

Oracle State Park
Center for Environmental Education
OPEN WEEKENDS YEAR-ROUND
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 8AM-5PM



WEEKEND CALENDAR:
AZStateParks.com/Parks/ORAC
For reservations, call (520) 896-2425

Oracle State Park is open to the public for day-use on a limited basis: Saturdays and Sundays only from 8am-5pm. Weekdays, the park offers school programs and facility rental by reservation. The American Avenue trailhead parking lot is open seven days a week to access the National Scenic Arizona Trail, and to accommodate use by stargazers at night.

Oracle State Park is an International Dark Sky Park, designated in 2014 by the International Dark Sky Association. The park is also a 4,000 acre wildlife refuge with over 15 miles of maintained trails for use by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.

ONGOING WEEKENDS:

Self-guided tours of the historic Kannally Ranch House. Visit the park office/gift shop and take a self-guided tour through the multi-level Kannally family home. The Mediterranean-Revival Style ranch house built 1929-1933, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. **Check the calendar of events for guided tours offered on select dates; house tours may also be scheduled by reservation for groups.**

Lee Kannally paintings exhibit continues

An exhibit of impressionist-style paintings by self-taught cowboy artist, Lee Kannally, is on display at the Kannally Ranch House. Nearly 30 oils, many that haven't been on public display for decades, are included in the exhibit, with 24 on loan from the Oracle Historical Society and the remainder owned by **Friends of Oracle State Park**.

Wildlife Slide Show

See what's showing up at waterhole cameras in the park.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, October 10: Intro to Digital Imaging with Wildlife & Landscapes, begins at **10am**, with photography enthusiast, Stan Bembenek. The 1.5-2 hour program will offer comparisons of digital equipment and their applications for capturing images of wildlife and landscapes. Stan will share a display of imaging devices (7 to 10 pieces of equipment), discuss capabilities, and offer recommendations and techniques for use in different environments, such as how to set up a wildlife camera. There will be some hands-on opportunities with the devices. This is not a class on how to take pictures and it will not include film cameras or how to alter images. The program will begin with a presentation inside at the ranch house before moving outdoors. Space is limited to 12 participants, reservation required. Free with park admission.

Also Saturday, October 10: SPECIAL EVENT: Live Music in the Park and Stargazing with Telescopes!

Michael P and the Gullywashers of Tucson will perform a crowd-pleasing mix of Soul, Funk and Instrumental Surf music with some memorable tv tunes thrown in. They'll play from **4pm-6pm** on the upper patio of the Kannally Ranch House. Bring your own picnic feast and enjoy the views, blooms, birds and music. As the sun goes down, stick around for **stargazing from 6p-10p**. Local astronomers will be on hand with telescopes to share - representing the Tucson Amateur Astronomer's Association, Saddlebrooke Stargazers Club, International Dark Sky Association, and Oracle Dark Skies Committee - to view the moon, planets, constellations, star-cluster

formations, galaxies and more. Warm up by the fire-pit and take in the view outdoors at night at Oracle State Park. Free with park admission.

Saturday, October 17: Guided Tour of the Historic Kannally Ranch House, led by Docent, Mary Bast, beginning at **10am**. Learn more about one of the earliest cattle ranching families to Oracle, and the architectural treasure they left behind. The tour last approximately 45 minutes through rooms and patios extending down the hillside. No reservation is needed; free with park admission.

Also Saturday, October 17: Beginner Digital Astrophotography, 4pm-6:30pm with local amateur astronomer, Mike Weasner, This introductory program will include a description of camera equipment options, such as point and shoot, DSLR or any smart phone, for beginners to learn to take astrophotos. Mike will share techniques for using any digital camera for handheld photography at night, and in combination with a tripod or telescope. There will be a 'play session' after sunset using moon and planets for night sky photography using park telescopes. Participants are encouraged to bring your own camera, tripod or telescope for 'playtime'. The program will begin with a presentation in the living room of the Kannally Ranch House before sunset, followed by 60-90 minutes outside after sunset. Space is limited to 12 participants, reservation required. Free with park admission.

Sunday, October 18: Stab-binding Workshop, 10am-Noon. Taught by Val Bembenek, local paper artisan. Make your own nature-journaling notebooks at the Kannally Ranch House. Learn basic Japanese stab binding technique to create blank journals of any size with unique embellishments, for your notes, sketching, photos or to give as gifts. The workshop fee is \$5 per person in addition to park admission. Space is limited; reservation required.

Saturday, October 24: Guided Hike: Arizona Trail Loop. Begins at 8am for approximately 6 miles. Hike the Wildlife Corridor Trail, National Scenic Arizona Trail, and back to the ranch house on the Manzanita Trail. Reservation required, call Guide: Gaston Meloche 638-5404.

Sunday, October 25: Bear Necessities, 11:00 a.m. with interpretive docent, Richard Boyer, in the living room of the Kannally Ranch House. Would you like to know more about the black bear of Arizona? Then this is the program for you. Information about bears, an appearance from the "Everywhere Bear," and information about safety around Bears will be presented in this interactive 30 to 40 minute program. You might even win a prize for your knowledge about the black bear! Free with park admission; reservation suggested.

Also Sunday, October 25: Guided Tour of the Historic Kannally Ranch House, led by Docent, Mary Bast, beginning at **2pm**. Learn more about one of the earliest cattle ranching families to Oracle, and the architectural treasure they left behind. The tour last approximately 45 minutes through rooms and patios extending down the hillside. No reservation is needed; free with park admission.

Saturday, October 31: Pinal Open Space and Trails Presentation, begins at **10am** at the Kannally Ranch House. Join Celeste Andresen of the Nature Conservancy, for a one-hour talk about recreational opportunities for residents of Pinal County, and to learn more about the importance and benefits of open space and trails. Free with park admission; no reservation needed.

Saturday November 7: Astrophotography Exhibit Opens at the Kannally Ranch House, through December 20. Adam Block of the University of Arizona's Mt. Lemmon Sky Center, is recognized around the world as a leading astrophotographer. The images he produces as part of public outreach programs are published in magazines, books, posters and widely on the internet. He was the 2012 recipient of the Hubble Award among several notable highlights to his career. Seven of his out-of-this-world images will be on display at the Kannally Ranch House in

November and December. On Sunday, December 20, Adam Block will offer a presentation and film at the park for the public. More details TBA.

Sunday, November 8: "Seasons of the Sonoran Desert". Dr. Robert Elder will offer a power point presentation to begin at **11am** in the living room of the Kannally Ranch House. It will be a discussion of the 5 seasons of the Sonoran Desert and how they relate to the life histories of some of its more common plants and animals. The subject leads to interesting interpretations of broader themes including biogeography and diversity. Bob is a volunteer docent at the Arizona Sonora Desert museum. His principle responsibilities include conducting tours, natural history interpretations, and community outreach presentations. He received a Ph.D. in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming and has over 40 years of professional experience in environmental science with academia, industry and consulting firms. His career included positions in South Carolina, Wyoming, Alaska and Indonesia. For 10 years he served as the Director of Environmental Compliance for Atlantic Richfield Company at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, our country's largest oil and gas field. He and his wife moved to Oracle, Arizona from Alaska four years ago. The program is free with park admission.

Saturday, November 14: Guided Hike. Begins at **8:15am** for approximately 7 miles. Hike the Mariposa Trail and Wildlife Corridor Trail and loop back to the Kannally Ranch House. Reservation required, call Guide: Gaston Meloche 638-5404.

Sunday, November 15: Bighorn Basics, 12:30 p.m. Join Arizona State Parks volunteer, Richard Boyer, as he presents "Bighorn Basics" at the Kannally Ranch House for a 35 minute talk to learn more about bighorn sheep. What are they? Where have they been? Where are they now? Many of the tools we use can be compared to the tools the Bighorn Sheep use to survive in mountainous areas of Arizona. For several years, Richard has presented this Bighorn Basics program at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado where he recently retired as a seasonal National Park Service Ranger. Free with park admission. Reservation preferred.

Saturday, November 21: Mineralogy Walk. Begins at 11am for one hour, with local mineralogist, Wolfgang Mueller. Please call for a reservation; free with park admission.

Also Saturday, November 21: "Desert Dozen" Program, followed by a pre-sunset Bird Walk, with Kathe Anderson. The birding presentation begins at **3pm** in the living room of the Kannally Ranch House. "Desert Dozen" is a class focusing on very common birds of the desert/urban interface—quail, grackles, house sparrows and house finches, mockingbirds, mourning doves, etc.—a dozen of the species we see most days. It's one way to start birding—because we use silhouettes, not just colored pictures, to focus on shape and size, which is a good skill to learn. The class also gives some insight into uncommon facts about these common birds. Following the one hour presentation, Kathe will lead a pre-sunset bird walk for 90 minutes, ending by about 5:30pm-before dark. Visitors may participate in one or both activities. Free with park admission; reservation suggested.

Sunday, November 22: Birding and Breakfast, with Kathe Anderson. A reservation is required to join an early morning guided bird walk at the park, beginning at **7:45am**. Following the two-hour walk, the group will be treated to a special breakfast offering on the patio of the Kannally Ranch House. Participants will review the morning sightings while enjoying coffee, treats and great views. Thanks to **Friends of Oracle State Park** for providing the fun breakfast! Free with park admission; space is limited, please call for a reservation.

Sunday, December 6: Bear Necessities, 11:00 a.m. with interpretive docent, Richard Boyer, in the living room of the Kannally Ranch House. Would you like to know more about the black bear of Arizona? Then this is the program for you. Information about bears, an appearance from the "Everywhere Bear," and information about safety around Bears will be presented in this inter-

active 30 to 40 minute program. You might even win a prize for your knowledge about the black bear! Free with park admission; reservation suggested.

Sunday, December 19: Guided Hike. Begins at **8:15am** for approximately 6 miles. Hike the Granite Overlook Trail to Cherry Valley Wash and Loop back to the Kannally Ranch House. Reservation required, call Guide: Gaston Meloche 638-5404.

Sunday, December 20: Astronomy Program. Adam Block of the Mt. Lemmon Sky Center will offer a presentation and short film to close out his Astrophotography Exhibit, on display at the Kannally Ranch House since November. Details TBA.