

Author David Rains Wallace is keynote speaker at the Siskiyou Crest Festival

BY DIANA COOGLE

Come celebrate the wildlands of the Siskiyou Crest with the Siskiyou Crest Coalition at Pacifica Garden, in Williams. "Celebrating the Siskiyou Crest: A Festival of Arts, Culture, and Science" will be held on July 15 and 16, with a set of hikes and field trips on July 14.

This free festival begins at 10 am each day and runs till 10 pm on Saturday and 8:30 pm on Sunday. (Friday field trip schedules differ. See siskiyoucrestcoalition.org/festival.)

As a "festival of art," we will have a juried art exhibit, with arts of all disciplines, including visual, sculptural, and textile arts as well as short performances of music, dance, video, and poetry, also juried. Each piece of art will take as its subject the wild nature of the Siskiyou Crest, showing off its beauty and proving its inspirational quality. Among artists showing are Paula Fong, painter; Kevin Peer, videographer; Nancy Adams, ceramicist; Louann

Faist, tapestry weaver; and Mary Driver, mosaicist. Photography by Matt Witt. Poetry by Pepper Trail. A sculpture by Ela Lamblin. These and many more works of art depicting the wild nature of the Siskiyou Crest will be on display and in performance for the two days of the festival.

Another part of the "festival of art" is our featured musicians: Alice DiMichele, Windsong, and the Pozitronics.

As a "festival of culture," we are honored to have, as an afternoon speaker, Joseph Scott, a member of the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians and recognized by the Siletz Tribe as a Language and Culture Bearer; and, presenting an opening prayer in her native language, Dr. Jaeci Nel Hall, of the Tututni people.

As a "festival of science" (and of culture), we are thrilled to have David Rains Wallace, author of *The Klamath Knot*, as our keynote speaker on Sunday.

The Klamath Knot is a beautifully crafted book about the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains that draws on mythology and archeology as well as on biology and geology and has become a well-known classic of the area. *The Klamath Knot* won the John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing and was the first book to bring the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains to the attention of the general public.

Superbloom at Bolan Mountain, August 2022. Photo: Margaret della Santina.



Among mules ears in Donomore Meadows. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

Michael Kauffmann, author of *Conifer Country*, and Justin Garwood, his coauthor of *The Klamath Mountains: A Natural History*, along with local naturalist Luke Ruediger, author of *The Siskiyou Crest: Hikes, History, & Ecology*, will share the podium on Saturday.

A key aspect of the "festival of science" will be the six panels of eminent scientists and others knowledgeable about the history and culture of the Siskiyou Crest. The two panels on the first day will cover the extraordinary botany of the Siskiyou Crest (the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains are the second most botanically diverse area in the United States) and its wildlife. Joe Scott will take the third panel slot on that day. The second day's panels will cover threats, biodiversity, and recreation.

Don't miss one of the guided hikes or field trips on July 14: into the serpentine area of Red Mountain with Rachel Werling, chasing butterflies at Bigelow Lakes with Linda Kappen and Dana Ross, finding birds near Oregon Caves with Romain Cooper and Bill Gray or on Mt. Ashland with Frank Lospalluto, exploring the Hinkle Lake Botanical Area with Matt Dybala, taking a plant walk with Kristi Mergenthaler on Observation

Peak, hiking in the Red Buttes Wilderness Area with Luke Ruediger and Suzie Savoie, climbing up Mt. Elijah with Janeen Sathre, or snorkeling for coho salmon with Rich Nawa. Linda Kappen will also lead a butterfly hike at 10 am on July 15, at Pacifica. Go to siskiyoucrestcoalition.org/festival and click on "hikes" for an Eventbrite invitation. Sign-up is required.

Pacifica and the Pollinator Project of the Rogue Valley will provide children's activities on Saturday and Sunday. There will be food trucks for lunch, dinner, snacks, and drinks; and tables of information from nonprofit organizations. And, of course, you can find out more about the Siskiyou Crest Coalition and its work to find permanent protections for public lands on the Crest.

The Siskiyou Crest Coalition would like to thank our generous donors, sponsors, patrons, and benefactors for helping bring the dream of the festival to reality.

Make plans to be there! Go to siskiyoucrestcoalition.org/festival for full details. Or contact me with questions or to join the fun by volunteering to help.

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