

# 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. 78

April 2022

## REMEMBERING SAL QUINTANILLA

With the passing of Sal Quintanilla on April 3, Rio Bosque lost one of its great champions. Back in September 2000, Sal visited the park, saw some work taking place and offered to help out. He never stopped.

One of the founding members of the Friends of the Rio Bosque, Sal was the organization's president in 2004-05 and 2010-13 and vice-president in 2006-09 and 2014-15.

From trail building, to tree planting, to representing the park at community events, to maintaining and repairing equipment and facilities, to faunal monitoring, to removing exotic vegetation, to educational presentations in classrooms and at the park, Sal Quintanilla was instrumental in helping make the park what it is today. He was a peerless spokesperson and advocate for Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. He shared his enthusiasm for the park with one and all.

On **Sat., May 28**, starting at **9 a.m.**, the Quintanilla family will host a celebration of Sal's life at the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park visitor center. Join us to honor and remember a remarkable and unforgettable Friend of the Rio Bosque. ✈



The Art+Bio Collaborative's Rio Bosque mural now graces the southeast wall of the park's visitor center. (Photo: March 14, 2022)

## ART IN THE PARK

Once a magnet for graffiti, the southeast wall of the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park visitor center now boasts a vibrant mural celebrating biodiversity in the river valley in the Paso del Norte region. It was the work of the [ART+BIO Collaborative](#), an artist- and scientist-led nonprofit based in Cambridge, Massachusetts that fosters integration of science, nature, and art through novel collaborations, public engagement, education and research. The South-west figures prominently in its work –



### Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Wed., Apr 27  
Wed., May 25  
Wed, June 22  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
206 Kelly Hall  
UTEP

Info: 915-747-8663

not a complete surprise, since its co-founders are from El Paso.

In March, the Collaborative brought a group of artists and scientists to El Paso for desert explorations and outreach...and to create a mural at Rio Bosque. The work began March 8 and was completed March 12 during a festive celebration at the park launching the the Collaborative's new initiative to create science murals in El Paso. It is off to a great start! ✂

## (LACK OF) WATER NEWS

At Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, February through April is typically a dry season, when the park's only water comes from its wells. In 2015, El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 (EP#1) and El Paso Water (EPWater) entered into a Memorandum of

Understanding under which EPWater may deliver water from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant to Rio Bosque during the 5 months from May through September. Each year since, we've eagerly awaited the arrival of May 1 and the return of water deliveries to the park.

This year, though, the dry conditions will extend later, possibly into early June. Due to several factors reducing water availability this year, EP#1 will take all of the treated wastewater from the plant in May.

Winter water deliveries from the Bustamante Plant to the park ended this year on Feb 14. Since then, the park's wells put some water in the re-built former bend of the Rio Grande that winds through the park, but the wetland cells and large segments of the old river channel are dry...and will stay dry for at least another month. ✂



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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 or park maintenance. Coming up:

| <b>APRIL</b> |                             | <b>MAY</b> |                          | <b>JUNE</b> |                          |
|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 9 (Sat.)     | Introductory Tour 4:30 p.m. | 14 (Sat.)  | Birding Tour 7 a.m.      | 4 (Sat.)    | Introductory Tour 8 a.m. |
| 16 (Sat.)    | Workday 8 a.m.              | 21 (Sat.)  | Workday 8 a.m.           | 18 (Sat.)   | Workday 8 a.m.           |
| 24 (Sun.)    | Birding Tour 8 a.m.         | 22 (Sun.)  | Introductory Tour 8 a.m. | 25 (Sat.)   | Birding Tour 6:30 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](http://www.riobosque.org)

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