

Kern River Valley Bioregions Festival



Saturday April 22nd, 2017 at Circle Park in Kernville and at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon, CA for more information please visit www.southernsierraresearch.org

The clean, sharp smell of Great Basin Sage in the wind....a Scott's Oriole perched atop of a Kern Joshua.....mixed flocks of warblers foraging in a huge cottonwood....the call of a Wrentit bouncing over a dense stand of chaparral...the deep blue skies and towering pines of the Sierra Nevada....

It is not unusual to encounter these things as you travel around California. It is unusual however, to come across all of them within a few miles of one another – but that's exactly what you can do in the Kern River Valley.

Located at the southern edge of the Sierra Nevada, the Kern River Valley is a unique place. Five of California's six bioregions (a region defined by characteristics of the natural environment rather than by man-made divisions) meet here in the Kern River Valley: Great Basin, Mojave Desert, Coastal Chaparral, Sierran Forest and California Grassland; including the largest remaining contiguous riparian forest in the state. With so many different habitats meeting in one place, plants and animals usually separated by many miles can be spotted within a short distance including 350 bird species, 138 butterfly species, 2,000+ species of plants, and the highest mammal diversity in the United States (115 species). The Kern River Valley Bioregions Festival is an annual event that celebrates the local unique biological diversity found in the valley.

Come join us to celebrate the uniqueness of the Kern River Valley!

EVENTS - will be headquartered in Kernville at Circle Park and at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon, CA. Walks are **free** and spaces for events are limited. Additional events may be added.

To sign up or obtain more information for events please contact Wendy Rannals at wrannals@fs.fed.us

9:00-11:00 **Lily Canyon Wildflower Walk** by Steve Anderson, Biologist USFS. Meet at Circle Park and caravan to Lily Canyon. This will include hiking along a trail and the hills sides of Lily Canyon discussing and identifying flowers, types of brush and some historical features found in Lily Canyon. Area subject to change, Participant total limited to 25.

12:30-2:00 **Keyville Historic mining walk and talk** by Tim Kelly, Archaeologist USFS. Meet at Circle Park and caravan to Keyville making stops at various locations of historic features along the way. Participant total limited to 15.

9:00-11:00 **Hot Springs Valley Wetlands Walk -Past, Present, Future** by Bob Barnes. Meet at the Park-and-Ride just off the junction of CA Hwy 155 & CA Hwy 178 freeway interchange at the edge of the community of Lake Isabella (entrance to Isabella Motel & Lutheran Church). Enjoy the open space, animals and flowers on site and discuss future plans for the Hot Springs Valley Wetlands.

7:30-11:00 **Guided bird identification walk at Tillie Creek Campground** by John Schmitt, professional wildlife artist. Meet at Circle Park in Kernville. Participant total limited to 12.

7:30-11:00 **Bird Banding Demonstration at the Kern River Preserve** by the Southern Sierra Research Station. Meet at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters in Weldon. No limit.

8:00-12:00 **Introduction to birds and bird watching** by Lee Sutton from Kerncrest Audubon. Meet at the Kern River Preserve Headquarters in Weldon.

7:00 and 9:00 **Bird walks at the Kern River Preserve, Weldon.** Take a 1 mile walk through cottonwood-willow riparian forest and forest restoration plots along the South Fork Kern River. Each walk will take between one and two hours. Meet at the Kern River Preserve headquarters in Weldon.

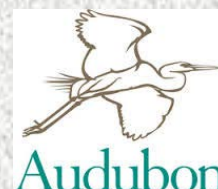
GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS - Meet at circle park presentation at 9:45, Talks will be given at the USFS Kernville office, from 10 – noon. Attendance total limited to 30.

Sequoia National Forest drought and recent tree mortality by Beverly Bulaon, Forest Entomologist, 30 minute talk.

Oak regeneration and propagation by Martin Mackenzie, Forest Pathologist, 15 minute talk.

RAFFLE TO BENEFIT KERN RIVER PRESERVE AND KERN RIVER VALLEY HERITAGE FOUNDATION - \$1 per ticket. Sold at various locations throughout the festival. Drawing will be at 5:00 on Saturday. You do not need to be in attendance to receive prizes. Prizes include a pair of Eagle Optics Denali 8x42 Binoculars, beautiful prints from Roderick MacIver Arts, a Hydroflask water bottle, various shirts, and other prizes.

ACTIVITIES AND VENDORS – Information booths from USFS (defensible forest space), Kern River Environmental Magnet School, Kerncrest Audubon, California Native Plant Society, Keepers of the Kern, Randall Skate Park committee, and others. There will also be a kid’s activity table and face painting.



Events happening around the valley :
Kern River Festival
<http://kernfestival.com/>

