

METHOW CONSERVANCY NEWS

For Wildlife ♦ For Farming ♦ For Community ♦ Forever



*Spring & Summer
2015 Newsletter*

May - June 2015

*Inspiring people to care for
the land of the Methow
Valley since 1996*

This Issue Features:

From the Director

*The Ruby-Crowned
King of Songsters*

*The Art of War on
Noxious Weeds*

Your Impact!

*A Quick Look at the
Numbers*

Events Calendar

& so much more!

Of Rambles and Strolls



Spring really is a season of re-birth in the Methow Valley with wildflowers blooming all over the place. We've been offering free walks and rambles every week to help introduce people to the varied life that calls this Valley home.

As soon as the snow melted and the first signs of spring emerged, *Educational Programs Director* Mary Kiesau whipped out her calendar and set an ambitious schedule of weekly free Wildflower Rambles and Birding Strolls. From Pipestone Canyon to Riser Lake and beyond, Mary and an ever-changing group of weekly walkers have been out learning about spring in the Methow Valley.

We asked Mary to share her impressions from her up-close-look at the Methow landscape these past few weeks, and while she's quick to remind us she's not a trained "expert," we sure respect her knowledge and her time in the field:

What has surprised you this spring?:

It's just so amazing to see how much change there is from week

to week. I've really enjoyed deliberately going out each week to look for flowers and birds and to witness the progression of spring.

Early on, leading the walks was much easier – there were just a few flowers blooming and plants growing and only a handful of bird species, so few, in fact, that you could really hear each call distinctly and help people identify them. But by May, birds really do arrive

as much. Now we're doing more of a "Where's Waldo" effort, looking for movement in the trees and then hoping that movement will reveal a bird. But, that's all part of the fun of birding, too. Learning to adjust and hone my teaching as the season changes has been a fascinating exercise.

One of the most surprising sightings on our rambles happened on our first bird walk. A newcomer



Educational Programs Director Mary Kiesau has been leading free weekly walks looking for wildflowers and birds. The walkers have seen more than 35 wildflowers and 29 bird species!

each week in the Methow Valley, and it can be hard to break out the different sounds of different birds if you're a beginner.

It was also easier to point out birds when the foliage hadn't leafed out

to the Valley was out with us and he asked me if we had any elk in the Methow. Little did I know that he was staring at an elk in his binoculars! This was a rare sighting and it was great for everyone to catch a glimpse of the elk.

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From the Director: by Jason Paulsen

Spring Surprises

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Page 1: Dawn Woodruff, Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau

Page 2: Dawn Woodruff, Stewardship Staff, Stewardship Staff

Page 3: Mary Kiesau, Dawn Woodruff

Page 4 & 5: Julie Grialou, Mary Kiesau, Maria Coryell-Martin, Jason Paulsen, Ric Redman, Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau

Page 6: Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau, Laurelle Walsh

Page 7: Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau, Mary Morgan

Page 8: from the collections of Richard Hart, Andy Hover, Alexa Whipple

Spring is full of surprises. How fast will the snow melt? How high will the rivers flow? When will the first tanager appear out my window? I welcome spring each year as a season to learn something new and I've grown to look forward to its surprises.

This year is no exception. As you'll read in this newsletter, we're noticing all sorts of "spring surprises" on the landscape, and we're paying special attention to how the land and flora and fauna are recovering in areas that burned last summer.

While I expected to be surprised by post-fire spring this year, I have actually been most personally impacted by another reminder of renewal. In the last two weeks I have had the opportunity to welcome two new families of "conservators" – the term we use to identify landowners who own private property where the Methow Conservancy holds a conservation easement. In both cases, the properties purchased were conserved by a previous landowner, making the new landowners the "next generation" of stewards, and my meeting, an introduction for them to the Methow Conservancy and the conservation easement tool that binds us as partners with the land forever.

It has truly been an honor to welcome these landowners into their relationship with their Methow properties and to serve as an interpreter of sorts between the creator of the conservation easement for each property and the new families preparing to enjoy these beautiful lands for years to come. I've been struck by how eager the new owners are to understand their conservation easement and how proud they are to now own a property that plays an important part in the conservation story unfolding in the Methow Valley. Our new conservators are already in love with their properties and the conservation values at the core of their protection.

These meetings have also provided an opportunity to reflect upon the reality that these properties and those who own them, will continue to change over time – with the Methow Conservancy and our role in holding the conservation easement serving as an important constant. Properties can be bought and sold, zoning laws can come and go, but the tenets of our conservation easements are set permanently. That means we have a perpetual obligation as an organization to uphold those tenets. This is a humbling responsibility and one I assure you we take very seriously.



Another hard day at the office: Executive Director Jason Paulsen helps monitor impacts of grazing on one of the Methow Conservancy's 106 conservation easements.

Perhaps most notably, these visits have served as important reminders that the processes of connecting with people and connecting people to the land are at the heart of everything we do at the Methow Conservancy. Voluntary land conservation is at its core, a human act, and one where relationships of trust and cooperation define its success. It is a huge part of what makes community-level conservation work so exciting and fulfilling for me personally, because it is something you can feel.

I hope you can feel it, too, as you read through this newsletter and see visual evidence of the impact you make every day in the Methow Valley. As you'll see in our "centerfold" this month, you really are the Methow Conservancy and we are honored to carry forward your trust.

As spring moves (quickly) into summer, I know there will be surprises ahead as well. With a team as strong as ours, however, I know we'll meet these surprises with hope, optimism, and a continued belief that we can make a difference in a place we love.

Jason Paulsen
Executive Director

What is a Conservation Easement?



A conservation easement is a permanent written legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization, like the Methow Conservancy, that directs a property's uses in order to protect wildlife habitat, high quality soils for farming, scenic views, fragile riverfront, or healthy forests.

When you own land, you also "own" many rights associated with it, such as the right to build structures, harvest timber, excavate minerals, etc. When you place a conservation easement on your land, you permanently give up some of those rights in exchange for protecting the specific features of the land. For example, you might give up the right to build additional residences while protecting productive farmland.

Conservation easements are:

Permanent – they "run" with the land and the tenets of the easement must be followed forever by all future landowners.

Tailored – each easement is unique and reflects the unique features of each property. There is no one-size-fits-all option.

Defensible – the Methow Conservancy has a moral and legal obligation to ensure that the terms of the easement are being followed in perpetuity.

A Private Partnership – The Methow Conservancy does NOT own the land, ensuring instead that it remains in the private landowners' hands and on the public tax rolls.

For information about conservation easements, call us at 509-996-2870 to request our free information packet.



The Ruby-Crowned King of Songsters

by Mary Kiesau

There is always something new to learn about the Methow Valley. Every resident has a story and we find inspiration and awe in all of them. Because we believe that the more we all know about this incredible place, the more we will care for it, we want to share a more detailed look at one of our spring-time residents.

Alder and willow trees are festooned with long green catkins, and the previously brown and white hills have filled in with hundreds of variations of green. It's spring in the Methow Valley and it's a good time to keep your eyes and ears peeled for the ruby-crowned kinglet, *Regulus calendula*.

This plucky little elf of a bird migrates into the Valley early in the spring from as far away as Mexico and Central America or simply from the west side of the North Cascades. It loads up on tiny insects before moving up in latitude and elevation to nest in large, tall conifers like spruce and fir.

Ruby-crowned kinglets are common in the Methow's early spring months, but they are not easy to find unless you know what clues to look or listen for.

Imagine searching and scanning spindly trees in the shrub-steppe and in areas near water. Look



Look closely to see the distinctive stripe of red feathers on the head of this male ruby-crowned kinglet. These feathers will rise into a crown if he is agitated or trying to attract a mate. A spring search for the *Regulus calendula* is sure to remind you that the Methow Valley is home to some pretty amazing natural wonders.

for movement. The diminutive and drab buffy-gray and olive-green birds are only 3.5 to 4.3 inches long from beak to tail, and weigh about as much as a tablespoon of cocoa powder (0.2 to 0.4 ounces). They are well camouflaged in the young trees, but fortunately for us they almost never stop moving. The kinglets restlessly flit through the foliage, flicking their wings as they go. They are hunting for insects in the catkins and freshly budding leaves.

With names like "ruby-crowned" and *Regulus*, meaning "king" from the Latin word rex, you might think you should look for a bright red head, but the name is deceiving. The male kinglet's "crown" is a bright stripe of red feathers but he only wears it when agitated or when trying to attract a female. In all other times, the "crown"

lies flat on his head, an unremarkable streak of red.

Still, the male kinglet earns the right to his title with his voice alone. Loud and audacious during the mating season, the male ruby-crowned kinglet has an unusually loud song for his size. This distinctive song often starts with a thin high-pitched note (that not all human ears can hear), then transitions to a jumbled, oscillating series of bubbly notes and ends in an incredibly loud up-and-down seesaw of a finish.

The female alone builds the nest and incubates

the eggs (perhaps because the male is too busy singing, though he does feed her during this time). High in conifer branches, females build deep, hanging, cup-like nests of moss, lichen, bark strips, spider webs, small twigs and roots, conifer needles, and animal hair. A typical female ruby-crowned kinglet will lay up to 12 eggs, the largest clutch of any North American songbird of this size!

There is a short window of time in the Methow Valley's spring months to get outside and search for the song and sight of the ruby-crowned kinglet. It takes a keen eye and an observant spirit to search for and find them. Let us know if you've seen one at info@methowconservancy.org!

The Art of War: Noxious Weed-Style

by Sarah Brooks, with factual expertise from our Stewardship Staff

Every May I prepare for battle. I sharpen my weapons, put on my protective gear, and gather my resolve. I will, the mantra repeats in my mind, win the war against weeds on my property.

Like any good fight, I know it takes perseverance, patience, strategy and smarts, and somehow knowing that I'm not out there battling alone toughens my willpower.

If you are gearing up for your own battle with weeds in the Methow Valley, never fear! We are determined to give you everything you need to remain one step ahead of your foe.

Know Your Enemy

What's the big fuss about anyway? The real issue is with "noxious" weeds--the official term for invasive, non-native plants that are so aggressive and difficult to control that they out-compete native plants for sunlight, nutrients, and space; reduce habitat for wild and domestic animals; spoil rangelands and decrease agricultural production; poison animals; increase wild-fire risk; and reduce recreational, scenic and property

values. So while some weeds (and even natives) may be annoying (or "obnoxious"), noxious weeds are a genuine threat to the health of our land, scenery and even economy.

Before you can plot your weed-war strategy, you need to be able to identify who you are battling. Our Stewardship staff are here to help – they've created an on-line weed guide with photographs of the most common weeds at various stages of development and even handy videos from out in the field. Bookmark this site

<http://www.methowconservancy.org/weeds.html>

to make sure you know what you are looking for, since weeds come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Let us know if you are seeing weeds we haven't yet put in the guide and we'll get right on it.

Make a Plan

Start by walking your property with our weed guide in-hand. Take an inventory of what is thriving where – even consider drawing a map for yourself so you can track your progress over time.



Sarah Brooks and volunteer Betsy Weiss tackle barnaby. Be sure to check out our on-line weed guide before you attack your noxious weeds at www.methowconservancy.org/weeds.html.

If you find a patch of noxious weeds on your property, you'll want to study up on the best control methods for that specific weed. Some weeds spread via seed, so hand-pulling can work, but you'll want to be careful with your disposal method if the weed has already gone to seed. Others spread through their creeping root

(cont. on page 7)

You are the Methow Conservancy: Thank you

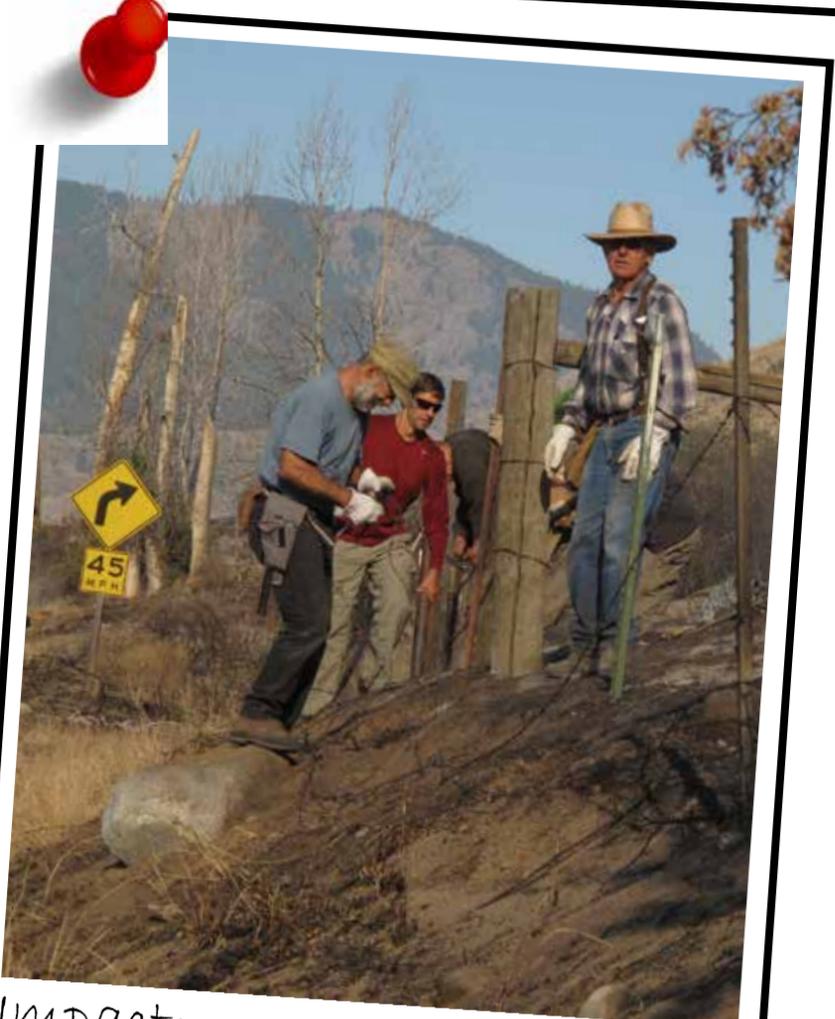
We're dedicating this centerfold to some postcard moments from the last year that we think capture all the big and small things that you hope to see in next year's postcards by emailing us at info@methowconservancy.org, or



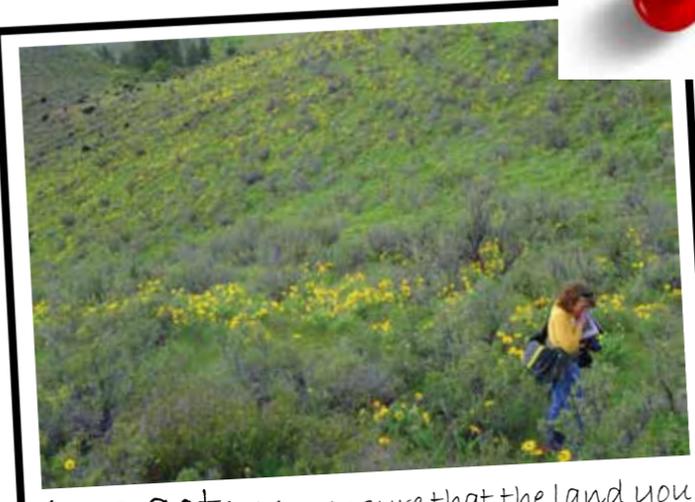
Impact: You've protected more than 8,000 acres of incredible wildlife habitat, agricultural ground, and scenic views in the Methow valley, including this amazing spot up McFarland Creek, our 106th conservation easement. Easements ensure that the land stays in private hands and on the local tax rolls, while permanently protecting the conservation values of the property.



Impact: You filled the Wint with thinkers like Bill McKibbin. First Tuesdays each month, a expeditionary art, mycology, s



Impact: You volunteered to help the land and the community. Post-fire you repaired miles of agricultural fence, you planted seeds in areas disturbed by powerline repair and firelines with our one-day Seed Mob, and you bundled free tree and shrub starts to help people re-plant the landscapes they lost.



Impact: You ensure that the land you protect is well-stewarded. Our Stewardship staff visit each of our conservation easement properties every year, taking photos from fixed locations to understand changes in the land over time, meeting with the landowners to provide advice and guidance, and really getting to know more than 8,000 of the Methow valley's acres.



Impact: You can get out on the land. For example, we have a Seed Mob to help us all get out on the land to help us all understand a place. fruit in the Low... fun and full, r... understand a pl...

Thank you for the impact you make possible!

Small (but all important) ways you help inspire people to care for the land of the Methow Valley. Be sure to let us know by calling us at 509-996-2870, or stopping by our office at 315 Riverside in downtown Winthrop.



Winthrop Barn several times for community conversations with Ben and Chris Morgan, plus you packed all of our hearts together we learned about the marbled murrelet, squirrels, snakes, and more!



Impact: You made sure the next generation learns about the value in looking closely at nature, hosting a residency at the local schools with artist Maria Coryell-Martin and by offering our staff as partners with high school students in post-fire monitoring of landscape recovery.



You make sure that visitors and residents alike get to the land and learn about the Methow valley. We hosted an orchard tour (with some tasty treats!) to learn about what it takes to produce amazing things over Methow valley. You keep all of our field trips from reminding us that people are inspired when they can see and feel like a part of it.



Impact: You made sure that people who had property that burned in the fires had a free resource to understand how the land will recover. Our staff visited with more than 60 landowners to share their stories and what we know. Working in partnership with Room One, we have also created a native seed bank to provide free seed to those with financial need. We learned that for those who love this valley, seeing the landscape return is an essential piece of recovery.

Rambles & Strolls (con't.)

What are you noticing in areas that burned last summer?:

I lead a walk in the Pipestone Canyon area and was amazed by the amount of green, so much in fact that at a glance, you have to remind yourself that it burned. Once you begin to walk around, you realize that all the shrubs – like bitterbrush, sage and currant – are gone, but then you see all the new re-growth too.

I'm noticing that the currants and sagebrush are coming back quickly and visibly. New bitterbrush is coming up too, but much more slowly, and that is to be expected. In places that had been thick with shrubs, colonizing plants like lupine, clematis and larkspur (things that grow and establish quickly) are coming in.

We are watching the ecology of fire recovery unfold right in front of us and there is so much to learn! In general, places that were full of native plants and grasses before the fire are coming back fine and areas that had a lot of shrubs or trees before the fire look quite a bit different and will for a long while.

We've been asked here at the office several times about the "bloom" this year, with people noticing that the sunflower (arrowleaf balsamroot) bloom seems "bigger" than usual this year. Would you agree?

I don't know if it is actually bigger, or just more of it, or not, but that is something I am definitely hearing people wonder out loud about, and the flowers sure have been beautiful.

I think it's hard to really know without having a test plot and measuring it. It is difficult to remember exactly what last year or the year before looked like if you don't have photos or hard data.

But, I have been keeping a keen eye out and I think there are a few key things to keep in mind: 1) most of the big native blooming plants are



Chocolate tips (desert parsley) are members of the carrot family and this year their peak bloom coincided with that of the ever-popular sunflower (arrowleaf balsamroot).

perennials, so they will continue to grow from year to year, 2) plant growth and flower blooms

have a lot to do with what happened in the fall and winter (rainfall, first frost, snowpack, etc.), and 3) certain plants (like the arrowleaf balsamroot) seem to vary their peak bloom more than others.

It seems like the arrowleaf balsamroot peak can vary from one to three weeks from year to year. Last year, the lupine and balsamroot peaked at the same time, but this year the balsamroot seemed to peak with the chocolate tips (desert parsley), which usually blooms earlier than the balsamroot. I think sometimes how the overall spring bloom feels and looks can have a lot to do with the timing of what else is blooming.

It warmed up so fast this spring – is everything "ahead of schedule?":

Some things did come early this year. For example the rufous hummingbirds were a good two to three weeks earlier at my house than they have been in recent years. The bluebirds arrived just a bit early, but mostly around when they usually do and the western tanagers were spot on, arriving exactly when they always do. The same is true



The rufous hummingbird arrived in the Methow Valley a little earlier than usual this spring.

with plants, like I just mentioned with arrowleaf balsamroot blooming early but the chocolate tips blooming on time so that they were blooming together. So, there is some definite variation but overall, I don't know if I can say that everything is early.

Taking note of these variations is part of why I write down key sightings every year. I like to take notes each year on a calendar when I see the first leafing of the cottonwoods in different areas of the valley, or the first currants blooming in a spot on my drive home or the first Say's phoebe at the office. It doesn't take any special schooling to pay attention to the natural world, you just have to find a favorite place, visit it often, and keep notes on what you notice. Over time, you'll start to see patterns or you'll begin to wonder what's going on when something happens that is out of the pattern. It's a great way to learn.

Spring is quickly turning to summer. Where would you recommend I go if I want to



Look for the Mountain Lady's Slipper orchid in June.

see birds or wildflowers in June and July?

Get out walking as soon as you can! There are so many great things to see here in the Methow Valley. June is a "transition"

month where spring is moving to summer on the valley-floor, but it's still a good time to see flowers and birds in the Valley or on low-level ridgeline walks like Virginian Ridge and Buck Mountain. In early June, keep your eyes out for the Mountain Lady's Slipper, a beautiful orchid that will bloom in places like Big Valley wildlife area and near the Suspension Bridge in Mazama.

By July, you'll want to start looking at mid-elevation, sub-alpine hikes. Trails like Goat Peak, Cutthroat and Maple Pass are great places for summer bird and flower watching. I also really like the Black Lake Trail up the Chewuch for early season wildflowers. You could go there as early as early June (<http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/black-lake>).

In general, I suspect that many of these higher elevation hikes may be snow-free two to three weeks earlier than normal, given our warm spring. I always like to take a hike on my birthday (June 11th) and I think that this year hikes like Goat Peak or Driveway Butte, which I've had to turn back on due to snow on previous June 11ths will likely be mostly snow free by then this year.

There will still be snow well into July, of course, in places like Hart's Pass and Tiffany Mountain, since our part of the North Cascades actually was one of the few spots in Washington State that did have a normal snow year. But, I do think a lot of areas may become snow free sooner than usual and you'll want to adjust your adventures accordingly.

Wherever you go, take a good guide book and take the time to go slow and see all the different plants and animals that love this Valley, too!



Take a look at the events calendar on Page 8 and join Mary for an upcoming field trip.

A Short List of What We've Seen on Our Walks

Wildflowers: alumroot, arrowleaf balsamroot, ballhead waterleaf, barestem lomatium, big sagebrush, biscuitroot, bitterroot, bluebells, blue-eyed Mary, chocolate tips, common snowberry, early blue violet, heartleaf arnica, Holboell's rockcress, kinnikinnick, larkspur, lemonweed, lupine, meadow death-camas, Oregon grape, pink twink, prairie smoke, sagebrush buttercup, serviceberry, shooting star, small-flowered prairie star, springbeauty, star-flowered Solomon-seal, steershead, threadleaf phacelia, valley yellow violet, wax currant, western groundsel, woolly-pod milkvetch, yellowbell.

Birds: American widgeon, bald eagle, black-capped chickadee, Brewer's sparrow, calliope hummingbird, Canada goose, downy woodpecker, Eurasian collared dove, harrier hawk, hooded merganser, mallard duck, mountain chickadee, northern flicker, osprey, red-breasted nuthatch, red-breasted sapsucker, red-winged blackbird, ring-necked duck, robin, ruby-crowned kinglet, ruddy duck, rufous hummingbird, song sparrow, spotted towhee, tree swallow, Western meadowlark, white-breasted nuthatch, yellow-headed blackbird, yellow-rumped warbler.

Noxious Weeds be Gone (con't.)

systems, so pulling may not be entirely effective. Again, our on-line weed guide will provide detailed advice for dealing with large and small patches of the various weeds most known in the Methow Valley (see sidebar for an example of the information provided in the guide).

Once you've pulled or otherwise removed the weeds, you'll want to plant something native in their place. Disturbed soil without native seeds is actually a breeding ground for new weeds. So be sure you follow up eradication with renewal efforts by re-seeding large patches with native seeds. (For ideas on native seeds and where to find them, see our Restoration Handbook on-line at <http://www.methowconservancy.org/restoration.html>).

In areas where you don't yet have weeds, remember to make sure you are doing everything you can to prevent them from taking hold. Here are just a few suggestions to consider:

- Stay on established trails when you are out walking and biking to avoid bringing home weed seed. Take a look at your pants, shoes, and socks after each outing and dispose of any little weed seeds so you don't inadvertently help them spread.
- Don't drive or park on top of weeds if you can help it – it's amazing how often weeds spread through car tires.
- Same goes for mountain biking - seeds love to attach themselves to tires and chain rings, so either stay out of the weeds or clean your bike after each ride.
- Though it should seem obvious, don't plant invasive weeds! Half of all the noxious weeds in Washington are escapees from intentionally planted gardens. Look carefully at "wildflower" seed packets - many contain baby's breath or other invasive weeds.

Keep a Long-Term Focus

Finally, build your endurance and be realistic. We'll be the first to tell you that weeds in the Methow should be accepted as a fact of life - you are never going to permanently eradicate all of them from your land. It's also a fact of Methow life that weed control is important and very do-able. Band together with us and we'll make a difference in this war! For more information, join Mary Kiesau on a Weed Walk (see Events Calendar on p. 8).

A Sample from our On-line Weed Guide



Whitetop rosette



Mature whitetop



Top of the flower

Whitetop

Scientific Name: *Cardaria draba*

Other common names: hoary cress

Life-Cycle: Perennial that reproduces by seed and shooting roots

Description: 8-20" tall on an upright stalk with dense clusters of flowers. Leaves somewhat hairy, large and lance-shaped. Can cover large areas. Tends to prefer moist soil. Rapid expander.

Bloom: Clusters of small white flowers bloom in May & June. Flowers have 4 petals in a cross shape.

What to Do: Aggressively treat new populations. Repeatedly handpull small populations.

When: April-May when ground is wet, before it goes to seed.

PLUS: videos from the field and resources links



On behalf of all of the staff and board at the Methow Conservancy, Jason and Sarah say Big Thanks! to all who support our mission of inspiring people to care for the land. You helped make our fiscal year a huge success in many ways!

revenue. This private support has doubled in the last decade -- something we celebrate since we see each donation as a vote for conservation. Our operating budget is about \$700,000 with an additional \$1-3M in capital projects. All told, in a typical year we spend approximately 82% of our funding on our direct programs (land protection, stewardship, and educational outreach), with an additional 14% on management and 4% on fundraising.

If you find all this fascinating and want to learn more, just contact us. We are always happy to share a copy of our financial statements with you.

Happy New Year!

Spring and New Year, you ask? Yes! Our fiscal year runs from April 1st through March 31st, so spring marks the start of a new year!

One of our year-end tasks is to prepare for our financial audit. We are audited each year by an outside accounting firm, so you can rest assured that your financial investments in our work are reviewed.

The good news is that we start 2015-16 financially healthy and strong. We have a terrific Finance Committee that keeps a careful eye on all of our financial matters and they manage our finances with the unusual time horizon of "forever" in mind. Recognizing that our land protection efforts are permanent, we need to make sure that our organization is around forever.

While our audit report for 2014-15 won't be finalized for a few more weeks, we can share that you are the lifeblood of our operations. Donations from people, businesses, and private foundations make up more than 80% of our operating budget

The Back Page

(following people on the move at the Methow Conservancy)

On April 1st we welcomed **Richard Hart** as our new Board President, taking over the meeting gavel from **Phil Davis** who completed the maximum two years in this leadership role. An historian by training, Richard was Executive Director of the Institute of the North American West and its predecessor, the Institute of the American West, from 1977 to 1996, and currently heads HWA, a private historical research company. He and his wife, composer Lynette Westendorf, first came to the Valley in 1989 and moved here permanently in 2000.



Richard Hart was recently voted in as the new President for the Methow Conservancy Board of Directors.

Our Board of Directors also recently welcomed two new members, **Andy Hover** and **Alexa Whipple**. Andy was born and raised in the Methow Valley. After graduating from Liberty Bell High School, he earned a degree in Agriculture Technology and Management as well as a minor in Business Management from Washington State University. He is now the manager of North Valley Lumber and with his wife Jennifer and son Saxton raises Highland cattle and chickens.



Alexa Whipple has resided in the Methow Valley for over 12 years. She is a farmer, biologist, and local business owner, who loves to explore the grand beauty of the North Cascades as much as possible with her husband and young daughter.

Our bylaws allow Board Members to serve up to two consecutive three-year terms and then they must take a mandatory break. We recently thanked **Scott Jennings** for his incredible six years of service and we already miss his business acumen and knack for asking just the right questions. We plan to keep him as involved as we can!

Finally, two of our staff members have embarked on new adventures, all while still keeping their roles at the Methow Conservancy. We offer congratulations to **Dawn Woodruff** for becoming the new librarian in Twisp and say kudos to **Mary Kiesau** for finishing the first year of a graduate program in environmental education at Western Washington University.



Andy Hover (top) and Alexa Whipple recently joined the Board of Directors.

Events Calendar

for the latest up-to-date info, see our website at www.methowconservancy.org/events.html
 To register, call us at 509-996-2870.

May 23rd: Invasive Weed Walks, 8-9:30am in Twisp, 10-11:30am in Winthrop. Join Educational Programs Director Mary Kiesau and learn about noxious weeds -- what they are and what to do about them. Free, but space is limited, so contact us to reserve your spot.

May 25th: Wildflower Ramble, 4-6pm. Let Mary Kiesau show you what's blooming in the Methow. Free, but space is limited, so contact us to reserve your spot.

June 2nd: A Methow Conservancy 1st Tuesday Presentation, LOOK UP! Birds and Other Natural Wonders 7-8:30am at the Merc Playhouse in Twisp. Naturalist Woody Wheeler is a charismatic birder and educator with a program not to be missed! Free.

June 6th: It's Complex: The 2014 Methow Fires, Ecological Effects, and Recovery, 7:30pm at the Mazama Community Club. The Methow Conservancy's Julie Grialou, a conservation biologist, will cover the 2014 Carlton Complex fires, the impact on flora and fauna, short and long-term ecological effects, and how the affected areas are starting to recover ecologically. Free, sponsored by the Seattle Mountaineers.

June 13th: Book Reading by Saul Weisberg, "Headwaters: Poems & Field Notes," 6pm at the Trails End Bookstore in Winthrop. North Cascades Institute Founder and Executive Director Saul Weisberg will read from his new book of poetry, which features more than 100 poems written from a seasoned naturalist's perspective on wilderness and imagination. Free.

June 13th-14th: Wildlife Track & Sign Certification Class Spend two full days in the field with professional wildlife tracker, naturalist and educator, David Moskowitz. \$185, contact us to register.

June 18th: Invasive Weed Walk, 5-6:30pm in Mazama. Join Educational Programs Director Mary Kiesau and learn about noxious weeds -- what they are and what to do about them. Free, but space is limited, so contact us to register.

July 1st: A Methow Conservancy 1st Tuesday Presentation, Adventures in Entomophagy, 7-8:30pm at the Winthrop Barn. Join David Gordon, the author of The Eat-a-Bug Cookbook for an adventure in entomophagy (eating bugs). Free (including some samples to taste!)

July 24th: Alpine Wildflower Hike, 8am-5pm. Join Methow Conservancy's Educational Programs Director, Mary Kiesau, to view, identify and enjoy alpine wildflowers in their splendid summer glory in the Tiffany Mountain area. Free, but space is limited, so contact us to reserve your spot.

September 26th: Annual Cider Squeeze, 2-4pm. It's a sweet celebration of conservation. We'll use an historic press to make fresh apple cider juice and enjoy a classic Methow fall afternoon. Free.

Share Your Love for the Methow Valley!

Your tax-deductible donation permanently protects the Methow Valley you love.

Use these levels or decide on an amount that works for you:

Individual	\$35 - \$49
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Leadership Circle	\$1000 & up
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You may also donate with a credit card. Use our secure on-line donation system.

Go to www.methowconservancy.org and click the "Make a Donation" button.

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(you will receive our once-a-month E-News, our primary source of news and events and periodic updates)

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Thank You!

The Methow Conservancy is registered with the State of Washington Secretary of State's Office under the Charitable Solicitations Act - you may call 1-800-332-4483 or visit www.sos.wa.gov/charities for more information.

Mail with your check made payable to *Methow Conservancy* to: PO Box 71 • Winthrop, WA 98862