

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 2016

- Jan 2** **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
- Jan 9** **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
- Jan 16** **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 and www.hornsbybend.org

Jan 19

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

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2016 Lunchtime Lectures – The Unity of Nature: The Creation, Discovery, and End of Nature
- **January Lunchtime Lecture: First Nature: The Pristine Myth and Wilderness**
- We begin this year of exploring the idea of nature by looking at the two dominant ideas of nature in American culture: the wilderness and the pastoral. Wilderness as pure nature and spiritual solace has a unique hold on American culture, but it lives in tension with the American pastoral idea of nature on family farms and ranches. This dualism is part of the Old World myth of nature in which the primordial, pristine “first nature” is transformed (and improved) through human cultivation, our species proclivity to farm and to build. Europeans arriving in the New World were intent on subduing the “howling” wilderness and cultivating the land, but by the 19th century American wilderness became a celebrated part of emerging American culture. However, over the last decades, this “myth of pristine nature” in America has been debunked by scholars and scientists, who have shown that large areas of North, Central, and South America were shaped by human activity for thousands of years. And so, I will begin this year of lectures on the unity of nature by mapping the origins of our idea of nature brought from the Old World and transformed in the New World into the Myth of Pristine Nature.

Jan 20

Wednesday NOON to 1pm at One Texas Center (OTC) 505 Barton Springs Road and 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
- **January Lunchtime Lecture: First Nature: The Pristine Myth and Wilderness**

Jan 30

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.

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