

Connect with ACES:

✉ Sign up for our **email newsletter at aspennature.org** for program and event updates, news, and more.

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ACES is an equal opportunity service provider and employer.
ACES operates under a special use permit from the USDA Forest Service,
White River National Forest.



Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES), a non-profit environmental education organization, provides programs for all ages in the areas of ecological literacy, agriculture, forest health, ecosystem restoration, and civic leadership. We have **three sites** in the Roaring Fork Valley, where we will offer programs and events all year long.



Hallam Lake Nature Preserve
100 Puppy Smith St., Aspen, CO, 81611
970.925.5756 | Monday–Saturday, 9am–5pm



Rock Bottom Ranch
2001 Hooks Spur Road, Basalt, CO 81621
970.927.6760
Wednesday - Friday, 9am–4pm | Saturday, 9am–1pm



Catto Center at Toklat
11247 Castle Creek Road, Aspen, CO 81611
970.925.9157 | Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–5pm



ACES Memberships

ACES is a non-profit that relies on member support to achieve its mission, “educating for environmental responsibility.” As an ACES member, you will enjoy access to special events and discounted admission to our community programs, lectures, and workshops.

Visit aspennature.org/join to learn more about an ACES membership.



Upcoming Member-Exclusive Perks:

- Picnic on the Preserve: Membership Dinner
- Early Registration to Our Farm to Table Dinners
- Fall Colors Membership Dinner
- Early Registration to Harvest Party

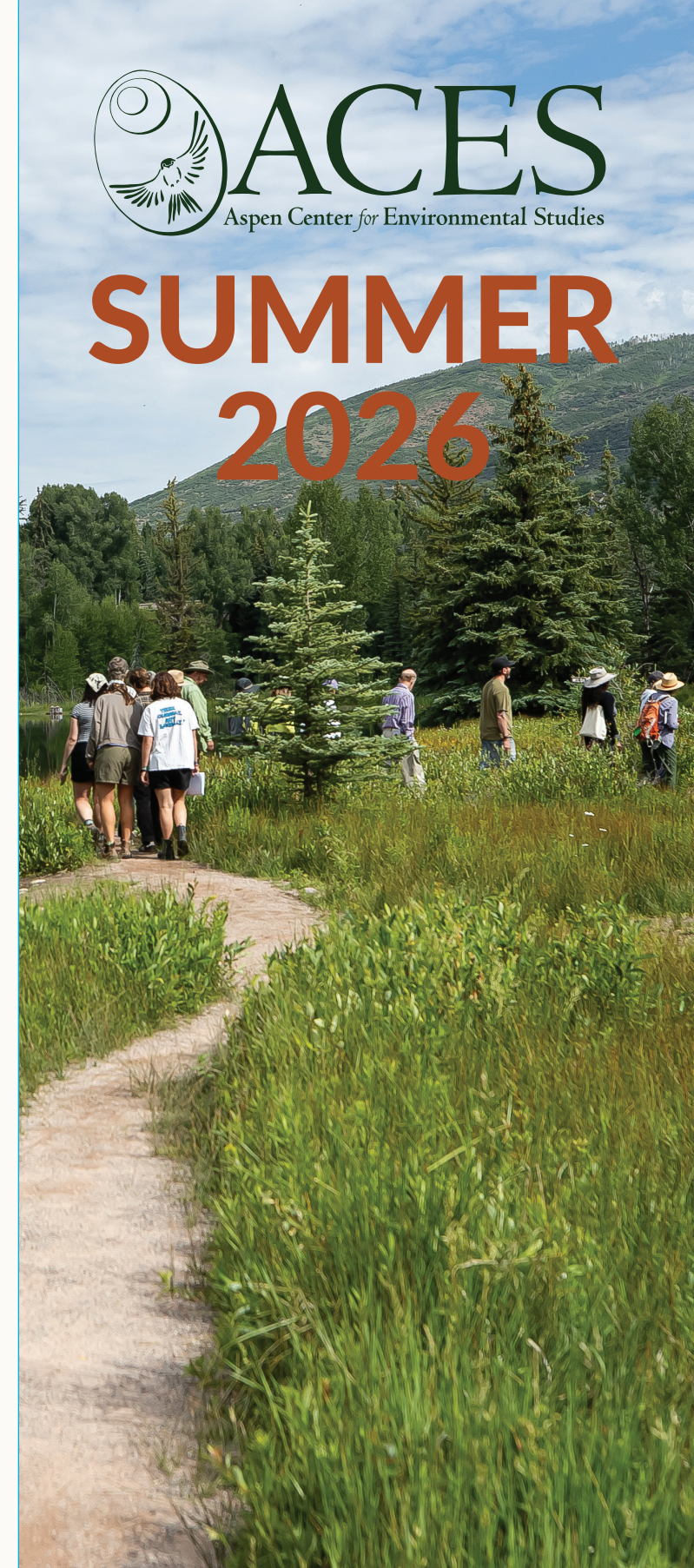
Learn more at aspennature.org

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SUMMER 2026



aspennature.org | 970.925.5756

Special Events



Picnic on the Preserve: Membership Dinner

Monday, June 15, 5:30pm | *Hallam Lake*
Tickets on sale to members in May!



Rock Bottom Ranch Community BBQ

Friday, June 26, 5pm | Ticket info coming soon!
Rock Bottom Ranch



Jessica Catto Dialogue: The Generational Challenge of Climate Medicine

with *Mark T. Gladwin, MD*
Thursday, July 2, 6pm | **Free**
Paepcke Auditorium



Raptor Fair

Friday, July 3, 3pm | **Free**
Hallam Lake



William A. Nitze Community Lecture: Forty Years of Wildlife Filmmaking

with *Sir David Attenborough*
presented by *Alastair Fothergill*
Friday, July 17, 5pm | **Free**
Paepcke Auditorium



Stars Above Aspen

Monday, August 10, 6—10pm | Tickets on sale in July
Aspen Mountain
In partnership with Aspen One and Fiske Planetarium



Harvest Party

Sunday, October 4 | Tickets on sale in September
Rock Bottom Ranch



Creepy Crawlies Night

Wednesday, October 28, 4—7pm | **Free**
Save the date!

Community Programs & Workshops

Nature Explorers Family Class

Thursdays, June 4—August 27, 10:30—11:30am
Fridays, June 5—August 28, 10:30—11:30am
\$15 per family | *Hallam Lake*
Best suited for children 0–4 years old

Children's Storytime with ACES

Select Mondays, June 8 & 29, July 20, August 10, 10:30am | **Free**
Pitkin County Library Children's Room
In Partnership with Pitkin County Library

Mountain Medicine and Wild Foods: A Seasonal Ethnobotany Series

May 29, July 15, August 6 & September 16, 8am—1pm
\$50, members 10% off
Taught by Penelope Thorton

Painting & Birding: Cedar Waxwing

Tuesday, June 16, 5—8pm | **\$90, members 10% off**
Rock Bottom Ranch | In partnership with The Art Base

High in the Alpine: Flowers, Birds, and Small Mammals of the Tundra

Wednesday, June 24, 9am—2pm | **\$10, free for members**
Independence Pass | In partnership with the Forest Conservancy

The Joy of Forest Bathing

Thursday, June 25 & Friday, June 26, 9am—12pm
\$75, members 10% off | *Toklat*
Taught by Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Watercolor Workshop: Painting Plein Air

June 25, 5—8pm & July 14, 10am—1pm
\$75, members 10% off
Hallam Lake (June), Toklat (July)
Taught by Amy Beidleman

Land, People, and Place: Field Ecology of the Colorado Rockies

Four-day overnight field course, July 10—13 | **\$600**
members 10% off | *Riverdance & Castle Creek Valley*
Taught by Kelly Moody

Immersive Nature Journaling & Watercolors

Two-day workshop, July 18—19, 9am—3pm
\$250, members 10% off | *Toklat & Riverdance*
Taught by Missy Prudden

Beyond Identification: Field Skills for Birding in the Roaring Fork Valley

Thursday, July 23, 7:30am—1pm | **\$100, members 10% off**
Toklat & Riverdance
Taught by Ryan Dibala

The Return of the Oystercatcher: Saving Birds to Save the Planet

Tuesday, July 28, 6—7pm | **Free** | *Hallam Lake*
Taught by Scott Weidensaul

Colorado Mushrooms: World of Wonder at Your Feet

Two-day workshop, July 30—31 | **\$200, members 10% off**
Hallam Lake & surroundings
Taught by Dr. Andrew Wilson

Wild Watercolor Hike

Sunday, August 16, 8am—2pm
\$150, members 10% off | *Castle Creek Valley* | Taught by Nika Meyers

Deep Ecology Writing Retreat

Two-day overnight workshop, August 29—30
\$400 | *Toklat & Riverdance*
Taught by Lindsay Branham

Stars as Relatives: Indigenous Knowledge of the Sky

Thursday, September 10, 7—9pm | **\$25, members 10% off** | *Toklat*
Taught by Donna Chrisjohn

From Erasure to Empowerment: Centering Indigenous Voices

Friday, September 11 & Saturday, September 12, 9am—5pm
\$100, members 10% off | *Toklat*
Taught by Donna Chrisjohn



Birding Outings

Join the *ACES Bird Club!*

Observe and count the diverse birdlife of the various Roaring Fork Valley habitats through our birding programs this summer.
Learn more at www.aspenature.org/aces-bird-club/

Morning Birding

Weekly on Tuesdays, beginning June 2, start times vary monthly
\$25, members \$15 | *Hallam Lake & Rock Bottom Ranch*
All experience levels welcome.

Birding & Conversation Outings

This special series combines birding and field presentations, exploring compelling topics pertaining to birds with guest experts.

- **Brett Walker, Thursday, May 21**
- **Adam McCurdy, Wednesday, June 17**
- **Will Rouch, Wednesday, July 8**
- **Scott Weidensaul, Wednesday July 29**

Other Offerings

- **Birding by Habitat Series**
- **North Star Nature Preserve Birding***
- **City of Aspen Open Space Birding**
- **Hummingbird Study**
- **Evening Birding**
- **Pitkin County Open Space Birding***
- **Mindful Birding**

*In partnership with Pitkin County Open Space & Trails

Free Naturalist-Guided Tours

June 13–September 7

Aspen Mountain Walk

Daily on the hour, 11am—3pm | **Free** | *Richmond Ridge*
Meet at the top of the Silver Queen Gondola. Enjoy beautiful views on this 1.5-mile hike while learning about local flora, fauna, geology, and natural history.

Snowmass Wildflower Walk

Daily, 10am | **Free** | *Upper Snowmass Mall*
Learn about local ecology and wildflowers as this 2.5-mile loop hike winds in and out of lush meadows and aspen forests.

Snowmass Ice Age Discovery Hike

Daily, 1pm | **Free** | *Upper Snowmass Mall*
Stories of the Ice Age will amaze you on this 3.5-mile hike adjacent to the site of the fossil discovery. Learn about creatures, plants, and geology of past and present.

Maroon Bells Lake Walk

Daily, 10am & 1pm | **Free** | *Maroon Bells Visitor Center*
Stroll along Maroon Lake with breathtaking views of the Maroon Bells and surrounding mountains on this 1-mile guided tour.

Maroon Bells Crater Lake Hike

Daily, 10am & 1pm | **Free** | *Maroon Bells Visitor Center*
Learn about local ecology and natural history on this 2-mile, 500-foot elevation gain hike. This is a one-way hike from Maroon Lake to Crater Lake.

Hikes are offered in partnership with Aspen Snowmass, Pitkin County & the U.S. Forest Service.

Private Naturalist-Guided Tours

For individualized experiences with an ACES Naturalist guide, email guide@aspenature.org

Ashcroft Hike

Offered by reservation. Explore the historic silver mining ghost town of Ashcroft and hike along Castle Creek, encountering spectacular wildflower meadows and mountain vistas. This moderate hike has an optional stop at the Pine Creek Cookhouse for lunch.

Private Birding Outings

Join a birding expert at a time and location specialized for your group. Email guide@aspenature.org to book.

Free Educational Walks

Local Forest on the Brink: Climate Change, Wildfire and Drought

June–September, select dates & times | **Free**
Lake Christine burn zone
Join ACES' Forest & Climate Program Director to explore the Lake Christine burn area and learn more about local forest conditions and future outlook.

Walk on the Other Side

July 22, August 20 & September 3, 9am—1pm | **Free**
North Star Nature Preserve
Join ACES' Naturalist Program Director to learn about life on the far side of the North Star Preserve.
In partnership with Pitkin County Open Space & Trails.

Experience Hallam Lake

Know Your Trees

Mondays, 4pm | **\$10 per family, free for members**
Come explore ACES' backyard and discover up to a dozen species of conifers and deciduous trees.

Sunset Beaver Walks

June—August, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 7:30pm
(excludes July 14—15) | **\$10 per family, free for members**
Enjoy a guided walk around Hallam Lake at dusk—the best time to spot ACES' resident beavers and other wildlife.

Bird of Prey Programs

June—August, Monday—Saturday, 2pm
(excludes July 3, & 13—17) | **\$10 per family, free for members**
Meet our resident Golden Eagle, Great Horned Owl, and Red-tailed Hawk.

Wild Yoga

June—September, Tuesdays, 5:15pm
Free, \$10 suggested donation
In partnership with Lead With Love

Sound Bath & Forest Bathing

Select dates June—September | 5:15pm | **\$30, members 10% off**
Taught by Megan DiSabatino

Experience Rock Bottom Ranch

Egg Collection

Select Thursdays | **\$12 per family, includes a dozen eggs**
Join us at Rock Bottom Ranch to meet our colorful flock of laying hens and help collect our delicious multi-colored eggs.

Hayride Farm Tours

Select Saturdays | **\$10 per adult, \$3 for children 16 and under**
Visit our hoop houses, learn more about our livestock, and see our outdoor production garden on this all-ages, regenerative-agriculture tour.

Volunteer Days

Select Saturdays | **Online registration required**
Come spend the morning learning about our regenerative-farming practices, getting your hands dirty, and helping to support the work we do!

Yoga Silvestre

June 1, July 6, August 3 & September 7 | 6:30—7:30pm
Free, \$10 suggested donation
In Spanish and English
In partnership with Lead With Love

Burlap Dinners

August 27, September 3 & September 10 | 6pm
Tickets on sale in July
Themed dinners will highlight one part of our production system with an intensive farm tour and conversation.

Experience Toklat

Sound Bath & Forest Bathing

Select dates June—September, 5:15pm | **\$30, members 10% off**
Taught by Megan DiSabatino

Self-Guided Center & Gallery Walk

June—September, Tuesday—Sunday, 10am—5pm | **Free**