

HABITAT HERALD

Wildlife Austin's monthly Newsletter



July 2014



Hello Everyone!

My name is LaJuan Tucker and I am the new Park Ranger for Wildlife Austin. I am originally from West Philadelphia but attended college in Hanover, New Hampshire. Through my travels I have fostered a love for connecting people with the natural environment.

I served as a full time AmeriCorps Volunteer with Texas Conservation Corps (TxCC). With TxCC, I worked with Austin's youth on trails and conservation projects all over Texas. As a Park Ranger, I am very passionate about Wildlife Austin's ability to connect communities around the preservation and enjoyment of nature.

With the increasing population of Austin, a need exists to share the natural treasures of this city with younger and more diverse populations. As a City of Austin Park Ranger it is my privilege to act as an ambassador, promoting the enjoyment and conservation of Austin's unique ecology. It is my hope that education coupled with enjoyment will usher in a new generation of stewards who will bring communities together and continue the tradition of caring for and preserving the Austin landscape.

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Would you like to receive the newsletter?

E-mail us at wildlife@austintexas.gov

Wildlife Austin

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Parks and Recreation
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Austin, TX 78705
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Event: Workday at Blunn Creek Nature Preserve Invasive Plant Removal Workday at Blunn Creek Nature Preserve
7/5- 09:00am-12:00pm
Location: Blunn Creek Nature Preserve, 1200 St. Edwards Drive, 78704
Contact: Jerry Levenson, jblevenson@earthlink.net

Free Composting Class - Various locations and dates
7/7, 7/16, 7/30
Contact: Sylba Loren 1-512-974-9008
Or visit City of Austin Calendar online

Nature Nights-Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
07/10 5pm to 8 p.m
One of our most popular Nature Nights is back: Snakes! Hear famed University of Texas herpetologist, Travis LaDuc, dispel myths and celebrate snakes.

STRUCTURAL PRUNING, A PRACTICAL WORKSHOP FOR HOMEOWNERS AND PROFESSIONALS
07/12 7am to 1pm
Sat, 07/12/2014 - 8:30am - 11:00am Location: Dell Pediatric Research Institute 1400 Barbara Jordan Blvd Austin, TX 78723 . Join us for a hands-on workshop to learn how to correct minor defects. Host (s): TreeFolks : Contact Information Rebecca@TreeFolks.org 512-443-5323

Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory Monthly Bird Survey
7/12- 7am to 1pm Location: Austin Water Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend, 2210 South FM 973, 78725 Contact: Kevin Anderson, kevin.anderson@austintexas.gov, 512-972-1960 Websites: www.hornsbybend.org and www.austintexas.gov/cer

Landscape Professional Training (Various Days)
Learn about earth-wise landscaping and management practices from the experts, so you can provide sustainable services for your commercial and residential customers.
Registration is open for the 2014 Grow Green Landscape Professional Training series.
Registration and payment deadlines:
Entire series (\$75): noon, Wednesday, July 9, 2014
Daily (\$20 per class): noon on the Wednesday before the class
Classes are scheduled to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on every Wednesday from July 16th to August 13th

Garden of the Month

South Austin Community Garden

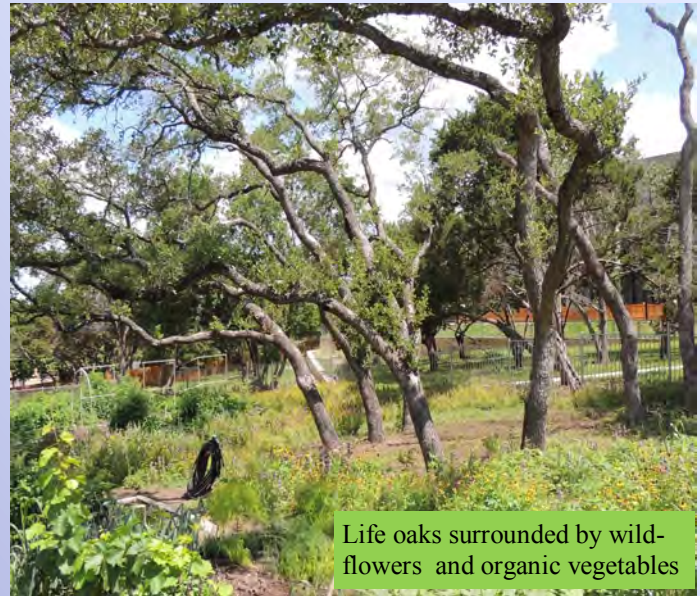
South Austin Community Garden is an elegant balance of wildlife habitat and organic garden plots. Originally established in 1994, due to continued neighboring development South Austin Community Garden relocated to accommodate the growth of the community. After relocation this garden is doing extremely well at balancing wildlife habitat and organic vegetable plots. Nestled next to the Denizen Condominiums at 2800 S. 5th Street, South Austin Community Garden is a sponsored by the Sustainable Food Center. Visitors and prospective visitors are welcome and formal meetings are held monthly. One Saturday a month a group work day is held to maintain the beauty of this garden. For more information visit <http://www.main.org/sacgarden/>



Artichoke



Ichiban eggplant and nearly ripe tomatoes



Life oaks surrounded by wildflowers and organic vegetables

Living In a WUI Without All the HOOEY

With an increase in urbanization comes an increase in human-wildlife interactions. Many of you may have noticed more deer in your backyards or along highways. Habitat destruction forces wildlife, including deer, to find other places for shelter and food. These places that were once forests and meadows are now your backyard. This movement of species along with a decrease in their natural predators enables the deer population to explode. Disease carried by animals such as white-tailed deer also increase in number due to this fluctuation in predator-prey populations. One such disease that has seen an increase in recent years is Lyme Disease. Although very common in the northeastern United States, it is spreading to Texas.

In 2010 and 2011 alone, 216 cases of Lyme Disease were reported in Texas. Transmitted through the saliva of the Lone Star tick and blacklegged tick, it can cause serious neurological damage if left untreated. Symptoms include a bulls-eye rash, arthritis, and Bell's Palsy.



There are ways to greatly reduce your chances of getting Lyme Disease:

- Wear insect repellent specifically made for ticks
- Tuck socks into pants, wear long sleeves
- Thoroughly check around waistbands and other areas where clothing may lay closer to the skin
- If you find a tick, remove gently with tweezers and try not to squeeze
- If you suspect the tick has been feeding on you for more than 24 hours consult your health care provider who may be able to provide you with a small dosage antibiotics to help ward off any development of Lyme Disease.



Schoolyard Habitat Update



School Yard Habitats: Baranoff Elementary School

Baranoff Elementary is a buzz with outdoor learning opportunities for their students. They have an outdoor classroom and deck with plans for an expansion and ADA accessibility in a shady courtyard of the campus. Across the street they have pollinator supported vegetable gardens taking advantage of all available space by the portables that are maintained by gardening club. Past the fields they have an old stock tank that is owned and maintained by AISD and is part of the Baranoff Nature Preserve. It is now a gorgeous native habitat and a great location for students to learn about the world around them. They plan to do some restoration work and maintenance in this wild space and welcome volunteers in the 2014-2015 school year.





Schoolyard Habitat Update



Schoolyard Habitat Success Depends on Volunteers Like You!
For upcoming volunteer opportunities, please contact:

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

Donations Needed!

Campuses are looking for donations of the following materials for fall workdays:

- Compost and/or soil
- Native seeds, plants, shrubs and trees
- Tools
- 4 inch pots
- Limestone blocks
- Cedar logs



Become a Habitat Steward!



Share your passion for wildlife and help to Keep Austin Wild!

The 2014 Wildlife Austin Habitat Stewards' Training registration is open! Become an important part of YOUR city's efforts to Keep Austin Wild! Austin is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country to receive the designation as a Community Wildlife Habitat™ by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). This success has been made possible by people like you, who have made the effort to create native wildscapes at their homes and in public places and to teach and assist others. That's what the Wildlife Austin Habitat Stewards' Training is all about. Becoming a Habitat Steward™ not only means that

You'll Learn About:

- How to Create Wildlife Friendly Habitats
- Native and Invasive Plants
- Landscape Design Principles
- Ways to Support Habitat in the Community
- Beneficial Insects
- Native and Local Wildlife
- Water conservation and riparian restoration



Habitat Stewards Receive:

- 25+ Hours of Intensive, Hands-On Training
- Engaging Field Trips and Habitat Activities
- A Comprehensive Training Manual with Local Resources
- Instruction from Local Conservation Professionals

An important part of becoming a Habitat Steward is giving back. We ask that each Steward commit to 30 hours of volunteer habitat work in the community within 1 year of graduating. The course fee is \$45 and covers the cost of materials.

To register please visit <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1616799-ry9nftdrmD>

For questions please call 512-978-2606 or e-mail us at wildlife@austintexas.gov.