



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 & updates, see <http://www.bexaraudubon.org> & <http://www.sa-naturecenter.org>

Second Saturday Program

March 11, 10-11:30am

Eisenhower Park

Long, Long Ago

Lynn Yakubik, Legacy Program Coordinator, Center for Archaeological Research, UTSA
Lynn will guide us on a virtual tour of historic and prehistoric Texas from a human perspective. Learn about the lifeways of indigenous peoples and others who lived here before us. There will be artifacts to examine and you can even practice throwing an atlatl. What is an atlatl? Come to the program and find out.

Reservations are recommended. Call 210-698-1057. Suggested donation: \$3 per individual or \$5 per family.

Harris (Mass) Pavilion, 19399 NW Military Hwy. Take FM 1535/Military Highway/Shavano Park exit off Loop 1604 on the city's northwest side. Go north 2 miles. Park entrance is on the left, just before Camp Bullis. The pavilion is the gated one to the right. Gates open at 9:30am.

Second Saturday Programs are a cooperative venture of the San Antonio Natural Areas and Bexar Audubon Society.



On January 21, cloudy skies prevented Second Saturday attendees from observing the celestial bodies, but the SA Astronomical Association presented an engaging program to 10 children, 13 adults, and a pack of coyotes that began howling midway through the program. Videos, facilitated by association members, explored astronomy in general, the New Horizons mission to Pluto, Stardust mission that collected particles from comets, Hubble photos, and Cosmic Voyage. A highlight was viewing a piece of aerogel like that used to collect dust on the Stardust mission. Thanks to SAAA.

Thursday, March 9 • 6:30pm gathering; 6:45 announcements; 7:00 program
San Antonio Environmental Network Public Issues Forum

Trinity University Cowles Life Sciences Building (see map, page 2) • Free; open to the public

Mow It or Grow It?

You may have seen billboards proclaiming, "Mow it ... don't grow it!" They tout the city's landscape ordinance, which requires property owners to control vegetation on their land. But, wait a minute! Don't Texas Parks & Wildlife and the San Antonio Water System support wildscaping, maintaining natural vegetation in our yards as habitat for birds, beneficial insects, and other urban wildlife — and to minimize landscape watering? So, can the city fine me for doing what others encourage me to do?

Good question. Indeed, what are the rules? Confusion and contradictions prevail. Whether wildlife- and water-friendly natural vegetation is yours to choose can even depend upon your neighbors' attitudes.

Our panelists, **Judit Green, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department urban biologist; Steven Lopez, San Antonio City Code Compliance Department training officer; Mark Peterson, Texas Forest Service; Manuel Flores, gardening expert and broadcaster; and Richard Alles, Citizens Tree Coalition**, will explore the conflict, real or apparent, between old-style vegetation regulation and the newfangled "wildscaping" movement. The discussion will help clarify the rules, identify the contradictions, and stimulate consideration of ordinance amendments.

Thursday, April 6 • Bexar Audubon Program
(same location and times as above)

Medina River Natural Area **Past to Present: Jewel of the South Side**

Gail Dugelby, Medina River Nature Preserve Officer

This new 364-acre natural area is a gorgeous and peaceful refuge on the site of the old proposed Applewhite Reservoir. Open to the public for a year, it comprises two distinct areas. On the north is a large covered pavilion, park headquarters, and 2.5 miles of trails lined by large pecan, cypress, and cottonwood trees. Picnic and camping areas are to the south. Plans are for the park to lead past another large natural area, the new Toyota plant, the Land Heritage Institute, Mitchell Lake, and the future home of Texas A&M, before ending at Mission Espada.

Follow up this introduction to the Medina River Natural Area with **Birding on the Medina River, Saturday April 8, 8am.** (Details on page 2.)

CHAPTER NEWS

Editorial Comments

There've been some changes made!

Welcome back! to BAS president Tony Wood after a year in Iraq, during which time VP Harry Noyes served ably in his stead. We're glad Tony's returned to us, and we really appreciate Harry's leadership this past year.

A brand new welcome to board member at-large Kara Ryf. Kara is from the northwest and has moved here to return to school. She is an enthusiastic new volunteer with energy and great ideas.

Kara fills a vacancy left when our long-serving treasurer Betty Minyard resigned and Caryl Swann, secretary, became treasurer. Thanks to Betty for her many

years of service, not only as treasurer, but also as coordinator of our *Audubon Adventures* program. That program is now being run by the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center.

When Caryl became treasurer, I stepped into the secretary's slot from being "at-large." Now, Jill Sondeen, who has been our newsletter co-editor for quite a few years (and sole editor since Tom Wilson moved to Marin County), will soon become secretary, and I have agreed to take back the editor's hat.

Kudos to Jill for doing a wonderful job with the newsletter for so many years. It's an important, but gratifying, job communicating with our members.

A note of appreciation is also due to our other board members, Dean Bibles

and Joe Orr, as well as steadfast volunteers Patty Pasztor, Marge Lumpe, and Blair Richter.

We'd love to include you in the ranks of our volunteers. Contact one of our board members to find out how.

– Susan Hughes, susan@wordwright.com

President, Tony Wood – 210-493-4684
tonywood@sbcglobal.net

VP & webmaster, Harry Noyes – 210-490-3124 – harrynoyes@satx.rr.com

Treasurer, Caryl Swann – 210-653-2860
cjswann1@earthlink.net

Secretary & editor, Susan Hughes – 210-532-2032, susan@wordwright.com

At-large: Dean Bibles – 210-698-9264
dbibles@aol.com; **Joe Orr** – 210-377-0621
josephorr@aol.com;

Kara Ryf – kararyf@hotmail.com

First Saturday Interpretive Walks...

emphasize the natural and cultural history of our area.

March 4, 9-11am – Walker Ranch Historic Park, 12603 West Ave. Join us for a stroll through this former ranch country and learn about its natural history and that of people who lived there before us.

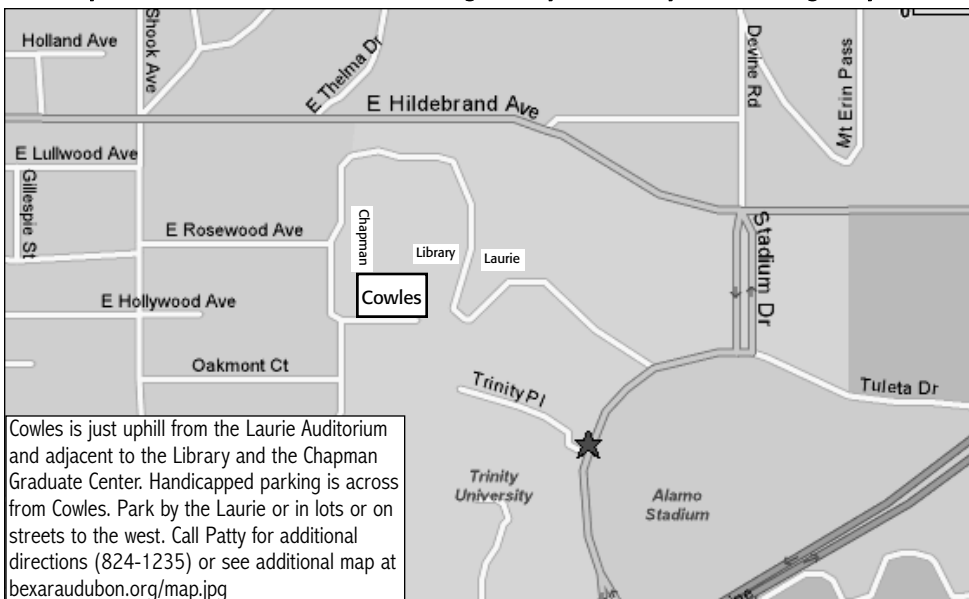
April 1, 9-11am – Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, 7222 Luskey. Be among the first to visit the newest jewel in the Natural Areas' crown.

Reservations are highly recommended. Call 210-698-1057. Participation is limited to 15 per hike. For groups of 8 or more, please call to schedule a separate hike. Meet at the restrooms near the parking lot in each park. Suggested donation: \$2 per person. A program of San Antonio Natural Areas – sanaturalareas.org

Wanted! Field Guides!

Learn, share, and enjoy. Training and opportunities available for field guides for the SA Natural Areas Parks. Training March 7-9, 9am-noon; mini-training March 11, 1-3pm. Contact Peggy Spring, Park Naturalist, for details: 210-698-1057.

Map to Cowles Life Sciences Building, Trinity University, west of Highway 281



Birding on the Medina River

(continued from page 1)

Join naturalists Gail Dugelby and Susan Blacker for a leisurely walk to bird and explore a wonderful new natural area on the Medina River. Enjoy a spring hike in tree-lined riparian habitat and discover what this jewel on the south side has to offer. Call Patty for reservations at 210-824-1235. The Medina River Park office phone is 210-624-2575.

Directions: Take 35 south and exit 16 (also exit for Poteet and Palo Alto College). This exit is on the left. After a mile you pass Palo Alto, then the road passes under loop 410. From here continue 4 miles south on Hwy. 16. Get in the left lane and slow down because in .4 miles you will immediately cross over the highway to the park entrance on the left. The entrance sign is difficult to see. The crossover is before the Medina River bridge.

See map at:

http://www.saaudubon.org/Assets/MedinaRiverPark_map.gif

MORE EVENTS

(Additional information available at www.sa-naturecenter.org/conservation/conservation.html)

Second Saturdays – SA

Audubon Society's Beginners' Birdwalk, 8am, each month.

Visitors welcome. Binoculars to lend. Meet at Judson Nature Trail next to Alamo Heights Swimming Pool on Viesca St. From 5900 blk of Broadway, turn west on Ogden to Greely St.; turn left one block, then right again to parking lot on the left. 210-342-2073

March 10-12 – Women of the Land: TWA & TPWD workshop for women who own or co-own land, or who are otherwise involved in land management. Franklin Family Ranch, Blanco, TX. www.texas-wildlife.org

March 18 – Nature photography symposium (TMI, 8:30-5:30, \$75). Pro-tour launch party (Gallagher Ranch, \$50). Images for Conservation Fund & TPWD. Contact Sam Mason or John Martin, 956-381-1264, icfprotour@aol.com, www.imagesforconservation.org

March 30-April 2 – Galveston Feather Fest

April 5 – Trinity University presents Carl N. McDaniel, Wisdom for a livable planet, Northrup Hall Room 040. Free and open to the public. Contact Bea Caraway, 210-999-7292

April 8-9 – Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge Annual Festival

April 29-30 – TCONR 27th Annual Texas Wilderness Pow Wow, Ratcliff Lake Rec. Area, Davy Crockett National Forest, and Big Slough Wilderness. 512-441-1122, tconr@texas.net

May 10 – Texas Environmental Excellence Awards, TCEQ. 512-239-3150

May 18 – Overabundant white-tailed deer in Texas: Impacts on people, communities, and land. Texas State Univ., San Marcos. 7:45am-5pm. \$40 until 4/1; \$50 thereafter. Contact 800-TEX-WILD or www.texas-wildlife.org



Congratulations to Annie Brown, new VP & Executive Director of Audubon Texas!

MITCHELL LAKE AUDUBON CENTER PRESENTS KENN KAUFMAN



Birder, naturalist and author Kenn Kaufman will visit San Antonio to promote his newest book: *Guía de campo Kaufman a las aves de norteamérica*, the first-ever Spanish field guide to North American birds, and to partic-

ipate in Mitchell Lake Audubon Center's Birdathon.

Kenn will be signing books on **Friday, May 5th** at the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. There are also opportunities to participate in Birdathon and bird with Kenn. The first birders to raise \$500 will be able to bird with Kenn. For more information please call Susan Albert at MLAC at 628-1639 or email salbert@audubon.org.

Kenn is a legend among birders and has perhaps done more than any other single human being to promote the appreciation of birds. A birder and naturalist since childhood, he left home at the age of sixteen to begin an 80,000-mile cross-country journey aimed at breaking the record for most avian species sightings in a single year. Those travels were just the beginning; since that time he has led nature tours on all seven continents. A longtime friend and disciple of the late eminent birder Roger Tory Peterson, Kaufman is a field editor for *Audubon* magazine and a regular contributor to every major birding magazine. He is the youngest person ever to receive the highest honor of the American Birding Association, and he has been voted to elective

membership in the prestigious American Ornithologists' Union. His books include *Lives of North American Birds*, *Kingbird Highway*, *The Peterson Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, and his own *Kaufman Field Guide series* (on North American birds, butterflies, and mammals).

NEW MLAC HOURS ANNOUNCED

Saturdays 8am–4pm

Sundays 8am–12 noon

weekdays by appointment

Regularly scheduled guided birding tours: 2nd Tuesday, 3rd Sunday, and 4th Saturday of each month at 8am; every Tuesday afternoon — please call for departure times: 628-1639

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78221
www.tx.audubon.org/mitchell.htm
"Connecting People with Nature"

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.

Introductory memberships to National Audubon Society (NAS), including a subscription to *Audubon* magazine, **are \$20**. This includes membership in Bexar Audubon, as well, and a subscription to *Bexar Tracks*. Mail your check for \$20 (\$15 for seniors or full-time students) to **Bexar Audubon** at the address above. Include: **NAME & ADDRESS WITH ZIP CODE PHONE & E-MAIL** of the new member. Makes a great gift, too.

If you submit your new or gift membership through Bexar Audubon, your entire first-year's dues will benefit the chapter.

Please check if you wish to OPT OUT from other mailings using the NAS mailing list: _____

Separate **donations to Bexar Audubon Society** are greatly appreciated to support the newsletter and expenses related to our programming for the community. As the dues share to chapters from National Audubon has been significantly curtailed over the past several years, your individual donations to BAS are absolutely vital to continuing our programs and services. **Please mail your 100% tax-deductible gift to Bexar Audubon today.**

"Earth Share of Texas: One environment. One simple way to care for it."



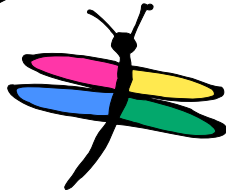
Earth Share of Texas represents the Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll deduction plans for charitable giving. For information, call 800-GREENTX or e-mail estx@earthshare-texas.org

Bexar Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 6084
San Antonio, TX 78209-0084

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
San Antonio, TX
Permit #590

USEFUL NUMBERS – please retain for future reference:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| 800-935-2473 | National Audubon Membership Assistance |  |
| 210-308-6788 | San Antonio Audubon bird sightings recording | |
| 512-306-0225 | Audubon Texas | |
| 210-698-1709 | Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation |  |
| 800-792-GAME | Texas Parks & Wildlife warden | |
| 210-704-7297 | San Antonio Water System water waste reports |  |
| 210-281-1478 | Soil moisture information | |
| 210-225-0505, 830-606-3617 | Weather | |
| 210-467-6575 | Gardening questions | |
| 210-353-2302 | CPS home energy audits | |
| 800-424-8802 | Toxic spill reports | |
| 888-426-4435 | Animal Poison Control Center | |
| 202-224-3121 | U.S. Congressional switchboard | |
| 202-456-1111 | President's White House comment line | |
| 210-207-7060 | San Antonio Mayor's office | |
| 210-207-7040 | San Antonio City Council offices | |
| 210-335-0180 | Bexar County Commissioners Court | |
| 800-453-SMOG | Smoking vehicle hotline TCEQ—license #, date, time, location | |
| 210-403-4028/4039 | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality | |
| 800-447-2827 | Small Business & Local Government Assistance Program, TCEQ | |

Other Outdoor & Volunteer Opportunities:

- SELAH, Bamberger Ranch**, Johnson City – workshops & tours:
830-868-2630, www.bambergerranch.org
Cibolo Wilderness, Boerne – 830-249-4616, www.cibolo.org
Alamo Chapt Texas Master Naturalist – www.alamomasternaturalist.org
Braunig & Calaveras Lake Parks & Nature Trail, CPS/SARA.
210-635-8289/635-8359

Useful Wild Plants, Inc., producing the 12-volume "The Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico." 512-928-4441, 222.usefulwildplants.org