

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 2016

Dec 3

Canceled due to weather (rain and temperatures in the 40's)

- **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership - River Monitoring Trip**

Dec 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

Dec 17

Saturday All Day at Hornsby Bend (and across Travis County)

- **Austin Christmas Bird Count - More information at <http://www.austincbc.com/>**
- **CANCELED - HBBO/Travis Audubon Society - Hornsby Bend Monthly Birding Fieldtrip**
- The 2016 Austin CBC is scheduled for **December 17th**. If you know you'll be there, be sure to send an email to austincbc@gmail.com to confirm your participation.

Dec 20

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

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2016 Lunchtime Lectures – The Unity of Nature: The Creation, Discovery, and End of Nature
- **December Lunchtime Lecture - The End of Nature: Permanence, Change, and the Anthropocene**
- In 1989, Bill McKibben declared the “End of Nature” as he argued, “The idea of nature will not survive the new global pollution...By changing the weather, we make every spot on earth man-made and artificial. We have deprived nature of its independence, and that is fatal to its meaning. Nature’s independence is its meaning.” However, this dualistic narrative of nature in which humans are only cast as the great disruptors of “independent” nature ignores historical precedents that locate humans within nature. These 2016 Lunchtime Lectures have focused on Alexander von Humboldt’s huge influence on 19th century science and society and his alternative narrative of nature in which permanence, change, and humans are all part of nature. In 20th century America, Humboldt’s legacy was both deliberately and inadvertently forgotten both by scientists and environmental writers like McKibben. Now in the 21st century, Humboldt is being rediscovered, and both his idea of a dynamic, creative, resilient Cosmos and his belief that Nature is a “domain of freedom” offer an alternative vision of nature for this century. Moreover, Humboldt’s view of nature is remarkably similar to emerging scientific ideas about nature in the Anthropocene, the recently coined name for our new geologic era delineated by pervasive human impacts on the Earth. Join us for this final 2016 lecture focused on how Humboldt’s vision of the Unity of Nature is perhaps an antidote for McKibben’s despair.

Dec 21 **Wednesday NOON to 1pm at One Texas Center (OTC) 505 Barton Springs Road and South First Street, Room 325**

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Dec 22 **CANCELED FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

- **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.
- 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

Dec 31 **CANCELED FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

- **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.

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