

Visit the Nature Store @ Visitor Center for new merch!



APRIL 2023

NEWSLETTER

friends of
LAGUNA ATASCOSA
national wildlife refuge

IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming events
Creature feature
Refuge Happenings



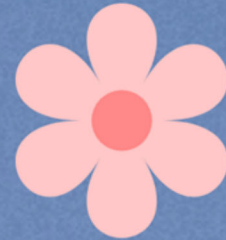
April Calendar

APR 4 - NATURALLY NATIVE GARDEN
TEAM, 9 AM

APR 7 - WILD FRIENDS STORYTIME, 11 AM

APR 11 - COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS
MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL, 9 AM

APR 12 - WILD FRIENDS STORYTIME
(LAGUNA VISTA LIBRARY), 5 PM

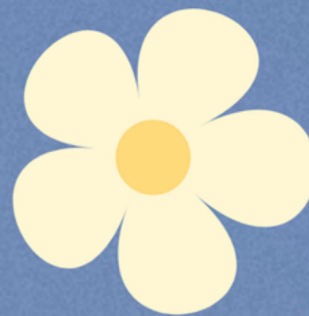
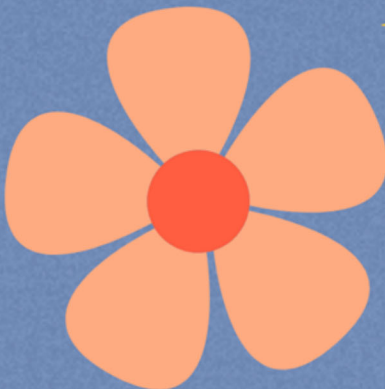


APR 13 - FRIENDS SCIENCE SERIES, NATURE
JOURNALING, 9 AM

APR 22 - EARTH DAY CLEANUP, 9 AM

APR 29 - BIKE THE BAHIA WILDLIFE BIKE
RIDE, 7:30 AM

Register Here!



Register at: www.flanwr.org/eventcalendar

April 22, 2023, 9:00am-12:00pm



Please join Laguna Atascosa NWR for our 2023 Earth Day clean up!
for event details and registration visit <https://flanwr.org/event-5212727>
for more details call (956) 244-2019

New Store Merchandise Celebrates Ocelot Heritage

We're celebrating the cultural significance and shared appreciation for ocelots both in Mexico and the United States with some new ocelot t-shirts! The graphic depicts the Aztec and Mayan art versions of an ocelot and includes the Nahuatl word for ocelot, "tlaloceLOT", where the word "ocelot" originates from, and then the Spanish word "ocelote" and the English "ocelot." Like communities of the RGV, the ocelot transcends different cultures and geographic borders, and hopefully this graphic pays homage to the ancient and existing cultures that celebrate the ocelot. You can purchase one of these new shirts at: https://flanwrnaturestore.square.site/shop/adult-tshirts/2?page=1&limit=180&sort_by=name&sort_order=asc











Ocelot Conservation Day

We had a great Ocelot Conservation Day this year! An estimated 4,000+ people attended the event at the Gladys Porter Zoo and there were 900 runners in the Ocelot Run. The event included kids activities such as face painting, pin the tail on the ocelot, an ocelot bean bag toss, button and pin making, a dress up and selfie station, and coloring ocelot masks. Additionally, presentations about ocelot management and recovery efforts were given by the Defenders of Wildlife, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, the East Foundation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Thanks to all the volunteers to helped to make this event successful, including the Rio Grande Valley Master Naturalists, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, the South Texas Ecotourism Center, the Marine Military Academy - Harlingen, TX, Stell Middle School, Pace High School, and the Harlingen South Lady Hawks Softball Team.



Creature Feature: Northern Waterthrush

One of the newest visitors to our water features was a little bird known as the Northern Waterthrush. Resembling the coloration of a thrasher, their brown upper body, striped underparts, and white eye stripe are particularly eye-catching. It is easily recognized by its distinctive tail bobbing, and may be differentiated from the Louisiana Waterthrush by the yellowish tinge to the striped belly. Their long legs allow them to wade through shallow water in search of food. Preferring forests with a water source such as a small stream, marsh, or pond, they are commonly seen foraging on the ground or on partially submerged branches. Their diet consists mainly of aquatic insects, although they may consume snails, ants, and other terrestrial insects. Interestingly, they nest close to the ground, most commonly in the roots of fallen trees as well as stumps and bank edges. During the spring, they may be spotted in South Texas during their migration northwards, and although they are not seed eaters, they appreciate our water features which also attract a variety of their favorite insects. Keep an eye out for these elusive Waterthrushes during your next visit to the refuge.

Restoration Underway on Refuge



Restoration of 64 acres of habitat is currently underway at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Restoration is being done on a tract known as the Delaney Farms, which is old farmland that is currently being transformed into thornscrub habitat. Almost 75,000 plants and tree tubes have been placed in the ground this season. Tree tubes help protect the young plants from predation and assist with water retention, collecting early morning dew and funneling it down to the plants.

OPERATIONAL HOURS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Hunt Season is here! Please check the [Refuge website](#) for closures before heading out.

Visitor's Center
Monday-Saturday
8:00am-4:00pm

Nature Store
Wednesday - Saturday
8:00am-4:00pm

Refuge Access
Sunday - Saturday
Sunrise to Sunset

SUPPORT US

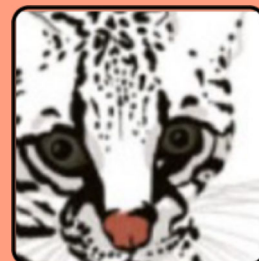
Save Texas Ocelots
License Plates

The Nature Store @
Laguna Atascosa

Adopt an Ocelot



GO SHOPPING!





Help us keep our birds fed this season! We accept donations of citrus and bird seed. Check out our wish list at <http://flanwr.org/wish-list>

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