

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 May 2012

May 1

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 Room 104]
- **The Natural History of the Americas: Discovery and Transformation**
- The idea that the Americas were wilderness areas when Europeans arrived has been a central tenet of environmentalism and conservation policy. Thus, we defined natural as those landscapes “untrammeled” by humans. However, over the last decades, this “myth of pristine nature” has been debunked by scholars and scientists, who have shown that large areas of North, Central, and South America were shaped by human activity for thousands of years. And so, the natural history of the Americas is also the human history of the Americas. In this talk, I will try to sort out the natural and unnatural history of the Americas.

May 5

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>

May 12

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

May 15

Tuesday – NOON to 1pm AT CITY HALL Boards and Commissions Room 1101

- **CER Monthly Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- Downtown at City Hall
- **The Natural History of the Americas: Discovery and Transformation**
- The idea that the Americas were wilderness areas when Europeans arrived has been a central tenet of environmentalism and conservation policy. Thus, we defined natural as those landscapes “untrammelled” by humans. However, over the last decades, this “myth of pristine nature” has been debunked by scholars and scientists, who have shown that large areas of North, Central, and South America were shaped by human activity for thousands of years. And so, the natural history of the Americas is also the human history of the Americas. In this talk, I will try to sort out the natural and unnatural history of the Americas.
- **Transportation Options for City Hall**
 - Automobile parking is available in the underground garage. Bring your garage ticket to the talk and we will validate it for free parking.
 - Bicycle parking is available at ground level on both the Guadalupe and Lavaca sides of the block.
 - Buses (select route to see schedule)
 - Chavez & San Antonio: [3 northbound](#).
 - San Antonio & 2nd: [3 southbound](#).
 - Colorado & 3rd: [10 southbound and 17 eastbound](#).

May 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

May 26

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, please 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.

**For more information about these events, contact Kevin M. Anderson at
Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov or 972-1960**