

# METHOW CONSERVANCY NEWS

*For Wildlife ♦ For Farming ♦ For Community ♦ Forever*



*Winter 2016 -17  
Newsletter*

*January 2017*

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

## *This Issue Features:*

*Our Conservation  
Awards*

*You Asked, We'll Answer*

*A Year in Pictures*

*Methow Mammals*

*Seed Mob Strikes Again*

*A Farmer's Perspective*

*Project GenNxt*

*Our Birthday Bash*

*and so much more!*



The crowd was on its feet multiple times at our December holiday party and First Tuesday with wildlife photographer and author Paul Bannick sharing stories and breathtaking photos from his new book *Owl: A Year in the Life of North American Owls*. More than 350 people joined together to be inspired and to celebrate our annual Conservation Awards.

## *Finding Your Inspiration*

Sometimes the land just speaks to you. You find that special spot that leaves you in such awe that you are compelled to action. Sometimes those actions are big and transformative. Sometimes they are small yet significant. Always they leave you changed.

All three of this year's Methow Conservancy award-winners had their own Methow metamorphosis. Inspired by the land, they chose to take on extra work, be courageous, and push themselves to accept responsibility for the place they love.

We honored them at our December holiday gathering in The Winthrop Barn and share their stories with you now because we find them inspiring and because we think they symbolize that strong bond this landscape has with people.

At the end of the day, our conservation work is not simply about ecological impacts and acres and miles. It is about inspiring people to choose to hear the land. May their stories below help you recognize your own Methow love story:

**Fernne Rosenblatt – *You Inspire Us Award*** – *honoring people or organizations that remind us what it means to inspire others to care for the land.*

In 1999, Fernne and her late, beloved husband Roger placed a conservation easement on their 450+ acre property on the other side of the Loup, near Little Loup Loup Creek and Buzzard Lake. It is a magical place – forested with ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and larch, including three-quarters of a mile of Little Loup Loup Creek, and proud aspen stands. It was also a home that Fernne and Roger loved.



Fernne Rosenblatt and her late husband Roger loved their land and Fernne inspires us with her belief in resiliency and renewal.

he could about forestry – even obtaining a Master's in Forest Resources. They freely shared their passion for their forest, hosting school groups from Okanogan every year and helping start the Okanogan Land Trust.

Fernne and Roger easily could have received this award simply for their incredible dedication to their land for decades. But, in August of 2015, just less than two weeks after Fernne celebrated Roger's life with a memorial service at their beloved cabin in the Okanogan, their property burned. All of it:

the aspens by the creek, the forest they lovingly cared for, their home.

We reached out to offer our help to Fernne as she figured out what to do next with a forest that was no longer familiar. But, over the last

*(continued on p. 3)*

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Page 1: Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau

Page 2: from collection of Jason Paulsen, Jason Paulsen, from collection of Sam Naney

Page 3: Eric Bard, Mary Kiesau, Mary Kiesau

Page 4 & 5: Mary Kiesau, Heide Andersen, Mary Kiesau, Don Haley, Heide Andersen, Mary Kiesau, Steve Bondi

Page 6: Ray Johnston, Sarah Brooks, Julie Grialou, Seed Mob Volunteers

Page 7: from collection of Alyssa Jumars, Mary Kiesau

Page 8: from collection of The Paperboys

# From the Director

Greetings Members,

You may have heard that I've been keeping a list of things I love about the Methow Valley this year. It is part of a challenge to myself to remain present, grateful and never take the landscape and community we share for granted.

One of the things I love about my role at the Methow Conservancy is that I am never far from a visible reminder of the work that we do. And when the North Cascades highway is closed each fall, I look forward to opportunities like the one I had the other day to appreciate our conservation work in the lower Methow Valley where one of my favorite conservation success stories is nestled against a glistening stretch of the Methow river just above its confluence with the Columbia.

This particular property is one where I remember standing in the middle of a recently sub-divided and developed orchard property with a landowner who realized that he was not comfortable with his decision to take his land out of production. As we stood on the newly paved access road, he sought our assistance in "un-doing" what was a newly completed subdivision and returning the ground to the growing of fruit. The entry gate was in place, the utilities in the ground, asphalt had been laid...and an opportunity existed to do what we hadn't yet tried before.



Once platted as a sub-division, we worked with the landowner to return this riverfront ground to a working and thriving cherry orchard.

Fast forward to today, and you'd be hard pressed to guess that this beautiful riverfront orchard had ever been so close to being forever lost. It took some creative work, but we

effectively helped the landowner to "un-do" the development work, and we created a conservation easement to protect the prime agricultural soils for the benefit of agriculture into the future. Healthy, productive, and contributing to our local economy, this conserved property now serves as my personal "gateway" to the valley every time I pass by.



When I stop to ponder what it is about this project that means so much to me, I think that it is because it comes so close to capturing why our work continues to inspire me. Here our work inspired a willing private landowner to reach out to us, to seek our help in conserving farmable soil, clean water, and a beautiful riverfront property. The scenic nature of this property serves to welcome passers-by to our valley and connect them with our work whether they recognize it consciously or not. And this property preserves a Methow way of life, providing us with local fruit (cherries in this case!) and hope for a future that embraces agriculture as a key component of our regional economy.

As you take time to reflect this winter, I hope that you will be thinking about what you love about the Methow Valley. And as you do, I hope you too will ask yourself why?

"Why?" is where we find what matters most within ourselves and our community, and it is in that spirit that I welcome you to this edition of our newsletter, dedicated to the "Why?" of our work!

Thank you for loving this Valley!

Jason Paulsen  
Executive Director

# From the Board of Directors

Each year we say good-bye to Board Members who have finished their terms and welcome new Board Members just beginning their journey. Our bylaws allow for three-year terms, renewable once. After that, Board Members must take a break.

Why have term limits? Because we think it is healthy and good for the organization to hear new perspectives and because we know our volunteer Board Members work hard and deserve a break! Sure, it means we have to say farewell to amazing volunteers like Kristin Devin, whose term ended this December. But, it also means we can learn from new Board Members like Sam Naney.

Sam arrived in the Methow at a ripe six weeks of age with his parents and older sister, and grew up amidst the mountains while fostering a love for Nordic ski racing during his high school years. After a successful collegiate racing career and a degree in History from Dartmouth College, Sam has been a professional Nordic ski racer and coach and started his own business, Cascade Endurance, with his wife Alison. Sam, Alison, and their two-year old daughter Fiona returned to the Valley this past summer to continue building their coaching business and immerse

themselves back into the lands and community they love.

Our Board will also welcome back Jane Gilbertsen this winter. She has

served terms on the Board in the past and we are grateful to have her share her wisdom and organizational historical context. Jane is an active community member, volunteering with Twispworks and is a master gardener with a passion for keeping chickens. A retired attorney and pragmatic conservationist, Jane brings a thoughtful, fun, and long-term view to our work.

Our Board meets monthly and we're looking forward to some hearty policy and strategic planning discussions with our diverse group in 2017.



We are excited to welcome Sam Naney to our Board of Directors.



## You Asked, We'll Answer

Last winter, our Board Members interviewed some of our long-time supporters. We fielded some terrific questions about our work, and we'll answer one each newsletter for you because we believe you are our partners in our conservation work!

### Is the Methow Conservancy financially stable?

Yes. This fall we received the official report of our annual financial audit from Cordell, Neher & Company PLLC in Wenatchee. Once again, it reveals a strong bill of health.

Our fiscal year runs April 1 through March 31. Our tax returns combine all of our forms of income and expenses into one, while internally we maintain a separate budget for operations and one for capital (e.g., conservation easement purchases). Through a strange quirk of GAAP (the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), when we purchase conservation easements with our own funds, we take a "loss." Conservation easements have "zero" value from the GAAP perspective. So, if you looked at our IRS Form 990 tax return, you'd see that we have shown a steady "loss" many years as we have spent funds raised from our *Imagine the Methow Capital Campaign*. We prefer to see those "losses,"



When we protect a piece of property, like this farmland, it is protected forever. Our financial time horizons have to extend for forever, too.

however, as real conservation gains.

Approximately 83% of our overall expenditures go directly to our programmatic efforts in land protection, stewardship, and education. We spend 14% on management, overhead and operations, and 3% on fundraising (these are realistic, normal numbers for our size).

Our capital projects (e.g., conservation easements) are funded through government grants and the private funds from the *Imagine the Methow Campaign*. Our annual operating budget (approx. \$700K), however, relies heavily on the generous charitable giving of people, businesses, and foundations. About 80% of

our annual operating budget comes from private philanthropy -- people like you who believe in our work. Thank you!

We maintain a "best-practices" target level of operating cash in reserves and have been making steady investments in our two board-advised accounts held at the Community Foundation of North Central Washington. These funds ensure that we will be able to defend any conservation easement in court, should we need to, and that we will have a base core of operating staff into the future.

Board Members review monthly financial statements and an active Finance Committee reviews our financial position in-depth quarterly.

Why does all this matter? Because conservation is forever. We take our role as fiscal stewards seriously as we know we must to ensure our mission endures and to continue to earn your trust.

*If you are a numbers-kind-of-person and you would like to see more charts and spreadsheets, just give us a call at 509-996-2870 or email sarah@methowconservancy.org.*

## Finding Inspiration (continued from cover story)

15 months, we realize, she has helped us. With every decision, she's considered what's best for the land. With every phase of the renewal process, she has chosen to embrace and accept change, continuing to learn from the land. It may no longer be what she remembers, but it is still a place to call home.

When she accepted the award, Fernne wrote to us and said: "We loved the Okanogan and over the last 40 years did what we thought anyone would do who took on the task of land stewardship. Roger and I shared two big passions during our marriage, the first was the nurturing of our family, followed by the nurturing of our Okanogan land. We loved sharing these passions with others and enjoyed bringing others into our family and onto our land. What a rich life!"

Fernne is making plans to rebuild a cabin, complete with some of the wood salvaged from the fire. Every day she reminds us that in the midst of immeasurable loss we can find the glimmer of renewal.

**Maggie Coon – Ken White Award** – remembering Ken, the Methow's "naturalist" and honoring those with a long-standing history of inspiring conservation efforts in the Methow Valley.

Maggie Coon has held the Methow Valley in her heart for more than 40 years. Soon after falling in love with the mountains, hillsides, farm fields, wildlife, and community here, she found herself learning the basics of civic involvement as she helped found the Methow Valley Citizens Council in response to the proposed Early Winters downhill ski area.

Encouraged by others like the award's namesake Ken White, Maggie found her voice and launched a long and distinguished career around the globe

with the Nature Conservancy. As she neared retirement, the Methow called her back home and she has spent the last decade actively involved with conservation issues, including her current efforts with the Methow Headwaters campaign.



We honored Maggie Coon's long-standing commitment to conservation in the Methow Valley.

In presenting Maggie with the award, Methow Conservancy Executive Director Jason Paulsen said, "While one of the great things about this community is that people don't always see things the same way, I think we all have deep respect for those who stand up, again and again, always energized to advocate for the place they love. Some of us may do this once or twice in our lives, while Maggie is always there."

**Wendy Sims - Susie Stephens Award** – remembering Susie's unending energy and honoring outstanding volunteer service.

When Wendy moved to the Methow Valley almost a decade ago, she immediately stopped by our office and asked "how can I help?" She's been asking that ever since. She has faithfully served on our Education Committee and been a lead volunteer in much of that committee's work

including, running our noxious weed and native plant education booth at the Farmers' Market, cleaning up our Adopt-a-Highway section on Highway 20, and helping brainstorm and create many of our public education programs.

Wendy has also helped manage the mailing of thousands of Good Neighbor Handbooks to new landowners and spearheaded the creation of new projects like a Natural History Book Club and our high school volunteer internship program.

Wendy translated her love of this Valley into concrete volunteer actions. After receiving the award, she wrote to us, "My family started coming to the Methow regularly after moving from Oregon to the Tri-Cities. It wasn't long before I noticed that making the turn off of 97 into the



Valley felt like coming home. This was, to borrow from Stegner, my 'geography of hope.' After finally moving here, I was anxious to volunteer for the organization that inspires such care for the land. It's been a pleasure to do the various small tasks over the years. I guess the award goes to show that little things can mean a lot!"

Whether the Methow inspires big life changes or small steps, we hope you find inspiration in this place, too!

# You are the Methow Conservancy: Thank you for the difference you make!

As we've been celebrating 20 years of the Methow Conservancy, we are reminded that YOU make the difference. You've told us what you LOVE about this Valley and what you hope we'll protect and preserve. We've dedicated this "centerfold" to some postcard moments from 2016 that highlight the work (big and small) that you make possible.



**Impact:** You connect people to the land. Each year we offer a wide variety of interesting field classes, like this nature journaling workshop. We also host free monthly "First Tuesday" community presentations (see the events calendar on page 8) and this past spring and summer, Educational Programs Director Mary Kiesau offered free weekly birding and wildflower walks. We also partnered with Classroom in Bloom this year to host a DirtWorks series focused on gardening and local food. We believe the more you know about a place like this, the more you'll want to protect it!



**Impact:** You've protected more than 8,500 acres of incredible wildlife habitat, agricultural ground, and scenic views in the Methow valley, including this stretch of the Twisp River in our 109th 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. Our 110 conservation easements span from Pateros to Mazama.



**Impact:** You help care for the land. This past summer, we partnered with the Washington Conservation Corps to experiment with a four-week pilot project. Thanks to special donations earmarked for post-fire or on-the-ground restoration, the crew of 18-25 year olds worked on fence building and weeding on burned properties. Using a cost-share with the landowners, the crew also did firewise work on conservation easements not impacted by fire. Above, the crew worked on forest thinning on a conservation easement. We're spending time this winter planning for round two of the pilot this summer.

## Thank You!



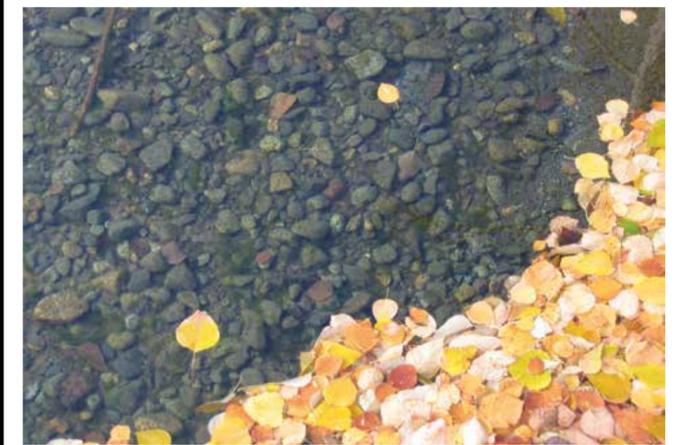
**Impact:** You reach the next generation. Yes - this is Associate Director Sarah Brooks sitting on her nest of eggs as she and Stewardship Director Heide Andersen work with Methow Valley Elementary 4th graders in School Yard Science. We were discussing animal adaptations - and it turns out birds are pretty different from humans!



**Impact:** You ensure we are good stewards of the land we have protected. Each year our Stewardship staff visit all of our conservation easements (sometimes by horseback!). We work with the landowners to identify any landcare issues and make sure the tenets of the conservation easement are being upheld. It's a great opportunity for us to connect with the people behind the protected land.



**Impact:** You bring people together. We're always amazed at events like our annual Cider Squeeze with how much joy people who love the Methow have getting to know each other. Whether it's events in the valley or in the Seattle area, we love building community around inspiration to care for this place.



**Impact:** You ensure the Methow Conservancy is a constructive participant in important land use discussions in the county. From supporting the Headwaters Campaign to stop a copper mine in Mazama, to the county comprehensive plan, we make it a priority to understand the issues and participate. "Water" is likely to be the word of the year for 2017. As Okanogan County responds to the recent Supreme Court decision known as "Hirst," the year ahead is going to involve continued constructive participation in initiatives like our local watershed planning process. Watch E-news for updates as our region "wades" into this important issue.

# The Life & Times of Methow Mammals

by Mary Kiesau, Educational Programs Director

From tiny shrews to big black bears, from desert-adapted pocket mice to boreal species like the Canada lynx, the Methow Valley is home to a diverse assemblage of native mammals. Being mammals ourselves, the lives of our furry neighbors are of great interest and curiosity to humans and our mutual futures.

This year's "Methow Conservation Course" will focus on the evolution of mammals and the unique adaptations and ecological niches of our native mammalian taxa. We'll overview every family of mammals found here while exploring select species of significant conservation or ecological interest in more detail, including the latest research on how climate change and other local factors like wildfires are affecting animals and their habitats.

With well-known scientist-instructors David Moskowitz, John Rohrer, Scott Fitkin, Bill Gaines, Sara Hansen and several others, we'll discover methods for studying mammals in the field including wildlife tracking, camera trapping, live capture and release, and direct observation. The



Have you ever seen the shy but curious pine marten? Learn more about these mustelids and many more mammals in this year's Methow Conservation Course. Because we believe the more you know about a place and those who call it home, the more you love it and want to care for it!

course will remind you of a college-level seminar, with optional reading materials, extracurricular field sessions, and a small class size.

Why do we create the Conservation Course every year? The first course in 2005 was initially designed as a training tool for staff but word leaked out, and the community made it clear to us that you wanted more formal educational opportunities, too. While the topic varies from year to year, the course always takes a Methow-

specific look at natural history and translates that teaching and discussion into both local and universal conservation-based experience and knowledge. Now in its 13th year, the Methow Conservation Course is designed for both the novice and the experienced naturalist with the goal of inspiring more observation and knowledge of, interest in and connections with the natural world - because when people gain a deeper relationship with and appreciation for the place they call home they not only build community with each other, but they also become partners and advocates in conservation.

If you are interested, register now! The course will run for six weeks from February 6th to

March 13th with one class per week on Mondays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Winthrop Barn. Tuition is \$170. Need-based scholarships are available. One or more field classes will be offered during the course for an additional fee. Contact Mary at [mary@methowconservancy.org](mailto:mary@methowconservancy.org) or 509-996-2870 for questions about the course or to register. See all the details, including class instructors, at [methowconservancy.org/conservation\\_course\\_2017.html](http://methowconservancy.org/conservation_course_2017.html).

## Seed Mob Strikes Again!

The chill in the air was a sure sign it was Seed Mob time again. For a third year, hearty volunteers joined us in a pre-snow effort to get native seed into the ground in burned areas that had been disturbed by human efforts to repair the power lines during the 2014 and 2015 fires.

As always, it felt good to gather and know you were about to do something for the land. Our enthusiasm vibe was especially high with the addition of nine 4-H Club members and their families.



We were super excited to have nine 4-H Club members and their families join us this year for the Seed Mob.

With no new fires this past summer (relief!), we decided we would return to areas seeded the last two years. Some spots needed another try at re-seeding to see if they would "take." In other areas, we sent the volunteer groups out to take

photos of what was re-growing so we could learn more about regeneration post-fire.

We're definitely seeing signs of hope. In some spots we saw lots of young plants from the seeds we spread. In other areas, we saw natural sprouting and regeneration of burned plants of native species (e.g., bluebunch wheatgrass, wax currant, *Lomatium* spp.).

We also found the establishment and spread of disturbance-adapted native annuals (e.g., native knotweed - *Polygonum douglasii*) and non-natives (e.g., bulbous bluegrass, whitetop), reminding us that we'll need to remain vigilant through the years and perhaps add a Weed Mob in the spring to our usual Seed Mob schedule.

Why do we continue to believe the Seed Mob is worthwhile? Because we think some areas will take a few years to re-establish. Because we see value in monitoring changes in these areas over time and we have questions about why some areas regenerate better than others. And, because there's something really special about gathering together as a group to spend time finding the hope in areas once burned.

Special thanks to Methow Valley 4-H for the great on-the-ground effort, to Rob Crandall of Methow Natives for helping us identify many of the plants and grasses we found, and to the Okanogan County Electric Co-op (OCEC) for partnering with us again.



Some of the telephone pole sites we worked on in 2014 are coming back nicely with bluebunch wheatgrass we seeded and with naturally regenerating yarrow.



Other sites are not yet thriving, with whitetop and bare dirt visible. We'll keep learning about what works!

# Careful Observations: A Farmer's Way

by Alyssa Jumars, Agricultural Coordinator

As farmers, we are careful observers. We are held strictly accountable to reality, and if we are not quick to observe changing conditions, we will not be farming for long. We don't have the luxury of holding onto false assumptions, even when we really want to believe them. We return to the drawing board season after season, with more questions than answers. This may sound harsh and defeating, but it's not. It is precisely what makes farming interesting and worth doing. And it's why some of the most inquiring minds find themselves drawn to farming the land.

Over the past three months, I've had the opportunity to connect with many inquiring minds of the Methow in my new role as "Agricultural Coordinator" for the Methow Conservancy. It's been a fascinating and invigorating experience. We have a truly boggling diversity of farms and ranches in this small valley – there are farms intensively cultivating one-half acre and families ranching 50,000 acres. We have growers raising vegetables, fruits, grains, hay, nursery stock, seeds, flowers, and herbs, and we have producers raising a whole host of different animals for milk, fiber, breeding stock, honey, eggs, and meat. And that is not to mention that there are as many different approaches to farming as there are farms in the Methow. Finding common themes in this



Our newest staff member, Alyssa Jumars, works with us part-time as our Agricultural Coordinator while still actively farming a perennial orchard of antioxidant-rich, native berries.

diversity is not a simple task, and I am tackling this challenge in the only way that I know how – as a farmer. As a careful observer.

I have a list of nearly five-dozen agriculturalists that I will have talked with before winter's end. The truth is that it's going slowly -- partly because farmers are so dang busy, but mostly because folks have so much to say. They are passionate about the farming they do, and eager to share their

unique approaches and innovations. They each have special insight into farming successfully – individually and as a community. And they all have distinct questions for me about what the Methow Conservancy aims to do in this new, more active role in agriculture. I can count on one hand the number of conversations that have lasted less than two hours.

WHY is this approach so important? It's about respect. It's about taking the time to understand the diversity of operations, passions, interests, and needs – without bringing an agenda to the table. It's about being strictly accountable to the farmers we aim to support by listening to them attentively. In this way, we are laying the foundation for truly collaborative, creative, and effective endeavors to come.

*Alyssa joined the Methow Conservancy staff in September as our first Agricultural Coordinator. Alyssa has been actively farming for ten years, since graduating from Middlebury College, in Vermont. After a few years of farming leased ground in the Leavenworth area, Alyssa and her husband moved to the Methow in 2011, to farm ten loamy acres between Twisp and Carlton.*

## Project GenNxt: Future Leaders

We asked Project GenNxt participant and local resident Sam Israel to write a reflection on our most recent GenNxt event. Thanks, Sam!

On a November Monday, 60 joyful and enthusiastic GenNxt'ers descended upon Copper Glance in Winthrop for what instantaneously grew into a warm, productive, and inspiring evening dubbed, "Methow Futures."

As part of the Methow Conservancy's ongoing series of events, Project GenNxt provided a robust forum for the Valley's next generation of 20 and 30-somethings to engage and explore local issues. Replete with good food and drink, along with prompts by Executive Director Jason Paulsen, ("what do you want the Valley to look like in 20 years?" and "what's standing in the way of that vision?"), the evening sparked a lively and informative discussion.

In attendance at the event were: business owners, wildland firefighters, teachers, programmers, outfitters, bartenders, biologists, and architects, all dedicated to preserving the Methow way of life. The bar was jam packed with people who grew up in the area, long-time residents, newcomers and college students alike who all sought-out the



It was standing room only at the Copper Glance in November as we gathered together people in their 20s and 30s to talk about their vision for the future of the Methow Valley.

Methow Valley for a particular type of freedom that doesn't seem to exist elsewhere.

Everyone there had at least one common goal: trying to figure out a way to root themselves in the community. The intent behind the event was for attendees to voice their perspectives and to promote collaboration, the process by which so many great ideas emanate from.

Eavesdropping on a conversation highlighting

easements and our out-of-balance ecosystems, I was pleased and surprised to hear visions and suggestions aimed at increasing educational opportunities and training programs for all ages; access to affordable housing so people who work here can live here; and support for our local farmers and budding artist communities.

The evening ended with many side conversations that described the struggle required to live in the region's rugged landscape, reminding me why so many of us are passionate about this corner of America. It was an evening of shared hopes and dreams of how to make the valley more self-sustaining, enriching my personal understanding of what it means to live, work, and play here. The evening was empowering, illuminating, and a thoroughly good time to boot.

Many discussions from that night have continued to this day. I am energized about the direction things are moving in. This generation has thoughtful concerns. We are willing to work together towards a bright future. Our desire to get involved and serve as a steward to help strengthen our local economy, environment, and organizations is strong.

### Why Project GenNxt?

We believe this is a critical time of transition in one's life and helping younger adults and families find places to contribute and be heard is essential to a vibrant civic life here in the Methow Valley.

We also acknowledge that our previous efforts to host focus groups and outreach events haven't

resulted in lots of participation from people in their 20's and 30's. We feel that is a critical "miss" and so we decided to target outreach to see if we could build some momentum with young adults.

We value input and ideas from all ages and will continue to host focus groups and events for all as

we have done for years. We specifically want to provide a forum for the next generation of leaders to find their footing and make their mark.

If you have ideas for us, by all means, let us know at [info@methowconservancy.org](mailto:info@methowconservancy.org).

## It's a Birthday Bash



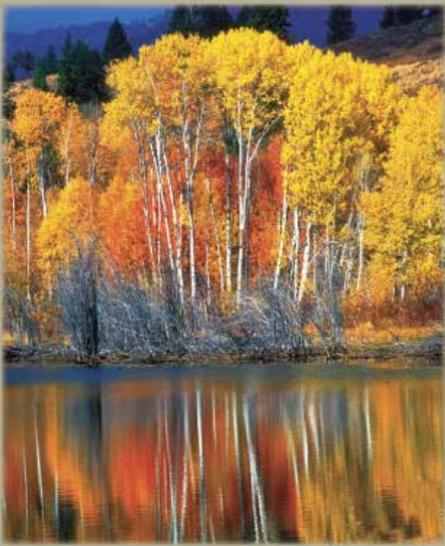
Join The Paperboys in concert on January 21st at The Winthrop Barn as we celebrate our 20th Birthday and Methow Trails' 40th!

We sure hope you'll join us for our combined Birthday Bash with Methow Trails on January 21st at the Winthrop Barn. The Paperboys will be on stage to get us dancing and toe-tapping as we celebrate 40 years of Methow Trails and 20 years of Methow Conservancy.

No fancy fundraising gimmicks, no long speeches. Just a fun, rollicking good time in The Barn with all of our friends. The show starts at 7 pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased here: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2721890>

Or, join Methow Trails during the day on the 21st for their Methow Valley Nordic Festival, which includes a competitive Pursuit ski race or a fun community loppet, and purchase a concert ticket with your packet. See more info here: <http://www.methowtrails.org/events/calendar-events/methow-valley-pursuit>

### The Methow Conservancy Aspen Stand of Legacy Donors



The Aspen Stand  
Leaving a Legacy for the Methow Valley

Methow  
Conservancy

Interested in leaving a legacy for the land? Anyone can include the Methow Conservancy in their will or as a beneficiary on an investment account. You don't have to be able to leave us millions of dollars and you don't have to be near the end of life to consider the legacy you want to leave for the land of the Methow Valley. (You should, however, consult with a financial advisor or legal professional.)

If you have already included the Methow Conservancy in your will or if you would like more information, contact Sarah Brooks at 509-996-2870 or [sarah@methowconservancy.org](mailto:sarah@methowconservancy.org). By planning today, we can stand for the land tomorrow.

## Events Calendar

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

**January 7th: Winter Wildlife Tracking, 8:30am – 12:30pm, \$45.** Explore the winter landscape of the Methow Valley with professional wildlife tracker and educator Dave Moskowitz. Class is FULL.

**January 8th: Winter Wildlife Tracking, 8:30am – 12:30pm, \$45.**

**January 10th: (note: 2nd Tuesday date): "First Tuesday" Program** with the Bondi Family on their recent conservation-based trip to Tanzania, 7:00-8:30pm, free, Methow Valley Community Center.

**January 11th: Project GenNxt Gathering.** 5:30pm at the 24-Hr Mart in Twisp.

**Jan 21st: Methow Trails & Methow Conservancy Birthday Bash with The Paperboys.** The Winthrop Barn will be rocking as we celebrate 20 years and Methow Trails celebrates 40. \$15 per person. Buy your tickets here: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2721890>

**February 4th: Winter Wildlife Tracking, 8:30am – 12:30pm, \$45.** Class is FULL.

**February 6th - March 13th: The Life & Times of Methow Mammals - the 13th Annual Conservation Course - Mondays from 6:00 - 8:00pm** at the Winthrop Barn. Tuition is \$170. Need-based scholarships available. (See page 6 for more info).

**February 7th: Methow Conservancy "First Tuesday" Program** with Bullitt Foundation Environmental Prize winner Carol Bogezi, 7:00-8:30pm, free, location TBA.

**February 28th: "Living in the Era of Megafires,"** a multi-media presentation lead by Dr. Paul Hessburg, 7:00-8:30pm, free, location TBA.

**April 11th (note: 2nd Tuesday date): "First Tuesday" Program - Alchemy of Herbs** with local herbalist Rosalee de la Foret, 7:00-8:30pm, free, location TBA.

**May 2nd: "First Tuesday" Program - Tides with Jonathan White,** 7:00-8:30pm, free, location TBA.

### 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](mailto:info@methowconservancy.org)

## 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
Family	\$50 - \$99
Supporting	\$100 - \$499
Sustaining	\$500 - \$999
Leadership Circle	\$1000 & up
Other	\$_____

You may also donate with a credit card. Use our secure on-line donation system.

Go to [www.methowconservancy.org](http://www.methowconservancy.org) and click the "Make a Donation" button.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**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](http://www.sos.wa.gov/charities) for more information.

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