

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: www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/cer2.htm



CER Events February 2012

Feb 1

Wednesday – NOON to 1pm AT WALLER CENTER Room 105

- **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 105](#)]
- **The History of Natural History: Origins and 19th Century Development**
- We will begin the year looking at the history of natural history, which is as much an “unnatural” history of culture as it is of nature. At its core is a dedication to faithful human observation of the nonhuman world. The practice of natural history formed the foundation of modern biology emerging out of the taxonomy of Linnaeus and the biogeography of Von Humboldt which was grounded in “scientific” practice found in Aristotle and Pliny. So we will begin in the past and work forward along the dual pathways leading into science and literature. We will start the year by recounting that 2000 year passage from Aristotle to the emergence of natural history in the 18th century and its development in the 19th century.

Feb 4

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.
- The 69th monthly survey
- February River Stretch – private property on FM 969 to Bastrop [6 miles]
- 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 partnerships webpage <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/programsandpartnerships.htm>

Feb 4

Saturday 9am – 1pm at the CER

- **TAS Purple Martin Workshop by Andy and Julia Balinsky**
- Do you want to know more about Purple Martins, how to set up a colony, and be a Purple Martin landlord? Are you an existing landlord, wanting to meet other Martin aficionados and learn tips? Have you always wanted to be a citizen scientist, gathering useful data that can help Martin conservation efforts? If so, this Travis Audubon Society workshop is for you.
- The first Purple Martins typically arrive in Austin at the end of January, so this class will give you information you can put to use right away, either at your own colony, or

observing Martins at Hornsby Bend or any other existing colony. Class participants are invited to participate through mid-June as helpers and observers as the class teachers maintain and record the 2012 Purple Martin season at Hornsby Bend. Later in the summer, we will invite class members to join us in educating others at the giant Purple Martin roost at Highland Mall.

- Andy and Julia Balinsky have been the stewards of the Hornsby Bend Purple Martin colony since 2003. They have watched over 1000 Purple Martin babies fledge during that time. They have also spent many evenings watching the Martin pre-migration staging roost in the late summer.
- To register and for more information at the Travis Audubon Society website - <http://travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/3073-2>

Feb 11 **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

Feb 18 **Saturday – 730am – 11am**

- **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

Feb 25 **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.

Feb 26 **Sunday 2-5pm at the Austin Youth River Watch Office at Hornsby Bend**

- **Austin Youth River Watch Open House** at their Platt Lane office at Hornsby Bend. Family fun – come for nature hikes, kite flying, food, and more. A great chance to see the AYRW “ecohouse” office and learn about the program from Austin Youth River Watch students and staff. More information on the Austin Youth River Watch website – www.ayrw.org

**For more information about these events, contact Kevin M. Anderson at
Kevin.Anderson@ci.austin.tx.us or 972-1960**