

The Methow Conservancy 2007 Conservation Course

Phenology

Instructor Biographies

Danica Kaufman, Class Coordinator, Danica holds a M.S. in biology from the University of Washington, and a B. S in Geology from Whitman College. She has professional experience and training in environmental education, and most of her professional experience has been in teaching and non-profit development and outreach. Danica moved to the Valley in 2001, where she has worked for the Pacific Watershed Institute, MVSTA and the Methow Conservancy.

Scott Fitkin is a District Wildlife Biologist (Okanogan District) for the Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife and has been working in the Methow to varying degrees for almost 18 years, and full time in his current position for almost 11. Over the years he has worked with many different species, with an emphasis on big game (deer, elk, bear, and cougar) and rare carnivores (lynx, wolverine, grizzly bear, gray wolf). Scott also has a strong personal interest in herptiles (reptiles and amphibians) that he put to use on a local rattlesnake research project. As a district biologist, he is engaged in many aspects of wildlife management including, survey work, research, harvest management, public outreach and education, habitat enhancement, etc. He has also been very involved in land conservation efforts here in the valley, and often works collaboratively with the Methow Conservancy on this issue. Prior to settling in the Methow, Scott worked for about 7 years as a WDFW research biologist on the North Cascades Grizzly Bear-Gray Wolf Investigations project, which included considerable field work in Okanogan County. He also worked briefly on a black bear research project here in the Methow. In addition to his work with WDFW, he did graduate research on brown bears in Alaska, and has worked in Central California on tule elk and mule deer.

Libby Mills has been paying attention to the natural world since early childhood. Weekend family field days to feed ducks, backyard bird-feeding, exploring and mucking around in a wild ravine and discovery of intertidal life of Seattle are examples of how this child developed a passion for nature. Girl scouting led her around the mountains and beaches; family day hikes began to ask the question, “what is this flower?” Colorado College’s “block plan” made field courses a highlight where a class would disappear for a month at a time studying ecology, geology or birds. Libby worked as a backcountry ranger in the 70’s at Mt Rainier, Katmai and Denali in Alaska. Daily solitary life with wildlife in the backcountry led to a deeper curiosity and regular journal keeping of natural history observations and drawings. She has studied the bald eagles on the Skagit River keeping annual winter records for 23 seasons, and taught natural history field courses for several groups including North Cascades Institute for over 20 years. She and her husband are beginning a land restoration project where they live along the shore of Padilla Bay in the Skagit Valley.

Julie Grialou is a wildlife biologist and has been working for an environmental consulting firm for the past 10 years. Prior to that time, she worked for a forest land trust in northern California. Julie did her Master’s project on amphibians and forest management and continues to work with amphibians whenever she can.

Dr Richard H. Gammon is Professor of Chemistry and Oceanography, and Adjunct Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington. He is a former Co-Director of the UW Program on the Environment. He received a BA in Chemistry from Princeton University (1965), and MA and PhD in Physical Chemistry from Harvard University (1970). Dr. Gammon was a co-author of the 1990 Scientific Assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). As Chief of the Carbon Dioxide Program, Geophysical Monitoring for Climate Change, he directed the US program to globally monitor atmospheric CO₂ (NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories, Boulder, 1982-84). He currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in chemistry, oceanography, and atmospheric science. His research has focused on atmospheric trace gases critical to climate change. Dr Gammon is actively involved in improving the public understanding of the climate change challenge.

John Rohrer grew up in the Mojave Desert along the Colorado River in northern Arizona. The desert wildlife fascinated him - everything from bighorn sheep to sidewinder rattlesnakes, from Gambel's quail to chuckwallas. He attended Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, the University of Arizona in Tucson, and Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. John has Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees in Wildlife Ecology. He worked 2 years for the WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife as a habitat biologist in Okanogan County, and then started working as a wildlife biologist for the Forest Service on the Methow Valley Ranger District in 1991. He is intrigued by nearly all wildlife species. John enjoys learning about them and their habitat requirements and trying to apply what he learns through the Forest Service's various land management projects. Recently, he has found himself focused primarily on reptiles, lynx, and wolverine.

Dan Russell received his training in wildlife biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and has subsequently pursued field-based wildlife research, working for state conservation agencies, not for profit groups, and currently the US Forest Service here in the Methow Valley. An avid naturalist and dedicated conservationist, Dan lives in Twisp where he enjoys such outdoor pastimes as hunting, fishing, and primitive skills.

Dana Visalli is a field botanist specializing in rare plant species. As director of the Methow Biodiversity Project, he coordinates a biological inventory of the Methow River watershed and publishes *The Methow Naturalist*, a seasonal natural history journal.

Dr. Dune Ives has lived full-time in the Methow Valley with her family for the past three years. She and her husband, Erik, became very involved with the agricultural community when they started a small-scale organic flower, herb and vegetable farm. She currently serves as an Advisory Board member for the Partnership for a Sustainable Methow and served as the Partnership's Sustainable Agricultural Project Manager. As the manager, she completed a Feasibility Study for a mobile livestock processing unit and presented *The Future of Food*, a documentary on genetically modified food, and led community discussions throughout the valley. Dune holds her Ph.D. in Psychology and has worked as a management consultant in the utility, non-profit and corporate environments for the past 12 years. Most recently, Dr. Ives was hired by Seattle City Light to assist them in developing a 5-year Conservation Resource Acquisition Plan, which will drive development and implementation of their energy efficiency and conservation programs. Additionally, Dr. Ives was selected by The Climate Project, a non-profit organization started by former Vice-President Al Gore, to receive training to deliver Mr. Gore's climate change presentation.