

*Wingtip to Wingtip:
A Flourish of Feathers*



2024 Othello Sandhill Crane Festival
March 22-24



Please register online at our website!

www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org

Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/Othello-Sandhill-Crane-Festival

Again, this year is E-ticketing. When you purchase your tours and activities online you will receive a confirmation of your scheduled activities electronically. Save your E-ticketing schedules on your mobile device and/or print a copy to bring to the festival. Copies may be available if you are unable to access them. Thank You.



Location of the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival:

**Othello Nazarene Church
(835 S 10th Ave.)**

**and McFarland Middle School (MMS)
(790 S 10th Ave.)**

Please **DO NOT go to these buildings BEFORE 4PM on Friday the 22nd as they are in use for their own purposes.**

We ask that everyone use the Nazarene Church parking lot and enter the festival through the front doors of the church. Thank You.

Have questions? Need help?

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival
(509) 989-5606
othellocranefest@gmail.com

Festival activities occur all day Saturday and are included in general admission to the festival. All attendees must purchase a general admission ticket for lectures, tours and activities for \$10.00.

ABOUT OUR COVER

Lisa Johnston is a local artist who moved to Othello almost 13 years ago. She has enjoyed painting most of her adult life. Lisa is an active member of her church, wife, mother of three, and Nana of six. When she is not busy she enjoys her painting.



OTHELLO SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 2024

(509) 989-5606

www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org

ABOUT OUR FESTIVAL

This is our 26th annual Othello Sandhill Crane Festival!! Founded in 1998, the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival highlights the spring return of Sandhill Cranes to the greater Othello area and Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. Lectures will be delivered on Friday night and Saturday. Tours will be offered on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Our festival will remain at our new venues this year with the intent of improving room size, audience capacity, and space.

The festival has been financially supported by the City of Othello and Grant County Tourism by tourism development funds (hotel/motel taxes) and logistically supported by Othello School District, Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, and Columbia Basin Conservation District.

The Othello Sandhill Crane Festival Committee is made up of volunteers who plan, organize and conduct the event. Funds generated from fees are re-invested into the festival each year. We look forward to your visit!

FOR YOUR SAFETY – PLEASE READ

The Othello Sandhill Crane Festival sponsors

viewing tours and other events to allow festival participants to view wildlife in a safe and manageable way. **Please dress accordingly as it may be very cold and/or rainy this time of year.**



Photo courtesy of Roberta Joselovitz

For your safety and the consideration of others, please do not follow our tour buses while at the festival. Our tour guides often obtain permission from landowners in advance to allow tour buses on private property, but this permission does not extend to visitors in private vehicles.

If you would like to view wildlife on your own, please ask the wildlife guides at the

festival or at The Old Hotel Art Gallery for the latest sightings. This will allow all to safely enjoy the wildlife resources of the area.

Our lecture rooms each have a maximum capacity, thus we cannot accommodate attendees past that number. **Lectures are available on a first-come, first-served basis.** We apologize if the lecture you would like to attend is already full.



SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Basin Pacific Insurance
 Big Bend Electric Caring Neighbors
 Casa Bella Suites
 Central Basin Audubon Society
 City of Othello
 CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
 Columbia Basin Health Association
 Columbia Basin Conservation District
 Columbia Colstor
 Coulee Corridor
 Grant County Tourism Fund
 Greater Othello Chamber of Commerce
 Ice Age Floods Institute
 Jane Grant
 Lawrence Oil Company
 Lineage Logistics

MarDon Resort
 MarJon Labor
 Othello School District
 Othello Community Museum
 ProGene Plant Research
 Reichert's Showhouse
 RDO
 Shawn Logan
 Stevens Funeral Chapel
 Terra Gold Farms
 The Old Hotel Art Gallery
 Time Out Pizza
 Umpqua Bank
 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Washington State Dept. Fish and Wildlife

We value your continued support.
Thank You!

Hotels:

Quality Inn
 1020 Cedar St.
 Othello, WA
 509-488-5671

Othello Inn
 685 E Windsor St.
 Othello, WA
 509-331-5722

Ramada by Wyndham
 1745 Kittleson Rd
 Moses Lake, WA
 509-766-1000

The Inn at Moses Lake
 1741 Kittleson Rd
 Moses Lake, WA
 509-766-7000

Eagle Lakes Ranch Lodge
 903 E Eagle Rd.
 Othello, WA
 509-488-4484

Holiday Inn
 2300 S Maiers Rd.
 Moses Lake, WA
 509-766-8000

Fairfield Inn
 2380 S Maiers Rd.
 Moses Lake, WA
 509-765-0500

Wingate by Wyndam
 1735 Kittleson Rd NE
 Moses Lake, WA
 509-766-2000

RV Parking:

Adams County
 Fair Grounds
 831 S Reynolds
 Othello, WA

MarDon RV
 8198 HWY 262 SE
 Othello, WA
 509-346-2651

Sagehill Golf and RV
 10400 Sagehill Rd SE
 Warden, WA
 509-349-2088

B&B - Casa Bella Suites
 455 E Hemlock St.
 Othello, WA
 509-760-9116

THURSDAY, MARCH 21st

TIME	FIELD TRIPS	LECTURES	SPEAKERS AND LEADERS
11:00 AM – 1:30 PM	Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour \$90		Nathan LaFrance - departs from MarDon
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour \$90		Nathan LaFrance - departs from MarDon

FRIDAY NIGHT Featured Lecture

WSU – Raptor Club at MMS Commons



The WSU Raptor Club will introduce you to the world of raptors through the use of live birds. They will present the individual birds, starting with the bird's name and why they were deemed non-releasable. They will then go into species-specific information, followed by why raptors are important in the environment and what their conservation status is as well as what anthropogenic threats they face. **This lecture is free to attend but pre-purchase of event tickets will be available.**

The WSU Raptor Club is a non-profit, volunteer based, educational program revolving around raptor conservation through the use of non-releasable ambassador birds of prey. Created in 1981, The Raptor Club started off the program with a rescued red-tailed hawk named Charlie, who served as an educational ambassador for 33 years. Traveling all around Washington and Idaho, the Washington State University Raptor Club currently cares for 11 different birds of prey with aim to educate the public regarding raptor behavior and habits, as a way to protect these species from potentially harmful human interaction and bring awareness to their importance in an ecosystem.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22nd

TIME	FIELD TRIPS	LECTURES	SPEAKERS AND LEADERS
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Royal Lake Overlook Hike \$20		Kaley Wisher – Meet at Royal Lake Outlook
11:00 AM – 1:30 PM	Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour \$90		Nathan LaFrance and Mike Denny - departs from MarDon
2:00 PM – 5:45 PM	Biking for Cranes Tour \$25		Pete Perez - meet at colorful shed behind the church
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour \$90		Nathan LaFrance - departs from MarDon
3:30 PM – Dark	Tonnemaker Hill Farm Tour \$20		Luke Tonnemaker – meet at Tonnemaker Farm
4:00 PM – Dark	Basalt Columns and Wildlife Hike \$20		Randy Hill – meet at Refuge Headquarters
7:00 PM – Done		WSU-Raptor Club MMS Commons	WSU Raptor Club
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM EAGLES LODGE DINNER – 127 E Larch St. Othello, WA. Pay at the door \$16			



SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd

Red Room – Sanctuary Blue Room – Chapel Green Room – Conference Purple Room - Music Room – MMS Brown Room – Stem Room-MMS

BAGGED LUNCHES (Vegetarian, Turkey and Ham) \$20 pickup at Check in Desk in Nazarene Church			
TIME	FIELD TRIPS	LECTURES	SPEAKERS AND LEADERS
7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Crane Viewing Tours \$25		Loading from front doors of the Nazarene Church
7:15 AM – 8:45 AM	Crane Viewing Tours \$25		Loading from front doors of the Nazarene Church
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Crane Viewing Tours \$25		Loading from front doors of the Nazarene Church
7:45 AM – 9:15 AM	Crane Viewing Tours \$25		Loading from front doors of the Nazarene Church
8:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Biking for Cranes Tour \$25		Pete Perez - meet at colorful shed behind the church
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Othello Bird Walk		Mike Denny - Meet in front of Nazarene Church
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM		Red Room – Sandhill Cranes and the Pacific Highway	Gary Ivey
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM		Blue Room – Northern Leopard Frogs	Lindsay D. Nason
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM		Purple Room - Music Room (MMS) Mystery of the Channeled Scablands	Lloyd Stoess
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM		Red Room – The Big White Birds	Martha Jordan
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM		Blue Room – Drone Detective: Searching for Worlds Smallest Rabbit	Katherine Soltysiak
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM		Purple Room - Music Room (MMS) Bird Bones and Feathers	David Lukas
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Spotting Scope at Marsh Unit #1		Randy Hill - meet at Marsh Unit #1
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour \$90		Nathan LaFrance - departs from MarDon
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM		Red Room – An Enduring Conservation Vision of the Blue Mountains	David Mildrexler
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM		Green Room – The Trouble with Wolves	Fay Peebles
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM		Blue Room – Birds and Wildlife of the Wallula Gap	Mike Denny
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM		Purple Room - Music Room (MMS) Ice Age Floods National Geological Trail	Justin Radford
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM		Brown Room – STEM Room (MMS) Our Favorite Loon Stories	Ginger Poleschook
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Othello Community Museum Tour		Eric Morgan - meet at Othello Community Museum
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM		Red Room – Three P's of Bees	Riley Reed
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM		Green Room – The Marvel of Washington Shrubsteppe	Kim Thorburn

SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd

Red Room – Sanctuary

Blue Room – Chapel

Green Room – Conference

Purple Room - Music Room – MMS

Brown Room – Stem Room-MMS

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM		Blue Room – Grasses and Bird Habitats	Michael M. Neff
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM		Purple Room - Music Room (MMS) Latest Birds Eye View of Ice-Age Floods	Bruce Bjornstead
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM		Brown Room – STEM Room (MMS) Stories About our Fellow Creatures	Dennis Dauble
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour \$90		Nathan LaFrance - departs from MarDon
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM		Red Room – David Douglas in the Columbia Basin	Jack Nesbit
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM		Blue Room – Photographing Birds in Motion	Diana McPherson
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM		Purple Room - Music Room (MMS) Grand Coulee. A Great Erosion Story	Ken Lacy
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM		Brown Room – STEM Room (MMS) Burrowing Owls	Jason Fidorra
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Upper Goose Coulee Hike \$20		Ashleigh Field
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM		Purple Room - Music Room (MMS) WSU Raptor Club	WSU Raptor Club
5:30 PM – Dark	Crane Viewing Tour \$25		Loading from front doors of the Nazarene Church
5:45 PM – Dark	Crane Viewing Tour \$25		Loading from front doors of the Nazarene Church
6:00 PM – Dark	Fly In Bus Tour \$20		Loading from front doors of the Nazarene Church
6:00 PM – Dark	Fly In Bus Tour \$20		Loading from front doors of the Nazarene Church



Photo courtesy of Angela Davis

SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH BIRDERS at Ironworks Café

Heidi Newsome



Birds are highly mobile and interesting creatures. Migrations bring different species at different times through Eastern Washington. You can improve your birding skills by understanding which species are likely to be encountered during this unique time between winter and spring, and what to expect during various seasons. This presentation will focus on bird species that are somewhat unique, other than Sandhill Cranes, which you may find in wetlands, shrub-steppe or basalt cliffs in and around the Othello area. Because of the unique mix of habitats in the area, diversity of birds can be high. There will be some discussion of bird identification tips, helpful phone apps, birds song recognition and an identification quiz.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24th

All Bus tours leave from front doors of McFarland Middle School

BAGGED LUNCHES (Vegetarian, Turkey and Ham) \$20 – pickup at MMS at the front doors		
TIME	FIELD TRIPS	LEADERS
5:45 AM – 10:00 AM	Sunrise Photography Workshop \$110	Diana McPherson
7:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Royal Slope Birding Bus Tour \$60	Randy Hill
7:15 AM – 8:45 AM	Crane Viewing Bus Tour \$25	
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Crane Viewing Bus Tour \$25	
7:30 AM – 3:30 PM	Lower Crab Creek Birding Bus Tour \$70	Mike Denny
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Bird Tour and Hike in Potholes \$30	Margaret Heming
8:15 AM – 4:00 PM	Saddle Mountain and Drumheller \$55	Lloyd Stoess and Ken Lacey
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Dramatic Drumheller Channel Hike \$55	Bruce Bjornstad
10:00 AM - Noon	Brunch with the Birders at Ironworks \$35	Heidi Newsome
11:00 AM – 1:30 PM	Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour \$90	Nathan LaFrance - departs from MarDon
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Othello Community Museum Tour	Eric Morgan - meet at Othello Museum
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour \$90	Nathan LaFrance and Heidi Newsome - departs from MarDon
3:30 PM – Dark	Tonnemaker Hill Farm Tour \$20	Luke Tonnemaker - meet at Tonnemaker Farm
3:35 PM – Dark	Sunset Photography Workshop \$110	Diana McPherson



Photo courtesy of Lisa Hansen

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

Buses will normally load 10 to 15 minutes before the scheduled departure time. Be sure to board your bus no later than five minutes prior to departure time.

Thursday, March 21st Tours

All Thursday tours depart from their respective tour locations.



Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour – departs from MarDon Resort, 8198 WA Highway 262, Othello, WA 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM and again at 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. \$90.00. This boat

trip explores bird life in early spring on Potholes Reservoir and concentrates on the bays where waterfowl, grebes, shorebirds, herons, and eagles might be found. Please dress accordingly as it may be very cold and/or rainy this time of year.

Friday, March 22nd Tours and Events

All Friday tours depart from their respective tour locations.

Royal Lake Overlook Hike – meet at Royal Lake Overlook, long/lat 46.871590 – 119.369303, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. \$20.00. Kaley Wisher will lead you on a nature hike to identify plants and animals and discuss how agriculture can work in harmony with them. The hike will cover no more than 4 miles with terrain of rolling hills and rocky ground in some places but otherwise relatively flat. The hike will consist of identifying plants and animals and their relationship to each other. Track and feather identification will be included in the conversation. There will also be a focus on how agriculture can stay in balance with nature.



Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour – departs from MarDon Resort, 8198 WA Highway 262, Othello, WA 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM and again at 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. \$90.00. This boat trip explores bird life in early spring on Potholes Reservoir and concentrates on the bays where waterfowl, grebes, shorebirds, herons, and eagles might be found. Please dress accordingly as it may be very cold and/or rainy this time of year.



Biking for Cranes Tour – departs from the colorful shed in the rear parking lot of the Nazarene Church, 2:00 PM to 5:45 PM. \$25.00. Be ready to ride at 2:00 pm. Enjoy a trip via bicycle with Pete Perez through some of the best wildlife viewing areas near Othello. The ride will be approximately

30 miles round-trip and consists of flat to rolling terrain on paved roads. Helmets are required, and you should bring plenty of water. Bring a bike that is in great working condition, and you should be able to complete the ride at 10 to 12 mph. A support vehicle will be provided for repairs and safety. The purpose of the bike ride is to see birds; we will be stopping regularly to view wildlife. This is the same route that they will go on Saturday morning.

Tonnemaker Hill Farm and Mammoth Dig Tour – meet at Tonnemaker Farm, 9084 Dodson Rd. Royal City, WA. 3:30 PM to Dark. \$20.00. Tonnemaker Hill Farm has been a popular tour in the past. The farm was founded in 1962 by Pearl and Orland Tonnemaker and is now managed by their grandson Luke. They farm a relatively small amount for the area (126-acre), but organically cultivate thousands of varieties. Of particular note are the sweet and hot peppers, of which they grow more than 300 varieties. Those who sign up to visit can look forward to a tour of the orchard and greenhouses. You will also look

at the Columbian Mammoth dig site and some of the bones recovered after discovering it by chance in the spring of 2015. There will be a discussion on some of the history and geology of the area and what we know about the mammoth thus far. Further information about the farm can be found at www.tonnemaker.com.

Basalt Columns and Wildlife Hike – meet at Refuge Headquarters, 51 S Morgan Lake RD, Othello, WA. 4:00 PM to Sunset. \$20.00. Randy Hill, former refuge wildlife biologist, will share his knowledge of basalt column wildlife while hiking in the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. Birds, plants and animals will be pointed out and discussed as well as their significance in the column geology of our region. There will be no restrooms on this hike; please plan accordingly.

Eagles Lodge Friday Night Dinner – 127 East Larch St., 5:00 PM until food is sold out. Attendees are invited to join the local Eagles Lodge for a spaghetti feed. The menu includes spaghetti with or without meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, coffee, and water, all for \$16 per meal. Please pay at the door.

Friday Night Lecture Held at MMS Commons, at 7:00 PM. WSU Raptor Club Presents Birds of Prey. **This lecture is free to attend but pre-purchase of event tickets will be available.**

Festival activities occur all day Saturday and are included in general admission to the festival. All attendees must purchase a general admission ticket for lectures, tours and activities for \$10.00.

Novelties – Available for sale in the Nazarene Church lobby 7:30AM to 3:00PM Saturday. Don't forget to purchase your commemorative 2024 Sandhill Crane Festival items, including: T-shirts, magnets, pins, postcards, pens, stickers and plush birds.

Children's Programs – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the MMS Commons on Saturday. Learning is fun for children and this year's programs at the Sandhill Crane Festival will provide entertainment along with education. Children will enjoy origami, binoculars, a variety of crafts, creative painting projects, and more. Mask making is also available in the art room

nearby. These events are free to children attending the festival who are accompanied by a paying adult. Children taking part in all the activities will receive a prize, courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Art Contest – The Old Hotel Art Gallery sponsors an annual art contest, with entries that feature nature and/or wildlife of the Columbia Basin. There are five categories: 2nd grade & under, 3-5 grade, 6-8 grade, 9-12 grade, and adult. Entries may include any media. First place in each category receives a prize. All artwork will be displayed in the gymnasium at MMS on Saturday. All art contest participants receive free general admission (when accompanied by an adult) to the festival. For more information, please contact **The Old Hotel at (509) 488-5936**, Tuesday thru Saturday, 10am to 5pm.

Vendors – Assorted vendors will be in the MMS gyms on Friday night before and after the lecture and Saturday from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Vendors will include binoculars and spotting scopes, books, jewelry, art, local non-profits, fish and wildlife, WSU Raptors, and other bird and wildlife related items. Book signings by those lecturers that are authors will also be available.

MMS Concessions – MMS students will be selling lattes, slushies and other assorted foods in the Commons next to the children's art projects. All proceeds will go towards the student body and various clubs.

Photo Booth – MMS Gymnasiums at 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Saturday. FREE. There will be a photo booth to take your picture with a Sandhill Crane theme in the background to take home as a memento.

Bagged Lunches – Bagged lunches can be ordered for tours on Saturday the 23rd and Sunday the 24th (pre-registration required) for \$20. The box lunch choices include sandwich choices of vegetarian, turkey, or ham on a home-made wheat bun; chips; applesauce; and a cookie. You may pre-order a bag lunch on the registration form. A bottle of water will NOT be in our bagged lunches. Bagged lunches can be picked up at the check in desk at the Nazarene Church on Saturday and at the check in desk at MMS on Sunday.

Food Trucks – There will be assorted food trucks set up between MMS and the Nazarene Church for lunchtime on Saturday the 23rd. Indoor seating will be available in the Nazarene Church Community Room. Look for your favorite barbeque, teriyaki, corndogs, drinks and more.

The Old Hotel Art Gallery – Wine Tasting and Local Food Sampling 33 E Larch St. 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM Saturday – Wine tasting will feature Gingko Forest Winery from Mattawa. Available for purchase will be: local wines, local foods, Sandhill Crane jewelry, and books featuring: birds, wildflowers, local history, geology and the Ice Age Floods. A fantastic selection of original art is offered, as well as handmade items, prints and cards. The art gallery houses the Visitor Center and is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10:00AM to 5:00 PM. As an added attraction, the non-profit has an all-steel caboose built by Milwaukee Railroad that has been turned into an interpretive museum and is located in the parking lot. The gallery also hosts a vendor booth at the festival.

Visit Columbia National Wildlife Refuge – The refuge office will be open during the festival Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Columbia NWR is located just off of S Morgan Lake Rd, amid rock rims, lakes, and broad expanses of sagebrush steppe. The refuge is a focal point for a large segment of the Pacific Flyway waterfowl migrating north, as well as wintering populations of many species.

Exploring Art in Othello – We have assembled a master list and map of art collections, murals, and sculptures to view and enjoy in the Othello area. Please stop by The Old Hotel Art Gallery to pick up a copy of the map for your self-guided tour.

Birds and Beers at Ironworks Café, 335 S. Broadway, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, Live music by local musician Aly Hesselroth from “ALY WAY Music”. Come enjoy live music, dinner and beer tasting.

AS ALWAYS, PLEASE CHECK OUR NEW WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND AVAILABILITY OF TOURS AT:
www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org
We’re also on Facebook (Othello Sandhill Crane Festival)! “Like” our page to receive the latest updates and Festival news!

Saturday, March 23rd Tours and Events

Breakfast – Community Room at Nazarene Church, 6:30 AM to 10:00 AM, The Greater Othello Chamber of Commerce will be making breakfast this year. **Pay at the door ONLY.** You may purchase assorted breakfast sizes containing pancakes, sausage, eggs, with juice or coffee.

Conversatio Coffee Bar and Snacks – in the lobby at Nazarene Church, 6:00 AM to 3:30 PM, a Coffee Bar from Conversatio Coffee, a local roaster, will have various items for purchase: coffee, lattes, hot chocolate, teas, and other snacks.

Crane Viewing Tours – depart from the front doors of the Nazarene Church, 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM, 7:15 AM to 8:45 AM, 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM and 7:45 AM to 9:15AM. \$25.00. These guided tours will go directly to the best Sandhill Crane viewing areas where and when they can be their noisiest. An experienced wildlife guide will narrate each tour and will answer any questions you may have. These tours will be on a bus. They will be approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours in length, please plan accordingly.



Biking for Cranes Tour – depart from the colorful shed in the rear parking lot of the Nazarene Church, 8:45 AM to 12:30 PM. \$25.00. Be ready to ride at 8:45 a.m. Enjoy a trip via bicycle with Pete Perez through some of the best wildlife viewing areas near Othello. The ride will be approximately 30 miles round-trip and consists of flat to rolling terrain on paved roads. Helmets are required, and you should bring plenty of water. Bring a bike that is in great working condition, and you should be able to complete the ride at 10 to 12 mph. A support vehicle will be provided for repairs and safety. The purpose of the bike ride is to see birds; we will be stopping regularly to view wildlife.

Neighborhood Birding Walk, meet by the crosses in front of the Nazarene Church, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Join avid birder, Mike Denny, for a casual walk from the church through nearby neighborhoods and parks of Othello. The walk is an opportunity to observe birds in residential settings. The walk is free of charge.



Spotting Scope, meet at Marsh Unit #1, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Join Randy Hill, noted wildlife biologist, in using his spotting scope to observe cranes at Marsh Unit #1. Please drop by, but parking is limited. This great overlook offers views of a favored location for cranes during the day. This opportunity is free of charge. For full enjoyment at this site, bring your own binoculars.

Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour – departs from MarDon Resort, 8198 WA Highway 262, Othello, WA 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM and again at 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. \$90.00. This boat trip explores bird life in early spring on Potholes Reservoir and concentrates on the bays where waterfowl, grebes, shorebirds, herons, and eagles might be found. Please dress accordingly as it may be very cold and/or rainy this time of year.

Othello Community Museum Tour, meet at the Othello Community Museum, on the corner of 3rd and Larch, Saturday the 25th at 1:00 PM. Join Eric Morgan, Board President of the Othello Community Museum, as he gives a guided tour through the facility, explaining the artifacts on display and the history of the museum and area. The collection includes a bird and egg collection amassed by a local farmer and donated to the museum. The tour is free.

Saturday Lectures - 9:00 AM

Red Room – Sandhill Cranes and the Pacific Highway. Dr. Gary Ivey will talk about the Sandhill Crane population that breed and stage in Washington State and the broader Pacific Flyway. He will discuss the migration routes and the wintering and breeding areas of the three subspecies that

visit the state. He will speak about the behavior, biology and conservation measures in the Pacific Flyway and the Othello area.

Dr. Gary Ivey works for the International Crane Foundation as a Research Associate and is an expert on the Sandhill Cranes in the Pacific Flyway. He has worked with wildlife for over 35 years, concentrating his work on water birds, water fowl and wetland conservation. He currently serves as President of The Trumpeter Swan Society and is leading efforts to restore breeding trumpeter swans to Oregon. He served for 20 years as a biologist at several western refuges, including 15 years at Malheur Refuge. He studied the nesting ecology of Sandhill Cranes for his Master's thesis and the wintering ecology of Sandhill Cranes for his PhD, both at Oregon State University. He worked to further the conservation of cranes, trumpeter swans and other water birds in western North America.



Blue Room – Northern Leopard Frogs. Lindsay D. Nason will talk about the northern leopard frog, whose populations are declining significantly, particularly in the western United States and Canada. They are considered a state-endangered species in Washington and the only remaining wild population is found in Grant County. Lindsay will provide information about northern leopard frogs history, biology and challenges facing the species as well as ongoing efforts of WDFW to promote northern leopard frog recovery.



Lindsay D. Nason joined WDFW in May 2023 to lead Northern Leopard Frog recovery efforts. Prior to this position, she worked with the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to monitor native amphibians and reptiles and assist with endangered frog recovery. She grew up in Kentucky, where she earned a PhD in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior from the University

of Louisville. She enjoys birding, tennis and reading books.

Also discussed will be how they are connected along the Pacific Flyway.



Purple Room – MMS Music Room – The Mystery of the Channeled Scablands and the Two Detectives Who Solved it. **Lloyd Stoess** will show us the uniqueness of the Channeled Scablands in Eastern Washington and how it was a puzzle to many geologists. The

lecture follows J. Harlen Bretz over 100 years ago as he looked at clues that eliminated normal running streams and glacial erosion as a source of the Scablands. Clues to only a flood of unimaginable size could have formed this landscape.

Lloyd Stoess grew up on a wheat farm eight miles from Palouse Falls but didn't learn about the Ice Age Floods until he attended Eastern Washington State College where he graduated with a BA in Geography. After college, he returned to Washtucna to work with his father in the family agriculture equipment manufacturing business, where he still works today. He was introduced to the Ice Age Floods Institute (IAFI), became a charter member of the Cheney-Palouse Chapter, and helped found the Palouse Falls Chapter. He is involved with several other local organizations and civic groups.

Saturday Lectures – 10:15 AM



Red Room – The Big White Birds – Who, What, Where and Why: Swans and Snow Geese in Washington.

Martha Jordan will focus on Swans, Trumpeters, Tundra and Snow Geese in Eastern Washington and the Pacific Northwest. She will talk about biology, ecology and identification of swans and their migration on both sides of Washington.

Martha Jordan has a BS degree in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University. She has worked both in marine and terrestrial environments throughout Washington and parts of Alaska. In the late 1970's while volunteering to observe snow geese and reading their collars in Skagit Valley, WA, she began to look at the small group of trumpeter swans in the same area. By 1984, she had expanded her survey efforts to all of western Washington and had contributed much information to both state and federal agencies on the status of trumpeter swans in the state. She wrote the state's first trumpeter swan management plan in 1985. She is still active in field work and education related to both trumpeter and tundra swans throughout the region. She is currently the Executive Director of Northwest Swan Conservation Association, a regional non-profit.

Blue Room – Drone Detective: Searching for the World's Smallest Rabbit from Above. **Katherine Soltysiak** will talk about the endangered Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit that is endemic to Washington's shrub steppe region. Each year biologists work hard to estimate the current rabbit population, which usually involves hiking many miles over many days. This last year, the team utilized drones to capture images of burrow sites. Was this successful and which is better, man or machine?



Katherine Soltysiak has always had an interest in working with lagomorphs: rabbits, hares and pikas. This passion brought her to work at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife where she is a wildlife biologist on the Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit Recovery Project.

Purple Room – MMS Music Room – Under the Surface with Bird Bones and Feathers. **David Lukas** will lecture about skulls, beaks, eyes, wings, legs, feet and unique features of a bird's skeleton, while discussing how each feature helps birds

adapt to and move in their environments. This is a fascinating topic because most of these features are hidden under feathers, yet birds bones and skeletons shape every aspect of what we see when we watch birds.

David Lukas is a well-known naturalist based in Washington's Methow Valley. He has written seven books and contributed chapters to another forty books on a tremendous range of nature topics. He also lead thousands of natural history tours, classes, workshops and presentations. David's most recent project is producing a weekly nature newsletter at www.lukasguides.com.



Saturday Lectures – 11:30 AM



Red Room – An Enduring Conservation Vision for the Blue Mountains Ecoregion of the Pacific Northwest. **David Mildrexler** will talk about the Blue Mountains forming a massive system of mountain ranges, canyons, valleys, plateaus, rivers and rural

place-based communities that together comprise the largest ecoregion in Oregon, extending into Western Idaho and Southeastern Washington. There is a lot at stake in this large, diverse region where big trees are crucial for carbon storage, mountains supply the regions water supply, and forests stretch from the Cascades to the Rockies forming a wildlife corridor of continental-scale importance. There is no conservation vision for the whole region that responds to the many threats this area faces. Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands is developing a holistic vision to secure region-wide resilience for the Blue Mountains.

David Mildrexler born and raised in Oregon, is a Systems Ecologist from Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands and the Wallowology Discovery Center. He serves on the board of the Wallowa Land Trust and is a founding member of the Camas to Condors Partnership. He received his BA from Portland State University, a Masters in Forest Science from University of Montana, and PhD in Forest Ecosystems and Society from Oregon State. He recently has published research with applications to a holistic conservation vision for the Blue Mountains Ecoregion.

Green Room – The Trouble with Wolves.

Fay Peebles will explain that once exterminated from the lower 48, wolves have made a triumphant return to Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding states. Hailed as “the greatest animal conservation success in human history,” to many others living in the areas affected, the story is dramatically different. There is a reason wolves have been, and continue to be, the most controversial predator. But the question remains: do they deserve a place in this landscape? From hunters without game and ranchers on the brink of losing their family businesses, to the biologists who personally brought the wolves back and the wildlife managers struggling to find equilibrium, “The Trouble with Wolves” is a rich character study revealing what’s really going on in the American West. It probably isn’t what you’ve been told by agenda-driven environmentalists or rabid anti-wolf groups.



Fay Peebles has a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Education. She spent over six years working as Wolf Haven International Education Coordinator, working for wolves but also honoring other perspectives on wolves.

Blue Room – Birds and Wildlife of Wallula Gap.

Mike Denny will lecture about the ecology, habitats and wildlife, mainly birds of the great water gap of the Columbia River that is known as the Wallula Gap.

Mike Denny leads field trips for many different organizations in the PNW. He is a co-author of seven books. He has taught Adult Education Courses at Walla Walla Community College for 25 years, and guest lectures on ecology and habitat diversity. Mike sits on the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board; and is a member of the Northwest Outdoor Riders Association, Blue Mountain Audubon, and the Washington Ornithological Society. He has co-produced two educational film series on regions of the PNW.



interpretation and education to the public about this unique National Trail and to support connections between the dispersed Missoula Flood visitor experience.

Brown Room – MMS STEM Room – Our Favorite Loon Stories. **Ginger Poleschook** will speak about Common Loons; they are very territorial, and yet they can be very social. You will hear about incidents that demonstrate their very high intelligence and remarkable memory. You will also learn of their incredible navigation success on their migration pathways across western North America, and about many other amazing capabilities.

Ginger Poleschook and her husband Daniel have been conducting research on Common Loons in the Pacific Northwest for the past 30 years. Their applied conservation efforts, favorable natural anthropogenic factors, and the great natural ability of Common Loons to persist and be successful have resulted in a steady population growth of the species in the region. Daniel and Ginger have conducted continual comprehensive surveys and coordinated banding in their research area in the northeast Washington from 1995-2024 while being scientists for Biodiversity Research Institute (www.briwildlife.org).

Saturday Lectures – 1:00 PM



Purple Room – MMS Music Room – Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail. **Justin Radford** will share what the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail is all about. Learn how four states, millions of people, and some 16 thousand square miles of

land are all connected by impacts of the Missoula Floods. At the end of the last Ice Age, perhaps as many as 100 massive floods raced across the Pacific Northwest and forever changed the landscape and the lives of those who call this region home. Justin will share pictures and stories of some of these amazing places and the way the National Park Service is working to bring them together.

Justin Radford is a career Federal employee who has worked with the National Park Service (NPS) and the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to help share America's most important stories. He has worked with over 100 National Park sites to develop visitors' centers and exhibits and served as the executive officer for the ABMC. Justin is the Program Manager for the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail whose focus is to provide

Red Room – Three P's of Bees: Pests, Parasites and Pathogens of Washington Beehives.

Riley Reed will discuss beekeepers and their wide variety of threats often summarized as the 4 P's: parasites, pathogens, pesticides and poor nutrition. Riley will talk on two of those P's: pathogens and parasites, along with other pests impacting beekeepers in Washington. Topics will include monitoring and managing varroa mites, diagnosing both types of foulbroods, recent reports of small hive beetles in Washington, along with information on the other parasites, pests and diseases of bees.



Riley Reed is a graduate student in the Washington State University Department of Entomology. He has been a beekeeper for seven years, six of those have been with the WSU Honey Bee Program. His current research is on improving pollination in seed crops and managing parasites and pests of honey bee colonies.

Green Room – Conserving Biodiversity: The Marvel of the Washington Shrubsteppe. Kim Thorburn will talk on the rich biodiversity and ecologic importance of the West's arid intermountain basins, including Washington's Columbia Basin Shrubsteppe, which were long discounted.



Consequently, these are highly threatened ecosystems, impacted and fragmented by anthropogenic alterations. The talk will delineate perils of the shrubsteppe ecosystem, highlighting the effects of some of the iconic wildlife species, and present

examples of conservation efforts to preserve, protect and perpetuate its biodiversity.

Kim Thorburn is passionate about shrubsteppe conservation and volunteering for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife including coordination of a project to recover Greater Sage-Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse. She is a retired public health physician from Spokane, WA, an avid birder, and a former president of Spokane Audubon Society.



Photo courtesy of Angela Davis

Blue Room – Grasses and Bird Habitat. Dr. Michael M. Neff

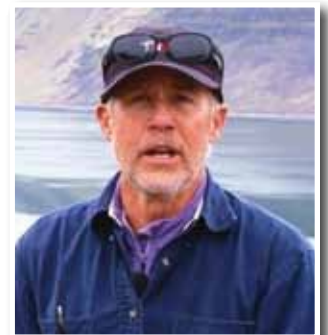
will be discussing grasses and grass breeding as it relates to birds and bird habitat. Grasses can be an important source of food through both forage and seeds as well as the attraction of insects. Grasses are also important for nesting, both underground and above ground building materials. Regarding lawn and industrial use, the relationship becomes more complicated. For example, tall fescue (a non-native grass) infected with fungal endophytes can be more drought tolerant and less palatable to geese, which makes them a perfect candidate for rural grass airstrips and airport borders as a way of preventing negative interactions between wildlife and airplanes. Habitat restoration with native and non-native grasses adds another layer of complication in the discussion.



Dr. Michael M. Neff earned his bachelors degree and doctorate from the University of Washington. He has been a professor of Crop Biotechnology at Washington State University since 2007. He has trained multiple PhD, Masters and undergrads and is an inventor of two awarded patents. Dr. Neff is the project leader for the WSU Grass Breeding and Ecology Farm. His current research focuses on breeding native grasses and turfgrasses for land stabilization, habitat restoration, forage, roadside ditch plantings, residential, industrial, and recreational use. They focus on developing new varieties to address climate change, water use, and environmental impact.

Purple Room – MMS Music Room – Latest Birds Eye View of Ice-Age Floods. Bruce Bjornstad

will discuss the scale of the Ice Age mega-floods and how it was unlike anything witnessed in modern times. The best way to visualize and understand the floods' size is from high above. Bruce will present his latest



and most dramatic evidence for Ice Age mega-floods from an arial perspective-recorded via an unmanned arial vehicle (i.e. drone).

Bruce Bjornstad is a licensed geologist/hydrogeologist and retired Senior Research Scientist from Battelle's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Bruce received a Bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire and a Master's degree from Eastern Washington University. He lives in Richland, WA. During his career Bruce has written many documents and reports on the geology of Eastern Washington as well as two geological guidebooks, *On the Trail of Ice Age Floods*, that talks about the transformation of the Pacific Northwest as recently as 14,000 years ago. Bruce is also the creator of an online YouTube channel: "Ice Age Floodscapes". Most recently Bruce has published a full-color, coffee-style book titled *Ice Age Floodscapes of the Pacific Northwest: A Photographic Exploration*.



**Brown Room – MMS
STEM Room – Stories
About our Fellow
Creatures and Related
Behaviors that Raise the
Human Spirit. Dennis
Dauble** will enlighten us on what tales about river oysters, the night eel,

the twin sisters, and the sucker-fish tell us about temptation and greed? Are white sturgeon and river monster foe or friend in the water? Learn how legend and lore might inform about native fishes and the watershed that they depend on to complete their life cycle. Perhaps story-telling and human behavior have not changed much over time as Dauble will show with selected readings from coyote tales, the journals of 19th century explorers, and a few contemporary stories of his own.

Dennis Dauble is a retired fisheries scientist turned outdoor writer who pens monthly essays about nature and environmental issues for regional newspapers. He is an author of five award-winning books about fish and fishing, including a natural history guide, *Fishes of Columbia Basin*, three collections of short stories about the fishing experience, and a recent memoir, *Chasing Ghost Trout*.

Saturday Lectures – 2:15 PM



Red Room – "I Can Hardly Sit Down to Write": – David Douglas in the Columbia Basin 1825 – 1833. Jack Nesbit will

talk about the London Horticultural Society sending Scottish naturalist David Douglas to the Columbia River to collect promising gardening

plants and timber trees starting in 1824. Working both with fellow Scottish fur traders of the Hudson's Bay Company and tribal families of all descriptions, Douglas immersed himself in the region's flora, fauna and traditional cultures. Trace the footsteps across the shrub-steppe in search of the totem flowers, shrubs, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and especially birds that we still treasure today.

Jack Nesbit is an author of several collections of essays that explore the human and natural history of the Northwest, including *Purple Flat Top*, *Visible Bones* and *Ancient Places*. Jack has also written award-winning biographies of cartographer David Thompson: *Source of the River*, David Douglas: *The Collector* and late 19th century Northwest Forest surveyor John Leiberg and his physician wife Carrie: *The Dreamer and the Doctor*. Jack has been a bird enthusiast since childhood and is focusing on his next collection of personal essays. For info please visit: www.jacknisbet.com



Photo courtesy of Melissa Dodds Brady

Blue Room – Photographing Birds in Motion. Diana McPherson

will share images of birds in motion, from flights to foraging. She'll share camera settings and techniques to help you capture birds in motion, too.



Diana McPherson is a wildlife and conservation photographer, environmental educator and self-taught accidental birder. She teaches photography and women's travel classes with Kennewick School District Community Educators, leads local and international photography tours and is in the midst of starting a podcast. Diana also serves on the board of Tapteal Greenway as Education Outreach Coordinator and on the North American Photography Association (NANPA) Ethics Committee.

Purple Room – MMS Music Room – Grand Coulee. One of the Great Erosion Stories. Ken Lacy tells us how the Grand Coulee is one of the most impressive erosion stories found anywhere. Grand Coulee starts at Soap Lake, and ends at the Grand Coulee Dam, a distance of about 50 miles. The depth of the coulee is 400' to 600' deep, and the width ranges from 1 to 4.5 miles wide. The coulee was largely carved from solid basalt by an estimated 100 floods over a 3000 year period. It is estimated that this enormous amount of basalt was actually eroded in 300 flood days! You will learn that the interaction of the flood waters with the basalt made this amazing story possible. You will learn the exact details about the flood waters and the basalt that produced the conditions needed to erode so much rock in a very small amount of time.

Ken Lacy is a founding member of the Wenatchee Valley Erratics (first chapter of the Ice Age Flood Institute – IAFI), and is a current member of the IAFI Board of Directors. He has presented many geology lectures and has led many geology field trips.

Brown Room – MMS STEM Room – Burrowing Owls. Jason Fidorra will talk on the WDFW and their partners that have worked around the Tri-Cities to install and maintain artificial nesting burrows for burrowing owls. This species has declined from conversion of nesting habitat and persecution of

burrowing mammals. The project includes nest monitoring, banding and tracking owls over their migration with GPS backpacks. He will share some of the results, stories and photos from working with this species.

Jason Fidorra is a Wildlife Biologist for the WDFW in the Tri-Cities, WA. Jason is working on the front lines of shrub-steppe conservation which is a critical habitat for many of Washington's species of greatest concern. He conducts surveys for a variety of wildlife from elk to monarchs and contributes to research on burrowing owls, raptors, and game birds. Jason has worked on avian research and conservation projects across North America. When he can, he enjoys birding and guiding in tropical countries as well.

Upper Goose Coulee Hike, meet at the Refuge Headquarters, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. \$20.00 Join Ashleigh and her husband Blake for a relaxing walk that highlights the stratified layers of Columbia Basin basalt and carved geographic features caused by the Ice Age Floods. The hike involves a very small steep entry into the trailhead followed by negligible elevation gain. We will stop at 2-3 interesting points along the way to allow for observation breaks at which time you may briefly explore some of the flood features on your own if you wish. The hike is friendly for families and older adults but long pants and closed toed shoes are a must.



Photo courtesy of Melissa Dodds Brady

Saturday Lectures – 3:30 PM

**Purple Room – MMS
Music Room – WSU
Raptor Club. The
WSU Raptor Club**

will introduce you to the world of raptors through the use of live birds. They will present the individual birds, starting with the bird's name and why they were deemed non-releasable. They will then go into species-specific information, followed by why raptors are important in the environment and what their conservation status is as well as what anthropogenic threats they face.



Saturday Afternoon Activities

Crane Viewing Tours, 5:30 PM to Dark and 5:45 PM to Dark, \$25.00. This guided tour will go directly to the best Sandhill Crane feeding areas where they can be their noisiest; then to Scootenev Reservoir. An experienced wildlife guide will narrate the tour and answer any questions you may have. This tour will be on a bus, approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours in length, please plan accordingly.

Fly In Bus Tours, 6:00 PM to Dark, \$20.00. Join our guides for a fly in experience. These tours will go directly to Scootenev Reservoir for the fly-in, an important night roosting area. This tour will not go to crane feeding areas.



Photo courtesy of Punkus Arnett

Sunday, March 24th Tours and Events

We'll take a van from MMS and arrive at Scootenev Reservoir before sunrise and photograph the cranes flying out as the moon sets and sun rises. When you return from your tour, McFarland Middle School will be closed. All other tours are noted in the tour description.

Crane Sunrise Photography Workshop, 5:45 AM to 10:00 AM. \$110.00. We'll take a van from MMS and arrive at Scootenev Reservoir before sunrise and photograph the cranes flying out as the moon sets and sun rises. After the cranes have left the reservoir, we'll locate them in nearby fields and review techniques and capture their behavior and flight. We'll depart about 9:30 to return to Othello. All photography levels are welcome, but you should have a working knowledge of your camera. Please dress appropriately as it may be cold and wet. Limited to 20 people.

Royal Slope Birding Tour, 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. \$60.00. This tour, guided by biologist Randy Hill, will visit Corfu, Crab Creek, Royal Slope, Royal Lake and Drumheller Overlook if time permits. It will concentrate on shrub-steppe areas, the Saddle Mountain ridge and its wide-open vistas. This tour is focused on general birding - keep an eye out for loggerhead shrike, chukar and tri-colored blackbirds. Cranes are not the focus. This trip will take about five hours, so don't forget to bring food and drink.

Crane Viewing Tours, 7:15 AM to 8:45 AM and 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. \$25.00. This guided tour will go directly to the best Sandhill Crane feeding areas where and when they can be their noisiest. An experienced wildlife guide will narrate the tour and will answer any questions you any have. This tour will be on a bus. It will be approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours in length, please plan accordingly.

Lower Crab Creek Birding Tour, 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. \$70.00. This tour, guided by avid birder Mike Denny, will travel west along the Saddle Mountains, past Corfu and Crab Creek to several desert birding stops. The tour will also be looking for early-blooming native flowers and great photo opportunities along the way. Bagged lunches are available for order on the registration form. This tour is almost eight hours

in length, so bring food, drink, and walking shoes.

Bird Tour and Hike at Ironworks Café, 335 S. Broadway, 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. \$30.00. Margaret Heming and other Audubon friends will guide the travel by bus to Potholes Reservoir to view birds by scope and binocular. Then travel to Potholes State Park where exploration by foot including hiking a trail will take place. According to eBird, 248 bird species have been seen at the State Park. On the drive back to Othello, looking out for Sandhill Cranes in the fields will occur. Please wear comfortable walking shoes or boots and long pants. The walking and hiking will be on pavement, grass, and mostly flat trails. The walk will be about 2-3 miles.



rinned with towering 50' basalt columns. One hundred years ago, J. Harlen Bretz recognized this area as one of the most spectacular examples of Ice Age Flood erosion in the Channeled Scabland. Note that there will be no restrooms available on this hike. Bagged lunches are available for order on the registration form. This tour is six hours in length, so bring food, drink and sturdy walking shoes.



Brunch with the Birders – Heidi Newsome, at Ironworks Café and Market. 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. \$35.00 Heidi Newsome will enlighten us with her thoughts on migration, species identification and diversity in Othello's habitat that attracts our birds. Brunch will be bagels, eggs, sausage, assorted fruits, breakfast sandwiches, coffee and tea. A vegetarian option will be available. **Limited to 40 people.**

Drumheller Channels and Saddle Mountain Tour, 8:15 AM to 4:00 PM. \$80.00. Lloyd Stoess and Ken



Lacy will be your hosts on this geologic and Ice Age Floods focused tour. It will pass through the Drumheller Channels, then head to Saddle Mountain and visit the ghost town of Corfu. Next will be looking at the Corfu Landslide Complex. Traveling

west along the base of the mountain, follow the Ice Age Floods diverted course of the Columbia River before meeting the current course through Sentinel Gap. Then view the flood deposits and more landslides before ascending the mountain for a spectacular view of both sides of the mountain. This tour is almost eight hours in length, so bring food, drink, and walking shoes.

Dramatic Drumheller Channel Hike, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. \$50.00. This moderately difficult 3-4-mile hike, led by geologist Bruce Bjornstad, will directly explore the flood channels (including the former path of the Columbia River), potholes, erratic and streamlined basalt islands



Potholes Reservoir Boat Birding Tour, departs from MarDon Resort, 8198 WA Highway 262, Othello, WA 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM and again at 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. \$90.00 This boat trip explores bird life in early spring on Potholes Reservoir and concentrates on the bays where waterfowl, grebes, shorebirds, herons, and eagles might be found. Please dress accordingly as it may be very cold and/or rainy this time of year.

Othello Community Museum Tour, meet at the Othello Community Museum, on the corner of 3rd and Larch in Othello, 1:00 PM. Join Eric Morgan, Board President of the Othello Community Museum, as he gives a guided tour through the facility, explaining the artifacts on display and the history of the museum and area. The collection includes a bird and egg collection amassed by a local farmer and donated to the museum. The tour is free.

Tonnemaker Hill Farm and Mammoth Dig Tour, meet at Tonnemaker Farm, 9084 Dodson Rd. Royal City, WA. 3:30 PM to Dark. \$20.00. Tonnemaker Hill Farm has been a popular tour in the past. The farm was founded in 1962 by Pearl and Orland Tonnemaker and is now managed by their grandson Luke.

Crane Sunset Photography Workshop, 3:30 PM to Dark. \$110.00. Watch and photograph the cranes flying out as the moon sets and sun rises. We will depart about 7:15 to return to Othello. All photography levels are welcome, but you should have a

working knowledge of your camera. Please dress appropriately as it may be cold and wet. Limited to 20 people.

**All registration is online at www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org
It begins on February 5th at 8am and the deadline is March 5th at noon
(no refunds after this date)**

Lectures, tours, and hike participants must purchase a General Admission Ticket for \$10.00. All wrist bands for general admission will be available at the Nazarene Church on **Friday the 22nd starting at 4PM and Saturday the 23rd starting at 7AM at will-call near the front doors**. Please remember to bring your itinerary (paper or digital version) to streamline entry. If you still have questions, please call: (509) 989-5606.

Wildlife and Agriculture in Othello

Although Othello is well-known for the spring Sandhill Crane Festival, birders also regularly travel to our area during the fall migration season. Our area is part of the Pacific Flyway, an "interstate" for avian migration.

Thirty-two different types of mammals and over 200 species of birds have been observed at Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. At the height of the spring and fall migration, biologists have estimated the refuge is home to up to 100,000 birds.

The diversity of wildlife in our area is matched only by the diversity of the crops grown here. Agriculture is also an important part of avian life in the Basin. Sandhill Cranes feast on leftover corn from the fall harvest, and other crops grown here provide forage for many other species. Crops – wheat, alfalfa hay, potatoes, apples, spelt, grapes, cherries, melons, peas, onions, peaches, apricots, and nectarines, and seed crops like carrots and radishes – provide "leftovers" for many mammals and birds in our area. Nearly 800 acres of cropland are planted specifically as part of a program designed to maintain healthy waterfowl and crane populations.

According to Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, during fall and especially in March and April, refuge fields near Corfu, Road E SE, and Barton Road attract up to 60,000 Mallards, 30,000 Northern Pintails, 15,000 Sandhill Cranes, and 50,000 Canada and Cackling Geese. The delicate balance of nature and agriculture is important for our area, and an issue local farmers take very seriously. Our festival enlists the help of dozens of local farmers each year; they not only provide valuable resources and time as festival backers but volunteer to ride along on our tours to answer your questions.



Photo courtesy of Angela Davis

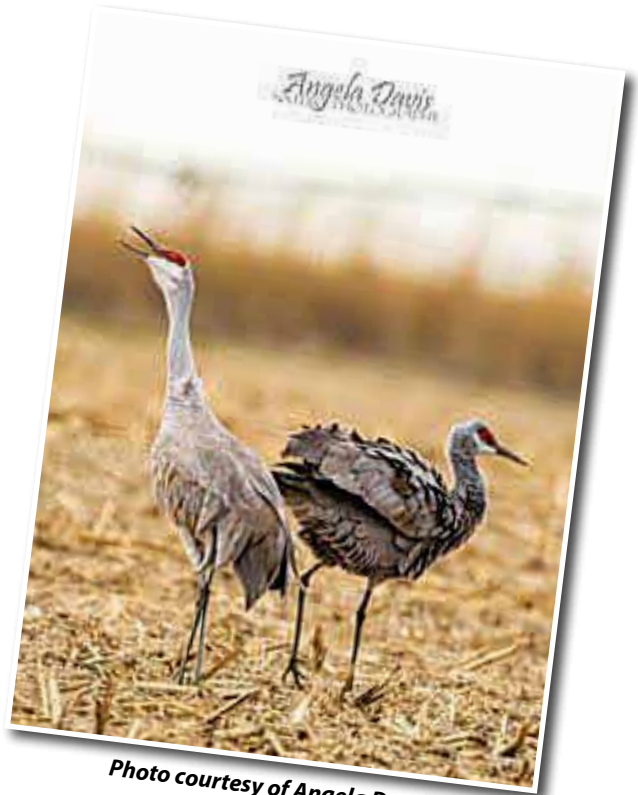


Photo courtesy of Angela Davis



Photo courtesy of Lisa Hansen

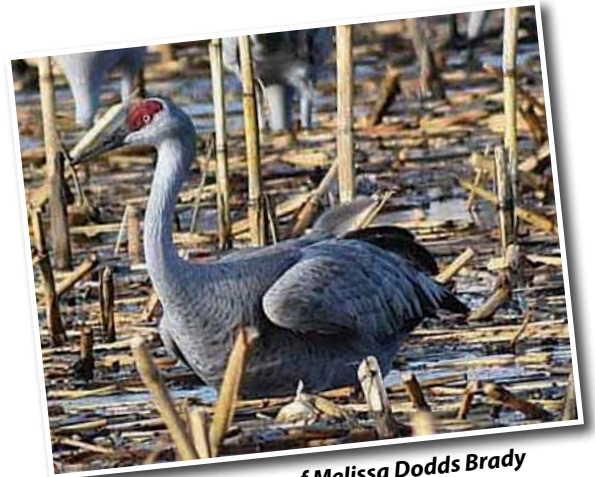


Photo courtesy of Melissa Dodds Brady



Photo courtesy of Melissa Dodds Brady



Photo courtesy of Roberta Joselovitz

**IMPORTANT NOTES: Brochure mailing is now only done by request.
2024 online registration opens February 5th**

Driving Directions to The Othello Nazarene Church (835 S 10th Ave., Othello, WA 99344)

From Moses Lake

Take Highway 17 south to HWY 26 and turn right. Turn right on 14th Ave, and then left at the stop sign on Scooteny St. The Nazarene Church is on Scooteny and 10th. Please park at the church and enter through the front doors.

From Spokane

Take Interstate 90 west to US HWY 395 south to US Highway 26 west. Follow Highway 26 to Othello. Turn right onto 14th Ave, and then left at the stop sign on Scooteny St. The Nazarene Church is on Scooteny and 10th. Please park at the church and enter through the front doors.

From Seattle

Take Interstate 90 east to HWY 26 east. Follow HWY 26 to Othello. Turn left on 14th Ave, and then left at the stop sign on Scooteny St. The Nazarene Church is on Scooteny and 10th. Please park at the church and enter through the front doors.

From the Tri-Cities

Take US HWY 395 north to HWY 17. Follow HWY 17 north to HWY 26 and turn left towards Othello. Turn right on 14th Ave, and then left at the stop sign on Scooteny St. The Nazarene Church is on Scooteny and 10th. Please park at the church and enter through the front doors.



Photo courtesy of Sandy Taggares



Photo courtesy of Sandy Taggares

