

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 May 2024

May 4

Saturday 8am meet at the Center for Environmental Research

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - River Monitoring Trip**
- This Travis County Colorado River Monitoring trip is a day on the river monitoring birds, bugs, fish, and more to help the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership to learn more about the ecology of the 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.
- 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

May 7

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
- **May 2024 CER Lunchtime Lecture - *American Natural History: Thoreau and New World 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 the degeneracy of New World Nature 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 us this month as we explore this history of American natural history, Thoreau's role in creating a new American Natural History and how it still influences our understanding of American nature.

May 9

Thursday NOON to 1pm at PARD Senior Activity Center Lamar+29th St at 2874 Shoal Crest Ave, South Room

- Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures by Kevin M. Anderson
- **May 2024 CER Lunchtime Lecture - *American Natural History: Thoreau and New World Nature***

May 11

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

- **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Program - World Migratory Bird Day (and Bird City) Celebration with the Travis Audubon Society**
- Our annual celebration of bird migration is extra special this year because the City of Austin has just been designated a Bird City by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Audubon Texas. We will celebrate this new certification as well as the great work of the Travis Audubon Society. Come join us!
- **Morning Field Trip, Social Hour, Stakeholder Info Session, Volunteer Activity, and Bird Survey!**
- 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, and Hornsby Bend Stakeholder info session!)
- Volunteer Work Session/Ecological Literacy walk: 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 had 113 species last month – how many for May??), while birders of all skill levels are welcome to join the guided beginners walk.
- If you plan to join us for the 9am bird walk please register at this link - Registration not needed for the social hour. https://travisaudubon.org/?event=world-migratory-bird-day-at-hornsby-bend-3&event_date=2024-05-11

May 14

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

- Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lectures by Kevin M. Anderson
- **May 2024 CER Lunchtime Lecture - *American Natural History: Thoreau and New World Nature***

May 18

Saturday 730am – 11am at the Center for Environmental Research

- **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

May 25

Saturday 9am – Noon at the Center for Environmental Research

- **Ecological Literacy Volunteer Work 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.

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