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FEBRUARY 2023

NEWSLETTER

friends of
LAGUNA ATASCOSA
national wildlife refuge

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Upcoming events
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February Calendar

Every Thur–Sat: Breakfast with the Birds – 8 am

- 2/3 Wild Friends Storytime, 10am
- 2/4 World Wetlands Day ride to Pelican Lake,
8 am, 10am, 12 pm, 2 pm
- 2/9–11 WOVE Festival, 9 am–4pm
- 2/13 Naturally Native Garden Team, 9am
- 2/14 Coffee with the Birds Membership Social, 9 am
- 2/15 Wild Friends Storytime (Laguna Vista
Library, 5pm
- 2/18 Book Signing of Laguna Atascosa: A South
Texas Treasure, 10 am
- 2/18 Wildlife Bike Ride, 9 am
- 2/23 Friends Science Series: Native Plants, 9 am

Register at: www.flanwr.org/eventcalendar

GLADYS PORTER ZOO **OCELOT RUN**
5K/1-MILE
SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

1-MILE	5K RUN
\$30 PER PERSON (ADULT OR CHILD)	\$35 PER PERSON (ADULT OR CHILD)
RACE STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. INCLUDES ADMISSION TO THE ZOO, MEDAL & T-SHIRT	RACE STARTS AT 7:30 A.M. CHIP - TIMED RACE INCLUDES ADMISSION TO THE ZOO, MEDAL & T-SHIRT

OCELOT CONSERVATION DAY
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
RAFFLES | GAMES | ACTIVITIES | EXHIBITS

SCAN TO REGISTER

PROCEEDS GO TO
friends of LAGUNA ATASCOSA
national wildlife refuge

H-E-B **Helping Here.** **VISIT Brownsville** **500 RINGGOLD ST. BROWNSVILLE, TX (956) 546-7187 | GPZ.ORG**

f i t d y

Ocelot Conservation Day

Save the Date for the annual Ocelot Conservation Day on Sunday, March 5, 2023. We will have games, activities, and presentations all day at the Gladys Porter Zoo from 9 am - 3pm. We are also bringing back the Ocelot Run this year with a live run in downtown Brownsville and through the Gladys Porter Zoo! Ocelot costumes encouraged! Register here to participate: <http://ow.ly/Ljv350Ms4b7>



SHOW SOME LOVE

Adopt an Animal

*Symbolically adopt an animal and
help support the Friends of Laguna
Atascosa!*



Adoptions come with a stuffed
animal, certificate of adoption, and
fact sheet



To purchase, visit the Nature Store or order
from our online store at:
<https://flanwrnaturestore.square.site/>



Creature Feature- Nilgai Antelope

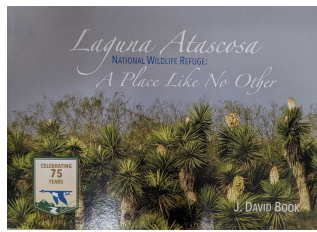
We get a lot of questions about the mysterious creature that roams Laguna Atascosa. Is it a giant deer, camel, antelope, moose, or a mixture of all of them? The fact is Nilgai antelope are present in large numbers throughout South Texas and may be seen in the open plains in herds of up to 70 individuals, especially along FM 106 and Steve Thompson Wildlife Drive. An estimated 15,000 Nilgai call Texas their home, and they are considered an invasive species, having no natural predators; as a result, hunting is the main means of controlling the constantly expanding population. Originally hailing from India and Pakistan, they are the largest species of Asian Antelope, boasting an adult size of up to 675 pounds in bulls and 470 pounds in females. Their coat is a gray or orange-brown, depending on the age and sex, and the prominent hump over the shoulders is a distinguishing characteristic. Only the males grow horns, which can be as long as 9 ½ inches, and both sexes have a tuft of hair down the neck as well as a white throat. Their diet consists of a variety of different vegetation, and is based on seasonal availability. It never gets old seeing these magnificent creatures, and it gives one the feeling of being in an African safari. If you are fortunate enough to spot a Nilgai antelope, you will definitely remember the experience.





Impressive Nature Photoshoots

Check out these amazing photos taken at the refuge! We have such a huge diversity of wildlife, and we always welcome new photo submissions. You can email your photos to naturestore@flanwr.org for a chance to be featured in one of our future **newsletters**.



Volunteer Spotlight

This month we are highlighting one of our long-time volunteers, David Book. He has authored two books including the children's story, "Lancelot the Ocelot", and "Laguna Atascosa: A Place Like No Other". His LANWR history includes interviews from former staff and refuge managers as well as some of the most prestigious South Texas photography from Steve Sinclair, Richard Moore, and Larry Ditto. This amazing work is the result of three years of dedicated research by David Book and is available along with his children's story in our nature store. Stay tuned for an exclusive book-signing on February 18 at 10 AM.

OPERATIONAL HOURS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

Visitor's Center

Monday-Saturday
7:00am-2:00pm

Nature Store

Tuesday - Saturday
8:00am-4:00pm

Refuge Access

Sunday - Saturday
Sunrise to Sunset

SUPPORT US

Save Texas Ocelots
License Plates



The Nature Store @ Laguna Atascosa

GO SHOPPING!

Adopt an Ocelot





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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Greg Lasley, Lanis Hicks, ebird

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