

RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
University of Texas at El Paso



No. 9

October 2003

DAY AT THE BOSQUE II

On **Sat., Nov. 1**, the Day at the Bosque is back, bigger and better than ever! During our event in February, cold weather hampered participation, and lack of water meant the Park was at less than its best. So, Friends of the Rio Bosque decided a move to the fall was in order. The weather should be better, the wetlands should be flooded, and waterbirds should be present in good numbers. All we need is you to make it a perfect day. The flyer enclosed with this newsletter has all the details. See you there!

DÍA DEL RÍO

Sat., Oct. 18, is the 9th annual Día del Río. Organized by the Rio Grande/Río Bravo Basin Coalition, this event celebrates our river, focuses attention on the critical state of its waters and wildlife, and demonstrates the commitment of citizens in the river basin to improving their quality of life. For our Día del Río project, we'll be working on Rio Bosque's trail system. Join us at 9 a.m. on Oct. 18 to celebrate Día del Río (see back)!

RESTORATION REPORT

After 6+ dry months, Rio Bosque received a welcome inflow of water from early August to early September. Though temporary, it came at a critical

time for the Park's desiccated vegetation. At this writing in late September, the Park is again dry but noticeably greener. With the irrigation season winding down, we hope to have water again soon.



Eagle Scout candidate Sean Gray (left) and colleagues auger post holes, Sept. 20, 2003.

GRACIAS

What are the main factors shaping the future of Rio Bosque Wetlands Park? Hard-working volunteers and broad community support. For their recent contributions, we extend thanks and appreciation to:

- Eagle Scout candidate **Sean Gray** and his fellow scouts in **Troop 59** for building a trailhead parking area at the Park's north end.

Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 E-mail: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Bosque Buddy (12 and under)	\$4
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$8
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (62+)	\$8
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Bosque Booster	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Cottonwood Commando	\$75-\$249
<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration Patron	\$250-\$499
<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands Society	\$500+

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.



Next Meetings

Thurs., Oct 23
 Thurs., Nov 20
 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 201 Burges Hall,
 UTEP
 Info: 915-545-5214

- **El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1** for making water available to the Park in late summer in this very dry year.
- The **Trans-Pecos Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists** and community-service workers from the **West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Dept.** for their work clearing tumbleweeds from our water channels in preparation for the return of water to the Park.
- **Lowe's** in west El Paso and its store manager Chris Zett and home & garden shop manager Suzan Anderson for donating tools for our volunteers.

WILDLIFE NOTES

Birds responded quickly to the water present at the Park in August and early September. Duck numbers, especially Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal, built up rapidly, as did White-faced Ibis and a variety of migrating shorebirds. When the water was again shut off, these birds moved on.

TOURS

Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

8-11 a.m.	Sat., Oct 11	Birds
9-11 a.m.	Sun., Oct 19	Introductory
3-5 p.m.	Sun., Nov 2	Birds
9-11 a.m.	Sun., Nov 16	Introductory
9 a.m.-noon	Sat., Dec 6	Birds
3-5 p.m.	Sun., Dec 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.

Fall migration also brought six birds not reported before at Rio Bosque. Five were warblers, all regular migrants in our region and expected: Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and MacGillivray's Warbler. The sixth was totally unexpected: an out-of-range **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** on Sept. 18. This sextet raised the bird list for the Park to 203 species.

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.

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., Oct 18 (Día del Río)
- 9 a.m.-noon, Sat., Nov 15
- No workday in December

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

Also, **Thursdays** are 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.