10:00 am  After 85 Years of Frustration: Can We Return Public, Wild Bison to the CMR Refuge?

Based on concepts of public ownership and of wildness vs. domestication, Dr. Bailey traces decades of unsuccessful state efforts to restore public, wild bison to the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. He claims that past and recent history, plus Congressional mandates, obligate the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to proceed with bison restoration without Montana's blessing, and notes that Tribal co-control of bison on the Refuge may be illegal and would not save plains bison as a wild species.

Dr. Jim Bailey is the Coordinator of the Montana Wild Bison Restoration Coalition (mtwildbison.org). Dr. Bailey is a retired professor of wildlife biology at Colorado State University and author of "American Plains Bison: Rewilding an Icon". (2013, Sweetgrass Books.com).

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Gallatin Valley Earth Day Festival - TALKS
Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture
Crawford Theater

11:00 am  Unintended Consequences of Trapping Wildlife - How to Free your Pet from a Trap with Clare Beelman of Footloose MT

In addition to our pets, many different species of wildlife become the unintended victims of traps. We will look at three different types of traps that are commonly used to trap wildlife to better understand their indiscriminate effects and show you how to open them to release your pet.

Clare Beelman has a background in biology education. She volunteers her time with and is a Board member of Footloose Montana. Clare grew up and currently lives in Missoula, MT.

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12:00 pm   Living with Bears with Sabrina Bradford of Montana Fish & Wildlife

Learn how to live, recreate, and work safely in bear country! Negative bear encounters are rare, and there is a lot you can do to prevent encounters. You can better enjoy your work and recreation in bear country when you understand bears. Minimize the probability of a negative encounter between you and a bear, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks by gaining an understanding of current bear distribution, bear behavior, tips on how to prevent bear encounters, and instructions on how to react if you have a bear encounter.

**Sabrina Bradford** is a Bear Education Specialist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. She has worked as a professional guide for over a decade in the backcountry of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. In addition, she has also worked as the range rider for the Tom Miner Basin.
Montana is home to between 500-750 species of native bees, which can be found throughout our diverse ecosystems and landscapes. These important pollinators provide essential pollination services to agriculture, home gardens, and native plant biodiversity. Habitat loss and improper pesticide use are some of the leading issues impacting pollinators, and creating pollinator friendly landscapes is a critical component of conserving these important organisms.

Learn about pollinator conservation and habitat needs, and how you can integrate these best management practices into your yard and garden. You will also learn about safe pesticide use, pesticide timing for flowering trees and shrubs and IPM alternatives that can reduce non-target effects and safeguard pollinators in Montana.

**Abiya (Abi) Saeed** is the Extension Horticulture Specialist at Montana State University. She assists home gardeners, commercial and private green industry professionals, and county and reservation extension offices with horticulture-related programming, questions, concerns, and diagnostics throughout Montana. She is also a writer for the Garden Professors Blog, and a recurring panelist on Montana Ag Live. Originally from Pakistan, Abi decided to pursue a Master's degree in Entomology from the University of Kentucky with a focus on pollinators, and is currently working on her PhD through MSU. She has over 10 years of research, education, and outreach experience in pollinator conservation, integrated pest management, native bees, and pollinator health. Using her passion for native bees and pollinator conservation, Abi has built pollinator programming and written several publications on the topic throughout her roles in extension horticulture at Montana State University, Michigan State University, and Colorado State University.
2:00 pm  Landscaping for the Birds – Plant a Bird Friendly Backyard with Victoria Saab of Sacajawea Audubon Society

Join Victoria to see beyond a typical ornamental landscape and imagine your yard as potential wildlife habitat. You will learn how to design your yard as a nature-scape to provide birds and other wildlife with their habitat requirements: food, water, cover, and nesting sites. By choosing a variety of primarily native plants and planting them densely, you will begin attracting birds to your yard.

Vicki is scientist emeritus for the Forest Service’s Rocky Mountain Research Station, after studying bird populations and their habitats in western North America for over 30 years. Her research emphasis has been on songbirds and woodpeckers in relation to fires, bark beetles, and land management activities, and identifying appropriate measures for bird conservation. As a Board Member of the Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS), Vicki works on conservation issues, including bird monitoring at the local wetland reserve (Indreland Audubon), leading field trips, and encouraging bird-friendly landscaping. She received graduate degrees from University of Colorado (Ph.D.) and Montana State University (M.S.).