

Saturday Family Nature Fair Presentations

Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival Saturday Nature Fair April 28, 2012

In the Nature Niche (Tent) on the Flyway

8am – 10am

Introduction to Birding for Kids

Nikki Lober

Some of the top birders today started their interest as a child. Once introduced to birding, it's easy to become a life-long birder and this is a fun way to begin that journey. After engaging activities, the kids will take a short walk to practice binocular use and identify their first birds. Recommended for ages 7 to 12yrs.

10:30am – 11:30am

Centennial Celebration: Dedication & Tree Planting

We are honored to be chosen as an Official Arizona Centennial Event. Join us for the planting of the centennial tree here at Dead Horse Ranch State Park.

Noon – 1pm

Early Naturalist in the Verde Valley

Fort Verde State Historic Park

In our continuing celebration of Arizona's Centennial, we want to highlight the significant role the early naturalists stationed at military forts in the Verde Valley. These men were some of the first to study and name some of the unique species found here.

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Monarch Madness

Gail Morris

Are there monarchs in Arizona? You bet! But we may be losing them. Learn first-hand how we can help preserve the monarch migration. Gail Morris of the Southwest Monarch Study, will bring facts and fun activities about these beautiful butterflies.

In the Bird's Nest (Tent) on the Flyway

10am – 11am

Venomous Critters

Zen MocarSKI

We share our world with some of the most misunderstood critters. With knowledge and understanding, fear is replaced by respect and maybe even a little admiration.

11:30am – 12:30pm

It's a Buggy World

Dave Smith

What fun to learn about our smallest friends. Take a look at the world of arthropods: insects, crustaceans, arachnids, and myriapods. Dave will take you down to the river in search of these fascinating critters

1pm – 2pm

Scouting for Butterflies

Adrian Grimaldi

Although our butterfly expert will be gearing this presentation to the boy and girl scouts' merit badges, it will be fun and a great learning experience for everyone.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION – In Celebration of the Arizona Centennial
Chautauqua: "A'Birdin' on a Bronco" with Florence Merriam Bailey
played by Dena Greenwood**

Saturday, April 28
2:30pm

Location: RDU
Cost: Free

Florence Merriam Bailey was one of the early women pioneering naturalists who first came west to document the bird life. Her book, A'Birdin' on a Bronco, is the inspiration for this presentation. Dena Greenwood is magnificent!

Family Nature Fair

Saturday, April 28

Cost: Free

Walks starting at 8am

Activities: 10am - 2pm

You don't need to be registered for the festival to attend. Just bring the kids and enjoy. Check in at the children's registration booth for a complete schedule, nametags, and 10 free activity tickets per child. Additional tickets can be purchased for fifty cents each. We will be crafting bird feeders, building birdhouses, and playing games that make learning fun. Special presentations geared to the family will enlighten you. Live animals will delight the curious. Everyone is welcome to this "wild" family outing.

Exhibit Tent and Educational Displays

Talk with the people who know. Fun and interesting stuff awaits you. Visit the Arizona Game and Fish booth in the exhibit tent to see live animals. Check out the quality merchandise offered by our many vendors and browse through the fine articles available.