



April 2019 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.

Thanks for your participation!

A BIG Thank you to all who participated in the BigGive to help FoSANA raise \$3,100.00. Your donations and membership contributes to the continued success of our primary mission, to promote the conservation of Friedrich Wilderness Park, Crownridge Canyon Natural Area and the other natural areas. All your contributions also help support ongoing educational programs for children, families, and adults.

Golden-Cheeked Warblers: Saving Woodlands



[Golden Cheeked Warbler](#) on Ashe juniper

One of the main attractions of Friedrich Wilderness Park and Crownridge Canyon is that they provide breeding habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler, *Setophaga chrysoparia*. These tiny songbirds arrive here in late February or early March and may begin leaving for Mexico and Central America in July. Unfortunately, as San Antonio has grown, a significant percentage of the warbler's habitat has been taken over by housing and retail developments. It was recommended that the species be removed from the endangered species list in 2015 as a result of [studies](#) that have since been shown to have conflicting data. The conflicts were caused by differences in sampling and data analysis methods. However, in February 2019, the [Express News](#) reported that because of a recent court hearing, the golden-cheeked warbler's habitat will remain under the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act.

Golden-cheeked warblers need closed canopy woodlands in which to breed. The bark of the Ashe juniper, or mountain cedar, is used by the birds to build their nests in junipers, oaks, and deciduous trees. Recognized by a yellow face, a black (male) or greenish (female) crown and back, and two white wing bars, the birds feed on insects and spiders and usually lay 3-4 eggs. The small birds are most often [detected by their songs](#) rather than by being seen. Golden-cheeked warblers have at least two distinctly different songs, sometimes referred to as the A song and the B song. Moreover, they sing variations of the B song.

Every golden-cheeked warbler was born in Central Texas, the only place in the world where these birds breed. No wonder bird watchers from all over the globe come here to see these warblers! So take a slow walk in Friedrich Wilderness Park or Crownridge Canyon and listen and look for these wondrous birds. When you see or hear one, remember that they are helping save green spaces.

Upcoming Natural Areas Events

- **Growing Up Wild: Seed Need** (ages 4-7)
 - 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Wednesday, April 3 & 17 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Explore seeds as food for people and animals, and learn how animals spread seeds! Growing Up Wild builds on a child's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. 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: Grow, Grow, Grow** (ages 1-3)
 - 10:00-11:00 a.m. | Friday, April 5 & 19 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Learn about life cycles through stories, games, and hands-on fun! These high energy, engaging programs are a perfect way to foster an appreciation of the natural world. 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

- **First Saturday Hike: Spring has Sprung!** (all ages)
 - 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. | Saturday, April 6 | Friedrich Wilderness Park
Spring hiking is the best time of the year to enjoy the lush vibrancy of Texas wildflowers and trees as well as butterflies including monarchs and giant swallowtails. Take a walk with Friedrich's Nature Preserve Officer and enjoy the sights and sounds of the park. Maybe you might see a Golden-cheeked warbler? RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov

- **Photography Walkabout** (ages 13 & up)
 - 9:30 am-2:30 p.m. | Saturday, April 13 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Connect with nature and sharpen your photography skills. Led by local photographer Nancy Cavender-Garcia, this class is designed for beginners and advanced photographers and combines photographic instruction with an informative in-the-field nature photography session. Workshop includes boxed lunch. Suggested donation: \$15. For additional information email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov

- **Growing Up Wild: Animal Tracks** (ages 4-7)
 - 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Wednesday, March 6 & 20 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Explore wild animal tracks 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. 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

- **First Saturday Hike**

- Poetry at the Park: The Ode and Nature (recommended: ages 10 & up)
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Saturday, May 4 | Crownridge Canyon
Join Gemini Ink for this family-friendly guided nature walk of beautiful Crownridge Canyon Natural Area. This adventure begins with a brief lesson on the poetic ode given by professor and poet Joshua Robbins. Afterwards, we'll head into the woods to learn about the park's diverse wildlife and hear examples of the ode read aloud along the way. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person or \$5 per family. For more information, call 210-734-9673.

- **Native Plant Walk** with Bill Carr

- 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Sunday, May 5 | Friedrich Wilderness Park
Enjoy a guided hike with botanist Bill Carr of Acme Botanical, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the park while learning about native plants of the Texas Hill Country. RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov

- **Wildscaping for Wildlife**

- 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Saturday, May 11 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
Observe Migratory Bird Day by creating a backyard habitat for birds. Native plants and small features can create a beautiful landscape that invites an array of 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 Judit Green from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as you learn what features to incorporate and common plants that will open your back door to a world of amazing wildlife! RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov

All Programs (unless otherwise noted): RSVP required. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$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.

Are you a member of Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas (FoSANA)?

Please support FoSANA on the preservation and educational outreach of natural areas around San Antonio by joining or renewing your membership [online](#) today.

Your membership this year will help us continue to

- offer over 400 environmental programs for families and adults at the Natural Areas.
- serve over 14,000 families and adults through education and outreach programs.
- coordinate over 400 volunteer programs and 7,500 volunteer hours supported trail maintenance, habitat conservation and restoration, and native landscapes and gardens.

Plus, when you renew your membership, you'll receive our monthly newsletter that provides updates on natural areas happenings and timely information on upcoming events.

Should you need any assistance or have any questions or comments about your membership, please feel free to email us at friendsofsanaturalareas@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
FoSANA Board

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**](#)
