

# FIELD NOTES

August 2022

## A Note from Carolyn



**I absolutely love my job.**

It is therefore with very mixed emotions that I have decided to retire at the end of 2022.

When I started as Interim Executive Director in January of

2019, I committed to stay for three months. Little did I realize that I would fall in love with this place!

This has been an extremely fun and rewarding job. I believe in the mission, the staff and board are really committed, and supporters, like you, have been wonderful to have on our team. The board and I are committed to work together to ensure a smooth transition.

My passion for the job has not diminished. For the next six months, the board, the staff, and I will continue to move the organization forward while the board prepares for a change in leadership.

Thank you for your support. It is so appreciated. There is so much to look forward to!



Carolyn Griffin-Bugert  
Executive Director

## A Note from Laura



**This is exciting and bittersweet.**

WRI has thrived and grown under Carolyn's excellent leadership. Our programs have expanded by leaps and bounds, serving new and larger communities, supported by a phenomenal staff. Her retirement is **bittersweet**; we will miss her greatly and thank her deeply. She gifts us with an amazing foundation, leaving us well placed to take our next steps. We are **excited** for her and the new adventures ahead!

It is **exciting** to think about what's in store for WRI during this pivotal moment – new and inspiring opportunities and possibilities lie ahead! The Board of Directors is dedicated to intentionally and enthusiastically finding our next leader, while we sustain and build on all that has been accomplished.

We are excited to have you with us as we continue our journey forward connecting communities and learners of all ages to the natural world. Thank you for your support!



Laura Reichlin  
Board President



# Mixed Reactions

*"Woah, that's so cool!"*

*"Yuck, that looks like an alien head"*

These are just a couple things you'd hear at a WRI Field Day. This spring, every 3rd grade student from Alpine Lakes Elementary got to visit WRI four times. On one of these days, students learned all about what birds eat.

Wasps... Flies... Fleas... Frog cells... Plant cells... Cockroach heads... Oh my!

WRI Field Educators set up 9 stations for students to learn about what birds eat. At each station, students used a microscope or stereoscope to look at the wide-ranging dining menu for birds. The student reactions were varied, from "ooh, cool" to "ew, gross!"



*Faith after looking at frog cells under the microscope!*

Faith, for one, was very excited. At each station, she found something new and fascinating. She took her time looking carefully at each specimen and completing the activities. She was so intent that she didn't even get to finish them all! She just kept saying,



*Ava took one look at a cockroach head under the microscope and said "yuck!"*

*"My mind is just blown!"*

Ava had a different response. She looked at one slide under the microscope and exclaimed, "ewww, I can't look at it anymore!" She had a more frightened reaction to this particular station... but then again, how would you react to looking at a cockroach head up close?

At WRI, we want students to experience all sides of nature – the awe, the delight, the surprise, and even the "yuck". What we might consider "gross" is fine dining to a bird!

## Every Bit Makes a Difference

Two years ago, WRI started a Pay What You Can fee structure for many of our programs. By reducing financial barriers, we hoped to increase program accessibility, particularly for low income, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) families.

We can now confidently report that this program is working. This year, we offered thousands more dollars in scholarships than prior years. It is generosity from people like you that helped offset the cost of summer camps. These additional funds make it possible for children to attend camp, no matter their family's economic standing.



In Summer 2022\*,

**\$4,593 in scholarships were provided for summer camp participants!**

**39%**

of families paid less than camp value

**25%**

of families paid more than camp value

**8 families paid \$0 for their child to attend camp!**

\*data as of July 20, 2022

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This summer, the Wenatchee River Institute has  
**17** youth camps, serving **276** students...



*After you learn how to put up  
a tent, how many campers can  
you fit inside?*



*Students at the  
Monitor Migrant Labor  
Camp found out how  
chopsticks are similar  
to a bird's beak.*

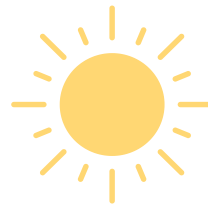


*Campers gleaned 120lbs of  
lettuce from Snowgrass Farm  
for the Community Cupboard  
Food Bank!*



...totalling **399** education hours!

Natural World  
and the  
Communities  
People,  
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- A Note from Carolyn
- A Note from Laura
- Spring Field Days
- Pay What You Can
- Member Recognition
- Summer Camp Fun

A spring and summer of  
fun and education!

**What's inside?**

**FIELD NOTES**  
August 2022