

HABITAT HERALD

Wildlife Austin's monthly Newsletter



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June 2013



Wildlife Austin

City of Austin
Parks and Recreation
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 2, 1:30-4:00P
North Austin Garden Tour-
<https://nxna.ticketbud.com/nxnagardentour>

Thurs., June 6, 3:30-5:30P Reed
Park Grow Zone Tour-2600 Pecos
Street
<http://reedparkgrowzone.eventbrite.com/>

Saturday, June 8, 9:30-10:30A-
Free Composting Class-SFC
Farmer's Market at Sunset Valley
3200 Jones Street <http://austintexas.gov/fullcalendar>

Saturday, June 8, 9:00-11:00A-
Volunteer Lady Bird Lake Clean-
up www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/LadyBirdLake

Saturday, June 8, 8:30A-4:30P
Volunteer Invasive Plant Species
Monitoring Registration: http://texasinvasives.org/invaders/workshop_results.php

More Info on Invasive
Plants: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-invasive-plants-management>



Happy summer everyone! I hope you are all enjoying the mild weather we've been having so far this year compared to previous summers. We have some exciting tours happening this month including the North by North Austin Garden Tour (NXNA) and the Barton Springs Tour. These are great opportunities to get out in your local community and get ideas from fellow gardeners as well as learn a bit about the local ecology that makes Austin so special. The North by North Austin Garden Tour proceeds also benefit North Austin Schools so please come out and support these events!

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Quiz of the Month

Who Am I?



Last Month's Animal:
Blue Grosbeak

More Events

Monday, June 10, 9:30-11:30A Barton Springs Tour

9:30a.m.-10:15 a.m. - Eliza Springs
10:15 a.m. -11:00 a.m. - Barton Springs
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Upper Barton Springs.

<http://junespringstour.eventbrite.com/>

Wednesday, June 12 7:30-10:00P, Blues on the Green at Zilker Park

<http://austintexas.gov/event/blues-green-4>

Wednesday, June 19, 6:30-7:30P, Free Composting Class at Terrazas Library <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5270010744#>

Saturday, June 22, 9:30-10:30A, Free Composting Class at SFC Farmer's Market Downtown <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5260081044#>

Monday, June 24, 6:00-7:00P, Free Composting Class at Hampton Library<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5270201314#>

Wednesday, June 26 6:30-7:30P Free Compost Class at City Hall <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5214998200#>

Wednesday, June 26 7:30-10:00P Blues on the Green at Zilker Park <http://austintexas.gov/event/blues-green-4>

Trail Running 101 by Trish Porter

A great way to visit the City of Austin's trail system is through trail running. But before hitting the trails, you should think of safety first. Remember that trail running is different from road running in many aspects. While road shoes can be worn on the trail, shoes that offer a little more grip and protection are best. You will be running on rocks, uneven surfaces, and possibly in water. Shoes that offer some drainage may be better than slogging around in shoes full of water.

Water can be more of a concern when you are out on the trail, since there are not typically water fountains or water stops on the trail. You should carry all the water you think you may need, and then a little more. A handheld water bottle can be fine, but for longer jaunts, a backpack style water reservoir is best.



Bull Creek

Along with water, it is best to be prepared by carrying snacks and electrolyte replacements. When using any of these items, be sure to put the wrappers or any waste back into your pack and dispose of it properly.

If possible, it is a good idea to run with a phone in case any accident or injury should arise. If this is not possible, then you should always let someone know where you're going and when you should be back. When running alone, stick to the beaten path. If you can, run with a partner- that way if anything happens, you can help each other out. Also, always run with some kind of identification on you.



Prickly Pear

More Events

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The trail has a few guidelines when running, and it is best to be polite when on the trails and know the etiquette associated with trail running. If you are passing someone, let them know. Call out "On your left", "Passing", or whatever it takes to let someone know you are coming around. Some of our trails are single-track and tight, wait for an opportune moment to pass, and then announce your intention. This also brings up running with headphones. If you absolutely must listen to music on the trail, only put in one earphone- you need to hear what is going on around you. When running hills, be aware that the runner coming up the hill has the right of way, so give it to him. Also, be aware of bicyclists and hikers. Pedestrians have the right of way to runners and



Bull Creek

runners have the right of way to bicyclists, but never assume it will be given to you. Sometimes a bicyclist may be travelling too fast to stop, if you hear them, step off the trail and let them pass. Even if you have the right of way, a bike will probably do more injury to you, so it's best to just try to avoid that possibility.

Foot placement in trail running can be different than running on the street. You should always be scanning ahead, but also picking your footfalls. Be aware that there could be low branches across the trail. Strides may need to be adjusted when running on uneven or rugged terrain. Expect to stumble, but know that the more you hit the trails, the less you will typically "hit" the trails with a fall. Falls happen, but by being aware, having the proper equipment and practicing good trail etiquette, you can lessen the chance of an actual injury.

There are many great places to trail run in Austin. Some favorites are the Hill of Life, Rudy's Loop, Bologna, the Hill of Death, the Superhighway (the Barton Creek Greenbelt), as well as St. Ed's, Walnut Creek, and Bull Creek. A great source for trails in the area can be found at <http://www.austinridgeriders.com/trail-listing>.



Lindheimer's Morning Glory

Garden of the Month



This month's garden of the month comes from one of our Habitat Stewards, Ed Travis. Ed has gradually moved away from using grass and instead has incorporated native woodland plants in to his landscape. These native woodland plants have also grown to create more privacy in his front yard which has proved a great location for a secluded patio area and fountain. Ed's garden is a great example of how reducing your lawn and using native plants can not only be great for the environment but can also create new spaces in your yard to enjoy away from the hustle and bustle of city life.



Pennywort fountain



Yellow bells, Scarlet sage, and Turk's caps



Rock rose and Gregg's mistflower



Rain lilies



Schoolyard Habitat Update



Discovery Hill: Bugs, Brains, and Blooms!

Austin ISD has officially opened the doors to their new Outdoor Classroom. The classroom space was installed through a partnership with National Wildlife Federation. The design and manual labor was made possible by Environmental Survey Consulting and many loyal and fantastic volunteers. The site will be used for teacher trainings, student field trips, etc. It is located at 305 North Bluff Drive and is open to the public after school hours and on the weekends. There will be calls for volunteers to help maintain this fantastic resource!



Donations Needed!

Campuses are looking for donations of the following materials for spring and summer workdays:

- Compost and/or soil
- Native seeds, plants, shrubs and trees
- Tools
- 4 inch pots
- Limestone blocks
- Cedar logs
- Decomposed Granite
- Bird Feeders and/or bird seed

Schoolyard Habitat Success Depends on Volunteers Like You!

Contact Anne Muller AISD Outdoor Learning Specialist
amuller@austinisd.org or 512-841-5070

For an up to date list of work days and volunteer opportunities



NXNA

Garden Tour

Have some free time this weekend? Come to the North by North Austin Garden Tour! Proceeds from the tickets go to Austin Voices and will be used by the North Austin Community School Alliance for gardens and beautification of North Austin Schools. For more information check out lovenorthaustin.com or nxnagardentour.blogspot.com or facebook.com/nxnagardentour. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased online at <https://nxna.ticketbud.com/nxnagardentour>

Garden Tour

Saturday, June 1, 10 am-4 pm

Self-guided tours of 19 North Austin gardens

13 Private gardens

5 School gardens

1 Community garden

Garden Talks & Photography Exhibit

Sunday, June 2, 10 am-4 pm

10 am-noon: Watershed Tour

12-4 pm: Workshops and talks on gardening and conservation at YMCA North Austin, 1000 W. Rundberg Ln.

1:30 - Macro Photography in the Garden - Daniel Llanes

2:00 - Native Plants of Texas - Native Plant Society of Texas

3:00 - Waterwise Gardening - City of Austin Water Dept.

Living in a WUI without all the Hooey

As part of the Austin community, many of us live in what is called a WUI or Wildland Urban Interface. This area is where urban development meets wildlands. For most people, the proximity to greenspace is one of the major reasons for choosing to live in the location that they do. But with such beauty and comes great responsibility. Wildlife from these surrounding wildlands can easily make their way in to your yard so it is important to follow a few precautions:

Never put out salt blocks or feed, this can attract a higher number of wildlife than is meant for that area and is also prohibited under City Code (Ch. 10-8).

Bring pets inside when they are unsupervised. This helps reduce the risk of dangerous interactions with wildlife and also prevents the spread of disease.

Change out birdbaths and other water features frequently to prevent mosquito breeding

4. Use deer resistant plants if you are located in a deer-prone area

By following these tips and maintaining your yard you can help protect your property and pets from negative wildlife interactions and also help maintain the balance between wildlands and urban development.

Barton Springs Tour

Monday, June 10, 2013-9:30am to 11:00am

Join Watershed Protection Department environmental scientists, Liza Colucci and Todd Jackson, for a tour of three springs to learn about our endangered Barton Springs salamander, plans to enhance the habitat, the ecosystem of Barton Springs Pool, and macroinvertebrates.

The Barton Springs portion of the tour will be in the water and you should bring goggles or a mask so you can see underwater. Wear your swim suit under your clothes so we can transition immediately from Eliza Springs to Barton Springs.

REGISTER: <http://junespringstour.eventbrite.com/>

Date: June 10, 2013

Time: 9:30am-11:30am

Location: Barton Springs Pool (2201 Barton Springs Road) * MEET at the Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center's Splash Exhibit - www.austintexas.gov/department/beverly-s-sheffield-education-center

Schedule:

9:30a.m.-10:15 a.m. - Eliza Springs

10:15 a.m. -11:00 a.m. - Barton Springs

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - Upper Barton Springs.

Wear: comfortable shoes, hat, sunscreen, swim suit under your clothes

BRING: cash to pay for parking and Barton Springs entry, water bottle, towel, goggles/mask, snorkel and your questions

****NOTE:** The Barton Springs portion of the tour will be in the water. Attendees should be confident swimmers. Swim suit and goggles are required and fins may be useful.

More salamander info: <http://austintexas.gov/department/salamanders>

Find out about other Watershed Protection Department educational events: http://eepurl.com/wrw_9

Would YOU like to receive the the Wildlife Austin newsletter electronically?

E-mail us at wildlife@austintexas.gov

FREE LECTURES

June 12 from 12:00PM-1:00PM Lunchtime Lecture at the Dougherty Arts Center. Dr. Kevin Anderson will give a presentation on "River Life: The Ecology of Flowing Water". Bring your lunch and learn!

June 19 from 12:00PM-1:00PM Lunchtime Lecture at City Hall. Dr. Kevin Anderson will give a presentation on "Riparia: Life at the River's Edge".

June 29 from 9:00AM-1:00PM, Ecological Literacy Day. There will be some volunteer work at Hornsby Bend followed by a lecture from a guest speaker. Please bring a lunch.

More information can be found at <http://austintexas.gov/cer>



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[Austin Parks and Recreation-Parks in Nature](#)

on Facebook and look for the Wildlife Austin posts!



The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call (512) 974-6700.