

12th Annual Kern Valley Bioregions Festival Weldon / Kernville - Kern County - California

April 29 - 30, 2006

Come celebrate Spring in the Kern River Valley

Welcome to the 12th Annual Kern River Valley Bioregions Festival. All weekend find many events at AUDUBON-CALIFORNIA'S Kern River Preserve, 18747 Hwy 178, Weldon, bird walks led by Kerncrest Audubon Society volunteers, bird banding with the Southern Sierra Research Station, and information booths and exhibits are found in the large, shaded front yard of Preserve Headquarters. The Bioregions Festival exhibit fair in Circle Park, Kernville is held on Saturday only. The Trout Festival at the Kern River Fish Hatchery will be on Saturday only. All of these events are free. For more information visit <http://kern.audubon.org/>

In addition, all day fee-based birding and natural history field trips coordinated by Bob Barnes & Associates and led by expert birders and naturalists are available for reservation Friday-Monday. Or on Sunday you could run/walk at the community fundraising 5K/10K.

Friday, April 28th

7 am - Conclusion **Highway 155 Birding Transect: Kern National Wildlife Refuge to the Kern River Valley**. Led by *Gary Potter*. Meet at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge located 19 miles west of Delano at the west end of Garces Highway. **FEE**

10 am - Conclusion **Kern River Valley Spring Birding**. Led by *Bob Barnes*. Meet at Kern River Preserve Headquarters in Weldon for carpooling. **FEE**

SATURDAY, April 29th

5 am - Conclusion **Birding Butterbredt Spring**. Led by *Michael McQuerrey* or *John Wilson*. Meet at Kern River Preserve Headquarters for carpooling. Bring food & water to last all day. **FEE**

7 am - Noon **Bird Banding Demonstration at Kern River Preserve**. Join *Ashley Sutton* and volunteers from the Southern Sierra Research Station. Learn how banding is used to conserve birds, listen to the heartbeat of a bird and otherwise observe birds up close & personal. **FREE**

7 am - Conclusion **Natural History of the Kern River Watershed, Part One**. Led by *Nature Ali*. Meet at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters. Eastern portion of the Kern River Valley, Great Basin, Great Valley, Mojave Desert, desert chaparral, and dry conifer forest habitats. Expected end time around dark, but if the weather is good, night owling may end the day. **FEE**

7 am - Conclusion **Kern River Valley Spring Birding**. Led by *Bob Barnes* and *Gary Potter*. Meet at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters. **FEE**

7:30 am - 9:30 am **Kern River Preserve Beginning Birdwatching & Bird Banding Demonstration**. Led by *Kerncrest Audubon Society* volunteers and *Ashley Sutton* of the Southern Sierra Research Station. Meet at the Information table at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters in Weldon. **FREE**

10 am - 4 pm **Children's Activities at the Kern River Preserve**. *Charlotte Goodson* Nature crafts, storytelling, live snakes & frogs. **FREE**

10 am - 4 pm **KERN RIVER PRESERVE FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS**, Kern River Preserve, Weldon: Children's activities, Information, Educational & Interactive Exhibits, Field Trip Departures, Live animals, and more. **FREE** (Donations welcome).

10 am - 4 pm **Kern Valley Museum**. **FREE** (Donations welcome).

10 am - 4 pm **Live Native Amphibians & Reptiles**, *HerpEcology*. Kern River Preserve Headquarters. **FREE**

10 am - 4 pm **Kern River Fish Hatchery Trout Festival**. Kernville. **FREE** (Donations welcome).

10 am - 4 pm **Paiute Nuui Cunni Cultural Center** (Native American) French Gulch, Wofford Heights. **FREE** (Donations welcome).

10 am - 5 pm **CIRCLE PARK FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS**, Circle Park, Kernville: Information, Educational & Interactive Exhibits. Informational displays, live animals, "Mama's Mid-Life Crisis" music, and more. **FREE**.

Noon - 1 pm **No-Host PICNIC**. Bring a picnic lunch and join staff and volunteers in the Courtyard at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters. **FREE**

1 pm - 3 pm **Musical Entertainment OUT OF THE BLUE** - *Michael Gallagher* and *Pat Seamount* are "Out of the Blue," playing an eclectic mix of music including blue grass, folk, rock, old standards from the 1920s, and nature theme songs, vocals accompany acoustic guitar and mandolin. Kern River Preserve Headquarters. **FREE** (Donations welcome).

SUNDAY, April 30th

5 am - Conclusion **Birding Butterbredt Spring & East Kern Desert Oases**. Led by *Michael McQuerrey* and *Gary File*. Meet at Kern River Preserve Headquarters in Weldon for carpooling. **FEE**

7 am - Noon **Bird Banding Demonstration at Kern River Preserve**. Join *Ashley Sutton* and volunteers from the Southern Sierra

Research Station. Learn how banding is used to conserve birds, listen to the heartbeat of a bird and otherwise observe birds up close & personal. *FREE*

7 am - Conclusion **Natural History of the Kern River Watershed, Part Two**. Led by *Alison Sheehey*. Western portion of the Kern River Watershed, habitats to be visited, interior chaparral, moist conifer forest, giant sequoia groves, upper savannah and oak woodlands. Expected end time around dark, but if the weather is good, night owling may end the day. Begins at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters. *FEE*

7 am - Conclusion **Kern River Valley Spring Birding**. Led by *Gary Potter*. Meet at Kern River Preserve Headquarters. *FEE*

7 am - Conclusion **Kern River Valley Spring Birding**. Led by *John Schmitt*. Meet at Kernville's Riverside Park. *FEE*

7:30 am - 9:30 am **Kern River Preserve Beginning Birdwatching & Bird Banding Demonstration**. Led by *Kerncrest Audubon Society* volunteers and *Ashley Sutton* of the Southern Sierra Research Station. Meet at the Information table at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters in Weldon. *FREE*

8 am 10 am **Bioregions 5K/10K Run/Walk**. Start at Oddfellows Hall on Tobias St. Kernville. *FEE*

10 am - 4 pm **Children's Activities at the Kern River Preserve**. Nature crafts, storytelling, live snakes & frogs. *FREE*

10 am - 4 pm **Kern River Preserve Headquarters**. Kern River Preserve, Weldon: Children's activities, Information, Educational & Interactive Exhibits, Field Trip Departures, Live animals, and more. *FREE* (Donations welcome).

10 am - 4 pm **Kern Valley Museum**. 49 Big Blue Road, Kernville (1 short block from Circle Park). *FREE* (Donations welcome).

10 am - 4 pm **Live Native Amphibians & Reptiles**. Kern River Preserve. Educational presentations throughout the day by *HerpEcology*. On display will be a wide variety of California reptiles and amphibians. *FREE*

10 am - 4 pm **Paiute Nuui Cunn Cultural Center** (Native American) French Gulch, Wofford Heights. For more information, call (760) 549-0800. *FREE* (Donations welcome).

Noon - 1 pm **No-Host PICNIC**. Bring a picnic lunch and join staff and volunteers in the Courtyard at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters. *FREE*

1 pm - 3 pm **Musical Entertainment OUT OF THE BLUE** - *Michael Gallagher* and *Pat Seamount* are "Out of the Blue," playing an eclectic mix of music including blue grass, folk, rock, old standards from the 1920s, and nature theme songs, vocals accompany acoustic guitar and mandolin. Kern River Preserve Headquarters. *FREE* (Donations welcome).

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm **Nature Walk**. Learn about the plants, trees, birds and animals that are all part of the Kern River Preserve. *FREE*

Monday, May 1st

6:30 am - 3 pm **Kern River Valley to Kern National Wildlife Refuge via the Kern River Canyon**. Led by *Gary Potter*. Meet at Kern River Preserve Headquarters. *FEE*

10 am - Conclusion **Kern River Valley Spring Birding**. Led by *Bob Barnes*. Meet at Kern River Preserve Headquarters. *FEE*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Weather: Weather in the Kern Valley in late April is usually spectacular (sunny, 65-80° F daytime highs), but it can be variable. On mountain trips prepare for very cool to freezing weather. For your comfort, we suggest bringing water, snacks, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, jacket for cool weather, gloves, and sturdy shoes (waterproof boots may be handy in riparian areas).

Fees/Registration: There is no general entrance fee to attend the Kern Valley Bioregions Festival. Vendor fees are waved at Circle Park but are 10% of net or \$100 whichever is less for booths selling merchandise at the Kern River Preserve.

LODGINGS become very crowded in the Kern River Valley by late April. Be sure to make your reservations sooner rather than later so you have a comfortable place to stay each night during the Bioregions Festival. see www.natureali.org/accommodations.htm

5K/10K Fundraising Run and Walk - Registration form found at <http://natureali.org/5-10K.htm>. Call Darby Vreven 760-376-1067.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

All field trips are limited to twenty or less participants... usually ten to fifteen. Carpooling is encouraged - be sure to start the day with a full tank of gas before heading out! Participants should pack a lunch and drinks for the day. All field trips held rain or shine.

FIELD TRIP COST is \$40 for one up-to-all-day trip, \$70 for two days, and \$100 for four days. **PROCEEDS** will go to Highway 178 Corridor, Kern River Valley, and Kern River Preserve Stewardship Endowment Funds.

PRE-REGISTRATION is REQUIRED by e-mail: bbarnes@lightspeed.net (Bob Barnes), regular mail: 1009 Las Cruces Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, or telephone: 760-375-6140 (24 hours answering machine). Spaces for trip selection will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

PAYMENT by cash or check is to be given to field trip leaders at the start of each BioFest field trip.

A big thank you to all of the 2006 Festival Sponsors: Audubon-California (Kern River Preserve), Friends of the Kern River Preserve, HerpEcology, KernCrest Audubon Society, Kern River Valley Revitalization, Inc., Monache Intertribal Association, Nature Alley, Southern Sierra Research Center, USDA- Forest Service - Sequoia National Forest, Valley Wild.