

The Canopy

June 2026





Celebrating our exciting progress!

Trees protected
to date:

493,270

Trees planted
to date:

7,064

Tree Connect
Events to date:

228

In this issue:

- Celebrating Pride
- Ivy Removal Season is Sizzling
- Awesome Art Workshop
- Landmark Tree Ordinance Update
- Forest Walk with LFDC
- And more!



THIS NEWSLETTER WAS CREATED BY HUMANS.



Native forest communities thrive on diversity.



Human communities do too.

At WMTP, we feel lucky and grateful to be part of a diverse community, and we want to sing it out from every mountain top during Pride Month. When a forest is forced into a monoculture, it becomes vulnerable to disease. When a forest is allowed to express its diversity, it flourishes, adapts, and endures. May we all feel free to be who we are and to love who we love.

We joyfully celebrate the vitality of difference. We see you, we welcome you, and we believe in you. We love you! And we couldn't be prouder.



Get psyched for a summer of saving trees!



Please join us at one or more ivy removal work parties coming up! We're removing ivy in county parks and Bellingham parks this summer. No prior experience required – we'll provide all instructions, tools, and gloves. It's easy to learn and extremely satisfying. You'll see the difference you've made right away! Check out the schedule and links to register below:

July 19, 9am-12pm
South Lake Whatcom Park

July 30, 12-3pm
Interurban Trail *

Aug. 8, 9am-12pm
Halverson Park

Aug. 22, 9am-12pm
Euclid Park

Sneak peak at fall:

We're planning work parties for National Public Lands Day on September 26, an ivy removal/planting party at Silver Lake Park on October 3, and ivy removal at Lincoln Park in Blaine for Make a Difference Day on October 24. Stay tuned!

*We are seeking 2-3 experienced ivy removal volunteers to work alongside Wild Whatcom. Volunteers must consent to a background check run by Wild Whatcom.



Supporting Youth Environmental Stewardship

Last week we supported local students with two different ivy removal work parties to save trees. WWU's L.E.A.D. seminar students held a work party led by them at the South Bay Trail and Sehome High School students and staff removed ivy at the newly opened Storybrook Park. Together they freed 13 trees and removed 95.2 cubic feet of ivy. Amazing work, everyone! We're thrilled to get to continue our multi-year partnerships with L.E.A.D. program and Sehome High School students.



We are also looking forward to helping even more kids make an impact on our local environment by partnering with Wild Whatcom next month. Wild Whatcom's educational day camps for elementary and middle school students include a day of service, and we're proud to work together to support local youths stewarding the environment!

Ivy removal, tree-planting, and tree-potting work parties are wonderful opportunities for young people to practice practical stewardship and leadership skills while collaborating with their peers on a positive effort. It's also a great way to spend valuable time outside and discover how we can all make a difference in the world.



Are you a teacher, mentor, coach, or leader who works with kids and is seeking opportunities for them to get involved in the community and hands-on environmental action? Let us know! We'd love to work with you.



Outstanding Outreach – and Opportunities for More!

Our heartfelt gratitude to our outreach volunteers who have donated their time and energy to being excellent representatives of WMTP at community events this spring! Thanks to five different volunteers, we were able to reach out to the community at Community Impact Night at Backcountry Essentials on April 17, the WWU Miyawaki Forest trail building event on May 16, and Arboretum Day on May 30. We're very grateful to all of you for helping us educate our community! Thank you as well to Backcountry Essentials, WWU L.E.A.D, and WWU Ecological Restoration Club for including us in these terrific events!



Outstanding Outreach – and Opportunities for More!

Are you a friendly, outgoing sort who enjoys chatting with people and getting them excited about a great cause? Join our squad of ready-to-go outreach table volunteers! We frequently have info tables at community events, business fairs, and other venues. These are fantastic opportunities to educate the public about our exciting initiatives and generate interest in volunteering or donating to support our work. You never know what wonderful person might get involved with us — because of you! We're looking for volunteers at these upcoming events:

- Birchwood International Market on June 28 (12:30-3pm or 3-5:30pm)
- Cordata Concert & Crafts on July 11, 11:30am-2:15pm.

Please let us know if you'll be available and interested to volunteer for us at either of these events!



PICKFORD Film CENTER

GIVE IT!

VOLUNTEER. SHOW UP. GET REWARDED.



We're launching a new community initiative that celebrates giving back.



Here's how it works :

Volunteer in your community — whether that means helping at a local nonprofit, joining a neighborhood cleanup, supporting a food bank, or showing up for a cause you care about. After you volunteer, stop by Backcountry Essentials and tell us about it to unlock community rewards!



Volunteer One Time — Free slice at Pye Hole

Volunteer Two Times — Free movie ticket to Pickford Film Center

Volunteer Three Times — Backcountry Essentials swag

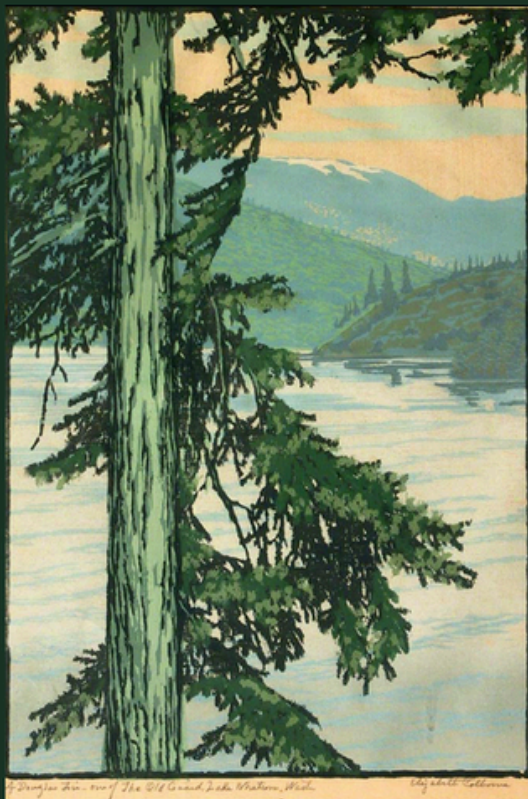
Email Info@BackcountryEssentials.net for more info.

If you volunteer with us this summer, you can participate in Backcountry Essentials' "Give It!" program, an initiative they recently launched to reward community members for volunteering!

Want to participate? Take a photo of yourself volunteering at a WMTP work party or outreach event and bring it to Backcountry Essentials and show it to a staff member. They'll record your service and help you receive the milestone rewards featured in the Give It poster. [View Back Country Essential's location and hours.](#)



Safekeeping: Prints From the Lake Whatcom Watershed



Elizabeth Colborne: "Lake Whatcom, Washington," circa 1929; color woodcut print; reprinted with permission of The Museo, Bellingham, Washington.

The forests of the Lake Whatcom watershed have inspired great works of art and inspired people to conserve and protect them. This fall, 128 acres of mature native forest in the Lake Whatcom watershed are scheduled to be auctioned off for a timber sale. This workshop will help us see and express many of the reasons these trees should be protected.

In this two-day workshop, students will examine the exceptional work of notable woodcut print artists who have worked in the Lake Whatcom watershed and learn about the watershed's forests and plant communities on a naturalist-led hike.

Students will then have the chance to transform what they observe into multilayered color woodblock prints of their own. Course will be taught by celebrated woodcut print artist [Charles Spitzack](#) as a fundraiser for Whatcom Million Trees Project. Open to all experience levels.

DATES: August 15 and 16

TIME: 10:00am-5:00pm PDT

TUITION: \$390 + \$40 material fees

LEVEL: All experience levels

AGE GROUP: Adults (ages 16+)

LOCATION: Museums in downtown Bellingham and Lakewood Boathouse, 2410 Lake Whatcom Blvd, Bellingham, WA 98229

Sign up!



Bellingham's Permanent Landmark Tree Ordinance Process Begins June 18th

Bellingham's Emergency Landmark Tree Ordinance was enacted in 2024 on a temporary basis to help protect Bellingham's most significant and largest urban trees. The temporary ordinance was renewed three times, and it's now on its way to becoming permanent.



The new draft ordinance will have its first public hearing at the June 18th Planning Commission meeting that will be held in City of Bellingham Council Chambers at 6:00. [Review the new draft ordinance in the Planning Commission packet.](#)

There will be an opportunity for public comment in person and virtually. They also welcome written comments sent to planningcommission@cob.org, or mailed/delivered to the Planning and Community Development Department at City Hall (210 Lottie Street).

Forest Walk on Friday, June 19th

Whatcom's book club for tree lovers, Forest Talks & Forest Walks (FTFW), recently finished discussing *The Trees Are Speaking* by Lynda Mapes, and they have scheduled the accompanying forest walk on Blanchard Mountain for Friday, June 19th, 11am-3pm. You don't have to be a participant in the reading and discussion to join this hike!



Co-led by the [Legacy Forest Defense Council](#) (LFDC), the route will go from the Blanchard upper trailhead parking area to the Lily Lizard Trail and includes between 3.5 and 4 miles (roundtrip) of on-trail hiking with 700 feet of elevation gain.

FTFW description:

Why Blanchard Mountain?

On the eastern slopes of Blanchard Mountain in Skagit County, the WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is planning a series of clearcuts that would obliterate over 120 acres of native forest habitat. The three "fly" timber sales—Mayfly, Damselfly, and Stonefly—pose threats to local wildlife, watershed health, an imperiled lichen species, and the well-being of all who value Blanchard State Forest.

Let's fly off with our friends from LFDC to learn what the buzz is all about! This should be a good opportunity to get outside and enjoy the improving weather while learning more about local legacy forests and why and how to protect them! Learn more and sign up via the button below.

Interested in joining the book club? They're about to choose their next read so this is a good time to start, and you can also influence the next book choice!

[Hike Sign-Up](#)

[Book Club](#)



Celebrating Community Partners, Ongoing and New

We just can't thank Sea Witch Botanicals enough. Their generous financial contributions support our operations and mission immensely, and their generous donations of delightful products are such a treat for volunteers and community members who visit our outreach tables.



Welcome and sincere gratitude as well to our newest partner, Wildflower Funeral Concepts, for their financial support of our mission and for bolstering community connection with their community events.

Would you like to serve on WMTP's Board of Directors?

Join our board & support our success!



We're always looking for talented and passionate leaders. Please consider completing this quick form and we'll get in touch when we have an opening.

[Apply here](#)

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