



August 2018 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. Please check our website, www.fosana.org, for periodic updates and program information.

BAT LOCO

Bats have a mystique in many cultures, as we only see them in the evening and at night. We are told to avoid bats because they may carry rabies, but your chance of being bitten by a dog or another wild animal are greater than getting bit by a bat. Some ways that they benefit our society include controlling mosquitoes and other pests, and they are also important for their role in pollinating flowers. Desert ecosystems, like Arizona, rely on nectar feeding bats as their primary pollinators of giant cacti as well as agave, the tequila producing plant. Bats do live in caves, but there are many opportunities to see bats roosting under local bridges, and they can be seen emerging at dusk.

To learn more about bats, join the [6th Annual Bat Loco Bash](#) on Tuesday, August 7, near Camden St. bridge on the Museum Reach segment of the San Antonio River Walk. It is hosted by the San Antonio River Authority, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Bat Conservation International. This free, family-friendly event will include a bat parade, educational booths with activities, food trucks, live music, and bat friends. The Bash is part of San Antonio's Kidcation Week.



[Mexican Free-Tail Bat](#)

Upcoming Natural Areas Events

- **Starting Out Wild: Batty Bats!** (ages 1-3)
10:00-11:00 a.m | Friday, August 3 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Learn why bats are beneficial! 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. Most classes take place outdoors.
- **Early Morning Tree Walk** (ages 12 & up)
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. | Saturday, August 4 | Crownridge Canyon Natural Areas
Enjoy an early morning guided walk with City of San Antonio Arborist Mark Bird. As a tree climber, consulting arborist and City arborist, Mark educates people on the value and benefits of trees in our communities. Most days are spent in the office working to preserve and plant trees as the city grows. When not at the office, Mark can be found riding his bike as many miles as time will allow. When it is time to find inspiration after a tough day, his two favorite books give him lift: The Lorax and The Man Who Planted Trees.
- **Growing Up Wild: Busy Bees** (ages 4-7)
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Thursday, August 9 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Learn about bees, bee hives and behavior through stories, hands-on activities, and a guided hike. 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.
- **Starting Out Wild: Batty Bats!** (ages 1-3)
10:00-11:00 a.m | Friday, August 17 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Learn why bats are beneficial! 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. Most classes take place outdoors.
- **Growing Up Wild: Busy Bees** (ages 4-7)
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Thursday, August 23 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Learn about bees, bee hives and behavior through stories, hands-on activities, and a guided hike. 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.

All programs: RSVP required. Visit FOSANA.org to reserve your spot. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.

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**](#)
