

Life *in the* Valley

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Crafting is always a popular activity during the Silver Falls Birding and Wildflower Festival.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SILVER FALLS STATE PARK

Blooms and birds for mom

Silver Falls to celebrate Mother's Day with festival

ANNETTE UTZ
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

The wildflowers are blooming and the water falls are welcoming as spring invites some outdoor diversions. Everything is ready for the 39th Annual Birding and Wildflower Festival at Silver Falls State Park. The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14, in the South Falls area.

"This is our Mother's Day event. At one time it was called that ... but folks thought that the name we use now was much more descriptive of what goes on at the festival," said Louise Nelson, president of Friends of Silver Falls State Park. "It is a great event for everyone."

The variety of activities available is part of the draw.

Families can enjoy a range of professionally guided wildflower and birding walks, presentations on an assortment of nature topics and creating springtime crafts and sketches.

On Saturday only, Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center will host a Raptor Meet-and-Greet, which will also feature other rehabilitated animals. "Silver Falls in a Nut Shell," a short walk in the day-use area, will take place and the day ends with a free live owl presentation by Susan LaFontaine of the Oregon Raptor Center.

Silver Falls State Park is located at 20024 Silver Falls Hwy. SE. A detailed event schedule will be posted as it is finalized at www.SilverFallsStatePark.wordpress.com under "Events/Birding and Wildlife Festival."

A \$5 day-use parking permit is required. Other than a \$5 materials fee for building a bird-nesting box, all activities are free. For more information, call 503-874-0201 or e-mail Matt.Palmquist@oregon.gov.

To fuel up before the activities or to re-energize afterward, the Silver Falls Lodge & Conference Center is offering a Mother's Day brunch from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Further information is available at <http://silverfalls lodge.com/mothers-day-brunch/> and reservations (required) can be made by calling 866-575-8875.



Professional illustrator Christine Elder leads a sketching class during the Silver Falls Birding and Wildflower Festival.



Susan LaFontaine of the Oregon Raptor Center, pictured here with Stanley, gives a hoot about Oregon's birds of prey during the Birding and Wildflower Festival at Silver Falls.



Steve Shunk, owner of Paradise Birding & Tour Co., takes a group on a birding tour during the Birding and Wildflower Festival at Silver Falls State Park.