

NATURE

Family Camp Out Adventure — El Paso Parks and Recreation Department will host the family overnight event 4 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday, **July 30-31**, at Memorial Park Reserve area, 3251 Copper. Cost is \$5 for ages 17 and under, and \$10 for others, which includes hot dogs, entertainment and more. All campers must bring their own tents and sleeping bags. Information: 240-3310 or elpasotexas.gov/parks.

The event features picnic, swimming, overnight movies and dancing, games and more. Security provided onsite.

Bugfest! — The El Paso Zoo, 4001 E. Paisano, hosts its annual weekend expo Saturday and Sunday, **Aug. 7-8**, with close-up bug encounters, games and activities for the whole family. Zoo admission is \$10 for ages 13 to 61; \$7.50 for ages 62 and older and active duty military (including spouse) with ID; \$6 ages 3 to 12; and free for ages 2 and under. Zoo members admitted free. Information: 532-8156, 521-1850 or elpasozoo.org.

El Paso Zoo — 4001 E. Paisano. Entrance hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Zoo admission is \$10; \$7.50 for ages 62 and older and active duty military (including spouse) with ID; \$6 ages 3 to 12; and free for ages 2 and under. Zoo members admitted free. Information: 532-8156, 521-1850 or elpasozoo.org.

A giraffe exhibit has joined the new Africa section's lion exhibit, meerkat habitat and the El Paso Electric Kalahari Research Center.

BugFest is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, **Aug. 7-8**.

Military, Law Enforcement and Fire Day is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **Aug. 21**.

Daily encounters include California Sea Lion Training and Meet the Keeper presentations at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Asian Elephant Training Encounters scheduled daily. Information: elpasozoo.org/takeaction.

Garden Talks at Ardivino's Desert Crossing — Ardivino's Desert Crossing, One Ardivino Drive in Sunland Park, will host free talks on various aspects of gardening with Texas AgriLife Extension Service Master Gardeners 8 to 8:30 to 9 a.m. Saturdays on the patio during their weekly farmers' market. Information: 240-7414.

- **Aug. 7** — "Rainwater Harvesting" with Bill Hodge
- **Aug. 14** — "Getting Roses Ready for Fall" with Bill Hooten
- **Aug. 21** — "Fall Gardening" with Jim Hastings
- **Aug. 28** — "Composting" with Ed McElroy.

Butterfly Release — White Mountain Meadows Pavilion, off Gavilan Canyon Road in Ruidoso, will host its 5th annual Monarch butterfly release benefiting Ruidoso Home Care and Hospice Foundation 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, **Aug. 14**. Butterflies will be distributed at 11 a.m. and released at 12:15 p.m. Cost per butterfly is \$12. Information: Nancy Lee (575) 258-0028.

Master Gardeners Second Saturday — Texas AgriLife Extension Service's second Saturday lecture is 10 a.m. Saturday, **Aug. 14**, at the El Paso Garden Center, 3105 Grant. August's program is "Get Your Roses Ready for Fall" with Master Gardener Bill Hooten. Admission is free. Information: 240-7414.

Butterfly Flutterby — The Asombro Institute for Science Education at Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, 56501 N. Jornada in Las Cruces, hosts its 8th annual celebration of butterflies 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, **Aug. 21**. There will be new stations and activities this year, including kids' arts and crafts, butterfly sponge toss and face painting. Guests can make a butterfly watering plate, stroll along the Desert Discovery Trail or browse the bucket auction. Proceeds auction benefit Institute's education programs and site development. Admission: \$2. Information: (575) 524-3334 or asombro.org.

White Sands Institute — White Sands National Monument and NMSU-Alamogordo hosts a new series of community education classes at White Sands National Monument. Information/registration: (575) 439-3842 or commmed@nmsua.nmsu.edu.

Classes are geared towards grade 10 through adult, and include easy-level hikes, with some off-trail walks.

- "By The Dune's Early Light" photography workshop with Jim Spencer and Ron Robertson, **Aug. 24-26**. Cost: \$550.

- White Sands Watercolors Thursday through Saturday, **Oct. 21-23**, instructed by Dan Stouffer. Cost: \$175.

Master Gardener Course — The Texas AgriLife Extension Service will host an 11-week master gardener course 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays, **Sept. 9-Nov. 18**, at El Paso Garden Center, 3105 Grant, in Memorial Park. The course offers intensive horticultural training in exchange for at least 60 hours of volunteer service after the course's completion. Application fee: \$150 (\$195 for those in the horticulture industry). Fee covers course text and various handouts. Enrollment space is limited; application deadline is 5 p.m. Aug. 30. Information/applications: 860-2515 or elp.tamu.edu.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society trips — A Reservoirs in the Valley tour in East El Paso meets at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, **Aug. 7**, at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, 9500 North Loop, to tour waterbird haven McNary Reservoir and other areas. Information: Mark Perkins, 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

Non-members and guests welcome on all field trips. Bring lunch, binoculars, and dress appropriately for weather and terrain. Information: trans-pecos-audubon.org.

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park — 5000 Calle del Norte in Mesilla. Guided Bird tours are 7:15 to 8:45 a.m. the first Saturday of every month, hosted by Mesilla Valley Audubon Society's Nancy Stotz. Day use fee: \$5 per vehicle (\$40 annual pass). Information: (575) 523-4298 or nmparks.com.

- Friends of the Mesilla Valley Bosque Park meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday, **Aug. 2**. Park fee waived for those attending meeting. Information: (575) 523-8009.

- A ranger-guided bird tour is 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday, **Aug. 7**. Bring hat, water, binoculars and insect repellent.

- State Entomologist Dr. Carol Sutherland will present "Common Arthropods in the Mesilla Valley" at 10 a.m. Saturday, **Aug. 21**, in the park classroom.

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