



Volume XXIII, No. 5
Nov - Dec 2005

**BEXAR
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**
SAN ANTONIO, TX



First Place, 2000 & 2002
National Audubon Society
newsletter contest — large
chapter division

San Antonio's Natural Areas - "Crown Jewels" of our City

Thursday, November 10, 2005 — Chapter Meeting

6:30 p.m. — Social Time; 6:45p.m. — Announcements; 7:00 p.m. — Program

Free and open to the public

Cowles Life Sciences Bldg 11 - Room 336 - Trinity U., Corner of Hwy 281 & Stadium. Take Hildebrand exit from Hwy 281 N, Turn left onto Hildebrand, then left (south) at first light west of 281&Hildebrand.



Join us on Thursday, November 10th to find out what the San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department has been quietly and effectively acquiring for the last several years — some truly outstanding lands: Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, Rancho Diana, Cedar Creek, Iron Horse Ranch, and Windgate Ranch units; as well as a beautiful portion of the Medina River — just to name a few! Twelve properties totaling over 6,000 acres have been protected.

The properties, primarily purchased through the previous Proposition 3 sales tax initiative, protect the critical water resources of the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and the contributing zone. By designating these as Natural Areas, the properties will also conserve wildlife habitat, since they are rich in a diversity of native flora and fauna, including many endangered and threatened species. The properties also possess characteristics representing distinct aspects of the Balcones Escarpment of the Texas Hill Country. These Natural Areas will provide sorely needed passive recreation opportunities — walking/hiking, birdwatching, photography and general nature study. Last

year citizens passed a new bond issue that will further protect the Edwards Aquifer and our drinking water by protecting additional lands.

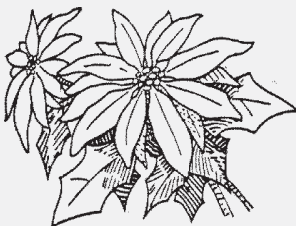
Eric Lautzenheiser, Nature Preserve superintendent for the City of San Antonio Park Department's Natural Areas will discuss managing these. He will also speak on exciting developments such as the recent opening of Medina River Natural Area in south Bexar County and the upcoming opening (November 12th) of Crownridge Canyon Natural Area — a 211 acre beauty close to Friedrich Wilderness Park (see details of the opening on page 4).

Eric Lautzenheiser attended Texas A & M University and the Royal Academy of Landscape Architecture of Sweden. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Texas A & M University. Eric has served as Director of Mercer Arboretum near Houston; Executive Director of the Houston Audubon Society; Assistant Director of Armand Bayou Nature Center in Houston; Superintendent of the S.A. Botanical Gardens; and presently superintendent of the City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Nature Preserves.

Come celebrate!

Thursday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Holiday Party



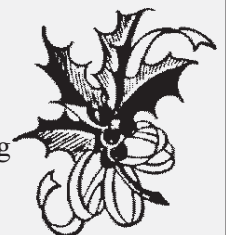
The December meeting will be a potluck dinner held at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Susan Hughes, 825 E. Guenther St.

Please bring a covered dish to share and a "white el-

ephant" holiday gift to exchange for fun. Beverages will be provided. **RSVP to Susan Hughes at 210-532-2023.** Easy directions will be provided if a phone

number, snail mail address or e mail address is left on the message machine. Basically, it's south of South Alamo near Guenther House/Pioneer Mills and the Blue Star Art Gallery.

We can strengthen the bonds that unite us, restore some balance to our lives, renew old friendships while making new ones and generally have a splendid time. Ya'll come.



BEXAR AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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

GOALS

The Chapter's primary goals are to promote species and habitat conservation and environmental education in the community.

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Bexar Tracks is your newsletter.

We welcome your contributions.

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper.



Visit Bexar Audubon's Web Site:

<http://www.BexarAudubon.org>

Up-to-date environmental events and calendar can be found here — check often for news!

Visit San Antonio Environmental Network's Web Site:

<http://www.sa-naturecenter.org>

Suggestions and contributions are welcome.

Please contact Harry Noyes at harrynoyes@satx.rr.com

Recycling Options and Drop-Off Centers

Do you have an old computer? refrigerator? oil? styrofoam? Want to be responsible and recycle them? Check out this web site to find a place to recycle just about anything: www.sanantonio.gov/enviro/solidwaste/recyoptions.asp

CHAPTER NEWS

September 15 & 17, 2005, Recap

Managing for Wildlife in an Urban Island

The 6th annual STFRF was held at Palo Alto College and at the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Program emphasis was on creating and enhancing wildlife habitat in urban areas being encroached upon by development. Even a small oasis of bird and butterfly-friendly plants, water, and shelter can make a great difference in increasingly monocultural landscapes dominated by invasive species that provide no food value for wildlife. The forum urged landowners and homeowners to learn about management techniques that can restore these wildlife values, even in increasingly pressured islands of habitat and demonstrated the beauty and diversity available in native plant varieties that are hospitable to wildlife.

sponsors: Alamo Area Quail Unlimited, Bexar Audubon Society, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service, San Antonio Water System, Small Agricultural Producers Committee, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Council of Chapters < Soil & Water Conservation Society, Texas Section - SRM, and Texas Wildlife Association. And special appreciation to our speakers: Jim Cathey, Patty Pasztor, Mike Quinn, Mark Klym, Bob Lyons, Iiana Peña, and Calvin Finch. The STFRF could not have happened without the dedicated, efficient leadership of Helen Holdsworth. Appreciation to Palo Alto College and Texas Audubon for use of their facilities.

Thanks to our cooperators and

-Susan Hughes



SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAM

by Peggy Spring

Sep 2005 recap:

San Antonio Naturally



The serpents are always a hit!



Sue Calberg discussing Salado Creek with participant.

On September 10, we held the third annual San Antonio Naturally event at Eisenhower Park from 10:00 until 2:00. Despite increased advertising, we did not have quite the crowd that we wanted but those who were there had a super experience! We had arranged for 12 presenters including representatives from Texas Parks and Wildlife, Salado Creek Association, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, San Antonio Audubon Society, Wild Turkey Federation,

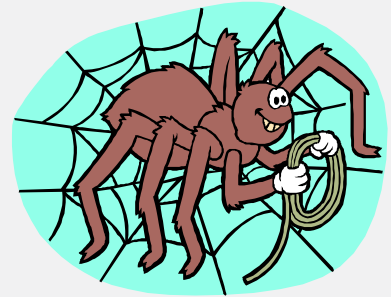


Bill Woller and participants discussing mammals and furs.

Darling Cetaceans, South Texas Herpetological Society, Friends of Friedrich, Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners as well as presenters from the Natural Areas volunteer field guides. Topics ranged from making ink from oak galls to soil studies and butterfly host plants to the ever popular snakes, bugs and spiders. Emma Ortega, Lipan Apache story teller, entertained all with a special one hour presentation at 12:00. The 31 youth and 39 adults who attended this event as well as the presenters themselves enjoyed the relaxed opportunity to explore a great variety of topics and to network amongst themselves. Artesia Springs Water donated water and loaned a water dispenser to the event; the Subway at 1604 and Bandera donated 30 sub sandwiches for volunteers. These generous donations were greatly appreciated.

Aug 2005 recap:

Welcome to My Web



On August 13, 2005 we had a very successful program on spiders by Cary Guffey. Again we had to add an extra session to accommodate the crowd. In total, there were 13 youth and 44 adults on the two hikes.

Excellent newspaper coverage appeared in the North Central and North West Neighborhood sections of the Express-News following the event. Unfortunately this coverage did not include mention of Bexar Audubon or the Natural Areas. The reporter just picked up Parks and Rec and that doesn't give kudos to either of us. Oh, well...

FIRST SATURDAYS INTERPRETIVE NATURE HIKES

Nov 5, 2005 - Friedrich Wilderness Park — 21395 Milsa Road

Dec 3, 2005 - Crownridge Canyon Natural Area — 7222 Luskey Blvd

Generally, reservations are highly recommended, as the hike will not be conducted if there are no pre-registered participants. Call (210) 698-1057 for particular park events. **Meet at the restrooms near the parking lot. A donation of \$2 per person is suggested. Participants are limited to 15 per hike.** For groups of 8 or more please call to schedule a separate hike. See www.sanaturalareas.org for more information.

RECURRING EVENTS

San Antonio Audubon Society's Beginners' Birdwalk is held at 8 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. Visitors are welcome. There are binoculars to lend.

Meet at the Judson Nature Trail next to the Alamo Heights Swimming Pool on Viesca St. From the 5900 block of Broadway, turn west on Ogden to Greeley St., turn left one block, then right again to the parking lot on the left. More information at 210-342-2073.

MITCHELL LAKE ACCESS



Call the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center at 210-628-1639 for information for birding and other events.

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 1-800-GREENTX or email <estx@earthshare-texas.org>.

Membership Form Chapter Donation Form National Audubon Society Bexar Audubon Society

Membership rates are:

Student/Senior \$15 Basic \$35
Introductory 1-year \$20 (2-year: \$30)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

For a new membership, mail this coupon and your check—payable to "National Audubon Society, Chapter W19" to:

Bexar Audubon Society
P. O. Box 6084
San Antonio, TX 78209

W19, 7XCH

Opt out for other mailings

By using this form, 100 percent of your first year's dues will benefit the chapter.

For Contributions to BAS: \$ _____

Make your check payable to Bexar Audubon Society

Bexar Audubon Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 6084
San Antonio, TX 78209

**Non-profit
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Join Us on 2 Saturday Mornings for Mitchell Lake Audubon Center's Family Art Days! *With Guest Artist Laura Salazar*

Nov. 5 — Festive Flowers
Nov. 12 — Window Butterflies

Time: 10 AM - 1PM

Where:

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
San Antonio, TX 78221

(Exit 46 - Moursund Rd off Hwy 410)

Cost: \$5 per person and \$15 for families of 4 or more

RSVP to reserve your spot (210) 628-1639.

New Web Site Fertile Ground for Horticultural Help in Central Texas

There's a new Central Texas Horticulture Web site, designed and maintained by Texas Cooperative Extension for Travis County, which provides information on a wide array of horticultural topics, said Skip Richter, Extension horticulturist. The site address is <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis>. "We've built a site where people can get straightforward answers to their horticulture-related questions or locate the answer quickly through one of site's direct links," he said. The site has added links help make it a one-stop site for an array of useful horticultural information. -Paul Schattenberg, paschattenberg@ag.tamu.edu