

## Mark your calendars for family fun and adventure at Migration Celebration April 15, 16 & 17

Migration Celebration offers something for everyone of nearly every interest. This year will be no exception. It begins April 15 with the traditional kick-off fundraising dinner at RiverPlace in Freeport, and moves to the beauty and natural resources of the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge April 16 and 17, where all activities are free.

There are demonstrations, tours and programs for all ages, serious naturalists and those who are just interested in getting outdoors. Events include reptile identification, bird banding, bird watching, fishing, marsh buggy tours, kayaking, exhibits, tours, a photo contest, birds of prey shows, naturalists walks, children's discovery programs and exhibits.

### Noted nature photographer highlights kick-off dinner



Nature enthusiasts of all kinds come together to enjoy the delicious food prepared by volunteers.

Nature photographer Kathy Adams Clark, long-time friend of the Migration Celebration, will speak at the traditional kick-off fundraising dinner April 15 at RiverPlace in Freeport.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour. It will give people ample time to view the photographs and winners entered in the annual Nature Photography Contest.

During the social hour, people can browse through and bid on the silent auction items generously contributed by area businesses, and visit the nature store for t-shirts and trinkets.

A leisurely meal featuring pork with sausage corn bread stuffing or

vegetarian paella, prepared and served by Friends of the Refuges, will be followed by the presentation.

Noted nature photographer and Migration Celebration Nature Photography Contest judge, Clark, will speak on Tips, Tricks and Techniques.



**Speaker Kathy Adams Clark's presentation will appeal to all photographers, amateur and professional.**

Clark is owner of KAC Productions, a company she started in 1995. Her photos have appeared in many publications, among them are Birder's World, Ranger Rick, The New York Times and National Geographic books.

Clark leads photo tours for Strabo Tours and she is past-president of the North American Nature Photography Association.

For tickets or information, please call 866-403-5829.

### Fundraising Kick-off Dinner Freeport RiverPlace

#### Tickets

\$20 - Age 13  
and older

\$10 . Age 6  
through age 12

Free - Below age 6

#### 5:30 p.m.

#### Social hour

Photo Contest  
Display and Awards  
Silent Auction

#### 6:30 p.m. Dinner

Slow roasted sage-  
rubbed uncured pork  
ham a jus  
or

Saffron-infused  
vegetable paella  
Pecan and sausage  
cornbread stuffing

Borracho beans  
Salad with apples,  
cranberries and  
optional pecans

Peach cobbler  
Coffee, tea, water

#### 7:55 p.m. Speaker

Kathy Adams Clark:  
Tips, Tricks and  
Techniques+

## Saturday the adventures begin!

Any number of tours, adventures, educational programs and exhibits will entice young and old Saturday, April 16. Some, like bird banding, begin as early as 7 a.m., but the majority of activities are between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and they are all at the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge and they all are free.

Kids will enjoy discovery programs, including bow hunting, bug sweeping, crabbing, studies with microscopes and many more. The more adventurous will enjoy buggy tours, birding tours and even kayaking.



Hands on activities appeal to everyone.



Many educational opportunities are offered at the refuge year round. Studies with microscopes is one of the Migration Celebration activities.

## April 16 schedule of events

All activities are free, although some advance registration is required. Please visit [www.migrationcelebration.org](http://www.migrationcelebration.org) for details.

**7 a.m. - noon:** Bird banding demonstration

**9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.:** Birding by ear

**9 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.:** Information Booth and sign up: marsh buggy, Bobcat Woods, Moccasin Pond van tours; San Bernard Oak walking tour; kayaking on Cedar Lake Creek, and other Amazing Adventures.

**9 a.m. - 5 p.m.:** Children's Discovery Program: bow hunting, bug sweeping, crabbing, fire fighting, fish casting with rod and reel, nature studies with microscope, pond life, live critters, and touch table.

Coastal expo: crab marsh, discovery boxes, fish prints, large puzzles, touch tank, beach goodies, glass bottom stream.

Junior Naturalist Program

**9 a.m. - 6 p.m.:** Exhibits Building: exhibits, photo contest exhibit, nature store

**9:30 a.m. & 4:45 p.m.:** EarthQuest Birds of Prey shows

**10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.:** Exhibit Building: bake sale

**11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.:** Food service

**11 a.m. & 2 p.m.:** Reptile identification and ecology

**3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.:** Rocket netting demonstration

## Consider being a volunteer

Migration Celebration is organized and run by members of the Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. As such, it only happens with the help and dedication of numerous volunteers. Many opportunities are available for people who would enjoy lending a hand and spending a few hours outdoors.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with any or all aspects of Migration Celebration, please call Ed Barrios, volunteer coordinator, at 979-297-1815 or send him an e-mail at [tx77566@comcast.net](mailto:tx77566@comcast.net).

## Sunday the adventures continue!

Sunday, April 17, begins with birding at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary and a herpetology tour. As part of the Amazing Adventures excursions, they are designed to give people an opportunity to team up with naturalists and get a focused look at the flora and fauna of the area. The size of the groups are restricted to fit the activities.

Marsh buggy tours, kayaking, a walk to the San Bernard Oak and a naturalist walk in the Dow Woods Unit round out the day. Myriad activities for children, exhibits and food service are available during the afternoon.

One of the favorite programs, the Earth-Quest Birds of Prey show, returns with two presentations Sunday afternoon.

### Birds of Prey put on a show



Returning this year to present four programs at Migration Celebration is EarthQuest and their Birds of Prey Show. During these demonstrations, visitors get an up close and personal look at falcons, hawks and even a condor.

Handler Steve Hoddy demonstrates the birds' skills as they fly overhead and he explains how birds of prey hunt and why they behave in ways that are always entertaining as well as educational.

The programs are April 16 beginning at 9:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., and April 17 beginning at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

## April 17 schedule of events

All activities are free, although some advance registration is required. For details, visit [www.migrationcelebration.org](http://www.migrationcelebration.org).

**7 a.m. - noon:** Bird banding demonstration

**7:15 a.m. - 11 a.m.:** Neotropical birding at Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary.

**9 a.m. - 11 a.m.:** Herpetology tour

**11:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.:** Information booth and sign up: marsh buggy tours, Moccasin Pond tours, kayaking on Cedar Lake Creek, San Bernard Oak interpretative walking tour, naturalist walk in Dow Woods Unit and other Amazing Adventures.

**Noon - 4 p.m.:** Children's Discovery Program: bow hunting, fish casting with rod and reel, bug sweeping, nature studies with microscope, pond life, live critters and touch table.

Coastal expo: crab marsh, discovery boxes, fish prints, large puzzles, touch tank, beach goodies, glass bottom stream.

Junior Naturalist Program

**12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.:** Food service

**12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.:** Exhibits Building: exhibits, photo contest exhibit, nature store, bake sale.

**1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.:** EarthQuest Birds of Prey shows

**2 p.m. - 3 p.m.:** Reptile identification and ecology



Marsh buggy tours are always a fun excursion.