



## May 2017 Newsletter

*Welcome to the Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas (FSANA) 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 quarterly in 2017, at minimum. Please check our website, [www.fosana.org](http://www.fosana.org), for periodic updates.*

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### **Support FSANA on May 4th - Big Give SA**

As members and Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas, we know that you care about the continued sustenance of our parks and Natural Area parks. On May 4, we ask that you join our community's day of giving to raise funds to support the San Antonio Natural Areas. In particular, we would appreciate if you would...DONATE! On May 4, just head to the FSANA [BigGive](#) page and make a donation, because the Natural Areas are important to you.



*What are some other ways you can help support FSANA on our community day of giving?*

- ASK your friends and family who enjoy and appreciate the parks to support environmental education, stewardship, and preservation by making a donation.
- CREATE momentum on May 4 and share the FSANA [BigGive](#) page on social media and tell your community about why the Natural Areas are important to you.
- ACQUIRE sponsors for matching gifts or incentives. The Big Give is a great opportunity to entice donors to have a greater impact on our organization by offering matching donations! Having some extra funds for the Big Give to use as incentives for donors can really motivate them to participate, therefore making a greater impact.

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### **Natural Areas Stewardship Update**

This time of year you may notice galls on any number of different plants and on any part of the plant (leaves, twigs, even roots). Galls vary in size, shape, color, even texture (see pictures below, or do an internet search on "insect galls" and you will find all kinds of great pictures). While galls may look different,

they are all the same in that they are composed entirely of plant tissue. The gall you see is formed when “the adult female of the gall-making creature selects a plant during the spring or early summer while the plant is still actively growing and inserts her ovipositor (egg-laying organ) into a tender growing part. When she deposits her egg or eggs, she also injects a chemical that causes the gall to begin forming. When the egg hatches, the larva continues to release a chemical that keeps the gall growing to match the size of the larva” ([source](#)).

According to Texas Parks & Wildlife, “there are two main types of galls—closed and open. Insects such as wasps, moths, and flies, which have chewing mouthparts in their adult or larval stages, are usually found in completely closed galls. When the time arrives to emerge, the adult chews its way out or exits through an opening made by the larval stage. Insects with sucking mouthparts must use partially open galls or galls that open for them when it is time to emerge.” The parsimony of nature is truly a remarkable thing. Even after the gall insect emerges, the empty gall provides refuge to other insects. For example, the cavity in the goldenrod gall is used as a nursery by a species of wasp, the female of which lays her egg in the gall, puts food in it, and plugs the old exit hole with a mud stopper ([source](#))!



#### *Volunteering Opportunities*

Simplicity, diversity, adaptability—all enviable characteristics of our natural world. You can witness these traits and provide meaningful service by volunteering with the City of San Antonio’s Natural Areas. In May we will work at various City of San Antonio Natural Areas in the northwest part of San Antonio. You must make a reservation for each work day by e-mailing Jayne Neal at [jayne.neal@sanantonio.gov](mailto:jayne.neal@sanantonio.gov). Jayne will confirm your reservation and give you directions to the specific site and the designated parking area. Work sites will not typically have access to water or restrooms.

- May 4, 11, 25, 2017, 8 – 11:30 am, Location to be determined.
- To reserve a spot, you must contact Jayne Neal at e-mail above.

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### **Upcoming Natural Areas Events**

- **First Sundays: Tai Chi in the Natural Areas**
  - 9-10 a.m. | Sundays, May 7, June 4 | Friedrich Wilderness Park
  - Take a break from your busy week and center yourself with Tai Chi classes at Friedrich Wilderness Park. Each class provides an introduction to the practice of Tai Chi for physical and personal development. Wear comfortable, loose clothing and walking shoes. RSVP by calling (210) 207-3782, or [nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov](mailto:nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov)
- **Wildflower Walk**
  - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Saturday, May 6 | Friedrich Wilderness Park
  - Take a walk with botanist Bill Carr of Acme Botanical and enjoy the sights and sounds of the park while learning about wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country. RSVP required.
- **Let’s Go Birding!** (recommended ages: 10 & up)
  - 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. | Friday, May 12 | Crownridge Canyon Natural Area
  - This is a perfect time to take a walk through Crownridge with premier birding educators Patsy and Tom Inglet who will help identify and appreciate these avian songsters. RSVP required.
- **Kite-making Workshop** (all ages)

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. | Saturday, May 13 | Eisenhower Park

- In this one hour workshop, students will decorate, build, and fly a simple kite. We will
- use nature themed stencils to celebrate our parks and open spaces! This class will be led by artist and business owner Cade Bradshaw (cadebradshaw.com). RSVP required. Co-sponsored by Bexar Audubon Society.

- **Kids to Parks Day** (all ages)

- 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. | Saturday, May 20 | Eisenhower Park
- Join the Parks & Recreation Department for a day of play! Kids and families are invited to connect with nature through an afternoon of hands-on outdoor activities, guided hikes, and more. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about wildlife in your backyard, why trees are important, and so much more! Tree giveaway while supplies last!

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*On May 4th, please share the [FSANA Big Give donations page](#) on social media. Let your friends and family know why San Antonio's natural areas are important to you.*

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**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 FSANA website.*

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

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