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January 2026 Newsletter

Non-Members

Upcoming Natural Areas Events

Program	Age	Location	Date	Time
<i>Hardberger 5-Mile Hike</i>	all	Hardberger	1/3/2026	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
<i>Wilderness Explorers</i>	5 to 11	Friedrich	1/7/2026	1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
<i>Starting Out Wild</i>	1 to 3	Friedrich	1/9/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Nature Walk</i>	all	Eisenhower	1/10/2026	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Art in the Park</i>	all	Friedrich	1/10/2026	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
<i>National Ducky Day</i>	all	Medina River	1/13/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Story Time</i>	1 to 10	Friedrich	1/13/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Growing Up Wild</i>	4 to 7	Friedrich	1/14/2026	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
<i>Growing Up Wild</i>	3 to 7	Hardberger	1/15/2026	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
<i>Starting Out Wild</i>	1 to 3	Friedrich	1/16/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Owl Prowl</i>	all	Medina River	1/16/2026	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
<i>Art in the Park</i>	all	Friedrich	1/17/2026	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
<i>Squirrel Appreciation Day</i>	all	Medina River	1/20/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Growing Up Wild</i>	4 to 7	Friedrich	1/21/2026	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
<i>Starting Out Wild</i>	1 to 3	Hardberger	1/22/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Starting Out Wild</i>	1 to 3	Friedrich	1/23/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Winter Bird Walk</i>	all	Crownridge	1/24/2026	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Art in the Park</i>	all	Friedrich	1/24/2026	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
<i>Nat'l Draw a Dinosaur Day</i>	all	Medina River	1/27/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Rattlesnake Appreciation Day</i>	all	Medina River	1/28/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Growing Up Wild</i>	4 to 7	Friedrich	1/28/2026	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
<i>Nat'l Draw a Dinosaur Day</i>	all	Medina River	1/30/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
<i>Nat'l Draw a Dinosaur Day</i>	all	Medina River	1/31/2026	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

[Register Here](#)

Education Programs



Flame Acanthus was the featured native plant at Art in the Park at Friedrich in November.



Visitors to Eisenhower Park observe Saturn and other celestial wonders at the November 22 Star Party.

Perfect Pairings: Picture Books & Our Parks

[Pair a visit to a FoSANA park with a great kids' nature book!](#)

By Catherine Stier

In this monthly series, we highlight a book that connects with the features, flora or fauna of our San Antonio Natural Areas to enhance your family's visits to and understanding of these very special places. Reading nature books to children also promotes literacy and encourages the appreciation of wildlife and natural areas. All books are available at the San Antonio libraries.

This Month's Book:

Wind Watchers

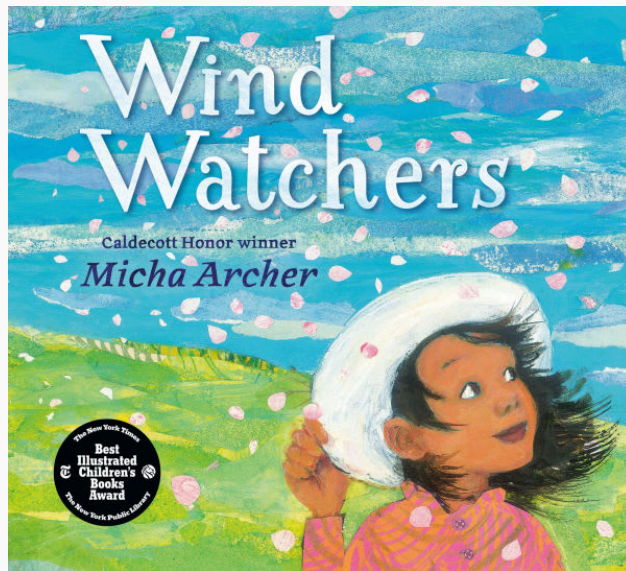
Written and illustrated

by Micha Archer

Nancy Paulsen Books

Recommended Ages: 3

– 7 years



This book ponders, with a childlike perspective, the many ways wind works both in neighborhoods and throughout our natural world. It mentions wind's “wonders” – that it scatters seeds and aids some birds in flight. But the book acknowledges, too, how a breeze might impact a child's life, by tinkling outdoor wind chimes that soothe them to sleep, or by helping fly their kites. The illustrations are true works of art, created with acrylic inks and bright, patterned papers arranged in collages. The book progresses through each season, making it a great choice for reading together at any time of the year.

Connection to Our Natural Areas:

Wind is at work in our parks, too. As the book mentions, it moves seeds and is used by birds in flight. The wind can carry a scent, important to both predators and their potential prey. Some spiders also make use of a good breeze. Certain baby spiders will release a silky thread from their abdomen that catches the wind and “flies” them to a new area. This helps to make sure all the new spiderlings won't be competing for food in the same region. As you walk through the parks, notice the wind. Is it a gentle breeze or a chilly gust? How does wind play a part in the sounds you hear in the woods? What else is notable about the presence of wind around you?

Additional Resources:

To learn more about how wind helps baby spiders disperse, check out this article from Entomology Today:

<https://entomologytoday.org/2013/09/26/baby-spiders-are-flying-across-northern-texas/#>

For information on how migrating hawks make use of wind, go to:

<https://texashighways.com/outdoors/water/keep-your-eyes-on-the-skies-hawk-watch-at-smith-point-gets-underway/>

Seed of the Month: Inland Sea Oats

(Chasmanthium latifolium)



This popular low-maintenance perennial shade grass grows 2-4 feet tall. In May, it is vivid green with translucent green seedheads. By mid-summer, the seeds change to an ivory brown before dropping off. During the winter, the plant is a soft brown before turning gray in February. The transition from winter to spring is the best time to cut back the plant. Inland Sea Oats propagate easily and aggressively in moist soil.

FoSANA sponsored seed packets can be found at the Eisenhower Park Seed Library or visit a FoSANA trailhead table.

See Something Concerning in the Natural Areas? Speak Up!

As a park patron, your eyes and ears are valuable tools on the trails.

- If you encounter evidence of **vandalism or damage to park property or infrastructure**, report your concern by calling 311 or visiting <https://311.sanantonio.gov/services>.
- If you notice **suspicious behavior or unattended suspicious items** that may pose safety risks, call the non-emergency police line at (210) 207-7273.
- If you witness an **emergency**—violence, medical crises, crimes in progress, or immediate danger—call 911 immediately.

Thank you for helping keep our natural areas clean and safe for everyone to enjoy!

2025 Annual Impact

New Members	Renewed Members	Members Lost	Total Members
21	18	7	39
Membership Funds	Fundraisers and Donations	Education Programs	Program Participants
\$660	\$1,480	166+	2,345

Submission from a Natural Areas Steward

If you would like to write or take photographs for FoSANA, please contact us at friendsofsanaturalareas@gmail.com.



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

Becoming a member of FoSANA, a 501(c) nonprofit, is the best way to promote stewardship of San Antonio's Natural Areas! Each year, your membership helps us offer

- over 200 environmental education and outreach programs serving over 5,200 children and adults
- over 400 volunteer programs (that's 7,500 volunteer hours!) to maintain trails, conserve and restore habitats, and tend native landscapes and gardens.

By joining today, you can help keep this great work going.

Plus, when you join, you'll receive our membership monthly newsletter with updates on natural area happenings and upcoming members-only events. If you need any assistance or have questions about your membership, please email us at info@fosana.org.

If you would prefer to donate without a membership, please check out our other donation options.

Sincerely,
FoSANA Board

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