

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. 14

January 2005

NEW EDUCATION BROCHURES

Through an Urban Forestry Partnership Grant from the Texas Forest Service, the Friends of the Rio Bosque have prepared a wonderful new series of educational brochures on different aspects of the natural history of Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. The subjects:

- Trees
- Plants
- Arthropods
- Birds
- Mammals
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- What is a Bosque?
- Rio Bosque: Just Add Water
- Exploring the Rio Bosque: A Guide for Young Naturalists

David Nakabayashi designed the brochures and did the artwork. Maria Trunk was the principal author, with Mike Ross (Reptiles and Amphibians) and John Sproul (Birds) contributing. Alejandro Juárez-Reina is preparing the Spanish translations. Epon El Paso is doing the printing. The Trees brochure is available now. The others will be coming off the presses soon. Look for them at the visitor center when you visit the Park. We sincerely thank the Texas Forest Service for making this project possible. ✂

WILDLIFE NOTES

Since December 17, the Park has been receiving all of the treated effluent from the adjacent Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant. The wet-



Wetland Cell 2, Jan. 10, 2005

land cells are completely flooded. Wintering waterfowl are taking full advantage of the habitat provided, though numbers (1000-2000) are down somewhat compared to other years. Diving ducks, never common at the Park, have been almost completely absent.

Fall brought sightings of two new vertebrate species at the Park: long-tailed weasel and Long-eared Owl. Both were expected. The Park supports good populations of some of the weasel's favored prey items: spotted ground squirrel, hispid cotton rat, pocket gopher. Long-eared Owls, rare in winter in the El Paso area, sometimes roost in saltcedar thickets, of



Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bosque Buddy (12 and under) \$4 <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$8 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (62+) \$8
Address: _____ _____	<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+
E-mail: _____	

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., Jan 27
Thurs., Feb 24
Thurs., Mar 24
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
411 Burges Hall
UTEP
Info: 915-545-5214

which we have a few. We observed the weasel on two dates in October and the owl on December 6. The mammal list for the Park now stands at 18, the bird list at 206. ✂

ECOLOGICAL MONITORING

The Friends of the Rio Bosque continue to work on establishing a long-term ecological monitoring program for the Park. In this endeavor, they are partnering with the UTEP student group Environmental Advocates (EA). Do you want to help monitor vegetation, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates at Rio Bosque? Please contact Maria Trunk with the Friends (545-5214, mtandck@elp.rr.com) or Joel Reyes with EA (747-5501, joereyes@utep.edu). ✂

FRIENDS OF THE RIO BOSQUE

The Friends of the Rio Bosque are on a roll. In addition to their work on the educational brochures and the ecological monitoring program, the Friends

TOURS

Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

<u>Introductory</u>	<u>Birds</u>
Sun., Jan 16 (3 pm)	Sat., Jan 8 (3 pm)
Sun., Feb 20 (3 pm)	Sat., Feb 12 (9 am)
Sat., Mar 26 (9 am)	Sun., Mar 6 (3 pm)

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.

have recently installed a gate (donated by El Paso Electric Co.) at the Park's north entrance, cleared massive quantities of tumbleweeds from the area around the visitor center, secured funding for a weather station for the visitor center, and continued to assist with restoration work at the Park.

The Friends of the Rio Bosque are making vital contributions to the success of Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. If you are a member, dues for 2005 are now due. Please use the form on the other side of this newsletter to submit your dues. Not a member? Now would be a great time to join. ✂

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

[Note: Due to technical difficulties, we've been unable to update this website since mid-November.]

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

Printing courtesy of Epson El Paso.

COMMUNITY WORKDAYS

Upcoming community workdays at the Park:

Sat., Jan 15 Sat., Feb 19 Sat., Mar 19

We start at 9 a.m. The meeting place is the same as for the tours: the bridge crossing Riverside Canal.

Also, 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.