

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 April 2024

Apr 2

Tuesday 1230pm to 2pm at University of Texas

- **Location - Peter O'Donnell Building (POB) Room 2.302**
<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
- **April CER Lunchtime Lecture – *New Nature: Discordant Harmony and Ecological Resilience***
- We now live in an age of global ecological change. Some scientists insist that humans dominate the Earth so completely as to warrant declaring a new geological age, the Anthropocene. The understanding of nature in this new age is built on ideas of “new ecology” where disequilibrium, change, and discordant harmony are more fundamental than integrity, stability, and balance. In this new ecology, “the reference point is not an original condition of a natural landscape, but rather a condition defined based on the current site potential and the greatest possible degree of self-regulation. From this perspective, therefore, the natural capacity for process is the central point, not a particular, retrospectively determined and often idealized, picture of nature” as the German ecologist Ingo Kowarik says. Join us as we explore the emergence of the concept of resilient nature and the new ecology of discordant harmony and resilience.

Apr 3

Wednesday 10am – Noon in Smithville

- **Location: Smithville City Hall in Council Chambers (317 Main St)**
- **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: *Central Texas Railroad Heritage and Waterways***
 - Bruce Blalock, Texas Railways Historian
- 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

- Apr 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
- Apr 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
 - **April CER Lunchtime Lecture – *New Nature: Discordant Harmony and Ecological Resilience***
- Apr 11** **Thursday NOON to 1pm at PARD Senior Activity Center**
- **Location: Lamar+29th 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***
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 - **April CER Lunchtime Lecture – *New Nature: Discordant Harmony and Ecological Resilience***
- Apr 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 and www.facebook.com/hornsbybend
- Apr 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 and www.hornsbybend.org

Apr 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.

And mark your calendar (and register!) for this May Migration Celebration at Hornsby Bend!

May 11

Saturday – 7am or 9am - meet at the Center for Environmental Research

- **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Program - World Migratory Bird Day Celebration with the Travis Audubon Society**
- Join us to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with the Travis Audubon Society.
- **Morning Field Trips, Volunteer Activity, and Morning/Afternoon Bird Surveys**
- Morning Bird Survey: 7 AM – 11:30 AM
- Beginners Bird Walk: 9 AM – 11:30 AM
- Social Hour: 11:30 AM – 1 PM (Refreshments, socializing)
- Volunteer Work Session: 1 PM – 3 PM
- Afternoon Survey: 4 PM – Sunset
- Intermediate-to-highly skilled birders are encouraged to assist with the morning and afternoon surveys (we must find more than 100 species!), while birders of all skill levels are welcome to join the guided beginners walk.
- If you plan to join us for a bird walk or survey please register at this link <https://travisaudubon.org/?event=world-migratory-bird-day-at-hornsby-bend-3>
Registration not needed for the social hour.

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