

HABITAT HERALD

Wildlife Austin's monthly Newsletter



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Wildlife Austin

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 3rd: Dia de los Muertos Festival at the MACC
www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Parks/MACC/macc_dia.pdf

Nov 3rd: NWF Science and Health Resource Center Habitat Workday
www.keeptaustinbeautiful.org/node/1953

Nov 3rd: Austin Community Trees Big Event Day
To volunteer contact: Margaret Valenti at 512-974-2648

Nov 10th: Community Garden Leadership Training
www.sustainablefoodcenter.org/

Nov 10th: Sapling Days at Whole Earth Provision Co. (Free trees!)
Contact: greg@treefolks.org

Nov 15th: Bartholomew Park: Creek Restoration Project
www.austinparks.org/apf-calendar.html

Nov 24th: Ecological Literacy Day at Hornsby Bend
www.keeptaustinbeautiful.org/node/1703



NOVEMBER 2012

Things we are thankful for...

It's that time of year again. The time where we take a moment to contemplate some of the wonderful things for which we are thankful! Austin is a great city, and although traffic can distract us from this fact, it's important to remember how lucky we are to live here. I decided to make a short list of some of my favorite things about this city. These are things I am thankful for, and I'm sure you are too!

1. Zilker Botanical Gardens - What an amazing place to visit! The ZBG has a little bit of everything from an amazing butterfly garden to the peaceful calm of the Taniguchi Japanese Gardens. There is always more to see!

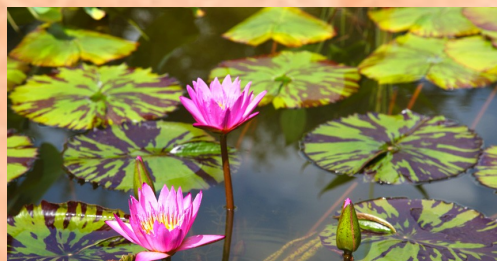
www.zilker.org/index.html

2. Austin Nature and Science Center - Everyone gets to feel like a kid again at the ANSC! Tucked away in the western edge of Zilker Park, the center has permanent live animal exhibits, awesome kids programs, and a whole lot more. If you've never been, it's time to visit! www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-nature-science-center

3. The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center - Another must-visit site in Austin! The wildflower center has wonderful education classes for kids and adults, beautiful grounds, festivals, and a bi-annual plant sale. We are SO lucky to have this amazing center (the website is pretty awesome too)!

www.wildflower.org/

4. Mount Bonnell - One of the best sunsets in Austin. It can be kind of a steep climb but the view is well worth the huffing and puffing! www.austinparks.org/apfweb/park.php?parkId=287



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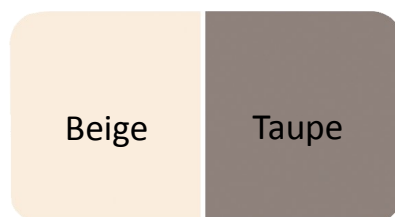
Hi everyone! I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving. There are many things in Austin that we are thankful for, and I guess that is kind of the theme for this November issue. I want to thank all of the Habitat Stewards for their great volunteer work, and everyone who took the time to get their yard certified as a wildlife habitat this year! The wildlife thanks you too (I'm sure).



Saving Green by Being Green

By Lauren Rowe

Last month Mr. Bulla filled us in on the exciting Green Choice program offered through Austin Energy. This month I thought it would be fitting to share with you some other great and free services that the City of Austin offers to its residents. I know many of you are habitat stewards and as part of that are actively involved in community volunteer projects. At Austin Resource Recovery you can find many free materials such as free mulch, cleaning products, fertilizer, pesticides, solvents and even free paint. Free paint is offered as part of the ReBlend program where paint dropped off by residents is remixed and offered in:



If composting is something that interests you they also offer the Composting Rebate Challenge. All you have to do is downsize your trashcan to 32 gallons and take a free composting class offered by Austin Resource Recovery. After that you can purchase any composting system and receive a 75% rebate, up to \$75!



Austin Resource Recovery also offers waste assessments if you are interested in seeing what more you can do to become zero-waste. If you would like further information about any of these programs please call **512-974-4343** or visit www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-resource-recovery. Austin Resource Recovery also offers a mail opt-out program with Catalog Choice where you can elect to stop receiving paper versions of phone books, catalogs, credit card offers, and coupons. With your help, over 6,500 trees can be saved every year by switching to electronic mail. For more information or to sign up please visit austin.catalogchoice.org.



OPT OUT OF UNWANTED MAIL

Austin Water also offers each resident a free soil moisture meter and treegator for their personal use. You can also sign out a water hose meter for two weeks. These are great for self-monitoring your water usage in your garden as well as a fun experiment to see how much water can be conserved by each individual through good habits and sustainable landscaping. Austin Water also offers free water use assessments. For more information please call **512-974-2199** or visit www.austintexas.gov/department/water. I encourage all of you to use these free resources available to help reach Austin's zero-waste goals!



Lauren Rowe is a City of Austin Park Ranger over Nature Preserves



Garden of the Month

This month we feature the recently created wildlife habitat by the Andrews residence hall at UT. The Campus Environmental Center (CEC) Gardening Committee (with donations from the Wildflower Center) was able to create the beginnings of a wonderful wildlife garden. Additions to the garden and other projects are in the works, and Wildlife Austin was thrilled to be involved with the project! They did an awesome job!!



Questions for the Gardener...

Brittany Morgan (Assistant Director for the CEC) was nice enough to answer some of our questions about the garden...

Question: Tell me about the CEC.

Brittany: The Campus Environmental Center is the largest student-led environmental group on UT campus, which is composed of smaller committees that include Recycling, Students for a Sustainable Campus, and Gardening. We have helped to start and continue to maintain the University's first-ever community garden, organize on-campus landscaping projects, and hold gardening workshops throughout the school year.

Q: What is your role?

B: I am the Assistant Director for CEC and head coordinator of the Gardening Committee.

Q: How long have you been gardening? What do you like best about it?

B: I grew up with a garden in backyard so I've always been around plants and dirt, although I did not really start gardening on my own until I got into college and found the CEC. My favorite aspect about gardening besides getting to be outside is in seeing plants grow up from a seed in the ground, to mature plants that produce fruits and vegetables. The nature of it all is really very fascinating.

Q: Where did you guys get the plants for the Andrews plot?

B: The plants were donated from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, who have always been tremendously supportive with similar projects that the Gardening Committee has taken on, such as this one.

Q: Did the club enjoy putting in a wildlife habitat?

B: I think our group had a great time digging in and making campus look better with each other! Getting out of our usual meeting space was a good change of pace, and everyone was super glad to help.

Q: Do you have future plans to install more wildlife habitat on campus?

B: We may improve the other side of the Andrews courtyard to extend our wildlife garden area, come Spring.





Schoolyard Habitat Update



Outdoor Education is made easy at Pickle Elementary School!

By Anne Muller

Teachers and students have access to a Peace Garden, vegetable gardening with compost and a solar powered pond, a butterfly garden and a deck off the library for reading and explorations of nature. Pickle is a model campus for integrating vegetable gardens and native habitats into an outdoor learning space to accommodate a variety of wildlife while making the best use of the space. Pickle ES received a grant from CiNCA to continue the greening of their schoolyard in the 2012-2013 school year by installing a rain garden and making existing learning spaces more accessible to all learners.



Vegetable Gardens and Classroom Space



Deck and Butterfly Garden



Bounty from the Pickle Gardens



Schoolyard Habitat Success Depends on Volunteers Like You!

Contact Anne Muller AISD Outdoor Learning Specialist
amuller@austinisd.org or 841-5070
For an up to date list of work days and volunteer opportunities



Would YOU like to receive the the Wildlife Austin newsletter electronically?

Simply e-mail us at wildlife@austintexas.gov!



Sustainable Business Series

The Small Business Development Program and the Office of Sustainability are hosting the Sustainable Business Series, classes on the topic of sustainable business practices. The goal is to help small businesses reduce cost, maximize efficiencies, and strengthen marketing by implementing sustainable business practices. Taught by City of Austin topic experts and engaging community leaders, the Sustainable Business Series will provide tools and incentives to help businesses conserve the environment, better connect with the community and attract more customers. Businesses completing 6 out of the 7 courses will receive a certificate from the City of Austin. Click below to learn more:

www.cvent.com/events/sustainable-business-series/event-summary-96a2d7ae52794c1d892173d9cf605355.aspx?i=d910f129-3b02-420e-af14-52d0598ec417%20

Organizations & Programs You Should Check Out:

- Austin Butterfly Forum - www.austinbutterflies.org
- Austin Parks Foundation - www.austinparks.org
- Austin Pond Society - www.austinpondsociety.org
- Capital Area Master Naturalists - camn.org
- COA's Grow Green Program - www.growgreen.org
- Keep Austin Beautiful - www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org
- KAB & COA's Adopt-a-Creek Program - www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/Adopt-a-Creek
- Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center - www.wildflower.org
- Native Plant Society of Texas (Austin chapter) - npsota.wordpress.com
- Sierra Club (Austin) - texas.sierraclub.org/austin
- Texas Monarch Watch - www.texasento.net/dplex.htm
- Travis Audubon - travisaudubon.org
- Travis County Master Gardener's Association - tcmastergardeners.org
- Treefolks - treefolks.org



“Like”

[Austin Parks and Recreation](#) on Facebook and look for the Wildlife Austin posts!



The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call (512) 974-6700.