

Life~Long Learning *with the* Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute

in
2011

be active
learn
share
explore
appreciate



Maryann Eastman 2010



Gary Nored



for families ~ for members
for kids ~ for volunteers
for educators ~ for everyone

What to Look for in 2011

In addition to the great programs outlined in this annual publication, we've got several more in the works. Visit our website (www.cdri.org) and check the quarterly calendar for updates and details. Maybe horticulture, maybe ethnobotany, maybe extended hours, maybe seasonal workshops for kids or additional camp sessions. Who knows—the year is young yet!

Follow Us!

We know you're busy, but indulge a little in that secret thrill: socialize with us!

Post a photo from your visit to the Nature Center, talk about the fieldtrip you just took and what the experience meant to you, or enter a comment on our blog. Find us at cdri.org/blog and on Facebook.

Please Remember

Programs are subject to change. Please call to register before you make travel plans.

Listen to Nature Notes

Why do rattlesnakes rattle and hummingbirds hum? How do flowers market themselves to pollinators? Why do tarantulas cross the road?

Nature Notes investigates questions like these about the natural world of the Chihuahuan Desert region every week on Marfa Public Radio, revealing the secrets of desert life. Episodes are 4½-minutes long and broadcast on Thursdays at 9:35 a.m. and 7:06 pm on KRTS Marfa Public Radio, 93.5 FM. Learn more about *Nature Notes*, become a volunteer writer, or contact us with your questions or suggestions by visiting cdri.org/nature-notes.

Sponsored in part by the Meadows Foundation and the Dixon Water Foundation and produced in conjunction with Marfa Public Radio.

Advanced Credits Available

Want to know if our programs are aligned with the Texas Master Naturalist goals for advanced training or can count towards continuing professional education requirements? Just ask!

A Note on Teachers' Workshops

As we've done in the past, we're teaming up with Region 18 to design and host teachers' workshops. This year, interested teachers must register through their service center. Region 18 will give us topics and we will create a great, informal learning atmosphere to help you help your students. For more information, contact Jessica Glasscock at 432-364-2499 or education@cdri.org, or visit www.esc18.net.

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute is to promote public awareness, appreciation, and concern for the natural diversity of the Chihuahuan Desert region through research and education. To achieve this mission, the CDRI promotes and demonstrates sustainable development in the desert; provides environmental education programs to the community; and encourages biodiversity conservation.

Calendar at a Glance

January 11							February 11							March 11						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28						27	28	29	30	31		
30	31																			

- ◆ February 12—Pictographs of Big Bend Ranch State Park Field Trip, pg. 13
- ◆ February 19—The Great Backyard Bird Count Citizen Science Field Event, pg. 27
- ◆ February 24—Black Bears of the Big Bend Lecture, pg. 8
- ◆ March 10—Water Conservation Issues in West Texas National Groundwater Awareness Week Lecture, pg. 8
- ◆ March 12—Butterfly Count Citizen Science Field Event, pg. 27
- ◆ March 12–19—Annual Cactus & Succulent Festival Event, pg. 16
- ◆ April 19—Gardens through the Ages Lecture, pg. 9
- ◆ April 22 & 23—Annual Native Plant Sale Event, pg. 16
- ◆ April 29–May 1—Birding the Devils River Field Trip, pg. 14

Calendar at a Glance

April 11							May 11							June 11						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

- ◆ May 7—National Public Garden Day
Guided Garden Walks, pg. 18
- ◆ May 7—Mission Possible Nature Challenge
Kick-off Event, pg. 19
- ◆ May 12—Migratory Cave Swallows
International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) Lecture, pg. 9
- ◆ May 14—International Migratory Bird Day at Alamito Creek
Preserve; Field Trip, pg. 15
- ◆ May 14—Build (or Paint!) a Bird House for IMBD
Kids' Workshop, pg. 20
- ◆ May 14—Hummingbird Banding for IMBD
Demonstration, pg. 20
- ◆ June & July—Conservation across Boundaries
Teachers' Workshop, (Both sessions FULL at time of publication)
- ◆ June 20–24—Critter Club
Summer Day Camp for Preschoolers, pg. 22
- ◆ June 23—Who's Helping Whom? Native Plants and Native Bees
Lecture, pg. 10
- ◆ June 25—Pollinator Palooza!
Family Field Day, pg. 21

Calendar at a Glance

July 11							August 11							September 11							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		
31																					

- ◆ July 1—Butterfly Count
Citizen Science Field Event, pg. 27
- ◆ July 4—Open
- ◆ July 9, 16, 23, 30—Desert after Dark Discovery Hikes
Night Hikes, pg. 18
- ◆ July 14—Recent Taxonomic Changes Relating to the
Chihuahuan Desert Herpetofauna & Status of Species and
Subspecies in Modern Phylogenetic Systematics
Lecture, pg. 10
- ◆ July 16 & 30—Summer Constellations, Saturn, and the Milky Way
Stargazing, pg. 18
- ◆ July 18–22—Desert Rat Club
Summer Day Camp for Elementary-Aged Kids, pg. 22
- ◆ August 6—BBO & Benefit Auction
Event, pg. 17
- ◆ September 10—Change Your Perspective: Climb Mt. Livermore
Hike, pg. 15
- ◆ September 17—Butterfly Count
Citizen Science Field Event, pg. 27
- ◆ September 24—Fall Bird Count
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Calendar at a Glance

October 11							November 11							December 11							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
30	31																				

- ◆ October 12—Volunteer Training for The Earth Rocks!!!
Meeting, pg. 24
- ◆ October 13—The Earth Rocks!!!
Field Day for School Children, pg. 23
- ◆ October 27—North American Model for Wildlife Management
Lecture, pg. 11
- ◆ October 28—What Lurks in the Dark of Night?
Family Night Program, pg. 21
- ◆ October 29—The Guadalupe in the Fall
Field Trip and Photographic Scavenger Hunt Contest, pg. 15
- ◆ November 4—Deadline for 7th Symposium Paper Submissions
Notice, pg. 12
- ◆ November 24—Closed
- ◆ November 25 & 26—Thanksgiving Open House
Event, pg. 17
- ◆ December 17 & 18—Christmas Bird Count
Citizen Science Field Event, pg. 27
- ◆ December 25—Closed

CDRI's Lecture Series

Black Bears of the Big Bend

Extirpated from Trans-Pecos, Texas, during the early 20th century, black bears naturally re-colonized Big Bend National Park beginning in the 1980s. Now frequently seen in the Chisos Mountains, bears are an important component of the Big Bend ecosystem and a major attraction to park visitors. NPS research and management programs are focused upon preserving the small park bear population and preventing bear/human conflict. However, until additional historic habitat in west Texas and northern Mexico is again occupied by bears, the future of Big Bend bears remain at risk.

NPS Wildlife Biologist Raymond Skiles' presentation will illustrate the Mexican black bear's quest to again thrive in Texas, what we know about the bears in Big Bend, and what it will take to preserve the small and tenuous population.



Raymond Skiles
February 24; 7 PM
Sul Ross State
University (SRSU)
Alpine, TX
Lawrence Hall
Rm. 300



Robert Potts
Janet Adams
March 10; 7 PM
SRSU; Lawrence
Hall, Rm. 300

Water Conservation Issues in West Texas

Do you know where our groundwater comes from, or even, technically, what groundwater means? What kind of aquifers exist or what type we have in west Texas? What new legislation is being passed or what your rights and responsibilities are regarding local groundwater issues?

Join Robert Potts of the Dixon Water Foundation and Janet Adams, TECO's Manager for the Jeff Davis County and Presidio County Underground Water Conservation Districts, for a joint presentation addressing some of these questions. They will also describe a few innovative projects—like the use of sustainable cattle ranching practices patterned after historic buffalo movements which help to refill aquifers and improve water absorption.

CDRI's Lecture Series

Gardens through the Ages

Can you imagine life without gardens or gardens without life?

In this illustrated talk, Cathryn Hoyt will take you on a tour of gardens through time and space—from the formal gardens of ancient Egypt to the informal gardens of the Nature Center. Along the way, we'll explore when plant parts got their names, why garden fashions changed through time, and how you can have a cutting-edge garden now.

Please note this lecture is on a Tuesday instead of the usual Thursday.



Dr. Cathryn Hoyt
April 19; 7 PM
SRSU; Lawrence
Hall, Rm. 309

Migratory Cave Swallows

In the late 1970s, very little was known about the Cave Swallow. In fact, it was one of only a few neotropical migrants for which the winter range was unknown. Biologist Steve West set out to learn more about these birds in 1978 when he banded 50 Cave Swallows. Little did he know that his banding efforts would provide answers to questions he didn't know to ask, the assistance of over 6000 volunteers, and a 33-year association with this fascinating bird.

Join us as Steve shares his story of the migratory Cave Swallow in honor of Migratory Bird Day.



Steve West
May 12; 7 PM
SRSU; Lawrence
Hall, Rm. 300

CDRI's Lecture Series

Who's Helping Whom?

Native Plants and Native Bees

In celebration of National Pollinator Week, Dr. Jack Neff of the Central Texas Melittological Institute will join us to speak on pollination biology. One aspect that fascinates Dr. Neff is the way in which plants manipulate floral visitors. Listen as he tells us of the complex relationships between plants and pollinators. He has studied the pollination of native plants and the biology of native Texas bees—hint, *not* honey bees—since the late 70s and has recently been documenting many undescribed species of Texas bees.



Dr. Jack Neff
June 23; 7 PM
SRSU; Rm. TBA

Recent Taxonomic Changes Relating to the Chihuahuan Desert Herpetofauna & Status of Species and Subspecies in Modern Phylogenetic Systematics



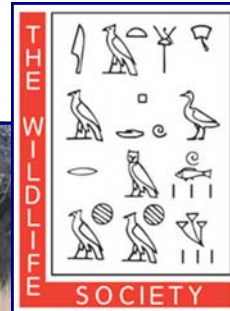
Dr. Jerry D. Johnson
July 14; 7 PM
SRSU; Rm. TBA

What's in a name? Join us and Dr. Jerry D. Johnson, Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), to find out. He will discuss recent taxonomic changes related to the Herpetofauna of the Chihuahuan Desert and how modern phylogenetic systematics has changed the taxonomic perception of species and subspecies categories in theory and practice.

Dr. Johnson has served on the CDRI Board of Scientists since 1991 and as Vice Chairman, Vice President, and President of the Texas Herpetological Society. He is the Director of UTEP's 40,000-acre Indio Mountains Research Station located in Hudspeth County, southwest of Van Horn.

CDRI's Lecture Series

North American Model of Wildlife Conservation



In the mid to late 1800s sportsmen began to realize that declines in wildlife in this country due to market and unregulated hunting were a threat to the existence of many game and non-game species. Knowing that action must be taken to stem such declines, hunter conservationists and others, led by stalwart conservationists such as Theodore Roosevelt, began to develop legislation that would ensure our wildlife heritage would persist well into the future. Important pieces of legislation, such as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act), helped form our current model of wildlife management. Contemporary conservationists have come to term this model the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

Dr. Selma Glasscock, Assistant Director of the Welder Wildlife Foundation, will join us to talk about the history of the North American Model and two of its

basic tenets—that fish and wildlife do not belong to any select group of individuals, but to all citizens of the United States, and that by law our wildlife resources are to be held in trust and managed in such a way that their populations will be forever sustainable. She will also discuss contemporary concerns regarding the viability of the model that are surfacing because of changes in human lifestyles.

Dr. Glasscock's research interests focus on wildlife habitat management, systems ecology, and conservation education. She has served as president for the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Texas Outdoor Education Association, and the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society.

Dr. Selma Glasscock
October 27; 7 PM
SRSU, Rm. TBA

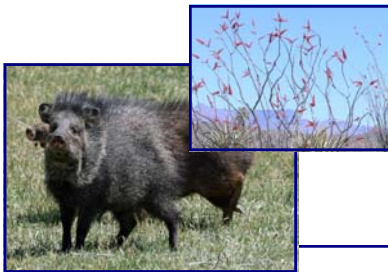
CDRI's Symposium

7th Symposium on the Natural Resources of the Chihuahuan Desert Region

Plans Are Underway!

First held in 1974, the symposium brings together researchers, students, land managers, educators, and individuals to exchange ideas; provide updates on current research; and participate in discussions on future research and management needs.

Proposals will be accepted beginning in June, 2011. Visit www.cdri.org in the spring or contact Dr. Cathryn A. Hoyt at choyt@cdri.org for more information and the requested format for abstracts.

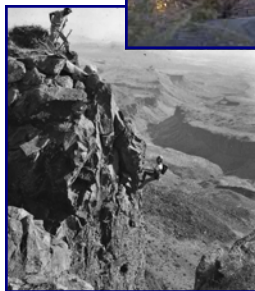


Submission of Abstracts

Beginning in June, abstracts for oral or poster presentations may be submitted in English or Spanish. Presenters must register for the conference. Twenty-

minute time slots will include 15 minutes for oral presentations and 3 to 5 minutes for questions.

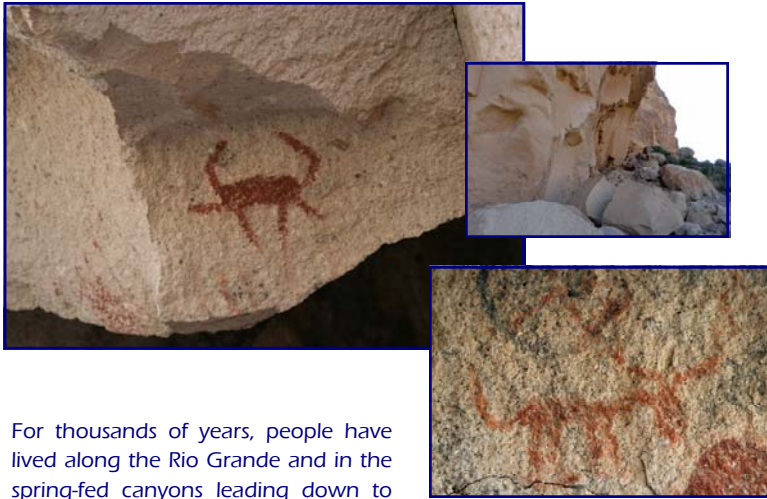
Abstracts will be accepted through November 4.



February 16–18, 2012
Morgan University Center
(formerly the Espino University Center)
Sul Ross State University
Registration Fees and Deadlines TBA

Explore the Desert!

Pictographs of Big Bend Ranch State Park



For thousands of years, people have lived along the Rio Grande and in the spring-fed canyons leading down to the river. They left their stories painted on the rock walls in a visual language that we struggle to decipher—but still find fascinating.

During this field trip, we'll hike into a canyon seldom seen by visitors. Along the way, we'll explore the plants, animals, and geology of the canyon with Texas Parks & Wildlife Interpretive Ranger Blaine Hall.

Our ultimate destination? A spectacular set of pictographs representing humans on horseback, longhorn cattle, mission buildings, and other evidence of the coming of Europeans to the Big Bend region.

The hike is approximately six miles

round trip and covers some fairly rough terrain. You'll need to bring lunch, plenty of water, and wear sturdy shoes and sun protection. We'll leave from the trail head at 9 AM and return before dark.

A portion of the registration fees goes to support Big Bend Ranch State Park. The trip is limited to 15 people.

If you would like to stay overnight those accommodations should be made on your own prior to the field-trip.

February 12; 9 AM

\$65 members

\$75 nonmembers

Explore the Desert!

Birding the Devils River



John Karges
Dr. Selma Glasscock
April 29–May 1

Cost w/Bunkhouse
Accommodations:
\$90/\$115
Cost w/Campsite
Accommodations: \$70/\$95

includes food & housing
limited to 15

The Devils River is a gem of Texas. Its waters, not easily accessible, bubble up at the headwaters—crisp and clean—and flow almost untouched by the human hand into the Amistad Reservoir, an impoundment of the Rio Grande. Habitat along the river provides a home to such bird species as the Green Kingfisher, Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Kiskadee, and the Black-Capped Vireo. If you are a birder or simply a lover of nature, don't miss the opportunity to join us as we bird the Devils River. John Karges, of The Nature Conservancy, and Dr. Selma Glasscock, of the Welder Wildlife Foundation, will be our birding guides. Bunkhouse accommodations will be available on the 29th and 30th

for up to 7 people on a first come first serve basis; seven campsites will also be available.



Explore the Desert!



May 14: 7:30 AM
(in Marfa)
\$35 members
\$40 nonmembers

International Migratory Bird Day at Alamito Creek Preserve

In celebration of one of the most important and spectacular natural events in the Americas—the annual bird migration—the CDRI and the Dixon Water Foundation will offer a birding day trip lead by avid birder Carol Edwards to the Alamito Creek Preserve, south of Marfa, TX. This beautiful creek is home to many bird species and will present a wonderful opportunity to see migrants passing through and to practice your bird identification skills.

Change Your Perspective: Climb Mount Livermore!

With such a great response to our hike series in 2010, we have decided to offer a hike up Mount Livermore again in 2011. Participants and leaders will carpool to Bridge Gap, then make the approximately 3-mile round trip to the summit and back. You'll gain about 1000ft. in elevation. John Karges, a conservation biologist with The Nature Conservancy, will be our guide. Wear sturdy boots and bring water and a lunch; this hike will end by late afternoon.



John Karges
September 10; 8AM
\$50 members
\$65 nonmembers



The Guadalupe in the Fall

Celebrate Fall with a hike in spectacular Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Our easy to moderate trek will take us to where the fall color is, depending on weather conditions and annual precipitation. Pack your lunch, binoculars, and most importantly, your camera for this trip. We'll spend the day enjoying the beauty nature offers.

Participate in the Photographic Scavenger Hunt Contest! We'll provide a list of images to hunt for during our hike and you'll post your best photographs via the CDRI's Flickr website. The finalists in each category and the Grand Prize Winner will be chosen by a panel of CDRI staff and volunteers. The Grand Prize Winner will appear on the cover of *The Chihuahuan Desert Discovery*. Visit www.cdri.org for details.

October 29
8 AM (MST)
\$50 members
\$65 nonmembers

Annual Events



A feast for the senses:
colors, shapes, and
tastes that mean
spring is on its way!

Cactus & Succulent Festival

Each spring our cacti collection becomes a riot of color, scent, and texture. Take time to tour the cactus and succulent greenhouse and experience this annual explosion of yellows, oranges, purples, reds, pinks, and greens. Then return to the Visitors' Center and purchase cacti for your very own collection!

March 12–19

Further programs to be announced.

Native Plant Sale

Members' Night

As a member, you are invited to choose from the very best selection of plants during our special Members' Night event on Friday. There will be plant experts on hand to answer all your questions and light refreshments to enjoy as you shop.

Not a member? You can join Friday night, shop, and pay for your membership all at this very special event.

Annual Native Plant Sale

The plant sale continues Saturday with plenty of plants to choose from. Our plant experts and volunteers will be on hand to help you select plants, answer any questions that you may have, and tally up your tickets. Be sure to check our website (www.cdri.org) in early April for a preliminary list of plants that will be available during the sale.



Members' Night

April 22; 4–7 PM

Plant Sale

April 23; 9 AM–5 PM

The Nature Center will be closed until 4 PM that Friday in preparation for the event.

Annual Events

Annual BBO & Benefit Auction



As always, the BBO and Benefit Auction will be a fun, friendly event to showcase the Nature Center and our work in education, research, and conservation. The auction will feature original artwork, unique field trips, and treasures of the desert highlighting the talents, knowledge, and services of our community. We hope that you will join

the party and take this opportunity to support the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute during our major fundraising event.



August 6
4 PM

Please note this year's earlier date!
Register at 432-364-2499 or mbrady@cdri.org.

Thanksgiving Open House

Our house is your house! We're opening the Nature Center to everyone, with no admissions, on the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Come create holiday memories (and even traditions) as you experience the desert in her winter garb. See what has changed with the season, get outside and be active, and share one of your favorite places with your friends and family.



November 25, 26
9 AM–5 PM
admission-free!

Family Fun

Guided Botanical Garden Walks National Public Gardens Day



In honor of National Public Gardens Day, take a naturalist-led walk through our botanical gardens. Learn how an Apache plume is related to a garden rose, why cacti have spines, or how plants and insects work together. The guided walks will take approximately 45 minutes.

May 7; 11 AM & 1 PM; \$7.50

Evening Programs in July: Desert after Dark Guided Discovery Hikes & The Summer Constellations, Saturn, and the Milky Way



Do you enjoy the night life?

The desert comes alive after dark—up in the sky and down here on Earth. Come see what's moving!

During the night hikes, Nature Center staff and volunteers will take you on a nocturnal excursion into Modesta Canyon to discover what goes on after the sun goes down.

Then, after two of those hikes, David Oesper and the Big Bend Astronomers will show you why the brilliant night skies of the Davis

Mountains are so famous. Join them to explore the constellations, the star clusters and nebulas of the summer sky, and the planet Saturn with its spectacular rings. As you learn to use telescopes and binoculars, we'll trace the Milky Way from horizon to horizon and watch the Delta Aquarid and Alpha Capricornid meteor showers. If you'd like to sit back and relax to watch the meteors, especially on July 30, bring a lawn chair. All ages are welcome.

Saturday Nights in July
\$5 each person
preregistration recommended

Hikes: July 9, 16, 23, 30
(we'll leave promptly at 8:30 PM)

Stargazing: July 16, 30
(beginning after the hike)

Family Fun

Mission Possible

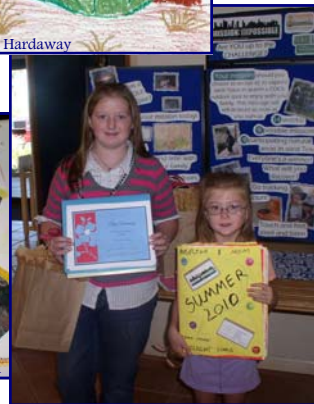
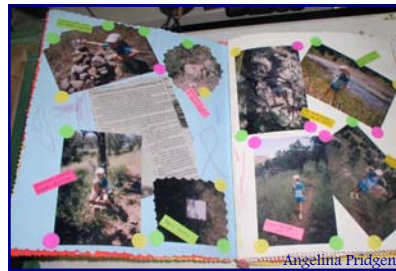
West Texas is full of amazing opportunities to introduce your family to the wonders of nature. Join the CDRI and the Texas Forest Service for Mission Possible, a challenge for families to discover nature. You and your kids will explore west Texas parks and recreation areas and compete to complete missions such as most parks visited, best picture, and best story at west Texas parks and recreation areas. Kids will create booklets (to be stamped at each park), take pictures, keep a scrapbook/nature journal, and write about what they see and experience.

No competition is necessary, but we would like to see and hear about your adventures during our wrap-up event.

Kick Off : May 7
Closing Date: TBA

Sign up at the kickoff event at the Nature Center on May 7 or online at <http://naturechallenge.tamu.edu>.

A limited number of state park passes are available, thanks to a Texas Parks & Wildlife Department COOP Grant. For availability, contact Jessica Glasscock at 432-364-2499 or education@cdri.org.



Offered in
conjunction
with:



Family Fun

International Migratory Bird Day

In conjunction with the Environment for the Americas, a nonprofit organization working to increase awareness of birds and their conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere, we're offering several programs this year in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Choose a lecture and a birding adventure, or bring the family out to the Nature Center for bird house making and hummingbird banding.

- Migratory Bird Day Lecture: Swallows
May 12, pg. 9
- Alamito Creek Field Trip
May 14, pg. 14
- Build (or Paint!) a Bird House
May 14, this page
- Hummingbird Banding
May 14, this page



May 14; 8:30 AM
Free w/admissions
at the Nature Center

Hummingbird Banding

Local ornithologist Kelly Bryan continues collecting data on these tiny gems throughout west Texas, including those that visit the oak-juniper woodlands and mixed grass prairie of the Nature Center.

Prepare to be wowed as he demonstrates banding the delicate birds, explains the type of information he collects, and discusses the results of his study.



Build (or Paint!) a Bird House

Every bird needs a home, so why not make or decorate one? Drop by and choose the style you like, the bird type you'd like to build for, or even the amount of "building" you'd like to do. Supplies, including a selection of gourds, pre-cut lumber, and re-

May 14; 9:30–11 AM
\$15 per house
at the Nature Center

ycled materials will be provided.

Family Fun

Pollinator Palooza!

June 25; 10 AM–3 PM

This summer, the Nature Center is hosting Pollinator Palooza, a family field day in celebration of National Pollinator Week. Children and adults will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of naturalist-led activities designed to increase awareness of the diversity of pollinators and the knowledge to support native pollinators at home.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to build your very own bee house and get your hands dirty while helping the CDRI restore a prairie meadow with nectar and host plants to attract butterflies!

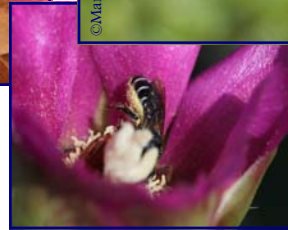
Drop-in for an hour or two or bring a lunch and stay for the day.



Pete Szilagyi



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Pollinator Palooza program fees are waived, thanks to a Texas Parks & Wildlife Department COOP Grant.



Dr. Jennifer Jordan
October 28; 7:30 PM
\$10 per family

What Lurks in the Dark of Night? Halloween Program

Spooky stories, flickering campfire light, noises in the dark, a make-and-take activity, and a walk into the unknown—how else would you celebrate a hallowed eve?

Join Jennifer and other volunteers as you and your munchkins experience Halloween with all your senses. (Yes, taste, too!)

Wear costumes you can walk in and dress warmly. Open to children up to 10 years old.

Nature Camps for Kids

Critter Club: Summer Day Camp for Preschoolers

Kids love day camp! Where else do they get to go on walks, do and make things, and tell stories and read books—all centered around a different nature theme each day?

Early exposure to nature can result in a life-time of benefits and memories—from inquisitiveness and focus in school to appreciation, action, and even social interaction later in life.

This preschool enrichment program is offered for children aged 4 to 6. Limited to ten children.



June 20–24; 9 AM–12 PM

\$80 members

\$100 nonmembers

Desert Rat Club Summer Day Camp for Elementary-aged Kids

Continuing the foundation of fun, exposure and learning set forth in the Critter Club, Desert Rat Club participants will explore the flora, fauna, and geology of the natural world on a slightly more sophisticated level. Kids will learn about the desert region and grow to appreciate nature through walks, journaling, careful observation, and experimentation. Emphasis will be placed on encouraging participants to think like scientists as they explore the natural world.



Ages 7 to 10; limited to twelve.
Participation in Critter Club is

July 18–22

9 AM–12 PM

\$80 members

\$100 nonmembers

For School & Youth Groups

Chihuahuan Desert Field School: A Science Enrichment Program

Year-round
\$7.50 per person

Bring your students and youth groups to discover the amazing diversity of life and habitats found in the Chihuahuan Desert region. Visit our canyon spring microhabitat and learn about water in the desert. Take a guided tour of our mining heritage exhibit. Visit our cactus greenhouse and see the variety of ways that cacti have adapted to live in a harsh desert area. Learn how different plants and animals have adapted to live in an arid environment where water is scarce. Walk our geologic timeline and discover the local geology of the Davis Mountains. See up close how different geologic formations are created and destroyed over time.

Ask about the availability of partial scholarships for local schools, funded in part by Bridgestone Firestone and members of the CDRI.



All of our science education programs are TEKS/STAR aligned and adaptable to different grades, groups, and skill levels. Contact Jessica Glasscock at 432-364-2499 or education@cdri.org or visit our website for more information.



Ask about the availability of partial scholarships for local schools, funded in part by Bridgestone Firestone and members of the CDRI.

The Earth Rocks!!! A Celebration of Earth Science Week

The 6th annual Earth Rocks!!! science field day for 4th- and 5th graders will be here sooner than you think! Once again, we'll offer hands-on activities, exhibits, and guided tours to introduce and reinforce important basic concepts in geology, biology, energy, and earth science. All activities are designed around TEKS/STAR guidelines to improve understanding and retention and to support science teachers' lesson plans.

October 13
9 AM–2 PM

\$7.50 per child

Register your class with Jessica Glasscock at 432-364-2499 or education@cdri.org today. Limited to 300 students.

Not a teacher? Volunteer! See page 24 to help.

Learn & Share: Be a Volunteer



Guided Hikes, Site Tours, or Naturalist Programs

We're looking for enthusiastic naturalists! What makes a great memorable experience at a Nature Center? Someone who encourages excitement and learning for people of all ages—in short, an interpreter to help open our eyes and hold our attention. If you want to plant that seed with school children, adults, or families, through programs, walks or hikes, contact Jessica Glasscock at education@cdri.org or 432-364-2499 to find out how.

The Earth Rocks!!! Volunteer Orientation Day

You know you want to help. You know you're gonna help. Now you want to know exactly *how* you're gonna help. This is the day to come and familiarize yourself with all the little pieces of your station and get your final questions answered. Contact Jessica Glasscock at education@cdri.org or 432-364-2499 to find out more about helping 4th and 5th-graders learn about the earth sciences.



October 12
Times TBA



3 days a week?
every Thursday?
afternoons?

Visitor Services

Like to talk to people who're interested in the things you're interested in—like geology, plants, birds and wildlife in the Chihuahuan Desert? Comfortable orienting people at the Nature Center? (Yes, the gardens are to the left, and the bathrooms are down the hall.) We'll give you all the info you'll need to answer visitor questions about the CDRI, the Nature Center, and the Chihuahuan Desert region. And even teach you how to operate the cash register.

Learn & Share: Be a Volunteer

- El Paso Archeological Society's Festival
- Outdoor Expo at Sul Ross
- Big Bend Gem & Mineral Show
- Earth Day at Sul Ross
- Terlingua Green Scene
- Coolest Fourth, Fort Davis
- Conference for the Association of Science Teachers
- Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition Conference

Outreach Spokesperson

Travel to, attend, and engage the public at one (or more) of the many, mission-related events the CDRI participates in. Regional conferences, local events—we even have a booth at the Fourth of July! Together we'll create a traveling trunk of goodies and handouts, a backdrop of photos and talking points, and maybe even a small activity. You provide the presence and enthusiasm; and, voila!, you've got yourself a program!

Party (or Conference) Prep & Event Hosting

Decorations, delicious finger foods artfully arranged (not to mention baked), and friendly faces to greet you—they all seem so effortless when you're a guest, but it takes many hands behind the scenes to make a great event happen. Examples include setting up tents and tables; stuffing conference bags; shopping to feed 300 people; baking holiday treats; and tallying cacti and plants for patrons.



Cactus & Succulent Festival
Native Plant Sale
BBQ
Symposium
Thanksgiving Open House



Citizen Science Projects

Citizen scientists are average people working to better understand ecology and population dynamics of flora and fauna by generating vital information from counts and monitoring projects. Join staff and volunteers as we collect data and monitor our corner of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert region.

Visit our website, www.cdri.org, for more information about ongoing research projects at the Nature Center.

Bird & Butterfly Counts, pg. 27

Citizen Science

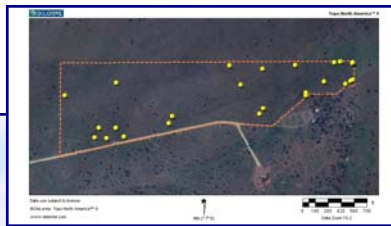
Why Counting Counts

Citizen science takes many forms, and non-scientists contribute to science every day. From bird counting to collecting rainfall data and establishing patterns; from participating in the Horned Lizard Watch to watching and recording the same hummingbird's return to your feeder year after year—such involvement supports long-term research and informs science, management, and even legislation.

In recent years, the CDRI has focused its citizen science projects at the Nature Center and around Fort Davis:

pollinator censuses, bird counts, Pollard butterfly walks, and a breeding bird census monitoring the effects of our grassland restoration project.

What do you want to be a part of? Visit us at www.cdri.org for information.



Citizen Science



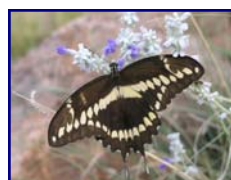
Great Backyard Bird Count
February 19; 7:30 AM
Fall Bird Count
September 24; 7:30 AM

Bird Counts

Birds are amazing and fascinating. They are also the proverbial canary in a coal mine when it comes to shifting landscapes. The more site-specific data as to who, where, when, and how many, the more we can add to a growing body of research. Consistent and ongoing counts and monitoring projects are vital to understanding of bird ecology and population dynamics. Won't you join us?

Butterfly Counts

The Fort Davis Butterfly Count Circle is centered on the Jeff Davis County Courthouse and extends from the CDRI's Nature Center to the McDonald Observatory. Join fellow butterfly enthusiasts to conduct these seasonal counts of our butterflies. We'll focus on the Nature Center, but if there are enough participants, we'll cover the entire count circle. All ages and skill levels are encouraged and participation is free. Contact Cathy Hoyt at 432-364-2499 or choyt@cdri.org.



March 12
July 1
September 17
all at 10 AM



Fort Davis; December 17
Balmorhea; December 18

\$5 for all field
observers over 18

Christmas Bird Count

Be a part of the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count—one of the largest and longest-running volunteer science efforts in the world. Each year, local volunteers collect data in the Davis Mountains and in Balmorhea during this international birding event, helping to monitor the status of resident and migratory birds across the Western Hemisphere. Everyone is invited, and birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. Please contact Marty Hansen at birdsinfight@mac.com for information.

National Events

National Events: Be a Part of Something Big

Participate, volunteer, appreciate. Learn about a topic that interests you; give your time and skills to support a cause that matters to you; and share your passions with those you care about. Whether it is through a planned program or a quiet, thoughtful afternoon, take a minute of your year to be involved in important, mission-related events, along with hundreds of thousands of like-minded people.



Cornell & Audubon's Great Backyard Bird Count



February 18–21
Bird Count, pg. 27

www.birdsource.org/gbbc

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a national birding event sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. The event engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of which birds are where across the continent. Visit their website for photo contest details, activities for kids, and the science behind the count.

National Events

Don't forget to schedule
your annual well check-up!
www.wellowner.org

March 6–12

Lecture, pg. 8

www.ngwa.org



National Groundwater Awareness Week

You know groundwater is important, but what do you really know about the responsible development, management, or use of this precious resource? For more than a decade, the National Groundwater Association has been providing guidance to members, government representatives, and the public for sound scientific, economic, and beneficial development, protection, and management of the world's groundwater. Visit their website for more information—whether you're a professional, an individual, or even a child looking to learn more about groundwater issues.

Earth Day

Now in its 41st year, Earth Day was founded on the belief that all people have a moral right to a healthy, sustainable environment.

The Earth Day Network's 2011 events and programs will again be organized around A Billion Acts of Green—personal, organizational, and corporate pledges to live and act sustainably. The campaign is the largest environmental service campaign in the world. Make a commitment to better *your* environment.

April 22

www.earthday.org



- Migratory Bird Day Lecture: Swallows
May 12, pg. 9
- Alamito Creek Field Trip
May 14, pg. 15
- Build (or Paint!) a Bird House
May 14, pg. 20
- Hummingbird Banding
May 14, pg. 20

International Migratory Bird Day

IMBD is observed in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, to bring attention to the spectacular migration of hundreds of thousands of birds. Sponsored by Environment for the Americas, most Bird Day events in North America take place in April and May, encouraging the public awareness and concern which are crucial components of migratory bird conservation.

"Every day is bird day!" www.birdday.org/birdday

National Events



National Public Gardens Day

Officially, May 6th is National Public Garden Day; the Nature Center will offer walks on Saturday, May 7th. The day was designed by the American Public Garden Association to raise awareness of America's public gardens and their important roles in our lives, including promoting environmental stewardship and awareness, plant and water conservation, and education nationwide.



May 7; **Walk, pg. 18**
www.publicgardens.org

National Pollinator Week

Sponsored by the Pollinator Partnership and the North American Protection Campaign, National Pollinator Week is designated each year by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations.



Celebrate and learn more about the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, bats, butterflies, and beetles—they support terrestrial wildlife, a healthy watershed, and our economic and physical well-being.

June 20–26

Lecture, pg. 10
Family Field Day, pg. 21

www.pollinator.org

Smithsonian Museum Day

The Nature Center, a museum?

You betcha! Collections, exhibits, interpretation, programs, excitement, enjoyment, and learning—what more could you ask for? Support your local museum (or Nature Center!) by visiting on the Smithsonian's Annual Museum Day. Free passes are available online, as is a list of participating museums.



September 24

microsite.smithsonianmag.com/museumday

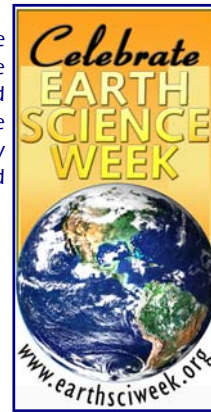
National Events

National Earth Science Week

The American Geological Institute sponsors Earth Science Week to promote understanding and appreciation of the value of Earth Science research and its applications and relevance to our daily lives. Use the week and the website to find classroom activities and toolkits, enter photography and essay contests, and look for scholarship and career resources.

Objectives are

- To encourage students in discovering the Earth sciences.
- To remind people that Earth science is all around us.
- To encourage Earth stewardship through understanding.
- To motivate geoscientists to share their knowledge and enthusiasm about the Earth.



October 9–15

Field Day, pg. 23

www.earthsciweek.org

December 17,18

Bird Counts, pg. 27

www.audubon.org

Christmas Bird Count

Since 1900, birders across the continent have spent three weeks in the middle of winter looking for birds. And not only looking, but tallying, keeping records, and taking pictures for the National Audubon Society—all as a means of collecting information used by scientists and conservationists.



Ask participants why they trudge around in cold, often wet and windy weather, and they'll answer it is the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature.

Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center
P.O. Box 905
Fort Davis, TX 79734

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



open Monday–Saturday, 9 AM–5 PM
432-364-2499, phone
432-364-2686, fax
www.cdri.org

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