

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>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/austinwatercer>



CER Events February 2017

Feb 4

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 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 www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor

Feb 8

Wednesday NOON to 1pm at Senior Activity Center-Lamar 29th St + 2874 Shoal Crest Ave, South Room

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2017 Lunchtime Lectures – Understanding Urban Nature: Ecology, Culture, and the American City
- **February 2017 Lunchtime Lecture - Urban Wild: Wilderness, Wildness, and the American City**
- The myth of wilderness is still the dominant narrative of American nature. Once American nature was pure, and then humans arrived and degraded it. The city is the final outcome of the destruction of nature, and so it must be redeemed by incorporating wilderness in the form of “nature preserves” and “wildlands” where pure, native nature is protected from the cosmopolitan “wild” nature invading from the surrounding urban landscape. This lecture will examine the many facets of this American narrative of wilderness, wildness, and the American City.

Feb 11

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

Feb 11

Saturday 1pm to 4pm at the CER

- **Travis Audubon Society Purple Martin Workshop 2016** <http://travisaudubon.org/adult-classes>
- Remember the birds roosting at Embassy Suites 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. This class will focus on the life cycle of Purple Martins and how you can participate as a Purple Martin landlord or helper. You will learn the maintenance routine recommended by the Purple Martin Conservation Association. You will also learn how to record and send in nesting data that is compiled nationally. We will also include hands-on nest preparation and discussion at the Hornsby Bend colony. Class participants are invited to participate through mid-June as helpers and observers as the class teachers maintain and record the 2017 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.

- Andy and Julia Balinsky have been the stewards of the Hornsby Bend 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.
- Registration at <https://travis.z2systems.com/np/clients/travis/event.jsp?event=1679>

Feb 16 **Thursday NOON to 1pm at One Texas Center 505 Barton Springs Road + South First Street, Room 325**

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2016 Lunchtime Lectures – The Unity of Nature: The Creation, Discovery, and End of Nature
- **February 2017 Lunchtime Lecture - Urban Wild: Wilderness, Wildness, and the American City**

Feb 18 **Saturday 730am – 11am at the CER**

- **HBBO/Travis Audubon Society - Hornsby Bend Monthly Birdwatching 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 21 **Tuesday NOON to 1pm at the Center for Environmental Research – Hornsby Bend**

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2017 Lunchtime Lectures – Understanding Urban Nature: Ecology, Culture, and the American City
- **February 2017 Lunchtime Lecture - Urban Wild: Wilderness, Wildness, and the American City**

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.
 - Wear work clothes [long pants], hat for shade, and sturdy shoes; bring water and binoculars if interested in birds.

Feb 28 **Tuesday 10am – Noon at the Center for Environmental Research**

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Bimonthly 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.
- **Presentation – The Environmental History of the Colorado River: An Update – Dr. Kevin M. Anderson** will look back at the changing landscapes and ecology of the Texas Colorado River and at the contemporary changes impacting the River Corridor – floods, fire, development, transportation projects, and more.
- More about the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership at the CER website Projects and Partnerships page <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer> and on Facebook www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor

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