



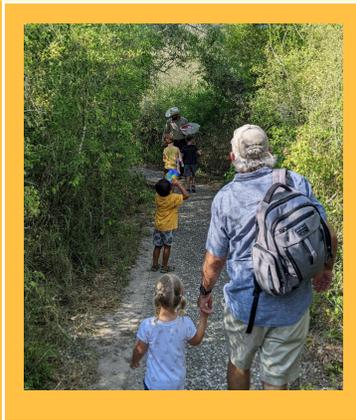
Friends of Laguna Atascosa
National Wildlife Refuge

Donate



August 2022

Wild Friends Storytime a Success!



Friends hosted four Wild Friends Storytime events in July. Each storytime featured a native animal found in the Refuge with a song, craft, and feeding the birds activity with Ranger Georgie. In celebration of Latino Conservation Week on July 22, we hosted a bilingual storytime event. This event was led by our temporary Nature Store Manager, Cora Pina. Cora has a background in education and music and brought some amazing resources to the table! We are in the process of creating more educational programs for the school year, so stay tuned!



Bahia Grande Documentary Showing

Friends hosted a second "Bahia Grande: The Largest Coastal Restoration in Texas" documentary showing on July 9 at the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center. Approximately 50 guests attended this event. Richard was on-site to introduce the film, answer questions, and meet his supporters. Missed this one? No worries! We have another one coming up on September 8 at Quinta Mazatlan in McAllen.

Call for Volunteers!

Volunteers Needed!

Our organization runs almost purely on volunteers, and we are always looking for new people to join our team!



Share your Skills *We are seeking artists, birders, nature*

enthusiasts to come share your story & talent with visitors. The refuge landscape is a wonderful opportunity to teach and share. Join us to learn about how we can work together to educate the public on conservation.

Conduct Children's Activities

Bringing the next generation up to appreciate the earth's resources is an important job! Activity stations focus on how and why we need to protect

VOLUNTEER with Events

Work on events like the Ocelot Conservation Day, clean-ups, and outreach events.

Help in the Bookstore

The bookstore located inside the Visitor Center of Laguna Atascosa NWR.

Lead Interpretive Hikes

Let's do it with purpose! Visitors love learning and birding with you. Share your enthusiasm!

Join the Board or a Committee

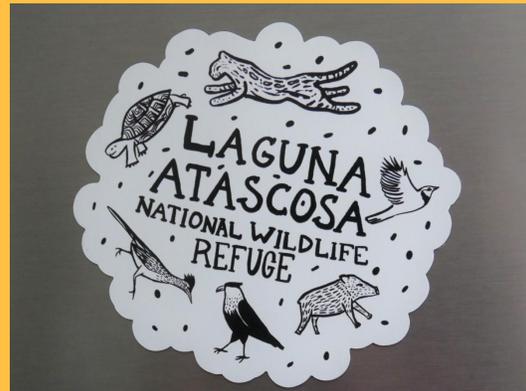
We need leadership skills that can help us manage all the components of an effective non-profit. Committees vary as needed. Committee teams work together to create and execute Board approved policy. Whether it's a major event or the membership team, you can make a difference.

SUPPORT Wildlife and its Habitat

Become a Member

www.texasocelots.com/volunteers

Do you like going out to the Refuge? Educating about nature? Sharing your love for wildlife? Hosting kids activities? Hanging out in a cool nature store? Contact us! We are looking for volunteers to help in our Nature Store, engage the public at events, lead interpretive hikes, and host children's activities. Go to www.texasocelots.com/volunteers to sign up and get more information!



Creature Feature - Meet the Unusual Groove-billed Ani

By Michaela Wiersema

At first glance one might think that a common crow or grackle is perched near the side of the road, but a closer look will reveal something quite different and unique. This disheveled looking cuckoo is known as a Groove-billed Ani, and some might describe it as having a bad hair day. With their odd-looking prehistoric bills and long awkward tails they are a sight to behold, and their distinctive choppy flight pattern is especially eye-catching for many birders. They are quite sociable creatures, preferring to feed on the ground in large groups, and may often be observed at the edges of the thick south Texas scrub that characterizes the Laguna Atascosa.

Hailing from South America, these beautiful jet black tropical birds range as far north as the South Texas borderlands, making them a bucket-list species for many serious birding enthusiasts. Preferring to hunt large insects, Groove-billed Anis will also eat small fruits such as berries and even a small lizard if given the opportunity. Interestingly, after laying 3-4 small, light blue eggs in a shared nest, members of the family group take turns incubating the eggs with the male typically taking the night shift. Although these sociable birds appear docile, females will occasionally kick the eggs of other females out of the nest. The newly-hatched chicks are cared for by all members of the family unit. It is estimated that there are approximately 5,000 breeding individuals residing in Texas, and the species is not currently considered an endangered species. This charming South Texas cuckoo deserves a spot on any birder's life list.





The last remaining ocelots in the United States are found only in Texas. Texas residents can help save these beautiful and endangered cats and help spread the word about protecting Texas Ocelots by buying this specialty license plate for your vehicle for only \$30.00 additional. Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge receives \$22.00 from the sale of every Save Texas Ocelots license plate, 100% of which goes to Ocelot Conservation.

Save Texas Ocelots License Plate



Adopt an Ocelot

Ocelots need your help. You can Adopt an Ocelot and help our population of endangered cats to survive and thrive in South Texas. [Adopt Now.](#)

Become an Advocate

Advocate Membership is one way to support the Refuge. Joining gives you a voice in helping Friends raise awareness and funds for restoration, conservation, education, outreach and research. Click [here](#) for more information and to join.

Help make a difference

Shop for gifts using AmazonSmile to support us, at no cost

[amazon](#)smile



Want to help make a difference while you shop on Amazon, at no extra cost to you? Simply select "Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge" as your charity on this [page](#). They'll donate a portion of your eligible purchases to us.



Adult and Kid's T-shirts
Books, Stickers
and More!



The Nature Store at Laguna Atascosa

Shop with us @ The Nature Store
at Laguna Atascosa in person or

GO SHOPPING!

[shop online](#)

Check [online](#) for pins, magnets, stickers, earrings, patches, caps, cards, gift bundles, and so much more! Other items not listed in the online store, such as field guides and books, are also available, just send an [email](#).

The Nature Store @ Laguna Atascosa is one source of funds for projects the Friends support at the Refuge. Shopping here keeps your dollars local and you can rest assured that funds are put to good use supporting many projects on this wonderful Refuge.



Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

22688 Buena Vista Rd.
Los Fresnos, TX 78566

For information, concerns or
questions about
Laguna Atascosa NWR, contact:
956-244-2019
george_garcia@fws.gov

Refuge remains open daily,
sunrise-sunset

Visitor's Center reopened
May 4, 2022, with limited hours.
Go to the [Refuge Site](#)

Hunt Information:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/laguna-atascosa/visit-us/activities/hunting>