



JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

friends of
LAGUNA ATASCOSA
national wildlife refuge

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JUNE

JUN 2-WILD FRIENDS STORYTIME, 11-12PM

JUN 17-WILDLIFE ROCK PAINTING, 10-12PM

JUN 28- WILD FRIEND STORYTIME, LV LIBRARY, 10-11



SEE YOU THERE!



Good news! We feed the birds year round at Laguna Atascosa on days that staff are present! Come visit during the morning hours to watch the show of colorful birds enjoy their breakfast.



Ocelot Run Donation

Last month, Friends received a \$6,000+ donation from the Gladys Porter Zoo from the Ocelot Run. The Ocelot Run was held on March 5 as part of the Ocelot Conservation Day. Due to COVID, this run had not been in-person since 2020. This year, over 900 runners attended this 5k and 1k run, which went through downtown Brownsville and ended at the Special Events Center at the Gladys Porter Zoo. This donation will go to support ocelot programs at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.



Family Fish Camp

On May 20, the Friends and Refuge, in partnership with Fishing's Future, held a Family Fish Camp at the Bahia Grande. Families learned how to tie fishing knots, tacklebox basics, rods and reels, fish habitat and identification, rules and regulations, and how to cast. As always, the fishing did not disappoint, with numerous redfish and black drum catches. This event was a catch and release only event, so these fish may be around for the next Family Fish Camp. Check our events calendar at: <https://flanwr.org/eventCalendar> for updates on the next Family Fish Camp!



Creature Feature- Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

Surprisingly secretive but highly feared is our resident rattlesnake species known as the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake. They may be found in central and western Texas, southern New Mexico and Arizona, into southern California, and also into central Mexico. The only rattlesnake found in this area of South Texas, they can grow as large as 7 feet long, and are characterized by the distinct black and white stripes below the rattle. The striking diamond shapes down the back are what frequently causes people to mistake other harmless snakes for rattlesnakes. The large Indigo Snake is actually known for consuming Western Diamondbacks on a regular basis. Contrary to popular belief, it is not possible to determine the age based on number rattles. Rattlesnakes actually add a rattle with each new shed, while losing one at the same time. Because all rattlesnakes are considered pit vipers, Western Diamondbacks have a pit organ between the nostril and the eye which is extremely temperature sensitive, allowing the snakes to detect the slightest difference in both internal and external temperatures. This provides them with an advantage in locating their prey. They mainly feed on small mammals such as rats and squirrels, while they also may consume reptiles, amphibians, and birds. They are able to control the amount of venom released with each bite using special muscles around the venom glands. Keep in mind that rattlesnakes bite to defend themselves, and use their rattles as a warning sign. Keep an eye on the trail and if you happen to come across one, leave them in peace and they will not harm you.



Living Art Class

On Saturday, May 27, Friends hosted a Living Art Class at the Visitor's Center. Patricia Scanlan from the Gladys Porter Zoo led this extraordinary event where we made a living art piece using plants, wood, and moss. Special thanks to Patricia for leading the event and Lowes in Harlingen for donating supplies. We plan to have an art class at the Visitors Center monthly during the summer, so check our event calendar at: <https://flanwr.org/eventCalendar> to sign up.

OPERATIONAL HOURS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Visitors Center has new hours. It will now be open Wed-Fri from 8-4. Due to staffing shortages, these days and times may be subject to change.

Visitor's Center

Wednesday-Friday

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

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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