

# 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. 19

April 2006

## BOSQUE IN BLOOM

Please join us at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park on **Sunday, April 23** for **Bosque in Bloom**, a celebration of the fantastic display of wildflowers we enjoy at the Park each spring. The event, sponsored by the Friends of the Rio Bosque, takes place from **1 p.m. to 5 p.m.** We'll set up at a spot where the wildflower display is at its best. Enjoy free hot dogs and hamburgers from the grill while they last. There will be bird, butterfly, wildflower and wildlife-tracking tours for the whole family. The bitterweed (*Hymenoxys odorata*) that carpets large areas of the Park each spring is now starting to bloom. By April 23, it should be at its peak. Come on down! ✂

## WATER NEWS

Water deliveries to Rio Bosque Wetlands Park ended February 14. We are now well into our dry season. Rio Bosque's biggest management challenge continues to be lack of water in spring and summer. For the past 3 years the Park has been largely dry during these seasons. As a result, it currently supports no wetland plant communities, and riparian communities are limited.

Conditions may soon improve. In March, UTEP was selected to receive a North American Wetlands



In 2005, Painted Buntings returned to the Park on May 6. What will their 2006 arrival date be?

Conservation Act small grant that will enable us to move forward with a project to install a water-supply well. Thanks go to our partners in the project – the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, Western Dewatering and El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society – for coming together to make this project possible. Once in place and operating, the well will provide an insurance policy for those times when no other water is available to the Park. We'll be able to provide water at least intermittently to establish and maintain native wetland and riparian habitats. ✂



### Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name:	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bosque Buddy (12 and under)	\$4
Address:	_____	<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
E-mail:	_____	<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., Apr 27  
Thurs., May 25  
Thurs., Jun 22

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
411 Burges Hall  
UTEP

Info: 915-545-5214

## BOSQUE BANTER

In April, **KDBC-TV** will run a 30-second "4 Your Community" spot on Rio Bosque Wetlands Park throughout the month. Be sure to look for it. We thank KDBC for this excellent publicity.

On the wildlife front, the male **Eurasian Wigeon** that arrived at the Park in November stayed through February 16.

Rio Bosque has long been a Mourning Dove stronghold. **White-winged Doves**, despite big increases in the El Paso area over the past 2 decades, have remained uncommon at the Park, and we have no records of them nesting. Until this year. In March, an active nest was in saltcedar just off the Bosque Trail.

Speaking of **saltcedar**, more areas of the Park are now saltcedar free thanks to recent work by youths referred to the El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department and students from El Paso Community College and the University of Phoenix.

Congratulations are in order for **Juliette Vallender**, newly-elected president of the Friends of the Rio Bosque. And thanks are in order for **Sal Quintanilla**, president in 2004-2005 and a tireless advocate for the Park.

In March, the Friends resumed their monthly **faunal monitoring** activities. Want to learn more about the invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals that use the Park? Check the calendar on this page for upcoming sessions. ✕

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.riobosque.org>

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

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### 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:

#### **APRIL**

Sat., Apr 8	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Apr 15	Community Workday	8 a.m.
Sat., Apr 22	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.m.
Sun., Apr 23	Bosque in Bloom	(see front)

#### **MAY**

Sun., May 7	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., May 20	Community Workday	8 a.m.
Sat., May 27	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.m.
Sun., May 27	Introductory Tour	9 a.m.

#### **JUNE**

Sun., Jun 4	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Jun 10	Introductory Tour	9 a.m.
Sat., Jun 17	Community Workday	8 a.m.
Sat., Jun 24	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.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.

