

# 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. 20

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## RESEARCH AT RIO BOSQUE

No, we're not subdividing and developing Rio Bosque. Those clusters of plastic pipes sticking out of the ground and the stakes and flagging at various locations are all connected with research UTEP faculty and students currently are conducting at the Park. Now in progress:

- Geological Sciences grad student Salma Khatun is investigating how saltcedar affects soil characteristics and structure.
- Biological Sciences grad student Ursula Sherrill is studying litter decomposition rates and bacterial community composition beneath stands of native (seepweed) and exotic (Russian thistle) early-successional vegetation.
- Drs. Vanessa Lougheed and Craig Tweedie in Biological Sciences and Rip Langford in Geological Sciences are conducting studies that will culminate in a comprehensive water budget for the Park and an interactive model capable of assessing how changes in management practices affect that budget.

Rio Bosque has great value as a research site, and that research helps us do a better job caring for the Park. By strengthening our understanding of the Park's ecosystems, it improves our ability to integrate our habitat-restoration activities with natural ecological processes. ✂



Bosque in Bloom participants enjoy the bitterweed display on April 23 (Carlos Humphreys photo)

## BOSQUE IN BLOOM

Our first Bosque in Bloom event on April 23 was a great success! The bitterweed was in full flower, the activities were educational and entertaining, the chef grilled up a storm, and many El Pasoans were introduced to the uniqueness of Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. The Friends of the Rio Bosque did a great job planning and staging the event. Thanks go to the Friends and also to the City of El Paso's Parks and Recreation Dept., Albertson's, El Paso Electric, Epsom El Paso, KDBC Channel 4, and UTEP's Environmental Advocates for their contributions. ✂



### 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
E-mail:	_____	<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., July 27  
Thurs., Aug 24  
Thurs., Sep 28

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

Info: 915-545-5214

## BOSQUE BANTER

June was a good month for Eagle Scout service projects at Rio Bosque. On June 10, **Bryan Ochoa** and fellow scouts in Troop 2 installed benches along the Bosque Trail. On June 17 and 24, **Benton Leachman** and Troop 59 installed an interpretive-display panel next to Wetland Cell 2 and Wood Duck nest boxes at suitable locations in the Park. Thank you, Bryan, Benton and all your co-workers for jobs well done!

Thanks are also due:

- Chapin High School science teacher **Tim Dillon** and the students from **Chapin** and **Hanks high schools** who started a new native grass plot near the Park's visitor center.
- The **Wal-Mart Foundation** for its recent \$1,000 contribution to the Park, and Friends of the Rio Bosque President **Juliette Vallender** for her work making this contribution possible.

The Park is dry again this summer. Still, the cottonwoods started as pole plantings in 2003 and 2004 continue to hold their own, thanks to weekly waterings with the Friends of the Rio Bosque water trailer. **Eric Walker** deserves special recognition for his steady work on this task.

May brought 2 bird species new to the Park: **Gray Flycatcher** and **Hepatic Tanager**.

The monthly **faunal monitoring** activities of the Friends of the Rio Bosque are now in full swing. Want to learn more about the invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals of 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:

#### JULY

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

#### AUGUST

Sun., Aug 6	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Aug 19	Community Workday	8 a.m.
Sun., Aug 20	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Aug 26	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.m.

#### SEPTEMBER

Sat., Sep 2	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Sep 9	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Sep 16	Community Workday	8 a.m.
Sat., Sep 23	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.

