

Washington State Wenas Creek Audubon Campout Hazel Wolf Wenas Bird Sanctuary/Boise Cascade Campground

47th Anniversary (1963-2010)

Memorial Day Weekend, May 28-31, 2010

Website: www.wenasaudubon.org

Hazel Wolf, 1898-2000. In 1966 Boise Cascade designated the Wenas campground area as a bird sanctuary. In her centennial year of 1998, the company joined Wenas campers in honoring Hazel Wolf--Wenas founder, extraordinary Audubon mentor and all-purpose environmental activist--by naming the campground area the **Hazel Wolf Wenas Bird Sanctuary**. Her spirit continues with us at this Memorial Day event.

Welcome to the Annual Wenas Audubon Campout

The purpose of the Wenas Campout is to provide Auduboners and their friends with a variety of natural history and recreation opportunities in a beautiful area that supports a fascinating assortment of spring flora and fauna and offers the spiritual fulfillment of simply being outdoors in the spring. **We do not charge fees for the Wenas outing itself.** Committee expenses are covered by voluntary contributions.

In 1963, Bea Buzzetti, Ruth Anderson and Hazel Wolf wandered serendipitously into this Wenas Creek area on a Memorial Day camping trip. They were so impressed with the variety of wildlife that they convinced Boise Cascade to make the campground available to Audubon campers on Memorial Day. This was the beginning of an annual, statewide (now regional) Audubon tradition that is the largest such event in the country.

The Wenas Committee is pleased that you have come. As soon as you set up camp, locate the **Larrison Tree**, a large pine near the creek. It is named in honor of the late Earl J. Larrison, a gifted and dedicated teacher, author, natural historian and conservationist who gave generously of his time and energy each year to make the Wenas Campout a memorable experience. The Larrison Tree is the headquarters and focal point for many Wenas activities. There you will find a sign-in sheet, bulletin board, programs, maps, bird lists and a wildflower display.

The Larrison Tree is also the meeting place for field trips. If you read about a trip that interests you, we encourage you to go along. Everyone is welcome. If you prefer to explore on your own or just stay in camp, feel free to do so. Evening campfire programs are held at the Hazel Wolf Campfire Circle in the meadow across the road from the Larrison Tree. The **Hazel Wolf Campfire Circle** was named for Hazel Wolf on the 30th anniversary (1993) of the Wenas Creek Campout in the year of Hazel's 95th birthday. The naming of the circle in her honor was in recognition of her many years of organizing the campout, her dedicated service in helping the event run smoothly and her bright and witty presence at campfire programs. Hazel realized her goal of living in three different centuries on New Year's Day. She passed away January 19, 2000.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. **BRING YOUR OWN WATER. Do not use creek water for drinking. It is unsafe.**
2. **Do not pick wildflowers and plants.** There is a flower display, at the Larrison Tree for all to enjoy.
3. **Please note – no campfires or charcoal barbecues.**
4. **NO motor vehicles within 50 feet of creek.**
5. **Keep your site clean** and take your trash out with you.
6. **Protect wildlife.** Respect nesting sites...especially birdhouses and nesting cavities.
7. **Do not let dogs roam free.** Keep them on a leash. It is not a good idea to take them on field trips.
8. **Respect your neighbors.** Do not play loud music at any time. No noisy activities, or generators after 10:00 PM.
9. **Please carpool.** Many areas have limited parking, so carpool, save gas and cut down on dust.
10. **Please sign the register at the Larrison Tree. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!**

While we try to plan activities for everyone, you are free to schedule your own activities this weekend.

Day	Time	Leader	Topic	Description
	FRIDAY			
<i>FRIDAY</i>	7:30 PM	Wenas Committee	Evening Program (See next sheet)	Hazel Wolfe Campfire Circle
	SATURDAY			
<i>SATURDAY</i>	5:30 AM	TBD	Early Bird Walk	Best birding (so early risers say). Return in time for later morning trips.
<i>SATURDAY</i>	Any Time	Richard Repp	Blue Bird Monitoring	Help check Bluebird houses. Good family activity. Instructions/census sheet at self-serve box at Tree.
<i>SATURDAY</i>	8:00 AM	Doris & Burt Johnson	Hardy Canyon Meadows	A must! A short drive then a level walk in open meadows near cottonwood thicket. Back by lunch. Spot many colorful East side birds.
<i>SATURDAY</i>	8:00 AM	Phil Kelly	Black Canyon	Across the highway from Hardy Canyon is Black canyon. Observe a phethora of east side birds, Chats, Lazuli Buntings, Orioles.
<i>SATURDAY</i>	8:00AM	Bruce Jones	Hog Ranch Ridge	Walk from campground with steep ascent up rocky jeep track to top of ridge. Back by lunch.
<i>SATURDAY</i>	8:30 AM	Don Knoke	Manastash Flower Trip	Combined field trip with WNPS Central Washington Chapter. Drive up the Observatory Road from the Umtanum/Wenas road, stop at a lithosol area and a riparian area before proceeding to the observatory for a hike along Manastash Ridge. Meet leader at the junction of Wenas and Audubon Road at 9:15 AM. Back by 3 PM. Bring water & lunch.
<i>SATURDAY</i>	8:30 AM	TBD	Wenas Creek/Upstream Bird Trip	Tour upper campground, following creek upstream through riparian woods.

SATURDAY Continued				
<i>SATURDAY</i>	11:30 AM	Lann Kittleson	Beaver Pond	Join Master Birder Lann Kittleson for a nice, relaxed lunch of bird watching. The Beaver pond has an amazing variety of birds and is a very peaceful place to sit and have lunch. Bring lunch/snack, your binos and a chair or blanket to sit on. This area is big and a little more open, so scopes are helpful.
<i>SATURDAY</i>	3:00 PM	Don Knoke	Campground Flower Walk	Flowers everywhere. Can you name them? Know anything about them?
<i>SATURDAY</i>	7:30 PM	Guest Speakers	Evening Program	Hazel Wolfe Campfire Circle. Learn about trips, hear announcements. See last page for speakers.
	After campfire	Michelle Noe	Bat Walk	At night, birds give way to other creatures who fill the sky. With proper equipment, one can hear the bats before they can be seen. Explore the night time flyers. Mist netting of bats will take place, weather permitting.
	After campfire	Neil Zimmerman	Owl Prowl	Possible species are Flammulated Owl, Western Screech Owl, Long-eared Owl, Great Horned, Northern Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy Owl, Common Poorwills. The trip involves walking in the dark over uneven ground and quiet listening. Dress warmly, wear supportive shoes or hiking boots. Bring flashlight for emergency only. Due to the extreme popularity of this activity participation will be limited. To be decided by lottery.

	SUNDAY			
<i>SUNDAY</i>	5:30 AM	Doris Johnson	Early Bird Walk	Best birding (so early risers say). Return in time for later morning trips.
<i>SUNDAY</i>	7:00 AM	Michael Hobbs	Black Canyon all day bird hike.	Walk up Black Canyon on this strenuous all day birding trip, perhaps covering up to 8 miles. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sun protection. Explore behind the area usual Black Canyon bird trips cover. Back around 3:30 PM
<i>SUNDAY</i>	8:00 AM	TBD	Downstream Trip	Walk downstream to bridge then loop back. Look for nesting birds.
<i>SUNDAY</i>	8:30 AM	Don Knoke	Flower Walk up Dry Creek	Leisurely stroll. Up to 150 species of plants may be seen. Great for birds as well. Bring lunch.
<i>SUNDAY</i>	9:30 AM	Rich Repp	Hardy Canyon via the back door	Drive/walk for different look at Wenas Creek and shrub steppe. Back by 1 pm.
<i>SUNDAY</i>	1:00 PM	Neil Zimmerman	Wenas Lake	Short drive/easy walk along inlet marsh to spot ducks, etc. Maybe Yellowheaded Blackbirds?
	2:00 PM	Carleen Zimmerman	Field sketching/nature journaling	Learn about field sketching, nature journaling. Meet at Carleen at the Larrison Tree.
<i>SUNDAY</i>	7:30 PM	Guest Speakers	Evening Program	See last page.
	MONDAY			
<i>MONDAY</i>	5:30 AM	TBD	Early Bird Walk	Same as Saturday.
<i>MONDAY</i>	8:00 AM	TBD	Hardy Canyon	Same as Saturday.
<i>MONDAY</i>	8:00 AM	Janka & Michael Hobbs	Big Burn Canyon	Stroll the lower reaches of Big Burn Canyon looking for birds, flowers (hopefully including Brown's Pwony), lizards and anything else we can find. Big Burn Canyon is upstream of Hardy Canyon. Bring lunch & plenty to drink.
<i>MONDAY</i>	7:00 PM	Evening Program		Informal. Good time to unwind, laugh & share. Final treasure of the weekend.

Friday, May 28

7:30 PM - EVENING PROGRAM @ Hazel Wolf Campfire Circle: Wenas Committee members meet with campers informally for announcements, trip descriptions and updates, answering questions, taking suggestions and talking to trip leaders.

ANNOUNCEMENT - We rent chemical toilets and must pay rental fees with donations from those who use these useful facilities. A **"potty kitty"** will be passed at campfire. Thanks for your generosity again this year.

Saturday, May 29

7:30 PM - EVENING PROGRAM @ Hazel Wolf Campfire Circle:

Introductions, Announcements, Passing the hat, business meeting, - Doris Johnson, Recruitment - Rose Wakeman (Seattle Audubon)

- **Roll Call**, Helen Engle (Tahoma Audubon) & Introduction of Audubon WA staff & Steward
- **Species Tally & Sightings Report**, Wilson Cady (Vancouver Audubon).
- **Guest Speaker – Lora Leschner**, a just-retired wildlife biologist of WA Dept. F&W will talk about her new job at Pacific Coast Joint Venture, their activities and partnerships. (The Pacific Coast Joint Venture develops partnerships to protect and restore habitat for birds and other wildlife.)
- **Michelle Noe**, Bats Northwest, will talk about our local bats, demonstrate her electronic bat-language interpreter, and update us on the increasing epidemic of “white-nose syndrome” disease, which is wiping out whole populations of bats in the US.
- **Richard Repp**, A report on the Blue Bird Box Trail – and a little history of this project and how it’s doing to increase Western Bluebirds and other species.

Sunday, May 30

7:30 PM - EVENING PROGRAM @ Hazel Wolf Campfire Circle:

- **Chapter Roll Call**, Helen Engle
- **Species Tally & Sightings Report**, Wilson Cady
- **Report on the Wenas Important Bird Area (IBA)**
- **Don Knoke will talk about Wenas wildflowers.**
- **Michael Hobbs, Wenas Webmaster, will give an update on our website. Come meet the wizard behind our web page.**
- **A speaker from Puget Sound Bird Observatory will talk about their new White-headed and Hairy Woodpecker banding projects in the Wenas watershed.**

Monday, May 31

7:00 PM - EVENING PROGRAM @ Hazel Wolf Campfire Circle: Informal program; this is a good time to unwind, laugh, share Wenas experiences and enjoy the last night. Bring ideas, stories, jokes (plus cookies, s'mores, etc.). This is the final treasure of the weekend!