

Wyoming Naturalist



General Interest Events

May 28th @ 5pm - Mussel Science Talk in Cokeville - [Facebook](#)
 May 29th - Women's Hike @ Fort Phil Kearny Historic Site - [Website](#)
 June 1st & 8th - Heart Mountain Events with the Nature Conservancy [RSVP](#)
 June 13th-15th - Bio Blitz 2024 @ Wind River Buffalo Initiative [Register](#)
 June 22nd - Pride Month Hike in Medicine Bow-Routt N.F. [Email to Register](#)
 June 28th-30th - Leave No Trace Spotlight at Sinks Canyon SP [Facebook](#)
 June 29th - Coates Rd. & Gravel Pit Hike - Casper - [Email to Register](#)
 July 2nd - 9am-11am - Berry Blitz at Grand Teton N.P. [Nature Conservancy](#)
 July 19th-22nd - Statewide Bio Blitz [iNaturalist](#)
 August 2nd-4th - Women Who Hike @ South Pass City SHS [Register](#)
 August 10th - Beartooth Hike - Shoshone N.F. - [Email to Register](#)
 September 20th-22nd - WNP Annual Meeting in Casper

Advanced Training Opportunities

May - Bird Banding (Spring Migration) - [Dates & Registration](#)
 May 21st - 6pm-8pm Native Plant ID Walk Laramie (Pilot Hill) [Register](#)
 June - Native Plant ID Walk Laramie - Pole Mountain
 June 13th-15th - Bio Blitz 2024 @ Wind River Buffalo Initiative [Register](#)
 June 18th-19th - Project Learning Tree Educator Training - Sinks Canyon SP
 September 20th-22nd - WNP Annual Meeting in Casper
 September - Bird Banding (Fall Migration)

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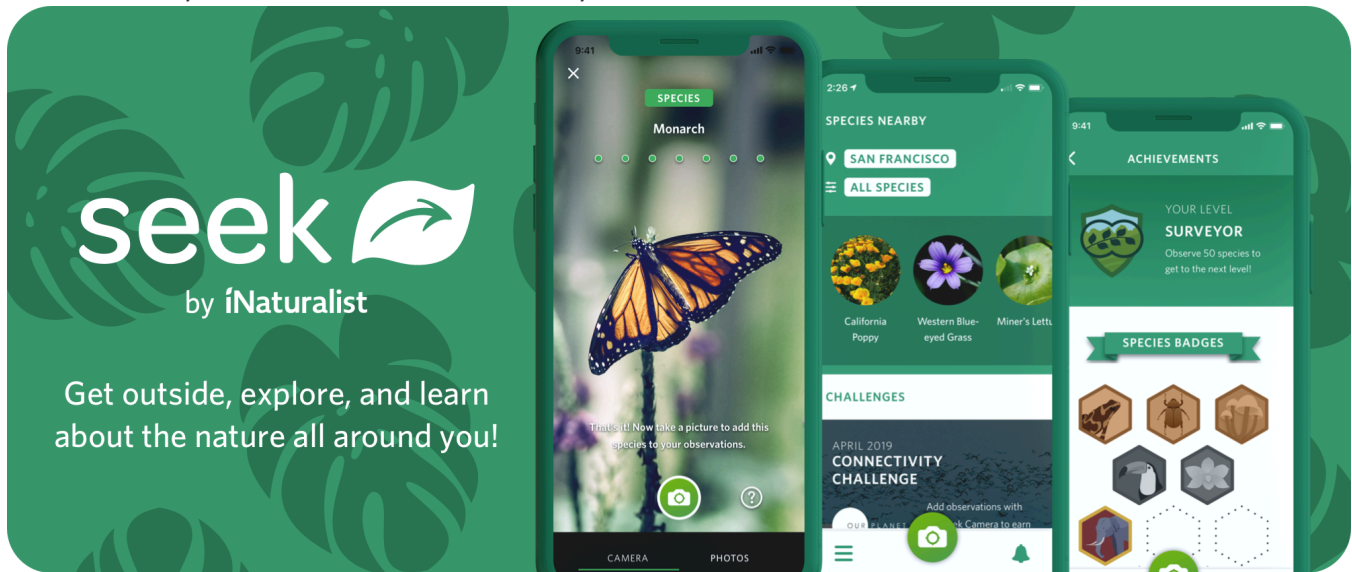
Volunteer Opportunities

- Laramie Salamander Migration Initiative [Register](#)
- Kid's Corner article for the Wyoming Rural Electric News Magazine - mlee37@uwyo.edu for details
- Rocky Mountain Amphibian Project - Medicine Bow/Bridger-Teton/Routt - [Adopt a Survey Catchment](#)
- June 5th - R Park Service Project (Wilson) - kelsey.varzab@sierraclub.org or (908) 229-6124
- June 6th - Spring Creek Clean-up (Laramie) - kaycee.prevedel@sierraclub.org or (307) 399-4402
- June 29th - Bee Jubilee (UW Biodiversity Institute) - Berry Center in Laramie - [Station Sign-ups](#)
- [Volunteer.gov Wyoming](#) National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, etc.
- [NRCS Earth Team](#) - Volunteer with your local conservation district!
- The Wyoming Naturalist Program has a [story map](#) of the conservation work/training that Wyoming Naturalists have been involved with. For each submission of a service project, or in-person advanced training, you can earn 1 hour of volunteer service. To submit your story projects, use this [easy form](#).

If you see an opportunity to help grow/organize/lift the Wyoming Naturalist Program in any way and would like to volunteer for the program, please contact zach.hutchinson@audubon.org. Opportunities could include organizing the annual meeting and/or the outdoor training, finding advanced training opportunities, curating volunteer service projects, or assisting/administrating other tasks to keep the machine running. The program only grows with your help!

Seek App.

I love a good field guide, and I have lost count of how many I currently own. The dichotomous keys, the beautiful illustrations, and the wealth of information are intoxicating. But, lugging 15 lbs of books up a steep trail is much less appealing (speaking from personal suffering experience). Which is why I rely on the [Seek app by iNaturalist](#). As the website says, "Drawing from millions of wildlife observations on iNaturalist, Seek shows you lists of commonly recorded insects, birds, plants, amphibians, and more in your area. Scan the environment with the Seek Camera to identify organisms." This is a wonderful tool to help you get to a quick identification, and you can link it with your iNaturalist account to share your observations.



Soapweed Yucca (Yucca Glauca)

One of the most striking silhouettes against the wide Wyoming sky has to be the native Soapweed Yucca. This plant is easily identified by its spike-like fibrous linear leaves and the 4'-5' stalk that produces large, white pendulous flowers. Although its appearance is certainly noteworthy, one of the most fascinating things about this native species is the obligate symbiotic relationship with the Yucca Moth (*Tegeticula* sp.). According to the U.S. Forest Service [website](#), "Yucca moths are the only insects that can successfully pollinate yucca flowers and the developing yucca fruits are the only larval food source for yucca moths." The Biodiversity Institute has more information about this relationship on [their Forbs website](#), along with some wonderful pictures of the leaves and flowers submitted by Dorothy Tuthill and Jenny Thompson.



Soapweed Yucca - Angela Leone - March 2024

Native Plant Identification Walk – Laramie

University of Wyoming Extension is hosting a Native Plant Identification Walk in Laramie on May 21st from 6pm - 8pm in the Pilot Hill area. From the Extension release - "Join our plant experts to learn more about the native plants in our area (and likely a few weeds)! Plant walk will be more of a stroll than a hike. Location details will be emailed to registered participants before the walk." Registration is required at the [Eventbrite site](#) or by calling the Albany Co UW Extension office at 307-721-2571. Want more info on native plants- identifying, growing, etc? Check out the Barnyards & Backyards Native Plants page! <https://bit.ly/WYNativePlants>

Reminders!

Wyoming BioBlitz 2024 registration has officially opened! [REGISTER HERE](#) for June 13-15.

From the Audubon Rockies event page - "Join us for Wyoming BioBlitz 2024 at the Wind River Reservation! Wyoming BioBlitz is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for families and friends, students, and all nature lovers to learn about plants and wildlife and help scientists survey them. During this weekend-long event, participants will team up with biologists to search for and document as many plants and animals as possible on Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative Land on the Wind River Reservation near Kinnear." **Register by May 24th.**

Wyoming Naturalist Program Annual Meeting - September

The WNP Annual Meeting will be held at the Izaak Walton League campground and lodge in Casper from September 20th through the 22nd. Free camping is available on the 20th and 21st at the Izaak Walton campground. Inexpensive hotels are available in the area. Lunch and dinner on the 21st, and breakfast on the 22nd will be provided by the WNP. All other meals will be on your own. There will be opportunities for volunteer and advanced training hours at the meeting.

Saturday	Activity	Location	Sunday	Activity	Location
8:30am	Optional River Walk	Conoco Area or Bridle Trail	7:30am	Group Breakfast	Izaak Walton Lodge
10am	Welcome	Izaak Walton Lodge	8:45am	Awards	Izaak Walton Lodge
10:15am	Service Project	Near Izaak Walton	9:30am	Leave for Fish Hatchery	
12pm	Group Lunch in Field		10am	Fish Hatchery tour starts	Dan Speas Fish Hatchery
2pm	Service Project Ends		11am	Fish Hatchery tour ends	
2:30pm	Advanced Training Classes	Izaak Walton Lodge			
5pm	Group Dinner/Dinner Assembly	Izaak Walton Lodge			
5:45pm	Leave for Owl Banding				
6:15pm	Meet for Owl Banding (Carpool)	Casper Mountain			

New Volunteer Opportunities!

The Biodiversity Institute provides a monthly article and illustration for the Kid's Corner page of the [Wyoming Rural Electric News magazine](#). There are 5 articles remaining for this year that need to be written. The articles are short (300 words) and focus on how Wyoming animals help build and maintain ecosystems, or special relationships between plants and animals in Wyoming habitats. There is an artist intern who provides the illustration that accompanies each article, but if the author wants to illustrate their own article, they are welcome to. Anybody who is interested in writing these articles should email Mason at mlee37@uwyo.edu to discuss specifics, due dates, and the topics.

The Biodiversity Institute will host the annual Bee Jubilee event on June 29th from 10am – noon at the Berry Center in Laramie. Bee Jubilee is an educational celebration of pollinators with a special focus on invertebrate pollinators. We need help running stations at the event! You can see a list of stations and sign up [here](#).

2024 Cohort Field Weekend

Photos by Dan Bach

Sinks Canyon State Park

May 17th - 20th



Tick Blitz

Teton County Weed & Pest District (TCWP) has initiated a tick surveillance program to collect data on tick species richness, diversity, abundance, phenology, distribution, as well as tick-borne pathogen presence and prevalence. The TCWP laboratory will be testing live, non-blood fed ticks for pathogens that can cause diseases in humans. TCWP is extending the surveillance program to anywhere in Wyoming through a volunteer citizen scientist surveillance effort. As such, TCWP is seeking out volunteers interested in participating in the tick surveillance. Citizen scientists will receive surveillance materials, training on surveillance protocols, and would be expected to conduct several surveys throughout the summer season. To learn more about tick-borne diseases and submit an citizen scientist interest form, visit tcweed.org/vectorborne.

Community Collaboration: Thermopolis Native Garden

The [stated mission](#) of the Wyoming Naturalist Program is "to cultivate a community of volunteers to steward the state's natural resources through conservation education and service." As Wyoming Naturalist Kim Bartlett has demonstrated, fulfilling this mission is much more impactful when we collaborate with state and local agencies/organizations.

In 2022, Kim was serving on the Hot Springs County Courthouse Garden Committee and one of her fellow committeepeople (the Head of County Maintenance) had requested a redesign of the existing courthouse garden. Funding was acquired from the Markow Small Grant awarded by the Wyoming Native Plant Society and matching funds from both Hot Springs County Commissioners and Red Dirt Master Gardeners.

The design of the garden focused on providing a calm oasis for courthouse employees and visitors, and the committee incorporated the local high school colors of purple and yellow into the plant choices. With the help of volunteers and materials from organizations like WYDOT, Hot Springs County Road & Bridge, Red Dirt Master Gardeners, and several private businesses, the native garden was dedicated on September 5th of last year. According to the grant report, "4 varieties of shrub, 10 wildflower varieties, and 5 different grasses were used to fill the space" which is on the north side of the 4 story building. Also, "Plant stakes with both the common and scientific names of plants were placed throughout the garden for educational value." In addition to the stakes, one of the partners - Red Dirt Master Gardeners - hosted a free "Basics of Native Plant Landscaping" workshop using the courthouse garden as a demonstration space and handed out native plant publications from WY Game & Fish and the Biodiversity Institute.



Plaque in the Thermopolis Native Garden - April 2024



- Erigeron Speciosus label in the Thermopolis Native Garden - April 2024

*****Call for Photos*****

The Wyoming Naturalist Program Steering Committee is calling on naturalists to share photos from the field. Share photos of your volunteering or recreational activities. If you are a photographer, please share photos we might be able to use in the newsletter, website, and promotions for the program. All images will be credited. [Upload images to Box](#)

Please title images using the following format:

Image title or species name -your name- date image was taken

Example: Red Crossbill - Zach Hutchinson - Jan 19 2024

****Please be sure to title your images before uploading! We can't share photos without credit.**





Wilson's Phalarope - Kurt Warmbier - April 2024



Sandhill Crane-Kurt Warmbier



Yellow-headed Blackbird - Kurt Warmbier

2024 Tentative Bird Banding Dates

Migration/Training (Spring) - May 14th, May 20th to 23rd, May 28th to 30th

MAPS EKWS (Casper) - June 4th, 11th, 20th, July 8th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

MAPS BART (Casper Mountain) - June 5th, 12th, 21st, July 9th, 17th, 24th, 31st

MAPS KEYS (Keyhole State Park) - June 1st, 12th, 23rd, July 4th, 11th, 25th, August 3rd

Hummingbirds (Casper Mountain) - To Be Determined

Migration/Training (Fall)* - September 3rd to 6th

*more dates might be added by fall

Owls - September 23rd through November 7th (Registration will be sent at the end of the summer.)

Attending training qualifies for advanced training hours, and attendance at MAPS and hummingbird dates can be submitted as volunteer hours. A typical MAPS day is worth 6-10 volunteer hours. Most of these opportunities start between 5-6am and are finished between 12-1pm. Attendance for the full day is not required.

If you are interested in attending any of the SPRING training dates, please fill out [this form](#).

If you would like to volunteer at a Casper MAPS station, register [HERE](#).

If you would like to volunteer at a Keyhole MAPS station, contact Jacelyn at jacelyn.downey@audubon.org.



Steering Committee

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