

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 2014

Apr 5

Saturday 8am meet at the CER

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - 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. More about the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership at the CER website Research, Programs, Partnerships page <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/research-projects-partnerships-and-programs>
- 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

Apr 8

Tuesday NOON to 1pm at Waller Center, 625 East 10th Street [Between Red River and I-35]

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- **Resilient Nature: Wasteland and the New Ecology**
- "As conservation became a global enterprise in the 1970s and 1980s, the movement's justification for saving nature shifted from spiritual and aesthetic values to focus on biodiversity. Nature was described as primeval, fragile, and at risk of collapse from too much human use and abuse...The trouble for conservation is that the data simply do not support the idea of a fragile nature at risk of collapse. Ecologists now know that the disappearance of one species does not necessarily lead to the extinction of any others, much less all others in the same ecosystem...If there is no wilderness, if nature is resilient rather than fragile, and if people are actually part of nature and not the original sinners who caused our banishment from Eden, what should be the new vision for conservation?" These are the words of Peter Kareiva, Chief Scientist for the Nature Conservancy. Join me as I will explore the more fundamental question - "What is this new vision of Resilient Nature?"

Apr 8

Tuesday 7pm at the North Dining Room of Scholz Beer Garten, 1607 San Jacinto.

- **Austin Sierra Club Monthly Meeting**
- **Presentation by Kevin M. Anderson**
- **The Natural (and Unnatural) History of Waller Creek**
- Austin's Waller Creek is one of the most studied urban creeks in America. Currently, it is the focus of the Waller Creek Conservancy's urban design efforts for the lower reach of the creek where the Waller Creek Tunnel is being constructed. Moreover, the new University of Texas Medical School will reshape the creek just upstream of the tunnel. In this lecture, I will discuss this natural (and unnatural) history of Waller Creek as it flows through residential areas, the University, and down to the Colorado River.

Apr 9

Wednesday – NOON to 1pm at Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- **Resilient Nature: Wasteland and the New Ecology**

Apr 12

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

- **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Program 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

Apr 16

Wednesday - NOON to 1pm at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room 1st Floor

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- **Resilient Nature: Wasteland and the New Ecology**

Apr 19

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

Apr 22

CER Earth Day in the River at Hornsby Bend – 9am-2pm at Hornsby Bend

- Limited number of volunteer mentors needed. You must contact Kevin Anderson to participate in this event Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov
- Tim Fennell and his students from AISD Liberal Arts and Science Academy, the Austin Youth River Watch, UT Jackson School of Geosciences, and the Austin Water Center for Environmental Research will be doing our 10th annual “Earth Day in the River” field lab again this year at Hornsby Bend.
- We need helpers for a morning of aquatic biology, hydrology, riparian ecology, mentoring, and river fun. You do not need to be a biologist. We need adults to participate in groups and learn along with the students. We break the students into teams, assign some of you volunteers to the teams, and spend a half hour at each learning activity station [benthic organism collecting, water quality testing, hydrology, and fish biology].
- Come prepared to be in the water!

Apr 26

Saturday 9am – 1pm at the CER

- **Ecological Literacy Volunteer Day and Potluck Learning** – 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, please join us in maintaining these amenities and supporting public access at Hornsby Bend.
- Wear work clothes [long pants], hat for shade, and sturdy shoes; bring water and binoculars if interested in birds.
 - **NOON POTLUCK LUNCH AND More ECOLOGICAL LEARNING** - Bring food for our potluck lunch at NOON and learn more at a presentation on ecology during lunch.
 - Ralph Yznaga
 - Presentation - Living Witness: Historic Trees of Texas
 - Author of *Living Witness: Historic Trees of Texas* (Texas A&M University Press, Spring, 2012)
Learn more at livingwitness.net

For more information about these events contact Kevin M. Anderson [kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov]

Join our CER Facebook Page for updates on Human Events and Activities: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Austin-Water-Center-for-Environmental-Research-at-Hornsby-Bend/353742361321079>

Join our Hornsby Bend Facebook Page for updates on Hornsby Bend Nonhuman Ecology:
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Hornsby-Bend/232381543511162>