

# 2016 – 7th Annual Natural Areas Celebration Week

\*\* Family-friendly

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

## **Birding Walk at Bald Hill Farm\*\***

**Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 8am-11am**

Join Greenbelt and OSU's Tyler Hallman as we walk through Bald Hill Farm, discussing migratory bird patterns, identification techniques, and OSU's ongoing bird projects on the Farm. This is a free and family-friendly outing – remember to bring your binoculars! Tyler is part of Oregon 2020, a group of ornithologists seeking to create a state-wide benchmark of abundance and distribution of Oregon's birds by 2020, creating a legacy of data for biologists, planners, and conservation organizations.

**Meeting Location:** Provided upon registration.

**Contact Information:** Jessica McDonald ([jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org))

**Sponsor:** Greenbelt Land Trust

## **Work Party at Fiechter House & Cabell Barn**

**Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 10am**

This is the annual fluff 'n buff before the Open House the following weekend. Come sweep out the 1910 barn and gather owl pellets, or vacuum the 1850s Fiechter House and clean the windows!

**Meeting Location:** Fiechter House. South on 99W to mile marker 93; follow signs for Finley Refuge. After crossing Muddy Creek look for Fiechter House on the left. Park by the picket fence.

**Contact Information:** Finley Wildlife Refuge: 541.757.7236

**Sponsor:** PreservationWORKS

## **Marys Peak Interpretive Hike via Summit Loop Trail\*\***

**Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> – 1-5pm**

Hike on the Summit Loop Trail, (Margie Powell's Summit Loop Trail #29), from the Marys Peak parking lot to the top of the mountain with trained Marys Peak Interpreters. Learn about the human and natural history of this "Sub-Alpine Island" that has become the symbolic icon of our region. Easy 1.4-mile loop with 385 ft. elevation gain. Meet at the Wilkinson Hall parking lot, 27th and Arnold, on the OSU campus. Departure at 1:00 PM with return by 5:00 PM. Limited to 25 persons. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Children who are not with their parent or guardian must bring a release form signed by a parent. The form can be obtained in advance from the hike leader. The weather can be unpredictable and not necessarily the same as the Willamette Valley, so be prepared for cool, wet, windy conditions. Must contact leader to pre-register: Mike Neeley-Brown at (541) 760-3934 or [snaebs@gmail.com](mailto:snaebs@gmail.com). Co-leader Julie Arrington.

**Meeting Location:** Wilkinson Hall parking lot, 27th and Arnold, on the OSU campus

**Contact Information:** Mike Neeley-Brown, 541 760-3934, [snaebs@gmail.com](mailto:snaebs@gmail.com). Co-leader Julie Arrington

**Sponsoring Organization:** Marys Peak Group Sierra Club

## **Paddling for Pinot! Marys River kayak and wine-tasting trip**

**Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 1-5pm**

Experience the Marys River up-close and personally with us on a magical adventure down the river. Learn about local wildlife and nature from our friends at IAE and work our way down stream to the Harris Bridge Vineyards for some wine tasting and a delicious riverside meal. All activity gear, transportation, tastings and food is included. \$89 per person, full-service price. 21 and over only!

**Meeting Location:** TBD

**Contact Information:** Brett Gallagher or Wendy Little 503-395-7122

**Sponsoring Organization:** Institute for Applied Ecology, Cascadia Expeditions, and Harris Bridge Vineyard

## Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Morning Birdsong Walk, Peavy Arboretum**

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – 8am-11am**

We'll walk through the forest and immerse ourselves in the morning chorus of bird songs. Enjoy the sounds of warblers, tanagers, thrushes, wrens, vireos and many other species. We will identify birds by sound and see if we can catch a glimpse of them as they forage high in the canopy. Approx. 3-mile walk with some elevation gain; don't forget your binoculars.

**Meeting Location:** McDonald Forest, Peavy Arboretum, Intensive Mgmt. Trail parking area

**Contact Information:** Don Boucher, donaboucher@gmail.com, 541-753-7689

**Sponsoring Organization:** Neighborhood Naturalist

### **Open House and Pollinator Workshop at Chintimini Wildlife Center\*\***

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – 10am-2pm**

Enjoy self-guided tours of the Chintimini Wildlife Center's educational facilities and ash swale wetland, children's activities and more! Live birds of prey will be on display as well as videos featuring baby animals in our care and bird-box building activities! This year, pollinator information and demonstrations will be on hand as well. We will also be sharing information about rescuing injured and orphaned wild babies. Donations of animal baby care supplies and food welcome (see <http://chintiminiwildlife.org/wish-list.htm> for special requests).

**Meeting Location:** 311 NW Lewisburg Ave, Corvallis, OR

**Contact Information:** Jeff Picton: (541) 745-5324

**Sponsor:** Chintimini Wildlife Center

### **Bezell Open House and Mothers Day Nature Walk\*\***

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – 2-4pm**

Come spend mother's day afternoon in the beautiful Bezell forest, prairies, and streamsides. Get access on a guided tour of the education center, remodeled into a gorgeous space using original materials from the 1800's homestead barn. Then join in the afternoon walk to see and learn about the beautiful wildflowers, butterflies, birds, and other animals before enjoying your mother's day dinner! 1 FREE digital family photo will be provided by a local photographer, and light refreshments will be available. Reserve your space as only 30 people total can participate!

**Meeting Location:** Bezell Memorial Forest parking lot, 32783 Kings Valley Hwy., Philomath

**Contact Information:** Adam Stebbins, Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department  
([adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us](mailto:adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us))

**Sponsor:** Benton County Natural Areas and Parks

## Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Homer Campbell Memorial Trail at Finley Wildlife Refuge\*\***

**Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:30-11am**

Come walk with us on this 0.8 mile round trip boardwalk, which is fully contained with a fence on either side. We will hike through the Muddy Creek riparian area that is seasonally flooded with winter rains. Oregon ash and big-leaf maple are the common tree species, providing canopy for many songbirds. Thrushes, bushtits and juncos are commonly heard. This hike will proceed at around 1.0 mph to allow for walking toddlers to go at their pace. The boardwalk is stroller and wheelchair friendly, though there is a bump-bump as you transition from one board to the next, which can be annoying after a while. We may go beyond the boardwalk onto a trail leading into Cabell Marsh and the Refuge Interior if it is not too muddy and if the group would like to go further. NO DOGS are allowed at Finley. Please bring a snack and something to drink. We will take a snack break at the gazebo/turn around point.

We will meet at 9:30, then depart at 9:45 to allow for our welcome circle and any latecomers to arrive.

There is a waiver to sign over at [hikeitbaby.com](http://hikeitbaby.com) as this event is with Hike it Baby.

**Meeting Location:** Take 99W south, turn right (east) onto Finley Rd. This is an easy turn to miss, so pay attention. Finley Rd is dirt. Keep heading west until you can turn left (south) onto Finley Refuge Rd. Drive a ways, including over Muddy Creek, and eventually there will be a left turn into a dirt parking area with a sign for the Homer Campbell Memorial Trail. Park there. If you drive past the barn or get to the historical Fiechter House, you have gone too far.

**Contact Information:** Jenn Haunold, 541-829-3264, [jenn.haunold@gmail.com](mailto:jenn.haunold@gmail.com)

**Sponsor:** Hike it Baby

### **Bald Hill Natural Areas Hike to Dunawi Creek headwaters**

**Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – 6-8pm**

Come on a hike to the headwaters of Dunawi Creek at Bald Hill Natural Area and learn about efforts local groups are undertaking to restore the area.

**Meeting Location:** Provided upon registration

**Contact Information:** Register by emailing Mike Neeley-Brown – [snaebs@gmail.com](mailto:snaebs@gmail.com)

**Sponsor:** Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club

## **Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **Marys Peak Celebration**

**Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – 6pm**

The 10th bi-monthly Marys Peak Celebration will explore a biological and a technological element of Marys Peak that impact the ecology and beauty of our regional iconic natural feature. Dr. Phil Hays will present the history, issues and impacts surrounding the construction of communication towers and an electrically-grounded security fence on the top of our highest coastal peak. Dr. Mark Harmon of OSU will present a story showing the critical importance of rotting organic matter from dead plants to the entire ecosystem of Marys Peak. Arrive early to get a good seat and to buy a sandwich and a beer. Seats are limited to 100 and the Deli is generally full by 6:00 pm.

**Meeting Location:** Old World Deli

**Contact Information:** Dave Eckert at [deckert@willamettewatershed.com](mailto:deckert@willamettewatershed.com).

**Sponsor:** Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club

## **Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

### **Words through the Woods: Hike the Woodpecker Loop\*\***

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – 9-11am**

Meet us at the Woodpecker Loop Trailhead at William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge at 9 am! We'll walk through some of the Willamette Valley's rarest habitat types, stopping along the way to take note of what we see growing, crawling and flying around us. The trail passes by a favorite great-horned owl nesting area and red-legged frog breeding pond. We'll also stop a few times to share select works of poetry (known and unknown, local and from long ago). Care to share with us? Nature Inspired and Inspired Nature.

**Meeting Location:** Woodpecker Loop Trailhead, William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge - 26208 Finley Refuge Rd., Corvallis, OR 97333

**Contact Information:** Samantha Bartling, Visitor Services Manager - [Samantha\\_bartling@fws.gov](mailto:Samantha_bartling@fws.gov) or 541-760-3036

**Sponsor:** US Fish and Wildlife Service

### **Franklin School Neighborhood & Tree Tour**

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – 2pm**

Go green; take a neighborhood walk! Celebrate the enduring companionship of heritage trees in the historic Franklin School Neighborhood. This one-hour guided tour includes the 1889 Franklin Square Park, Corvallis' oldest park and home to more than 15 different tree species.

**Meeting Location:** Franklin School, 750 NW 18<sup>th</sup> Street, east entrance under the Oak.

**Contact Information:** Lyn Larson (541) 768-3312

**Sponsor:** Jobs Addition Neighborhood Association (JANA)

### **Lost Creeks of Corvallis Bike Tour**

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – 6pm**

Come on a bike ride with us as we tour some of the 'lost creeks' of Corvallis!

**Meeting Location:** Provided upon registration

**Contact Information:** Register by emailing Dave Eckert – [deckert@willamettewatershed.com](mailto:deckert@willamettewatershed.com)

**Sponsor:** Water Action Team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the City of Corvallis Public Works Stormwater Program

## **Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

### **Jackson-Frazier Wetlands Tour\*\***

**Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 9am-11am**

All kinds of plants and a variety of wildlife live in this seasonally-flooded habitat. Join Neighborhood Naturalist for an easy boardwalk loop (ADA accessible) that allows us to observe beaver activity, see marsh birds, and explore some unusual wetland plants. Bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather.

**Meeting Location:** Jackson-Frazier Wetland, end of Lancaster St.

**Contact Information:** Don Boucher, [donaboucher@gmail.com](mailto:donaboucher@gmail.com), 541-753-7689

**Sponsor:** Neighborhood Naturalist

### **Sunset, Stars, and Lights Gazing at Fitton Green\*\***

**Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:45-9:30pm**

Come see one of the most breathtaking sunsets in Benton County, as the sun sinks down behind Marys Peak. Then stay for the twinkling light show from the City of Philomath and beyond. Stay a little longer to gaze at the stars and use a telescope for some starter star gazing. Bring your own telescopes, binoculars, and cameras if you have them! Reserve your space as only 20 people total can participate.

**Meeting Location:** Fitton Green Natural Area, 980 NW Panorama Dr., Corvallis

**Contact Information:** Adam Stebbins, Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department  
([adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us](mailto:adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us))

**Sponsor:** Benton County Natural Areas and Parks

## **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Tyee Wetlands Walk, Bonfire and Wine\*\***

**Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – 5:30-8:30pm**

Come enjoy an evening at Tyee Wine Cellars along Muddy Creek south of Corvallis. This unique landscape is being actively restored to historic wet prairie and marshes by the Buchanan family, along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Take a tour of Restoration Loop while you learn about ongoing restoration efforts, identifying native wildflowers and invasive weeds along the way. Bring a picnic, and delight in an evening of wine tasting and storytelling, all around a cozy bonfire. There will also be fun activities for the little ones including owl pellet dissection, and an up close look at owl feathers.

**Meeting Location:** Directions to Tyee Wine Cellars from Corvallis: Take Hwy 99W south 7 miles and turn right onto Greenberry Road. Go 2.3 miles to Tyee Wine Cellars on your right.

**Contact Information:** Tyee Wine Cellars: (541)753.8754 or [www.tyeevine.com](http://www.tyeevine.com)

**Sponsor:** Tyee Wine Cellars

## Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Birding Tour**

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – 7.30-10am**

Join the Audubon Society of Corvallis for an easy walk at Finley Wildlife Refuge to look for birds at the peak of spring migration. This is a good walk for all skill levels. Remember to dress appropriate for the weather. Reminder: Finley Open House following bird tour, drive separate if you'd like to stay and take part in the festivities.

**Meeting Location:** Benton Center north parking lot (757 NW Polk Ave.)

**Contact Information:** Audubon Society's Bill Proebsting, proebstw@gmail.com

**Sponsor:** Audubon Society of Corvallis

### **Wildflower Walk at Owens Farm\*\***

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – 9am-12pm**

Join Greenbelt Staff and wildflower experts as we explore the hidden prairies, stream sides, and wetlands of Owens Farm. Wildflower experts will help folks to identify native wildflowers, while sharing information about Greenbelt's efforts to restore sensitive habitats on the property. May is the time to see wildflowers in bloom, and this walk is a rare opportunity to visit all of the beautiful nook and crannies of the property that most folks don't get to see!

**Meeting Location:** Provided upon registration

**Contact Information:** Jessica McDonald ([Jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org](mailto:Jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org))

**Sponsor:** Greenbelt Land Trust

### **William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge Open House "Prairies in Bloom!"\*\***

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – 10am-2pm**

The winter sanctuary will be over, meaning the trails are open for hiking and exploring and the prairies will be teeming with native wildflowers and pollinators. Join us for guided walks and tours and sneak a peek at parts of your local wildlife refuge that you haven't seen yet! Some migratory birds will still be in town, along with the popular residents such as the acorn woodpeckers and possibly even a bobcat. If you like history and culture, Benton County's oldest building, the Fiechter House, will be open for tours, along with its red barn full of farm implements and the barn owl occupants. Come explore, experience and connect with your William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge! While you're here don't forget to visit the many tables and booths for crafts, fun take-home projects, hands-on activities, and resources.

**Meeting Location:** William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, 26208 Finley Refuge Rd., Corvallis, OR 97333

**Contact Information:** Samantha Bartling, Visitor Services Manager - [Samantha\\_bartling@fws.gov](mailto:Samantha_bartling@fws.gov) or 541-760-3036

**Sponsor:** Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex and USFWS

### **Bat Night\*\***

**Saturday, May 14 - 8:45-10pm**

Join Neighborhood Naturalist for family-friendly night of "batting"! We'll see lots of bats hunting over the duck pond and wetlands at Starker and Sunset Parks. We'll use a bat detector to convert the bats' sonar to audible clicks, and a spotlight. Bring binoculars and an extra layer to wear as the evening gets cooler.

**Meeting Location:** Bruce Starker Arts Park parking lot (near duck pond and amphitheater)

**Contact Information:** Don, donaboucher@gmail.com, 541-753-7689

**Sponsoring Organization:** Neighborhood Naturalist

## Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

**Naturalist Adventure at Finley NWR, Mill Hill\*\***

**Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> - 9am - ~12:30 pm**

Mill Hill has forest areas of Douglas-Fir and Oregon White Oak. We'll enjoy woodland wildflowers, the songs of migrant birds and much more.

**Meeting Location:** Meet at Avery Park Rose Garden: 1210 SW Avery Dr., Corvallis for carpooling.

**Contact Information:** Don Boucher, donaboucher@gmail.com, 541-753-7689

**Sponsoring Organization:** Neighborhood Naturalist

**Bald Hill Farm Restoration for Monarchs and Mulkey Creek Trail Plant Walk\*\***

**Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – 9-11am**

Join us to find out about how Corvallis third graders are restoring habitat for monarch butterflies and learn a few new plants on a hike up the Mulkey Creek Trail.

**Meeting Location:** Meet at Oak Creek Road Bald Hill Parking lot

**Contact Information:** Carolyn Menke ([carolyn@appliedeco.org](mailto:carolyn@appliedeco.org))

**Sponsor:** Institute for Applied Ecology and Marys River Watershed Council

**'Back in Time' at Fort Hoskins\*\***

**Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – 2-4pm**

Celebrate the finale of 2016 Natural Areas Celebration week, by going 'back in time' at Fort Hoskins. Get exclusive access to the civil war area Army Fort Commander's house, followed by hands on wildlife activities with skulls, furs, and nests! Join in on a short overlook hike to the ridge for a breathtaking view of Kings Valley...if you are feeling up to it!

Reserve your space as only 20 people total can participate.

**Meeting Location:** Fort Hoskins Historic Park, 38150 Fort Hoskins Road, Philomath

Adam Stebbins, Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department ([adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us](mailto:adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us))

**Sponsor:** Benton County Natural Areas and Parks