



November 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.

Migrating Monarchs

The migration path of monarch butterflies stretches from Canada to Mexico, and is a cause for wonder and awe. Declines in the eastern population of these butterflies have drawn attention to the negative effects of herbicides and environmental degradation. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed as they migrate north from Mexico in the spring and summer. Hence, emphasis has been placed on planting milkweed, the preferred food source for monarch larvae. However, studies indicate that milkweed abundance may not be the limiting factor for monarchs. [Recent research](#) at Cornell University suggests that attention should be paid to the needs that the butterflies have at each stage of their life cycle. For example, in the fall as they migrate south, [adult monarchs need water, food, and protected roosting sites](#). Thus, in fall, Texas flowering plants become especially important fuel sources for monarchs on their migratory journey to Mexico.

Special Note: Our parks participate in biannual [butterfly counts](#) that are conducted in the spring and fall. These counts are used to monitor butterfly populations, and are submitted to the North American Butterfly Association, the same group that provided data cited in the Cornell University study.



Queen butterfly on Gregg's Mistflower (Photo: N. McLeod)

Upcoming Natural Areas Events

- **Starting Out Wild: Turkeys are Terrific** (ages 1-3)
 - 10:00-11:00 a.m. | Friday, November 2 & 16 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Learn all about turkeys 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.
- **First Saturday Hike: Geology Walk** (recommended: ages 6 & up)
 - 10:00-12:00 p.m. | Saturday, November 3 | Friedrich Wilderness Park
Enjoy a morning walk with Geologist Bob Hixon through the lower trails of Friedrich Wilderness Park to discuss the local limestone features as well as plant identification. Along the way, discover the many wonders of the park such as the karst feature along Water

Trail, and other hill country habitat. RSVP required.

- **Growing Up Wild: Oh, Deer!** (ages 4-7)
 - 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Wednesday, November 7 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Children explore the parts of a habitat and learn what deer need to survive. 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.
- **Wildscaping for Wildlife** (adults)
 - 9:00-11:00 a.m. | Saturday, November 10 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Native plants and small features can create a beautiful landscape that invites wildlife to your backyard. Attracting butterflies and hummingbirds with nectar rich flowers is easy to do by adding simple components to make your property a haven for frogs, lizards, songbirds, and some small mammals. Join us to learn what features to incorporate and some common plants to provide and open your back door to a world of amazing wildlife. Afterwards, enjoy a short hike around the new garden at Friedrich Wilderness Park. RSVP required.
Suggested donation: \$6 per person.
- **Wildlife Festival at Martin Luther King Park**
 - 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Saturday, November 17
Join the San Antonio Natural Areas and their partners for a FREE Urban Wildlife Festival! Get up close and personal with owls, hawks, tortoises, opossums, skunks, insects, and more at this FREE festival celebrating all things WILD. Learn about animal adaptations from Texas licensed rehabilitators and where the best places in San Antonio to see native wildlife in their natural habitat. In addition, enjoy fun hands-on activities for kids and families of all ages. No reservations needed.
- **Star Party at Eisenhower Park**
 - 5:30-8:30 p.m. | Saturday, December 1 | Eisenhower Park Pavilion
What's to see in the Fall skies? Observe the night skies with the San Antonio Astronomical Association and learn about the planets and constellations. Family-friendly activity included! During inclement weather, be sure to check the calendar as this program may be cancelled. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. No reservations needed.
- **All programs:** 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.

JOIN THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR AN URBAN WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE!

FREE!
DISCOVER WILDLIFE
• MARTIN LUTHER KING PARK •

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018
9AM-12PM / 3505 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR.

- SEE LIVE BIRDS OF PREY AT 10:30AM
- NATIONAL TAKE A HIKE DAY, GUIDED HIKE AT 11AM
- EXPERIENCE UP CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE INCLUDING SNAKES, BATS, SKUNKS, OPOSSUMS, INSECTS, AND MORE!
- TREE ADOPTIONS (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
- ENJOY HANDS-ON NATURE ACTIVITIES



WWW.SAPARKSANDREC.COM

WILDSKAPING FOR WILDLIFE

AT FRIEDRICH WILDERNESS PARK



Join Judit Green, Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, and learn what features create a beautiful



landscape that invites wildlife to your backyard. Enjoy a short hike in the new garden following the presentation.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10

9am - 11am, 21395 Milsa Rd
RSVP Required at www.fosana.org
Suggested Donation: \$6 Per Person

For more info call: 210.207.3782



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2018
**EISENHOWER PARK
STAR
PARTY**

**OBSERVE THE NIGHT SKIES AND LEARN ABOUT THE
CONSTELLATIONS AND THE PLANETS!**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1
5:30PM-8:30PM, 19399 MILITARY HWY
SUGGESTED DONATION: \$3 PER PERSON OR \$6 PER FAMILY**

Presented by the San Antonio Astronomical Association



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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 FOSANA website.

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