

Wenatchee Naturalist I -Spring 2012

Date Wednesday 6:30-8 PM, unless noted	Content Topics	Field Skill Topics	Featured organization	Current Conservation Issue	Notes
2/1/2012	Introduction to Wenatchee River watershed & landforms	How to use field sketching, note-taking, and data forms to sharpen observation skills	Wenatchee Valley Erratics Chapter of Ice Age Floods Institute		Orientation to course and expectations. Lecture + journaling activity. Guest speakers: Geologist Brent Cunderla and Wildlife Biologist & Artist Heather W. Murphy
2/4/2012 All-day Saturday Field Trip	Identify native trees, birds, & mammals in the field	Practice recording observations on field data sheets, taking notes, making field illustrations, & using binoculars	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust White River properties: Upper Basin Birders, Leavenworth Bird Fest	The need to preserve forested wetland habitat: quality, quantity, and connectivity all matter!	A 4-5 hour White River Watershed exploration on snowshoes (provided): Meet at 8:00 a.m. to carpool from North park-and-ride. Bring layers for all types of weather. Wear waterproof boots. Bring food and drink. Need field journal, pencil. Guest field trip leader: Heather W. Murphy
2/8/2012	Forests & trees: conifers and broad-leaved species	How to use a dichotomous key and field guides to identify a species	Wenatchee River Institute, located at Barn Beach Reserve	Eastside fire ecology: past, present, & future	Lecture + lab
2/15/2012	Mammals	How to use study skins skulls, field guides, and tracks to identify a mammal	The Grizzly Bear Outreach Project	Addressing the need for an accurate understanding of large carnivores in WA	Lecture + lab and guest speaker, Wildlife Biologist Gus Bekker: class held at Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchi Hall, 3rd floor Biology lab Room TBA
2/22/2012	Overview of bird biology: common winter birds	How to use field guides, websites, and audio tools to identify birds	North Central Washington Audubon Society	The critical need to preserve and connect habitats for wildlife	Option to attend Wed. 7:15 AM field trip at Walla Walla Pt. Park Lecture + lab

Class meets Wednesday evenings, 6:00-8:30 p.m, at the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust at 18 N. Wenatchee Ave.

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2/29/2012	Common migratory birds	Use of study skins, field guide, and sounds to identify birds	The Nature Conservancy	Shrub-steppe restoration project at McCartney Creek: increasing habitat for neo-tropical migrating birds	Option to attend Wed. 7:15 a.m. field trip at Walla Walla Pt. Park; Lecture + lab Class held at Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchi Hall, 3rd floor Biology lab
3/7/2012	Reptiles and amphibians	How to use field guides, websites, and dichotomous keys to identify species	Cascadia Conservation District	The important role of Citizen Scientists in collecting water quality data used by scientists	Lecture + lab Guest Speaker: Biologist Neal Hedges
3/14/2012	Aquatic Ecosystems: Fish and Insects	How to use field guides and websites to identify native fish and aquatic insect species	Trout Unlimited	Productivity of aquatic ecosystems: value of salmon carcasses to aquatic food systems	Lecture + lab Guest speaker: Fish and Habitat Biologist, Phil Archibald
3/21/2012	Introduction to native plants: parts & ID	How to identify basic organization and components of a plant	Chelan County Weed Board	Battling invasive non-native plants: one of the biggest threats to native ecosystems	1st hour of class in the field at the Jacobson Preserve; Lecture follows at CDLT. Guest speaker: Botanist Julie Sanderson
3/24/2012 All-day Saturday Field Trip	Identify native trees, birds, mammal tracks, and fish habitats in the field	Practice using field guides and field journaling in the field	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Entiat River properties	Habitat restoration projects: a tour of the Entiat River	Entiat Watershed Exploration of aquatic and riparian habitats. Guest field trip leader: Fish and Habitat Biologist Phil Archibald and Stream Ecologist, Mark Oswood. Logistics provided in prior class
3/28/2012	Wildflowers: families part 1	How to use dichotomous keys and hand lenses to determine plant family	Washington Native Plant Society	Habitats in critical need of protection in WA: shrub-steppe	1st hour of class in the field at the Jacobson Preserve; Lecture follows at CDLT

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4/4/2012	Wildflowers: families part 2	How to use microscopes, dichotomous keys, and field guides to determine plant family	Trust for Public Land	Wenatchee Foothills Strategy: an action-oriented strategy to guide future development, recreation, & conservation efforts	Lecture + lab Class held at Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchi Hall, 3rd floor Biology lab Room
4/7/2012 All-day Saturday Field Trip	Identify native plants and birds in the field	How to use field journal, field guides, and camera in the field	Seeds of Success and Rare Care Programs at University of WA Botanic Gardens	The need to increase the number of species & amount of native seed available for use in restoring public lands	Following the wildflowers and birdsongs: Wenatchee to Leavenworth. Guest field trip leader: Botanist & Plant Ecologist Ellen Kuhlmann. Logistics provided in prior class.
4/11/2012	Terrestrial insects & arthropods: common orders	How to use field guides, simplified keys and website to identify species	Xerces Society (Conservation of invertebrates & their habitats)	Essential services provided by pollinators to all flowering plants are at risk due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases.	1st hour in the field + Lecture Logistics provided at prior class. Guest speaker: Entomologist Bob Gillespie
4/18/2012	Student culminating project presentations and celebration dinner	Presentation of program completion awards	Wenatchee Naturalist I Pilot Program: ideas for the future	Develop an individual volunteer plan to <i>give-back 20 hours</i>	Students present their project. Next steps: How to keep track of volunteering