

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 February 2018

Feb 3

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 cgmorris70@gmail.com 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

Feb 10

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

Feb 14

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

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2018 Lunchtime Lectures – Nature and the American Mind
- **February 2018 Lunchtime Lecture - Pastoral Nature: Agrarianism and Rural America**
- In 1785, Thomas Jefferson famously asserted that, “Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, & they are tied to their country & wedded to its liberty & interests by the most lasting bands,” and he wanted to see America transformed into a democratic pastoral arcadia of farms and ranches. This pastoral nature is the competing concept of American nature focused on farmland and ranchland in contrast to wilderness. Moreover, as American cities grew, rural life and nature in the countryside was seen as a cure for over-urbanized Americans who needed a weekend in the country to recover from the stress of city life. Today, the American small family farm is still an idealized place of encounter and engagement with rural nature, best championed by Wendell Berry, who, like Jefferson, sees small farms as a cure for social problems and modern society’s mismanagement of nature. Thus, there is great cultural tension and a historic divide in the geography of the American mind between wilderness and pastoral nature. Join us as we explore the history of this idea of pastoral nature and its role in shaping contemporary agrarianism in America.

- Feb 15** **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**
 - 2018 Lunchtime Lectures – Nature and the American Mind
 - **February 2018 Lunchtime Lecture - Pastoral Nature: Agrarianism and Rural America**
- Feb 17** **Saturday 730am – 11am at the CER**
- **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
- Feb 20** **Tuesday NOON to 1pm at the Center for Environmental Research – Hornsby Bend**
- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
 - 2018 Lunchtime Lectures – Nature and the American Mind
 - **February 2018 Lunchtime Lecture - Pastoral Nature: Agrarianism and Rural America**
- Feb 24** **Saturday 9am – 1pm at the CER**
- **Ecological Literacy Volunteer 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.
- Feb 27** **Tuesday 10am – Noon at the CER**
- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership Bimonthly 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.
 - **Presentations** – Wendy Scaperotta, Travis County TNR, Update on Travis County Greenways and 2017 Bond Package projects <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr>
 - 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
- Feb 28** **Wednesday NOON to 1pm at University of Texas
Norman Hackerman Building (NHB). 100 E 24th St, Austin TX, 78712 Room 1.720**
- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
 - 2018 Lunchtime Lectures – Nature and the American Mind
 - **February 2018 Lunchtime Lecture - Pastoral Nature: Agrarianism and Rural America**

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