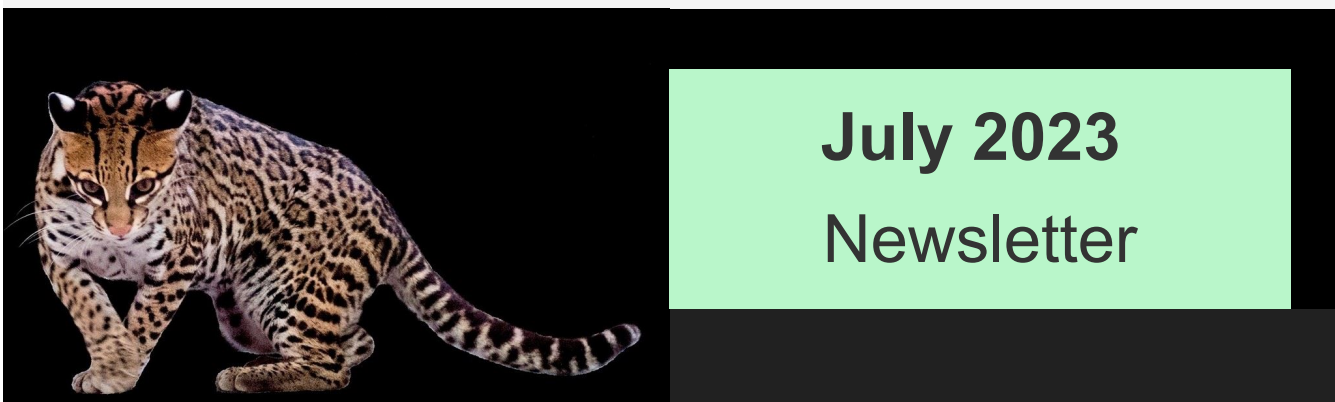


Visit the Nature Store @ Visitor Center for new merch!



friends of
LAGUNA ATASCOSA
national wildlife refuge

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**FAMILY
EVENTS**

July

Limited space, registration required

Sat, July 15, 2023 11:00 AM	Latino Conservation Week Senorita Mariposa
Wed, July 19, 2023 6:30 PM	Latino Conservation Week Games & bilingual bird walk
Fri, July 21, 2023 10:00 AM	Gyotaku Fish Printing Class
Wed, July 26, 2023 10:30 AM	Wild Friends Storytime Senorita Mariposa Laguna Vista Public Library



**YUP! ANOTHER ONE
EXCLUSIVE MEMBER ONLY
INVITE TO A RIDE ON
STEVE THOMPSON
WILDLIFE DRIVE JULY 29.
BECOME A FRIEND
NOW! LIMITED
TO 12 PEOPLE**

Hosted by FRIENDS of Laguna Atascosa NWR

Register at: www.flanwr.org/eventcalendar

Meet the New Executive Director



My name is Amanda De Leon, and my passion for wildlife, conservation projects, and the outdoors can be traced back to my pre-professional days. Whether as a member of the Rio Grande Valley Texas Master Naturalists, Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society, or volunteering with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Sea Turtle, Inc., and Gladys Porter Zoo at a young age. I began professionally educating the public in 2018 as the Manager for the Friends of the Wildlife Corridor regarding the flora and fauna of Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

While working for the Friends of the Wildlife Corridor, I had the opportunity to enhance ongoing conservation projects for both of the Refuges, while also being the Nature Store Manager for Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge.

I am thrilled to be the Executive Director for the Friends of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, and I am so excited to begin educating the public about the Refuge through educational and outreach events. I am especially excited to have the opportunity to inspire the youth who are the next generation to carry the legacy forward.

I am passionate about playing an active role in helping Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge to grow in land conservation, habitat restoration, and by hosting fundraising events to support the Refuge. I look forward to raising awareness of the Refuge through special events, introducing families to wildlife and the outdoors, and advocating the Refuge's importance for the remarkable Refuge that it is.

I was born and raised in Harlingen, TX, and while in school, I earned undergraduate degrees in Biology and Business Administration Management, and a Master's degree in Business Administration Management (MBA). When I'm not at work, you can find me birding throughout the Rio Grande Valley, biking on trails, capturing nature and animals through wildlife photography, and volunteering and working with the animals at Gladys Porter Zoo in the Tropical America and Indo-Australia exhibits.

Please come stop by the Nature Store the next time you are at the Refuge. I'd love to meet you!

Call for Bird Food!



Good news! We feed the birds year round at Laguna Atascosa! Come visit during the morning hours to watch the show of colorful birds enjoy their breakfast. We are always in need of the following items: bird seed, citrus, peanut butter, lard, cornmeal, and flour. Check out our wish list at: <https://flanwr.org/wish-list> to see how to donate!

Wildlife Rock Painting



This month, Friends board member Michelle Cano hosted a Wildlife Rock Painting class! During this class, we learned about local wildlife found on Laguna Atascosa through art. As always, our events are free and open to all ages! Be on the lookout for more events like this next month by checking our event calendar at: <https://flanwr.org/eventCalendar>.

Creature Feature - Pelican Production Soars



This article is taken from Richard Moore's Outdoor Report. Richard Moore is a native of the Rio Grande Valley and has been visiting Laguna Atascosa NWR since he was a kid. He has done numerous documentaries on the Refuge and is currently working on a new one called "One Refuge, One Camera, One Year" that will document a year of footage on Laguna Atascosa NWR.

Richard Moore is owner of Valley Nature Films, LLC. He has spent a lifetime capturing unique footage of South Texas wildlife and has the largest portfolio of high definition video depicting wildlife of South Texas. You can view more of Richard's Outdoor Reports at:

<https://www.valleycentral.com/richard-moore-outdoor-report1/>

Far below thru scudding clouds, a remote island emerges in the vastness of the Lower Laguna Madre. The small, lightly vegetated island east of Laguna Vista is home to a thriving population of brown pelicans, a bird that nearly vanished from the Texas coast. By the late 1960's and early 1970's, there were few brown pelicans remaining along the entire Gulf coast and less than 100 survived in Texas, as the harmful pesticide DDT led to eggshell thinning resulting in virtually no successful nesting. With the banning of DDT use in the United States in 1972 and protection from disturbance on nesting islands, brown pelicans began a slow recovery. In 2009 they were taken off the endangered species list, and their numbers have now increased to more than 12,000 breeding pairs along the Texas coast.

Historically, brown pelicans nested on the upper, middle and lower Texas coast, but it has only been in recent years that they have returned to nest in the Lower Laguna Madre in significant numbers. This spring a record 100 nests produced young on this island, an increase from the then record breaking count of some 80 nests last year. However, brown pelicans continue to face a multitude of threats from unchecked coastal development, unregulated wind turbine expansion, pollution and vehicle strikes on poorly designed coastal highways. Another ongoing peril is deadly entanglement pelicans suffer from Gulf of Mexico longlines. More than 100 brown pelicans washed up on Boca Chica and South Padre Island beaches in October of last year perishing in lines set by Mexican commercial fishermen.




While the remarkable recovery of the brown pelican and return to historic nesting islands in the Lower Laguna Madre is one of the great wildlife success stories of recent decades, their survival depends on our willingness to address myriad continuing dangers.

OPERATIONAL HOURS

The Visitors Center has new summer hours.
It will now be open Wed-Sat from 8-12.

Visitor's Center Wednesday-Saturday 8:00am-12:00pm	Nature Store Tuesday- Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm	Refuge Access Sunday - Saturday Sunrise to Sunset
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SUPPORT US

Save Texas Ocelots License Plates  Get Yours Today!	The Nature Store  GO SHOPPING!	Adopt an Ocelot  Adopt Here!
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2021 - 2022**

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Steve Sinclair

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