



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>

Thursday, March 13 • 6:30PM gathering; 6:45 announcements; 7:00 program
Trinity University Cowles Life Sciences Building, Room 149 (see map, p. 4) • Free; open to the public

Wildscaping: Landscaping to Benefit Wildlife

Native plants and special features can create a beautiful landscape that invites wildlife to your backyard. Attracting butterflies and hummingbirds with nectar-rich flowers is easy. Adding other simple components will make your yard a haven for frogs, lizards, songbirds, and some small mammals. Landscaping to benefit wildlife can start with putting out a birdbath or planting a fruit-bearing native shrub. It's not difficult to be successful, and you'll be amazed at the types of wildlife you can attract to your property. Come learn what features to incorporate and some common plants that will open your back door to a world of wildlife and even achieve a certified backyard habitat (even in your front yard).

Judit Green graduated from Texas A&M in Wildlife & Fisheries Science and has worked for Texas Parks & Wildlife for 19 years. She has been

the Urban Wildlife Biologist for San Antonio for 13 years and now offices at Government Canyon State Natural Area.

Judit conducts educational outreach to the public (adults and youth) through continuing education classes, presentations, workshops, booths, and technical guidance assistance (i.e., one-on-one). The Texas Wildscape Program is a tool to offer advice to homeowners, schools, and businesses. Judit works with other local agencies and organizations with common goals to minimize habitat loss and encourage use of native vegetation to preserve local natural resources.

The Urban Wildlife Office sponsors the Alamo Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Volunteer Program, and provides guidance to volunteers assisting the Department with educational outreach. She's a contributing author and photographer to the book: *Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife*.



Thursday, April 10, time and location as above

Monarchs Ask: What Is a Garden?

Kip Kiphart, an active Texas Master Naturalist, heads the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project in Kendall County.

Active involvement with the Native Plant Society of Texas and monarch research at Cibolo Nature Center have shaped Kip's perspective on land stewardship. A retired heart surgeon living near Boerne, he claims his interest in native plants is hereditary; he got it from his son Tim.

"Monarchs Ask: What Is a Garden?" presents an eclectic approach to sustainable sub-urban-"sub-rural" gardening employing basic ecological principles. The presentation explores value judgments



on gardening and wildlife and encourages gardening for a purpose. You may want to create a "Monarch Waystation" (registered through the University of Kansas) or become a "citizen scientist" for the Monarch Larval Monitoring Project (University of Minnesota).

Kip and June's butterfly/hummingbird garden is on the Cibolo Nature Center—Boerne Native Plant Society's Fall Tour of Yards.

Engage with Kip's enthusiasm and love of these amazing and special critters.

Photo by Mike Quinn

May 8 falls during Trinity's final exams, so our May meeting (the final one until fall) will be held on Thursday, May 15. See page 2 for program information.

Thursday, May 15, time and location as for March & April programs

Keeping the Wonder and Doing the Science: Stewardship in the Natural Areas

Every day amazing things happen: a Golden-cheeked Warbler that may be just a year old begins his/her flight from Guatemala to San Antonio; or a bracted twistflower seed barely larger than a speck of dust finds a way to germinate through rocky soil. It's the challenge of a biologist to be detached enough to study such treasures objectively, while at the same time to continue to be in awe.

Wendy Cooley, Park Naturalist, a biologist with the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, will share images of some of the natural wonders of our City's Natural Areas. She will also talk about research being done in the Natural Areas and show off some research equipment.

Follow this with a Saturday morning hike!

Chapter Outing – Saturday, May 17 – 8:30-10:30am – Crownridge Canyon Natural Area

Folks interested in possibly seeing a Golden-cheeked Warbler and learning about science-based ecosystem management can come to Crownridge Canyon Natural Area. After walking parts of the ADA-accessible Red Oak Canyon trail, you may also hike at least part of the moderately difficult Bear Grass Falls trail. Wendy Cooley, Biologist with the City of San Antonio Parks

and Recreation Natural Areas, will lead the hike and will “show and tell” about some of the ways Natural Areas staff and volunteers manage Crownridge Canyon's special natural resources. Bring binoculars in case Golden-cheeked Warblers are in the area. Limited to 15 participants. Call Patty at (210)824-1235 for reservations.

The Unexpected President

In 1886 two men on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean simultaneously invented the electrolytic method for extracting metallic aluminum from bauxite. I read somewhere they patented their findings on the same date. The American Charles Martin Hall won a patent dispute, fortune and eternal glory because the court converted the stamp-in times to Greenwich Mean Time and determined that he was a few minutes ahead of the European.

What has this to do with Bexar Audubon Society? Only that bright ideas often pop up in many places when the time is ripe. In the last Bexar Tracks I bragged that Bexar Audubon was working on a win-win idea: bringing to San Antonio the “green-roof/green-wall” concept, i.e., installing live gardens on the roofs and/or walls of buildings to cut utility costs, purify the air, temper the heat-island effect, expand usable business space and even create a tourist attraction reminiscent of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

At that time, I had already discovered one other person pursuing the idea, Mario Obledo, who is organizing a non-profit group to foster green roofs. We were working together to kick-start the program with a one-day workshop for architects, builders, government officials and business owners. The workshop

would be Friday, May 2, as one of the events in the 2008 WildFest SA.

To my surprise, I have since discovered that still other people are working on “cool roofs,” a somewhat broader rubric covering reflective roofs as well as vegetated ones. Indeed, the Metropolitan Partnership for Energy (home of San Antonio's green building program) and City of San Antonio were already working together on—you guessed it!—a “one-day workshop for architects, builders, government officials and business owners.”

Now, Bexar Audubon has long espoused collaborative efforts among local environmental/conservation groups. We do not want to undermine or compete with the MPE and City. We want to collaborate with them, as we were with Mario Obledo. Given their special expertise in this area, we have decided to follow their lead in setting up the workshop and to support them in whatever ways we can.

For their part, they have decided to pursue our goal of doing the workshop May 2, creating synergy with WildFest. Bexar Audubon will help finance the effort, will help identify expert speakers, and will offer a cash prize for “Best Green Roof” as an incentive for businesses, schools, etc., to actually con-

struct vegetated roofs in the coming months.

This is just one entry in a busy spring-time. In mid-March, Bexar Audubon will collaborate with other conservation groups to staff a “how to live green” booth for a major software firm's annual convention. This was by invitation, folks, reflecting a very heartening fact: the business community is starting to recognize that conservation and the conservation community are resources and economic assets, not obstacles and enemies.

In April comes Stewardship Earth Weekend and then two weeks later WildFest. There are details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Let me just urge you to make these events family affairs. Take your kids and grandkids to Stewardship Earth Weekend at your church, synagogue or mosque to learn why humans have a duty to preserve the beautiful and bountiful Nature that God has provided. If your house of worship is not yet participating, urge it to do so. Then, the first weekend in May, take your yourself, your spouse and your young ones to one or more WildFest events in order to personally experience Nature's beauty and bounty and learn more about it.

— Harry Noyes

News & Information

Dr. Ruth Lofgren was appointed as the first San Antonio Peace Laureate at the annual Blessing of the Peacemakers interfaith ceremony at the San Antonio peaceCENTER on Sunday, January 27, 2008. Dr. Lofgren, a 91-year-old microbiologist, has always prioritized her life around issues of the environment but is now focusing on issues of consciousness and inner life, raising questions of how we as humans can be our best selves amidst "the social disease of exploitation" that seems to be threatening this planet and all living beings. As the 2008 Peace Laureate, Dr. Lofgren will be honored for her wisdom and experience and will be available to speak to schools, faith communities, civic groups, and the media about her vision for peace and justice. Inquiries should be directed to the peaceCENTER (210)224-HOPE.

Bexar Audubon congratulates Dr. Lofgren on this well-deserved recognition. Ruth has been a long-time active member of BAS, as well as one of the hardest working proponents of Mitchell Lake, now an Audubon Center.

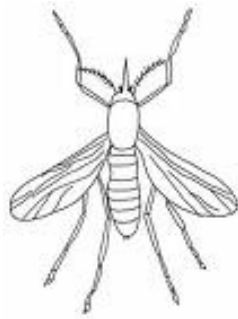
Old-Time Mosquito Remedy May Work Against Ticks, Too

From an article by Luis Pons, January 26, 2007

Regional wisdom passed on long ago to a boy who grew up to be an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientist could lead to the next breakthrough against mosquitoes.

Charles T. Bryson was told by his grandfather that fresh, crushed leaves of American beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*, helped keep biting insects away from draft animals. It was known among folks in northeastern Mississippi during the early 20th century that placing the crushed leaves under an animal's harness would mash out a repellent oil. Eventually, some people there started mashing the leaves and rubbing the residue on their own skins.

Chemist Charles Cantrell studied the American beautyberry to see what it is about it that mosquitoes don't like and, with others, isolated several insect-repelling compounds, including callicarpenal. ARS recently developed SS220, a repellent that's just as effective as DEET, the world's most-used insect repellent. Tests were conducted against the mosquito species *Aedes aegypti*, which is best known as the yellow-fever mosquito, and *Anopheles stephensi*, which spreads malaria in Asia.



A provisional patent application has been submitted; toxicity trials will precede any testing on humans.

Image: www.prairie.mt.gov

Human Impacts on the Oceans

The *Philanthropy News Digest* reported on an article from the journal *Science*, that human activities have affected approximately 40 percent of the world's oceans, leaving only about 4 percent relatively pristine. The study, funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, and the National Science Foundation finds, documents how human activities and by-products such as fishing, fertilizer runoff, commercial shipping, and pollution have affected marine ecosystems, continental shelves, and the deep ocean. The findings have been incorporated in a first-of-its-kind, high-resolution, global map reflecting seventeen types of impact on marine ecosystems. The conclusion: No areas of the ocean are completely untouched by human activities, and roughly one-third of all ocean areas have been heavily impacted.

Ocean areas most affected by human impact include the North Sea, the South and East China Seas, the Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean along the east coast of North America, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Bering Sea, and parts of the western Pacific. Damage includes reductions in fish and sea animals, as well as problems for coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, rocky reefs and shelves, and seamounts. The areas least affected by human activities are concentrated near the poles, although those areas increasingly are being affected by climate change.

For the full report: foundationcenter.org/pnd/news/story.jhtml?id=204300012

Energy Source of Northern Lights Found

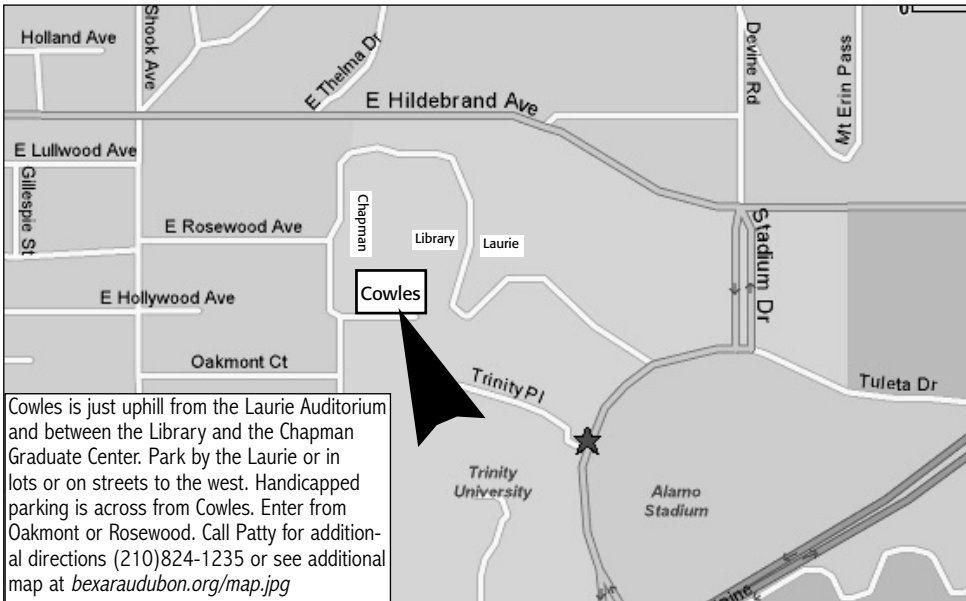
According to a December 11 report from San Francisco, "Scientists think they have discovered the energy source of the spectacular color displays seen in the northern lights. New data from NASA's Themis mission, a quintet of satellites launched this winter, found the energy comes from a stream of charged particles from the sun flowing like a current through twisted bundles of magnetic fields connecting Earth's upper atmosphere to the sun.

news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071211/ap_on_sc/northern_lights

Bat News

Research reported by TPWD shows bats suppress agricultural insect pests, saving farmers millions of dollars in avoided pesticide costs and better crop yields. Although the study area focuses on eight counties in Texas, scientists say insect suppression by bats benefits farmers up into the Midwest and Canada, and that this underscores the need to protect large bat colonies and promote public education and bat ecotourism.

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



Who's What? and how to contact them

President & Webmaster, Harry Noyes – 210-490-3124 – harrynoyes@satx.rr.com
Treasurer, Caryl Swann – 210-653-2860 – c.swann@att.net
Secretary, Anita Anderson – 210-533-8726 – ajandrsn@sbcglobal.net
At-large: Kara Ryf – 503-803-2856 – kararyf@hotmail.com
Amy L. Whitley – 210-340-0114 – nueces66@yahoo.com
Kathy Ikerd – kathy@wordwright.com
Editor, Susan Hughes – 210-532-2032 – editor@bexaraudubon.org
Programs/Outings, Patty Pasztor—210-824-1235 – pasztor@ix.netcom.com

Earth Share of Texas raises money for environmental and conservation organizations through workplace giving. If your employer participates in such programs, please ask them (if they don't already) 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 – getting the word out and promoting participation. Then BAS receives funding annually from AFT. Want more info? 1-800-GREENTX, ESTX@earthshare-texas.org, or www.earthshare-texas.org

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

San Antonio Audubon Beginners Birdwalk – Each Second Saturday of the month at **8am**. Begins at the Judson Nature Trails House next to the Alamo Heights Swimming Pool on Viesca St. Info at (210)342-2073. Binoculars available to lend.

Report your bird sightings to San Antonio Audubon Society's Birdline at (210)308-6788.
www.saaudubon.org

Native Plants of the San Antonio River by *Patty Leslie Pasztor*

A delightful and informative article appears in the Winter issue of *River Reach*, the newsletter of the San Antonio River Authority. Read it at http://www.sara-tx.org/site/public_info/river-reach.html

The article covers some of our favorite plants with their physical descriptions, ranges, and ethnobotanical characteristics. Lovely photos accompany the article.

A naturalist and botanical consultant, Patty is co-author of *Texas Trees—A Friendly Guide*. We are fortunate that she is also program and outings chairman for Bexar Audubon.

Learn about other interesting and helpful publications of the River Authority by scanning the pages of *River Reach*.

Texas Plant Information Database (TPID)—
tpid.tpwd.state.tx.us/

TPID contains extensive information about native and a few selected naturalized plants that have value for landscape restoration, especially erosion control and wildlife use.

The database is structured to allow the user the opportunity to query and select best-suited plant species based on specific site characteristics and management objectives, which could vary from individual yard plantings to large area restoration.

Listed species include trees, shrubs, vines, forbs, grasses, and marsh plants and, when planted in appropriate associations, can provide vegetated landscapes similar to those that naturally occur in Texas.

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 the change when we download labels). Save yourself time and energy and contact NAS at the address or phone # listed in the front of *Audubon* magazine.

Events

First Saturday Walks, 9-11am

The first Saturday of each month, the San Antonio Natural Areas Program of the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department holds a natural and cultural history interpretive walk at one of the Natural Areas. Contact (210)564-6400 for the schedule, locations, and reservations. \$2 per person donation suggested. Limited to 15 persons per hike.

March 1 – Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa.

April 5 – Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, 7222 Luskey.

Second Saturday Programs at Eisenhower Park

Co-sponsored by SA Parks and Recreation Natural Areas Program and Bexar Audubon. Reservations required; details occasionally change. Call (210)564-6400. \$3 each or \$5 per family donation suggested. www.sanaturalareas.org

Eisenhower Park, Harris (Mass Pavilion), 19399 NW Military Hwy. Take FM 1535/Military Hwy exit off Loop 1604 on the city's northwest side. Go north on FM 1535/Military Hwy for 2 miles. Park entrance is on the left, just before Camp Bullis. Program is in the large gated pavilion.

March 8 – Star Party – 6:30-8:30pm



View features of the winter sky. The show goes on even with clouds. The SA

Astronomical Association has great videos and will still have some telescopes set up. Gates open at 6pm.

April 12 – Friedrich Park (note location!!) – 10:00am–12:00 noon

Do you enjoy watching the birds in your yard outside the window

squabbling over a seed, splashing in a puddle, or cruising around the flowers? Why are humans so interested in birds?? Explore your interest and learn the basics of binocular use and bird identification. Bring your family (children 7 and over) and join Tom and Patsy Inlet for this great program. Bring your own binoculars or we will have a few pairs to loan.

March 8 – Volunteer workday at Rancho Diana – 8:30am-12:30pm

Help remove exotic plants. Contact Wendy Cooley (210)372-9124 for information and access to the property. Wendy.Cooley@sanantonio.gov

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

10750 Pleasanton Road, San Antonio, TX 78221, (210)628-1639; mlac@audubon.org
www.mitchelllakeaudubon.org

Birding Tours

Every 2nd Tuesday morning of the month; every Wednesday from 4:30 pm until dusk; every 2nd Sunday at 8am; every 3rd Sunday at 8am. \$5 per person. No reservation necessary, however, please call to confirm since times may vary by season.

March 8-9 – Randolph Roadrunners Walking Club's 10k Walk – Start 8-12 each day; finish 3pm each day

Admission: \$2 (to MLAC). For more information, contact Ellen Ott (210) 525-8574 or ellenott@sbcglobal.net.

March 15 – Monarchs, Milkweed, & More! (Part II) – 1-4pm

Learn about Monarch Butterfly migration, biology, and ecology, and about their host plant, milkweed. In the national "Monarch Larval Monitoring Project" (MLMP) citizens and scientists work together to collect long-term data. MLMP is sponsored by the University of Minnesota and with your help, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center can become a permanent site for

MLMP. Admission: Free, but reservations are required.

March 22 – Starry, Starry Nights – 8-10pm

The San Antonio Astronomical Association will provide telescopes to view the night skies and learn about astronomy. Bring chairs. Admission free, but reservations are required.

April 5 – Words for Birds/A Reading of Poems and Prose About Nature and the Environment – 9am-12:30pm

Join us for a Birding Walk beginning at 9am; at 11am a reading of original work and the works of masters of nature writing – an open reading, coordinated by Jim LaVilla-Havelin Readers include: Naomi Nye, Jim LaVilla-Havelin, John Brantley, Jenny Browne, Ignacio Magaloni, Mobi Warren, Cyra Dumitru, and Martha K. Grant.

If you are interested in participating in the reading, please contact Susan Albert at the Center.

Admission is free, but reservations are required.

April 12 – Beginning Birding – 9-11

A class for all ages. In preparation for our annual Birdathon we are offering a class with Audubon Texas Director of Conservation Dr. Andrew Kasner. Learn more about birding, bird identification, and how to get the most enjoyment out of this interesting pursuit. Recommendations on field guides and information on how to use your binoculars will be offered.

Admission is free, but reservations are required.

April 12-13 – 2008 Attwater Prairie Chicken Festival

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge south of IH-10 between San Antonio and Houston. Prairie-chicken viewing, van, bird-walking, marsh-birding, and native-plants walking tours. For directions and

Events, continued

more information call (979)234-3021. www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/attwater/index.html

April 16 – Water: The New Frontier and Other Secrets of Green Living – 7-9pm Where and how did we depart from a friendly relationship with our natural environment? Architect Stephen Colley of the Build San Antonio Green Program shares his insight about how San Antonians can be on the forefront of changing course without making sacrifices in our comfort. Come learn about the greenest things we can do to environmentally-improve where we live today! This cutting-edge workshop will focus primarily on water issues, such as efficiency and multiple usage and energy conservation and air quality as they relate to water issues. Admission is free, but reservations are required.

April 18 – From Policy to Reality: Advanced Urban Water Conservation in Texas – 8:30am-4:00pm. 8th Annual State-wide Water Conference. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas. \$35 registration fee includes lunch and conference materials. Advance registration required. texaswatermatters.org/state_water_conference_2008.htm

April 19 – Clean Dirt: The Importance of Soil Quality for Water Conservation – 2-4pm The quality of soil in your yard can have a big impact on water conservation. Malcolm Beck of Gardenville Nursery and UTSA's Science Advisory Board discusses the importance of soil quality to water conservation and air quality. Learn how you can make a difference in your own backyard, agricultural field, or garden. Mr. Beck shares tips and methods for ideal soil composition, including no-till agriculture & composting. Admission is

free, but reservations are required.

May 3 – Mitchell Lake Audubon Center 2008 Birdathon! It's that time again. Our Birdathon goal for 2008 is \$10,000, and every bit – large or small – helps! (It's also a LOT of fun.) Join us as we raise pledges and funds while we bird and explore. You can participate as a birder or sponsor. You don't need to be a birding expert! Knowledgeable individuals will be on hand to help lead birders. Call 628-1638 to sign up to bird, pledge to sponsor a birder, or for more information.

April 29 – During Cibolo Nature Center's Wildlife Research Days, Kip Kiphart will present "Monarchs, Milkweed and Monarch Larval Monitoring Project" – 9am-12 noon AND

May 3 – "Monarch Larval Monitoring Project – Back Porch Review" – 9:30am-12 noon. If interested in participating, email skipkip@gvvc.com

Government Canyon State Natural Area

12861 Galm Road, San Antonio TX 78254, (210)688-9055

March 8– 8:30am – Hike the Canyon

March 15-16 – 9:30am – Explore the Canyon

March 22, 11am-noon and 2-3 pm – Family Fun Hike,

San Antonio River Authority Guided Nature Hikes

For more information: (210)227-1373 or (866)345-7272; www.sara-tx.org.

March 1 – 9-11am – Discover Native Plants, Braunig Lake Park

March 15 – 9-11am – Scat and Tracks, Jackson Nature Park on Cibolo Creek

April 5 – 9-11am – Wildflowers

and Butterflies, Calaveras Lake Park

April 19 – 9-11am – Wildflowers and Butterflies, Jackson Nature Park

May 3 – 9-11am – Wildflowers and Butterflies, Braunig Lake Park (in conjunction with WildFest)

May 17 – 9-11am – Discover Native Plants, Jackson Nature Park

Guided hikes are free to participants but park entry admission fees do apply. Admission to Braunig and Calaveras Lake Parks is good at both parks for the whole day: adults \$4, youth 6-15 \$2, 5 and under free. Admission at Jackson Nature Park \$1 per person. Guided hikes are easy and no more than 1.5 miles. Wear sturdy closed-toed shoes for walking and bring water. Trails are not accessible and hikes are not suitable for very small children.

March 27-29 – Texas Tropics Nature Festival – McAllen. www.mcallencvb.com

May 15-18 – Dragonfly Days – Weslaco. www.valleynaturecenter.org

October 24 – Generations on the Land: Working for Land Stewardship Texas A&M University www.generationsontheland.com

April 1 – Texas AgriLife Extension Service's Texas Brigades applications due. Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade, June 14-18, Centennial Lodge, Coleman. – South Texas Bobwhite Brigade, June 22-26, 74 Ranch, Campbellton. – Bass Brigade, July 7-11, Buchanan Dam, Marble Falls. – South Texas Buckskin Brigade, July 13-17, La Bandera, Carrizo Springs. – North Texas Buckskin Brigade, July 20-24, Stasney's Cook Ranch, Albany. – East Texas Feathered Forces Brigade, July 27-31, Pine Island, Lufkin. Call Helen Holdsworth at (800)TEX-WILD or www.texasbrigades.com

Events & Ideas

Stewardship Earth & Wildfest San Antonio 2008

We have a special Spring season on the way, with two major conservation-related events Bexar Audubon Society members should be sure to support and to enjoy. While they may seem quite different, we encourage you to think of them as a package and to "save the date" for both.

First: Stewardship Earth

Weekend, April 18-20 A multi-faith celebration of God's creation for those who believe the environment is a blessing from God and it is man's duty to safeguard that treasure even as we benefit from the use of its fruits.

Stewardship Earth 2008 is scheduled just before Earth Day on April 22. Throughout the weekend, on their various holy days, the many faiths of San Antonio will pursue a common, concentrated focus on the stewardship of the Earth, through bulletin inserts, prayers, homilies, and religious-school classes to remind their members that we have a duty to save God's creation, the world's beauty and resources, for God's children of the future.

We urge Bexar Audubon members to participate at their houses of worship. If you aren't sure your congregation will participate, ask. If need be, encourage your leaders to join in and then work to help them organize the event. For more information, visit: www.solarsanantonio.org/StewardshipEarth.htm

Just two weeks later comes our community's civic celebration of Nature, **WildFest San Antonio, May 2-4.**

The first WildFest occurred last May, an event of historical significance. For the first time, the San Antonio business community and the San Antonio environ-

mental/conservation community worked together on a major initiative to boost nature tourism and nature education. The roster of events was world-class, ranging from excursions to the Bracken Cave bat emergence to birding tours at Mitchell Lake, seminars on nature photography, and native plants. Clearly San Antonio can compete with the country's best festivals, as far as activities and leaders.

WildFest combines a nature-tourism goal and a local nature-education goal. The events are attractive to both audiences and the availability of events is ample to serve both audiences. We urge you to put WildFest on your calendar, both as volunteers to lead activities or to assist with administrative support and as participants, to learn from and enjoy the activities that appeal to you.

Track WildFest plans by checking out the WildFest website at www.wildfestsanantonio.com

Online registration makes it easier to reserve early for one's preferred activities.

If you have friends who want to visit SA this year, urge them to come during this special weekend and participate in WildFest activities.

See this as a package...be inspired by God's love for nature during Stewardship Earth 2008, then by nature itself at WildFest. Encourage your fellow worshippers to do the same.

And by the way, use both of these events to promote family togetherness. After worshipping together on Stewardship Earth weekend, take your children or grandchildren to a few of the many fun and educational events being offered on WildFest San Antonio weekend.

— Harry Noyes

What if?

An article in the recent issue of *Orion* magazine, investigates the scenario: "If Nature Had Rights, What would people need to give up?" Find this excerpt from the book *Wild Law: A Manifesto for Earth Justice* by Cormac Cullinan at Orion's website:

www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/500/

Two excerpts from the article:

"On September 19, 2006, the Tamaqua Borough of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, passed a sewage sludge ordinance that recognizes natural communities and ecosystems within the borough as legal persons for the purposes of enforcing civil rights. It also strips corporations that engage in the land application of sludge of their rights to be treated as 'persons' and consequently of their civil rights. One of its effects is that the borough or any of its residents may file a lawsuit on behalf of an ecosystem to recover compensatory and punitive damages for any harm done by the land application of sewage sludge. Damages recovered in this way must be paid to the borough and used to restore those ecosystems and natural communities."

"In the face of climate change and other enormous environmental challenges, our future as a species depends on those people who are creating the legal and political spaces within which our connection to the rest of our community here on Earth is recognized. The day will come when the failure of our laws to recognize the right of a river to flow, to prohibit acts that destabilize Earth's climate, or to impose a duty to respect the intrinsic value and right to exist of all life will be as reprehensible as allowing people to be bought and sold. We will only flourish by changing these systems and claiming our identity, as well as assuming our responsibilities, as members of the Earth community."



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 *Audubon* and *Bexar Tracks*.

The Economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Environment — Tim Wirth

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

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 Forums, 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 _____

AC & Phone _____ 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.