



Austin Water – Center for Environmental Research
Austin Water – The University of Texas – Texas A&M University
A Partnership for Urban Ecology and Sustainability: Community, Ecology, Research
located at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725
Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer>

CER Events April 2012

April 3 - Tuesday – NOON to 1pm AT WALLER CENTER Room 104

- CER Monthly Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson
- Downtown at Austin Water Headquarters - Waller Center, 625 East 10th St - between Red River and I-35 Rm 104
- The History of Natural History: Contemporary Natural History

○ We began the year by reviewing the early history of natural history up to Darwin and Thoreau. Last month we examined the rapid development of natural history as a science and a cultural activity in 19th and early 20th Century. This month we follow these two pathways of natural history into the 20th century and up to the present day. We will follow the submergence of natural history into sciences like ecology and the many subfields of biology, and look at recent efforts to reassert the foundational role of natural history in biology. In parallel, we will see how the natural history literature of the first half of the 20th Century gave way to contemporary environmental writing and how some writers are returning to the practice of natural history to revive their writing.

April 7 - Saturday 8am meet at CER

- Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - Travis County River Monitoring Trip
- Join Claude Morris and the Travis County Colorado River Monitoring trip for a day on the river monitoring birds and more, and help the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership learn more about the ecology of the Colorado River.
- Meet at the CER parking lot at 8:00AM
- A river trip to monitor birds and vegetation along the river and you MUST provide your own boat or rent one from Cook's Canoes in Webberville <http://www.cookscanoes.com/>
- Contact Claude Morris at cgmorris@flash.net to participate
- More about the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership at the CER webpage <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer>

April 14 Saturday 7am-11am and 4pm to dark meet at CER

- Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Monthly Bird Survey
- The HBBO Bird Survey is open to all levels of birder interested in intensive monitoring, although this is not a field trip. In the morning, we have teams covering different areas of the Hornsby Bend facility, and they count numbers of all birds seen. It is 4 hours of hard hiking and counting, but lots of fun along the way. We meet again around 11am to tally up the species. The afternoon involves looking around for species missed that morning, and we go until sundown. More information about the CER HBBO program at www.hornsbybend.org

April 21 Saturday – 730am – 11am at the CER

HBBO/Travis Audubon Society - Hornsby Bend Monthly Birding Fieldtrip – FREE!

Meet at the CER 730am, no registration needed – all levels of birder welcomed, an easy morning of walking and learning the birds of Hornsby Bend. Bring binoculars and some water if the weather is warm. More information at www.travisaudubon.org and www.hornsbybend.org

April 25 Wednesday 10am – noon

Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Quarterly Meeting – Open to anyone interested in the Colorado River – a stakeholder partnership about the future of the river corridor in Travis County and Bastrop County.

April 28 Saturday 9am – 1pm at the CER

- Ecological Literacy Volunteer Day – Help maintain Hornsby Bend! Did you know that all the Hornsby Bend trails, habitat gardens, and kiosks were built and are maintained by volunteers? If you enjoy birding or walking along the Colorado River here, join us in maintaining these amenities and supporting public access at Hornsby Bend.
- We do three hours work and one hour of learning about the ecology of the Colorado River and Hornsby Bend - Wear work-clothes and work-shoes, bring water and binoculars if interested in birds.
- New! POTLUCK LUNCH AND More ECOLOGICAL LEARNING - Bring food for our potluck lunch afterwards at 1pm and learn more at a presentation on ecology during lunch.