



December 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to the Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas (FOSANA) e-newsletter! We share natural areas news, the Friends' efforts, and opportunities to get involved in volunteering or educational programs at San Antonio's natural areas parks. Going forward, we aim to bring you this newsletter monthly in 2017. Please check our website, www.fosana.org, for periodic updates and program information.

Fall Colors in Parks

With the shorter and cooler days, the deciduous trees and shrubs in local parks have a colorful display. Look for some of these shrubs and trees on your next visit to one of our parks.



The [possumhaw](#) or *Ilex decidua* has small red berries that are eaten by songbirds and mammals while the shrubs or trees provide a nesting site for birds.



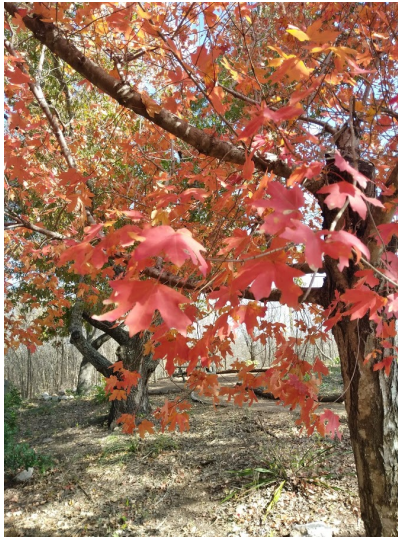
Fragrant Sumac or *Rhus aromatica*, is a member of the Anacardiaceae plant family. The berries of this shrub are an important [food source](#) for many birds and small mammals.



Be sure to look out for [poison ivy](#) that is easier to see as the leaves turn color.



Red Oak, *Quercus buckleyi*



Big Tooth or Uvalde Maple, *Acer grandidentatum*
All photos courtesy of Thomas S. Paine

Upcoming Natural Areas Events

- **Starting Out Wild: Deer, Oh Deer** (ages 1-3)
 - 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. | Friday, December 1 & 15 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
 - Learn all about deer and their habitat through stories, songs, and hands-on fun! These high energy, engaging programs are a perfect way to foster an appreciation of the natural world. It is recommended that a child be walking and a parent or caretaker attend with each child. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, \$6 per family.. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.
- **First Saturday Hike: Holiday Hike** (recommended: ages 6 & up)
 - 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. | Sunday, December 2 | Friedrich Wilderness Park
 - Experience new colors during the winter months as you hike along Main Loop trail. From the evergreen sumac and mistletoe to the showy red displays of the possumhaw and Texas red oaks—enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the winter holidays. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.
 - RSVP required. Visit fosana.org to reserve your spot.
- **Second Saturday: All About Bats** (recommended: ages 5 & up)
 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Saturday, December 9 | Friedrich Wilderness Park
 - Did you know Mexican free-tailed bats can consume half its body weight in insects each night? Nyta Brown from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will share interesting facts about these nocturnal creatures and their importance to the environment. Following the talk will be a hands-on bat house building activity.
- **Growing Up Wild: Looking at Leaves** (ages 4-7)
 - 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Thursday, December 14 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
 - Observe leaves up close and discover the many different trees we have in the Natural Areas! Growing Up Wild builds on a child's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Activities are designed to provide an early foundation and appreciation of nature. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.
- **First Saturday Hike: Winter Fitness Hike** (recommended ages: 10 & up)
 - 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Saturday, January 6 | Friedrich Wilderness Park
 - Feel the calming effect of nature with a two-hour fitness hike along Main Loop and Vista Loop trails at Friedrich Wilderness Park. This hike will cover approximately 2 miles of picturesque trails across canyon tops and through meadows and woodlands. Be sure to bring adequate water! Celebrate America Recycles Day! ! (all ages). Reservation

required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.

- **Vermicomposting for Beginners** (recommended ages: 6 & up)
 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Saturday, January 13 | Friedrich Wilderness Park (ages 6 & up)
 - Learn how you can recycle your kitchen scraps into excellent soil for your plants—Mother Nature's perfect recycling plan! Learn how to train your very own "red wigglers" to do the work and create a bucket worm bin system suitable for indoor use. Fee covers all supplies, including red wiggler worms and bins. Only one registration/set of materials per family. Visit fosana.org to reserve your spot. Star Party at Eisenhower Park!

Are you connected to San Antonio Natural Areas on social media?

You can like us on [Facebook](#).

Find us on [Instagram](#) @sanaturalareas.

Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas is dedicated to promoting stewardship of San Antonio's Natural Areas, and to the understanding and appreciation of nature through educational and scientific programs.

For the latest updates and more activities, please see the calendar on the FOSANA website.

[Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas Website](#)
