

STEBBINS COLD CANYON –UC Davis Natural Reserve– NATURE OUTINGS SPRING/SUMMER 2010

It is the goal of the NATURE OUTINGS program to offer a diverse schedule to the campus and local communities. We hope you find something of interest, something to help you experience the reserve and continue to develop your relationship with the natural world.

Most outings are interactive and experiential in nature.

In addition to Stebbins Cold Canyon outings, we offer at the opportunity to experience Bobcat Ranch, the Cahill property and an overnight outing at Angelo Coast Range Reserve.

Special Kid's Outings: Check out the Nature's Theater schedule!

NEW: Suggested outing donation of \$5 per person (or \$10 per family) for most outings.

Please RSVP for each outing you are interested in attending. Most outings are limited to 15 participants; they often fill up quickly!

RSVP via e-mail: jfalyn@ucdavis.edu. Include your name, address, presentation date, phone number and/or e-mail address. Also, indicate whether you need directions.

SCHEDULE: March - June, 2010



PLANTS: THE RACE TO REPRODUCE Saturday, March 20th 9 - Noon

The native plants of Stebbins Cold Canyon are all in a race to reproduce. The dazzling array of reproductive strategies employed by the plants is best seen in early spring, when dozens of species flower simultaneously. During the course of this hike you will learn about the remarkable diversity of reproductive strategies and how a variety of interacting factors, including competition, predation, disease, and climate have shaped the evolution of plant reproductive strategies.

Guide: Dylan Burge

FOLLOW A RAINDROP Sunday, March 21st 9 - 1 pm

Join Stephen McCord as he looks at the journey of a raindrop that falls on the Reserve. Many aspects of the local and regional watershed are examined, including the hydrologic cycle, water resources management, and water quality issues. The hike will include a 1.5-miles (roundtrip) walk along the Homestead trail to Cold Creek and then a two-mile (roundtrip) hike up to an overlook with views of the Reserve's watershed, Lake Berryessa, Monticello Dam and Putah Creek.

Guide: Stephen McCord

THE MEDICINAL & EDIBLE LANDSCAPE Saturday, March 27th 9 - Noon

Come explore nature's pharmacy and learn about the many wonderful healing plants that grow in abundance within the canyon. Kami has an incredible knowledge of the local medicinal plants and shares their many uses and anecdotal stories.

Guide: Kami McBride

DISCOVERING CREEK CRITTERS Sunday, March 28th 9 - Noon

In this three hour hiking and creek exploration experience, participants will learn about different types of creek critters through activities and hands-on exploration. Learn what types of things are living in local creeks, how to assess water quality by looking at bugs in the creek, and most importantly, play safely in the water. All ages are welcome.

Guide: Jeff Davis

THE SONG OF BIRDS Saturday, April 3th 9 - Noon

Birds call and sing. People listen. But what is the significance of the calls and songs? And what memory or image do the bird calls stimulate in the listener? Join Alison Kent, newsletter editor of the local Audubon chapter, as she offers activities that help the listener tune into the song of birds. Bring paper or a journal and something to write with. All levels welcome.

Guide: Alison Kent

THE EXPLORERS Both Young & Old Saturday, April 10th 9 - Noon

Calling all explorers, both young and old, Mike McGraw, lead interpretive ranger from Lake Berryessa, leads an outing filled with activities of discovery and adventure. Children will have the opportunity to experience the canyon from-a-hands on perspective. The outing is geared toward children, 10 years old and up.

Guide: Mike McGraw

WATERCOLORS & THE OUTDOORS Sunday, April 11th 9 - Noon

Participants will explore how to use watercolors to capture the colors and moods of natural scenery. No experience necessary, just a willingness to experiment with paints and an openness to the surrounding beauty. Painting materials, as well as tea & scones, will be provided. Participants should bring a blanket, sun protection, and a teacup.

Guides: Barbara Byrne & Stacie H. Frerichs

WILDFLOWERS The colors of early spring Saturday, April 17th 9 - Noon

Each month new wildflowers bloom for a brief period and then fade away until the following year. Join guide Barbara Byrne as she walks the Homestead trail at the height of the blooming season and highlights the beautiful bouquet of flowers in mid April.

Guide: Barbara Byrne

Sara Orange-Tip (Female),
Anthocharis sara
Courtesy of Art Shapiro



A LOOK AT TREES Sunday, April 18th 9 - Noon

Join certified arborist Ruth Williams (Tree Davis) for a one mile hike and an introduction to botanical identification. Participants will become familiar with eight common native tree species, and learn about tree adaptations to microclimates within the canyon.

Guide: Ruth Williams

BOBCAT RANCH A Look at Restoration in Practice Saturday, April 24th 8:30 - 12:30

Experience the scenic views, rolling hills and blue oak forests of the Bobcat Ranch, a 6,800-acre property northeast of Stebbins Cold Canyon. Audubon California purchased the land for conservation, restoration and historic grazing use. The outing will focus on Audubon's work to restore the land, ongoing research, natural habitats and local wildlife of the region. The hike is moderate. The group will meet at Steady Eddy's in Winters @ 8:30am.

Guide: Alex Palmerlee

A GLIMPSE FROM THE PAST: A History of Berryessa Sunday, April 25th 9 - Noon

Join Bureau of Reclamation Ranger Jackson Collier and discover the human drama of the region. Learn how water has been the common thread – from the native inhabitants and early settlers to the construction of Monticello Dam and the creation of Lake Berryessa. This outing will meet in the Stebbins parking lot and eventually wind up at the Monticello Dam.

Guide: Jackson Collier

BY THE BANKS OF PUTAH CREEK Saturday, May 1st 9 - 1 pm

Tom and Ginny Cahill, landowners north/east of Stebbins Cold Canyon, have made their land available to explore a private and remote section of Putah Creek. The group will access the spot via the south side of the creek. The hike is one mile in with an optional longer hike paralleling the creek or climbing to the ridge. This outing is a perfect opportunity to sit by the creek, have lunch and listen to some stories about the area.

Guides: The Cahills

NOCTURNAL HAPPENINGS

Saturday night, May 8th 8 - 10 pm

What sort of things go “bump in the night” at Stebbins Cold Canyon? On this outing, you’ll explore the nocturnal world of the animals at the reserve. The walk will include a number of experiential activities to help both children (ages 8 thru 12) and adults connect to what takes place in the canyon at night.

Guide: Mike McGraw - Park Ranger Lake Berryessa

STAR GAZING

Tour of the Night Sky

Saturday night, May 15th 8 - 11 pm

Bryn has returned from her travels abroad to lead the ever-popular stargazing outing. She’ll focus on the constellations, point out planets, deep sky objects & share stories on the mythology of the night sky.

There is a 1¼ mile, slight up hill, hike to the meadow where the group will observe the night sky. This outing fills up quickly so RSVP early. Wear appropriate clothing for evening; binoculars are optional.

Guide: Bryn Bishop

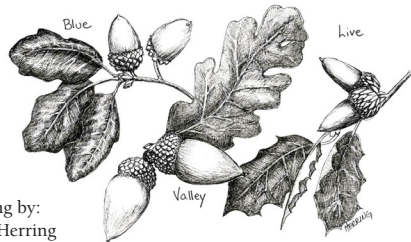
THE HOMESTEAD JAMBOREE

Impromptu Concert

Saturday, May 22nd 10 - 1 PM

Join us for an impromptu concert under the tall tree canopy at the Stebbins Homestead site. Local musicians (Keith Cary, Wyatt Hesemeyer and others) jam blue grass, hillbilly and jazz songs while participants gather around and experience the sights and musical sounds of the canyon. Bring a lunch for a family picnic. The hike is a 2.5 mile round trip hike with a slight grade and a few steps. The outing is open to everyone and has a suggested donation of \$10 per person (\$20 max per family). All donations go to trail improvement and programming.

Guide(s): Musicians



Drawing by:
Peggy Herring

PLANT COMMUNITIES & HABITATS

Sunday, May 23rd 9 - Noon

Join Naturalist Jeff Davis and explore the different plant communities and habitats at Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve. Learn about the characteristics and inhabitants of each unique habitat in the preserve. Hike the switchback trail through creek, oak woodland, and chaparral habitats and arrive at the west ridge where scenic vistas of the Sacramento Valley and Lake Berryessa fill the horizon in many directions. The hike is approximately 2.5 miles with an ascent of 1,200’.

Guide: Jeff Davis

NORTH COAST OVERNIGHT

Angelo Coast Range Reserve

May 29th - 31st

Every year people rave about the overnight outings and ask for more. Here’s the next one. Angelo Coast Range Reserve is another beautiful reserve within the UC Natural Reserve System—it’s located north of Mendocino (<http://angelo.berkeley.edu/index.htm>). There will be an introduction to the Reserve, a natural history presentation and plenty of hiking and exploration. The hiking will be moderate and the group will traverse redwood groves, mixed conifer-deciduous forest and upland river terraces. Participants are responsible for all travel and food. *There is a suggested donation for the outing of \$62 per person.* The suggested donation includes cabin sleeping accommodations on Saturday & Sunday nights. **Note: To hold a spot for the overnight outing please RSVP - it will fill fast!**

Guides: Shorty Boucher & Jeff Falyn

INTRODUCTION TO GEOCACHING

Sunday, May 30th 9 - Noon

Geocaching (pronounced geo-cashing) is a high-tech, worldwide, interactive treasure hunt. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences on-line. Geocaching is enjoyed by people of all ages, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment. Participants will learn how to use a GPS and seek existing geocaches within the Reserve. Bring your own GPS unit and other tools (map, compass, exchange items) or share with others if you don’t have a GPS unit.

Guide: Stephen McCord

TRUST WALK

Saturday, June 5th 9 - Noon

After hiking the Homestead trail for a short distance, participants will have the opportunity to choose someone in the group to help them walk a portion of the trail without using the sense of sight. This activity heightens the other senses and creates a unique and lasting hiking experience.

Guide: Jeff Falyn

STAR GAZING

Saturday night, June 12th 8:30 - 11:30 pm

See ‘Stargazing’ outing description from May 15th.

NATURE’S THEATER

Nature Play for Kids

Kids! Do you want to help the Birdman remember how to be a bird? Or perhaps you would like to re-name plants with Mother Nature? Or maybe you would like to join the Animal Circle Club? It’s all possible.

Nature’s Theater invites you to become part of the story and learn from characters like Mother Nature, Birdman, and Starman.

Each outing is an opportunity to play outside and learn a little bit more about the secrets of nature. By the way, I’ve spoken to Mother Nature and she’s excited to share her secrets with you.

Parents! Nature’s Theater is an innovative approach to helping children develop a healthy relationship with the natural world. Children are invited to explore the canyon with different characters, including Mother Nature, Tree Spirit, Tiny and Whiny. These characters engage the children in a story that highlights age-appropriate environmental issues. See RSVP information on front page to reserve your spot.

WINTER WON’T GO

Saturday, 3/20 10-Noon

(For ages 4-8)

BIRDMAN

Saturday, 4/3 10-Noon

(For ages 4-8)

STARWALKER and the Planets

Saturday, 4/10 10-Noon

(For ages 6-10)

ANIMAL CIRCLE CLUB

Sunday, 4/11 10-Noon

(For ages 4-8)

MOTHER NATURE and the Toddlers

Saturday, 4/17 10-11:30

(For ages 1-4)

WORLD OF THE SMALL

Sunday, 4/25 10-Noon

(For ages 6-10)

NATURE HEROES

Sunday, 5/2 10-Noon

(For ages 4-8)

TO BE A TREE

Sunday, 5/16 10-Noon

(For ages 4-8)

GLUG GLUG & THE WATER BOSS
(Water Play for Kids)

Sunday, 5/23 10-Noon

(For ages 6-10)



LOOP TRAIL

Summer Solstice at Sunrise

Sunday, June 19th 5 am - 10 am

Hike the loop trail as the sun climbs into the sky before the shortest night of the year. This early morning hike is a celebration of change, e.g., getting out of bed to see the sun rise. The loop trail is 5 miles of ups and downs with a 1200’ elevation gain. Many steps are interspersed with breathtaking views. Bring: sturdy shoes, at least a liter of water, sunscreen and a snack.

Guide: Jeff Falyn

