

RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
The University of Texas at El Paso



No. 58

July 2016

BOSQUE IN BLOOM A SUCCESS

Thanks to pleasant weather, enthusiastic visitors, a park coming to life in spring, and the help of many individuals and organizations, our Bosque in Bloom event on April 17 was a great success. Kudos go to:

- the Friends of the Rio Bosque – especially stalwarts Sylvia Price, Bill Hoover and Judy Ackerman – for planning and organizing the event;
- El Paso Water Utilities, the City of El Paso and UTEP for their help and support in making it all possible;
- our many partner organizations and friends who were represented through exhibits, performances and presentations;
- our speakers and field-trip leaders; and
- all the volunteers whose hard work made the day smooth, trouble-free and most enjoyable! ✂

JUST ADD WATER

On May 1, water deliveries to Rio Bosque resumed via the pipeline from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant to the park. Water birds responded immediately. By mid-morning, the newly flooded areas in the wetland cells held a nice mix of ducks, wading birds and shore birds.

The following weeks brought many surprises. On



This Tricolored Heron, found May 10 and still present July 1, was Rio Bosque's first since 2002. Photo May 15.

May 10, a Tricolored Heron appeared, the park's first since 2002. Also that day, 80 Willets, a large migratory shorebird, graced Wetland Cell 1. The next day, most of them were gone, replaced by 20 American White Pelicans that visited briefly. Then, on May 14, a Snowy Plover appeared, the park's 2nd ever and 1st since 2000. These welcome visitors all brought home the important role wetlands at Rio Bosque play as stopover habitat for migrating water birds. One final highlight: on April 30, Rio Bosque's first-ever Virginia Rail was along the old bend of the Rio Grande that winds through the park. ✂

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., July 28
Thurs., Aug 25
Thurs., Sep 22
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
206 Kelly Hall
UTEP
Info: 915-747-8663

SHOCKING SETBACK

On June 2, lightning struck the visitor center at Rio Bosque. The most direct damage was to the weather station perched atop the highest point of the structure. But the electrical damage didn't stop there. Also knocked out were the controls at the visitor center for the park's nearby well. Since it began operation in May 2014, this well has been a key source of water in spring and summer for the downstream portion of the former bend of the Rio Grande that winds through the park. With the well shut down, 2,000 feet of channel quickly went dry. Cattails, coyote willows and more began to wither. We're now trucking water to the cottonwoods in this stretch to offset the sudden lack of water. We hope to have the well back online as soon as possible. ✂

RIO BOSQUE GIFT FUND

Operation of Rio Bosque's two electric-powered wells continues to be by far the largest operating expense at the park. Even before lightning shut down one of the wells, we were reducing their use to stretch limited operating funds. We rely on UTEP's Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Gift Fund to cover the costs of operating these wells. If you want to help ensure their operation when most needed, consider a tax-deductible contribution to the Gift Fund. You can [donate online](#) or send a check, payable to UTEP, to: Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, CERM – UTEP, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968-0684. Please note on the check that your donation is for the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Gift Fund. Many thanks for any support you can provide. ✂



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Return Service Requested

RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

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

JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
9 (Sat.)	Bird Tour	7 a.m.	14 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.	3 (Sat.)	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
16 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.	20 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.	17 (Sat.)	Workday	8 a.m.
17 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	8 a.m.	27 (Sat.)	Faunal Monitoring	7 a.m.	24 (Sat.)	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.m.
23 (Sat.)	Faunal Monitoring	7 a.m.	28 (Sun.)	Bird Tour	8 a.m.	25 (Sun.)	Introductory Tour	8 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.riobosque.org

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