

# North Mountain Park Nature Center

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER ~ WINTER/SPRING 2006 - 2007



## Rogue Valley Earth Day 2007 - NEW LOCATION

Saturday, April 21, 11 am - 4 pm

We're growing! The Earth Day event is moving to a NEW LOCATION this year at the grounds of ScienceWorks Hands-on Museum, 1500 East Main Street, Ashland. All ages are invited to this free community festival. Over 60 exhibits will show you how to conserve energy, reduce waste, prevent pollution, protect wildlife and create an earth-friendly lifestyle. Enjoy live entertainment, activities for kids and delicious snacks for sale. More details to come! For information, to become a sponsor or for volunteer information visit

[www.RogueValleyEarthDay.net](http://www.RogueValleyEarthDay.net).



## Project FeederWatch

An annual survey of birds that visit feeders in winter



CORNELL LAB of ORNITHOLOGY



ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Join birding experts Denny Niebuhr and friends from the Rogue Valley Audubon Society for Project FeederWatch. Count and identify birds that visit the feeders at N MT Park. Project FeederWatch is a nationwide bird monitoring effort that takes place in the winter months between November and early April. Birds are counted as they appear in an established count site to eat the food provided for them. A count site is an area where the birds can be consistently observed at the feeders throughout the project. The highest number of each species at a given time is noted. The information collected is submitted to the Cornell University's FeederWatch project where scientists use the data to study



Birders at N MT Park

broadscale movement of wintering birds and long-term trends of bird abundance and distribution in North America.

Project FeederWatch is a great opportunity for all-level birders to get acquainted with local birds and mingle with other birders. This free program is sponsored by the N MT Park Nature Center, the Rogue Valley Audubon Society and the Northwest Nature Shop of Ashland.

**Dates:** Alternate Saturdays this winter; Dec 16 & 30, Jan 13 & 27, Feb 10 & 24, Mar 10 & 24

**Time:** 9 am - 10 am

**Where:** N MT Park

**Why:** Learn more about winter birds in your area and contribute to the conservation and science of feeder birds in North America

Register online at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com> or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

To learn more about this nationwide effort visit [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu) and click on Project FeederWatch - you can take part in your own backyard!

Promoting greater community awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the local natural environment and fostering stewardship through educational programs and activities.



# Volunteers

They make amazing things happen!



## Volunteer Profile

Friends & Volunteers of the Nature Center  
**KATHY KUDO & ROBERT MUMBY**

*"... helping to educate the next generations about the importance of ecology and maintaining a human-friendly environment"*

Kathy Kudo and Robert Mumby have lived in the Rogue Valley for the past four years, having come from Honolulu, Hawaii. And although, during the winter months in the Rogue Valley, it's hard to imagine leaving the tropical Hawaiian climate, they were actually attracted to the climate of Southern Oregon. Well, the culture of the Rogue Valley had a little to do with their decision to move!

Both Robert and Kathy retired from careers with local government in Hawaii. Kathy worked as a librarian with the County of Honolulu and Robert was an Information Specialist with the City of Honolulu.

They both use their talents at the Nature Center, and their expertise is highly valued. Since the summer of 2005, Robert has been organizing the Nature Center's digital photos – all 4,000+ and growing! Kathy began organizing the Center's Resource Room in the summer of 2005 as well. With the exception of general upkeep of the Resource Room, she has moved on to help organize the Nature Center's Collection database.

The couple share many varied interests that include motorcycling, wildlife observation, snow shoeing, reading, attending live theatre and concerts, and participating in or attending the many diverse cultural and recreational activities in the region. They also volunteer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, are members of the Friends of Phoenix Library and have served on City of Phoenix and Jackson County committees.

When asked what they like about volunteering at North Mountain Park, their response was, "Indirectly helping to educate the next generations about the importance of ecology and maintaining a human-friendly environment." They also "enjoy the Park and getting to know the staff and other volunteers."

### Volunteers Needed to Help Teach About Animals

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and teach a variety of lessons on local animals.

**Between December 2006 and April 2007**, specific duties will include research and curriculum development related to wildlife, farming and ranching, and preparation of materials. Skills that would be helpful include: computer knowledge; a teaching background; knowledge of local natural history or ranching; exhibit development; artistic skills; internet research; and graphic design.

**During the months of April through June** volunteers will be needed to help teach lessons, maintain equipment, set up lessons, oversee scheduling, communicate with local schools and photograph students during the programs.

Skills and/or experience that would be helpful to us at this stage would be teaching experience, photography knowledge and organizational skills.



### Fall Volunteers

A big thanks to the 20 brave volunteers who helped teach Ashland K - 5th graders about the wonderful world of plants!



## VOLUNTEER — GARDENERS

Bountiful thanks to the VOLUNTEER GARDENERS who have made the Nature Center's Demonstration & Heirloom Gardens so beautiful during the 2006 season!



### Volunteers - Did you know...

After 25 hours of volunteer service you receive a punchcard valued at \$10 and good toward ANY Ashland Parks & Recreation program! After 40 hours you are eligible to receive a N MT Park T-shirt or hat!

*Be sure to get your hours logged for 2006!  
Punchcards will be mailed in January.*

# Winter Wednesday Nature Talks

Join us for Winter Wednesday Nature Talks where local experts will share their knowledge of the Rogue Valley's natural and cultural history in a monthly program this winter, January through March. The Nature Talks will take place at the N MT Park Nature Center from 7 - 9 pm and are intended for ages 12 and up. Each program is \$3/children, \$5/adults and registration is required for each. Please register online at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com> or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

## Nature Talk 1: Hawks, Masters of the Sky

Wed, Jan 17, 7 – 9 pm. Hawks have captured our imaginations in ways that few other bird groups do; easily seen, they push our primal poetic buttons. Program instructors Dick Ashford and Ashley Dayer will lead you in examining natural history of these fascinating creatures, including behavior, habitat and adaptations for survival. Learn basic identification of some of our local hawks and discuss the relationship between hawks and humans; are they friend or foe? We'll be well prepared (and motivated) to join one of the field trips that Dick Ashford will be leading to the Klamath Basin in January and March. Dick, Board President of Klamath Bird Observatory, has spent hundreds of hours in the field watching hawks and an equal amount of time researching their natural history. He leads hawk-watching outings for several organizations and originated the popular "Hawk Heaven" trips at the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival. Ashley Dayer, Education & Outreach Director of Klamath Bird Observatory, earned her M.S. in the Human Dimensions of Wildlife and has worked as a field biologist, environmental educator and outing leader throughout the U.S.

## Nature Talk 2: Rusty Cans and Broken Bottles

Wed, Feb 7, 7 pm. Instructor Jeff Lalonde will explain what rusty cans and broken bottles can tell us about the history of southwestern Oregon. He will present a slide show and a display of some commonly-found 'historic period' (19th and 20th century) artifacts and explain what they are and how to date them. Jeff has been an archaeologist and historian for the U.S. Forest Service for 30 years. The author of several books and articles, he has worked on historic-period archaeological projects, ranging from 1820s Hudson's Bay Company fur-trade post to 1860s-1880s Chinese gold-mining camps to early 20th century logging camps.

## Nature Talk 3: Wildflowers of the Siskiyou and Surrounding Areas

Wed, Mar 7, 7 – 8 pm. Join Phyllis Gustafson for a colorful PowerPoint presentation on wildflowers of southern Oregon. Phyllis has been actively gardening and exploring native plants, primarily in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, for the last 35 years. She is the author of Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest: Timber Press Field Guide. Her book will be available for sale with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the N MT Park Nature Center.

Thank you to the 2006 Bear Creek Salmon Festival Sponsors!



### Levels of Sponsorship...

- SPAWNERS - \$250+
- OCEAN RUN SALMON - \$100
- SMOLT - \$50
- EGGS - \$25

#### SPAWNERS...

- Ashland Parks Foundation
- Dagoba Organic Chocolate
- Nelson Davis - Artist
- Oregon Trout's Healthy Waters Institute

#### OCEAN RUN SALMON...

- Ashland Outdoor Store
- Cynthia Lord
- The Fish Queen
- Russell & Candice Chapman
- Seven Feathers Hotel & Casino Resort
- Weisingers Vineyard & Winery

#### SMOLT...

- Aztech Graphics Arts
- Big Town Hero
- Fry Family Farm
- McKenzie Outfitters, Inc.
- Sandra Hendrickson
- Shimee Mayer, LMT
- Vicki Simpson

#### EGGS...

- Albertsons
- Ashland Food Cooperative
- Fly Water Travel, LLC
- Four & Twenty Blackbirds
- Grilla Bites
- Geppetto's
- La Baguette/Hardware Café
- Market of Choice
- Omar's
- Shop 'n Kart



Be sure to check out our Summer Camps in the Summer 2007 N MT Park Newsletter coming this May!

### New AmeriCorps Volunteer at NMT Park

"Hello, my name is Molly McLaughlin and I am the new AmeriCorps/ Service Learning Coordinator at the Nature Center. I am a graduate of Southern Oregon University and have been an Ashland resident for four years. I am very excited about my year of AmeriCorps here at the Nature Center. I can't believe I get to wake up and come to work at such a beautiful place everyday!"



# Calendar

Winter - Spring 2006 - 2007

Dec - May

## Ashland Parks & Recreation Refund Policy

For a complete description of the Ashland Parks & Recreation Refund Policy see page two of the Ashland Parks' Recreation Guide, visit [www.ashland.or.us/recguide](http://www.ashland.or.us/recguide) or call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606.

\* No pre-registration required

## JANUARY 2007

### Project FeederWatch

**Alternate Saturdays this winter, 9 – 10 am; Dec 16 & 30, Jan 13 & 27, Feb 10 & 24, Mar 10 & 24.** (See cover story for details.)

### Winter Bird Walk

**Sat, Jan 6, 8 – 10 am.** Stroll through N MT Park to view feathered fauna with birding experts Vince Zauskey, Denny Niebuhr and Gwyneth Ragosine. Binoculars and field guides will be available for check-out. All ages welcome. Free.

### Basic Tree Pruning

**Sat, Jan 6, 1 – 2:30pm.** Learn basic pruning skills to benefit the health and beauty of your ornamental trees. Instructor Mary Pritchard, an Ashland Tree Commissioner, and has more than 10 years of experience in landscape design and pruning. Bring your favorite pruners and learn about a variety of pruning tools! Ages 16 and older. This free class is sponsored by the Ashland Tree Commission.

### Pre-School Puppet Theatre

**2nd Friday of each month; Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 13; 10:30 – 11:45 am.** Gather around and see what Bucky Beaver and friends are up to this winter and spring. \$5/family, includes two children, \$2 for each additional child. Reservations are guaranteed only until 10:30 am. Space and parking are limited – Please arrive early! No Late Seating. Class is intended for preschoolers, 2 – 6 years of age.

### Hawks, Masters of the Sky

(Winter Wednesday Nature Talk) **Wed, Jan 17, 7 – 9 pm.** (See pg 3 for details.)

### Crafting Gourd Bird Feeders

**Sat, Jan 27, 1 – 3 pm.** Be a friend to wildlife while expanding your creative skills. Create beautiful natural bird feeders from locally grown gourds to take home to beautify your yard and provide food for local birds. Ages 12 and up. \$7 includes materials.

## FEBRUARY 2007

### Rusty Cans and Broken Bottles

(Winter Wednesday Nature Talk)  
**Wed, Feb 7, 7 pm.** (See pg 3 for details)

### Herbal Valentines

**Sat, Feb 10, 10 am – noon.** Got a sweetheart? Learn how to make special herbal valentine gifts for your loved ones and friends with instructor Julie Avena. Ages 10 – 15. \$15 includes materials.

### North Mountain Park Nature Center

#### Open House/Orientation

**Tue, Feb 13, noon - 3 pm.** Join Ashland Parks and Recreation Department staff for an introduction to the Demonstration Gardens and Natural Area at North Mountain Park Nature Center. The interactive indoor exhibits will be available all afternoon with tours of the Demonstration Gardens and Natural Area beginning at 1 pm and 2 pm. This orientation will also introduce you to ways that you, your family or organization can become volunteers at N MT Park. We have long-term, short-term or pick-up projects in all facets of the N MT Park Nature Center operations, from gardening to administration. Volunteers make amazing things happen at N MT Park – come be a part of the team! Refreshments provided.

### Starting Seeds at Home

**Sat, Feb 24, 1 – 3 pm.** Increase your success when starting your seeds at home with or without a greenhouse. Hands-on instruction will be provided by professional grower and gardener Jennifer Ewing who has already worked out the kinks for you. Ages 12 and up. \$7/person.

### Introduction to Designing a Sacred Garden

**Mon, Feb 26, 6:30 - 9 pm.** Join instructor Jeni Ambrose in exploring the elements of "sacred garden" and discover how you might use these elements to create an enchanting garden environment in your yard. Ages 8 and up. \$8/children, \$15/Adults.

## North Mountain Park Nature Center

For a detailed description of each program and to REGISTER visit our registration website at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com>

**Pre-Registration is required** on all programs 7 days in advance, unless otherwise indicated.

# Calendar

Winter - Spring 2006 - 2007

Dec - May

\* No pre-registration required

## MARCH 2007

### Nature Drawing with Irene Brady

**Saturdays in March; 3, 10 & 17, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm.** Join local author and artist Irene Brady for a mini series in Nature Drawing! Classes will be taught inside, and supplies will be provided at no extra cost. Please bring a sack lunch. Ages 12 to adult. A step-by-step technique guide book, bound with several pages of sketchbook paper, will be provided with each class. *\$95 for the series (includes all materials).*

**Class 1:** Nature Sketching Techniques, **March 3.**

**Class 2:** Landscape Sketching Techniques **March 10.**

**Class 3:** Watercolor Pencil Techniques **March 17.**

### Wildflowers of the Siskiyou and Surrounding Areas (Winter Wednesday Nature Talks)

**Wed, Mar 7, 7 – 8 pm.** (See pg 3 for details.)

### Renewable Electricity

**Wed, Mar 14, 7 – 8 pm.** Join the renewable energy revolution! During a slide show presentation, learn about the rapid development of clean electricity projects in Oregon, how green power is benefiting our environment and economy, and opportunities for individuals to help create a clean energy future. *Free.*

### Spring Equinox Family Herbal Celebration!

**Sun, Mar 18, 3 – 5 pm.** Celebrate the coming of spring at the North Mountain Park Nature Center gardens! Join local herbalist Julie Avena on a medicinal plant adventure as we discover the new wonders of spring in the gardens and make herbal medicines and tasty treats. Nature songs, games and stories make this equinox celebration fun for the whole family! Ages 5-105! *\$10/adults; \$5/children, includes materials.*

### Garden Volunteer Orientation

**Wed, Mar 21, 10 am – noon.** Cultivate new acquaintances and the joy of shared results by volunteering your gardening skills at North Mountain Park. Nature Center staff and volunteers will provide an orientation to the Demonstration Gardens, greenhouse and composting facility. Tools and snacks will be provided. *Free.*

## APRIL 2007

### Wildflower Walk in Oredson-Todd Woods

**Sat, Apr 7, 1 – 3 pm.** Join Jim Duncan of the Southern Oregon Native Plant Society for an easy walk through Todd Oredson Woods. Jim will help identify wildflowers along the way. Bring hiking shoes, water and a snack. Meet at the Oredson-Todd Trailhead (turn left on Lupine Drive off of Greenmeadows). *\$5/person.*

### \* Rogue Valley Earth Day Celebration

**Sat, Apr 21, 11 am – 4 pm.** (See cover story for details.)

## MAY 2007

### Spring Nature Walks in Hald Strawberry Park

**Tue, May 1, 4:30 – 6 pm.** Explore one of Ashland's less visited trail areas on an easy-paced, 2-mile hike led by Nature Center Stewardship Coordinator Linda Chesney. We will take time to observe some of the local flora. Bring hiking shoes, water and a snack. Meet at the intersection of Scenic and Logan Dr. On-street parking is available. *Free.*

### Lithia Park Work Party

**Sat, May 5, 9 am – 1 pm.** Carry the Earth Day spirit into the woods with a group effort to control invasive plants such as Scotch broom and English ivy. Bring friends or make new acquaintances while you build muscles in the springtime fresh air. Tools, gloves and snacks will be provided. Groups of 5 or more please call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606 to register. *Free.*

### \* Migratory Bird Day

**Sat, May 12, 8 am – noon.** Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with a variety of engaging outdoor learning activities for birders of all ages, abilities and sleep habits! Take an 'early-bird' guided walk and visit the banding station to get a close-up look. Admire a variety of wild birds of prey from Wildlife Images. Sip 'bird-friendly' shade-grown coffee and learn how changes in the movements of some species is just one indicator of the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. *Free.*

## North Mountain Park Nature Center

Classes may be canceled due to insufficient enrollment or other reasons. If this occurs, a full refund will be issued in 2 - 3 weeks. All programs will take place at **North Mountain Park Nature Center** unless otherwise indicated.

# Natural History Corner

## Birds & Climate Change

Birds have long been indicators of environmental change, sounding the alarm about the impacts of pesticides, polluted water and the loss of contiguous forest. Growing scientific evidence indicates that some birds and other wildlife are already responding to changes in climate caused primarily by the human uses of fossil fuels. One pilot study of 35 North American warbler species showed that the range of occurrence of 20% of the species had shifted north by more than 65 miles over the past 24 years. Computer models predict that many of the species projected to disappear from Oregon, or whose ranges may shrink, are those species that feed on insect pests. When combined with other stresses, such as habitat loss, invasive species and pollution, the effects of global warming on birds will cause a chain of impacts throughout the regions' ecosystems and economy, effecting forestry, farming and quality of life. If enough people chose to make appropriate lifestyle changes, some of the effects can be averted.



*American Goldfinch*  
Photo - Richard Cronberg

# Sustainable Living

## Recycling Directory



### Beyond the Curb: Jackson County Recycling Directory

Do you have an old computer sitting in your garage? Ever wondered what to do with that leftover paint? Looking for a place to take scrap lumber from your remodeling project?

Find out how you can extend the life of natural resources close to home. The new Jackson County Recycling Directory is now posted online at [www.RogueSMART.org](http://www.RogueSMART.org), providing a list of recycling opportunities for homes and businesses to reduce waste and prevent pollution. From appliances, building materials, and electronics to paint, tires and yard waste, the Recycling Directory includes over 50 local recycling outlets beyond basic curbside collection service.

### A New Place for Plastic Tubs!

Ashland Sanitary is now accepting plastic tubs such as cottage cheese, yogurt, and margarine containers at the Ashland Recycling Depot and the Valley View Transfer Station ONLY. Please DO NOT put these items in your curbside commingle cart. Rinse all containers and throw away the lids. Buckets or tubs that have been used for hazardous materials are NOT accepted. For more information, call 541.482.1471.

## Annual Contributions

Once a year we invite community members to show their support for the North Mountain Park Nature Center by making a tax-deductible contribution of any amount. Donations help fund special projects at North Mountain Park. These projects include new interactive exhibits about local natural and cultural history, and outdoor discovery kits for kids and families. Your annual contribution also helps to support free, educational community events like Rogue Valley Earth Day and the Bear Creek Salmon Festival. Please make checks payable to the Ashland Parks Foundation care of the North Mountain Park Nature Center, 620 N Mountain Ave, Ashland, OR, 97520.

North Mountain Park Nature Center  
620 N Mountain Ave  
Ashland, OR 97520

Email: [cottled@ashland.or.us](mailto:cottled@ashland.or.us)  
[www.ashland.or.us/northmountainpark](http://www.ashland.or.us/northmountainpark)

This newsletter is published three times per year  
(Winter/Spring, Summer & Fall)

The Nature Center is open Mon - Fri, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
The Park is open to the public sunrise to sunset

