September Conservation Round-Up

Highlighting conservation efforts & events from across the Lone Star State

CONSERVATION EVENTS

Trinity on the Trinity: 3 Days, 3 Rivers, One Big Adventure

Looking for an amazing Labor Day Weekend adventure that’s still close to home? Join us for 3 days of discovery, paddling on the Trinity River paddle trail. We will paddle a different tributary of the Trinity each day. Each segment will be about 5 to 6 miles in length and will be beginner friendly. You can choose to do one, two, or all three days. The folks who manage to paddle all three days will be rewarded with a prize at the picnic on Labor Day after the last paddle trip. A limited number of rental boats are available, or you can bring your own!

This event is designed to give even beginning paddlers a chance to discover the wonder of the riparian environment of the Trinity River and its hidden wild places while learning the importance of stewardship. Trinity Coalition is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.


Day 2  Sept 1 Main Stem Dallas. Launch at Moore Park launch. Takeout at Loop 12 boat ramp.

Day 3 Sept 2 West Fork Fort Worth. Launch and return at Fort Worth Nature Center Big River launch. Lunch to follow.

(We reserve the right to change the locations or cancel due to changes in weather or water levels)

Link:  https://www.facebook.com/events/1399892643486529/
      https://www.facebook.com/events/887659848265621/
      https://www.facebook.com/events/2296186393798772/

Location:  -4570 White Settlement Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76114-3810, United States
          -1900 E 8th St, Dallas, TX 75203, United States
          -Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, 9601 Fossil Ridge Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76135
Evening Birding Walk

The trees, grasses and plants at the Headwaters have attracted lots of new birds. Come enjoy the site in the evening hours, when the birds are active, to learn tips and tricks to spotting and identifying local birds.

Please wear comfortable closed toe walking shoes. If possible, bring your own binoculars. Headwaters at the Comal is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.

Link: https://www.headwatersatthecomal.com/event/09-05birdingwalk/

Location: 333 E. Klingemann St. New Braunfels, TX 78130 United States
Date: 9/5/2019
Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Cost: Free - $10

For all media inquiries:
Lauren Strack
Assistant Manager
lstrack@nbutexas.com
830-608-8937

Creature Feature

Join an Audubon educator for a live animal encounter. Audubon Texas is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.

Link: https://www.facebook.com/events/456244771886232/

Location: Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, 1206 W FM 1382, Cedar Hill, Texas 75104
Date: 9/7/2019
Time: 11:00 am - 11:30 am

For all media inquiries:
Katie Christman
Education Specialist
El Paso Water Treatment Plant Tour

Come join El Paso Water for a tour and learn about the history of the Robertson/Umbenhauer Water Treatment Plant - located in the historic Chihuahuita neighborhood. The plant treats water from the Rio Grande to drinking water standards and has been a vital part of EPWater’s successful water management strategy since 1943. El Paso Water is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.


Location: Chihuahuita neighborhood, 800 Canal Road
Date: 9/7/2019
Time: 9:00 am - 10:30 am

For all media inquiries:
Carlos A. Briano
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
cbriano@epwater.org
915-319-3284

Trinity Talks, featuring Dr. Gail Christopher

Trinity Park Conservancy, a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner, presents Trinity Talks, featuring Dr. Gail Christopher on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at Texas Theatre.

Join us for a presentation and discussion with Dr. Christopher about the positive impacts on health and wellness that natural spaces can provide, and the keys for addressing disparities in access to those spaces that exist between white communities and communities of color.

Dr. Gail C. Christopher is an award winning social change agent and former Senior Advisor and Vice President of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. She is the visionary for and architect of the WKKF led Truth Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) effort for America. Over the last ten years she has had responsibility for several other areas of foundation programming. These include, Food, Health and
Well-Being, Leadership, Public Policy, Community Engagement and place-based funding in New Orleans and New Mexico.

Trinity Talks is a free presentation series bringing national experts on parks, public health, and creating a more equitable and inclusive future to Dallas.

**Link:** [https://trinityparkconservancy.org/event-posts/trinity-talks-featuring-dr-gail-christopher/](https://trinityparkconservancy.org/event-posts/trinity-talks-featuring-dr-gail-christopher/)

**Location:** Texas Theatre, 231 W Jefferson Blvd, Dallas, TX 75208  
**Date:** 9/10/2019  
**Time:** 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
**Cost:** Free

**For all media inquiries:**  
Elizabeth Jones  
Marketing & Communications Associate  
elizabeth@trinityparkconservancy.org  
214.740.1616

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**Kayak Eco Tour**

Kayaking at Loyd Park. Audubon Texas is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.

**Link:** [https://www.facebook.com/events/649048808921084/](https://www.facebook.com/events/649048808921084/)

**Location:** Loyd Park at Joe Pool Lake, 3401 Ragland Rd, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052  
**Date:** 9/14/2019  
**Time:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Cost:** $40

**For all media inquiries:**  
Katie Christman  
Education Specialist  
kchristman@audubon.org  
469-526-1988

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**Elm Fork River Trip: Advanced Beginner**

This is a "bring your own boat" paddle trip down the Elm Fork of the Trinity River launching at Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area and paddling to the Bird's Fort takeout. A chance for mildly experienced paddlers to discover the natural beauty of the LLELA park and the north part of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Trinity Coalition is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.
Dos Rios Watershed Cleanup

The City of New Braunfels, with the help of local partners and sponsors, is hosting the 3rd Annual Dos Rios Watershed Clean-Up on Saturday, September 21st from 9 AM until noon. In case of inclement weather on September 21st, October 5th has been selected as a rain date for the event. This year the City of New Braunfels is partnering with Headwaters at the Comal, a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner. The Headwaters at the Comal grounds will be our morning meeting location, a clean-up location, and where everyone will meet for lunch once the clean-up has wrapped up.


John Bunker Sands Wetland Center Boardwalk Tour

What better way to enjoy the wetland than by getting into the wetland via our boardwalk. Join a Wetland Staff member for a guided walk and learn about the many cool things happening in the wetland. Learn about the mammals, birds, amphibian and plants that call the wetland their home. Wear a hat, bring some insect repellent and a water bottle, and you will be off for an adventure. No reservations required! Time: 10:00 – 11:30, Cost: Free with Admission. John Bunker Sands Wetland Center is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.

Link: [www.wetlandcenter.com](http://www.wetlandcenter.com)
**Trinity River Photography Walk**

Join us for monthly photography walks to discover scenic photo opportunities along the Trinity River! Saturday, September 21st we will explore Frasier Dam Recreation Area. Bring your camera and hiking shoes and explore the River with us!

Meet-up location: Frasier Dam Recreation Area, 9300 Stemmons Fwy, Dallas, TX 75247 (google maps link: https://goo.gl/maps/fDGrrVVbY3AFXdXr5)

This event is part of the 2019 Trinity River Photo Contest. At this event, you will meet the contest organizers and learn more about how to enter your photos for prizes in 2019. To learn more about the contest and submit your photos, click here. Trinity Park Conservancy is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.

**Link:** [https://trinityparkconservancy.org/event-posts/trinity-river-photography-walk-7/](https://trinityparkconservancy.org/event-posts/trinity-river-photography-walk-7/)

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**REI Wilderness First Aid**

John Bunker Sands Wetland Center, a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner, has partnered up with REI to provide you with a 2 day Wilderness First Aid Course (Saturday, September 21, 2019, 8:00 AM - Sunday, September 22, 2019, 5:00 PM). Whether spending time in the backcountry is your passion or your profession, you should never ask,
"What do I do now?" In this 2 day course you will learn skills and abilities to make sound decisions in emergency situations. From the Patient Assessment System through traumatic, medical, and environmental emergencies, you'll experience a wide variety of topics designed to prepare you to act if an accident occurs. This course is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts and individuals in remote locations. The course includes a 1-hr break. 16-17 year-olds must arrive with a completed Release of Liability form, but do NOT need an accompanying adult. Participants younger than 16 must contact NOLS (Wilderness.Medicine.Admissions@nols.edu). No prerequisites. Successful completion results in a Wilderness First Aid certification. You may be eligible to recertify your NOLS Wilderness Medicine Wilderness Advanced First Aid, Wilderness First Responder, or Wilderness EMT (wilderness portion only) certification on this course. Please review NOLS Wilderness Medicine recertification policies (https://www.nols.edu/en/courses/wilderness-medicine/recertify/) prior to registering. Cost: REI Member $245, Non-Member $275.


**Location:** 655 Martin Lane, Combine/Seagoville, TX 75159  
**Date:** 9/21/2019 - 9/22/2019  
**Time:** 9/21, 8:00 am - 9/22 5:00 pm  
**Cost:** REI Member $245, Non-Member $275

**For all media inquiries:**  
Renee Shippey  
REI Specialist  
shippey@rei.com

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**Native Plant Society of Texas San Antonio Monthly Meeting: Choosing and Maintaining Plants to Support Monarchs and other Butterflies**

Native Plant Society of Texas San Antonio Monthly Meeting: Choosing and Maintaining Plants to Support Monarchs and other Butterflies  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 24th 2019  
**Time:** 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm  
**Place:** Lions Field Adult Center 2809 Broadway (corner of Mulberry & Broadway by Brackenridge Park)  
**Presenter:** Fred Loxsom, Trinity University Emeritus Professor

The monarch butterfly is an iconic species that is probably the most commonly recognized member of the Lepidoptera. In San Antonio, we have a special relationship with monarch butterflies. We see the adults and larvae in the spring when the monarchs are heading north and then again in the fall when they are migrating back to Mexico. As native plant enthusiasts, we provide plants that support these charismatic members of the Nymphalidae family of butterflies when they are adults and also when they are in the caterpillar stage of their lifecycle. In this presentation, we will describe the life cycle of Monarchs, their migration process, and the environmental and agricultural changes that threaten the existence of these annual visitors. We will emphasize the plants that serve as larval hosts and those that sustain adult Monarchs. Since milkweeds are the most important larval host plant, we will describe in detail these native plants, their propagation, and their
availability at local nurseries. We will also include a brief description of plants to sustain other butterflies. In response to a newsletter request, we received many excellent images that will be used in this presentation; we are very grateful for this enthusiastic participation of NPSOT-SA members. Fred Loxsom is a retired professor of physics (not botany!), a former president of the chapter, and a certified graduate of NPSOT’s three excellent Native Landscape Certification Programs. He attended a NWF workshop - Monarch Train the Trainer - in February at the San Antonio Zoo and this talk is partially fulfilling his commitment to advocate for Monarchs. Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.

npsot_sanantonio@gmail.com

Link: https://npsot.org/wp/sanantonio/

Location: Lions Field Adult Center, 2809 Broadway (corner of Mulberry & Broadway by Brackenridge Park)
Date: 9/24/2019
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm

For all media inquiries:
Andrew Awalt
NPSOT-SA Publicity Chair
andrew.awalt@yahoo.com
325-716-8212

2019 Fall NPSOT-SA “Bexar Roots” Native Plant Sale

Our Fall Plant Sale is sponsored by the SA chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and SA Parks & Recreation Department and will be held at Phil Hardberger Park East (13203 Blanco Road) on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 9am-noon.

The sale plants and information tables will be at the north end of the parking lot in front of the restroom and office facilities.

Members of NPSOT and Hardberger Park Conservancy receive 10% discount. Join online or at the sale to take advantage of this discount!

Proceeds from our semi-annual sales fund the NPSOT-SA Chapter Grant Program, which supports various native plant-based projects throughout our community.

Over 100 species of Texas native perennial and annual plants, grasses, shrubs and trees to choose from, many not readily available in nurseries. Flowering plants are displayed by bloom color, shade/light preference, etc.

Plants for sun, shade and in between!
Our famous, wildly affordable prices:

One-gallon pots: $5–$8.

Four-inch pots: $2–$3.

Trees and shrubs in larger pots will be available.

Credit & debit cards – as well as cash and check – are accepted.

Lots of friendly folks to give you recommendations for your landscape type and cultivation advice.

The Balcones Chapter of Texas Invaders will provide information on non-native, invasive plants and the harm they cause.

Free landscape advice from the Native Landscape Certification Program.

Is my plant native? Bring a sample or picture to show a plant ID expert and find out.

The beauty of established native plants is that they do not require supplemental water, fertilizer or pesticides.

And. They. Are. Beautiful!

Get there when we open (but no sales before 9:00 am, please!) as our plants sell like hotcakes — organic mesquite flour pancakes, that is.

See you at the sale! Bring your friends! Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.

Link: https://npsot.org/wp/sanantonio/bexar-roots-sale-list/

Location: Phil Hardberger Park East (13203 Blanco Road)
Date: 9/28/2019
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

For all media inquiries:
Andrew Awalt
NPSOT-SA Publicity Chair
andrew.awalt@yahoo.com
325-716-8212
Volunteer Day at Fall Festival & Seedball Workshop

Join us on Saturday, September 28th anytime between 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM for a fun, family-friendly seedball making day in Harold Simmons Park at the City of Dallas’ Fall Festival! Meet us at the Felix H. Lozada, Sr. Gateway on the west side of the Ron Kirk Pedestrian Bridge to roll up some seedballs.

The Great Seed Bomb will be leading the Seedball Workshop where you can get your hands dirty and make native grass and wildflower seedballs that will be dispersed in different areas along the Trinity River Corridor. Sowing seedballs helps to reinforce habitats vital to the migration of monarchs, the well-being of bees, and adds beauty to our green spaces. Trinity Park Conservancy is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.

Link: https://trinityparkconservancy.org/event-posts/volunteer-day-at-fall-festival-seedball-workshop/

Location: Ronald Kirk Bridge and Felix H. Lozada, Sr. Gateway, 301 Canada Drive, Dallas, TX 75212
Date: 9/28/2019
Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Cost: Free

For all media inquiries:
Elizabeth Jones
Marketing & Communications Associate
elizabeth@trinityparkconservancy.org
214.740.1616

National Public Lands Day - Trinity River Clean-Up

Trinity Coalition is joining forces with REI and Groundwork Dallas to clean up the Elm Fork of the Trinity River in honor of National Public Lands Day! Bring your boats and gloves... we provide the trash bags and trash grabbers. This part of the river becomes the “flush zone” for the Elm Fork, yet it is home to a wide variety of birds, plants, and animals. Trinity Coalition is a Texan by Nature Conservation Partner.

Due to the nature of the trip, please do not bring children under the age of 12.
79th Annual Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) announced the opening of registration for the 79th Annual Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Directors. The annual meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio on October 28-30, 2019.

For all media inquiries:
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Public Affairs Specialist
mchristensen@tsswcb.texas.gov
254-228-7881

CONSERVATION NEWS

We’re serious about water

Since news broke about the contamination of lead and other pollutants in Flint, Michigan’s public drinking water in 2015, 63% of national consumers question the quality of their own drinking water, according to a 2017 Gallup poll. This is not the case in El Paso, with the vast majority agreeing that El Paso’s drinking water is safe, reliable and of good quality, according to the latest EPWater customer survey.

Link: https://epwater.org/about_us/newsroom/news_from_the_pipeline/we_re_serious_about_water
Ancient technology still at work today

Annual releases from Elephant Butte Reservoir into the Rio Grande are a large part of our water supply, and the length of the season is dictated by the amount of seasonal snowmelt runoff received. When the Rio Grande stopped flowing last fall, employees of the Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plant took advantage to do some major work to the four Archimedes screw pumps at the facility. "Archimedes screw pumps? As in, Archimedes, the famous Greek inventor, engineer and physicist?"

Link: [https://epwater.org/about_us/newsroom/news_from_the_pipeline/ancient_technology_still_at_work_today](https://epwater.org/about_us/newsroom/news_from_the_pipeline/ancient_technology_still_at_work_today)

Holistic Gardening Workshop

Learn the practice of “holistic gardening,” harnessing the power of gardening and nature to enhance the health, wellness and well-being of people and communities. Joseph Novak, Ph.D., shares techniques to create and sustain a flourishing food garden of fruits, vegetables and herbs. Understand how gardens function as complex ecosystems and how to create healthy soils and compost. Review organic and sustainable strategies to manage common plant problems. Hands-on activities include designing a food garden, propagating plants, identifying organisms and their impact, diagnosing plant problems and planting a container garden. This course is a fit for people interested in gardening at home or in a community or organizational setting such as a school or healthcare organization. Adaptations will be recommended for gardeners
of a wide range of ages and physical abilities. This course is primarily classroom-based with some demonstrations in the Rice University Betty and Jacob Friedman Holistic Garden.

Link: https://www.glasscock.rice.edu/areas-study/community-learning-engagement/science-technology-health-0

For all media inquiries:
Korin Brody
Asst. Director of Community Learning & Engagement
kbrody@rice.edu
713-348-3967

Urban Birding

Houston has been called “an urban birder’s paradise.” Most people are amazed to learn that they can see over a hundred species of beautiful birds in our city parks, neighborhoods and even perched among the buildings of our skyline. Our region lies within the flyway for birds that migrate from Central America, South America and Canada. Houston’s mild fall brings an opportunity to get outside and scout for peregrine falcons, American robins, red-tailed hawks, black-bellied whistling ducks, redhead ducks and more. Learn to identify birds and become familiar with the many birds that can be seen in our urban landscape. This course also includes a guided field trip to one or more urban birding hot spots, led by instructor Glenn Olsen.

Link: https://glasscockcatalog.rice.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseld=28563&ga=2.120249167.695577259.1567095726-342638214.1567095726

For all media inquiries:
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