



Hello Beaver Enthusiasts,

Ready to spring ahead next week?! Don't forget to reset your clocks! Beavers are resetting their clocks now too! Being nocturnal, more consistent darkness of our northern winters makes for a very busy beaver. As we move into the spring and summer, the changes in temperatures and light will resynchronize the beaver's biological rhythms back to a more balanced light/dark cycle.



Beaver News

The shoulder seasons of Spring and Fall are a beaver's busiest time in the Methow and similar climes. In Spring, busy beavers are very eager to procure fresh food (yum yum baby aspen leaves), perhaps they are seeking a little solitude after a long winter with all their relatives in one room (most of us can relate this Spring), or the maturing 2 year-old beavers begin stretching their "wings", ready for a taste of independence and little adventure. These active times often don't go unnoticed by the humans who share the preferred waterfront habitat of both species. Are you seeing more beaver activity!? Maybe some nibbled trees or even a mysterious new pond in your backyard? Please let us know and if you are concerned about tree damage or flooding, we are here to help! Contact us here....
509.289.2770 or methowbeaverproject@methowsalmon.org



March 22nd International World Water Day

This year's theme World Water Day is about what water means to people, it's true value and how we can better protect this vital resource. The value of water

is about much more than its price – water has enormous and complex value for our households, culture, health, education, economics and the integrity of our natural environment.

In Celebration of World Water Day on March 22nd at 6:00 p.m., Wetland Conservancy is hosting the story of life as told by water, a presentation and video from Duncan Berry. Discover the little known, the mysterious, the hidden. Here's the link to the free event, <https://wetlandsconservancy.org/blue-heart>.

Here are some ways to observe the day.

Look, listen & revere the life by and in a stream, river or lake you love, especially as spring draws near. We all are here because of clean, fresh water.

Clean up a waterway. Picking up litter helps keep our waters clean and protects wildlife.

Reduce your water footprint. Review how you are using water daily. Can you reduce it?

Activities for students of all ages, <https://kidworldcitizen.org/celebrate-world-water-day-with-games-and-activities-for-all-ages/>



April 7th is International Beaver Day!

Did you know April 7th is International Beaver Day?! Come join us for a tour of a beaver pond on April 10th at 9:00 am for some thought-provoking discussion and natural beauty!

To register contact methowbeaverproject@methowsalmon.org

We will be limiting the groups to 15 per Covid phase 2 protocols. Face masks are required. Bring boots, binoculars and a camera and be prepared for a gentle hike! Who knows what we'll find?

April 7th at 6pm, The Wetlands Conservancy, will be hosting a live online presentation and Q & A with Ben Goldfarb, who'll entertain us with the amazing adaptations and capabilities of these natural engineers. Here's the link to this free event. <https://wetlandsconservancy.org/beaver-day>



Photo: Jen Joynt

The Creature Feature!

Beavers and Weasels (Not close relatives)

River Otters, a large member of the weasel family, are active all year round but become more nocturnal in the spring, summer, and fall seasons, and shift to diurnal activity during winter. They benefit from abandoned as well as active bank dens and beaver lodges for shelter as well as the ample supply of fish often found in beaver wetlands and ponds. There appears to be a mostly commensal (one animal benefits while the other is unaffected) relationship between these two animals. Otters are carnivorous and subsist on a diet of primarily fish, but also crayfish, frogs, salamanders, and other tasty wetland animals that beaver dam building and excavating activity supports. Beavers on the other hand are strictly herbivorous, and though often choosy about their vegetation, their food supply is not directly threatened by the presence of otters. However, there has been observation of otters preying on young beavers, though it is deemed rare. Beavers and otters are so similar in their adaptations to life in the water i.e. both have eyes and ears located high on the head for surface swimming, both have a third eyelid, or nictitating membrane, to protect the eye while swimming underwater, both can close their ears and nostrils for swimming, and both have thick warm fur that helps waterproof them in all but constant submersion. However, their differences are dramatic too, beavers chew down trees for food and to make structures that afford it protection from

many predators while otters roam freely and occasionally take advantage of the beavers and their structures. One mates for life (beavers), and the other chooses a new mate every year (otters). Similar yet so different and we are still learning so much about them and why each piece of the ecological puzzle is so important.



Storing water for the future—one beaver at a time
www.methowsalmon.org



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