

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. 17

October 2005

NATURE DAYS AT RIO BOSQUE

Rio Bosque was a lively place this summer, thanks to the UTEP student group Environmental Advocates and the Nature Days Summer Earth Science Camp.

Nature Days was a summer science-enrichment program administered by the El Paso Independent School District in cooperation with the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Governor's Office. Each week, a different group of 40-60 kids, ages 8-14, from Housing Authority developments in El Paso visited sites throughout our region offering a range of science-education experiences.

On Thursday mornings, the kids were at Rio Bosque. The Environmental Advocates had stations set up along the Bosque Trail, where they introduced the students to principles of hydrology and to the plants and animals of the Park as the students explored the natural world of Rio Bosque.

The Environmental Advocates, with help from members of the Friends of the Rio Bosque and Texas Master Naturalists, did an excellent job. The summer campers gained a better understanding of natural systems and had a great time in the process. Nature Days showed once again the uniqueness and value of Rio Bosque as an educational resource. ✂



Nature Days participants study insects at the Park.

WATER NEWS

Last winter, water deliveries to Rio Bosque ended February 28. The Park was dry throughout this past spring and summer.

Over the years, one of the Park's more persistent problems has been leaky water-control gates that limit our ability to hold water in the wetland cells under low-flow conditions. This summer, with the Park dry, the Friends of the Rio Bosque sent in their elite sandblasting-and-painting team, led by Sal Quintanilla, to renovate the gates and improve their performance. Were they successful? At this writing in mid-September, we're

Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: _____	___ Bosque Buddy (12 and under)	\$4
Address: _____	___ Student	\$8
_____	___ Senior (62+)	\$8
_____	___ Individual	\$10
E-mail: _____	___ Family	\$15
	___ Bosque Booster	\$50
	___ Cottonwood Commando	\$75-\$249
	___ Restoration Patron	\$250-\$499
	___ 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 27

Thurs., Nov 17

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

411 Burges Hall
UTEP

Info: 915-545-5214

anxiously awaiting the first water deliveries to find out. ✕

WILDLIFE NOTES

Bell's Vireo and **Lucy's Warbler** are two neotropical migratory bird species whose declining populations are of conservation concern. Both nest along the Rio Grande in Hudspeth County but have largely disappeared from the El Paso area due to habitat loss. In the Southwest, both are often associated with mesquite-dominated riparian areas, one of the habitats we are working to establish at the Park. This year, for the first time, Bell's Vireos were at Rio Bosque throughout the summer, and in August we had our first-ever visits from Lucy's Warblers. Their presence was another encouraging sign that habitat-restoration efforts at Rio Bosque are bearing fruit. Both species were using the dense tornillo stands on the east side of the Park, next to the Riverside Canal. ✕

GRACIAS

Sincere thanks and appreciation go to:

- The **International Boundary and Water Commission** for getting the English-language versions of our new educational brochures printed.
- The **Friends of the Rio Bosque** for securing the simple, easy-to-remember domain name now linked to the Park website (see next column).
- The students from **Del Valle** and **Riverside high schools** who took part in the Gift to the River clean-up at the Park on Sept. 17.
- The City of El Paso's **Street Department** for the entrance signs soon to be installed at 2 trailheads.
- UTEP's **Environmental Advocates** for their

generous contribution to the Friends of the Rio Bosque. ✕

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.riobosque.org>

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Want to help us save postage and paper by only receiving this newsletter via e-mail? Let John know.

Printing courtesy of Epson El Paso.

RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

Join us at the Park for a free walking tour or to help with habitat management, Park maintenance or faunal monitoring. Coming up:

OCTOBER

Sat., Oct 8	Bird Tour	9 a.m.
Sat., Oct 15	Community Workday	9 a.m.
Sat., Oct 22	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.m.
Sun., Oct 23	Introductory Tour	9 a.m.

NOVEMBER

Sun., Nov 6	Bird Tour	3 p.m.
Sat., Nov 19	Community Workday	9 a.m.
Sun., Nov 20	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec 3	Bird Tour	9 a.m.
Sun., Dec 11	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.

The meeting place for all of these activities 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.