info@ncwaudubon.org)

Blog - [ncwaudubon.blogspot.com](http://ncwaudubon.blogspot.com)

Mailing address - PO Box 2934 Wenatchee, WA 98807

*All phone numbers in the Wild Phlox are area code 509 unless otherwise indicated.*

## North Central Washington Audubon Society Wild Phlox Subscription 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

\_\_\_\_ Memorial in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail check and form to Post Office Box 2934 Wenatchee, WA 98807-2934.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Giving: Please consider giving a planned gift to NCW Audubon to support our education and conservation programs for generations to come. Your charitable gift will be tax deductible. It could go to an endowment fund or to a specific program or as a gift to our general operating fund. Remember, your gift to North Central Washington Audubon will go to fund programs in North Central Washington!

To join the National Audubon Society which also includes a subscription to the Wild Phlox, please see their website at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) or drop us a note and we will send you a form for a special rate introductory membership.

Have you ever looked at David Sibley's blog - [www.sibleyguides.com](http://www.sibleyguides.com)? Sibley is the famous painter and field guide writer, mostly known for birds and more recently for his in-depth guide to trees. Recently I came across several of his blog entries featuring quizzes on bird topography and backyard birds. Learning the parts of the bird can be very helpful if you are trying to learn new species. If you can describe the malar, the crown, and the supercilium, you may have a better chance of getting the ID rather than if you said it had a spot on its head and some stripes too. The quizzes are helpful real-world examples of common birds. As of February 16th, there were eight quizzes ranging from head feathers, to wing feathers, to bird weights, to pointing out the location of a bird in a clear manner, and more. I think this is a great resource for birders trying to expand their knowledge of birds and birding and a great way to while away the hours as we wait for spring!

## Editor's Notes

Today is the first day of the Great Backyard Bird Count and our feeder birds are not showing up. What's up with that? Just when I think I can count on them to stand up and be counted. Maybe they don't want others to know they've been mooching off of us all winter long. Even the forty or so Red-winged Blackbirds have flown the coop.

What kind of interesting birds have you observed this winter? My favorite has been the Common Redpolls at our feeder. I also saw them in birch trees along the Methow River while skiing. Or maybe my favorite was the Northern Pygmy Owl I saw while skiing near Sun Mountain. I confess, I was so excited to see it at such a close range that while fumbling to get my camera out of its case with gloved hands, I accidentally changed the program mode and so the image was less than the high resolution I usually expect. Jenny Graevell in East Wenatchee reports that her Anna's Hummingbird disappeared for 22 days but has now returned to her feeder. I can't help but wonder where it went.

We are still planning our trip to North Carolina and Florida next month. So far we have had lots of great suggestions for places to bird along the way. Feel free to share your experiences. Everyone has said Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge and Audubon's own Corkscrew Swamp are 'must see' places.



Northern Pygmy Owl near Sun Mountain  
photo by Teri J Pieper

## Results from the February Field Trip

by Dan Stephens, Cashmere

Fifteen intrepid birders met at the Easy Street Park and Ride in Wenatchee for the annual Waterville Plateau Audubon winter field trip. Our birding started at Orondo and proceeded as follows: Waterville—Withrow—Mansfield—West Foster Creek—Bridgeport—Bridgeport Bar and ending at Washburn Island. The weather was unseasonably warm with a low cloud ceiling most of the day. The phylogenetic species list follows:

Common Loon 5  
Pied-billed Grebe 1  
Horned Grebe 4  
Great Blue Heron 1  
Canada Goose 120 +,-  
Mallard 35  
Northern Pintail 3  
Gadwall 16  
American Wigeon 24  
Canvasback 8  
Redhead 20  
Ring-necked Duck 21

Lesser Scaup 28  
Long-tailed Duck 1 female  
Common Goldeneye 32  
Bufflehead 14  
Hooded Merganser 9  
Ruddy Duck 14  
Bald Eagle 4 imm., 3 adults  
Northern Harrier 10  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 7  
Rough-legged Hawk 16  
American Kestrel 5  
Prairie Falcon 1  
Gray Partridge 9  
Sharp-tailed Grouse 6  
California Quail 4  
American Coot 50 +,-  
Thayer's Gull 1  
Rock Pigeon 110 +,-  
Eurasian Collared-Dove 13  
Great Horned Owl 3  
Snowy Owl 1 adult  
Northern Flicker 2  
Horned Lark 85 +,-  
Steller's Jay 1  
Black-billed Magpie 3

American Crow 4  
Common Raven 28  
American Robin 17  
Northern Shrike 2  
European Starling 50 +,-  
Song Sparrow 1  
White-crowned Sparrow 40 +,-  
Dark-eyed Junco 4  
Snow Bunting 25  
Red-winged Blackbird 30  
House Finch 250 +,-  
House Sparrow 50 +,-

### Sage Grouse Field Trip in March

March 10: Find the elusive Sage Grouse lek with Dan Stephens. Meet at 6:00 am at the Easy Street Park and Ride.

RSVP to Dan at 679-4706.

Be prepared for the weather.

See the article about Greater Sage Grouse on page six of this issue.

# Latino Outreach Continues at Spring BirdFest

Environment for the America's partners in Washington are finding creative ways to continue their Latino outreach initiative after they have completed 3 years in the Connecting Cultures project. A team of biologists and educators from governmental and non-governmental organizations have formed *Team Naturaleza!* The mission of the Team mirrors EFTA's three-year study to engage Latino communities in informal science education.

Organizers are working to raise funds to support a Latino liaison, Norma Gallegos of Wenatchee. They were recently awarded a Cornell Lab of Ornithology Urban Birds mini-grant. With this support, Norma will coordinate Latino outreach and programs at the Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest. *Team Naturaleza!* will also sponsor a Dancing With Birds performance, bilingual marketing materials, a family picnic, and transportation to birding activities during the event.

from Environment for the America's

*Team Naturaleza!* will also host Abriendo Caminos, a Spanish-language weeklong retreat in remote mountains near Lake Chelan. Our partners will lead birding field trips and other bird-themed educational programs to over 400 Latino campers. Way to go *Team Naturaleza!*

Environment for the Americas is examining the barriers to participation in informal science education by Latino/Hispanic audiences in a three-year project funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Using International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) as the focus of the study, we have conducted community surveys at six sites across the U.S., monitoring attendance at IMBD events and developing tools to help educators improve their outreach. Now, we are working with event organizers to implement the recommendations of survey respondents to improve outreach to Latino/Hispanic communities.

---

## Notes from Mazama

It is a bright and sunny day after the super bowl (note the lower case) here in the Methow's upper reaches. Looking out the window, I can see what looks like a sink hole in the deepest part of the pond. These come every year, but never before when the snow is thirty or more inches deep. The hole, which has been growing daily from a small puddle to about ten by twelve feet has a nascent neighbor developing. It still has a layer of snow on it, and it is growing too. I have no idea what causes this - most likely a rising water table, aided perhaps by the greater insulation of the ground from the deeper than ordinary snow.



We still have a half dozen California quail and count them daily. Aside from the spoor of either a small cougar or a large bobcat there are no predator tracks in the neighborhood. Not even coyote, which is strange.

As I write this, the Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up. I have a problem with these for several reasons. First I am abashed as my identification skills are limited - I can tell one kind of chickadee from the other but this brings up my second problem - how the heck does one count chickadees? We have a brushy willow tree that hangs partially over the pond and it has three feeders hanging from it that are accompanied by six other feeders along the deck. There is a constant commute from tree to feeders and back, sometimes verging on mid-air crashes between the 'dees and nuthatches. I cannot begin to keep count. The bigger varieties are easier

photo and article by Bob Spiwak, Mazama

but again, when I count eight Steller's Jays pigging out at one time, then scattering and then a few are there again, how do I (or you) know if they are the same ones or different? Which

brings up the question, I guess, what are the rules for counting birds in the name of Citizen Science?

Anyhow, we saw the first yellow finch (American Goldfinch, we think), a female who has come and gone for almost a week. Also, there has been a very skittish Yellow-shafted Flicker that zooms away as soon as I appear in the window to take its picture. Its red-shafted cousin is a little less nervous, because I know it would rather eat my house than ordinary bird seed.

Or else we have a lot of bedbugs in the cedar siding.

We feed the dog canned food. Some has gravy that glues together the kibbles she gets at the same time. She won't touch the gummy mass after consuming the meat and there are always avian species waiting to indulge themselves on the uneaten portions. Mostly, it is the jays that snarf this mess down. I don't know if dog food is bad for birds, but have noticed some of the Stellers Jays' calls are sounding more like barking than jay squawking.

*editors' note: In case you are curious about Bob's counting question, in general whenever you are doing a bird count at one place, you count the highest number of individuals you see at one time during the period of the count. For the smaller, faster species that just won't sit still to be counted, sometimes the best you can do is an estimate.*

# Okanogan Highlands Alliance

## Highland Wonders

by Julie Ashmore, Okanogan Highlands

*Highland Wonders is a monthly education series featuring the natural history of the Okanogan Highlands and surrounding areas. Programs are on the first Friday of the month at the Community Cultural Center (CCC) of Tonasket, 411 South Western Avenue. Dinner benefiting the CCC is at 5:00 pm followed by the program at 6:30 with tea, coffee and desserts.*

### The Secret Life of Bats in the Okanogan Highlands and Beyond

On March 2nd, Roger Christophersen, Wildlife Biologist for the North Cascades National Park Service, will share stories and information about the amazing adaptations and natural history of our local bat species. From the thick crevices in tree bark and abundant insect supply at Lost Lake, to the forest and wetland habitats of Beaver Canyon, the Okanogan Highlands is a great place for bats to thrive.

“We’ll try to unravel some of the misconceptions about these furry critters,” Roger says, “and explore their importance and benefits to both society and local ecosystems.” The presentation will also cover bat ecology, echolocation calls, habitat requirements, and bat species identification. Roger plans to touch on study techniques,

with a brief look at the results of bat research he has been involved with, as well as current research topics and public health information. He will also share ideas on how individuals can assist with bat conservation.

Roger enjoys spending time at his cabin in Chesaw, observing the biodiversity of the highlands. He has over 18 years of experience inventorying and monitoring a diversity of wildlife species in the North Cascades mountain range. His primary emphasis has been on Endangered, Threatened, Rare, Sensitive, and keystone mammal and bird species. He has developed a long-standing passion for the conservation and management of bats, as well as alpine species such as pikas and hoary marmots.

### Bighorn Sheep of the Okanogan

On Friday, April 6th, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Jeff Heinlen, will bring to Highland Wonders the ecology, history and management associated with the Bighorn Sheep of Okanogan County. Jeff began working for the WDFW in 2003 after working for several years as a US Forest Service biologist in the Okanogan. He currently works on a variety of field projects throughout the Okanogan, focusing on Canada Lynx, California Bighorn Sheep, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and western gray squirrels. He enjoys sharing information about all wildlife to foster a deeper appreciation for them.



Bighorn sheep in the Okanogan  
photo by Justin Haug

### Spring is the Season for Festivals

compiled by Teri J Pieper, Methow Valley

With spring and migration, we celebrate the birds and their great journeys at festivals far and wide. Here are a few that are happening in the next couple of months.

The tenth annual Wings Over Water - Northwest Birding Festival will be held in Blaine on March 17. For more information see [www.blainechamber.com/wow/#activities](http://www.blainechamber.com/wow/#activities).

The Othello Sandhill Crane Festival is March 23-25. As of this writing their website has not been updated but I’m told it soon will be. The address is [www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/](http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/)

The Olympic BirdFest is a partnership of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Dungeness River Audubon

Center and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe. Held in Sequim, it is scheduled for March 30 – April 1. Proceeds from this festival help support the educational programs of the Dungeness River Audubon Center. The website is [www.olympicbirdfest.org/](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org/)

In Grays Harbor, celebrate Shorebirds May 4-6. Author Richard Crossley will be the keynote speaker. For more information see [www.shorebirdfestival.com/index.html](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/index.html)

And closer to home, celebrate birdsong and explore the natural world at the Leavenworth Spring BirdFest May 17-20. See their website at [www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/](http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/) See the May Wild Phlox for more information.

# Regional Advocacy for Greater Sage Grouse Protection

by Kim Thorburn, Spokane Audubon Society

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined in March 2010 that Greater Sage-Grouse warranted listing under the Endangered Species Act but no immediate action was taken because of higher priorities. The bird's status will be re-evaluated in 2014. The decision prompted coalitions of private, state, federal, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to develop conservation strategies and management actions to protect sage-grouse. More than a decade ago, a similar decision for sage-grouse in Washington State led to collaborative efforts that continue today. The Spokane Audubon Society participates in the state's Greater Sage-Grouse Working Group.

Last June Audubon Wyoming organized a meeting of NGOs to discuss advocacy for Greater Sage-Grouse protection. The meeting was called by Brian Rutledge, former Executive Director of Audubon Wyoming, current Vice President of Audubon's Inter-Mountain Region, and a staff member who was instrumental in National Audubon's input on the Greater Sage-Grouse listing decision. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the NGO role in working towards effective management actions, habitat protections, and funding mechanisms to prevent the need for listing the Greater Sage-Grouse.

Represented at the Denver, Colorado gathering were state Audubon affiliates from throughout the Greater Sage-Grouse region. Other national organizations in attendance were the Nature Conservancy, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, the National Wildlife Federation, and the

Wilderness Society. There were also participants from several state-specific NGOs. Every state with Greater Sage-Grouse except North and South Dakota was represented and no one from Canada was able to attend. Spokane Audubon represented Washington. Participants shared current efforts in each state to protect sage-grouse and its habitat.

Over arching issues were lack of regional management coordination by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and failure of states to yet designate core areas. BLM is the major public land steward in the Greater Sage-Grouse region and protection actions can conflict with other activities of its multi-use mission. The most acute issues with BLM were in states with oil and gas. Other mining and energy development and grazing also presented pressure. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar recently mandated that all BLM Resource Management Plans in the region include sage-grouse protection actions.

“Core areas” is a protection strategy developed by the State of Wyoming that holds the largest remaining Greater Sage-Grouse population and where the habitat is under considerable stress from oil and gas drilling and production. Core areas are important sage-grouse habitat with specific bird densities that are designated to have less than five percent disturbance. The USFWS has encouraged states to pursue this strategy, something not possible in Washington with so little remaining habitat that is already very fragmented.

Spokane Audubon will continue to represent Washington in the NGO Greater Sage-Grouse Protection Advocacy

Group. Our work will consist of outreach to other NGOs, including Washington Audubon chapters, and other public awareness efforts. Washington's grouse and shrub-steppe wildlife experts are studying connectivity models that will be key to the survival to sage-grouse and other shrub-steppe species in our state. It will also be important to advocate for this science to be included in growth-management and other land-use regulation. Examples include placement of wind-energy generators and power lines and preservation of Conservation Reserve Program lands on Eastern Washington farms.

## THE ART OF NATURE: JOURNALING AT FOUR SEASONAL RETREATS



April 27-29, 2012 - \$390 Spring Weekend Retreat  
June 17-22, 2012 - \$775 Summer Week Retreat  
October 26-28, 2012 - \$390 Fall Weekend Retreat  
January 18-21, 2013 - \$490 Winter Weekend Retreat

Location: **ICICLE CREEK Center for the Arts**  
7409 Icicle Road, Leavenworth, WA 98826

Discover and nourish the life-long joy of creating an illustrated nature journal. Drawing, painting, writing and field records will unleash the intrigue of the out-of-doors. This series of retreats is jointly offered by: **ICICLE CREEK Center for the Arts**; and Nature Artist, Wildlife Biologist **Heather A. Wallis Murphy**.

Each retreat is unique for the time of year, habitat explored and workshop classes offered. The retreat includes: all meals, lodging, art-nature instruction, birding field trips, most art supplies AND a musical concert!. Experienced and beginners are all welcome. April Workshop Times: Friday 2:00 pm to Sunday 2:00 pm.

To register, please contact Conni Williams at Icicle Creek:  
cwilliams@icicle.org or phone (509) 860-1949.  
Please see Icicle Creek Center for the Arts website [www.icicle.org](http://www.icicle.org)

For workshop information, contact Heather Murphy with Walleye Cards:  
heather@wildtales.com or (509) 548-7757. See website [www.wildtales.com](http://www.wildtales.com)



# Spring Naturalist Programs in the Methow

## Nature in Art and Science: A Field Naturalist Workshop

May 25-27, 2012

With Bruce Thompson and Hannah Hinchman at the North Cascades Basecamp. Call Kim and Steve at 996-2334 for more information. During this weekend workshop, join two popular naturalist educators Hannah Hinchman and Bruce Thompson for a unique integration of observation, personal reflection, and field interpretation: the nature of art and science.

To be fully present in the natural world, we must be alert and inquisitive—receptive to the small signs and subtle clues around us. A field journal is an ideal way to record moments of discovery, as well as a quiet way of simply being present outdoors. In this workshop, naturalist Bruce Thompson joins artist/writer Hannah Hinchman in exploring the richness of our mountain habitats, opening windows to nature's many secrets and learning to personalize these experiences through journal entries, both drawn and written.

## The Methow Conservancy's Annual Spring Naturalists' Retreat

May 24-27, 2012

The Naturalists' Retreat is an annual celebration of the Methow Valley in springtime! Come spend a long weekend with us where we'll enjoy beautiful days in the field and engage in presentations and group dinners in the evenings. Under the friendly and expert tutelage of ornithologist Libby Mills and botanist Dana Visalli you will be amazed by all that you learn and soak up in this fantastic nature and educational experience!

The retreat starts at 5pm on Thursday, May 24th and goes through the afternoon of Sunday May 27th. This is Memorial Day weekend this year. Cost is \$130 each. Space is limited and this course fills up fast! Contact Mary at 996-2870 or info@methowconservancy.org to register.

---

## Upcoming Programs at the Wenatchee River Institute

by Gail Roberts, Plain

March 16, 2012, 7 PM, in the Barn

*The History of Fish & Fishing in North Central Washington*

Dennis Dauble, a long time Northwest resident and expert in regional fish and waterways, will be speaking on the history of fish and fishing in North Central Washington and Columbia Basin. Dennis will address historic fishing practices of local tribes, speak to the impact of white settlement on aquatic resources, and discuss contemporary conflicts between our public values and resource management policies.

Dennis is intimately acquainted with our local watersheds, and will speak on issues that should be important and fun for any angler or resident of the area. He will be staying after to sign copies of his award-winning book, *Fishes of the Columbia Basin*. In partnership with Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group and A Book for All Seasons.

(This will also be presented at the Twisp River Grange on March 15 at 6:30 pm)

Friday, March 30, 2012, 7 PM, in the Barn

*Shadows in the Forest: Gray Wolves in Washington State*

Feared, reviled and revered, the wolf has always evoked powerful emotions in humans. It has been admired as a powerful hunter; feared for the threat it is imagined to pose to humans; reviled for its depredations on domestic livestock and revered as a potent symbol of the wild. Wolves have faced the wrath and scorn of mankind for many years. The Gray Wolf's remarkable comeback is one of the great conservation successes of our time. A new public ethic toward the wolf and other endangered species has given new life to wolves in Washington State. This presentation by wildlife biologist Gus Bekker examines wolf ecology, history, and preservation and opens a new discussion on the value of preserving this and other species to roam freely on this planet earth.

## Butterflies of Cascadia

by Susan Ballinger, Wenatchee

On March 15, The Wenatchee Native Plant society presents David G. James, co-author & photographer, talking about his new book, *Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies*. David's talk will feature his stunning close-up digital photographs. In this book, David G. James and David Nunnallee present the life histories of the entire butterfly fauna of a North American geographic region in exceptional and riveting detail for the first time. Virtually all of the 158 butterfly species occurring in southern British Columbia, Washington, northern Idaho, and northern Oregon are included in the book. Color photographs of each stage of life—egg, every larval instar, pupa, adult—accompany information on the biology, ecology, and rearing of each species. *Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies* will appeal to naturalists, hikers, amateur entomologists, butterfly gardeners, conservationists, students, and general readers of natural history.

Thursday, March 15, 7:00-8:30 PM  
Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, 127 North Mission, Wenatchee

**March Wild Phlox**

North Central Washington Audubon Society  
 Post Office Box 2934  
 Wenatchee, WA 98807

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
 PRESORTED STANDARD  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 WENATCHEE, WA  
 Permit No. 21

**North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar**

March 2	Bats of the Okanogan Highlands	Spend the evening with the Okanogan Highlands Alliance. See page 5 for details
March 10	Find the elusive Sage Grouse lek with Dan Stephens	Meet at 6:00 am at the Easy Street Park and Ride. RSVP to Dan at 679-4706. Be prepared for the weather. See page 3 and page 6 for related article.
March 15	<i>Butterflies of Cascadia</i>	With the Native Plant Society. See page 7
March 16	History of fish and fishing in NCW	Wenatchee River Institute. See page 7
March 20	<b>Bag It</b>	Unravel the complexities of our plastic world! Details on page 1
March 23-25	Othello Sandhill Crane Festival	Learn about these tall elegant wandering cranes. <a href="http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/">www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/</a>
March 30	Shadows in the Forest: Gray Wolves in Washington State	Wenatchee River Institute. See page 7



Printed on Recycled Paper

Visit the NCW Audubon Society website for updates on these and other events [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org)