

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 2023

Feb 1

Wednesday 10am – Noon at the Bastrop Courthouse Extension, Conference Room, 804 Pecan St, Bastrop, TX 78602

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Bimonthly Meeting** – Open to anyone interested in the Colorado River – a stakeholder partnership about the past, present and future of the river corridor between Austin and Smithville.
- **Presentation: The Colorado River: Fluvial Process and Hydrology**
 - Dr. Kevin M. Anderson, Austin Water Center for Environmental Research
 - This presentation will explore how the Colorado River and all rivers work as physical systems that transport water and sediment shaping the river corridor on their journey from headwaters to delta – or, in the case of the Colorado River, its estuary.
- Also, updates on happenings along the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor, including our 200th volunteer river survey!
- 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 about the river corridor www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor

Feb 4

Saturday 8am meet at the CER

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - River Monitoring Trip**
- The Travis County Colorado River Monitoring trip is a day on the river monitoring birds, bugs, fish, and more to help the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership to learn more about the ecology of the 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 cgmorris70@gmail.com 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 7

**Tuesday 1230pm to 2pm at University of Texas
Peter O'Donnell Building (POB) Room 2.402**

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2023 Lunchtime Lectures – **The Geography of Flowing Water: Rivers and Streams, Nature and Culture**
- **February CER Lunchtime Lecture - Fluvial Life: Ecology of Flowing Water**
- Lotic or riverine habitats are aquatic ecosystems defined by flowing water from seeps and springs to riffles and rapids to the slow rich waters of deep channels near a river's mouth. This contrasts with lentic or lacustrine habitats of still water systems like lakes, ponds, and many wetlands. Fluvial life begins with the oxygen rich biogeochemistry of flowing water which merges with the ecology of the

aquatic organisms who make their homes both in water and in the gravel bed of rivers and streams. This lecture will explore the rich diversity of habitats and life in flowing water as we travel from rapid headwaters to the slow deep waters as rivers merge with the sea.

Feb 9

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

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2023 Lunchtime Lectures – **The Geography of Flowing Water: Rivers and Streams, Nature and Culture**
- **February CER Lunchtime Lecture - Fluvial Life: Ecology of Flowing Water**

Feb 11

Saturday 7am-noon meet at the Center for Environmental Research

- **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. More information about the CER HBBO program at www.hornsbybend.org

Feb 11

Saturday 1pm-4pm at the Center for Environmental Research

- **Travis Audubon Society Purple Martin Workshop**
- 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 go outside to do 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 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.
- Course instructors Andy and Julia Balinsky have been the stewards of the Hornsby Bend Purple Martin colony at the CER since 2003. They have watched over 3000 Purple Martin babies fledge during that time. They have also spent many evenings watching the Martin pre-migration staging roost in the late summer.
- **You must register for this workshop at the Travis Audubon Society website**
https://trivisaudubon.org/?event=class-purple-martin-workshop&event_date=2023-02-11

Feb 14

Tuesday NOON to 1pm at the Center for Environmental Research – Hornsby Bend

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2023 Lunchtime Lectures – **The Geography of Flowing Water: Rivers and Streams, Nature and Culture**
- **February CER Lunchtime Lecture - Fluvial Life: Ecology of Flowing Water**

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 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.

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