

Saturday Field Trips and Walks

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

Photo Safari Field Trip★

Tom Whetten & George Andrejko

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 6am

Rating: 4

Return: noon

Cost: \$ 40

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 of 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.

Flagstaff Wetlands Field Trip 🦅 🦅

Tom Linda

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 6am

Rating: 4

Box lunch included

Return: 4pm

Cost: \$55

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.

Greenway Walk 🦅 🦅

Bob Miller

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: 11am

Cost: \$35

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.

Bubbling Ponds at Page Springs Field Trip 🦅 🦅

Geoffrey Bland

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

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.

Clear Creek Field Trip 🦅 🦅

Holly Kleindienst

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$40

This new trip will be taking us into a lush riparian habitat. Clear Creek is one of several perennial spring-fed streams that flow from the Mogollon Rim into the Verde River. We will walk through a Forest Service campground with lush riparian growth and into upland desert scrub following Clear Creek. Hopeful species include summer and western tanager, orioles, yellow warblers, flycatchers and maybe even a western screech owl.

Focus on Flycatchers Field Trip 🦅 🦅**Homer Hansen**

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Box lunch included

Return: 2pm

Cost: \$55

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.

Sedona Wetlands Preserve & Red Rock FT 🦅 🦅**Troy Blodgett**

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7am

Rating: 3

Box lunch included

Return: 2pm

Cost: \$55

The use of man-made water treatment plants as birding sites by creating artificial wetlands has proven to be the source of excellent birding across the country, especially when they are planned to provide rich habitat. The City of Sedona, in keeping with the natural beauty of the area, has not only taken care of the basic needs of the public but has done so with nature in mind. The birding is excellent and with a local expert to lead you into this normally restricted area, you should be able to add many species to your day's list. From there we go to Red Rock State Park and check out the riparian habitat along Oak Creek that's included in the Oak Creek IBA.

Sycamore Canyon Field Trip 🦅 🦅**David Moll**

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7am

Rating: 4

Box lunch included

Return: 3pm

Cost: \$55

See for yourself why Sycamore Canyon Wilderness is Arizona's first Wilderness. Profound geology and hydrology on display, varied habitats, high plant diversity, arthropods and reptiles all support the birds to be found in this mid-elevation, Verde River tributary. On the rim, xeric-adapted birds such as gray vireo, loggerhead shrike, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Brewer's, lark and black-throated sparrows may be found, among many other species. Within the Canyon, common black-hawk, white-throated swift, Bell's vireo, verdin and summer tanager may be found. Overall, this trip may provide experiences with various flycatchers, vireos, swallows, wrens, warblers, sparrows and orioles. Rare species have included broad-winged hawk, willet, Costa's hummingbird, Nashville warbler and evening grosbeak. David is one of our most popular guides and will help seek out those elusive species.

Sycamore Springs Guest House Field Trip 🦅 🦅 🚗**Dena Greenwood**

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7:30am

Rating: 3

Return: noon

Cost: \$35

This is a "drive on your own" field trip. One way from Park is 9.2 miles; allow 18 minutes driving time. Meet guide at RDU.

Sycamore Springs Guest House is located on a lush, waterfront 12-acre historic ranch on lower Oak Creek, with extensive waterways bounded by pastures, green valley and mountains. Conveniently located off scenic highway 89A just 17 minutes from the park, this property features private, meandering walkways along creek banks and pond edges. Verdant landscaping, mature trees and three waterfalls provide excellent habitat for birdwatching. Likely birds are vermilion flycatcher, common black-hawk, summer tanagers, orioles and blue grosbeak.

Armchair / Feeder Birding 🦅 🦅 🦿**Eric Moore**

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 8am

Rating: 5

Return: 10am

Cost: \$10

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 handicapped accessible Canopy 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. Sponsored by Jay's Bird Barn.

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

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 8am

Rating: 2

Return: 10:30am

Cost: \$25

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 little 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 (A) 🦋 🍷**Chip Norton**

Saturday, April 29

Note **TWO** Departures:

(A) First Departure: 8am

(B) Second Departure: 1pm

Rating: 3

Host: Ron Mattia

Meal included

Return: 12:30pm

Return: 5:30pm

Cost: \$75

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 - 250 lbs. You must be physically fit enough to be able to rescue yourself in the event of a flip.

Progressive Clarkdale Backyard Field Trip 🦋 🦋 🌍**TBA**

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 8am

Rating: 3

Meal included

Return: 1pm

Cost: \$55

Many folks in the Verde Valley have excellent birding habitats right in their own backyards. We will visit a few of these places and get some ideas on creating your own backyard birding habitat while viewing some of our local and migratory species that frequent our neighborhoods. You may see several kinds of hummingbirds, lazuli buntings, orioles, towhees, sparrows, grosbeaks, cardinals, woodpeckers, and more. Come hungry, as you will also enjoy a progressive brunch as you travel to each home.

Eating "Wild" Walk ★**Patty West**

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 10am

Rating: 3

Return: 11:30am

Cost: \$15

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.

AFTERNOON and EVENING OFFERINGS**River Walk** ★**Jeanmarie Haney**

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 12:30pm

Rating: 2

Return: 2pm

Cost: \$15

Always keeping a 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.

Geology Field Trip ★ 🌍**TBA**

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 1pm

Rating: 2

Return: 5pm

Cost: \$40

The Verde River Valley and the surrounding mountains offer some of the most unusual and exciting geology in the west. This diversity lends itself to a wide selection of habitats supporting our wildlife. A local geologist will be explaining how the landscape of this beautiful country was formed so that anyone can grasp the complex processes at work. We will be traveling to various sites that showcase these works of Nature.

Cadillac Canoe Brunch (B) 🦋 🍷

Saturday, April 29

Note **TWO** Departures:

(B) Second Departure: 1pm

Rating: 3

Host: Ron Mattia

Meal included

Return: 5:30pm

Cost: \$75

Chip Norton

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 - 250 lbs. You must be physically fit enough to be able to rescue yourself in the event of a flip.

Botanical Walk ★

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 3pm

Rating: 2

Return: 5pm

Cost: \$15

Patty West

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.

Dusk Birding: Jail Trail to R.I.O.T 🦋

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 5pm

Rating: 2

Meal included.

Return: 8pm

Cost: \$55

Tim Weber

We'll be walking and birding along the riparian corridor of the Jail Trail that ends up in Old Town Cottonwood where we'll have a special dinner at *The R.I.O.T.* We have a special handmade "TV" tray dinner - much grander than what you remember. Bring along a flashlight, as well as your binoculars, and some extra cash if you want to indulge. We'll pick you up to bring you back.

Dinner at Blazin' M - Chuckwagon Supper & Western Stage Show Saturday, April 29

5:00pm -

8:30pm

Cost: \$40 (discounted from their regular rate, proceeds support the Festival.)

Look for complete details on page 47. This is an opportunity to make reservations at this unique western dinner show through our registration system and support the festival at the same time. Go to blazinm.com for a glimpse into what's in store.

Bat Patrol in the Park ★

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7pm

Rating: 2

Return: 9pm

Cost: \$15

Randy Babb

We're bringing back the opportunity to spot bats in the park. Dusk is the ideal time to explore under the bridge and around light poles. You'll be amazed at what you might see. Bring along a flashlight as well as your binoculars. This is great for kids of all ages. You may also want to register for Randy's workshop prior to the walk. See page 42 for workshop details.

Owl Prowl in the Park 🦋

Saturday, April 29

Departure: 7pm

Rating: 2

Return: 9pm

Cost: \$25

Bob Miller

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 at 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.**

Special Keynote Lunch & Learn: Birding Without Boarders

Noah Strycker

Saturday, April 29

Location: Studio

Noon – 2pm

Cost: \$25

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. Your selected lunch will be waiting for you at the Studio. Check in at the Aviary for the shuttle.

In 2015, bird nerd Noah Strycker of Oregon became the first human to see more than half of the planet's bird species in a single, year-long, round-the-world birding trip. Anything could have happened, and a lot did. He was scourged by blood-sucking leeches, suffered fevers and sleep deprivation, survived airline snafus and car breakdowns and mudslides and torrential floods, skirted war zones, and had the time of his life. Birding on seven continents and carrying only a pack on his back, Strycker enlisted the enthusiastic support of local birders to tick more than 6,000 species, including Adelie Penguins in Antarctica, a Harpy Eagle in Brazil, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and a Green-breasted Pitta in Uganda. He shared the adventure in real time on his daily blog, and now he reveals the inside story. This humorous and inspiring presentation about Strycker's epic World Big Year will give you a real appreciation for the birds and birders of the world.

Raptors

Homer Hansen

Saturday, April 29

Location: Studio

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Cost: \$10

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.

Urban Coyotes: Learning to Coexist with America's Native Song Dog

Linda Bolon

Saturday, April 29

Location: Studio

4pm - 5pm

Cost: \$5

Project Coyote's mission is promoting coexistence through education, science and advocacy. Linda strongly believes that education will change public misperceptions and fear about coyotes and their value to our environment. Learn about coyote characteristics, life cycle, reproduction, diet, normal behaviors, their beneficial role in our urban ecosystems, common causes of negative encounters and how to avoid them as well as hazing techniques and tools for co-existing.

Bats

Randy Babb

Saturday, April 29

Location: Studio

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Cost: \$5

Whether you go out on the Bat Patrol following this workshop or not, this will prove to be a most interesting presentation. Randy comes to us from Arizona Game and Fish and is well known for his artistry as well as his knowledge of all things wild. He will also lead the Bat Patrol right after the workshop so sign up for both!

Saturday Family Nature Fair

Family Nature Fair

Saturday, April 29

Cost: Free

Activities: 10am - 2pm

You don't need to be registered for the festival to attend. Check in at the children's registration booth for a complete schedule 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. A special visit from Discovery Channel's Wildman Phil will delight everyone. Live animals in the main tent will satisfy the curious. We are continuing a Dead Horse Ranch State Park Jr. Ranger walk and activity. Other walks and great presentations are being planned. Tree planting by Verde River Growers.

Vendors will set up along the Flyway for this special day only. Everyone is welcome to this "wild" family outing.