



May 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.

Spring Wildflowers

Spring is a great time to see many wildflowers blooming in the natural areas. We usually notice the bluebonnets along highways and roadsides, but if you take a stroll through the Wildflower Garden south of the parking lot at Friedrich Wilderness Park, you are sure to find some wildflowers that may not be very abundant but are beautiful. This Wildflower Garden was started about 20 years ago by Lottie and John Milsaps and continues to be maintained by Lottie with help from volunteers, who ensure the garden is not overgrown by weeds and introduced species. Lottie has a passion for botany and the identification of plants and is always pleased to discuss their importance to butterflies and birds. When asked about her continued dedication to maintaining the garden, Lottie said, "When I pull the weeds in my garden, only I can enjoy it, but here in this park, the flowers are for everyone to see and enjoy."

The Texas Bluebonnet, *Lupinus texensis*, was designated the [official state flower of Texas](#) in 1901. Bluebonnets are an annual plant so the seeds that are formed in May will germinate in the fall and grow slowly over the winter and usually bloom between March and mid-May. They are a hardy plant and can tolerate drought and survive in the [rocky, alkaline soils of the Texas Hill Country](#) along disturbed roadsides. As the flowers fade the seed pods dry, pop open, and release their seeds.

Pink evening primrose, *Oenothera speciosa*, is often found among the stands of bluebonnets. Though some species of primroses are edible, they are difficult to distinguish so eating them should be avoided. In other open areas of Friedrich Wilderness Park there are large stands of mock pennyroyal, *Hedeoma drummondii*, a member of the mint family. The fragrant leaves may have some benefits as an insect repellent (1).



First photo: Bluebonnets and Pink Evening Primroses. Second photo: Mock Pennyroyal

1. Tull, Delena. Edible and Useful Plants of Texas and the Southwest, A Practical Guide. University of Texas Press. 1987.

Upcoming Natural Areas Events

MAY

- **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. Tree adoptions for those who sign up.

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.

Membership Update

We're excited to announce that we recently joined with memberplanet to help manage our FoSANA memberships. We're looking forward to offering you a better hands-on system for overseeing your membership. It will allow us to keep track of members and membership renewal dates, allowing us to focus more on promoting the stewardship of our precious San Antonio natural resources. We're letting you know about this change now because you'll receive an email asking you to join memberplanet in the coming days. All you need to register is your name and email address. If you want to renew your membership, then you'll also need a credit card to quickly and easily register.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at friendsofsanaturalareas@gmail.com. Of course, you're always welcome to renew your membership with a check made out to "Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas" and send to:

Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas
21395 Milsa Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78256

Sincerely,
FoSANA Board

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](#)
