

2017 – 8th Annual Natural Areas Celebration Week

** Family-friendly

Saturday, May 6th

Nature Writing Workshop with Robert Michael Pyle

Saturday, May 6th – 11am-2pm

Join Greenbelt Land Trust and the Spring Creek Project for a special writing workshop led by award-winning poet, essayist, naturalist, lepidopterist, and author Robert Michael Pyle at Bald Hill Farm. This free workshop will include a nature walk and writing discussion, personal writing time, and a group reading. Space is limited, so sign up today!

Meeting Location: Provided upon registration.

Contact Information: Jessica McDonald (jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org)

Registration Required: YES

Sponsor: Greenbelt Land Trust and the Spring Creek Project

Reading by Robert Michael Pyle

Saturday, May 6th – 7pm

Join Greenbelt Land Trust and the Spring Creek Project for a special reading by poet, essayist, naturalist, lepidopterist, and author Robert Michael Pyle. Pyle will read from his new poetry book, *Chinook and Chanterelle* (Lost Horse Press) and a new collection of essays, *Through a Green Lens: Fifty Years of Writing for Nature* (OSU Press). Rich in natural images, stories, and indelible episodes from the whole world around us, Pyle's writings also track the territory of loss and grief as it rises into the higher ground of rediscovery, redemption, and re-enchantment. His poems and essays exalt the ordinary even as they find the extraordinary in physical details that we too often look right through.

Meeting Location: Corvallis Public Library, Main Meeting Room – 645 NW Monroe, Corvallis

Contact Information: Jessica McDonald (jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org)

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Greenbelt Land Trust, Spring Creek Project, Grassroots Books

Sunday, May 7th

Spring Garden Festival**

Sunday, May 7th - 9am-4pm

Mark your calendar for the 30th Annual Madison Avenue Task Force's Spring Garden Festival on The Arts Center Plaza, 7th and Madison. Each year the Festival features dozens of vendors and information booths offering gardening products, advice and inspiration that will help you limber up your green thumb. We hope to see you there!

Meeting Location: The Arts Center Plaza, 7th and Madison

Contact Information: Serena Kapuler, serenakapuler@gmail.com

Registration Required: NO

Sponsors: Benton County Master Gardeners Association, City of Corvallis Parks & Recreation, Corvallis Farmers' Market, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and The Arts Center

Hike to the Source of Sequoia Creek

Sunday, May 7th – 1pm-4pm

Follow the path to the spring-fed source of this ancient creek that is now mostly piped and trenched through North Corvallis before it reaches the Willamette River. The source is now on private property near Chip Ross Park and inaccessible to the public – except for this special hike-tour. You will see portions of Corvallis you have never seen before and in a way you have never seen it. This is a one-time experience. Don't miss it.

Meeting Location: Wilson Elementary School Parking Lot, corner of Walnut and Satinwood Dr.

Contact Information: Dave Eckert – deckert@willamettewatershed.com

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club , Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team, Marys River Watershed Council

Monday, May 8th

Peavy Arboretum Calloway Creek Trail Wildflower Walk**

Monday, May 8th – 6-8pm

Evening wildflower and plant ID walk along the Calloway Creek Trail in Peavy Arboretum with IAE Botanist and Restoration Ecologist Ian Silvernail.

Meeting Location: Peavy Arboretum, Highway 99 Kiosk Access Point (Across from Vandenberg Ave into Adair Village)

Contact Information: Ian Silvernail, ian@appliedeco.org

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Institute for Applied Ecology

Jackson -Frazier Wetlands Sundown Spotting**

Monday, May 8th – 7-8:30pm

Watch the wetlands come alive! Jackson-Frazier has over 140 acres of high quality habitat for all types of birds, bats, owls, and other wildlife that start to come out in the evening. Enjoy a nice walk around the handicap accessible boardwalk and special access to the rare wet prairie habitat, as you see all the animals and their habitat. Be sure to bring binoculars if you have them!

Meeting Location: Jackson-Frazier Wetland, 3600 NE Lancaster Street Corvallis, OR 97330

Contact Information: Adam Stebbins, adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us (541) 766-6085

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Benton County Natural Areas and Parks

Tuesday, May 9th

Tai Chi in the Park**

Tuesday, May 9th – 2-3pm

Celebrate our parks and natural areas with an hour of Tai Chi in Chintimini park. Enjoy the fresh spring air at Monica Whipple's Sun style Tai Chi practice. Weather permitting class will be held at Chintimini Park in the open fields behind the community center, if it's too wet we'll move inside to the center's multipurpose room. Bring a friend to enjoy this free community class! All ages and abilities welcome.

Meeting Location: Chintimini Park, Chintimini Senior and Community Center

Contact Information: Caitlyn Reilley, 541-662-8058

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Corvallis Parks and Recreation

Fitton Green Prairie Walk**

Tuesday, May 9th – 6-8pm

Evening hike at Fitton Green Natural Area - join us to learn about the species in this amazing example of prairie habitat.

Meeting Location: Fitton Green Parking Lot – Panorama Drive

Contact Information: Carolyn Menke, carolyn@appliedeco.org

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Institute for Applied Ecology

OSU/Marys Peak Connection from the 1870s – 2017

Tuesday, May 9th – 6-8pm

Speakers will include Mike Dicianna and Karl McCreary from the OSU Valley Library Special Collections. Free admission and open to the public!

Meeting Location: Old World Deli

Contact Information: Dave Eckert – deckert@willamettewatershed.com

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Marys Peak Alliance

Bezell Forest Know Your Woodland Plants**

Tuesday, May 9th – 6:30-8pm

Join us for a casual evening plant ID walk to learn common trees, shrubs and other plants we find, and talk about their place in the forest. Also an introduction to some important invasive species to watch out for.

Meeting Location: Bezell Memorial Forest, Kings Valley Hwy.

Contact Information: Jody Einerson, jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Benton County OSU Extension

Wednesday, May 10th

Peavy Arboretum Birdsong Walk

Wednesday, May 10th – 8am-11am

We'll spend time quietly listening and identifying forest birds by sound. Peavy Arboretum is an excellent place to be for migrating forest birds like colorful (and vocal) warblers and flycatchers.

Meeting Location: Peavy Arboretum, Meet at the upper trailhead parking area.

Contact Information: Don Boucher, donaboucher@gmail.com

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Neighborhood Naturalist

Monarchs and Other Butterflies in Benton County Presentation**

Wednesday, May 10th – 6:30-8pm

We'll explore a few species of our local native butterfly including the migratory monarch. Plans are underway to expand pollinator habitats throughout Benton County including the creation of Monarch Waystations as stepping stones along their migratory path.

Meeting Location: Corvallis Public Library, Main Meeting Room – 645 NW Monroe, Corvallis

Contact Information: Molly Monroe, monroemolly@hotmail.com

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

Thursday, May 11th

Finley Know Your Woodlands Plants**

Thursday, May 11th – 6:30-8pm

Join us for a casual evening plant ID walk to learn common trees, shrubs and other plants we find, and talk about their place in the forest. Also an introduction to some important invasive species to watch out for.

Meeting Location: Finley Wildlife Refuge - Woodpecker Loop

Contact Information: Jody Einerson, jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Benton County OSU Extension

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

Thursday, May 11th – 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!

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

Contact Information: Adam Stebbins, adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us (541) 766-6085

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Benton County Natural Areas and Parks

Friday, May 12th

Homestead Loop Walk**

Friday, May 12th – 10am-11:30am

Toddlers and parents unite! Join Hike It Baby for a 1.5 mile walk on the Homestead Loop at OSU's McDonald Forest.

Meeting Location: Homestead Trail at Oak Creek

Contact Information: Jenn Haunold, 541-829-3264, jenn.haunold@gmail.com

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Hike It Baby

Finding Finley and Bohlman's Wildlife Muse – A Refuge Outing**

Friday, May 12th – 4-5:30pm

The William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge was named for the famous conservationist and photographer of the same name. Join USFWS staff and volunteers on an evening discovery outing while looking for the very species Finley and Bohlman captured and described in their photographs, writings and talks. We'll finish just in time for you to enjoy a picnic meal out at the Tye Wine Cellars bonfire event that night, just down the road. And the walk will set the stage for the Saturday evening event discussing the fascinating history and legacy of William L. Finley and Herman Bohlman - conservation leaders without whom we might not have this special wildlife refuge right out our backdoor.

Meeting Location: Finley Wildlife Refuge - Cabell Lodge parking lot

Contact Information: Samantha Bartling, samantha_bartling@fws.gov

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: USFWS - Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Tye Wetlands Walk, Bonfire and Wine**

Friday, May 12th – 6-8pm

Come enjoy an evening at Tye 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 Tye Wine Cellars from Corvallis: Take Hwy 99W south 7 miles and turn right onto Greenberry Road. Go 2.3 miles to Tye Wine Cellars on your right.

Contact Information: Tye Wine Cellars: (541)753.8754 or www.tyewine.com

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Tye Wine Cellars

Saturday, May 13th

2nd Saturday Birding Tour**

Saturday, May 13th – 7.30-12pm

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.

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

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

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Audubon Society of Corvallis

Beers Made By Walking – Lupine Meadows Walk**

Saturday, May 13th – 9am-12pm

Beers Made By Walking is a program that invites local brewers to go on nature hikes and imagine beer inspired by edible and medicinal plants found outdoors. Join brewers from Sky High Brewery as we take a walk with botanists through Lupine Meadows, an incredible upland prairie site at the peak of wildflower season!

Meeting Location: Provided upon registration

Contact Information: Jessica McDonald (Jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org)

Registration Required: YES

Sponsor: Greenbelt Land Trust

Mother's Day Art in the Garden**

Saturday, May 13th – 10am-5pm

Celebrate Mother's Day with a beautiful day in the country! Local artists will have their art on display, live music, and food for sale. Organic plant starts, display gardens and forest trails to explore. Event is both Saturday May 13th and Sunday May 14th.

Meeting Location: The Thyme Garden 20546 Alsea Hwy. Alsea, Oregon 97324

Contact Information: Emily Stimac, emilythyme@gmail.com

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: The Thyme Garden

Yoga in the Park**

Saturday, May 13th – 2-3:15pm

Yoga means union, and when it's practiced outside, can help us experience a union with nature, humanity, and the universe. Join us for an hour of yoga in the park. If weather is too wet, we will still meet and practice at the Chintimini senior and community center.

Meeting Location: Chintimini Park - 2601 NW Tyler, Corvallis

Contact Information: Caitlyn Reilley, caitlyn.reilley@corvallisoregon.gov

Registration Required: NO

Sponsoring Organization: Corvallis Parks and Recreation

Hunting Birds with a Camera: William Finley and Herman Bohlman, and the Fight to Save Oregon's Birds

Saturday, May 13th – 6-7:30pm

Bob Sallinger, conservation director for Portland Audubon, and Laura Cray, archives specialist for Oregon Historical Society, examine the work of William L. Finley and Herman T. Bohlman in the early 1900s. Scaling trees, fording rivers, and braving Oregon's most rugged landscapes, the pair went to almost any lengths to capture Oregon's birds on film. Their photographs and tireless dedication to education and outreach helped establish the state's first wildlife refuges and laid the foundation for Oregon's legacy as a leader in conservation.

Meeting Location: Willamette Room at the Valley Library at Oregon State University

Contact Information: Laura Cray, laura.cray@OHS.org

Registration Required: NO

Sponsoring Organization: Oregon Historical Society and Oregon State University

Bat Night**

Saturday, May 13th – 8:45pm-10pm

Join us 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 Boucher, donaboucher@gmail.com, 541-753-7689

Registration Required: NO

Sponsoring Organization: Neighborhood Naturalist

Sunday, May 14th

Chip Ross Park Nature Hike

Sunday, May 14th - 9am-12pm

Chip Ross Park has Oak Savanna and woodlands with nice views overlooking Corvallis. We may encounter migratory birds like Western Tanagers, Lazuli Buntings, Warbling Vireos and House Wrens. Also possible are year-round birds like Western Bluebirds, White-breasted Nuthatches and Acorn Woodpeckers. We can enjoy some wildflowers like Western Buttercups, Fork-toothed Ooak, Tough-leaf Iris and more.

Meeting Location: Meet at parking lot at end of NW Lester Ave., Corvallis Ave., Corvallis

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

Registration Required: NO

Sponsoring Organization: Neighborhood Naturalist

Chintimini Wildlife Center Open House**

Sunday, May 14th – 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! 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

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: Chintimini Wildlife Center

Mother’s Day Art in the Garden**

Sunday, May 14th – 10am-5pm

Celebrate Mother's Day with a beautiful day in the country! Local artists will have their art on display, live music, and food for sale. Organic plant starts, display gardens and forest trails to explore. Event is both Saturday May 13th and Sunday May 14th.

Meeting Location: The Thyme Garden 20546 Alsea Hwy. Alsea, Oregon 97324

Contact Information: Emily Stimac, emilythyme@gmail.com

Registration Required: NO

Sponsor: The Thyme Garden

Bezell Open House and Mothers Day Nature Walk**

Sunday, May 14th – 2-4pm

Come spend Mother's Day afternoon in the beautiful Bezell Memorial Forest, prairies, and streams. Get a guided tour of the education center- a remodeled gorgeous space using the original 1800's homestead barn wood! Then join in the afternoon walk to see and learn about the beautiful wildflowers, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife! 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, adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us or 541-766-6085

Registration Required: YES

Sponsor: Benton County Natural Areas and Parks