

# 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 February 2015

- Feb 3**      **Tuesday NOON to 1pm** at Waller Center, 625 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street [Between Red River and I-35] Room 104
- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
  - 2015 Lunchtime Lecture theme – The Geography of Rivers: The Nature and Culture of Flowing Water
  - January Lunchtime Lecture: **Riverrun: Language, Art, and Flowing Water**
  - “A way a lone a last a loved a long a...riverrun, past Eve and Adam’s, from swerve of shore to bend of bay...” Thus, James Joyce ends and begins his masterpiece, *Finnegans Wake*, a round river of language which flows back into itself, in which he weaves the names of hundreds of rivers in the Anna Livia Plurabelle or "river" chapter. The river master of American literature is Mark Twain whose greatest books focus on his river, the Mississippi. Rivers played a key role for American landscape painting beginning with the Hudson River School in the 1820s. So join us for a talk that will examine writers and painters for whom rivers and flowing water has a central role in their work.
- Feb 7**      **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.
  - 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.
  - Contact Claude Morris at [cgmorris@flash.net](mailto:cgmorris@flash.net) to participate
  - 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>
  - Check out the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Facebook Page for updates and photos from the river monitoring trips <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Austin-Bastrop-River-Corridor-Partnership/275854452533507>
- Feb 11**      **Wednesday – NOON to 1pm** at Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road
- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
  - 2015 Lunchtime Lecture theme – The Geography of Rivers: The Nature and Culture of Flowing Water
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- Feb 14**      **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 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](http://www.hornsbybend.org)

**Feb 14**

**Saturday 1pm - 4 pm at the CER**

- **Travis Audubon Society Purple Martin Workshop taught by Andy and Julia Balinsky**
- Remember the birds roosting at Highland Mall last summer? Come learn about what the Purple Martins do the rest of the year. 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 class 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.
- Andy and Julia Balinsky have been the stewards of the CER's Purple Martin colony since 2003. They have watched over 1300 Purple Martin babies fledge during that time. They have also spent many evenings watching the Martin pre-migration staging roost in the late summer.
- Register for the workshop at <http://travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes>

**Feb 19**

**Thursday 10am – Noon at the CER**

- **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.
- More about the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership at the CER website Projects and Partnerships page <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer>

**Feb 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](http://www.travisaudubon.org) and [www.hornsbybend.org](http://www.hornsbybend.org)

**Feb 21**

**Saturday 9 am – 12 pm at the CER**

- **Travis Audubon Society Bluebird Workshop by taught by Pauline Tom**
- Nationally-known bluebird expert Pauline Tom will conduct a bluebird workshop at Hornsby Bend. Pauline is President of the Texas Bluebird Society and has conducted popular workshops on bluebird husbandry in many different parts of the state. She lives in central Texas and is widely regarded as one of the foremost experts on and advocates for bluebirds in the state of Texas. Pauline will take participants outdoors to view bluebird habitat and man-made nestboxes.
- Register for the workshop at <http://travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes>

**Feb 28**

**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 or geography during lunch.
  - **February Potluck Learning Presentation - Riverrun: Language, Art, and Flowing Water** by Dr. Kevin M. Anderson, CER Coordinator

For more information about these events contact - Kevin M. Anderson [ [kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov](mailto:kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov) ]

Join our CER Facebook Page for updates on Human Events and Activities: <https://www.facebook.com/austinwatercer>

Join our Hornsby Bend Facebook Page for updates on Hornsby Bend Nonhuman Ecology: <https://www.facebook.com/hornsbybend>

Join our Waller Creek Facebook Page for updates on human and nonhuman life on Waller Creek:

<https://www.facebook.com/Lifeonwallercreek>