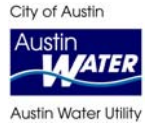


The AWU – Center for Environmental Research



Austin Water Utility – The University of Texas – Texas A&M University
A Partnership for Urban Ecology and Sustainability: Community, Education, Research
located at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725
Website: www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/cer2.htm



CER Events November 2009

Nov 2

Monday - NOON AT WALLER CENTER

[625 East 10th St - between Red River and I-35 **Room 105**]

- **CER Monthly Lunchtime Lecture – Kevin M. Anderson**
- **Nature in an Urban Wasteland: the Environmental History of Hornsby Bend**
- In the 1950s, the City of Austin built the sewage ponds at Hornsby Bend, which transformed the rural river bend into an urban wasteland. However, rather than reduce biodiversity at the site, the “Platt Ponds” became famous for bird biodiversity when a group of Austin birders found four new species for Travis County during their first visit in November 1959. Since that first visit, the Hornsby Bend sewage ponds and sewage farm have become a nature tourism destination and earned a reputation as a site of rich biodiversity. However, in America, urbanization is seen as destroying nature and biodiversity, and urban wastelands are considered degraded and disreputable habitat. This talk will explore American attitudes towards nature and how the environmental history of Hornsby Bend undermines the expectation that urbanization means the end of nature.
- **For more background on this topic visit the Marginal Nature blog**
<http://www.marginalnature.blogspot.com/>

Nov 7

Saturday 8am meet at CER

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - Travis County 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 or rent one from Cook’s Canoes in Webberville
<http://www.cookscanoes.com/>
- **Contact Claude Morris at cgmorris@flash.net to participate**

- Nov 14** **Saturday 7am-11am and 4pm to dark meet at CER**
- **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Monthly Bird Survey** - open to all levels of birder interested in intensive monitoring – more info www.hornsbybend.org
 - All levels of birders are welcome, 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 hard 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.
- Nov 14** **Saturday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at City Hall**
- **Austin Green City Festival** - Come celebrate and learn more about Austin's Environment!
 - Speakers, Music, Information booths by City of Austin environmental programs and Austin environmental non-profits
 - Hornsby Bend – Dillo Dirt, CER, Treefolks, Austin Youth River Watch, Birding walk by Peg Wallace for the HBBO, River walk by Kevin Anderson for the CER.
 - For more info about the Green City Festival - www.greencityfest.org
 - Map for [City Hall](#)
- Nov 16-18** **Monday – Wednesday at San Marcos Convention Center**
- **Land, Water, People 2009 Conference** sponsored by the River Systems Institute and co-sponsored by the Texas Riparian Association www.texasriparian.org and the Texas Water Resources Institute, Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute and Arkansas Water Resources Center
 - **Register Now!** Early registration extended to November 5!
 - Details and on-line registration are available at <http://www.rivers.txstate.edu/projects/conferences/Land-Water-People-09.html>
 - In a program of plenaries, panel discussions, and workshops, we will explore the potential to more effectively manage and protect Texas water resources, on both a local and regional scale, within watershed and community dynamics.
- Nov 21** **Saturday – 730am – 11am**
- **HBBO/Travis Audubon Society - Hornsby Bend Monthly Birding Fieldtrip**
Meet at the CER 730am – 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
- Nov 21** **Saturday 9am – 5pm**
- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership – Bastrop County River Monitoring Trip**
 - Join Allan Kugler and the Bastrop County Colorado River Monitoring trip for the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership 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.
 - A river trip to monitor birds and vegetation along the river MUST provide your own boat
 - To participate Contact Allan Kugler [joallakug@hotmail.com]

No Meeting due to Thanksgiving Holiday

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Meeting**
- Open to anyone interested in the Colorado River – a stakeholder partnership about the future of the river corridor in Travis County and Bastrop County.

Nov 28

Saturday 9am – 1pm at the CER

- **Ecological Literacy Volunteer Day – Super Scary Halloween Edition [see the nasty Sludge Monster!]** – **Help maintain Hornsby Bend Trails!** Did you know that all the Hornsby Bend Trails were built and are maintained by volunteers? If you enjoy birding or walking along the Colorado River here, please join us in keeping the trails open to the public.
- We do three hours work and one hour of learning about the ecology of the Colorado River and Hornsby Bend - Wear work clothes and work shoes, bring water if warm weather and binoculars if interested in birds

**For more information about these events, contact Kevin Anderson at
Kevin.Anderson@ci.austin.tx.us or 972-1960**