

# JURUPA VALLEY: Family Pecan Festival set for Nov. 9

The Family Pecan Festival at the Louis Robidoux Nature Center on Nov. 9 will feature potbellied pigs, children's games, hayrides, food and music.



**COME SEE OLIVE !!**

Pecan Lovers can gather nuts at the Family Pecan Festival on Nov. 9, 2013. The event will feature Folkloric dancers from Los Angeles, children's games, hayrides, food, live country western music, and animals such as miniature ponies, opossums, and more.

**The special guest will be Southern California Association for Miniature Potbellied Pigs. They are based in Riverside. There will be on display several potbellied pigs for the public to see and touch.**

"A lot of pecans will be on the ground because of the Santa Ana winds that are to come," said Louis Robidoux Nature Center park interpreter Sherrie Chandler. "That is what we wait for: the winds."

Indians in California also waited for wind to blow to gather the pecans. In the Midwest, European settlers would sometimes cut down pecan trees to get to the nuts from the

tall, 100-foot high trees because in some areas they did not have the high wind to bring down the nuts.

Native Americans used the pecan as a food source for thousands of years, and many varieties were used by the tribes such as Mohawk, Cheyenne, Shawnee, Sioux, and Choctaw.

The nature center has large groves of pecan trees. The trees love rich soil near water, in this case, the Santa Ana River. Pecans are the only nut native to North America, and the U.S. grows 80 percent of the pecans in the world. The word pecan means "a tough nut to crack," from the Algonquin language. Chandler says until September, inside of a pecan is liquid.

Pecans cannot be gathered by the public until Nov., at the Pecan Festival. Outside containers are not allowed. The festival will supply bags to festival visitors.

Entertainment will include the Flat Out Country Band and an area for dancing. Children can play games, such as pumpkin ring toss. Crafts for children will include making an owl headband and decorate a paper bag to gather pecans.

A hayride will ride through the park to the Rancho Jurupa campgrounds and back. Self guided walking tours of Sunny Slope creek in the riparian forest on the children's interpretive trail will be open to the public. The festival is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the center, 5370 Riverview Drive, Jurupa Valley. Cost is \$3. Nature Center Information: 951-683-4880.

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<http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/riverside/riverside-headlines-index/20131029-jurupa-valley-family-pecan-festival-set-for-nov-9.ece>