

# Wildtales Country Journal

by Heather A. Wallis Murphy ©2003



**May** The "springtime of life," the month of celebrating the festivities of May Day. From Mala, the Roman goddess of fertility and growth (Webster's Dictionary). May's birth flower is Lily Of The Valley, and the birthstone is the Emerald.

## May Dates to Celebrate:

- 1<sup>st</sup> of May, May Day,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hudson Bay Company est. 1670,
- 5<sup>th</sup> Cinco de Mayo 1862,
- 10<sup>th</sup> International Migratory Bird Day,

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mother's Day,
- 14<sup>th</sup> Lewis & Clark Expedition starts 1804
- 15<sup>th</sup> Full Moon & Total Lunar Eclipse,
- 17<sup>th</sup> Enya born in Ireland 1961,

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sir Arthur Conan Doyle born 1859,
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Scatman Crothers born 1910,
- 25<sup>th</sup> Ralph Waldo Emerson born 1803,
- 26<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day (observed),
- 27<sup>th</sup> Rachel Carson born 1907,
- 29<sup>th</sup> John F. Kennedy born 1917,
- 30<sup>th</sup> M.Lewis obs. Pacific Tree Frog 1806,
- 31<sup>st</sup> Lady Godiva rides against taxes 1043

**Nature Tales:** "Mommy?" Both the human and wild forms of children are in need of parenting this month of May. The natural world is abuzz during this birth and life month. Mothers (and fathers) of the species help the next generation unfold from gestation, taking their first steps. From the wildflower filled May Day (bouquets on a neighbor's doorstep), to returning cross-continental hummingbirds, warblers, and swallows on International Migratory Bird Day, to fledging of baby birds and the curious movements of newly born fawns by Memorial Day - parenting is in high tempo.



From the Wild by H.A. Wallis Murphy 1997

Roaming the natural world, I recall a time with my own mother eight years back. A beautiful springtime meadow of several hundred acres in size, filled with lush grasses and sedges, camas, tiger lilies, lupine, Indian paintbrush, and chocolate lilies - sprinkled with aspen stands. Rufous and calliope hummingbirds kept the meadow hustling that afternoon. Finches and other warbling songsters danced through shrubs. Elk calves settled for the day. Cascade frogs and Pacific chorus tree frogs hunkered brookside, good-naturedly awaiting the night. Happy Olympic Mountain memories came from smells of these high meadows

My mom is one of the influential people in my life's work as a wildlife biologist (she was a botanist and journalist in her college days of the 1930s and 40s). But on this more current day, she was the casual observer and I the dedicated recorder. What will endure for me, is that together we observed a red-tail hawk mother teaching it's young fledgling to fly, just as my mom was watching over me - out on my own - in my choice of mountains and meadows. The female hawk circled overhead - chirping, calling, soaring. The young hawk tumbled in the air crying, landing in conifers on meadow edge. Once again, up they went - time passed by the half-hour, by the hour - eventually into a synchronized-swim of the

air. The pair of mother and young moved off into the blue, together. Looking back at my field journal entry for that day, I now realize, my mother's gift is one of journalism, of "Nature Journal-ism".



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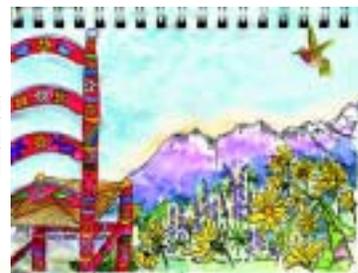
Celebrate with creative works written by "May Babies": *Nature* by Ralph Waldo Emerson 1836; *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy 1956; *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson 1962; and *Oh Yeah!* by Scatman Crothers. Happy Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day and Mother's Day, to all!

Heather is a feature writer from Leavenworth, Washington, sharing her field travels as an artist, nature writer and practicing wildlife biologist. See her cards in stores across the Northwest OR visit her cards online at [www.wildtales.com](http://www.wildtales.com) "Walleys Cards" a naturalist notecard, & journal business.

Have a happy Mother day please like this

Roses are red and Violets are blue but I like you you!

- Heather A. Wallis, 1961©



Chaco de Mayo by H.A. Wallis Murphy © 1998

*Field Journal Entries*

*Mother's Day*

These things I would give you  
The beauty of the mountains  
in the Spring time;  
The hush of fall  
the silence of snow  
Lily shores  
River shores  
Shelter  
for your  
Thoughts  
HAY

*Purple Finch*

*Cardinalis purpureus*

Breeding Season: Mid-May  
4-5 eggs, pale light blue  
finely speckled  
Incubation 13 days  
Leave nest after 4 days  
Nest in Douglas-fir trees

*A Northern Bird*

For Breeding  
Feeds on Spring  
Buds & Tree Flowers  
Fall feed on  
seeds & dry fruit

*Nest in Douglas-fir trees*

*Rock-colored warbling Songsters*

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