

Saturday Field Trips and Walks

Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival Saturday April 28, 2012

All walks and field trips leave from the River Day Use area unless otherwise noted. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to departure.

Photo Safari ★

Tom Whetten & George Andrejko

Saturday, April 8

Departure: 6am

Rating: 4

Return: noon

Cost: \$ 30

You are off to a real adventure as these experts venture into areas known for great wildlife photography opportunities. Tom's patience and wit will put you at ease while you take shots at Arizona's watchable wildlife with your own camera. Tom and George use digital technology and will be giving you some great tips. You don't want to miss Tom's Wildlife Photography Seminar on Friday to prepare you for this trip.

Prescott Field Trip ♪ ♪

Bonnie Pranter & Micah Riegner

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 6am

Rating: 3

Return: 4pm

Cost: \$45

Travel to the other side of Mingus Mountain to the mile-high Prescott area. We'll visit a variety of habitats from lakes to grassland to ponderosa forest in search for such species as acorn woodpecker, violet-green swallow, pine siskin and ash-throated flycatcher. A great opportunity to bird with an expert birder in a variety of habitats. This all-day excursion includes a box lunch.

Flagstaff Wetlands Field Trip ♪ ♪ ♪

Tom Linda

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 6am

Rating: 3

Return: 4pm

Cost: \$45

This trip will take us up on top of the Mogollon Rim to explore the wetlands around Flagstaff. We will visit Kachina Wetlands and Anderson Mesa that includes Lake Mary, Mormon Lake and other smaller lakes. Birds we're hoping to see include gulls, ducks, and shorebirds. Bald eagles and osprey nest and hunt on these lakes. Tom Linda is one of our favorite guides; he is knowledgeable and willing to lend his expertise. It can be cold and windy this time of year so dress appropriately. We'll bring lunch.

Tavasci Marsh Field Trip ♪ ♪

Bob Miller

Thursday, Friday, **Saturday**, Sunday, April 26, 27, **28**, 29

Departure: 7am

Rating: 4

Return: 11am

Cost: \$30

We will leave in shuttle vans that will take us to nearby Tavasci Marsh where water and shore birds, raptors, and flycatchers abound. The Yuma clapper rail has been spotted here in the past as have the river otters. The marsh and adjoining Peck's Lake and Verde River Greenway are part of Audubon's Tuzigoot Important Birding Area. This is one of our most popular trips. Includes lots of walking, a mile each way in and out, but worth every step.

Greenway Walk 🦅 🦅**Craig Anderson**Thursday, Friday, **Saturday**, Sunday, April 26, 27, **28**, 29

Departure: 7am

Return: 11am

Rating: 3

Cost: \$25

One of the many reasons for holding the festival at Dead Horse Ranch State Park is its location in the heart of the Verde River's riparian corridor. A walk along the Verde River Greenway will provide opportunities to spot riparian dependent species. An expert guide will enhance your experience. You should be able to see most of the species of the season on the park's bird list including the common black-hawk that is known to nest here.

Backyard Birding with Doug 🦅 🦅 🌍**Doug Von Gausig**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 7am

Return: noon

Rating: 3

Cost: \$30

Doug is not only the mayor of Clarkdale, he is our local guru on the Tavasci Marsh and proponent of the Verde River environment. He also is an avid birder, photographer and naturalist. Best of all, his home, perched on a ledge above the river, attracts wildlife and birds a-plenty. He has graciously offered to take a small group to his home to bird his garden. (which has been known to be visited by a mountain lion and a broad-billed hummingbird.) After some feeder watching, the adventurous can hike down to the river to continue some interesting wildlife and bird watching. This should prove to be a special trip. Only eight people on this one, so sign up early.

Bubbling Ponds at Page Springs Field Trip 🦅 🦅 **Troy Blanchard**Thursday, Friday, **Saturday**, Sunday, April 26, 27, **28**, 29

Departure: 7am

Return: noon

Rating: 3

Cost: \$30

The Page Springs area is a favorite hangout for birds and birders alike. This trip will take you to one of the locals' favorite hot spots on the banks of Oak Creek. Bubbling Ponds has been a project of the Northern Arizona Audubon with trails, invasive plant species eradication and habitat restoration and is part of the Lower Oak Creek Important Birding Area.

Bent River Ranch FT 🦅 🦅**Dena Greenwood**

Saturday April 28

Departure: 7am

Return: noon

Rating: 3

Cost \$30

Just across the river from Tuzigoot National Monument, we will bird rich Verde River riparian habitat as guests of the Jordan family. The river bottom land, canal corridors and historic farm meadows are all part of Bent River Ranch. The bend in the river is how Tuzigoot got its name. Join us with one of our favorite birders, Dena Greenwood. Moderate walking and just 10 min. from the festival location.

Dutch Oven Cooking with Birds**Geoffrey Bland, birder**
John Hart, cook

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: 2pm

Cost: \$45

We had many requests for a Dutch oven cooking class after birders partook of John Hart's dinners and breakfast. But we still want to include some birding so this is what we'll do. We'll bird over to the lagoon area lead by one of our favorite birders. There John will put you to work cooking your own lunch. Of course, he'll instruct you in the basics of Dutch oven and campfire cooking. You'll be able to try out all sorts of tasty delights. Yes, we might even cook birds (chicken). After lunch one must also learn how to clean and care for your Dutch oven. You'll be able to walk off your meal on the way back to the start.

Focus on Flycatchers FT ♪ ♪**Homer Hansen**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: 3pm

Cost: \$45

This trip will take us into prime flycatcher country led by Homer Hansen of "Wings Over Willcox" fame. Species that might be seen include gray flycatcher and other "Empids," black phoebe, Say's phoebe, vermilion flycatcher, brown-crested flycatcher, ash-throated flycatcher, western kingbird, and Cassin's kingbird. Box lunch is included. Homer will be presenting a workshop on Friday afternoon on the basics of flycatcher identification. We recommend you don't miss his presentation to prepare you for this field trip.

Along the Rio de Flag ♪ ♪**Laura McGrath**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 7:30am

Rating: 3

Return: 3pm

Cost: \$45

This trip takes us up to Flagstaff along the Rio de Flag near the Museum of Northern Arizona. After birding, we will take a short drive over to Laura's private property for lunch and to continue birding. Laura is a gracious hostess. She has been an ornithologist for 18 years and did her masters work at NAU on the migration of neo-tropical migrants. You're sure to learn a lot from her and enjoy a great day's birding. Bird hopefuls include acorn woodpecker, red-faced warbler, evening grosbeak, bald eagle, red crossbill. Box lunch.

Armchair Birding ♪ ☺**Anita MacFarlane**Thursday, Friday, **Saturday**, Sunday, April 26, 27, **28**, 29

Departure: 8am

Rating: 5

Return: 10am

Cost: Free

Let the birds come to you. Bring your favorite camp chair, binoculars, a little refreshment, and just enjoy birding as the hours slip by. We will only have to walk a short distance on the Day Use Accessible Trail to a spot where feeders bring the birds up close. A knowledgeable guide will help identify species. The area is open for birding at any time but the guide will only be available during these hours. Donations to help cover feeder costs are appreciated.

Introduction to Birding for Kids 🦋**Nikki Lober**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 8am

Rating: 2

Return: 10am

Cost: Free

Part of our Nature Fair, this is the chance to bring our kids into the pleasures of birding. Nikki is skilled at teaching the basics to all ages. Kids will enjoy learning how to bird with fun activities and hands-on experience in the field.

Recommended for ages 7 to 12 years. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Beginning Birding Walk for Adults 🦋**Kathe Anderson**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 8am

Rating: 2

Return: 10:30am

Cost: Free

The best way to learn birding is to go with others. Not only do you learn identification skills but also how to bird effectively and ethically. This is a rare opportunity to go with a top birder at no cost. Let Kathe show you the basics that just might lead to a life-long love of birding and the outdoors. This is meant to start non-birders on the path to birding. Beginners only please.

Cadillac Canoe Brunch 🍷**Chip Norton**

Saturday & Sunday, April 28 & April 29

Departure: 8am

Rating: 3

Return: 1pm

Cost: \$60

On this, our signature trip, we will be taking canoes down the Verde River for a different perspective of the riparian habitat. We will beach the canoes at a private residence and be treated to a home-grown-made brunch. Experienced paddlers pilot every canoe so you can sit back and enjoy the river's surprises. There's always the chance that you might get wet so wear shoes and clothes that can take the water. Shorts are recommended depending on weather. This trip is dependent upon the water flow. Weight limit - 200 lbs.

Monkeyflower Falls FT 🦋**Curt Fultz**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 8:30am

Rating: 3

Return: 3pm

Cost: \$45

An all-around naturalist, Curt is back with us this year to lead us on his very popular outing exploring lower Oak Creek with stops at several local birding hotspots including Page Springs, Windmill Park, and the mysterious Monkeyflower Falls. Curt is a favorite and his trip includes an elegant brunch, served outdoors. We can only accept eight passengers so sign up early.

Eating "Wild" Walk ★**Patty West**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 10am

Rating: 3

Return: 11:30am

Cost: \$5

There's a lot to munch on in nature. Learn the wild edible plants, both native and non-native, in a walk through the riparian and desert habitats in the park. Patty will also talk about how to process this natural garden for your dinner plate. This will be a 2-mile walk over various terrains. Sturdy shoes are recommended.

Butterfly Walk in the Park ★**Adriane Grimaldi**

Saturday & Sunday, April 28, April 29

Departure: 10am

Return: noon

Rating: 2

Cost: \$10

Take a leisurely walk with Adriane Grimaldi, a volunteer from Boyce Thompson Arboretum, to see the area's butterflies. Learn about the life cycle these beautiful insects and about the different varieties seen here. Adriane will allow time for questions and answers and has handouts to take home. Be sure to catch her workshop on "Building for Butterflies".

Dragonfly Field Trip ★**Rich Bailowitz**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 10am

Return: 3pm

Rating: 3

Cost: \$40

Odonata are fun to watch and are as varied as the birds. These amazing predators of the insect world offer a fascinating glimpse into Nature. This year we start with a walk in the park to find those flying jewels near the event site. A break for lunch and then board the vans to visit the lagoons. Box lunch.

River Walk ★**Jeanmarie Haney**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 12:30pm

Return: 2pm

Rating: 1

Cost: \$5

Always keeping an watchful eye on the river, we are excited to offer this walk along the banks of the Verde. Jeanmarie joins us from the Nature Conservancy to share the story of the Verde River, its past, its threats, its importance and its questionable future.

Verde Valley Geology Field Trip - Geology of the Jerome Mining District and Mingus Mountain ★**Paul Lindberg**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 1pm

Return: 5pm

Rating: 3

Cost: \$30

What does ancient geology mean to us today? Historic and modern mining, made possible by remarkable geologic processes, creates jobs and impacts our lives in many ways. Travel along with Paul Lindberg, our local geological guru whose explanations make it easy for anyone to understand the processes that formed our landscape. There will be lots of stops along the way including Jerome State Historic Park, a peek into the open pit mine and breath-taking views from the mountain.

Botanical Walk ★**Patty West**

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 3pm

Return: 5pm

Rating: 2

Cost: \$10

A guided walk to identify many of the riparian and grassland species of plants and flowers found in the park. Learn arid plants' secrets to survival and the challenge of invasive species. If the rains favor us, we could even experience a wealth of wildflowers. Please prepare for warm afternoon weather.

Tom Linda's Owl Spot 🦉🌍

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 5pm

Rating: 2

Tom Linda

Return: 10pm (or later)

Cost: \$35

We will drive to Flagstaff to join Tom for an evening of owling on Mt. Humphreys, Arizona's highest peak. We will visit several sites along Snow Bowl Road and will enjoy a short hike to look for northern saw-whet, flammulated, great-horned and long-eared owls. The trail can be rocky, so a flashlight and hiking boots are highly recommended. Be prepared for cold weather, bring a warm jacket, camera, binoculars and your best owling story.

Owl Prowl 🦉

Saturday, April 28

Departure: 7pm

Rating: 2

Scott Woolbright

Return: 8:30pm

Cost: \$15

Our second evening of owling in the park. We will attempt to spot the great-horned owl, the barn owl, and perhaps the western screech owl. They have all been seen here in the past. Bring along a flashlight as well as your binoculars

Saturday Workshops & Seminars

Workshops and seminars have a fee involved and require registration. Both are held in the Studio located in the far end of the park, unless noted otherwise. Check in for all workshops at the registration tent. Participants will be shuttled to and from all workshops/seminars. There is no parking at the Studio. Restroom facilities are located in the building.

Meet at the shuttle stop in the parking lot of the River Day Use Area near the Aviary 15 minutes PRIOR to the seminar or workshop.

Dragonflies- Benevolent Predators

Rich Ballowitz

Saturday, April 28

Location: Studio

8am - 9am

Cost: \$5

Colorful and fascinating! We are very excited to have [Rich Ballowitz](#) join us for this workshop. A noted entomologist and author, he will give a quick run-through of the various species of dragonflies found in the middle Verde Valley. Rich's current project is [A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Arizona and Sonora](#). This talk will be a great introduction to the Dragonfly Field Trip or may spark your interest in discovering these water jewels for yourself.

Hummingbirds: The Most Magical Birds in the World

Ross Hawkins

Saturday, April 28

Location: Studio

9:30 – 11am am

Cost: \$5

Hummingbirds, the most universally loved birds in the world, have charisma and inspire devotion and enthusiasm. They are also magical: their dazzling appearance and ability to hover amaze us and seem to defy understanding. Dr. Ross Hawkins, Founder and Executive Director of The Hummingbird Society, presents an intimate look at these "glittering fragments of the rainbow," as John James Audubon described them. Through images and stories he holds your attention as you begin to understand their unique relationship with flowers, their tiny, amazing nests, their ability to hover, their GPS-like memories, and their fearlessness of humans. Personal encounters with hummingbirds are often memorable, and so is this presentation.

Lunch & Learn: *Feathers – A little knowledge goes a long way.*

Kathe Anderson

Saturday, April 24

Location: Studio

11:30am – 1:30pm

Cost: \$20

The Lunch & Learn Series is designed to provide you with an intense, skill oriented presentation over the lunch hour, so a box lunch will be provided. Be sure to pick up your lunch and a drink at the Aviary before boarding the shuttle to the Studio.

Feathers seem obvious when it comes to birds but we often don't realize how they work or their role in the life and survival of birds. Not only is this class fun and interesting but it will give you a deeper understanding of our feathered friends and the expression, birds of a feather. Kathe comes to us with years of experience in leading field trips and teaching classes.

Owls – Whoooo Are They?

Saturday, April 28
2pm - 3pm

Andy Berry

Location: Studio
Cost: \$5

This workshop covers the natural history of owls and what makes them so interesting and diverse. From the largest to the smallest, their adaptations make them unique among the raptors. Even the mythology of owls makes them fascinating. Join Andy as she introduces you to these amazing birds.

Raptors in Arizona

Saturday, April 28
3:30pm – 4:30pm

Homer Hansen

Location: Studio
Cost: \$5

If you're interested in the raptors that grace our skies, don't miss this workshop. This session will be a great start-up for Homer's field trip on Sunday. He will tell you all about their amazing natural histories and help you with identification.