

# Wyoming Naturalist



## General Interest Events

June 22nd - Pride Month Hike in Medicine Bow-Routt N.F. [Email to Register](#)

June 22nd - Community Hike at Red Canyon Ranch [Nature Conservancy](#)

June 28th-30th - Leave No Trace Spotlight at Sinks Canyon SP [Facebook](#)

June 29th - Coates Rd. & Gravel Pit Hike - Casper - [Email to Register](#)

June 29th - Bee Jubilee at the Berry Center in Laramie

June 29th - Wildflower Walk at Keyhole S.P. - [Information](#)

July 2nd - 9am-11am - Berry Blitz at Grand Teton N.P. [Nature Conservancy](#)

July 19th-22nd - Statewide Bio Blitz [iNaturalist](#)

*(See the last page for an invite for WY Naturalists to join us in Bighorn N.F.)*

July 20th - Moose Day Survey at North Crow Reservoir [Curt Gowdy S.P.](#)

August 1st - Hike to Pilot Knob at Fort Phil Kearny S.H.S. [Facebook](#)

August 2nd-4th - Women Who Hike @ South Pass City SHS [Register](#)

August 3rd - Coulter Bay Hike at Keyhole S.P. [Information](#)

August 10th - Beartooth Hike - Shoshone N.F. - [Email to Register](#)

September 20th-22nd - WNP Annual Meeting in Casper

## Advanced Training Opportunities

September 20th-22nd - WNP Annual Meeting in Casper

September 21st - Bird Banding @ Edness K. Wilkins S.P.

September 21st - Mammals @ Isaak Walton Lodge

September 22nd - Wildlife Diseases @ Isaak Walton Lodge

September - Bird Banding (Fall Migration)

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WY Naturalist Website

<https://wyomingnaturalists.wyomingbiodiversity.org>

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Teton County Weed & Pest Tick Blitz - [tcweed.org/vectorborne](http://tcweed.org/vectorborne)

- Gillnetting with Wyoming Game and Fish at Big Sandy and High Savery Reservoirs - [Register](#)

- Kid's Corner article for the Wyoming Rural Electric News Magazine - [mlee37@uwyo.edu](mailto:mlee37@uwyo.edu) for details

- Rocky Mountain Amphibian Project - Medicine Bow/Bridger-Teton/Routt - [Adopt a Survey Catchment](#)

- 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.

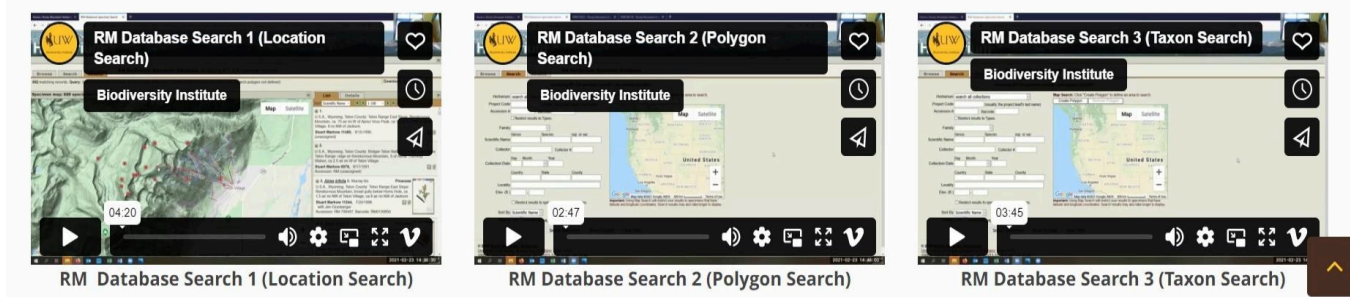
- [NRCS Earth Team](#) - Volunteer with your local conservation district!

- 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](mailto: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!

## Rocky Mountain Herbarium Database

If you plan to be out surveying plant species this summer, the Rocky Mountain Herbarium database is an excellent resource and includes a useful [Checklist of Wyoming Flora](#). From the site, “*The Rocky Mountain Herbarium Database ([www.rmh.uwyo.edu](http://www.rmh.uwyo.edu)) is an online tool that can be used to locate plant species in Wyoming and beyond. It is also useful for compiling species lists for specific areas, defined by a location or a polygon.*” The site includes comprehensive instructions and videos on how to use the database.



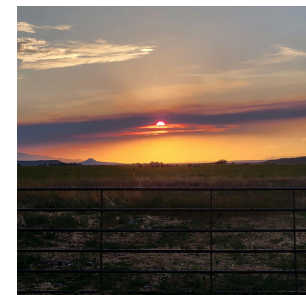
## Casper Collaboration - Progress Report

Joanne Theobald, Wyoming Naturalist and member of the Casper Rotary Park Improvement Committee, has reported steady progress with the interpretive signs project highlighted in the February and March issues of this newsletter. The location of the Geology Trail has been defined and is in the early stages of approval, spot selection is in the works for a “*nature/botanical loop trail geared towards kids,*” and Natrona County has supplied the committee with an updated GIS map. A graphic artist will be working on perfecting the sign designs for installation late this year, or spring of 2025. In the meantime, Joanne is keeping even busier by assisting Natrona County Weed & Pest with the management of Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) and Common Burdock (*Arctium minus*) in the park. She says, “*Along with other community groups such as 4H, I am doing test patches of various IPM practices- mowing in some really infested areas, hand pulling/digging in others, and removing second year seedheads of these stubborn biennials in every area I can find- this is my favorite activity as it leads me to discover new flowers, bugs, and listen to the birdsong..*” This yearly endeavor has also inspired an educational signage idea regarding these invasives and the need for “Clean, Play, Go.”

## BioBlitz 2024 - Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative

This year’s community science weekend kicked off with a unique and inspiring welcome ceremony featuring an opening prayer by Arapahoe tribal elder William C’Hair - Chair of the Arapahoe Language & Culture Committee, and drumming by Eagle Society members of the Arapahoe Tribe; Harvey Spoonhunter - Northern Arapahoe Director of Homeland Security, Marlin Spoonhunter - President of Wind River Tribal College, Theren Spoonhunter - Arapahoe tribal member, Gabriel Spoonhunter - Wind River Coordinator of Ancestral Lands, Nora Oldman - Arapahoe Elder and member of the Northern Arapahoe Economic Development Commission, Tillie Spoonhunter - Arapahoe Language Teacher, and Landon C’Hair

-Arapahoe Tribal Member. Eastern Shoshone member and Senior Wind River Conservation Associate, Wes Martel of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition gave the keynote speech about the reclamation and conservation of tribal lands. The keynote was followed up by empowering speeches about passion and commitment to education from Dr. Tarissa Spoonhunter - Arapahoe member, University of Wyoming Director of High Plains American Indian Research Institute, and Professor in Haub’s School of Environment & Natural Resources, and Pattie Baldez - Arapahoe member, Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative, and Director of Wind River Native Advocacy Center.



Sunset at WRTBI - J. Harkink - June 13, 2024

# Reminders!

## 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. *This schedule is tentative and subject to change by the meeting dates.*

Friday	Activity	Location	Saturday	Activity	Location
3pm	Camp & Lodge Open	Izaak Walton Lodge	3:30pm	Advanced Training: TBD	Izaak Walton Lodge
10am	Social hour/Cohort mingle	Izaak Walton Lodge	5pm	Group Dinner	Izaak Walton Lodge
Saturday	Activity	Location	6:30pm	Capstone Social Hour	Izaak Walton Lodge
7am	Bird Banding	Edness K Wilkins SP	8pm	Astronomy Training	TBD
9:30am	Welcome	Izaak Walton Lodge	Sunday	Activity	Location
10am	Service Project	TBD	7:30am	Group Breakfast	Izaak Walton Lodge
12pm	Group Lunch	TBD	8:45am	Awards	Izaak Walton Lodge
2pm	Service Project Ends	TBD	10am	Advanced Training: Wildlife Diseases with Jessica Jennings	Izaak Walton Lodge
2:30pm	Advanced Training: Mammals	Izaak Walton Lodge	11am	Wrap-up	Izaak Walton Lodge

## Kid's Corner Articles

The Biodiversity Institute provides a monthly article and illustration for the Kid's Corner page of the [Wyoming Rural Electric News magazine](#). 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. Anybody interested in writing these articles should email Mason at [mlee37@uwyo.edu](mailto:mlee37@uwyo.edu) to discuss specifics, due dates, and the topics.

## Bee Jubilee

The Biodiversity Institute will host the annual Bee Jubilee event on June 29<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

## 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. to submit an interest form, visit [tweed.org/vectorborne](http://tweed.org/vectorborne).

\*\*\*\*\***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 - Your name must be part of the file name.**

*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.**



## 2024 Tentative Bird Banding Dates

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

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

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

Hummingbirds (Casper Mountain) - To Be Determined

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 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](mailto:jacelyn.downey@audubon.org).



## Steering Committee

**Brian Sebade**

University of WY Extension

**Jennifer Thompson**

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**Brett Addis**

UW Biodiversity Institute

**Mason Lee**

UW Biodiversity Institute

**Zach Hutchinson**

Audubon Rockies

**Jacelyn Downey**

Audubon Rockies

**Ashley Leonard**

WY Game & Fish Dept.

**Jennie Lawrence**

Wyoming Naturalist

**Dan Bach**

WY State Parks & Cultural  
Resources

Learn more about the Wyoming Naturalist Program: <https://wyomingnaturalists.wyomingbiodiversity.org/>

*Do you have plans for Statewide Virtual BioBlitz July 19-22? Join the Newsletter Team in the Bighorn National Forest! We will be surveying around Meadowlark Lake for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. We have encountered many moose, unique plants, and picturesque landscapes during our surveys. There are several campgrounds in the area including Boulder Park, Island Park, Sitting Bull and Deer Park(First come first served only). There is dispersed camping available, as well. If you are interested in joining us or have questions, please email or text Jaci at [jacihark@gmail.com](mailto:jacihark@gmail.com) or 307-431-1609. Happy Virtual Bioblitzing!!*