

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 Lunchtime Lectures

July - December 2009

Each talk begins AT NOON Waller Center [625 East 10th Street – between I-35 and Red River]
Room 105

Free and Open to the Public – bring a lunch and learn

Hornsby Bend – History, Ecology, and Waste Recycling

2009 is a significant year for the Austin Water Utility's Hornsby Bend plant and the Center for Environmental Research. The Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant was recently selected as the State's top ranked "Green Project" and chosen by the Texas Water Development Board to receive \$31.8 million in no interest loans as part of the Obama Administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

2009 is also the 20th year of the Dillo Dirt composting program, the longest running program in Texas. This year is also significant for the CER with the start of biosolids research through a partnership with the USDA, USGS, and TPWD funded by a USDA grant. As well, 2009 is the 50th year of bird watching at the Hornsby Bend facility, and the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory program marks its 10th year of bird surveys and workshops.

For the rest of 2009, the CER Lunchtime Lectures will be focused on different aspects of Hornsby Bend – the history of the ponds and biosolids facility, the Austin community's engagement with nature at Hornsby Bend, and ecological research and monitoring supported by the CER.

Monday July 6

Hornsby Bend and the Colorado: CER River Research and Monitoring

Monday August 3

From the Ground Up: CER Soil Ecology and Biosolids Research

Tuesday September 8 [note the day shift for Labor Day]

The Birds of Hornsby Bend: CER Avian Monitoring and the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory

Monday October 5

The Bird Chasers: 50 years of birding at Hornsby Bend

Monday November 2

Nature in an Urban Wasteland: the Environmental History of Hornsby Bend

Monday December 7

The History of the Hornsby Bend Facility: Sewage Ponds, Dillo Dirt, and Green Projects