

# 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 January 2024

- Jan 6**      **Saturday 8am meet at the Center for Environmental Research**
- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Monthly River Monitoring Trip**
  - The river trip is for monitoring birds, bugs, fish, and human impacts for the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership. Each trip covers a different stretch of the river between Austin and Bastrop ranging from 5 – 10 miles.
  - Meet at the CER parking lot at 8:00AM. To participate you **MUST** provide your own boat.
  - 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](http://www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor)
- Jan 9**      **Tuesday NOON to 1pm at the Center for Environmental Research – Hornsby Bend**
- 2024 Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures Series Topic – ***Nature and the American Mind: The Wild, The Pastoral, The Urban, The New***
  - Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures by Kevin M. Anderson
  - **January CER Lunchtime Lecture – *Wild Nature: The New World and Wilderness***
  - In 2024, we will examine the idea of nature in “the American Mind” by exploring four main concepts of American Nature – wild nature, pastoral nature, urban nature, and the emerging concept of a new nature in the Anthropocene. The Classical Western concept of wild nature is the primordial, pristine Earth which humans transform through our proclivity to farm and to build. This distinction between the pristine and the humanized is the deep dichotomy within the idea of “nature” in Western culture. Human modification of primordial “first” nature was traditionally seen as an improvement, because the primordial Earth was wild, irrational nature that needed taming and civilizing. When the civilized Old World discovered a New World across the ocean, America was perceived as a “howling wilderness” by Europeans arriving intent on subduing and cultivating and claiming it from the “savages”. However, in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a new understanding of beneficent wild nature was created to distinguish the nature of the New World from that of the Old World and to establish a new therapeutic role for American wild nature where “wilderness” is viewed as a mental and spiritual refuge. We begin 2024 by examining the origins of our concept of wilderness and its transformation from a dangerous “howling” wilderness into a uniquely American ideal of wild nature as a refuge from the humanized nature that surrounds us in towns and cities.
- Jan 11**      **Thursday NOON to 1pm at PARD Senior Activity Center - Lamar+29<sup>th</sup> St at 2874 Shoal Crest Ave**
- 2024 Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures Series Topic – ***Nature and the American Mind: The Wild, The Pastoral, The Urban, The New***
  - Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures by Kevin M. Anderson
  - **January CER Lunchtime Lecture – *Wild Nature: The New World and Wilderness***

Jan 13

**Saturday 7am-1130am meet at the Center for Environmental Research**

- **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Program Monthly Bird Survey**
- The HBBO Bird Survey is a citizen science effort to monitor bird species at the Hornsby Bend site. This is not a field trip. Advanced and intermediate birders are welcomed to participate. Beginning at 7am, we have teams covering different areas of the Hornsby Bend site, and they count numbers of all birds seen. It is a full morning of hiking and counting, but lots of fun along the way. We meet again at 1130am to tally up the species. More information about the CER HBBO program at [www.hornsbybend.org](http://www.hornsbybend.org) and [www.facebook.com/hornsbybend](https://www.facebook.com/hornsbybend)

Jan 20

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

Jan 23

**Tuesday 1230pm to 2pm at University of Texas**

**Peter O'Donnell Building (POB) Room 2.302 (new room for 2024)**

<https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/campus/buildings/nlogon/maps/UTM/POB/>

- 2024 Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures Series Topic – ***Nature and the American Mind: The Wild, The Pastoral, The Urban, The New***
- Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures by Kevin M. Anderson
- **January CER Lunchtime Lecture – *Wild Nature: The New World and Wilderness***

Jan 27

**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](mailto:kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov)