



2016 Highlands Nature Festival Confirmed Workshops

Saturday Field Trips

Wildlife Photography

Prescott Audubon Society - Stephen Bruno, Wildlife & Nature Photographer

7:30-11:30am

Location: Lynx Lake South Shore

Difficulty Level: Easy

Stephen Bruno will share numerous photography tips and tricks that I learned over more than 45 years as a wildlife photographer. Although not a strictly technical workshop, this is hands-on with discussions of each photo shoot with different approaches, styles, and settings. His emphasis in every workshop is on the best approaches that do not interrupt the natural wildlife behavior. A wonderful photograph is indeed amazing but NOT at the expense of the wildlife. For Stephen as a photographer, the connection with wildlife is the essence of the experience with serendipity. The 'amazing' photograph is a bonus.

Special notes for Participants: Please bring water and dress for changing weather. Any camera or phone will be fine. Extra batteries are beneficial. Bring the manual of your camera if you have one. Tripods are not necessary but feel free to bring one if you like, especially if you have a large telephoto lens.

Price per Participant: \$40 (parking fee included)

The Flora, Birds, and Geology of the Granite Dells

Arizona Native Plant Society - Prescott Chapter

7:30-11:00am

Location: Ecosa's Granite Dells Campus

Trail Difficulty Level: Difficult (uneven ground, some bouldering, no designated trail)

The morning will begin with an introduction to Ecosa by Tony Brown, founder and Director of the Ecosa Institute for Ecological Design. Then leaders from the Arizona Native Plant Society will lead an exploration in the beautiful Granite Dells. This is a rare opportunity to explore the distinctive plants, birds, and geology of this pristine, 65-acre open-space campus that is not open to the public.

Special Notes for Participants: We will be traversing ungroomed trails, granite boulders, and possibly a running creek.

Price per Participant: \$30

Plants and Birds of Granite Basin

Carl Tomoff, Ph.D. Professor of Environmental Studies, Prescott College

7:30-11:00am

Location: Granite Basin Lake

Difficulty Level: Easy

Participants will explore a variety of habitats at one the most beautiful and ecologically diverse sites in the Prescott region. While we focus on birds, we will look for connections they have with the landscape, vegetation, and other organisms. As we observe the structural diversity and species composition of the area's plant communities and the birds they support, we will practice identifying plants and birds, watch behavior, and relate it to birds' daily and seasonal lives.

Special Notes for Participants: Binoculars and field notebook recommended. This excursion will be a

leisurely stroll over relatively level terrain.
Price per Participant: \$35 (parking fee included)

Geologic Hike in the Granite Dells

Prescott Geology Club – Harry Allen and Debbie Allen

8:30-11:00am

Location: Constellation Trail

Difficulty Level: Moderate (uneven and slippery trail, some steep climbs)

Participants will explore the exquisite granite formations along the Constellation trail along with stunning views. During the hike local geologic history of Prescott, including Granite Mountain, Thumb Butte, and Glassford Hill, will be shared along with details of the Granite Dells formations.

Price per Participant: \$20

Fire Ecology

Natural History Institute of Prescott College, Lisa Floyd-Hanna, Ph.D. Professor of Environmental Studies, Prescott College

8:30-11:30am

Location: Little Granite Mountain

Difficulty Level: Moderate (3-4 mile hike, some steep grade)

Participants will venture through various habitats before coming to a recent burn. During participants will journey through the history of fire while Lisa describes the importance and outcomes of fire throughout local ecosystems.

Price per Participant: \$20

Bird Journaling Workshop

Neil Rizos,

8:30am-12:30pm

Location: Highlands Center for Natural History

Difficulty Level: Easy (in-class setting)

Join world renowned artist Neil Rizos for an inspirational Bird Journaling Workshop. Neil will bring new ways to see the beauty and behavior of birds while he shares his adventures from around the world with various species, such as the Northern Bald Ibis. Participants will learn essential techniques needed to draw birds quickly and accurately, in the classroom and in the field. We will have a live bird in the class and other bird study resources available for drawing.

No drawing experience is required – all levels welcome!

Visit his websites for more information: www.rizosart.com and www.birdjournaling.com

Special Notes for Participants: Participants will need to bring their own, drawing pad 11x14 or larger. Your favorite drawing materials and/or 2B or softer drawing pencils and pencil sharpener, ballpoint pen, black marker, ruler. Photo of a bird you want to draw – on a digital device or a printout.

Price per Participant: \$40

Stepping Back in Time in the Heart of the Dells

Matt Turner of the Central Arizona Land Trust and City of Prescott Trails Specialist, Chris Hosking

9:00-11:30am

Location: Flume Trail, Granite Dells

Difficulty Level: Easy – Moderate (Technical trail, 1 3/4 miles)

Join Matt Turner of the Central Arizona Land Trust and City of Prescott Trails Specialist, Chris Hosking, on a fascinating hike into the heart of the Granite Dells. Participants will enjoy this diverse trail system as they take a journey back in time by discovering how the local geology influenced early 20th century water projects, including the construction and usage of Watson Lake Dam and the diversion (flume) just below it. We will also spend time speaking to both City of Prescott Open Space and Trails efforts and the Payne-Granite Dells Conservation Easement and the benefits they provide to both people and wildlife.

Price per participant: \$20

Urban Creek Explorations – Granite Creek Downtown

Prescott Creeks

9:00am - Noon

Location: Greenway Trail System

Difficulty Level: Easy

The Urban Creek Exploration will follow the Greenways Trail System along Granite Creek through downtown Prescott. An established multi-use trail through lush riparian forests in the heart of the city, Greenways offers opportunities to explore the interaction of our rich natural and cultural heritage. Amidst towering cottonwood trees, participants will find a case study of opportunities and difficulties in urban stream restoration efforts and glimpses of 150 years of human history and impact.

Special Notes for Participants: While trail conditions can vary depending upon precipitation and creek flow, comfortable hiking shoes should get the job done on this near-zero-grade trail.

Price per participant: TBA

Highlands Plants: A Natural Selection

Walt Anderson, Professor of Environmental Studies, Prescott College

Saturday, 8:30-11:45am

Location: Highlands Center for Natural History

Difficulty Level: Easy

We may think of plants as passive objects rooted in place, but frankly, plants do get around, and they have some remarkable ways of coping with the many challenges that assail them, even when forced to stay put. Naturalist Walt Anderson will help you discover the adaptive strategies of a selection of local plants. Occasional flowery language will describe a cast of seedy characters, nuts, saps, parasites, and tree-huggers. Joking aside, this rambling workshop will emphasize how evolution has shaped plants to be successful in this potentially dangerous world of ruthless competitors, voracious grazers and browsers, acorn collectors, sun-blocking lichens, and bark-scorching fires. We will walk at a naturalist's pace—tortoises welcome; hares need not apply.

Price per Participant: \$30

Sunday Field Trips

Plant and Landscape Photography

Prescott Audubon Society - Stephen Bruno, Wildlife & Nature Photographer

7:30-11:30am

Location: Aspen Creek

Difficulty Level: Easy- Moderate

Stephen Bruno takes participants for a new perspective, to see as a painter and shoot like a photographer. He will share how to develop your eye to imagine and create striking plant and landscape photography, showing techniques of how to select and approach subjects. Drawing on 50 years' experience as a photographer Stephen offers guidance on how to avoid the many pitfalls of photographing plants and landscape and how to improve your photographic vision, composition, and technique.

Notes for Participants: Any camera or phone will be fine. Extra batteries are beneficial. Bring the manual of your camera if you have one.

Price per Participant: \$40

Birds in the Bradshaws

Highlands Center for Natural History, Felipe Guerrero, Education Coordinator

8:30a-10:30a

Location: Kendall Camp

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Join Highlands Center staff and local bird aficionado, Felipe Guerrero, for a morning of birding in the high-elevation conifer forests and wooded creeks of the Bradshaw Mountains. Kendall Camp, situated on the upper Hassayampa River, offers a rich variety of locally unique habitats and a bout of birds to go with them. Participants will learn about the common and not so common birds of this veritable sky island while enjoying the cool and picturesque environs of this neighborhood gem.

Notes for Participants (anything special they may need to bring):

Price per Participant: \$20

The Intricate Geology of the Highlands: Evidence of Plate Tectonics & Continent Building **Highlands Center for Natural History, Steve Van Slyke, Highlands Center Naturalist and Geology Specialist**

10:00am to 1:00pm (Bring a sack lunch to enjoy together!)

Difficulty Level: Easy-Moderate (Some steep and/or rocky areas)

The Bradshaw Mountains and the Black Hills, originally chains of volcanic islands, became part of a young and growing North American continent 1.8 billion years ago. Steve Van Slyke will lead the group on a hike through the Highlands Center looking at exquisite rock formations that reveal intricate stories. Near the end of the hike, there will be a lunch break in an outdoor amphitheater in the shady confines of Elderberry.

Notes for Participants (anything special they may need to bring): Water, hat, lunch/snack. Other suggestions: sunscreen, hiking pole(s), camera.

Price Per Participant: \$30

An Unseen Ecology: How Birds Prepare for the Long Journey.

Dena Greenwood, Naturalist/Field Ornithologist

9:00 – 11:00am

Location: Highlands Center for Natural History

Difficulty Level: Easy-Moderate (Some steep and/or rocky areas)

Early Autumn at the Highlands Center is a wonderful time to observe the approaching seasonal changes in color that wash slowly over the landscape. It also marks the beginning of a very ancient ritual, thousands of birds on the move - the great fall migration. Dena will share with us the fascinating and often overlooked relationship between native plants, insects and wild birds as we explore the diverse habitats surrounding the Highlands Center.

Notes for Participants (anything special they may need to bring): Please bring binoculars, birding field guide, water, hat, good walking shoes.

Price per Participant: \$20

Behind the Scenes with the Animals

Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary

10:00am-12:00pm

Location: Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary

Difficulty Level: Easy

Join Zookeepers and staff for an up-close and personal tour of the Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary. Participants will have a chance to meet the current animal residents while learning about their history and the details of care and rehabilitation. Participants will enjoy a lunch in the pavilion as they are serenaded by resident peacocks. The field trip will end with an opportunity for participants to enjoy the Sanctuary at their own pace after lunch.

Special notes for Participants: Please bring water and wear closed toed shoes.

Price per Participant: \$35 Lunch is included