

# 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 2015

**Apr 4**

**Saturday 8am** meet at the CER

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - 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.
- Contact Claude Morris at [cgmorris@flash.net](mailto:cgmorris@flash.net) to participate
- 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](http://www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor)

**Apr 7**

**Tuesday NOON to 1pm** at Waller Center, 625 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street [Between Red River and I-35] Room 104

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2015 Lunchtime Lecture theme – The Geography of Rivers: The Nature and Culture of Flowing Water
- April Lunchtime Lecture: **Strong Brown God: the Poetry of Rivers**
- April is National Poetry Month <http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home> and so we turn to poetry of rivers and flowing water this month. T.S. Elliot famously wrote, “I do not know much about gods; but I think that the river is a strong brown god” and cataloged the attributes of his hometown river, the Mississippi, in his poem, “The Dry Salvages” where the river waits to remind city dwellers of its power. It was also the Mississippi that inspired Langston Hughes to write “My soul has grown deep like rivers” in his first published poem. Join us for poetry in April as we trace the course of rivers through the work of American poets (even those like Eliot who pretended to be English).

**Apr 8**

**Wednesday – NOON to 1pm** at Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Road

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2015 Lunchtime Lecture theme – The Geography of Rivers: The Nature and Culture of Flowing Water
- April Lunchtime Lecture: **Strong Brown God: the Poetry of Rivers**

**Apr 11**

**Saturday 7am-11am and 4pm to dark** meet at the CER

- **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Program Monthly Bird Survey**
- The HBBO Bird Survey is open to all levels of birder interested in intensive monitoring, 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 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. More information about the CER HBBO program at [www.hornsbybend.org](http://www.hornsbybend.org)

**Apr 16**

**Thursday 10am – Noon** at the CER

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Quarterly 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.
- More about the Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership at the CER website Projects and Partnerships page <http://www.austintexas.gov/cer> and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor](http://www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor)

**Apr 18**

**Saturday 730am – 11am** at the CER

- **HBBO/Travis Audubon Society - Hornsby Bend Monthly Birding 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](http://www.travisaudubon.org) and [www.hornsbybend.org](http://www.hornsbybend.org)

**Apr 22**

**Wednesday – 830am-2pm** at Hornsby Bend in the river

- **CER Earth Day in the River at Hornsby Bend**
- Limited number of volunteer mentors needed. You must contact Kevin Anderson to participate in this event [Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov](mailto:Kevin.Anderson@austintexas.gov)
- Tim Fennell and his students from AISD Liberal Arts and Science Academy, the Austin Youth River Watch, Treefolks, UT Jackson School of Geosciences, and the Austin Water Center for Environmental Research will be doing our 11<sup>th</sup> annual “Earth Day in the River” field lab again this year at Hornsby Bend teaching the students about the ecology and hydrology of the river in celebration of the 45<sup>th</sup> Earth Day <http://www.earthday.org/2015> .
- We need helpers for a morning of aquatic biology, hydrology, riparian ecology, mentoring, and river fun. You do not need to be a biologist. We need adults to participate in groups and learn along with the students. We break the students into teams, assign some of you volunteers to the teams, and spend a half hour at each learning activity station [benthic organism collecting, water quality testing, hydrology, and fish biology].
- Come prepared to be in the water!

**Apr 25**

**Saturday 9am – 1pm** at the CER

- **Ecological Literacy Volunteer Day and Potluck Learning** – 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.
  - **NOON POTLUCK LUNCH AND More ECOLOGICAL LEARNING** - Bring food for our potluck lunch at NOON and learn more at a presentation on ecology or geography during lunch.

For more information about these events contact - Kevin M. Anderson [kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov](mailto:kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov)

Join our CER Facebook Page for updates on Human Events and Activities: <https://www.facebook.com/austinwatercer>

Join our Hornsby Bend Facebook Page for updates on Hornsby Bend Nonhuman Ecology: <https://www.facebook.com/hornsbybend>

Join our Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Facebook community - [www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor](http://www.facebook.com/austinbastroprivercorridor)

Join our Waller Creek Facebook Page for updates on human and nonhuman life on Waller Creek:

<https://www.facebook.com/Lifeonwallercreek>