

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. 39

April 2011

CHAPIN H.S. DIGS RIO BOSQUE

It's a Rio Bosque tradition. On March 24, environmental science students from Chapin High School were back for the 6th consecutive year to plant native shrubs and grasses grown from seed in their classroom. Included were many seedlings of two native river-valley shrubs – wolfberry and seep-willow – started from seeds collected at the park last year.

Each year, the Chapin students work along a different section of the old bend of the Rio Grande that winds through the park. Each year, they help establish clusters of desired native vegetation from which the species they plant can spread over time. When you walk the Bosque Trail, for example, and admire the concentration of wolfberry shrubs just downstream of the trail's first footbridge, you are admiring the handiwork of Chapin students in 2008. Thank you, Chapin High School, for another important contribution to the restoration of native plant communities at Rio Bosque! ✂

RIVERSIDE CANAL PROJECT

With the 2011 irrigation season now underway, El Paso County Water Improvement District No.1 (El Paso No. 1) has paused in its ongoing work to



Chapin High School students plant wolfberry, seep-willow and grasses at Rio Bosque, March 24, 2011.

concrete line the Riverside Canal next to the park. Work completed this past fall and winter included replacement of the Wasteway One Check Structure downstream of the park and concrete lining the segment of the canal that borders the park's south boundary. You can [track construction progress](#) for this project on the Rio Bosque website. The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission funded the work this past fall and winter with money Congress appropriated to it under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. ✂

Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

- Bosque Buddy (12 and under)\$6
- Student or Senior (62+)..... \$10
- Individual \$15
- Family \$20
- Bosque Booster \$50
- Cottonwood Commando \$75-\$249
- Restoration Patron \$250-\$499
- Wetlands Society \$500-\$999
- Life Member \$1,000

Please make checks payable to *Friends of the Rio Bosque* and mail to: Friends of the Rio Bosque, CERM-UTEP, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968-0684.



Next Meetings

Thurs., Apr 21

Thurs., May 26

Thurs., Jun 23

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

209-A Burges Hall
UTEP

Info: 915-747-8663

WATER NEWS

After going dry in mid-January, Rio Bosque received water for 2 days in early February and 10 days in late February-early March. Thanks go to El Paso No. 1 and El Paso Water Utilities for making this water available. The water from the second delivery period completely flooded the park's wetland cells and triggered a brief upsurge in waterbird numbers. Since mid-March Rio Bosque has been dry, except for a 0.5-mile segment of the old river bend within the park we've kept wet with water from our well. The annual ritual of hauling water throughout spring and summer to thirsty trees and other recent plantings has resumed. ✂

BOSQUE BANTER

Birds of prey continue to be prominent at Rio Bosque. Once again this year, two pairs of **White-tailed Kites** are nesting. Two groups of **Harris's Hawks** also have active nests. And on March 26, we were surprised to see a **Zone-tailed Hawk** soaring overhead, only the second seen at the park and the first since 2001.

Be sure to visit [Rio Bosque's redesigned website](#). Thanks go to UTEP students Arlette Bujanda and Lorena Mondragon for their excellent work, done as part of a larger makeover of the site for UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management.

On May 18, a new exhibit will open at UTEP's [Centennial Museum](#): "A River Interrupted: Making the Case for Changing How We Manage the Rio Grande." The exhibit, including a section on Rio Bosque, will run through Dec 23. Check it out! ✂

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.riobosque.org

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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 2	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Apr 16	Community Workday	8 a.m.
Sat., Apr 23	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.m.
Sat., Apr 30	Wildflower Tour	4 p.m.

MAY

Sat., May 7	Wildflower Tour	4 p.m.
Sun., May 15	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., May 21	Community Workday	8 a.m.
Sat., May 28	Faunal Monitoring	7 a.m.

JUNE

Sun., Jun 5	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Jun 11	Bird Tour	7 a.m.
Sat., Jun 18	Community Workday	8 a.m.
Sat., Jun 25	Faunal Monitoring	7 a.m.

Meeting place for all activities is a bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. 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.

Return Service Requested

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