

METHOW CONSERVANCY NEWS

For Wildlife ♦ For Farming ♦ For Community ♦ Forever

Building an Army for the Land



*Summer 2016
Newsletter*

June 2016

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

This Issue Features:

Being of a Place

You Asked, We'll Answer

*Will Hike for
Wildflowers*

Party Like it's 1996

*Preserving a Methow
Way of Life*

*Of Journals, Identity, &
Longing*

and so much more!



Washington Conservation Corps members help forest health on a conservation easement up the Twisp River as part of a new pilot project this spring.

After two summers of devastating fires throughout the Valley, land care issues have been looming large.

“We have had conservation easement owners asking us about every stewardship issue you could imagine, from downed fences to weed infestations to areas in real need of re-seeding or planting, not to mention concerns about how to make properties that had not been in the fires more Firewise for the future,” notes Executive Director Jason Paulsen. “We started joking that we needed an army to make a difference.”

No one laughed, however, when the idea of creating a Methow Conservation Crew emerged from community discussions. “We kept hearing that people weren’t satisfied with just knowing land was protected,” Paulsen remembers.

“They also wanted to know it was being cared for. We realized we need to take our mission of inspiring people to care for the land to the next level and actually help people care for the land.”

Extensive research by Stewardship Director Heide Andersen led to the idea of using four weeks this spring to pilot a project aimed at actually building an army for the land. We found a willing partner in the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC), a program designed to give 18-25 year-olds a chance to gain experience doing labor on the land.

At the time of writing this article, the Crew was in the middle of their Methow Valley tour. They had already built fence, weeded, and helped with thinning projects. The six-member crew has been housed in the bunkhouses at Twispworks.

Thanks to a fund of special donations earmarked for post-fire or on-the-ground restoration efforts, we’ve been able to offer the crew to fire-impacted conservation easements free of charge. When the crew works on conservation easements not impacted by fire, there is a cost-share with the landowner.

“We’re really looking at this year as a pilot,” notes Andersen. “We will talk with all the conservators who had the crew on their property and evaluate the project’s future. One thing is clear – there is a definite demand for on-the-ground work.”

In future years we will explore the potential of partnering with public lands to have the crews help improve the health of these vital areas and will consider ways to make the services available for fee to other landowners, too.



Half-way through this spring’s pilot project, the six member crew has already worked on shrub-steppe land, riparian habitat, and forest thinning.

“This project has the potential to hit a homerun on so many fronts,” notes Paulsen. “If we can learn from this pilot, the Methow Conservation Crew concept can provide a way to care for the land, inspire the next generation, and make a real difference on the ground. It’s exciting to think about!”

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Page 1: Jason Paulsen (small inset photo), Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau

Page 2: from collections of Jason Paulsen and Rowan Post

Page 3: Julie Grialou, Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau

Page 4 & 5: from staff archives!

Page 6: Jason Paulsen, Jason Paulsen, Julie Grialou

Page 7: from staff archives, from the collection of John Bonica

Page 8: Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau

Greetings Members,

2016 Liberty High School graduate and valedictorian Rowan Post was not yet born when the visionary leaders who came together to create the Methow Conservancy gathered in a meeting room at Sun Mountain Lodge 20 years ago.

Even those early visionaries might not have had imaginations wild enough to conceive of the impact their work would have upon the landscape of this bountiful valley, let alone the positive impact their vision for establishing conservation as a core value would have upon this community and the next generation of Methow leaders.

In the spirit of thanking those early believers and each of you who finds community in our common love of the land, I am proud to yield the rest of my column to Rowan. The words he shared with his classmates during his graduation speech touched me deeply, and I hope that they serve as a "thank you" and an affirmation for all that each of you contributes in your diverse ways as members of the Methow Conservancy family and of this community.

I celebrate our 20th Anniversary excited by the knowledge that my imagination is not wild enough to conceive of the ways that Rowan and his fellow classmates will go on to make this world, and this valley, a better place for future generations.

Thank you Rowan.



Jason Paulsen
Executive Director



Being of a Place

by Rowan Post, Valedictorian of Liberty Bell High School Class of 2016

First I'd like to thank everyone for being here this evening, community members, teachers, friends and especially family. Your support on this day means a lot.

Recently, as I get closer and closer to leaving home for the first time, I've been doing a lot of thinking about what it means to be of a place. Being of a place is the idea that rather than just growing up in a location, each person on this stage is a representation of countless struggles, lessons and memories that when combined together embody this community and this place that we call home.



Liberty Bell High School 2016 Valedictorian Rowan Post did such an amazing job in his speech, that Jason has turned over his From the Director Column this month to him!

Memories of going off the rope swing at Patterson Lake, of riding a first horse, or of winning a first place ribbon at the county fair. The struggles of losing a home to fire, of hitting another deer or of only having 10 people at a high school dance. And lessons of community pride, of leaving the land as pristine as when you found it and of being part of a family that spans much further than just your relatives.

One of the reasons that I believe this place is so special is the

uniqueness of the people who live here. If you look at our class as only a small representation of this diversity you will still see pink hair, spurs, barefeet, Lycra ski pants, pierced noses, boat shoes, and cowboy hats. Each person here is wildly different because of the people of this community. We have been shaped and molded into our own selves by the lessons we learned here and we are now drawing close to the time where we will take our various places in the world beyond this valley.

As we enter the world at large we go equipped with countless lessons that this community has taught us.

We have learned self-reliance from the farmers and ranchers that make their home here. They have shown us a way of life that sustains itself and is removed from a corporate society: a way of life that is quickly becoming rare throughout much of the world but is becoming ever more important.

From this Valley's artists we have learned how to be creative. This community is filled with art. Where else will you have Tuvan throat singers perform for your school, or have local art in nearly every store? And it is clear that this creativity has been passed on to our class, just look at the water tower or the new sign at the entrance to the school.

We have learned an appreciation for nature from the countless athletes, guides, and conservationists who utilize all that this place has to offer. Few communities have spent as much effort as ours protecting the natural world. Even today the community is fighting for clean headwaters as corporations attempt to use this place we love for profit. Growing up I have had the opportunity to learn how to ski, rock climb, raft and do so many other activities that I would be hard pressed to find anywhere else.

We have learned service from the nonprofits of this valley. Nonprofits such as Room One, PSFA, Aero Methow, and the many churches who have brought together people from all walks of life in an effort to improve this community. There are so many people here who have given their lives to service and who have shown us how to act selflessly.

And we have learned resilience from the way that people came together and overcame adversity during the past two

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You Asked, We'll Answer

This winter our Board Members interviewed some of our long-time supporters about the last 20 years of the Methow Conservancy and their hopes for the next 20 years. We fielded some terrific questions about our work and we figured you might wonder about the answers, too. If you have questions you want answered, send us an email at info@methowconservancy.org and we'll promise to get back to you or we'll share the answer in our next newsletter!

Do conservation easements really last forever?

Yes. A conservation easement is a permanent encumbrance on a property's title. It "runs with the land" meaning that every time the property sells, the new landowner must abide by the conservation easement. Potential buyers are notified of the presence of a conservation easement when they pull title on a property, in the same way they are informed of a utility easement.

A conservation easement is a written legal agreement that protects a property's wildlife habitat, high quality soils for farming, scenic views, fragile riverfront, or healthy forests. At the time the easement is created, the private landowner works with the Methow Conservancy to negotiate the terms of the easement (e.g., how many homesites will remain, what can happen in each of the habitat "zones" of the easement, etc.). Once signed, the easement becomes permanent and any landowner thereafter must abide by the original terms. Conservation easements remain in private ownership throughout their lifetime –



One of the "forever" agricultural properties protected up the Twisp River with a conservation easement.

the Methow Conservancy does not own the land under conservation easement.

We are accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission – a process designed to ensure that we take all the right steps in the creation of a conservation easement to ensure it can be upheld forever. Our easements are drafted by staff trained as attorneys and then reviewed externally by more attorneys.

We also visit each of our conservation easement properties each year. Our Stewardship staff will cover more than 8,000 acres this summer. These visits help share insights on caring for the land

with the landowners and are our way of ensuring the conservation easement is being followed.

Ultimately, we ensure the "foreverness" of our conservation easements by maintaining conservation easement defense insurance and a special fund to help with any costs we would incur should we need to defend an easement legally. Of course, we hope never to get to the point of having to defend an easement in court, but it is our final backstop.

What conservation tools exist beyond easements?

Great question – and one we are exploring right now. We are especially interested in two tools: one that might help us work with smaller-acreage farmers and one that would assist landowners interested in protecting their shorelines.

Conservation easements work best when the landowner has development rights to retire. Smaller acreage properties are often already "fully built" and thus a conservation easement may not be appropriate. Smaller properties can have excellent soils for agriculture or fragile riparian habitats all worthy of protection.

Over this next year we'll be learning from other land trusts and talking with interested landowners to see if we can develop some new, innovative tools to address conservation on smaller acreage properties.

Will Hike for Wildflowers

by Mary Kiesau, Educational Programs Director

Northwest summers are meant for hiking in the mountains, and there are lots of reasons many of us like to hike – for big scenic vistas, for fresh air, for wildlife sightings, for health and recreation, and, of course FOR WILDFLOWERS! We asked Mary Kiesau, our unofficial staff naturalist, what some of her favorite summer hikes for wildflowers were and here's what she said.

Goat Peak Lookout - USFS trail #457, best in late June to early July.

Early in the summer season, when snow still covers many other mountain trails, I like to go to Goat Peak Lookout. The lookout is at 7,000ft but much of the elevation gain is done via driving,

so the hike itself isn't very long (just under 5 miles roundtrip). Right from the trailhead, you step back in time to find many of our "low-land" species that bloomed months ago on the valley floor like spring beauties, lupine and ballhead waterleaf. The beginning of the trail features rock gardens filled with thread-leaved sandwort and Columbia lewisia. Head further up into the open meadows and you'll find carpets of yellow with the lovely lomatium "spring gold," glacier lilies and western groundsel. The trail steepens for a bit through forests of larch then reaches a ridge to continue to the lookout. Here, look for Lyall's rockcress and a cute little buckwheat called "Dirty Socks."

Heather Pass to Lewis & Wing Lakes - USFS trail #470, best in late July to late August.

Everyone's heard of and probably hiked the Heather and Maple Pass Loop - it's the most popular trail in the North Cascades. For 4-6 short weeks, from mid-late July to mid-late August, it's also an amazing trail for flowers, including all three of our heather species (yellow, white and pink), as well as Tolmie's Saxifrage on the rocky balds of Maple Pass. BUT, the trail can be packed with people even mid-week, and a nice alternative is to go to Heather Pass and then continue on to Lewis Lake, and if you really want an adventure, to Wing Lake. As soon as you take the spur for



White bog orchid, a common plant of wet meadows in the high country is incredibly fragrant. Get down on your knees and give it a sniff!

Heather Pass, you enter a beautiful wet meadow full of pink heather and white bog orchids. You'll find veronicas, partridge foot, several saxifrage species and much more. Continue on down through a talus field to Lewis Lake. Black Peak will be looming above you and if you are in for a

big day continue on the trail (lined with valerian and lupine) to the upper lake, Wing Lake. Wing Lake is a crystal clear high-alpine tarn, rimmed with larches and heather. Even in August it may still have snow floating in it, but it's a real treat.

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A cute but slightly stinky flower called "Dirty Socks" can be found near Goat Peak Lookout.

Party Like It's 1996: Celebrating 20 Years of Methow Conservancy

An organization's birthday isn't quite as exciting as your own, but it is a milestone. We'll be celebrating people, places, and projects from the past 20 years throughout this BIG anniversary year for us. There's no better place to start than with recognizing donors who have been with us for the long-haul. We'll admit our computer databases may not be perfect (20 years ago was in the last century, after all), but as best we can tell, here's a list of current donors who have been with us for at least a decade.

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Then & Now

What were you doing in 1996? We decided it might be fun to ask our current staff that question. Here's a quick snapshot of us then and now. And, yes, the right answer is to tell each of us (except Jacqueline of course) that we look just the same today!



Jason Paulsen
Executive Director
1996: Jason was working as a City Planner in Black Diamond, WA, commuting daily from the metropolis

of Greenwater where he spent every spare minute exploring the less traveled corners of Mount Rainier National Park (and a few other parks, too).

2016: What does Jason do all day? If you figure it out, please call us at 509-996-2870 :) Actually, he just runs the place!



Sarah Brooks
Associate Director
1996: Sarah was a graduate student at the University of Washington and working for a nonprofit in her first-ever fundraising role! She had no idea she had found her calling.
2016: Sarah's still loving the chance to connect people to causes they care about and still finding meaning in helping people express their love for the Methow Valley.



Dawn Woodruff
Monitoring & IT Coordinator
1996: Dawn and her husband, Kent, lived at the Early Winters Forest Service compound in Mazama with three boys aged 1, 6, and 8. She worked part-time for the Winthrop Ranger District as a biologist & mapper.
2016: She's still mapping and using her scientific and computer skills to support conservation--and that baby is now a firefighter in California!



Mary Kiesau
Educational Programs Director
1996: Mary graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Exercise Physiology & Sports Science. She traveled throughout New Zealand for three months in the fall on a post-graduate scholarship.
2016: Mary travels throughout the Methow Valley sharing her deep natural history knowledge with all interested in our educational programs.



Jeanne White
Land Project Director
1996: Jeanne was finishing up law school but had switched to night school status so she could live in the Columbia Gorge at an old homestead with a friend and dog while working for the Friends of the Columbia Gorge. She fell in love with shrub steppe living in that magical spot.
2016: Jeanne works with willing landowners to create conservation easements and helps us think through complex land transactions.

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Preserving a Methow Way of Life

by Sarah Brooks, Associate Director

We came around the corner and the homestead popped into view. Proud, enduring, undoubtedly updated and more comfortable than it once was, still nestled next to the pond and the lilac bush planted decades ago by a homesteader from afar, craving something familiar.

We stood on the porch looking out at the acres of rolling hills on Moccasin Lake Ranch and you could feel history. Red-winged blackbirds sang the background soundtrack, but I swear you could hear the stories of the hearty and determined people who have worked the land for generations, here and across the Valley.

In preparing for this tour of the conservation easement on Moccasin Lake Ranch with our *Experience the Methow Auction* winners, I had re-read Jim Pigott's book, *A View of The Methow from Moccasin Lake Ranch*. Front and center in my mind were the stories of George Thompson, the Robinson brothers, the Thurlows, the Nickells, the Prewitts, the Filers, and so many others – all names familiar to places and families still in this Valley.

While the better birders on the tour admired a cinnamon teal and a ring-necked duck on another nearby pond, my mind stayed on the impact agriculture has had on this Valley. From the Methow tribe who found abundance from the Valley's natural bitterroot, wild onion, and desert parsley to the pioneers who used ploughs and horses to cultivate the ground, to today's ranchers and orchardists employing conservation-minded irrigation systems, the soil has always provided for people here. It's never been easy, that's for sure, but determined people have always found a way.

I thought about John McKinney who homesteaded the Hancock Springs ranch – and once grew peanuts. I thought about the Morse family who, for years, provided the perfect potatoes for the Nalley Potato Chip company in Tacoma. I thought about so many ranchers



The homestead at Moccasin Lake Ranch has its own story, as does all of the agricultural land in the Valley.

impacted these past two summers by fires. It's definitely never been easy.

As an organization dedicated to inspiring people to care for the land, we believe that protecting fertile soils is essential to the health of this Valley. It's important from an ecosystem perspective. It's important to the local economy and it ensures the potential for a local food supply. But beyond these practical reasons, it's important because it means farming, ranching, and orcharding can exist here in the Methow Valley despite abundant external pressures. It means that the pastoral scenic open spaces (and at times wildlife feed from a fresh cut of alfalfa) will remain, but it also means a way of life can be preserved.

With your help, we've protected more than 1,600 acres of farm, ranch, and orchard land from Mazama to Pateros with agricultural conservation easements. Much of the visible farmland along the East County Road between Winthrop and Twisp, and numerous orchard lands south of Carlton, for example, have been protected forever.

We're proud of these accomplishments and we look forward to working with willing agriculturalists to protect more fertile ground in the years to come. But, we also have listened to our community and taken a deep look in our organizational mirror and collectively agreed that protecting the soil isn't enough. If we want to truly ensure that agriculture is a part of the Methow way of life, then we need to support it beyond simply protecting acres.

In the next few months we'll be hiring a part-time Agricultural Coordinator – someone charged with listening to the diverse agriculture community here and then designing pilot projects to help make it a little bit easier to be a farmer here. Protecting the soil is only part of the puzzle--ensuring there are people to farm that soil is another.



With your help, we've protected more than 1,600 acres of farm, ranch and orchard land in the Methow Valley. Now, as we prepare to hire an Agricultural Coordinator, we recognize the importance of not just protecting farm soils, but making sure there are farmers to farm them.

We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas on how we can keep agriculture alive in the Methow Valley. Write to us at info@methowconservancy.org or give us a call at 509-996-2870.

Being of a Place (cont.)

summers of fires and floods. These lessons will go with us and guide us in whatever our futures hold.

One of the things that amazes me most about this place is the opportunities that it provides. It seems that no matter what you are interested in, there is someone in this community who is at the top of that field and is more than willing to take you in and nurture your curiosity. From astrophysics to leatherworking to neurosurgery I have seen so many of my peers had their interests developed by



A view from the Post family conservation easement way up the Twisp River--like so many Methow places, a vision Rowan will carry with him to Stanford University this fall.

members of this community who were eager to help. The opportunity here is one of the reasons that this class has sought excellence in so many areas and I firmly believe that it is a trait of place seldom found outside of this valley.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about growing up in this community however, has been the education we have received. From Little Star to the Community School to Liberty Bell, I am eternally grateful to the many teachers who have helped to shape my interests, feed my curiosity and show me the beauty in knowledge. So thank you to all the teachers that helped to turn each of the members of this class into their own freethinking person.

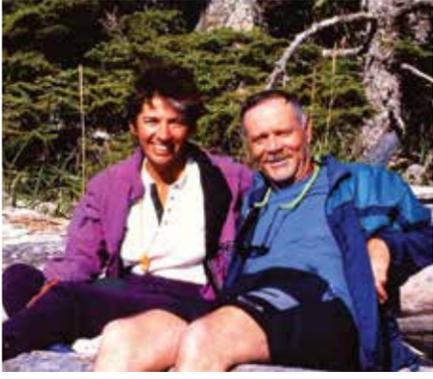
We are each of this place and we each have our own story but I would like, for a moment to touch on my own. I grew up in the last house on Twisp river rd. The beginning of my life was spent exploring the vast expanse of nature around me. I climbed trees, forged rivers and summited mountains in a place far removed from suburban lawns and malls. As I go forward in life, I will take this place with

me and remind myself where I come from with every new step I take.

To my class. I ask each of you that you too remember your beginnings. Remember the people who taught you, your coaches, teachers, mentors, and the many important lessons that you have learned. Remember the struggles that you had and how you overcame them. Remember this place because you will always be a part of it and will always carry it with you. We are all of this place, this community, this valley and I am confident that if we each maintain this connection, we will go on to do great things.

And to younger generations who are waiting for their time on this stage, I urge you to take advantage of this valley while you have the opportunity. Seek mentorship, experience the full diversity of humanity, explore from the headwaters to the Columbia, from the highest peaks to the garden rows, and leave your mark on this place just as it will leave its mark on you.

Then & Now (cont.)



Mary Morgan
Membership Assistant

1996: Mary was busy as the Clinical Director of Mercer Island Youth and Family Services, but she and Phil had already bought their land up Cub Creek and they were making cabin and early retirement plans!

2016: Mary manages our database (and us!) and is our chief thank you letter officer.



John Sunderland
Land Program Manager

1996: John had three jobs (building, heli-ski guiding, and attorney-at-law). He and Libby, were finishing their house and trying to find time to spend in the mountains. He also had just joined the board of new organization called the Methow Conservancy!

2016: John juggles conservation easements and other land-use related legal issues and still has never met a challenge he's not up for.

Jacqueline O'Keefe
Summer Intern (student at Colorado College)

1996: Besides being super cute, Jacqueline was learning to walk, talk (first word = toast) and was known to spit up occasionally.

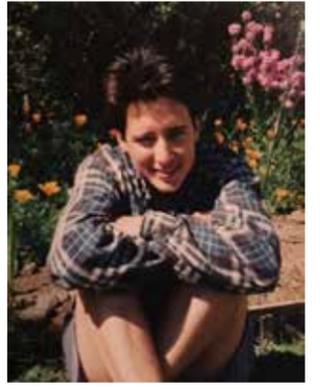
2016: Jacqueline is spending her second summer with us putting her Political Science major with a focus in Environmental Policy to use as she contemplates law school.



Julie Grialou
Conservation Biologist

1996: Julie had just finished graduate school and was living in the little town of Boonville, CA working for the Pacific Forest Trust. She rented an uninsulated cottage and learned that splitting three cords of oak by axe is HARD.

2016: Julie has a magical ability to procure public grant funds for our conservation projects and is a valuable part of our Stewardship staff.



Joy Schwab
Bookkeeper

1996: Joy was working too hard -- at the Methow Institute Foundation, the Methow Valley Land Trust, with North Cascades Heli Skiing, and working with her husband Cliff on a Sun Mtn. Lodge furniture order.

2016: Joy keeps the books and keeps inspiring all of us with her journeys to the backcountry.



Heide Andersen
Stewardship Director

1996: Heide was working for SWCA Environmental Consulting in Salt Lake City with a focus on the desert southwest. She loved mountain biking, kayaking, and rock climbing.

2016: Heide manages easement stewardship issues while still showing up at meetings scars from recent mountain bike adventures.

Of Journeys, Identity, and Longing

by John Bonica, local business owner

The Merc Playhouse's production of the Last Salmon played to full houses in the Methow Valley this March and spawned (excuse the pun!) some excellent community conversations. After one performance, John Bonica (owner of Tappi's in Twisp) shared an eloquent reflection on what the musical meant to him. We were so moved by his comments, that we asked him to expand on them and share them with all of us. His essay follows.

When I was a boy, our house in Tacoma looked out on the smelter-fouled shallows of Commencement Bay. To the east, the Puyallup River delta poured Ranier's glacial melt into the bay, fanning out like a clear bell rings to call home the fall Chinook salmon. Seen at the fish market where my mother shopped every week, the big fish, platinum-flanked, looked noble and fierce even as they lay lifeless on shaved ice, a dozen or more side by side under glass. Their flesh fed us, and made us strong. I saw my father, descended from a long line of seafarers, weep silently, touched to the heart by the heroic migrations of such majestic animals.

The Chinook and its cousins — tzum (chum), suk-kegh (reds), coho (silver) — are great totems of the Pacific Northwest. Their migration stories, threaded through all our coastal rivers and inland drainages, are sagas of tenacity and endurance, even as they shred themselves in the arduous and deadly return to spawn home. These fish lend noble identity to those of us lucky enough to have grown up in the Pacific Northwest.

Long ago I moved from the big salt water portals



Salmon have long been an iconic identity for the Northwest.

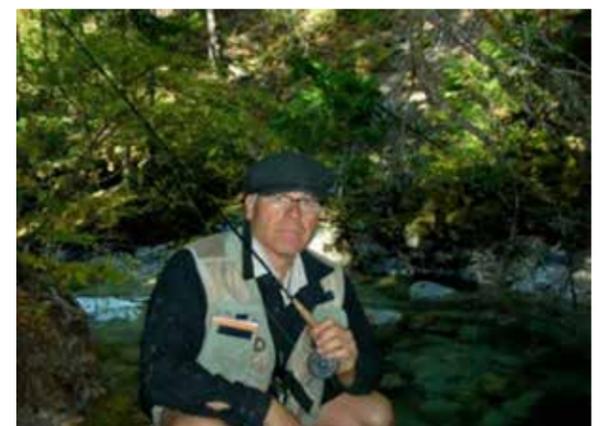
of the Puget Sound where the fish pass, strong and bright, finning into, and years later back from, ocean vastness. Now I live far inland, near some of the most distant headwaters of the great Chinook's historic origins.

Some years ago, I followed my own nose into a remote river canyon, a remnant in the upper Columbia Basin of the mystical primeval. Searching for solitude and pristine fly water, I was unconsciously following in the wake of the great Chinook. In the shallowing summer days of September, I waded the canyon's currents, cooked fish over small dancing fires, and slept on river stones at the feet of starry-crowned cedars. One afternoon, standing in a long quiet run of emerald water, with sunlight tilting gold against the granite walls of this ancient cathedral, I watched my fly drift along an upriver eddy line and felt a shadowy bump against my left calf.

I looked down. Holding in the split current behind my leg, resting, was a yard-long Chinook, flesh tattered to pale rags, its life nearly exhausted, finning slowly, waiting, perhaps for a final surge to spray her eggs in a gravel bed. She touched me as though I was rock. Did she feel the pulse of my flesh, smell my warmth smoking into the frigid water at her nose? I sensed her faint life along my skin. What could I do for her but stand like a rock in the numbing thigh-deep water? I did not move, and raised my gaze to the water flowing toward us from distant snows, pure and ready. When I looked down again, she was gone.

I think of her now and then, and wonder: Did a male find her roe and cloud them with life? Did they hatch in the gravel, bright pink commas in the long story of the river? How many survived to migrate to salt, and how many nosed braided currents to find their way home?

I long to search out that quiet sunlit run again, and wait there for them to return.



Will Hike for Wildflowers con't.



The route along Freezeout Ridge to Tiffany Mountain is simply a thin line of dirt hidden among a thick carpet of wildflowers.

Tiffany Mountain - USFS trail #345 or #373, best in mid July to mid August.

At 8242 ft, Tiffany Mountain is one of the highest places in the North Cascades that you can easily get to, most of it by car. It's also the eastern-most edge of the North Cascades, complete with alpine tundra, dwarf wind-blown trees, tiny arctic willows and other unique shrub species that only grow where virtually nothing else does. Plus, you can often be snow-free on Tiffany and get to flowers sooner than you can at Hart's

Pass or Maple Pass. The Tiffany Lake area is the only place that I've ever seen golden columbine, plus there is elegant death camas and Brewer's mitrewort. But I highly recommend getting to the top of Tiffany via Freezeout Ridge if you've never done it. From the trailhead for Freezeout, you walk through an old burned forest of lodgepole pine and bright magenta fireweed. Soon, you are on the open tundra slopes of Freezeout Ridge with paintbrush, penstemon, lupine, larkspur, cushion buckwheat, thread-leaved sandwort, little goldenrods and so much more. If you can handle the altitude, continue on to the top of Tiffany to see true alpine flowers like purple and spotted saxifrage, pygmy lewisia, mountain avens and gentianella.

Scatter Lake - USFS trail #427, best in late summer or early fall.

Scatter Lake, up the Twisp River Road, is not for the casual day-hiker. It's steep with nearly 4000 ft of elevation gain but you may not see a single other person, and the pay off at the lake is worth it. I tend to hike this trail late in the summer when the late-season flowers around the lake are at their prime. The long, switchbacked trail up offers numerous flowers including aster, monkshood, green hellebore,



The large, luscious pink flowers of Lewis's Monkeyflower are often blooming well into late August above 5,000 ft.



Pussypaws, named for their little cat feet appearance, is in the Purslane family and closely related to our beloved bitterroot down in the Valley.

but it's the lake that really keeps me moving. The lake drains out via a narrow seepage providing a wet, boggy area that is covered with blue gentians. At the outflowing creek of the lake, there are big pink monkeyflowers, tiny pink willowherbs, valerian, and longleaf arnica. A trail goes around the lake and you can find grass-of-parnassus, more gentians, pussypaws, northern goldenrod and stoncrop. Abernathy Peak towers above the lake at 8321 feet. It's reachable via another 1200 or so feet of rocky scrambling if you like to do that sort of thing. Larches abound at Scatter Lake, so if you miss the flowers, it's still worth going in October to see the Cascades glowing orange.

You can find detailed directions and trail information for all these trails on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and/or the Washington Trails Association websites.

Events Calendar

See www.methowconservancy.org/events.html for more details and new calendar additions. To register for our classes, contact us at 509-996-2870.

July 5th: "First Tuesday" program: Pasayten Wildflowers with Forest Service botanist Therese Ohlson, 7:00-8:30pm, at The Merc Playhouse in Twisp. Free.

July 16th: DirtWorks! Class "Bees and Pollinators" with Alexa Whipple & Susie Kowalczyk, 9:00am. Registration required at <http://www.classroominbloom.org/>

July 29: Alpine Wildflower Hike, 8:00am – 5:00pm with Mary Kiesau. Free, registration required.

Aug 13th: DirtWorks! Class "Seed Saving" with Anaka Mines, 9:00am. Registration required at <http://www.classroominbloom.org/>

Sept 6th: First Tuesday program "An Update on the Methow's River Restoration Projects" with John Crandall, 7:00-8:30pm, location TBA, Free.

Sept 17th: DirtWorks! Class "Preserving the Harvest" with Cameron Green, 9am. Registration required at <http://www.classroominbloom.org/>

Sept. 24th: Cider Squeeze at the Sabold's. We'll kick off our 20th birthday celebration this year with music, cider, and of course birthday cake at this fun, free, family-friendly gathering. 2-4 pm in Winthrop.

Oct 4th: First Tuesday program "Climate Change in the Northwest: Implications for Our Landscapes, Waters, and Communities" with climate scientist Amy Snover, 7:00-8:30pm, location TBA, Free.

Oct 15th: DirtWorks! Class "Wood-fire Cooking" with Kate Posey, 9am. Registration required at <http://www.classroominbloom.org/>

Nov 1st: First Tuesday program "Antarctica: An Exploration Of Nature, Ice & Life" with photographer Alasdair Turner, 7:00-8:30pm, location TBA, Free.

Dec 6th: Holiday Social & First Tuesday program "OWL: A Year in The Life of North American Owls" with author and photographer Paul Bannick, 6:00-8:30pm at the Winthrop Barn, free.

Jan 21st: Methow Trails & Methow Conservancy Birthday Party with the Paperboys. The Winthrop Barn will be rocking as we celebrate 20 years and Methow Trails celebrates 40.

Want to stay up-to-date on the Methow Conservancy?

Make sure you receive our monthly E-News!

We only print a newsletter twice a year - but each month we send out the latest and greatest on conservation in the Methow via E-News. To sign up, e-mail us at info@methowconservancy.org

Share Your Love for the Methow Valley!

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

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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.

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