

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 2016

Feb 6

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

Feb 6

Saturday 1pm to 4pm at the CER

- **Travis Audubon Society Purple Martin Workshop 2016**
- This workshop will focus on the life cycle of Purple Martins and how you can participate as a Purple Martin landlord or helper. You will learn the maintenance routine recommended by the Purple Martin Conservation Association <https://www.purplemartin.org/>. You will also learn how to record and send in nesting data that is compiled nationally. We will also include hands-on nest preparation and discussion at the Hornsby Bend colony. Class participants are invited to participate through mid-June as helpers and observers as the class teachers maintain and record the 2016 Purple Martin season at Hornsby Bend. Later in the summer, we will invite class members to join us in educating others at the giant Purple Martin roost Andy and Julia Balinsky have been the stewards of the Hornsby Bend Purple Martin colony since 2003. They have watched over 1300 Purple Martin babies fledge during that time. They have also spent many evenings watching the Martin pre-migration staging roost in the late summer.
- Registration at <https://travis.z2systems.com/np/clients/travis/event.jsp?event=387&>

Feb 13

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 16

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
- **February Lunchtime Lecture – Second Nature: Pastoral Landscapes and the Cultivation of Nature**
- We begin this year of exploring the idea of nature by looking at the two dominant ideas of nature in American culture: the wilderness and the pastoral. In Virgil's Classical agrarian myth, the creation of pastoral nature is viewed as an improved pastoral arcadia emerging from wild [and dangerous] pristine nature through the beneficial cultivation of the earth for humans. Jefferson drew upon this myth in urging Americans to become yeoman farmers and transform America into a democratic pastoral arcadia, and in doing so, he set up a competing myth of American nature focused on farmland and pastoral nature in contrast to pristine wilderness. Today, the American small family farm is still an idealized place of encounter and engagement with 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. However, there is great tension between wilderness and pastoral nature, and a divide in the geography of the American mind between these two ideals of nature.

Feb 17

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

- **Center for Environmental Research Lunchtime Lecture by Kevin M. Anderson**
- 2016 Lunchtime Lectures – The Unity of Nature: The Creation, Discovery, and End of Nature
- **February Lunchtime Lecture – Second Nature: Pastoral Landscapes and the Cultivation of Nature**

Feb 18

Thursday 10am – Noon at the Center for Environmental Research

- **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.
- **Presentation** – An Environmental History of the Colorado River, Kevin M. Anderson, Austin Water Center for Environmental Research
- 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 20

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 and www.hornsbybend.org

Feb 27

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