

Subject: Raptor Show & Nature Center News ~ April 9, 2023

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Raptor Flight Show and White Mountain Nature Center

Email Newsletter ~ April 9, 2023

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Raptor Show & Nature Center news for this week:

- Its Simon's Birthday next Sunday! Save the date!
- Funky toured the Food Prep building!
- We are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC again!
- Construction is under way...
- We need more Volunteers
- Weekly hikes have begun - EVERY Saturday at 8:30 AM
- Hummingbirds Saturday April 8th was a terrific program
- May 6th we take Astro inside for the Falcons of Arizona program

If you want to donate, [click here](#) and then click the Raptor Show Donation button - *we need your help* to feed and care for our show ambassadors and to build their new enclosures and viewing area.

Thank you so much!



SAVE THE DATE! Simon's Birthday is next Sunday, April 16th. Here he is the first time he was at the Nature Center at five weeks of age, and...



a week ago on his stump. For his birthday he will get a 'cupcake' full of frozen mice with a candle on top. Takes a while to eat, but so good!

Funky tours the food prep building

What do you have in here? I don't smell anything! (Owls, like almost all birds, have a lousy sense of smell). Is this Speedy's snake? It seems a little stiff to me. I like the new flyers! I hear Mary Jo is handing them out all over Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low and beyond! Good for her! I am the handsome bird in the center!



FREE Raptor Training Exhibitions EVERY DAY

Our daily 3PM Training Exhibitions are open again!

We have signs at the Nature Center Entrance and in the driveway to guide you. There is plenty of free parking. Try to get there a few minutes early because we start promptly at 3 PM, usually with Azul the Recycling Crow, a crowd favorite.



Our new contractor is beginning construction on the Food Prep Building and the new bird enclosures ("Mews").

The new 15 x 15 ft enclosures will have many perching opportunities, and room to fly! Our birds have been waiting all winter for this!

Digging will begin on the footings tomorrow, April 10th.



News from the White Mountain Nature Center



WEEKLY HIKES HAVE BEGUN!

EVERY SATURDAY AT 8:30!

Yesterday another amazing group of 10 hikers and their dog set forth to discover new ground, walk where no person had ever walked before, and get back by 10 AM. Rick Gagnon started them off with a taste of fresh hot mushroom squirrel soup! No joke! It was really good! We tried to talk Rick into opening a soup bistro on the 260...

Weekly hikes will continue through the end of summer.
Join them! Have fun! Relax, recharge, and learn something :-)

Calling All Volunteers

The Nature Center needs you! Register for our new Volunteer Force and help us do more than ever to connect people with nature! Click here to get started:
[WMNCVolunteerSignup](#)



Hummingbirds of the White Mountains Program

Mary Ellen Bittorf . an avid bird lover, Audubon Member, and Founder of the White Mountain



Nature Center. She gave us vital information to identify and assist these adorable creatures as they temporarily make our yards their migration stopping point. We even learned the correct mix of water to

Nature Center, gave an impassioned and informative presentation for 40 guests on Saturday night at the

cane sugar for feeding them and what color feeders lessen the number of bees that visit our feeders

Falcons of AZ - May 6th at 6:00 PM



On Saturday May 6th at 6PM we will be presenting a program about the Falcons of Arizona starring our own Astro, the Aplomado Falcon. Here you see him practicing his mid-air back flip for the event.

It will begin with a multi-media presentation with beautiful full-color slides and videos of falcons. You will learn how these fearless masters of flight catch their food on the wing with spectacular aerial acrobatics.

Arizona is home to a variety of falcons, from the smallest, the American Kestrel, to the largest, the Prairie Falcon, and to the fastest, the Peregrine falcon. You will also see the special adaptations that enable them to do what they do . many of which have been copied in modern jet fighters.

Finally, we will be demonstrating with an in-person guest appearance by our resident Aplomado Falcon, Astro! He will be flying between an artificial forest of trees set up on our stage for you to witness first hand. Don't blink (he's that fast)! Aplomados are the falcon of choice to scare away grape eating birds from the vineyards in Sonoma Valley. You will know why when you see Astro perform!

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