

EAGLE RIVER NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

APRIL 2024



BUILDING HOURS:

October-April:
Friday-Sunday
10am-5pm
Trails are always open!

Contact us at:
907-694-2108 or
info@ernc.org

Find out more about us
at www.ernc.org

Location:
32750 Eagle River Rd.
Eagle River, AK 99577

What's your favorite
spring flower?



ERNC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Volunteers of the Year

It truly takes a village to keep the Nature Center operational year-round, and we are fortunate to have so many **exceptional volunteers!** From maintaining trails, to supporting the front desk, to assisting with outdoor classes, our volunteers play a crucial role in various tasks.

Each year around winter solstice, we take a moment to recognize those volunteers who went above-and-beyond their call of duty. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, the Nature Center couldn't operate without all you!

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*



2023 Volunteers of the Year
Melanie Shea & Mike Davis



2023 Board Member of the Year
Clark Saunders



Music in the Mountains

Save the date our annual **MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS** fundraiser is coming up on **June 1st**. More info coming soon . . . music, beer and food is the beauty of the Chugach mountains. It really doesn't get much better!

- NATURE CENTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE ON REVERSE -

APRIL 2024 PROGRAMS

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 11AM **GUIDED HIKE | NO REGISTRATION** **LITTLE EXPLORERS RETURNS**

Join in for an hour(ish) long hike on or near the Rodak trail at a toddler's pace! No registration necessary, just check in by 11am in the main ERNC building. The target audience for this program is babies & children up to age 6 accompanied by an adult. Older siblings are welcome to join in. Please leave furry friends at home.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 6PM **FIRST FRIDAY ASTRONOMY NIGHT** **SEASON FINALE!**

An evening of fun for the whole family! Join us for just part, or all of our monthly astronomy nights! Doors open at 6pm for a [Mission2Mars](#) activity for elementary school students. Join members of the Southcentral Alaska Astronomical Society for a presentation at 7pm, followed by star gazing (conditions permitting).

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1PM-3PM **JUNIOR NATURALIST | OPEN HOUSE** **MIGHTY METEOROLOGISTS**

Weather or not, here spring comes! Look to the skies to observe, discover, and predict what the season will bring. *Junior Naturalist programs are open to elementary school-aged students and their families—ask about earning your Junior Naturalist Badge. "Open House" means stop by anytime in that window.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2PM **ALL AGES HIKE | REGISTRATION REQUIRED** **LIFE AROUND THE POND**

Investigate wetlands and see what changes April is bringing to the Rodak Trail (3/4 mile loop). Please leave your furry friends at home. Limited to 30 people registered at www.ernc.org/public-programs.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 11AM **GUIDED HIKE | NO REGISTRATION** **LITTLE EXPLORERS RETURNS**

Join in for an hour(ish) long hike on or near the Rodak trail at a toddler's pace! No registration necessary, just check in by 11am in the main ERNC building. The target audience for this program is babies & children up to age 6 accompanied by an adult. Older siblings are welcome to join in. Please leave furry friends at home.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 11AM **SECOND SATURDAY STORY TIME** **WALKING WITH BEARS**

Families with preschoolers and early elementary students are invited to join us in the Ed Yurt for a short story time and activity. *Please allow 10-15 minutes to walk from the main ERNC building to the Ed Yurt.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2PM **SHOW & TELL WITH JOSH SMITH** **OF BEAR MOUNTAIN FOREST NURSERY**

Josh Smith, aka the Frozen Plant Guy and owner of Bear Mountain Forest Nursery, has been busy developing cold hardy cultivars of delicious plants like hazelnuts, salmonberries, apples and more! Bring your questions and see the results of his labor of love.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 5:30PM-7:30PM **POTLUCK & LEARN | REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED** **WINTRY WILD WOMXN**

Adult womxn are invited to this community group seeking to empower women to thrive mentally & physically throughout the dark winter months. Enjoy good soup and conversation during this monthly meet up. Plan to bring a camp chair and email naturalist@ernc.org to let us know you're coming!

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 11AM **GUIDED HIKE | NO REGISTRATION** **LITTLE EXPLORERS RETURNS**

Join in for an hour(ish) long hike on or near the Rodak trail at a toddler's pace! No registration necessary, just check in by 11am in the main ERNC building. The target audience for this program is babies & children up to age 6 accompanied by an adult. Older siblings are welcome to join in. Please leave furry friends at home.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1PM-3PM **JUNIOR NATURALIST | OPEN HOUSE** **BEAR-LY WAKING UP**

Investigate bear ecology through an experiential game of a bear's life throughout the seasons, while practicing how to safely share trails and territory with our ursine neighbors.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 11AM **GUIDED HIKE | NO REGISTRATION** **LITTLE EXPLORERS RETURNS**

Join in for an hour(ish) long hike on or near the Rodak trail at a toddler's pace! No registration necessary, just check in by 11am in the main ERNC building. The target audience for this program is babies & children up to age 6 accompanied by an adult. Older siblings are welcome to join in. Please leave furry friends at home.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 1PM-3PM **JUNIOR NATURALIST | OPEN HOUSE** **DIRTY, ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS**

Celebrate nature's recyclers with an exciting investigation of worms! Squiggle on down to the Ed Yurt to meet some composting worms in action, go on a detritus safari and learn all about the kingdom beneath our feet!

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2PM **ALL AGES PROGRAM | AUTHOR TALK**

Nature writer Bill Sherwonit will cover topics from his book *Alaska's Bears*: a discussion of the behaviors, adaptations, and lifestyles of polar, brown and black bears. Bill will also discuss some of the facts and myths surrounding the dangers present to humans and talk about recreating safely in bear country.



THANK YOU to
TOTE Maritime Alaska for their
continued sponsorship of the
Jr Naturalist Program!