



June 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.

Native Plants Blooming in the Parks

On your next visit to Friedrich Wilderness Park, take a moment at the entrance to admire the bright red stand of tubular flowers on a spike, Standing Cypress. This biennial plant, *Ipomopsis rubra*, is also known by the common names Texas Plume, Scarlet Gilia & Red Texas Star. The plant can grow up to six feet tall and is native to south-eastern United States, as it is drought tolerant and can survive in many soil types. The flowers also benefit pollinators, as they attract butterflies and hummingbirds.



Upcoming Natural Areas Events

- **Celebrate National Trails Day with a Family Hike!**
 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Saturday, June 2 | Friedrich Wilderness ParkEnjoy a family-friendly hike along the trails of Friedrich Wilderness Park. Explore the flora

and fauna along Water Trail and Forest Range. Hike will cover approximately one mile. 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.

- **Starting Out Wild: Busy as a Bee!** (ages 1-3)
 - 10:00-11:00 a.m. | Friday, June 1 & 15 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Learn all about bees and bee hives! 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. RSVP required. Visit fosana.org to reserve your spot. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.

- **Beekeeping Basics** (all ages)
 - 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. | Saturday, June 9 | Friedrich Wilderness Park Pavilion
Learn what it takes to be a beekeeper, the tools you need, and how to harvest the honey. Beekeepers will share their knowledge and stories about honeybee rescue and what it takes to become a beekeeper. Stop by and check out a bee observation hive, participate in a scavenger hunt, and enjoy a bee-inspired art activity. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, please call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov. No reservations needed, stop by between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm.

- **Growing Up Wild: Grow As We Grow** (ages 4-7)
 - 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Thursday, June 14 & 28 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Explore the life cycles of familiar wildlife 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. 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.

No Animals in the Natural Areas

If you hike in Friedrich Wilderness Park or Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, you will notice signs to indicate that pets are not allowed. These are habitats for wildlife and no animals are permitted in these natural areas, *including service or support animals*.

We often have questions about allowing pets into the Natural Areas. Most San Antonio Parks including Hardberger and Eisenhower Parks allow dogs and even provide (at no cost) bags for people to use to pick up dog waste. PLEASE pick up the bags and deposit them in the waste containers provided.

When dogs are present in recreational trails, studies have found that several wildlife species will change the way they use that habitat. In fact, trails correlated with altered patterns of habitat utilization by several species. Mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, and other wildlife react to the sound, scent, and/or sight of dogs, leashed or not. Thus, wildlife disturbed has diminished energy available for breeding, finding food, raising young, etc.

- Bird nesting areas, especially those of ground nesting birds, are disturbed by dogs and sensitive wildlife habitat is damaged.
 - When dogs urinate in nesting and sensitive wildlife habitats to "mark" their territory, it becomes undesirable or uninhabitable to the wildlife living there.
 - Seeds are picked up by dog fur and paws pick up seeds, which can spread invasive plant species.
 - Unleashed dogs can chase and injure (or even kill) squirrels, birds, and other wildlife.
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Observe [National Trails Day](#) on June 2, the first Saturday of June.
The trails provide access to natural areas for hiking, bird watching, and more.



Friedrich Park on Vista Loop

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](#)
