



2012 Spring Program Schedule

Lookout Mountain Nature Center
Jefferson County Open Space

“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.”

~ Rachel Carson

We invite you to join us here at the Lookout Mountain Nature Center and at all of our Open Space parks to connect, explore and find the best that resides in you. Join us for a program to discover ways that you, your family and friends can get in touch with nature.

Registration is required for all programs unless noted. *Registration opens one month prior to the date of the program.* Program details are listed on the webpage for each program.

Register for a Program: Visit lmnc.jeffco.us and click the orange “Register” button or call 720-497-7600.

Programs for your group: Find our list of options on our web site, lmnc.jeffco.us, or call the education hot-line at 720-497-7601.

Spring Program Schedule 2012

March

Wednesday, March 7

Thursday, March 8

Wednesday, March 14

Thursday, March 15

Volunteer Program Naturalist Training

6 – 9 p.m. Lookout Mountain Nature Center

Ever wanted to lead nature hikes? Now is your opportunity to join our Volunteer Program Naturalist team. Sign-up for this four-session training and learn the basics about interpretive teaching techniques, how to manage groups, ponderosa pine forest ecology and much more. You must submit a volunteer application and be able to attend all four sessions. Adults only.

Saturday, March 10 Planets & Stars

6:30 p.m. Pine Valley Ranch Park

Enjoy the dark sparkling skies at the historic William Baehr Observatory and learn about spring constellations and planets. Weather permitting, view through historic & modern telescopes. Ages 10 – adult.

Sunday, March 11

Wings of Spring: Bird Migration

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Matthews/Winters Park

Celebrate the incredible journey of migratory birds during these drop-by programs. Learn about challenges they face along the way, what you can do to support their survival and more. Drop by anytime from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All ages. *Registration not required.*

Friday, March 23

Jr. Astronomers – The Real Stars of Harry Potter

7 p.m. Alderfer/Three Sisters Park – West Entrance

Draco, Bellatrix & Sirius are just a few of the characters in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books with celestial names. Join

fellow HP enthusiasts to learn about and view these stellar objects. Join a spirited discussion about the books & characters. Costumes encouraged. Please bring a mug for butterbeer (aka: hot chocolate). Ages 6 – 10 with an adult.

Saturday, March 24

Welcome Spring Hike & Campfire

6:30 p.m. Lair o' the Bear Park

Celebrate the first days of spring with a hike & cracklin' campfire. Find out which animals are stirring, birds arriving and stars & planets rising. All ages.

Sunday, March 25

Abert's Squirrels

1 – 4 p.m. Flying J Ranch Park

These unique foothill residents rely on ponderosa pine trees for their food and nest. Drop by and chat with naturalists and find out more about these fascinating tassel-eared residents, search for signs of activity or even perhaps catch a glimpse of one scrambling up a tree. Drop by anytime from 1 – 4 p.m. All ages.

Saturday, March 31

Wings of Spring: Bird Migration

10 – 1 p.m. Matthews/Winters Park

Celebrate the incredible journey of migratory birds during these drop-by programs. Learn about challenges they face along the way, what you can do to support their survival and more. Drop by anytime from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All ages.

Registration not required.

April

Sunday, April 1

Abert's Squirrels

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Alderfer/Three Sisters Park – West Entrance

These unique foothill residents rely on ponderosa pine trees for their food and nest. Drop by and chat with naturalists and find out more about these fascinating tassel-eared residents, search for signs of activity or even perhaps catch a glimpse

of one scrambling up a tree. Drop by anytime from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All ages. *Registration not required.*

Friday, April 6

Full Moon Hike

7:30 p.m. Deer Creek Canyon Park

Enjoy silvery, moon-lit trails as you learn about the wildlife that begin their 'day' when the sun goes down. Bring snowshoes if trail conditions permit. Ages 6 – adult.

Sunday, April 8

Abert's Squirrels

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mt. Falcon Park – West Entrance

These unique foothill residents rely on ponderosa pine trees for their food and nest. Drop by and chat with naturalists and find out more about these fascinating tassel-eared residents, search for signs of activity or even perhaps catch a glimpse of one scrambling up a tree. Drop by anytime from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All ages. *Registration not required.*

Friday, April 13

Planets o' Plenty I

7:45 p.m. Pine Valley Ranch Park

Join astronomy team members for a planet-studded evening at the historic William Baehr Observatory. Find out which planets are rising, which are setting, and where to find them among prominent spring constellations. Weather permitting, view through historic & modern telescopes. Ages 10 – adult.

Friday, April 20

Planets o' Plenty II

7:45 p.m. Pine Valley Ranch Park

Join astronomy team members for a planet-studded evening at the historic William Baehr Observatory. Find out which planets are rising, which are setting, and where to find them among prominent spring constellations. Weather permitting, view through historic & modern telescopes. Ages 10 – adult.

Special Programs & Events



Summer Day Camp

June & July

Eagle's Nest Owl's Roost Summer Day Camp

A week of exploration, learning and fun outdoors! Eagle's Nest Owl's Roost (ENOR) is an award-winning, week-long environmental day camp for kids entering 4th and 5th grades. The 4-H program in Jefferson County sponsors ENOR. For camp dates and to register, visit jeffcoextension.org or call (303) 271-6620.

Workshop

Saturday, March 31 Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Workshop

*8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lookout
Mountain Nature Center*

Educators, group leaders and parents: Join us as we explore indoor and outdoor nature activities for young children. In this popular, interactive workshop, teachers and child caregivers receive Project Learning Tree's award-winning curriculum for 3-6 year olds. You'll get valuable ideas for immediate use in science, music, math, literacy and more! \$35 materials fee. Registration is required. Register at coloradopl.org. Questions? Contact Shawna Crocker at 303-202-4662.

Saturday, April 21 Mountain Area Earth Day Fair

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Evergreen Lake House

Join us to celebrate Earth Day at the Evergreen Lake House. This popular annual event has something for everyone with over 50 federal, state and local agencies, nonprofit organizations and businesses planning an array of exhibits and fun. During the fair, be sure to visit Evergreen Nature Center, which will be open in the old warming hut. Stop by anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.. All ages. Visit evergreenaudubon.org for more information. *Registration not required.*



Saturday, May 12 Dinosaur Discovery Day

10 a.m. Dinosaur Ridge

Dinosaur Discovery Day is a free outdoor event open to the general public. Nature Center naturalists will

be at one of the stops along the Dinosaur Ridge Trail. Bring family and friends for a day of exploring. Visit dinoridge.org for more information. All ages. *Registration not required.*

Spring Program Schedule 2012

Sunday, April 22

Crown Hill Park Wheelchair Hike

9 a.m. Crown Hill Park

Travel along the paved path at Crown Hill Park in search of resident and migrating birds. This moderate hike is designed specifically for wheelchair users but all are welcome! All ages.

Saturday, April 28

Wings of Spring: Bird Migration

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Crown Hill Park

Celebrate the incredible journey of migratory birds during these drop-by programs. Learn about challenges they face along the way, what you can do to support their survival and more. Drop by anytime from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All ages.

Registration not required.

Sunday, April 29

Wings of Spring: Bird Migration

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lair o' the Bear Park

Celebrate the incredible journey of migratory birds during these drop-by programs. Learn about challenges they face along the way, what you can do to support their survival and more. Drop by from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All ages.

Registration not required.

Sunday, April 29

Grandparents & Grandkids Forest Stroll

1 p.m. Lookout Mountain Nature Center

Bring your grandchildren and enjoy this leisurely naturalist-guided adventure through the ponderosa pine forest. Learn about Abert's squirrels, pygmy nuthatches and others during this engaging, interactive program. All ages.

May

Saturday, May 5

Dawn Chorus – A Celebration of Bird Songs

7 a.m. Crown Hill Park

Join this early morning bird walk through the Kestrel Pond Refuge as we listen for the songs of resident and

migrant birds. All levels of birding experience welcome. Ages 6 – adult.

Sunday, May 6

Early Spring Wildflowers

9 a.m. Hildebrand Ranch Park

Walk with a Native Plant Master and discover the importance of native plants to wildlife and humans. Ages 13 – adult.

Friday, May 11

City Night Sky Watchers

8:30 p.m. Hildebrand Ranch Park

Bring your telescope & set up for an evening of star hopping and planet perusing with LMNC Astronomy Team members. Enjoy engaging activities. Weather permitting. Ages 10 – adult.



Ralston Buttes

Saturday, May 12

Ralston Buttes: Special Access Program

8 a.m. Meeting Place TBD

This area is one of the crown jewels of the Open Space program and is one of the few areas listed as sensitive, which means it has unique and highly valued natural features. This area is only accessible during special Open Space events. Join naturalists and natural resource specialists to explore the area. Registration is required for this event, and space is very limited. Ages 10 – adult. If you have attended this program in the past two years, please allow other visitors the opportunity to attend.

Registration for all programs opens one month prior to the program date unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, May 13

Mother's Day Wildflower Hike

11 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Lookout Mountain Nature Center

Celebrate Mother's Day with an easy ½-mile hike. Find out which flowers are blooming and discover why these flowers are so important to wildlife. All ages.

Saturday, May 19

Observatory Open House

8:30 - 10:30 p.m. Pine Valley Ranch Park

Make the moderate 1/3-mile hike up to the observatory for a special evening of stargazing, night sky navigation, planet viewing, observatory tours and more. Astronomy team members will be on hand with additional telescopes for viewing. Please register in advance. Weather permitting. Ages 10 – adult.

Sunday, May 20

Wings of Spring: Bird Migration

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lair o' the Bear Park

Celebrate the incredible journey of migratory birds during these drop-by programs. Learn about challenges they face along the way, what you can do to support their survival and more. Drop by anytime from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All ages.

Registration not required.

Sunday, May 20

Foothills Flora

9 a.m. Reynolds Park

Walk with a Native Plant Master and discover the importance of native plants to wildlife and humans. Ages 13 – adult.

Saturday, May 26

G.O. Club: On the Rocks

10 a.m. – Noon South Valley Park – Main Entrance

Families are invited to take part in this rough & rocky edition of the Get Outdoors & Explore Club. Programs are unstructured, playful nature excursions and feature activities for children to connect with the natural world and enjoy explorations with a naturalist. All ages.

Spring Program Schedule 2012



Swainson's hawk

Sunday, May 27

Wings of Spring: Bird Migration

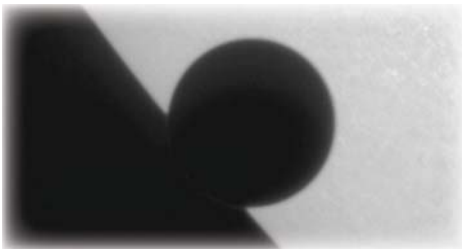
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lair o' the Bear Park

Celebrate the incredible journey of migratory birds during these drop-by programs. Learn about challenges they face along the way, what you can do to support their survival and more. Drop by anytime from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. All ages. *Registration not required.*

Thursday, May 31
2012 Venus Transit

*Special
Presentation*

7 p.m. Lookout Mountain Nature Center
Mike Hotka, NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador and Ball Aerospace Engineer, will discuss the history of Venus Transits, how to observe the silhouette of the planet on the disc of the sun, safe sun viewing techniques and more. Ages 10 – adult.



NASA/JPL

After June 6, 2012, the next Venus transit will occur in 2117.

Registration for all programs opens one month prior to the program date unless otherwise noted.

Toddler Times

These 45-minute programs are for children ages 2 – 5 with an adult. No older children, please. Programs are held at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. at Lookout Mountain Nature Center. These programs are very popular, so reserve your space early.



March 1, 3 and 15
Tree-ific Trees

Are trees alive? Do they breathe like you and I? Come learn what makes trees so terrific!

April 5, 7 and 19
Marvelous, Mysterious Moon

What do you know about our nearest celestial neighbor? Find out more through stories, games and hands-on activities.

May 3, 5 and 17
Fluttering Butterflies

Sing songs, hear a story and make a craft as you learn how butterflies grow up.

Jr. Naturalists

These two-hour programs are for children ages 6 – 10 with an adult.

Saturday, March 17
Jr. Naturalists: Home Sweet Home

10 a.m. Lookout Mountain Nature Center

Search for evidence of animal homes on a hike and discover more about the critters that live in the ponderosa pine forest. Ages 6 – 10 with an adult.

Saturday, April 21
Jr. Naturalists: Cavity Nesters

10 a.m. Lookout Mountain Nature Center

What's that tapping & drumming all about? Cavity nesting birds are excavating homes and searching for mates this time of year. Find out the difference during this interactive trail-based program. Ages 6 – 10 with an adult.

Saturday, May 19
Jr. Naturalists: Scratch or Sniff? Porcupines & Skunks

Noon Mt. Falcon Park – West Entrance

Kids ages 6-10, join this naturalist-guided hike as you learn about these two often misunderstood, maligned foothills residents. Search for suitable habitat, learn about tracks & signs, and enjoy other activities. Ages 6 – 10 with an adult.