

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 December 2017

- Dec 2** **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 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
- Dec 5** **Tuesday NOON to 1pm at University of Texas**
Norman Hackerman Building (NHB). 100 E 24th St, Austin TX, 78712 Room 1.720
- **Brown Bag Lecture by Dr. Kevin M. Anderson**
 - For the rest of 2017, we will repeat the previous month's Lunchtime Lecture at the University of Texas for faculty, students, and the public. Come join us at UT!
 - **Design with Nature: Urban Planning, Management, and the Sustainability Myth**
 - From the perspective of urban planners, environmental managers, and architects, urban nature is a design element of the built landscape and a redemptive and restorative enhancement for the degraded ecosystem of the city. Official urban nature is given spaces in the city to inhabit, which enhance the urban landscape aesthetically and ecologically. Terms like "open space" and "green space" delineate the proper place of nature in gardens, parks, farms, and preserves, with lawns and landscaping further integrating "green" into the urban and suburban landscape. Inspired by Ian McHarg, architects and planners suggest that we can "design with nature" to transform cities into "granite gardens" or "ecological cities" or "biophilic cities" where humans can flourish "sustainably" through ecological, and even psychological, services conferred by this deliberate incorporation of nature. This lecture will explore the history and contemporary use of this narrative of sustainability and urban nature in urban design, planning, and environmental management.
- Dec 9** **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

- Dec 13** **Wednesday NOON to 1pm at PARD Senior Activity Center**
Lamar 29th St + 2874 Shoal Crest Ave, South Room
- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
 - 2017 Lunchtime Lectures – Understanding Urban Nature: Ecology, Culture, and the American City
 - **December 2017 Lunchtime Lecture - Encounters with Urban Nature: Ecology, the City, and the Arts**
 - To end the year, we turn to the artists for the final word on understanding urban nature. For American writers and visual artists, nature in the city strains against the American aesthetic of nature in which wilderness and rural landscapes are best. How to come to terms with urban landscapes? The writer John Tallmadge reflects on this conflict, “The fact is that urban landscapes are just too mixed up, chaotic, and confused to fit our established notions of beauty and value in nature...Maybe it’s not really nature at all, not a real ecosystem, just a bunch of weeds and exotics mixed up with human junk.” Join us for this final lecture to learn how American artists respond to the challenge of urban nature.
- Dec 16** **CANCELLED - HBBO/Travis Audubon Society - Hornsby Bend Monthly Birding Fieldtrip**
- Dec 16** **Saturday All Day**
- **Austin Christmas Bird Count - More information at <http://www.austincbc.com/>**
 - If you know you'll be there, be sure to send an email to austincbc@gmail.com to confirm your participation.
- Dec 19** **Tuesday NOON to 1pm at the Center for Environmental Research – Hornsby Bend**
- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
 - **December 2017 Lunchtime Lecture - Encounters with Urban Nature: Ecology, the City, and the Arts**
- Dec 21** **Thursday NOON to 1pm at One Texas Center**
505 Barton Springs Road + South First Street, Room 325
- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
 - **December 2017 Lunchtime Lecture - Encounters with Urban Nature: Ecology, the City, and the Arts**
- Dec 30** **CANCELLED FOR HOLIDAY Saturday 9am – 1pm at the CER**
- **Ecological Literacy Volunteer Day – CANCELLED!**

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