



Presenters

Katie Montgomery is a military brat who traveled too much as a kid to claim a hometown; one of many reasons she decided to become a biologist. She graduated from UNV-Pembroke with a BS in Biology in 2008. Since then she has worked with terns, skimmers and other waterbirds all over the US. Before coming to California she received her MS in Conservation Medicine from Tufts University studying Avian Disease. She is now the Wildlife Refuge Specialist for Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, where she works with wildlife on the Salton Sea and considers the desert.

Karen Nelson is a retired Librarian, who now works with the Living Desert as a Librarian and Zoo Camp Leader. She presents her birding expertise doing weekly walks and talks at the Whitewater Preserve, Morongo Preserve, and Salton Sea State Recreation Area. She is also a Certified Interpretive Guide and a docent at the Living Desert Preserve.

Bob Miller is a birding guide with Southwest Birders. He grew up exploring The desert southwest and considers the deserts and Salton Sea his "backyard". His "never top learning" attitude and enthusiasm for sharing what he has learned about the region and the wild things we share it with have made him a popular field trip leader for festivals in Arizona and California and with birding guests from around the world.

2016 PELICAN DAYS

is hosted in partnership with:



Sea & Desert Interpretive Association



Salton Sea State Recreation Area



Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge

- State Park Entry and/or Camping Fees are NOT included in Registration. Participants must pay FEES separately.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact:

Sea & Desert Interpretive Association
Phone: 760-289-9455

or visit our website
www.seaanddesert.org

Sea & Desert Interpretive Association
Salton Sea State Recreation Area
100-225 State Park Rd.
North Shore, CA 92254

2016 PELICAN DAYS

Salton Sea
4th Annual Birding Festival

January 16 & 17



Special Guest Speakers

KURT LEUSCHNER is a Professor of Natural Resources at College of the Desert, where he teaches courses on Conservation, Entomology, Birds, GPS Navigation, and Wildlife Management. He has degrees in Zoology and Wildlife Ecology. Kurt has extensive experience abroad including 1-year at the University of Nairobi, 2-years in the Peace Corps as a Game Warden in Tanzania, and a summer as a field researcher in Uganda. Kurt continues to take groups over to Africa for wildlife photographic safaris during the summer. In addition to leading countless Natural History Field Trips, Kurt also teaches weekend courses and workshops on Birdwatching, GPS, Insects and Creating Backyard Habitats for the Desert Institute, UCR Extension and the Living Desert University.

VALERIE SIMON, Salton Sea Program Manager for the Lower Colorado Region of the Bureau of Reclamation, is a retired USMC LTCOL and career Environmental Professional. After serving on active duty for 10-years, she rejoined the civilian workforce as the Museum Director for the Cocopah Tribe in Southern Arizona; and as an Environmental Protection Specialist at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in 29 Palms, CA. In 2001, Valerie became the National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Alaska. Upon return from the war, Valerie continues to serve our nation by working with Reclamation and through membership in numerous national military & environmental organizations. Her interest in the Salton Sea are both professional & personal. She and her husband enjoy their old homestead in the nearby Morongo Basin and plan to spend many happy years in retirement exploring this desert paradise they call home.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*

SATURDAY, Jan 16

7 am-9 am REGISTRATION

7 am-2 pm Food Vender

8 am-9:30 am **BIRDING WALK** with Karen Nelson

8 am-9:30 am **SHORELINE CHAIR BIRDING**
with Katie Montgomery

10 am-11 am WOW (Wildlife on Wheels)
\$5.00 presented by The Living Desert

10 am -4 pm **NORTH TO SOUTH TOUR**
\$35.00 with Kurt Leuschner

12 pm-1:30 pm **SHORELINE BIRDING**
with Karen Nelson

12 pm-1:30 pm **IRONWOOD TRAIL**
with a SSSRA Representative

10 am-3 pm **CHILDREN ACTIVITIES**
a. Animals of Prey
b. Birding Activities
c. Chalk Art Contest

Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge

4 pm-5 pm **DELI BUFFET & BEVERAGES**
\$5.00

5 pm-7 pm **Guest Speaker: KURT LEUSCHNER**
Kurt will be presenting his studies on the various birds found within the Salton **Sea** Region.

SUNDAY, Jan 17

8 am-9am REGISTRATION

8 am-9 am Food Vender

8 am-10 am **BIRDS OF IMPERIAL VALLEY**
\$15.00 with Bob Miller

9 am-11 am **WILD BIRD CENTER &
COACHELLA VALLEY NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE**
with Karen Nelson & Katie Montgomery

Mecca Beach – Salton Sea State Park

11 am-2 pm Food Vender

12 pm-2 pm **SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
VALERIE SIMON**
Salton Sea Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation

Ms. Simon will be presenting the history of the Salton Sea and recent activities to ensure its continued visibility for wildlife habitat, recreation, dust mediation, and economic development.

2 pm-3 pm **CLOSING – Kelly Claar**
Superintendent, Salton Sea State
Recreation Area

*NOTE: Schedule subject to change.