

**23** April 10 am - 3 pm  
Saturday

**Gallatin Valley Earth Day Festival - TALKS**  
**Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture**  
**Weaver Room (2nd Floor)**

**11:00 am "Back to Basics- Restoring Natural Processes to Recover the Gallatin Watershed"** by Connor Parish, MT Trout Unlimited



Can mimicking nature provide us the tools to improve our streams and wetlands? Come learn about simple restoration techniques can be part of the solution to ensure the Gallatin Watershed has abundant clean water for fish, wildlife, families, and farms for generations to come.

Historic and current land uses practices in watersheds across the western US have altered natural processes that store water, reduce erosion, absorb nutrients, and create ideal habitat for fish and wildlife. As our climate warms and clean water supplies dwindle, restoration practitioners are embracing low-cost methods that help restore natural processes that have been lost due to land modification.

**Connor Parrish** is a Project Manager for Trout Unlimited, based out of their Bozeman office. He has a B.S. in Natural Resource Sciences and an MS in Biology with an emphasis in fisheries ecology. Prior to joining Trout Unlimited, Connor spent 9 years working in the Pacific Northwest's Columbia River basin where he focused on fisheries research and habitat restoration for steelhead, salmon, and bull trout. Currently, Connor focuses on habitat and water quality issues impacting the Gallatin Watershed's treasured trout fishery.

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**12:00 pm "Water Conservation and Drought Management in Bozeman"** by Jessica Ahlstrom, Water Conservation Program Manager for the City of Bozeman

Join Jessica to learn about Bozeman's water resources, water supply constraints as well as water conservation resources and incentives available to residents. She will also be discussing the City of Bozeman's approach to drought management, including drought monitoring and response measures that may go into effect during a declared drought event.



**Jessica Ahlstrom** is the Water Conservation Program Manager for the City of Bozeman. Her work focuses on community outreach where she educates residents about Bozeman's water supply, drought risk, and the importance of water conservation in ensuring a reliable water supply for the future. She graduated from Montana State University with a B.S. in Land Rehabilitation. She went on to work at the University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center and earned a Graduate Certificate in Connecting Environmental Science and Decision Making where she studied social and institutional barriers to data driven decision making focusing on stakeholder involvement in environmental policy decisions.

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**1:00 pm "Gallatin Valley's Vanishing Wetlands: Problems and Solutions"** by John Edwards, Sacajawea Audubon Society and Rich McEldowney, Confluence Consulting

Wetlands are being lost to urbanization at an alarming rate. This talk will cover the ecological importance of wetlands in the Gallatin Valley and their role in protecting river quality, stormwater management, and drought resistance. This talk will also cover how local conservation groups are working to find solutions, including Sacajawea Audubon Society's current work to restore the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve.

### **John Edwards, Sacajawea Audubon Society**



John Edwards is the Vice President of Sacajawea Audubon Society. His profession is contaminant hydrogeology. He has a master's degree in geology/hydrogeology from the University of Texas, Austin. Since 1974 he has been working on former industrial sites around the US to characterize and then remove hazardous materials from contaminated groundwater. During his career he has given numerous seminars and short courses on the science and technology associated with groundwater cleanup. Edwards also serves on the Sacajawea Audubon technical committee for the design and implementation of the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve in Bozeman. Edwards lifelong love of fly fishing ties directly into his interest in preserving and promoting wetlands and riparian areas in Montana.

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**Rich McEldowney** with Confluence Consulting is a certified professional wetland scientist (#1439) and a returned Peace Corps volunteer (Philippines 1994–1996) with over 25 years of stream, wetland, and riparian experience throughout the western U.S. He has been heavily involved in the development of rapid functional assessment methods, including MDT's Montana Wetland Assessment Method and takes a function based approach to wetland and floodplain restoration. As the senior wetland scientist at Confluence Consulting, he oversees all wetland restoration and monitoring work for transportation agencies and private clients. When he's not playing in the mud, he's usually out hiking, snowboarding, or backpacking with family and friends in southwest Montana.

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P.O. Box 6421 • Bozeman, Montana • 59771 • Phone (406) 581.3558  
www.MontanaLandscapeDesigner.com

**2:00 pm** " [Landscaping with Native Plants for Southwest Montana](#)" by Beth MacFawn, Beth Mac Fawn Landscape Design

Join Beth to learn why to use Montana native plants, assessing site conditions, and efficient watering.

#### **Beth MacFawn, Beth Mac Fawn Landscape Design**

Based in Bozeman, Montana, Beth MacFawn Landscape Design, Inc. has been recognized for exceptional signature designs since 1998. Beth began her first semester at Montana State University in Bozeman. In 1995 she received a degree in Horticulture, with an emphasis in Landscape Design, focusing on the use of native plants. She then worked at Blake Nursery for two years, learning the ropes of high altitude planting before starting her own landscape design business in 1998. Beth's landscape design philosophy is to create harmony within the existing environment. Her love of native plants, the movement of grasses, and Nature's inexhaustible array of textures is incorporated within her designs to exemplify the rhythm of the seasons. A member of the Montana Native Plant Society, Beth's yearly plant and landscape presentations for various organizations are highly anticipated and well attended. Her landscape designs have been featured in numerous media publications.



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**2:30 pm**

**"Saving Pollinators and Water... One Native Plant at a Time"** by Sydney Lyons & Gillian Rowe, Gallatin Conservation District

Pollinators are crucial members of the ecosystem we live in. Native (and non-native!) plants depend on pollinating species to reproduce. Join us to learn how native plants and pollinators are connected. With pollinator species on the decline, it's important to stay current with ways to benefit these essential groups. We'll also highlight a special and free way to encourage the success of pollinators in your own yard!



**Sydney Lyons**, Gallatin Conservation District, is the Education and Outreach Director at the Gallatin Conservation District (GCD). Through this position, she collaborates with local partners on stream and watershed projects, develops youth and adult education programs, manages GCD online presence, and serves as a liaison with other agencies on natural resource-based programs. She graduated with a BS in Environmental Science and Pollution Control and is currently pursuing her Master Gardener certificate. Sydney has enjoyed serving on the Gallatin Valley Earth Day Committee and is looking forward to speaking about pollinators

**Gillian Rowe**, Gallatin Conservation District, is originally from Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2021 with a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. She first moved

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to Montana during the summer of 2021 to serve as a Montana Conservation Corps Fellow with the Gallatin Conservation District (GCD) and DNRC. Having enjoyed living in Montana and serving as an Americorps member, Gillian decided to come back! She is now serving with both the GCD and AGAI through mid November as a Big Sky Watershed Corps Member. During her term she will lead the Gallatin Pollinator Initiative program while also focusing on adult/children education, social media management, community outreach and administrative capacity building.