



FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE

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THE MARSHMALLOW FESTIVAL!

by Bob Barnes

The program for the 9th Annual Kern River Valley Festival of the Bioregions, set for April 25th through May 1st, is like a giant bag of giant and colorful marshmallows! The line-up for the BioFest is so varied, so rich, and so exciting, that I am worried that I cannot get my arms or mouth fully around it to describe it to you properly - like a giant marshmallow. I'll do what I can with the words that follow. But, you will have to refer to our BioFest web pages on the www.valleywild.org web site and use your imagination to fully appreciate what will be available to experience at this

see Bioregions page 3



Desert Mariposa Lilies bloom in the Kelso Valley during the Bioregions Festival
Photo by Alison Sheehy © Nature Ali

ALIENS INVADE KERN RIVER!

by Reed Tollefson

An attack of aliens (non-native plant species) has been met with determined opposition by a team of volunteers and staff at the Kern River Preserve. The South Fork of the Kern River supports one of the finest remaining riparian forest and wetland systems left in California. But this ecosystem is threatened by the spread of several highly invasive non-native (alien) species: saltcedar, Russian-olive, giant cane and purple loosestrife. These invasive plants have replaced the native forests and come to **dominate** most low elevation riparian forests in the Southwestern United States. This has resulted in catastrophic effects on wildlife as well as causing significant problems for ranching, farming, flood control and water conservation.

The good news is that through ongoing efforts these invasive plants are largely under control on the Kern River Preserve. Furthermore several rancher/landowners have made significant efforts to remove these pest spe-

see Weeds page 6



Purple Loosestrife, a beautiful yet overpoweringly invasive weed. This plant chokes marshes and wetlands rapidly once introduced.

Photo Kern River Preserve archives.

2003 Calendar of Events

- Saturday, March 8** Habitat Restoration
- Saturday, March 15** Habitat Restoration
- Saturday, March 22** Habitat Restoration
- Saturday, March 29** Habitat Restoration
- Saturday, April 5** Habitat Restoration
- Saturday, April 12** Habitat Restoration
- Friday-Sunday, April 25-27**
9th Annual KRV BioFest, Kernville/
Wofford Heights/Weldon
- Saturday, May 3** - Volunteer Habitat
Restoration
- Saturday (& Sunday), May 3 (& 4)**
1st South Fork Kern River Valley Butter-
fly Count (Weekend), Weldon area
- Saturday-Monday, May 24-26**
2nd Annual South Fork Kern River Valley
Spring Bird Count Weekend, Weldon.

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FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE



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Weldon, CA 93283
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email: krpfriends@lightspeed.net
website: <http://audubon.org/local/sanctuary/kernriver/>

The Kern River Preserve is managed by Audubon-California for the preservation of California's largest contiguous cottonwood-willow riparian forest and the wildlife it supports.

The Friends of the Kern River Preserve is a membership organization that provides financial support for the Preserve. Your support is critical to the success of the Kern River Preserve.

Please consider making a donation by filling out the attached form and mailing it to the Friends.

PRESERVE MANAGERREED TOLLEFSON
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KRP FRIENDS LOGOKEITH HANSEN
unless otherwise noted all maps and photos courtesy Nature Ali © 2002

COSTA RICA - PURA VIDA!

by Bob Barnes

The January 4-18, 2003, benefit field trip to Costa Rica was simply fabulous! Trip leader Murrelet Halterman and I were with a great group of eleven participants and our excellent tour operator/bus driver/birder, Alberto Vargas. We explored the dry tropical forest of the northwest, the lowland forest of the south Pacific slope, the Atlantic and Pacific middle elevation forests, and the Atlantic lowlands. We stayed at wonderful accommodations, ate an abundance of superb food, and observed amazing birds! We supported a local guide for two days and four local guides for one day each. We recorded over 350 species most of which were repeatedly and/or exquisitely seen. Alberto said it was the best tour group with the best attitude he has ever had.

Now for some highlights from our trip: Two singing male Three-wattled Bellbirds, one male Scrub Euphonia, and one male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in a single, clear, full frame scope view! A Sunbittern at 6'-100' for twenty-five uninterrupted minutes!...Flying, hopping from stream boulder to stream boulder, seen from above, below, sideways, and 6' overhead! Twenty-nine species of hummingbirds! Bare-necked Umbrella Bird in the scope for twenty minutes! Five Collared Aracaris at a feeder at one time! Six Fiery-billed Aracaris in the open in a single tree! Emerald Toucanet, male & female Red-headed Barbets, three Prong-billed Barbets, three Silver-throated Tanagers, and a Crimson Collared Tanager all at one banana-filled feeder, often many species at one time! Two river trips by boat! Waterfalls, rainforests, National Parks, and friendly "Ticos." Sloths, coatys, agoutis, howler monkeys, spider monkeys, white-faced capuchins,

iguanas, crocodiles, caymans, and on and on and on!

Not only was the trip outstanding for participants, it raised several thousand, fully-tax deductible dollars donated to the programs of the Friends of the Kern River Preserve and Southern Sierra Research Station. All this despite the fact that our trip was priced \$1000 below comparable commercial trips. Such a deal all the way around! If you are interested in being informed of future KRP Friends benefit field trips email me at krpfriends@lightspeed.net.

Thanks to the following for making our January 2003 benefit field trip to Costa Rica such a resounding success: Linda Andrews (Inyokern), Debbie Brusco (Hayward), Brenda Burnett (Ridgecrest), Dan Burnett (Ridgecrest), Bruce Garlinger (Weldon), Ellene Gravelle (Ridgecrest), Noel Gravelle (Ridgecrest), Murrelet Halterman (Onyx), Denise La Berteaux (Weldon), Terry Marshall (Essex County, England), Terri Middlemiss (Inyokern), Joyce Seibold (Ridgecrest), and Alberto Vargas (VitraTours, Heredia, Costa Rica). Tranquilo!



Wood Duck box along the South Fork Kern
Photo by Alison Sheehey © Nature Ali

WOOD DUCKS RETURN

The Wood Duck is considered one of the most beautiful of bird species. For several years, the Fish & Game Habitat Club of the Kern River Valley has conducted a Wood Duck nest box program on the Kern River Preserve with over thirty nest boxes being maintained. Pairs of Wood Ducks are about to return to the Kern River Valley for the nesting season. In our next issue of the KRP Friends Newsletter, we will be telling you all about the Fish & Game Habitat Club's Wood Duck Nest Box Program, the results for the last several years, and its dedicated volunteers. Stay tuned!

Bioregions: continued from page 1

year's BioFest. Amazing. Please make every effort to participate. I am very confident you will not be disappointed.

The BioFest provides a myriad of activities for all ages and all abilities in the realm of natural history and outdoor recreation. There are small group field trips, lectures, workshops, dinners, and evening programs. There are programs featuring a 5K/10K run or walk, amphibians, astronomy, birding, butterflies, children's activities, fishes, geology, habitat restoration, mammals, music, Native American & pioneer heritage, Native American plant use, reptiles, whitewater rafting, and wildflowers.

NEW BIOFEST ACTIVITIES IN 2003!

Kenn Kaufamn, internationally known author and birder will be in attendance throughout the BioFest to give a keynote presentation, lead field trips, present workshops, and conduct a book-signing session. Kenn is not only known for his expertise, but for his excellent sense of humor in his presentations and work with people of all knowledge levels.

John Schmitt, internationally known artist and birder, has designed the BioFest full-color commemorative t-shirt and will be a workshop and field trip leader. Past participants in John's workshop have said his combination of scientific acumen and artist perspective provides a learning experience that can't be found elsewhere.

Sylvia Gallagher, nationally known teacher, will conduct a two-day classroom and field workshop on bird songs. Those who have taken her workshop rave about its excellence.

Bob Steele, bird photographer, will conduct a bird photography field workshop and give a slide and lecture presentations on the "Birds of the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada."

Geoff Keller, chief sound recordist for Cornell University's Library of Nature Sounds,



Bob Steele waiting for the perfect moment to snap another award winning photo. Learn about bird photography in his workshop. Alison Sheehey © Nature Ali

will be present to demonstrate sound recording techniques and to sign the just released (March, 2003) "Bird Songs of California" 3 CD set. Geoff will be accompanied at the CD signing session by project participants Terri Gallion, Bob Steele, and Bob Barnes.

Rich Pelletreau has organized the 2nd Annual Wildlife Artists Association (of America) Art Show to be held at his studio grounds in Wofford Heights.

Geologists Ron Bolyard, Joe Fontaine, Andy Stone, and Gregg Wilkerson are working as a team to have a complete geology component for this year's BioFest. If you have any interest at all in learning about the fascinating geology of the Sierra Nevada from excellent teachers of the general public, this is the year to attend the BioFest and take part in the geology program.

Buz Lunsford and Doug Lemmons have once again spearheaded efforts to organize the amphibian and reptile component of the BioFest which, as usual, will be held at the Kern River Preserve.

Carol Wermuth, Ron Wermuth, and Vickie Tanner are organizing the Native American component including a Traditional Native American Blessing of the BioFest and



a Traditional Uses of Native Plants workshop.

Keith Axelson has provided an outstanding design to Steve Kenton, Weldon Postmaster, to be used as the U.S. Postal Service Official BioFest Cancellation at this year's festival.

Teresa Benson and her Sequoia National Forest staff have organized over thirty educational displays and informational booths for Circle Park in Kernville while Sandra Wieser, Jeff King, Mary Whitfield, and Preserve Manager Reed Tollefson are heading up organization of Kern River Preserve activities.

Ann Beman, Sherri Patterson, John Stallone, Luther Stephens, and Darby Vrenen have organized the 5th Annual BioFest 5K/10K.

BioFest: continued on page 4

BioFest cont. from page 3

BioFest Steering Committee members are working to make this coming BioFest one that is not to be missed: Phil Allin, Phyllis Allin, Bob Barnes, Michael Batelaan, Ann Beman, Teresa Benson, Ron Bolyard, Rick Crockett, Bill Foster, Birdie Foster, Terri Gallion, Rob & Shawn Graham, Steve Kenton, Doug Lemmons, Buz Lunsford, Meredith McKenzie, Wendy Runnells, Alison Sheehy, Sandra Wieser.

WHISPERS OF A SECRET WORLD

by Terri Gallion



Geoff Keller recording the songs of birds at Migrant Corner.
Photo courtesy Terri Gallion

I have been living or working in the Kern River Valley for 17 years. Every year, for the last several years, I have been asked to be a volunteer bird guide.

Little did I know, that the person who I would guide in the summer of 2001 would open up a whole new career for me and throw me into an exciting new project that will see fruition this Spring.

Bob Barnes introduced me to Geoff Keller, a sound recordist and asso-

ciate of Cornell's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds and asked me to be his guide. He and I spent 5 days going after recordings of birds in our area. Geoff was surprised that I was able to help direct him to so many of the birds on his recording wish list that season. Actually, it was easy. Because of the great diversity of intact habitats here, amazing communities of birds are juxtaposed within a few miles of each other. Geoff got high quality digital recordings of 60 species of birds on that short trip. He said it was the best single recording trip he had ever had.

Near the end of the trip, I suggested to Geoff that he record a Yellow-billed Cuckoo since they nest on the Kern River Preserve. Geoff said his vacation time was over and that I would have to do it. Well, that seemed an outrageous thing to suggest since I had never contemplated recording a bird, nor had any recording equipment.

Geoff encouraged me via email after returning to Oregon, I found some seldom-used, good quality recording equipment at the Southern Sierra Research Station, located my first Yellow-billed Cuckoo nest in only 20 minutes of searching, sat in a muddy, 110 degree blind for days and

what had seemed like an impossible recording was made.

This first taste of recording was a sweet lesson in listening. With the microphone positioned only a meter away from the nest, a cable connected my equipment and headphones to the moment-to-moment lives of the cuckoo family. It almost seemed as if I was in the nest with them. In all my years of observing wildlife, I had never been so intimately attuned to a wild creature. Needless to say, I was in love with recording from the first whisper of this secret world of bird sounds.

Bird sound recording is tough. There is the equipment to learn and then lug around over downed logs, overgrown thickets and through nettle patches. There is the endless waiting and frustration of recordings missed, birds that don't sing when you need them to and background noise that spoils so many otherwise good recordings. I never knew the world was such a cacophony of noise until I wore headphones day after day and prayed for enough silence to catch a cuckoo's elusive call. The highway one mile away, roared in my headphones like the Indy 500 so that I went home everyday with a dizzy headache.

The world is getting noisier and many birds are getting scarcer. A bird sound recordist today is in a terrifying race to find enough quiet to record what's left of the avian symphony.

The rest of that season and the next, I recorded Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, male and female Greater Roadrunner, Anna's Hummingbird, Golden Eagle, Nuttall's Woodpecker and Gambel's Quail. Nine of my recordings will be on the newest regional guide from Cornell, *Bird Songs of California*. Geoff Keller's recordings make up the majority of sounds heard on the CD. He is a master of bird sound recording and is author of this CD and other excellent regional bird sound guides from Cornell, *Bird Songs of Florida*, *Bird Songs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley* and *Bird Songs of Southeastern Arizona and Sonora Mexico*.

This exciting, new, 3 CD regional guide, *Bird Songs of California*, will be available by April 2003. Geoff Keller and other sound recordists

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's
Bird Songs of California

Geoffrey A. Keller



Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds

A mock up of the upcoming CD featuring Terri Gallion's recordings and Bob Steele's beautiful image of a male Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Photo courtesy Bob Steele ©

see *Whispers* page 5

Whisper cont. from page 4

that contributed to this CD will be at the Bioregions Festival in Kernville April 26th to sell and sign copies. Please try to come to the Bioregions Festival, and meet Geoff. Then, get this CD so that you too can listen to the intimate, sometimes secret world of bird sounds.

For information about the Bioregions and other festivals:

Website: <http://valleywild.org/bioregion.htm>

Email- krpfriends@lightspeed.net

Phone - 760-378-3044

Write - PO Box 410, Weldon, CA 93283

THE FUTURE IS NOW! OUTREACH & EDUCATION AT KRP

by Bob Barnes

Over its first twenty-two years of existence the Kern River Preserve has hosted thousands upon thousands of visitors. These thousands of visitors have participated in habitat restoration, field trips, festivals, scientific research, elementary school through university studies, retreats, workdays, building and grounds maintenance, fence-building, astronomy nights, campfires, conferences, nature walks, Native American ceremonies, and fellowship. During this same time KRP has maintained, even improved, its natural environment. With the aim of integrating improved and expanded Outreach and Education programs while maintaining the high quality environment, we are developing a dynamic and flexible O & E Plan to carry us effectively and sensitively through the next five years to June, 2008.

What does this mean for KRP, it's staff, our KRP Friends, and our general visitors? It means an expansion of staff and programs to carry out our goal of "Building a Culture of Conservation." It means determining our current infrastructure capabilities and needs. It means planning for the what? where? when? how? and why? of modifications of our existing programs and anticipated new programs. All of this MUST be done in a manner that does not "Kill the goose that laid the golden egg" - the magnificent natural environment of the Kern River Preserve and surrounding Kern River watershed.

Development of KRP's five year Outreach and Education Plan is very challenging. Yet, it promises to be one of great growth and reward. If you would like to be kept more fully informed of this process or directly involved in it, please feel free to contact me

by email at krpfriends@lightspeed.net (Bob Barnes) or write me at PO Box 833, Weldon, CA 93283.

WINTER BIRD COUNT RESULTS

The results of the Kern River Valley and South Fork Valley Christmas Bird Counts may be found on line at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>. These two long-running counts cover the entire Kern River Valley from Walker Pass on the east to Greenhorn Summit on the west. The counts provide valuable late-December/early January data on the status and distribution of the Kern River Valley's winter season birds. The two counts combined had twenty-seven observers who recorded 26,723 individuals of 130 species. Some highlights of the 28 Dec 02 KRV CBC: Osprey 9, Bald Eagle 10, Golden Eagle 3, Common Raven 1642



Osprey over the Kern River
© Alison Sheehey
Nature Ali

(Highest U.S. total), Rock Wren 31 (Highest CA total), American Dipper 12 (Highest CA total), and Tricolored Blackbird 581. Some highlights of the 29 Dec 02 SFV CBC: Bald Eagle 2, Golden Eagle 5, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 7, Pinyon Jay 106, Cactus Wren 21, Mountain Bluebird 60, and Tricolored Blackbird 2593 (2nd highest U.S. total). You can view a comparison of all California counts at <http://natureali.com/cbcs.htm>.

Thank you to all who participated this past December: Bob Barnes (Kern Valley compiler), Bill Briener, Gary File, Scott Frazer, Trude Frazer, Terri Gallion, Bruce Garlinger, Frank Gibson, Theo Glenn, Murrelet Halterman, Joe Hart, Lois Hart, Bruce Kautz, Roy Kautz, Brenda Kyle, Ken Kyle, Denise La Berteaux (South Fork Valley compiler), Barbara Mansfield, Breck McAlexander, Dan Portway, Barbara Reifel, Kris Reifel, John Schmitt, Alison Sheehey, Sandra Wieser, Deb Wilson, and John Wilson.

Christmas Bird counts are great fun. Participants spend full days out among the wonders of nature. There are always wildlife and other encounters with the natural world made during CBCs to deposit in one's memory bank to richly draw upon for a lifetime. Please mark next year's South Fork Valley and Kern River Valley CBCs on your calendars for the 3-4 January 03 weekend and joins us to experience nature at its best and to add to your bank of memories.

Weeds cont. from page 1

their properties or allowed our team to work on their property. The Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, California Fish and Game and Southern Sierra Research Station and others are working to address this problem on a watershed scale. We still have much to do but we are making progress.

Last year we worked to locate and remove invasive plants from the riparian areas, ditches and adjoining land area in the South Fork Kern River Valley. A total of 13 miles of the South Fork Kern River from Lake Isabella to the Wilderness Boundary at the Canebrake Ecological Reserve were surveyed for invasive weeds. Weed locations were documented and weeds were removed manually from all participating properties.

The primary weed of interest is purple loosestrife, however, saltcedar, Russian-olive and giant cane are also located and removed. A total of 27,575 weeds were removed, including 17,226 purple loosestrife and 10,349 saltcedar. The team also located and removed a small population of yellow-star thistle, possibly the first in the Kern River Valley.

We would like to thank all of the participating agencies and landowners/ranchers and our team that worked so hard to root out these weeds –Adolphe Tetsekoua, Jeff King, Breck McAlexander, Shannon McNeil, JF Marcotte, Julie Pierce. We also thank the California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Dept. of Conservation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Whitecap Foundation, for providing funding and expertise. Lastly, we look forward to waging our war on weeds next year with the continuing support of our friends.

LIFE HISTORIES OF INVASIVE WEEDS

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Tall (6ft) with showy spikes of pink-red flowers which bloom late June to early September. 5-6 petals, that look wrinkled or crushed. Stiff squared stem. Leaves sessile and opposite in two ranks. In fall leaves turn red for about ten days. Stems remain until spring with distinctive spiraling rows of dark brown seed capsules. Can be confused with fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), blue vervain, blazing stars, and spirea, but is distinctive because it grows on saturated soils in dense stands of up to 1,000 acres. Swift growth and enormous reproductive capacity reduces native species diversity and dries up valuable wetland.

**Tree-of-heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Fast growing (80ft) tree with smooth gray bark. Leaves arrive late in early May. Leaves are long and compound, leaflets smooth edged except for 1-3 teeth near the base, each with a small gland on lower surface. In winter, gray stems with stout, blunt brownish twigs and often clusters of twisted papery seeds. Strong disagreeable odor, especially male flowers and cut or bruised foliage. Similar overall in appearance to walnut and sumacs. However, sumacs only reach height of 15ft and leaves have many small teeth. Found mainly on disturbed ground, fence lines, road edges etc. Has a natural herbicide that can be toxic to native plants and once established trees can dominate.

**Giant cane** (*Arundo donax*)

Tall (30ft), thick stemmed, bamboo-like plant. Forms many stemmed clumps from thick, knotty horizontal rhizomes. Stems tough, hollow and divided by nodes. In winter stems fade to brown. Leaves, up to 1ft in length, pale green to blue-green and attached to stem with a heart shaped base. They alternate on stem, each pointing 180 from the next one. Flower a tall plume. Can confuse with bamboo or corn, and when young with ryegrass and common reed. Found in riparian areas and floodplains. Prefers gently sloping streams but can be found on dry banks away from water. Forms dense pure stands supporting few native species. Is highly flammable and can cause flooding when rhizomes break of and collect downstream.



Russian olive
(*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

Thorny, medium sized tree, with silvery green leaves and one seeded fruits or olives. Resembles a willow but distinguishable by existence of thorns. Grows under shade of willows and cottonwoods on floodplains and riverbanks. Can take over once native species age and die. It provides little habitat for native species.



Salt cedar
(*Tamarisk ramosissima*)

Loosely branched shrub or small tree (3-9ft). Green to red branches with thickish, scaled green leaves. Abundant small white or pink flowers in slender clusters in April – August. Has many tufted seeds in small dry capsules. Invading watercourses in the west with incredible speed (from unknown to common in twenty years). High transpiration rate can suck springs dry. Salt excreted from leaves can make soil inhospitable for local species. Poor source of food or shelter for native animals.



RESTORING NATIVE UNDERSTORY PLANTS

This spring we would like help planting native riparian vegetation on the Colt and Mill Field Restoration sites. We will be planting understory and midstory plants including wildrose, elderberry, mulefat, sandbar willow, arroyo willow, stinging nettle (ouch!) and mugwort within the fields. These plants are used by wildlife for food, cover, and nest-

ing material. We need volunteers to help lay out irrigation, plant and maintain the restoration site. See the schedule of volunteer planting dates on page 11.

Wild Rose
Rosa woodsii var. *ultramontana*



Blue elderberry
Sambucus mexicana

Stinging nettle
Urtica dioica ssp. *holosericea*



Mule fat
Baccharis salicifolia

Purple loosestrife, giant cane, Russian olive, and salt cedar photos - KRP Archives.
Tree-of-heaven, wild rose, elderberry, nettle, and mulefat photos - courtesy Alison Sheehy © Nature Ali

CALIFORNIA AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CELEBRATION



On June 14-15, 2003, the second annual California Amphibian & Reptile celebration will be held at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon.

"Escape the stress of everyday life and enjoy nature to the fullest while unraveling the many misconceptions and

superstitions of the most interesting, unusual, misunderstood, and rarely seen animals of California. Educational displays with entertaining presentations throughout each day.

Spaces will be available for vendors and displays to those who wish to participate by notifying Dr. H.F. "Buz" Lunsford, (760) 379-1453, email: lunfrd1@gte.net no later than June 1, 2003.

VERY APPEALING NEWS!

Wow! Thanks! The response of you, our Friends of the Kern River Preserve, to our current 2003 New Year Fund-raising Appeal has been nothing short of sensational! In just the few weeks since our mailing to you, we have received check after check after check with big donations and small in support of the ever improving and expanding programs at the Kern River Preserve. Please keep the donations flowing as they truly motivate us to provide the most dynamic and well-integrated Kern River Preserve possible. The upcoming April 25-27 BioFest promises to be the best and most rewarding ever, understory restoration on prior restored forest sites will be well underway by mid-March, and further land protection efforts may be coming to fruition on the near horizon. Our first Outreach & Education five year plan is currently being prepared with completion expected by the end of March. With our dramatically increased annual budget in place to carry out our expanding and improved programs, your generous support is more crucial than ever. Thank you for donating a portion of your giving to the Friends of the Kern River Preserve. We commit

to you to always work to make your investment sound, rewarding, and among the best you make.



John Schmitt led one of the many fantastic field trips at the 2002 Turkey Vulture Festival
Alison Sheehey © Nature Ali

Calendar cont. from page 1

Saturday (& Sunday), June 7 (& 8)

1st Sequoia National Forest-South Butterfly Count (Weekend), Piute Mtn./Breckenridge Mtn. area

Saturday & Sunday, June 14 & 15

2nd Annual California Amphibian & Reptile Celebration, Kern River Preserve, Weldon

Saturday, July 5

3rd Annual North Fork Kern River Valley Butterfly Count, Kernville area

Sunday, July 6

1st Giant Sequoia National Monument Butterfly Count

Saturday (& Sunday, July 19 (&20)

5th Annual South Fork Kern River Valley Rapid Assessment Summer Bird Count (Weekend), Weldon area

Friday-Sunday, July 25-27

5th Annual Kern River Valley Hummingbird Celebration, Kern River Preserve, Weldon

Friday-Monday, September 26-29

9th Annual Kern River Valley Turkey Vulture Festival, Kern River Preserve, Weldon

CONTACT: KRV NatureFests, web site: <http://valleywild.org/festivals.htm>,

email - krpfriends@lightspeed.net, phone - 760-378-3044; PO Box 410, Weldon, CA 93283

JOIN KRP FRIENDS' EMAIL LIST

Join the KRP Friends' email list to receive timely and low-cost communications. Our list is NOT shared with anyone else. To join, send an email to krpfriends@lightspeed.net. Thanks.

THANK YOU DONORS & NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter 202 people and organizations generously sent in much needed donations. If your name is missing or misspelled please let us know. We enjoy providing recognition to our wonderful friends. A special thank you to all of our anonymous donors. Your privacy matters, if you prefer to remain anonymous please state that on your donation form.

RAPTOR CIRCLE (\$1000-\$5000)

Carl Allen
Los Angeles Audubon Society

PACIFIC FLYWAY PATROL (\$100-\$999)

Tom & Jeanne Anderson	Robert Ashley
Laguna Hills Audubon Society	
Morro Coast Audubon Society	
Pomona Valley Audubon Society	
Sylvia Barr	Kathleen Barry
George & Judy Beaty	Deborah Brusco
David Campbell	Sue & Tom Carter
Roger & Barbara Coley	Uzi Daniel
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Martine & Richard Metzenheim	John & Susan Mills
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Clinton Stallings	Daniel L. Szymanski
Suzanne Eiseman & Bruce Terzes	
Doug, Janine, & Lindsay Wilson	& Julie Uyehara
Elaine White	

SUPPORTERS (\$50-\$99)

Phil & Phyllis Allin	Frederick C. Alpers
Dorothea Ann Anton	Elizabeth Babcock
Alan & Sheila Baldrige	Dorothy Bolt
Ron & Ginnie Bottorff	Martin Brabender
Michelle Brodie	Barbara Burke
Debra Campbell-Wingerden	Les Chibana
Lucy Clark (in memory of her mother Johnny Clark)	
B.W. Catlin Cunningham	Eunice Corn
Johanna Dawes	Randy Derhammer
John Dukat	Mr. & Mrs. James Dunn
Tom Duque	Leslie Flint
David A. Fong	Dr. Michael Golub
Robert W. Hansen	Mark Holmgren
Paul Johanson	
Kerncrest Audubon Society	Michael Klinkenberg

Gary & Marietta Lindquist	La Dona Matthews
Donald & Patricia Moore	Paul Moreno
Debra Newton	Jeannette Papp
Gene Parks	
Charlotte Braun-Pofeldt	Gaylan Queirola
John & Janette Quinley	Randolph Taylor Sage
Joe & Cathy Cunningham	Sequoia Lodge
W. & B. Stephens	Bernard Strandstra
Kern Valley Sun, Inc.	Marie Vester
David A. & Debbie E. Warren	Mitsu Whitfield
Margaret Williams	Robin Winslow-Smith
South Fork Women's Club	

FRIENDS (\$20-\$49)

David Anderberg	Ronald & Viola Barklow
Jean Beaton	Gary Beeler
Andy & Teresa Benson	William Berger
Barbara Berilla	Betty Berteaux
Ron & Ginnie Bottorff	Diane Bright
Lloyd Brubaker	Dan & Brenda Burnett
Dorothy Burnstrom	Thomas Byrd
Roy Cameron	Michael & Rita Carey
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Pat & Christine Dauwalder	Linda Dye
Donald & Margaret Emery	
Andie Lueders & Joe Fontaine	Carolyn Forest
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Carol Littleton	M. Kay Matthews
Christy McGuire	Donna McKenna
Kathryn D. Mitchell	Ellen Nichols
Martha O'Neal	
Bonnie & Kiyoshi Nishikawa	Debbie K. Ottman
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Jo Samuels	Patricia Seamount
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Michael Vensky	Mary Ellen Wartens
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AUDUBON CHAPTER DONORS

Kerncrest Audubon Society

Friends cont. from page 9

Laguna Hills Audubon Society
Los Angeles Audubon Society
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Pomona Valley Audubon Society

APPEAL & FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE –

Thanks to the generous support from members like you, the Friends of the Kern River Preserve has raised over \$20,000 since July of 2002. This money goes to support our festivals, tours, community outreach, newsletter and webpage. If we can't reach out to the public, we can't change the world.

MANAGEMENT ENDOWMENTS

It is critical that Audubon and our partners develop income streams that support on-going stewardship, protection, education and outreach at the Kern River Preserve. Preserve staff is working to establish endowments to create permanent and reliable income streams to help fund these vital activities. One way for the average person to make a big difference is to consider planned giving options. If the Kern River Preserve is special to you and you may be interested, please call Reed or Bob and we will introduce you to one of Audubon California's new development staff. They have some pretty good ideas.

STEWARDSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Fencing – In the second half of 2002, with support from the private and public grants, we removed dilapidated fence and built 10,000 feet of new range fence at the Kern River Preserve. Although unglamorous, this work helps protect our riparian habitat and wildlife from trespass by livestock, off-road vehicles and hunters. It is also one of the most cost effective ways to “restore” riparian forest. We have on-going work throughout 2003.

BARTOLAS PLANTING - 20 acre Habitat Improvement Planting

With funding from the Whitecap Foundation, Kern River Preserve staff and volunteers worked hard last year to plant and care for hundreds of cottonwoods, ash, willows, wild rose and mulefat. The site is looking great and with time, it will significantly improve the plant species diversity and will benefit numerous species of our native wildlife. We will monitor this site and irrigate it as needed, with the expectation that it will become self sufficient by this time next year.

THANK YOU!!!

1. Carl Allen - \$4,500 gift for the purchase of laptop computer and digital slide projector.
2. Katie, Estevan and Lydon Olivares for helping staff get our Nature Trail back in service after our winter flood.
3. Bakersfield Bureau of Land Management /Shane Barrow – for a hydro-auger. This is a portable/low impact planting tool that is new to the Kern River Preserve. We look forward to using it and making available to our partners for use throughout the watershed.
4. Thank you to our old worn out farm tractor for making it through another year – (please see wish list).
5. Operations and Maintenance – Thanks to Kyle Pinette and Jeff King, two handy guys, who made repairs and improvements over the winter to our Headquarters facility. See Jeff's new visitor's sign below. We have old and interesting buildings that can be described as rustic (or dilapidated). Our buildings always need work and we always need help with them (see volunteer opportunities).



KERN VALLEY PRIDE DAY

Thank you to the nine friends of the Kern River

Preserve who participated in Kern Valley Pride Day last September 21st. We collected 105 bags of truly disgusting trash, helping to maintain the beauty of the South Fork of the Kern River Valley. We try to diligently keep the area clean for our wild friends throughout the year, but this is a great community event.

If you are out birding, please help by picking up trash and disposing of it properly. Our feathered and furred friends really benefit from the removal of these dangerous items from their backyards. Thank you.



Jeff King, a member of the Kern River Preserve contingent helps rid the landscape of barbed wire and other detritus left by careless people.



FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE



Membership / Renewal Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Fax: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Check for change of address / information

Please make checks payable to : **NAS / KRP Friends**

- Anonymous Donation
- Please send me information on planned giving.
- Please send me information on volunteer opportunities.

Application for:	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
_____ \$1000 Raptor Circle	_____ \$20 Friend	
_____ \$100 Pacific Flyway Patrol	_____ Additional Contribution	
_____ \$50 Supporter	Total \$ _____	

All members in the Friend and above categories receive our newsletter
 New members in the \$50 Supporter and above level are eligible to receive a KRPFriends T-shirt
 Please be sure to indicate size if you WISH to receive a t-shirt.
 small medium large XL XXL

Mail to: FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER PRESERVE • P. O. Box 833 • Weldon, CA 93283

2003 Kern River Preserve Volunteer Opportunities

Spring Work Parties at the Kern River Preserve

KRP Habitat Restoration Days. – We are working to plant native riparian vegetation on the Colt and Mill Field Restoration sites. In an effort to enhance these sites we will be planting understory and midstory plants including wildrose, elderberry, mulefat, sandbar willow, arroyo willow, stinging nettle (ouch!) and mugwort within the fields. Many birds and other wildlife already use these fields but we want to work to make them even better. You might enjoy seeing the forests that have developed on these sites and help to enhance the vegetative and species diversity. We need volunteers to help lay out irrigation, plant and maintain the restoration site.

Saturday Volunteer Habitat Restoration Dates -

March 8, 15, 22 and 29
 April 5 and 12
 May 3

Bring work gloves, wear sturdy outdoor clothes and shoes

and a lunch. We will provide drinks. Please call KRP and leave a message or speak with Reed at (760) 378-2531. Let us know how many people will be coming with you. We can provide volunteers with a good campsite on the preserve with rustic accommodations. Work starts at 9 am.

April 19 - Bio-Regional Festival Preserve Preparation Day - Help KRP Staff and Volunteers prepare the Kern River Preserve for the Bio-Regions Festival

April 26-27 - Bio-Regional Festival/KRP Friends Booth - Volunteers are needed to man the booth at both Circle Park and the Kern River Preserve. We also need docents, trip leaders, and gofers. Call (760) 378-3004 for information.

Volunteer Opportunity - Skilled volunteer painter, electrician carpenter and/or plumber – we will supply materials and a place for you to stay and/or camp. We will do our best to make you comfortable and welcome.

Wish List

Flatbed Trailer suitable for hauling a tractor or automobile
 Medium Farm Tractor, Category III 3-point hitch



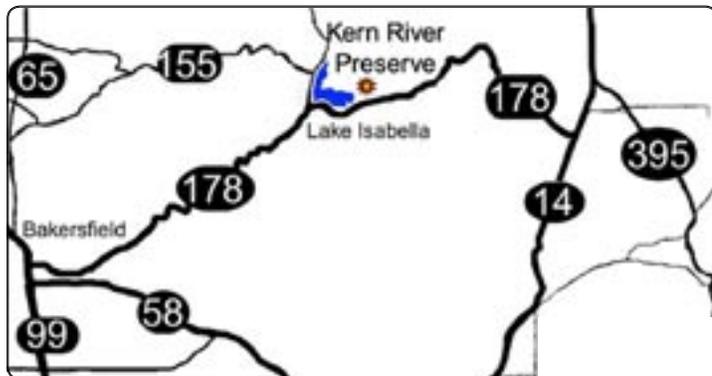
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Don't Miss!

The 9th Annual
Kern River Valley
Bioregions Festival

April 25-27, 2003



The Kern River Preserve is located 1.1 miles east of the intersection of State Highway 178 and Sierra Way in Weldon, Kern County, California.

Driving time from:

Los Angeles.....	3.5 hours
San Diego.....	5.5 hours
San Francisco.....	6.5 hours
Reno.....	7.5 hours

Cal Trans current road conditions: **1 (800) 427-7623**

For further information about the
FRIENDS OF THE KERN RIVER
PRESERVE



call: (760) 378-3044
email: krpfriends@lightspeed.net
or visit our websites:
KRP: <http://audubon.org/local/sanctuary/kernriver/>
Festivals: www.valleywild.org

