



Volume XXVI, No. 12
November-December 2010

Bexar Tracks

Bexar Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Its primary goals are to promote species and habitat conservation and environmental education in the community.

For the latest news and updates, see www.bexaraudubon.org.

Join Us At The Zoo!

Holiday Dinner & Program December 2nd

With San Antonio Audubon Society

Bexar Audubon has been invited by San Antonio Audubon Society to join them for a fun-filled evening on Thursday, Dec. 2, 6:30 PM, at the San Antonio Zoo, 3903 N. St. Mary's St. Award winning and published photographer Rolf Nuusbaumer will be the guest speaker for the evening.

Dinner will include a fajita buffet, chocolate brownies and beverages, \$22/person. **Paid reservations must be received by Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010.** Please indicate inside the envelope the number of attendees and the food preference of 1) beef, 2) chicken, 3) mix of beef and chicken, or 4) vegetarian, with guacamole, Spanish rice, Charro beans (without bacon), tortillas and all the other buffet trimmings.

Please mail your checks to:
San Antonio Audubon Society
5150 Broadway #257
San Antonio, TX 78209

Keep in mind that a typical visit to the Zoo is often a daytime affair, while evening visits provide a unique experience that few get to enjoy. Guests need to arrive between 5:15—6:45 PM due to the Zoo's lockdown procedures; those arriving later will be unable to enter the Zoo. Once inside, you can walk or take the "Zoo Limo" to the Africa Live exhibit where dinner will be served. Limo available 5:15—6:30 PM only. You are invited to enjoy the lighted areas of the Zoo to include: the Small Mammal Collection, the Cat Grotto, the Aquarium, the Crane's Exhibit and the Anaconda Exhibit until 10 PM when all guests must exit the zoo. Information: info@saaudubon.org or Dahn Windhorn, naturenut7@hotmail.com, 210.382.5968.

About the Speaker:
In his native Switzerland, Rolf spent his early adult years making furniture, teaching others the joys of birding and, as a

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hobbyist, shooting pictures. It wasn't long however before his hobby, coupled with his love of the outdoors, became an obsession—and then, his profession. After marriage and a move to Texas, Rolf made the commitment to devote his energies full-time to wildlife photography. The decision proved to be a good one. Today, Rolf's award-winning work has been published in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Grant Awarded to Bexar Audubon

North Face has awarded a \$2,500 grant to Bexar Audubon Society – Audubon Young Birders – Flying WILD to help children and families explore the outdoors. The club was started last school year by Audubon Education Volunteers with the goal of introducing middle school-age students to bird watching, binocular skills, bird identification, and hiking in the City of San Antonio Natural Areas. Families brought their students to the Friedrich Park Natural Area where the birding hikes took place, and they often stayed for the meetings.



The enthusiasm of the students and families encouraged the volunteers to enlarge the club to 30 students, visit other San Antonio Natural Areas, purchase binoculars for all club members, and supply members with hiking equipment. This year, members will be expected to be able to identify common birds of the natural areas, and master the use of binoculars and teach others to use this birding tool. They will be taught to enter their list of birds spotted each week on the Cornell University e-Bird database and participate in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (*more on the ACBC on page 4*).

Audubon Young Birders – Flying WILD was selected from hundreds of applications. The grant is part of the inaugural commitment of \$250,000 from The North Face Explore Fund, enabling more than 100 programs that will affect an estimated 85,000 young people. Grantee programs range across season and activity and will begin late October 2010. For more details, grantee highlights and ongoing updates, please visit www.planetexplore.com/explorefund. For more information about Flying Wild programs, Educators Workshops, and Facilitator Training, please contact Mary Kennedy at mbkenned@sbcglobal.net or 830.249.4616.



Texas Water Issues

Session Two: Nov. 11, 2010, 7 PM

“The Insidious and Stealthy Water Thieves of Texas: Invasive species impacts on resources, economics and ecosystems”

Location: Texas Tech University, Hill Country University Center Bldg., Fredericksburg, TX

Program Moderator: Carter Smith, Executive Director, TX Parks & Wildlife Dept.

Panelists: Jim Bergan, TNC; Earl Chilton, TPWD; Tom Arsuffi, TX Tech University

The hour-long program begins at 7 PM, followed by discussion time with Q&A. The events are recorded and aired on Texas Public Radio one week later.

More info at http://www.schreiner.edu/water/2010-2011/program_nov11_2010.htm

Coming Up: Session Three, January 27, 2011, Witte Museum, San Antonio.

Texas Water Resources Institute



EDUCATION IN TEXAS

Have you received a copy of the special edition of **txH2O** magazine yet?

This issue covers the full range of the Texas Water Resources Institute's work—from fighting giant salvinia in

Caddo Lake, to funding new water resources research, to writing and implementing watershed protection plans all over Texas.

Lots of good information at your fingertips. Log on at twri.tamu.edu/, including issues of New Waves, the TWRI E-Newsletter. *Make Every Drop Count!*

Rainwater Harvesting Course

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and San Antonio Botanical Garden will sponsor a Rain Barrel Workshop from 9 AM—Noon on Nov. 6 at the botanical garden, 555 Funston in San Antonio. Workshop will address basics of rainwater harvesting for the home and garden; participants will learn how to make their own rain-collection barrel to take home. Info: Sasha Kodet, 210.207.3270 or sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov.

Bexar Audubon Updated Website: Check us out at www.bexaraudubon.org; click on the link at the top to sign up for email updates and announcements about upcoming BAS events, including possible changes in start times/dates/locations on events. Then check out the “Activities” tab on the home page—an easy way to stay informed!

Great Migrations: A Global Television Event starts Sunday, November 7, 8 PM, National Geographic Channel; visit www.nationalgeographic.com/channel and input “Great Migrations” for more information.

Fracking:

What Is It and Why Should We Care?

Excerpted in part from The Texas Drought Project: A Primer on “Fracking”

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of natural gas. Perhaps you've heard the term, or perhaps you know that this process is taking place in Texas, but you might not know much about it. Fracking: a (controversial) process for extracting natural gas from shale that endangers water sources in Texas. Today we provide a primer on fracking, not only the process itself, but the threat it poses. Here's a sample of some links which will bring you up to speed on what's happening with fracking, both in Texas and around the world.

NPR: Health Issues Follow Natural Gas Drilling in Texas: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=120043996>. National Public Radio discusses health and environmental issues in Texas, with cases clearly connected to fracking of shale gas.

The blog by Sharon Wilson (<http://txsharon.blogspot.com/>) of North Texas about shale drilling.

A PDF of the report exposing the shortcomings of the 2004 EPA study on Hydraulic Fracturing and Water: <http://www.earthworksaction.org/pubs/DrinkingWaterAtRisk.pdf>

What is fracking? A primer, complete with diagrams: http://www.myfoxwausau.com/dpps/news/what-is-fracking-dpgoh-20100915-fc_9644829

For more information: www.texasdroughtproject.org.

Panel on Climate Justice

On Thursday, November 11, 7—9 PM, the Texas Drought Project, together with the SEED Coalition and the Council on American Islamic Relations, presents an international forum on climate issues, with populist author and radio host Jim Hightower. Other panelists include Victor Menotti, Director of the International Forum on Globalization and Genaro Lopez-Rendon of Southwest Workers Union. Panel members, many of whom participated in the failed Copenhagen climate talks, will discuss this perceived “last chance”—COP-16, to be held in Cancun later this year—and the necessity of passing an accord on emissions. Jim Hightower, who has long been active in anti-globalization and human rights work, will both keynote and summarize.

Join us Thursday, Nov. 11, 7—9 PM, at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, 7150 IH 10 West; for detailed directions to the church, please see the church website, http://www.uusat.org/?page_id=2



Bee Attacks in Texas Create Buzz

Recent bee attacks in Bastrop and Hays counties have revived the need to warn South Central Texas residents of their potential danger and advise them on how to best avoid contact with bees. The "common denominator" in the bee incidents was that those attacked were in the process of mowing with tractors or lawn mowers. Bees often will attack the head and face as they defend their hive and queen, and will be aggressive. Attacks can turn deadly, particularly when the elderly, the very young or disabled individuals are involved. Bees appear to be more active in spring and fall when temperatures are moderate, not too hot or cold. Helpful tips and more information on bee safety can be found at <http://honeybee.tamu.edu>.

Excerpted from an online article in AgNews by Paul Schattenberg.

Hello, Invasive Species. Good-bye, Texas! Citizen Scientists

The Invaders of Texas Program is an innovative campaign whereby volunteer "citizen scientists" are trained to detect the arrival and dispersal of invasive species in their own local areas. That information is delivered into a statewide mapping database and to those who can do something about it. The premise is simple. The more trained eyes watching for invasive species, the better our chances of lessening or avoiding damage to our native landscape.

The Invaders of Texas Program supports the creation and perpetuation of a network of local citizen scientist teams who seek out and report outbreaks of selected environmentally and economically harmful invasive species. These teams contribute important data to local and national resource managers who will, in turn, coordinate appropriate responses to control the spread of unwanted invaders. The Invaders Program is designed to move the target audience beyond awareness to action on invasive species. Read more about it at <http://texasinvasives.org/invaders/index.php>

National Wildlife Refuge System Closes Caves to Slow Spread of White-Nose Syndrome

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System has decided to close caves and mines and implement research and monitoring protocols in a nationwide effort to slow the spread of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats.

First documented in New York in 2006, WNS has spread rapidly across the eastern United States, killing more than 1 million bats. Named for the white fungus that appears on the muzzle and other body parts of hibernating bats, WNS is associated with extensive mortality of bats in the Northeast. Bats with WNS are found to exhibit uncharacteristic behavior during cold winter months including flying outside in the day and clustering near the entrance of hibernacula. More than half of the 45 bat species living in the United States rely on hibernation for winter survival.

The fungus associated with WNS is expected to continue spreading. While the fungus is transmitted primarily by bat to bat contact, biologists suspect it could be transmitted inadvertently by humans. Fungal spores can be transferred from cave sediment to clothing and instruments, and transported to unaffected sites.

The Service is leading a cooperative effort with federal and state agencies, researchers, universities and other non-government organizations to research and manage the spread of WNS. More information about WNS at www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome.

What is **Reconciliation Ecology**? Pie-in-the-sky dreaming? Or averting ecological catastrophe? Reconciliation ecology is getting its test in Tucson, Arizona. Read about it online with *Wired Science*: <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2010/08/reconciliation-ecology/>

Rx: NATURE

From National Wildlife Federation's web site:

A noted physician explains why she and many of her colleagues are medicating people with a dose of the outdoors to prevent a wide range of health problems

09-15-2010 // Daphne Miller

"I have a StairMaster right in my own basement, but honestly it's been there for years gathering dust and making me feel guilty," says Miriam, one of my patients. "It wasn't until I started walking the three-mile trail in the park near my house that I got serious about exercising. I do it now rain or shine. I love the fresh air. The best part is that I get a great workout and don't even mind sweating."

At this point, I have heard enough variations on Miriam's story that I have started to make formal "park prescriptions." The prescribing instructions are considerably more detailed than ones you might get with a medication; they include the location of a local green space, the name of a specific trail and, when possible, exact mileage. It turns out I am not alone. I've begun hearing about doctors around the country who are medicating their patients with nature in order to prevent (or treat) health problems ranging from heart disease to attention deficit disorder. Read more about it at <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Outdoors/Archives/2010/Benefits-of-Prescribing-Nature.aspx>



Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

MLAC

10750 Pleasanton Rd.
San Antonio TX 78221
210.628.1639
www.mitchelllakeaudubon.org
Susan Albert
Center Director



About Mitchell Lake

Just south of downtown San Antonio, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center is located on a 1200-acre natural area. This unique and beautiful bird haven consists of the 600-acre Mitchell Lake, 215 acres of wetlands and ponds and 385 acres of upland habitat. Audubon Texas has partnered with the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to showcase this wonderful natural area.

Monthly Birding Tours

No reservation necessary
Every 2nd Tuesday, 2nd Sunday, and 3rd Sunday, all at 7:30 AM.
Bird Count/Survey: Every 4th Saturday, 8 AM.
Birding Tour Fee: \$5 for nonmembers, \$3 members. More info, email mlac@audubon.org or call 210.628.1639.

Phil Hardberger Park

13203 Blanco Rd

Positioned in the heart of one of San Antonio's major population centers, Hardberger Park is envisioned as a new central park for the city. The goal is to create a park that offers ample and varied recreational opportunities to all of San Antonio's citizens, while simultaneously celebrating the natural beauty of the space and preserving as much of the original landscape and vegetation as possible. Reservations/info: 210.207.3111. Programs held near the 13203 Blanco Rd. entrance. Donations Welcome (all donations fund the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy)

Wild About Turkeys!

Nov. 6, 9—11 AM

Learn many things about our "national bird" including how to call for it, its typical habitat, and how different the "wild" bird is from the one on our Thanksgiving table. Enjoy a kid friendly activity. Presenter: Phil Stratton, National Wild Turkey Federation.

"Dinosaur George"

Dec. 4, 9—11 AM

"Dinosaur George" Blasing is a self taught paleontologist and animal behaviorist with more than 35 years of study and research. Public speaker, writer and television personality, Blasing has performed live to more than 1 million people and lectured in over 2500 museums, schools and public events. He brings a large collection of skulls, teeth, claws, bones and much more. Program starts at 9:30 AM; appropriate for all age groups.

Info: www.sanantonio.gov or www.sanaturalareas.org

Christmas Bird Count

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010 to Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011

From December 14th through January 5th tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the holiday season. Each citizen scientist who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations—and to help guide conservation action. This year's count will help scientists understand the impact of the Gulf oil spill on vulnerable species. *Read more about it at <http://birds.audubon.org/great-backyard-bird-count>*



Cedar Waxwing
by Georgi Baird

Project FeederWatch

One backyard at a time, participants in Project FeederWatch are doing their part to unravel nature's mysteries—simply by sharing information about the birds that visit their feeders from November to April. The 24th season of Project FeederWatch begins November 13, although new participants can join at any time.

People of all ages and skill levels can be FeederWatchers and do their part to help researchers better understand trends in bird populations. Participants count the numbers and different species of birds at their feeders and enter their information on the FeederWatch website.

Learn more about Project FeederWatch at www.FeederWatch.org or call the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 866.989.2473.

Oil and Birds: Too Close for Comfort Louisiana's Coast Six Months into the BP Disaster

In October Audubon released a new report on the status of birds, oil and the Louisiana Coast. Its findings—and its warning that the future of birds and the region's ecosystems remain uncertain because oil and other threats are still too close for comfort—are the result of field surveys conducted by a team of Audubon colleagues. They returned to Louisiana nearly six months after BP's Deepwater Horizon disaster began spewing oil into the Gulf to assess the health and overall condition of birds and coastal habitat, visiting some heavily oiled sites, and some that received little or no oiling.

Read more at <http://chapterservices.audubon.org/news-announcements #sciencereport>.



Community Events

All listings are on Saturdays unless otherwise indicated

First Saturday Nature Walks

Reservations are suggested; walks occasionally change. 210.372.9124 or peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov. Participants limited to 15 per hike. Donation of \$2/person, max \$6/family suggested. Not for groups; contact us to schedule a walk for your group.

Crownridge Canyon Natural Area

7222 Luskey Blvd.
Nov. 6, 10—11:30 AM

Family Walk

Celebrate the first cool day of fall! Bring your family, especially those with young children, on a nature walk designed especially for families. The pace will accommodate the group and this will be shorter than our regular nature walks. At the end we'll make a fall craft to take home. Don't miss the fun!!

Friedrich Wilderness Park

21395 Milsa
Dec. 4, 10 AM—Noon

Animal Signs



When you come to our Natural Areas, you don't always get to see the wildlife but it is all around you.

This hike will help you learn to look for and identify the 'signs' of their presence—things like tracks and holes in trees and nests and much more!

When you have questions about visiting a Natural Area or participating in a Natural Areas program, please call 210.372.9124. Sponsored by

San Antonio Natural Areas
sanaturalareas.org



City of San Antonio facilities are accessible. Requests for interpreter services must be made 48 hours prior to meetings. Call 207-8570 for Voice/TTY assistance.



Second Saturday Programs

Co-sponsored by Bexar Audubon Society and City of San Antonio

Reservations recommended: 210.372.9124 or 210.564.6400; email peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov. Suggested donation \$3/person or \$5/family.

Native American Stories

Presented by Emma Ortega
Nov. 13, 10—11:15 AM
Eisenhower Park, 19399 NW Military
Lipan Apache story teller Emma Ortega shares wonderful stories, including why we should thank a turkey at Thanksgiving! No, the reason is not because it tastes so good, although that is very true! Definitely one for the whole family! Gates open 9:30 AM.

Star Party!

Presented by the
San Antonio Astronomical Assoc.
Eisenhower Park, 19399 NW Military
Dec. 11, 6—8 PM

Star Party with the San Antonio Astronomical Society! Find out what there is to see in the crisp, clear winter skies. This program will to give people an opportunity to use several elaborate telescopes. Reservations recommended for this event. Gates open 5:30 PM.



SAAS Second Saturday Beginners' Walks

Join **San Antonio Audubon Society** on the second Saturday of the month; start at 8 AM, meet at the Judson Nature Trails next to the Alamo Heights swimming pool, on Viesca street. More information, call 210.342.2073.

Newbies Welcome

MEDINA RIVER NATURAL AREA (MRNA)

15890 Highway 16 South
San Antonio TX 78264
MRNA located approx. 4½ miles south of Loop 410 on SH 16 South

Reservations requested for all MRNA events. Information or RSVP for any event in the MRNA call 210.207.3111.

Bare Branches

Dec, 11, 9—11 AM
Join us for a walk with San Antonio's City Forester, Michael Nentwich, to explore our trees in winter. Learn how they can be used in urban situations and begin to think about trees you may want to plant in your yard this year. Free tree to the first 20 families! Info/RSVP 210.207.3111.

www.sanaturalareas.org

Suggested donation for each program is \$3/person or \$5/family

Nature Hike Leaders Needed!!

We are looking for people who want to share their love for and knowledge of the outdoors with some first and second grade students in 2010 and 2011. The Natural Areas has a grant to bring 800 students to Eisenhower Park for nature field trips and we need help. If you'd like to be trained and help in this effort or get more information, please contact Peggy Spring, Education Director Northern Natural Areas, City of San Antonio; peggy.spring@sanantonio.gov, 210.564.6402.



sanaturalareas.org

Bats, Bees and Butterflies at the Witte Museum

Sunday, November 7th, 1:30—3:30 PM, the Witte Museum will host a workshop on attracting bats, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators to your backyard. The workshop will feature Kim Hoskins, whose affiliations include Bat Conservation International, and a TPWD representative. Reservations/info, 210.357.1910, or tomkinsey@wittemuseum.org.

**CIBOLO NATURE CENTER**

140 City Park Dr., Boerne. For more information visit www.cibolo.org/calendar.

Pre-registration for workshops, 830.249.4616 or nature@cibolo.org.

Except where noted, workshops/seminars on Saturdays, varying fees.

Cibolo Preserve Prairie Vegetation Survey

Wednesday/Thursday, Nov. 3—4, 9 AM—1 PM

Join TPWD biologist Rufus Stevens to conduct a survey of vegetation found at Cibolo Preserve.

Geology Short Course, Part I

Limestone Geology & Geologic History of Our Area

Thursday, Nov. 4, 9 AM—Noon

Covers why we have so much limestone in the Edwards Plateau and how our rocks control topography, soils, vegetation & aquifers.

Ethnobotany Workshop

Nov. 6, 9 AM—Noon

With Patty Leslie-Pastzor, a walking textbook of knowledge about uses of our native plants by Native Americans and early Texas settlers.

Geology Short Course, Part II

Hydro-geology of the Trinity Aquifer

Thursday, Nov. 11, 9 AM—Noon

To sustain the quality and quantity of our water, we need to understand the special character of limestone aquifers.

SHORT COURSE: Habitat Management for Wildlife Tax Valuation

Friday, Nov. 12, 9 AM—12:30 PM

Part 1: Seeps, Drainages, Streams and Ponds for Wildlife plus Q&A with Regional AD rep.

Second Saturday Volunteer Workdays

Nov. 13 & Dec. 11, 9 AM—Noon

Bring family and friends to spend the morning pulling weeds, picking up trash and other to-do projects to help keep the CNC beautiful.

Rainwater Harvest Workshop

Nov. 13, 9 AM—Noon

Technological information and practical advice from someone who has done it himself!

Kid's Club: Outdoor Thanksgiving Hot Dog Feast

Nov. 13, 10—11:30 AM

Donations gladly accepted; for kids 3-103.

Mother Nature's Storytime: Who Left These Tracks?

Tuesday, Nov. 16 10—11 AM

For children ages 3-5 and their caregiver.

Geology Short Course, Part III

Field Trip to Canyon Lake Gorge

Thursday, Nov. 18, 9 AM—2 PM

Boerne Birders/CNC

Nov. 20, 8—10 AM

Join a friendly group of birders who are happy to share knowledge & guide this bird walk/census. Info: 830.230.5551 or 210.710.3981.

SHORT COURSE: Habitat Management for Wildlife Tax Valuation Part 2: Grassland and Woodland Management

Friday, Dec. 3, 9 AM-12:30 PM

Winter Sparrows and Wrens Workshop

Dec. 4, 9 AM—3 PM

Fee, plus \$10 box lunch. For intermediate birders; presenter Byron Stone, expert birder and sparrow specialist from Austin.

Winter Prairie Bird Survey/Cibolo Preserve

Thursdays: Dec. 9, Jan. 6, Feb. 10

Three winter outings to survey winter birds in the Cibolo Preserve.

Kid's Club: Winter Birdfeeders

Dec. 11, 10—11:30 AM

Donations gladly accepted; for kids from 3-103. No drop offs, please.

San Antonio Botanical Garden

555 Funston at North New Braunfels

Family Flashlight Night: Tour the San Antonio Botanical Garden after dark! It's **Family Flashlight Night** Friday, Nov. 12. From 6-8 PM, and guests can use their flashlights to explore the Garden at night with a Garden guide! Kids can play Bat-and-Moth, hear Star Stories, learn about night-blooming plants, nocturnal animals, & more. Don't miss the night insect station, and TPWD's *Sight and Sound Safari* along the Texas Native Trail. Regular admission: \$8/adult, \$5/child, \$6 students/seniors/military. www.sabot.org

Children's Vegetable Garden Fall Garden Show and Picnic

Following weeks of tender care, the children will display the fruits (and vegetables) of their labor! The fall session of the Children's Vegetable Garden ends Saturday, Nov. 13, 9 AM—1 PM with a vegetable contest and picnic for the participants. Spring session starts Feb. 19, 2011. Visit sabot.org to sign up.

Native Plant Walk: Explore the 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a Master Naturalist on Saturday, Nov. 20 beginning at 11 AM. Stroll along the Hill Country Trail, through the East Texas Pineywoods, and over the South Texas Trail — take a "walk across Texas"!

Holidays in Bloom: *The Botanical Garden will be decorated for the season beginning November 20.* Something's always blooming in the Garden, making it a great place to take family portraits. Come out with a professional photographer or bring your own camera for beautiful shots set in the gorgeous natural backdrop.



Urban Wildlife
Management and Planning
Conference
Austin, Texas 2011

Save the Date
May 21-25, 2011

This international conference focuses on the challenges and consequences for wildlife when humans are the architects of the ecology of urban environments, as well as the impact of wildlife on humans in urban settings. For more information: email Diana Foss at diana.foss@twd.state.tx.us.

Alamo Area Master Naturalist Training Program Spring 2011

Become a member of the founding chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. This volunteer group provides education, outreach and volunteer service dedicated to the beneficial management of our region's natural resources and natural areas.

Spring training program begins with evening classes Feb. 24th and runs 10 consecutive weeks; also four Saturday morning field trips. Tuition is \$125; scholarships available. Information at www.txmn.org/alamo/join-the-alamo-chapter/. Applications accepted Dec. 1—Feb. 9.

News 8 Austin, 10/14/2010 06:15 PM

New Arboretum to Highlight Array of Texas Trees

By: Tracy Gladden, News 8 Austin – Central Texas News

Texas is not only home to 53 different species of oak trees, but it also houses 74 percent of the oaks in North America. To help celebrate the history of Texas' trees, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in South Austin is planning an arboretum. The new project will be on a 16-acre plot of land where plants and trees will grow for scientific and educational purposes. Phillip Schulze, maintenance supervisor at the wildflower center, said the arboretum will be around for Texans to enjoy for many years.

"It's very satisfying to come out here and do something for these beautiful trees," he said. "It's such a long term project that it's something that we'll all be able to see for years to come." After brush is cleared and the trees are pruned, new trees will be brought in from all over the state.

The arboretum will take 18 months to complete.

Bexar Audubon Society Contacts

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Delicious Lionfish on the Menu!

NOAA: More Fishing, Higher Consumption Might Help Reverse Lionfish Invasion

Massive fishing effort also involves chefs to introduce "delicious" fish to consumers

August 6, 2010

A new study looking at how to curb the rapid growth of lionfish, an invasive species not native to the Atlantic Ocean, suggests that approximately 27 percent of mature lionfish will have to be removed monthly for one year to reduce its population growth rate to zero. But the good news is that the invasive fish happens to be delicious—and NOAA is encouraging chefs to find new ways to introduce it to U.S. consumers.

Lionfish are native to the western and central Pacific Ocean, but have established themselves from North Carolina to South America. They are a popular aquarium fish that were likely first released in Florida waters in the mid-1980s. Since then, the species has spread rapidly. Scientists and public officials are seriously concerned at the effect lionfish are having on reef ecosystems, since this predator is capable of rapid population growth and outcompeting native fish for food and territory.

Follow this link to National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's website to read more about it:

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100806_lionfish.html

One Environment.
One Simple Way
To Care For It.

Earth Share of Texas
represents leading environmental and conservation organizations in payroll deduction plans across the state.

Earth Share OF TEXAS
Photo J. Griffis Smith/TxDOT

1-800-GREENTX ♦ www.earthshare-texas.org ♦ ESTX@earthshare-texas.org

Earth Share of Texas raises money for environmental and conservation organizations through workplace giving. If your employer participates in such programs, please ask them to add Earth Share to your giving options. By designating the Audubon Foundation of Texas (AFT), Bexar Audubon Society can benefit. BAS receives credit for our support and receives funding annually from AFT. For more information, call, email or log on: 800.GREENTX, ESTX@earthshare-texas.org, or www.earthshare-texas.org.



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San Antonio TX 78209-0084

Non-Profit
 Organization
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Bexar Tracks **November-December 2010**

Bexar Tracks is the official newsletter of the Bexar Audubon Society, a Chapter of the National Audubon Society. The Chapter's primary goals are to promote species and habitat conservation and environmental education in the community. Your membership includes National Audubon and Bexar Audubon and subscriptions to both Audubon and Bexar Tracks.



For the latest information on environmental events and happenings throughout the San Antonio community and surrounding areas, check out www.bexaraudubon.org

Vote YES to Expand our Parks and Protect our Aquifer on November 2nd

Voting YES to Prop 1 and Prop 2 on November 2 will help protect the aquifer and expand San Antonio parks for all to enjoy. Protecting these precious resources now will enhance our future health, economy and quality of life.

To learn more on how to get involved, contact Bruce at: Bruce@greensatx; check out www.greensatx.org

Membership and Support for Your Environmental Voice in Our Community

Bexar Audubon welcomes new members to join Audubon through the chapter. This brings 100 percent of the first year's dues directly back to support local work. The same applies to gift memberships placed through the chapter. Your additional tax deductible donation is greatly appreciated. Bexar Audubon receives only a few thousand dollars each year from National Audubon Society as dues share. The rest we must raise ourselves. Your help is needed, and your donations will be put to good use right here in South Central Texas to provide environmental news and education to the community, including the newsletter, programs, San Antonio Environmental Network Issues Forum, Second Saturday programs, and other activities you may or may not hear about. Individual introductory memberships are \$20; seniors and students join for \$15. Please provide the following information for each personal subscription or gift:

Name: _____

Mailing Address with Zip Code: _____

Phone w/Area Code: _____ e-mail _____

Do you wish to opt out of other mailings by Audubon or those with whom it shares lists? yes no

Make checks payable to "Bexar Audubon Society" and mail to the address above.

Enclosed: \$_____ for subscription(s) \$_____ additional donation

NOTE: *Renewals should be sent directly to National Audubon Society.*

NOTE: If you change address or cancel membership, you do NOT need to contact Bexar Audubon but MUST contact National Audubon (and we will automatically get that change when we download labels). Save time and energy by mailing your change of address information to National Audubon Society Membership Data Center, PO Box 52529, Boulder CO 80322-2529; phoning 800.274.4201; or e-mailing CHADD@audubon.org.