

SPRING 2023 | Vol. 33, No. 1

InLandNEWS



Joyful awakenings in the Inland Northwest.

PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Marie

Springtime Snow

By Dave Schaub, Executive Director

One of the blessings of living in a region with four distinct seasons is that by the end of the current season most folks are looking forward to the next. This isn't always true for me when it comes to the end of winter. It doesn't make me very popular in grocery store check-out lines where an easy way to bond is to commiserate over incessant snow. I love snow! And some of my favorite snow is spring snow. I know, I get it, I'm the weirdo.

I do appreciate spring, though. The season is full of potential energy that has been on ice, under a blanket of snow all winter. I mean this literally and metaphorically. Buds are preparing to burst open. Bulbs are pushing their green shoots up through the frozen earth. Rivulets of snowmelt trickle their way across the landscape recharging our rivers, lakes, and aquifers. The natural world is ripe and ready to go.

And so are we.

Your Conservancy has been hard at it all winter, preparing for the work of spring. In this issue of our newsletter, you'll read about our coming native plant nursery, our re-accreditation process, and inspiring conservation accomplishments.

Your support is the sunshine that fuels this impact

In the months to come you'll be hearing about even more exceptional conservation projects that have been developing through the dark, cold, winter months. Like the snowdrop bulbs in my front yard, these projects are about to emerge into the open sunlight of our community of supporters, and we can't wait to share them with you.

Your support – volunteerism, financial gifts, enthusiasm for our mission – is the sunshine that fuels this impact.

This spring, as you emerge from under the cover of winter, we invite you to shine that light on this work that matters so much to you. The work of perpetuity – permanently protecting lands and waters that matter most throughout our region. The work of demonstrating and deepening our love of nature. The work of collaborating with others to increase our shared impact.

Your gifts help provide the energy that fuels all that the Conservancy does. Thank you for continuing to shine that generous light on this vital work. (Or for those of you who love spring snowstorms as much as I do, let your generosity fall upon the Conservancy like a thick blanket of snow.) ■



PHOTO CREDIT: Nick James

▲ An eagle soars over Lake Coeur d'Alene in search of its next meal.



▲ Dave and the family dog, Finch on a snowy springtime exploration

You can use the enclosed envelope or give by scanning this QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



Five Reasons to Keep a Nature Journal

By Heidi Lasher, Conservancy Volunteer
Illustrations by Marit Fischer

It may seem inadvisable to pack a pencil and notebook paper in your backpack on your next outdoor excursion. After all, neither is considered among the ten essentials for tramping in the wilderness. Paper is easy to scrunch, tear, or saturate. Pencils are liable to break. But both are basic tools for nature journaling, a practice that generates surprising benefits to the most beginner of writers, drawers, and naturalists. Here are five reasons to keep your own nature journal:

1 Rev up your sensory muscles. Humans are sensory organisms capable of distinguishing small nuances in sound, texture, movements, light, and smell (among others). The outdoor environment provides a rich and intoxicating sensory playground that invites us to exercise our senses and test the range of our sensory capabilities.

2 Discover something new about your local ecosystem. Journaling is a way of paying attention, and when you journal in nature and close to home, you invariably stumble upon new information about the critters who live in and visit your region. Plants, shrubs and trees, mushrooms, insects, soil, the seasons, the watershed and the landscape. All it takes to learn something new is close observation and curiosity.

3 Develop a personal relationship with place. Taking notes and sketching observations is a wonderful way to develop a personal relationship with the outdoor world. The act of writing notes and/or drawing is the act of filtering what you experience through who you are. Tell ten people to describe or draw a tree, and you will see ten different experiences of a tree. Each one an expression of both the tree and the person who described or drew it.

4 Create a meaningful experience in the natural world. When we pay attention to something, we grow to love it. And when we love something, we pay closer attention to it. This virtuous cycle is a way to create meaning in even the shortest visits outside. What we choose to see and describe, whether it's a blade of grass, a bird, or the whole scope of a horizon gives us clues about what is meaningful to us in that moment.

5 Boost your mental health. We all know that spending more time outside in a safe and calm environment can boost our moods. The effect is multiplied when we get in the flow of drawing or writing what we see and feel.



▲ Ink and watercolor of a Jamaican shell



▲ Ponderosa pines in charcoal



▲ A hike at Liberty Lake

There are no rules to keeping a nature journal. Our advice is to keep it loose and fun. Write or draw what you see, allow yourself to wonder, invite yourself to associate your thoughts with memories, and—above all—withhold judgment. You are a part of nature, too.

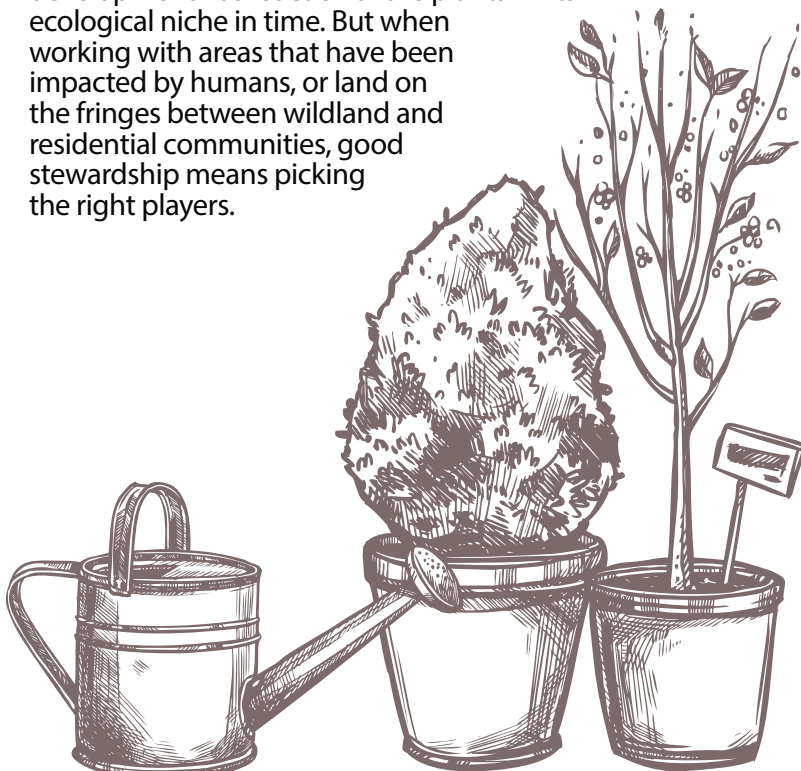
Puzzling Out Plants

By Garrick Bateman, Conservancy Intern

On my first day of working at the Conservancy, I sat in on a meeting between Rose Richardson (Stewardship Director) and Steven Eddington (Stewardship Assistant) concerning the development of a new native plant nursery to aid in efforts that the organization is making to restore healthy ecosystems. After the meeting was finished, I went home and started work on a handful of flashcards for plant identification, a skill set which, over the course of the meeting, I had realized I was lacking. For many, myself included, we may be able to distinguish a Ponderosa from a Douglas fir, or pinpoint a western larch by the way its needles wax yellow as fall idles into view, but for people like Rose and Steven, plant identification is about far more than knowing the difference between dogwood stems and hawthorn stems—it's about knowing each plant's unique ecological role, its particular duty toward its ecosystem.

The world of habitat restoration is wonderfully complex...

In the world of habitat restoration, a plant's ecological niche is a bit like its fingerprint. Need to find an understory plant that's both a streambank stabilizer and also pairs well with black cottonwood? Douglas hawthorn is the plant you're looking for. What about something that attracts local pollinators and thrives in heavily disturbed areas? Try ocean spray. In this way, plant identification is not just an exercise in good memorization, but good management. In undisturbed areas, evolutionary processes take the guesswork out of the equation—natural ecosystem development has let each of the plants fill its ecological niche in time. But when working with areas that have been impacted by humans, or land on the fringes between wildland and residential communities, good stewardship means picking the right players.



That's the idea behind the Conservancy's new native plant nursery. As simple as it sounds, to be able to go out into the forest and plant seeds for the species you want, most plants need time to mature before they're ready to take up their new jobs. The Conservancy's plan? Let the plants mature in the nursery—raise them to be healthy and resilient, and when they're ready, move them to the land where they're needed. Steven, who is spearheading the development of the new nursery, explains to me that mature plants have higher survival rates. The Conservancy's goal is to make sure that the plants that they invest in have long, productive lives.

The Conservancy acquires plants through the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) and their Plant Materials Center. Using a technique called "bare root" planting, immature plants, refrigerated into dormancy, will be shipped to the nursery where they'll be raised. Steven explains to me that you can buy these bare root plants at various levels of development, but they're cheaper when bought at younger stages of growth. The native plant nursery, in a way, acts as a sort of dressing room. To keep management costs reasonable, bare root plants that still need time to develop are purchased and then nurtured to adequate maturity. Then they're brought out onto the main stage to perform.

The Conservancy's priority for plant restoration is Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve, land we own along the Little Spokane River. Not long ago, the area was a dairy farm, which meant that much of the native understory was removed for grazing. The area is also highly diverse, with both rich riparian areas near the springs and higher altitude upland regions heavily populated with Ponderosa overstory. For Steven, the first priority is strengthening the



A budding ecologist helps plant native shrubs at Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve last October.

health and resilience of the wetland areas. This involves identifying plants that already exist there, and using the nursery as an opportunity to supplement and sustain the growth of those plants in the riparian zone.

Supplementing snowberry growth will create homes for summer bird populations, and a wintertime food source for other animals. Other well-qualified understory candidates for nourishing the wetland include red-osier dogwood (frequented by waterfowl and browsed by deer and moose), ocean spray (especially attractive to pollinators), and serviceberry. Using native plant restoration to create species habitat is one strategy that's integral to good land management—it encourages the healthy, symbiotic relationship between plants and animals. Animals keep the plants healthy through pollinating and browsing, and the plants in turn give those animals a place to live and food to eat.

Well-selected plants live in symbiosis with their animal counterparts. And we've lived in symbiosis with them too, many times over the course of human history.

The plan in the upland region is similar. It's an area that's suffered especially from understory removal. The nursery will create habitat for ground-nesting birds and non-wetland species. The overstory is predominantly Ponderosa pine, which clings to dry soils, providing shade and soil stability on arid land. It also effectively removes damaging carbon from the air and stores it underground, something of particular value in a nature preserve located so close to an urban area.

I'm reminded that the world of habitat restoration is wonderfully complex, that ecosystems are dynamic, moving organisms that require care and attention if we are to properly restore them. No plant has a singular purpose—their ecological niche (their botanical fingerprint, so to speak) is informed by each species' unique intersection of values or capacities, their relationships with other plants and animals, with the soil, with the water, with the pollutants in the air. The dogwood you identify by its striking white berries in the winter provides excellent grazing material for the deer you see wandering a game trail five minutes later. But did you know it also is protecting the stability of the streambank? Similarly, the grove of

black cottonwood that offers you a respite from the inhospitable summer sun provides you shade only because it doesn't *like* the shade. The animals below its cover may benefit from its shade and habitat, but the tree itself is stretching its limbs toward the sun. Black alders, whose starchy gray bark is haunting in the color-starved winter, are busy at work fixing the nutrients in the soil, but they're also aggressive neighbors who are known for creating mono-specific stands and crowding out other species.

The development of a native plant nursery is an opportunity for us, as stewards, to rethink our duties for the land, especially land that we've played an integral role in damaging. Many of us have likely heard the phrase "rewilding" before—it's an exciting word for conservationists. The idea that we could restore lands to how they were before cohabitating with humans is romantic and novel. It also, sadly, might be a fantasy. My time at the Conservancy, learning about the development of this new nursery has invited me to think differently about the ecological relationship between humans and biota.

continued on page 7 >



The author taking in the view at Long's Peak in his home state of Colorado.

Freedom to Give Joyfully

By Eric Green, LPL Financial Advisor

What is the antidote to fear? For some it is faith. For others courage. In times of uncertainty how do we respond? All too often our response is fear, stress, anxiety, and selfishness. But there is a perspective that can shift our focus in the midst of these moments; a perspective that can turn our uncertainty into joy and thankfulness.

As a financial planner, I help clients prepare and plan for the future – not only a future for themselves and their families, but also a future that considers others. Helping cultivate an attitude of generosity and gratitude brings joy and purpose to life. Money and possessions have tremendous power – often a power that binds. Freeing people from the fear of not enough and replacing it with the joy of generosity is a way to win with money.

Generosity can take time, effort, and reflection. An attitude of thankfulness leading to generous support for the good and noble causes in the world produces joy. Giving thoughtfully and strategically creates a deeper purpose in our lives.

What's the purpose for your money and possessions? Generosity and gratitude should be a part of everyone's portfolio.

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Eric's personal and professional strategy for financial decisions is based on scripture, "God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor 9:7. Learn more about his philosophy at PurposeFinancial.com



Philadelphus coronarius • Mock Orange
By Rose Richardson

Oenothera douglasii • Gross Widow



PHOTO CREDIT: Jon Jonckers



PHOTO CREDIT: Nick James

THE CONSERVATION TOOLBOX



With more than three decades of partnerships in the Inland Northwest, the Conservancy is often presented with project opportunities that aren't a good fit for our mission, capacity, or focus areas. But we can put landowners and concerned communities in touch with other organizations who might be better suited to help. Sometimes the Conservancy shoulders a portion of the project but relies on other partners to step in with their expertise and resources to complete other portions. Read about a great example of a partner project on our website at inlandnwland.org/make-beacon-public

< continued from page 5

Long before Europeans set foot in the Americas, indigenous groups in South America cultivated trees in the Amazon Rainforest that provided them food and shelter—these Amazonian dominant stand species weren't wild after all. *They were selected.* Perhaps the idea that humans cannot engineer healthy, symbiotic relationships with ecosystems is a misnomer and instead, we simply have to be more diligent in our cultivation, more thoughtful in our plant selection. Implicit in this idea of rewilding is the notion that relationships between human communities and non-human animals and plants are inherently in tension, that these two realms have opposite needs. Instead of rewilding, I've come to like the idea of "reconnecting." Well-selected plants live in symbiosis with

their animal counterparts. And we've lived in symbiosis with them too, many times over the course of human history. Good stewardship might just be about nurturing that connection once more. ■

WHAT'S NEXT

Get first-hand experience with fostering tiny plants for a big future at our April 22 Earth Day Potting Party. More on page 14

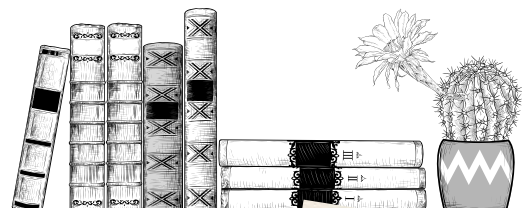
THE CONSERVATION TOOLBOX



Conservation Easement:

This is a permanently binding legal agreement that accompanies the land in perpetuity. It guides Conservancy staff as we conduct annual monitoring visits to ensure the terms of the agreement are followed. Agreements protect against development or subdivision and include language ensuring sustainable forest management, wetland stewardship, and general ecological health. Read more about this type of work on page 8, Camp Stidwell Forever

For Your Springtime Bookshelf



Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Reviewed by Linda Finney, Conservancy easement landowner

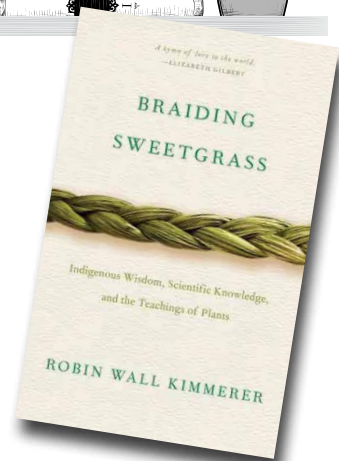
I read "Braiding Sweetgrass", and then my husband Tom and I read it in the evenings after dinner. It repays multiple readings.

Dr. Kimmerer is a botanist and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation who brings both of these ways of knowing to her work. Her writing is both a "hymn of love to the world" and a challenging reminder that humans are not the masters of creation but only one of its many creatures. While describing the beauty of nature, she also reminds us to ask permission before we take and to use what we take with reverence and appreciation.

Tom's favorite story is Dr. Kimmerer's description of family camping trips, when her father after making morning coffee, poured some onto the ground as an appreciative offering. It is all about the power of ceremony and the practice of gratitude.

My favorite bit is about early settlers' disgust at the way indigenous people harvested wild rice in the Great Lakes region. "The savages stopped gathering long before all the rice was harvested." The settlers thought the indigenous people were lazy. Dr. Kimmerer writes, "Our teachings tell us to never take more than half" (page 180 & 181). The native people knew that they weren't the only ones who liked rice—the ducks were very fond of it, too—and some must be left to seed plants for the next year.

I encourage you to pick up this book—it is a series of lovely and profound essays that you can read (and re-read) at your own pace. **Enjoy.**



More "Springtime Bookshelf" on page 15 >

Camp Stidwell Forever

By Mitchell Clark, Conservancy Volunteer

Photos courtesy of Dick Vail

There are many reasons Inland Northwest Land Conservancy works to protect certain pieces of land – sometimes they're essential habitats for wildlife or can help our communities adapt to climate change. But perhaps one of the most rewarding parts of conservation is hearing directly from people who have a personal connection with the land being protected, and who know that the Conservancy's work means that future generations will be able to enjoy the places they've grown to know and love.

The Camp Stidwell agreement, which protects 146 acres on the south end of Mirror Lake near Sandpoint, Idaho, is one such project. The camp provides a place for groups to go tent camping without having to be packed together in a traditional campsite, while still having access to amenities like bathrooms and fire pits.

**"There's just something about sitting down by a campfire, hearing kids out in the woods goofing off having a good time."
-Carl Brenner**

"It's a pretty special piece of land," said Carl Brenner, a Scoutmaster who visits Camp Stidwell several times a year with his troop. "It's on a lake, so you can go swimming or boating. Our troop will go ice fishing in the wintertime."

He's been going to the camp on a regular basis for almost a decade, taking about five trips a year as an assistant Scoutmaster. One of the things that makes it a great place to host Scout troops and other youth groups is that, while it's close to town, it's surrounded by forest land and the lake. "It has that integrity of

landscape," Carl said. "Finding a place to go camping by a lake that's almost exclusively yours when you're there is kind of a rare combination to have."

Carl says his best memories of the camp have to do with seeing future generations get to experience the outdoors in a way that isn't necessarily part of their daily life. "There's just something about sitting down by a campfire, hearing kids out in the woods goofing off having a good time. And it's not just our troop that gets to do it, there's other youth groups where kids are out and about getting muddy, having fun, seeing what's on the rocks, looking for crayfish," he said. "It's just a great place for the kids to be kids. And it's great that it's going to be the way it is now, for the future."

Dick Vail also has a special place in his heart for the camp. He's the secretary of the Sandpoint Kiwanis Club, who acquired the property in 1964. "We're absolutely ecstatic that it's going to be preserved for rustic camping for youth," he said. "There's no place like it." Since starting with Kiwanis in 2013, he's gotten to see the camp's popularity grow – he says that most of the reservations for group activities there this summer are already filled up. "It's getting full use, and it's a real jewel for the area."

According to him, the camp can leave an impression on people well into adulthood. "We've had several weddings the last few years. And in each case, one of the spouses was a camper at Camp Stidwell."

By the same token, some of the visitors have left a legacy at the camp. "A lot of our Scouts actually have done their Eagle projects at Camp Stidwell," said Carl. "It gives them a great benefit to give back to the camp



and provide something that others can use.” Dick says those improvements include new benches that replaced rotting ones, safety stations at docks, and a few new nature trails.*

There are undoubtedly countless other people who have stories about the camp – kids who learned to love

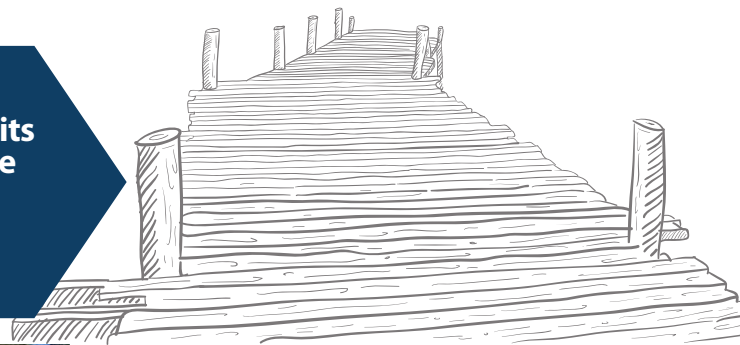
nature there, Scouts who have fished in the lake, or helped make the area a better place for other visitors. The same is true for many of the properties the Conservancy helps protect and, thanks to easements like the one at Camp Stidwell, new people will get to fall in love with these local gems for years to come. ■



The author of this story, Mitchell Clark, is off to thru-hike the Pacific Crest Trail this summer and will return to write more engaging stories for the Conservancy in the fall.

***For those interested in volunteering at Camp Stidwell, both Dick and Carl mentioned that the camp is holding its annual workday on May 6th, where volunteers can come and help clean up the area for a few hours, in return for hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream.**

Contact: sandpointkiwanis@gmail.com



Green Burial

By Joy Peltier, Family Services Representative with Fairmount Memorial Association

"I'm choosing green burial because I want to go back to the earth."

Every day I talk with families and individuals who are pre-planning their funeral and cemetery wishes. Many want to go back to the earth in the most natural way possible. For those families, green burial is the best option with the smallest carbon footprint. Forest Grove is a peaceful and natural Ponderosa pine forest on the northern border of the memorial park, just steps from the Spokane river. This section of Riverside Memorial Park does not allow heavy machinery, ensuring a resting place in harmony with the natural environment.

We all have an opportunity to make our wishes known and plan how we would like to be remembered, what our legacy to the earth will be.

Fairmount Funeral Home, located onsite, does not use toxic chemicals for embalming, and concrete liners are not allowed in the green burial portion of the cemetery. The body is placed in the earth within a biodegradable casket or a burial shroud. All final resting spaces are hand-dug and natural basalt markers show loved ones where to find these resting places.

Pre-planning your final resting place can feel uncomfortable, but we all have an opportunity to make our wishes known and plan how we would like to be remembered, what our legacy to the earth will be.



▲ Natural basalt marks resting places.



Joy has seen first-hand the value of end-of-life planning and believes in compassionately guiding others through the process. Learn more on our blog at InlandNWLand.org/news.



THE CONSERVATION TOOLBOX



Purchasing property is another protection tool in our toolbox. This one is costly, not just from an acquisition standpoint, but also for ongoing ownership and management. Fee land, or land purchase, is often done with the intent to serve as a "bridge owner," with the Conservancy purchasing and holding the land until another entity can take over that ownership and management. If the Conservancy becomes a bridge owner, care is taken before any ownership transfer, to ensure that regardless of who owns it, it will always remain conserved. Check out one of our most popular "fee land" project areas on the back cover.



City Nature Challenge 2023 with iNaturalist

By Gillian Rowe, Communications and Philanthropy Assistant

April 28-May 1

Spend four days as a “professional” naturalist with people all around the world. The City Nature Challenge is an annual event that encourages people across the globe to find and document wildlife in and around their cities. This friendly competition challenges cities like Coeur d’Alene and Spokane to see who can gather the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people.

Established in 2016, the City Nature Challenge is organized on a global scale by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the California Academy of Sciences. In 2022, 445 cities participated, with more than 67,000 people making 1.7 million observations of nature.

The goal of the City Nature Challenge is to connect people in urban/metro areas to nature, connect people to each other, collect data used by scientists, and have fun!

To participate: visit our website at InlandNWLand.org/events.

Observations will be recorded from April 28 to May 1.

Data are identified collected and submitted by our stewardship staff from May 2–5.

And the results are announced on May 8.

Taking Part is Easy



Find Wildlife

It can be any WILD plant, animal, or any other evidence of life found in your city.



Take a Picture or Record a Sound

Take a picture or record the sound of what you find. Be sure to note the location of the critter or plant.



Share

Share your observations through iNaturalist or your city’s chosen platform. If it’s planted or taken care of by people it is not WILD. Mark it captive/cultivated!



iNaturalist



The Land Trust Alliance’s Accreditation process is the gold standard for national land trusts.

Public Notice

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Inland Northwest Land Conservancy is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs. “The Land Trust Alliance’s Accreditation process is the gold standard for national land trusts. We are proud to be an accredited land trust for the last five years, and in undergoing re-accreditation we continue to strengthen our processes throughout the organization,” says Executive Director Dave Schaub. “This work ultimately results in better conservation work done for the benefit of the communities we serve, stronger financial management of our donors’ generous investments, and resilient governance to lead the organization into the future.”

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Inland Northwest Land Conservancy complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, [visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or [email](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org) your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be [mailed](#) to the *Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866*.

Comments on Inland Northwest Land Conservancy’s application will be most useful if received by July 1, 2023.

For the full list of standards see:
www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices



PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Roth



Pollinator Pals

By Gillian Rowe, Philanthropy & Communications Assistant
Illustrations by Rose Richardson, Stewardship Director

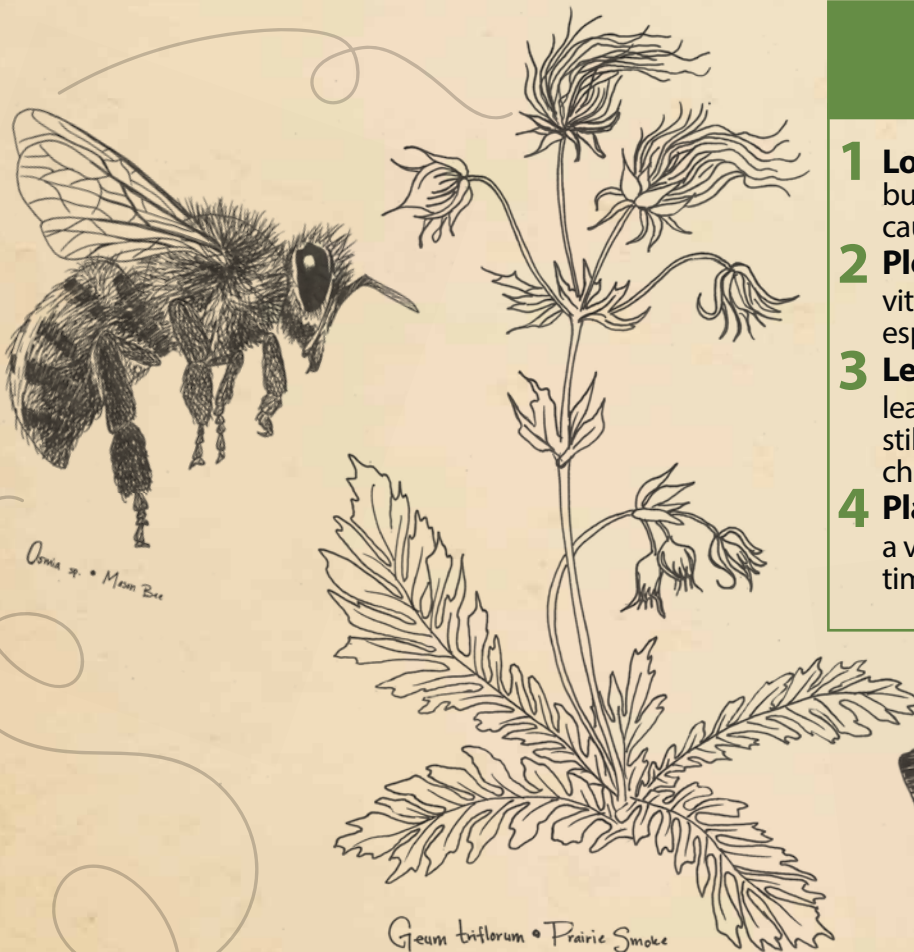
As Spring season emerges, so do some of our local pollinators. Whether they're burrowed beneath blankets of earth's silky soil or nestled cozily in a hollow stem, warming temperatures and blooming flowers act as nature's alarm clock, waking pollinators from their deep winter slumber.

While some pollinators, most notably the Monarch butterfly choose to head south for the winter, most stick around and brave the cold by clustering in their hives, taking shelter in woody debris, or laying eggs underground to ensure safety for the next generation. Come spring, pollinators get busy foraging for food, protecting their nests, and raising their young.

Over the spring and summer months, pollinators like the Western Tiger Swallowtail and the Mason Bee will collect and deliver pollen from one plant to another. These amazing natural workers help flowers reproduce, support stable soils, clean air, and purified water vital to life in the Inland Northwest.

Ways to Support your Local Pollinator Pals

- 1 Look don't touch** – Pollinators are beautiful, but make sure to give them space, so as to not cause harm or disrupt their work.
- 2 Please do not pluck** – Wildflowers serve as vital sources of energy for local pollinators, especially in spring. Don't raid their pantry.
- 3 Leave the leaves** – As tempting as it is to leap into garden cleanup, last year's leaf litter still provides pollinators protection during chilly spring nights.
- 4 Plant for pollinators** – Fill your garden with a variety of native plants that bloom at various times throughout the year.



Learn more about local pollinators and native plants from blog writer and volunteer Emalee Gillis at InlandNWLand.org/news.

Upcoming Events

"Spokane Climate Project" **Wednesday, April 12**

Conservation of local lands and waters is one of many ways to support a thriving and sustainable community here in the Inland Northwest. Join us and our partners from Rogue Heart Media and Measure Meant for a screening of "Spokane Climate Project," at The Magic Lantern. Your ticket to this fundraiser includes bottomless popcorn and a panel discussion about ways everyone in our community can support a bright and sustainable future.



"Salmonopolis" and **Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve** **Friday, April 14 -** **Saturday, April 15**

Love local history *and* nature? So do we! Join Todd Dunfield for "Salmonopolis," a history of the Dartford area and the significance salmon used to play in our region. This two-part experience starts at the North Spokane County Library on Friday, April 14, and wraps up on Saturday, April 15 with a 9 a.m. OR 12:30 p.m. hike at Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve.



Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve **Planting Day** **Saturday, April 22**

There's nothing like sinking your fingers into cool, damp soil in the spring. Revel in that primal joy with the Conservancy team on Saturday, April 22 as we nestle hundreds of native bare-root plants and shrubs in their own pots. They will spend the summer in our nursery and in October, when they are strong and healthy, they will move into their new homes at Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve.

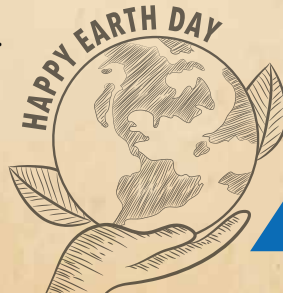


PHOTO CREDIT: Angela Roth

Find out about these events and more at InlandNWLand.org/Events

For Your Springtime Bookshelf

Writing the Land: Poetry Anthology

Reviewed by Sally Pritchard, Conservancy board member

When I picked up the 2022 edition of "Writing the Land," a poetry anthology celebrating natural areas conserved by eleven land trusts in the United States, it struck me that it was like a trail guide. You can open it to any page and find someplace to explore through the words of a poet who knows and loves that landscape. We are fortunate that Inland Northwest Land Conservancy is one of the participating land trusts. Readers around the country can dip into the Conservancy's section and envision trout fry in the Coeur d'Alene River:

*"...Translucent, they do not quiver
But shimmer with water going its way
Wherever, just as starlight will..."*

Or reflect on the profound impact of a place like Waikiki Springs:

*"...what happens to a place
when a Spirit returns?
we learn
pieces of the
foundation
still exist
persist..."*



In the Flint Hills of eastern Kansas, the wind is a constant across the tall grass prairie:

*"...Rocky Mountain gusts
Lost for miles stop at your back..."*

While many poets place their attention on wild things, others notice the interplay of agriculture and native species:

*"...the kaleidoscope of butterflies puddling on
Cowpies gives me pause..."*

Or startle at finding graffiti on a lichen-covered rock in an urban wetland on the Connecticut shore. The poet's pronouncement?

*"Like the punk rockers at the ecology department
party, you don't fit."*

Compelling images, quiet reflections, and even a little humor. It's all here to be explored and maybe even inspire a visit and a hike.

This book is available for purchase at [InlandNWLand.org](https://www.inlandnwland.org).

Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy

Reviewed by Judy McMillan, local conservation advocate

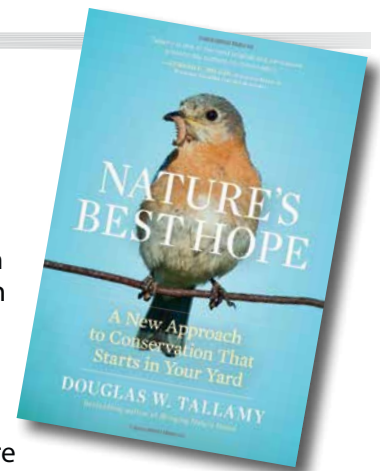
Read this book! Then act.

In "Nature's Best Hope" Doug Tallamy shares many ideas about how we can bring nature home and why it matters. He suggests that there are things each one of us can do to contribute to sustainability one slice of lawn at a time. His hope is that half of every lawn will be converted to local native plantings and habitat, creating what he calls, "Homegrown National Parks," where these plants and native insects can thrive. This would greatly reduce the problem of habitat fragmentation.

Without abundant insect life, we lose birds that depend on them as an essential part of their diet. Think of creating a pantry for birds. It is truly a "canary in a coal mine" situation if first, the native plants disappear then the insects that rely on them, then the birds that feed their young from the habitat larder. What goes next? Very possibly humankind follows. Don't panic; plant and nurture native nature. Doug provides many ideas about how each one of us can contribute to meaningful change whether one owns a lawn or not.

Research Tallamy cites teaches that insects are far more particular than we've realized. Monarch butterflies and their taste for milkweed being a well-known example. There are many others that require specific native plants and appropriate habitat for survival.

In this book, the reader is asked to reframe their relationship with nature. How can we see nature as a vitally important friend, not something to be subdued, dominated, controlled, or removed? Can one find joy in observing a thriving lively space filled with birdsong? Yes, indeed it can be the very best entertainment and key to a sustainable future.





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Little Spokane River Field Guide

Have you ever picked up one of those full-color, laminated "local" field guides only to see anemones and sea stars, and realize that western Washington strikes once again? Well, we have good news! You can now be the proud owner of your very own Little Spokane River Field Guide, complete with dozens of plants, mammals, bugs, birds, flowers, and fish native to our very own home! This field guide was developed by the Conservancy's stewardship team.



AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT: www.InlandNWL.org - or - REI Spokane

Your financial support makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the Inland Northwest every day!

YOUR SUPPORT IN THE LAST YEAR MEANS:



1,000

bare root plants to be raised in our new nursery



\$20

gets movie and bottomless popcorn on April 12 (see upcoming events)



2,001

visitors to Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve so far this year



25,363

acres in the Conservancy land protection pipeline for this year