

RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
University of Texas at El Paso



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FRIENDS OF THE RIO BOSQUE

Friends of the Rio Bosque, the volunteer support group for Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, has established its bylaws, elected its first set of officers, and is now actively seeking members. Want to help support Rio Bosque Wetlands Park? Use the application form below to join!



The new officers: Chuck Kooshian, president; Bill Brown, vice-president; Paul Cusumano, secretary; and Maria Trunk, treasurer. Congratulations, all! The group is discussing a variety of projects, including holding a community event at the Park this fall, starting

a long-term ecological monitoring program, increasing volunteer involvement in restoration work, providing benches along Park trails, and much more.

The Friends meet the 4th Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 411, Burges Hall, on the UTEP campus. Join us for the next meeting on **April 24**. To learn more: Chuck Kooshian (545-5214, mtandck@elp.rr.com) or John Sproul (747-8663).

Friends of the Rio Bosque MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Bosque Buddy \$4
 _____ (Age 12 and under)

Address: _____ Student \$8
 _____ Senior \$8
 _____ Individual \$10
 _____ Family \$15

Please make checks payable to *Friends of the Rio Bosque* and mail to: Maria Trunk, Treasurer, Friends of the Rio Bosque, 1100 Kelly Way, El Paso, TX 79902.



Girl Scouts planting fourwing saltbush; March 15, 2003

RESTORATION NOTES

In 2001 and 2002, we were fortunate to receive water at Rio Bosque in spring and summer, and the Park's vegetation responded dramatically. This year will be different. The Park has not received water since January 25 and likely won't until fall. In this

TOURS

Twice each month, UTEP offers free walking tours at the Park. Coming up:

9 a.m.-noon	Sat., April 5	Birds
4-6 p.m.	Sun., April 13	Introductory
4-6 p.m.	Sun., April 27	Introductory [special El Paso Heritage Week Festival tour]
4-6:30 p.m.	Sat., May 10	Birds
9-11 a.m.	Sun., May 18	Introductory
8-11 a.m.	Sun., June 8	Birds
9-11 a.m.	Sat., June 14	Introductory

The meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt.

water-short year, it is worth keeping in mind that, historically, periodic drying was a factor shaping natural wetland and riparian habitats in the El Paso region. This dry year, stressful as it may be, will also be part of the restoration process at the Park.

The absence of water does not mean our restoration activities have ground to a halt. We are trucking water to the site to maintain recent plantings. Removal of saltcedar continues. We're taking advantage of the dry conditions to perform maintenance on the water-delivery system. The processes that are gradually re-shaping Rio Bosque's ecosystems continue.

GRACIAS

We laugh in the face of adversity at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, and we did a lot of laughing on

GET INVOLVED!

Want to get directly involved in shaping the future of Rio Bosque? Upcoming community workdays at the Park are:

- 9 a.m.-noon, Sat., April 19
- 9 a.m.-noon, Sat., May 17
- 8 a.m.-11 a.m., Sat., June 21

The meeting location is the same as for the tours: the bridge crossing Riverside Canal.

Also, **Thursdays** are now volunteer days at the Park. Each Thursday, we work on projects needing volunteer help. Come any time; work as little or as long as you want. Call John Sproul (747-8663) for details.

February 8. For our annual Day at the Bosque event, we chose the coldest, least hospitable day in El Paso this past winter. Still, thanks to the organizational efforts of the Friends of the Rio Bosque; support from the City of El Paso, Socorro Independent School District, El Paso Zoo, El Paso Electric Co. and Epson El Paso; the active participation of many of our partners; and the expertise of our team of trailside experts; the event was enjoyable and educational for all who attended. Many thanks to all who helped make it possible.

Thanks also go to Epson El Paso and Prologis Trust for contributing 50 young fourwing saltbush for planting at the Park, to the Daisy Girl Scouts of Troop 88 who helped plant them, and to the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for planting 20 Rio Grande cottonwood poles at the Park this winter.

Finally, thanks are due the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society for its recent donation of funds raised through its 2001 and 2002 Birdathons. One of Rio Bosque's most consistent and dedicated partners, Audubon also provides important logistical support to the project and has been instrumental in steering other funding our way. ¡Gracias!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit us on the Web at:

<http://www.cerm.utep.edu/riobosque/>

Want to be added to the mailing list for this newsletter or ask a question about Rio Bosque? Contact:

John Sproul 915-747-8663 jsproul@utep.edu

Printing courtesy of Epson El Paso.