

Montanan Volunteer Celebration and Inspiration

Retired Helena teacher recognized by Montana Audubon with award



Eliza Wiley Independent Record - Carla Wambach was voted the Audubon Society Educator of the Year for 2011. "Teachers touch the future. It's a big responsibility but it's also a joy," said Wambach of her award.

Even at 81 years old, Carla Wambach's mantra is "full speed ahead."

She's a small-framed, retired school teacher who has the enthusiasm and energy of the Energizer bunny. Wambach was recently named Educator of the Year by Montana Audubon for launching the Helena National Forest's Adopt-a-Species Program, used in area schools since 1996. She loves going into classrooms to share her knowledge and passion about wildlife, wildlife habitat and watchable wildlife ethics.

Wambach was featured in the society's newsletter for her countless hours of enthusiastic education work in Helena and regularly participating in International Migratory Bird Day celebrations and is often invited to classrooms to talk with students about owls, wings, feet and beaks.

During the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebration, she traveled around the region providing a hands-on learning adventure about native birds.

As a teacher for more than four decades, Wambach said one of the highlights of her career was in 1992 when was named a Presidential Award winner from the National Science Foundation.

Since Wambach officially retired, she's been able to return to her one of first loves — dancing. She enjoys the waltz, polka and Irish dancing.

"I don't plan to get old, but if I have to do it, I will do so as late in life as possible," she said.

Reporter Alana Listoe: 447-4081, alana.listoe@helenair.com or [Twitter.com/IR_AlanaListoe](https://twitter.com/IR_AlanaListoe)

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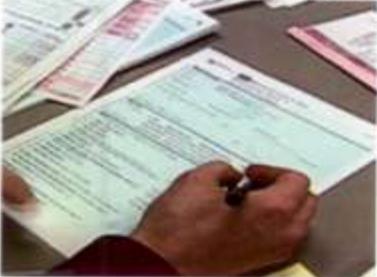
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MONTANA THIS MORNING

UM volunteers offering free tax help

Posted: Jan 31, 2012 7:53 AM by KPAX/KAJ Media Center



MISSOULA- The University of Montana is offering up some free tax advice. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program runs each Saturday between February 4th and March 10th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 209.

VITA-certified UM student volunteers will complete free basic tax returns for those who make \$50,000 or less annually and while appointments are not necessary, organizers advise that tax help will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants should [click here](#) before heading over to campus to find out what items to bring along. For more information call the UM School of Business Administration at (406) 243.4831.

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Volunteer of the Month: January 2012

February 7, 2012 | Volunteer of the Month

Angie Lohrke of Miles City, MT

Nominated by: *Katie Leavitt*

Angie is a woman that embodies our mission of courage, confidence and character. She is a dedicated Girl Scout that has been involved with scouting for 20+ years. In her youth, Angie earned her Gold Award and is currently a Girl Scout leader for her daughters' Troop. She makes Girl Scouts so exciting and fun that her pre-school daughter has been itching to join Girl Scouts since she started talking!



Angie Lohrke

Along with leading, Angie assisted in planning and hosting the Hands Across the Border event in 2009. She created and executed an annual large scale fundraiser for the local Girl Scouts to earn money so any girl that is interested can afford the trip to the Hands Across the Border event each year.

Angie takes her commitment to girls to a deeper level by being a long time Service Unit Manager for Miles City. She holds us together. Her leadership is invaluable and though she deserves a break, she continues serving because it's in the best interest of the program. She gives of herself freely and without complaint even after she spends her days chasing after the many kids she cares for in her home daycare. She never complains about not having time for herself but rather asks how else she might be able to help.

Angie has definitely made my world a better place!

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