

Cibolo Nature Center & Farm to Hold 42nd Wildlife Research Week

CNC&F Happenings

FALL INCIDENTAL BIRD COUNT, Wednesday, Sept. 28, from 8 to 10 a.m., CNC Pavilion. Join a team of citizen scientists and bird enthusiasts to conduct a bird census at the Nature Center. See migrant and resident birds in a natural area that includes woodland, prairie, marsh and cypress-lined Cibolo Creek. This event continues on Sept. 28 and Oct. 1. Learn to census birds in your own backyard. Bring a hat and binoculars. We do have binoculars if you need to borrow some.

LITTLE EXPLORERS, Wednesday, Sept. 28, from 10 to 11 a.m., Visitor Center. The Little Explorers preschoolers and their caregivers will come for fun and adventure using their five senses to discover nature, listen to stories, sing songs, play games, explore the outdoors and make crafts to take home. On the third Wednesday of each month we will host special guest Mother Nature for Story Time!

FARMERS MARKET AT THE CIBOLO, Saturday, Oct. 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Herff Farm. Enjoy fresh air and delicious local produce, live music and more at the only Farmers Market in Texas on the grounds of a historic 1850s pioneer farm. Buy fresh local vegetables and farm-fresh eggs, original arts and crafts, homemade breads, jams, jellies, pastries and locally produced honey.

WHAT CAN I PLANT NOW? Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Herff Farm Inspiration Garden. Welcome to fall, better known as Texas' second spring! Luckily we live in a zone that supports gardening practically all year long; but what exactly should we focus on sowing during this cool season? Learn with us as Garden Guru Keith Amelung teaches us what types of vegetables and flowers we can expect to enjoy throughout this growing season. \$5 per family.

FALL WILDLIFE FIELD RESEARCH WEEK, Monday, Oct. 3, through Saturday, Oct. 8, Visitors Center. Sign-up for this incredible Citizen Scientist Volunteer Week at the CNC. Contact Donna Taylor at donna@cibolo.org or 830-249-4616 for more information.

YOGA FOR NATURE LOVERS, Monday, Oct. 3, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., meet at Visitor Center. The CNC&F offers classes every Monday evening conducted by Kristen Walker of WellSpring Yoga in Boerne. Classes may move to different outdoor sites at the nature center each week depending on weather and size of the group. \$10 per class payable at the door by cash, credit card or check.

AT THE TRAIL



Claire Jenkins

Although the Cibolo Nature Center and Farm (CNC&F) is definitely known for its abundance of workshops, festivals, concerts and a plethora of ways to connect with nature no matter one's age, the nature center has also made its mark for its research and data collection.

Twice a year, CNC&F holds Wildlife Field Research events with the 42nd one taking place the week of Oct. 3 through 8. During the week-long event, teams of citizen scientists will combine their experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to survey the nature center's ecology.

Various surveys take place during the week, including an amphibian watch, ant survey, aquatic survey, a butterfly survey, incidental bird count, prairie vegetation photo points, riparian woody plant survey, small mammal trapping and water snake survey and reptile research. But gathering the data is just the first step. In this case, it is shared with various agencies and organizations.

One example of how this important data is shared is through the bird count. The data gathered during field research week is submitted to eBird, an online database administered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which collects citizen science data from around the world.

Another example of how the recorded data is put to pertinent use is through the butterfly survey. Over the past several years, species of record have been documented for the first time in Kendall County. Butterflies are often good indicators of the presence of certain hard to locate plant species, like spice bush.

Another example is through the water snake survey where water snakes are caught, weighed, measured and microchipped with an ID. Subsequent recapture

gives an idea of how far the snakes travel and as well as how they grow from year to year.

But all of this pivotal work cannot be done without the volunteer citizen scientists. By definition, Citizen Science engages regular citizens in collaboration with professional scientists in order to carry out research and is emerging as a vitally important resource for worldwide data collection.

Stan and Carolyn Walden are two citizen scientists who have been volunteering at the nature center since 2004. When asked what keeps them coming back to participate in Wildlife Research Week, Carolyn replied:

"We both want to use our science and research backgrounds to contribute to the data collection. However, what really keeps us coming back is the opportunity to share our knowledge and experiences with students, middle school through college, some who have never been out of the city and don't know that grass is more than just the lawn they water and mow, or have never been to a creek to see where their drinking water comes from.

"Others are preparing for careers in environmental sciences and experiencing field research for the first time. It is gratifying to be able to share our knowledge with them."

Patty Leslie Pasztor, who has been volunteering at the CNC&F since its inception, concurs.

"I keep coming back, not only because Cibolo Nature Center is a tremendously beautiful and diverse piece of land with its wonderful habitat including woodland, river, prairie and wetland, but also because real science is being conducted by everyday folks and the staff is super friendly and appreciative of what we do out there. Research week feels like family, it's like a reunion, even with new folks each year. The nature center is truly a gem."

Stan, Carolyn and Patty are just a few of the volunteers who make these research weeks a success and the



Cibolo Nature Center & Farm's volunteers show that every citizen can be a scientist.

nature center is always looking for more. Many may wonder who makes the ideal citizen scientist.

Participation in Wildlife Research Week is extremely diverse and includes master

naturalists, college students, teenagers, young kids and other nature enthusiasts - each bringing their own interests to the mix to create a colorful and fun citizen science community.

For more information for new and returning citizen scientists and to sign up for Wildlife Field Research Week, visit www.cibolo.org or ww.wildlifefieldresearch.org.

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'COURAGE IS CONTAGIOUS' TRUNK SHOW

October 28 | 10am-6pm
Schreiner Goods
214 Earl Garret Street, Kerrville
Style Show and Lite Bites at 11am
Honoring the courageous women fighting breast cancer in the Hill Country.
Proceeds benefit Peterson Health and Hill Country Memorial

CPR/AED/FIRST AID CLASS

3rd Thursday of the month
October 20 | 5:30pm
Peterson Regional Medical Center
551 Hill Country Drive, Kerrville

- Space is limited to 8 attendees per class.
 - Cost is \$50, no prerequisites required
 - Registration is required
- For more information, please call 830.258.7625

AFTER-HOURS MAMMOGRAMS

October 6 and October 20 | 5pm-7pm
To celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness month, Peterson Health is offering convenient after-hours screening mammograms.
Ambulatory Care Center
260 Cully Drive, Kerrville
Call 830.258.7373 to schedule an appointment

For a full list of our monthly support groups, visit www.petersonhealth.com

JOINT REPLACEMENT CLASS

Monday, October 3 | 3:30-5 pm
Speaker: Dr. Ryan Veurink
Monday, October 17 | 3:30-5 pm
Speaker: Dr. William Allen
Ambulatory Care Center Classroom
260 Cully Drive, Kerrville
Considering or scheduled for joint replacement surgery? This class is free and informative. For more information or to register, call 830.258.7336

3RD SATURDAY LAB TESTING

3rd Saturday Affordable Lab Testing
October 15 | 8-11 am
Peterson Outreach Lab
Kerrville Medical Plaza, Kerrville
For more information about our affordable lab testing call 830.258.7526.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP (NAMI)

2nd Thursday of the month
October 13 | 6:30 pm
Peterson Regional Medical Center
Classroom B, 2nd Floor
551 Hill Country Drive, Kerrville
For more information, call 830.258.5077 or 830.895.1010

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

1st Tuesday of the month
October 4 | 4:30-5 pm Social
5-6 pm
Peterson Regional Medical Center
Classroom B, 2nd Floor
551 Hill Country Drive, Kerrville

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

2nd Friday of the month
October 14 | 10 am
Peterson Outreach Lab
Kerrville Medical Plaza, Kerrville

HILL COUNTRY OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP

2nd Wednesday of the month
October 12 | 3 pm
Peterson Regional Medical Center
Classroom B, 2nd Floor
551 Hill Country Drive, Kerrville

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