

# 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 May 2014

May 3

**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. 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>
- 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

May 10

**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)

May 13

**Tuesday NOON to 1pm** at Waller Center, 625 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street [Between Red River and I-35]

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- **American Natural History and the Theory of Degenerate Nature**
- The practice of natural history became a science of describing and classifying nature as America became an independent nation. One of the founders of this new science was the French polymath Comte de Buffon who published his 36-volume encyclopedia Natural History between 1749 and 1788. In it, he argued that, compared to the Old World, all New World species were weak and feeble, since the dismal, cold climate of the New World made them so. Moreover, any species brought to the New World would succumb to the degenerative effects of this swamp-like world - a process, Buffon argued, which applied equally to Europeans immigrating to America. This theory of degeneracy appealed to the prejudices of many European thinkers and leaders, and it meant that describing the natural history of America was closely bound to nation-building and to refuting this European prejudice against American nature. And so, from Jefferson to Thoreau, early American naturalists not only described American nature but defended American nature against this largely forgotten (and profoundly wrong!) theory. Join me this month as I explore this history of American natural history and how it still influences our understanding of American nature.

May 14

**Wednesday – NOON to 1pm** at Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- **American Natural History and the Theory of Degenerate Nature**

- May 17**      **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)
- May 21**      **Wednesday - NOON to 1pm** at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor
- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
  - **American Natural History and the Theory of Degenerate Nature**
- May 31**      **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 during lunch.

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/#!/pages/Austin-Water-Center-for-Environmental-Research-at-Hornsby-Bend/353742361321079>

Join our Hornsby Bend Facebook Page for updates on Hornsby Bend Nonhuman Ecology: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Hornsby-Bend/232381543511162>