

HABITAT HERALD

Wildlife Austin's monthly Newsletter



October 2013



Wildlife Austin

City of Austin
Parks and Recreation
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Austin, TX 78705
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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1, National Night Out,
5-7PM, Barton Creek Square Mall
<http://austintexas.gov/nno>

October 24, Free Movies in the
Park: Ghostbusters, 7:30-9:30PM,
Republic Square Park

October 26, Arbor Day, 9AM-
1:30PM, Ruiz Library 1600 Grove
Blvd

October 29, Multifamily Lunch
and Recycling Event, 12PM-1PM,
City Hall [https://
uromultifamilylunch-
learn1.eventbrite.com/](https://uromultifamilylunch-learn1.eventbrite.com/)

October 30, Multifamily Lunch
and Recycling Event, 12PM-
1PM, 10001 Stonelake Blvd. Aus-
tin, TX 78759 [https://
uromultifamilylunch-
learn2.eventbrite.com/](https://uromultifamilylunch-learn2.eventbrite.com/)

Hello Everyone!

This month's newsletter includes some great FREE resources that are available to anyone in Austin. Be sure to check out and create a free profile with iNaturalist.org and start sharing your observations with fellow gardeners, stewards, scientists, and enthusiasts! Also, be sure to check out page 7 for free local recycling resources available through Austin Resource Recovery and page 8 for free educational hikes and lectures!

Happy Exploring!

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Would you like
to receive the
newsletter?

E-mail us at
wildlife@austintexas.gov

Garden of the Month

This month's Garden of the Month comes from the Northwest Recreation Center. This recreation center decided to install a rain garden to help reduce erosion and slow down the flow of water near the building. Cottonwoods as well as gayfeather and a variety of native grasses provide an aesthetically-pleasing addition to the front of the building as well as help to hold water. River rock and limestone are used as accents to give the garden form and to serve as an additional barrier to water flowing too quickly. If you would like to know more about installing your own garden please visit the City of Austin's Watershed Protection webpage at <http://www.austintexas.gov/raingardens>.



Would you like to share your yard with other gardeners? If so please write to wildlife@austintexas.gov for more details!



Schoolyard Habitat Update



Austin High School Gardens

Austin High School students, teachers, and staff run a great gardening club on Friday mornings at the edge of Town Lake. If you were to stop by you would see students turning compost, planting squash seedlings, harvesting loofa, planting natives, and harvesting vegetables for use in the school cafeteria. They even grew their own gourds, harvested them, and then turned them into bird feeders in the garden area! The students have



worked together to write grants to fund their gardening work and some of the students are starting a CSA for teachers and staff of Austin HS as their senior project. The work done by the Austin High garden club has a strong focus on vegetable gardening so why feature

them in a Habitat newsletter?



These students are learning precious skills to become stewards of our community and environment. They have a great appreciation for their work in the garden and for each other as an integral piece of the puzzle to beautifying their campus and providing healthy opportunities for the Austin High Community. With the help of dedicated teachers and staff, Austin HS students are making a difference in their community and modeling what a successful school gardening program can look like.



Schoolyard Habitat Update



Donations Needed!

Campuses are looking for donations of the following materials for fall workdays:

- Compost and/or soil
- Native seeds, plants, shrubs and trees
- Tools
- 4 inch pots
- Limestone blocks
- Cedar logs
- Decomposed Granite
- Bird Feeders and/or bird seed



Schoolyard Habitat Success Depends on Volunteers Like You!

Contact Anne Muller AISD Outdoor Learning Specialist amuller@austinisd.org or 841-5070 an up to date list of work days and volunteer opportunities

Living in the WUI Without All the Hooey

I wanted to use the newsletter this month to tell you all about an exciting new resource! Developed by UC Berkeley graduates Ken-ichi Ueda and Scott Loarie in 2008, iNaturalist.org is a site in which anyone in the world—naturalist, professor, bird-watcher, gardener, etc.—can upload photos and locations of things they find in their own backyards or on their travels.

iNaturalist.org

The site was originally developed as a master's project by Mr. Ueda but has since grown to hundreds of members. All you have to do is create a free profile and start uploading photos. Experts then verify your photos and help to identify what you've found. Your sightings can then be part of many important projects going on throughout the world! Please use this site to help document what you are seeing in your own Wildland Urban Interface areas surrounding your homes.

EXPLORE



LEARN



RECORD



iNaturalist also partners with other sites such as the State Flowers of the United States EOL Collection which helps track state flowers in America as well as Darwin for a Day which allows users to explore and record observations of the Galapagos Islands through their unique website. Please check out these great resources and start exploring! Thank you to Todd Jackson of the Watershed Protection Department for sharing.



Texas Native Plants Saved From Bulldozer for Reuse Around Austin

On Saturday, September 7, 2013, with construction due to start on the Champion Office Park at RM2222 and Champion Grandview Way the following Tuesday, 75 volunteers from a wide range of organizations in Austin turned out to rescue Texas native plants from the bulldozer.

The project was coordinated by the 2222 CONA (the coalition of neighborhood associations along RM2222), in collaboration with the City of Austin and Champion Office Park developer, Endeavor Real Estate Group, who provided water for the plants and had a staff member on-site to assist. Volunteers from the Native Plant Society of Texas, the National Wildlife Federation, and the University of Texas at Austin Sports & Recreation Department rescued over 300 plants, many of which were in good condition for transplanting. Plants from the site, some of which were relatively rare, will be used by the City of Austin and various neighborhood associations for their parks and individual participants for their residential gardens.



Brendan Callahan of Endeavor Real Estate Group with Habitat Stewards Jane Baxter Lynn and Carol Torgrimson



Continued...



Dale Bulla and John Chenoweth

NWF Habitat Stewards Dale and Pat Bulla, Jane Baxter Lynn, Jenny Norman and Ed Travis participated in the rescue. “Peter Torgrimson, who with his wife Carol, organized the rescue told me that the goal was not only to provide a source of native plants to a variety of projects but also for the volunteers to have a great experience in a natural environment and to meet some new and interesting people. Jenny and I certainly felt that they had achieved all of those goals,” said NWF Habitat Steward Jane Baxter Lynn.

According to Peter: “These plant rescues not only save native plants which otherwise would be destroyed, they also create some good feelings toward the developer.”

In addition to plant rescue, Endeavor worked with 2222 CONA and its landscape architect TBG to develop a plan that preserves as many of the Texas native trees and plants as feasible. This will include the move of two significant Live Oaks to prominent sites on the property.



Habitat Steward Jenny Norman

Jane Baxter Lynn, NWF Habitat Steward





Facts about your Community Resource Recovery Center

You may have heard about Austin Resource Recovery's Household Hazardous Waste Center and know that you can drop off unused paint, household cleaners and other common household items that don't belong in your trash cart. But have you heard about your community Resource Recovery Center? The Resource Recovery Center (RRC) is located in south Austin and serves a very important function for our City.

Collecting hard-to-dispose items such as air conditioners, refrigerators, car batteries, among other things, helps us keep harmful chemicals out of the landfill and protects the environment. When items are brought to the RRC, they are drained of contaminants, like Freon that is safely disposed of and then the metal is recycled. This process ensures that the most is being made of the materials and that items like these are not ending up in area landfills.

What items are accepted?

- Air conditioners
- Hot water heaters
- Dryers
- Stoves
- Refrigerators and other metal appliances
- Car batteries
- All types of metals (steel, aluminum, tin, copper, brass, stainless steel, etc.)
- Used antifreeze
- Microwaves

What items are not accepted?*

- Computers
- Televisions
- Other electronics
- Toilets

* For a list of locations that will accept these items, visit earth911.com

The Resource Recovery center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (512) 974-4373.



Lectures and Hikes

Balcones Canyonland Preserve Hikes

Explore Upper Bull Creek, Oct. 5th, 8:30AM-11:30AM, Located near the intersection of River Place Blvd and FM 2222. Directions sent upon registration.

Views of Austin and Its Native Plants, Oct. 26th, 8AM-11AM, Vireo Preserve Tract off Capital of Texas Hwy (Loop 360) near Wild Basin. Directions sent upon registration.

Please visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland/onlineregistration/ecowebevents.cfm> for a complete description of each hike and to register.

Water Quality Protection Land Hikes

Bear Creek Bends & Savannas, Oct. 5, 8:30AM-11:30AM, Tabor Tract south of Austin along Bliss Spillar Rd. Directions sent upon registration.

Scenic View & Hidden Springs, Oct. 12th, 9AM-12PM, Parkhouse Tract near Circle Drive and Hwy 290W Intersection. Directions sent upon registration.

Please visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland/onlineregistration/ecowebevents.cfm> for a complete description of each hike and to register.

Hornsby Bend Events

Monthly Bird Survey, October 12, 2013 at 7:00 am and 4:00pm

Starting in 1999, the monthly Bird Survey has taken place at 7am and 4pm on the 2nd Saturday of the month. We meet at Hornsby Bend in the Center for Environmental Research at 7am for the morning survey [Coffee and donuts at 6:30am] and 4pm for the afternoon survey. All levels of birders are welcome - the survey is a great way to improve your skills since we form teams matching experienced and novice birders.

Birding Field Trip, October 19, 2013 from 7:30am to 12pm

Interested in birds? Join other birders at Hornsby Bend at 7:30am for a fieldtrip around the center. You are guaranteed to see at least 50 species. For more information contact Kevin Anderson at coordinator@hornsbybend.org or call 512-972-1960.

Ecological Literacy Days, October 26, 2013 from 9 am to 1 pm

Combining volunteer work with learning about local ecology, the Ecological Literacy Day at Hornsby Bend begins with several hours of outdoor work and ends with at least an hour of learning about local ecology. Wear boots and work clothing, and be sure to bring your binoculars. For more information contact Kevin Anderson at coordinator@hornsbybend.org or 512-972-1960



If you have suggestions on what you would like to see in the newsletter please contact wildlife@austintexas.gov, we'd love to hear from you!
"Like"

[Austin Parks and Recreation-Parks in Nature](#)



The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call (512) 974-6700.