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MARCH 2023

NEWSLETTER

friends of
LAGUNA ATASCOSA
national wildlife refuge

IN THIS ISSUE:
Upcoming events
Creature feature
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March

EVERY SATURDAY BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS, 8AM

3/5 OCELOT CONSERVATION DAY AND OCELOT RUN
9AM-4PM, GLADYS PORTER ZOO

3/10 WILD FRIENDS STORYTIME, LANCELOT THE
OCELOT, 11 AM

3/13 NATURALLY NATIVE GARDEN TEAM 9AM

3/14 COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS MEMBER SOCIAL, 9AM

3/14 REFUGE BIRTHDAY, 10AM

3/15 WILD FRIENDS STORYTIME, LANCELOT THE
OCELOT, 5PM, LAGUNA VISTA PUBLIC LIBRARY

3/16 FRIENDS SCIENCE SERIES – OCELOTS, 10AM

3/25 BIKE THE BAHIA, 9AM

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Register at: www.flanwr.org/eventcalendar

GLADYS PORTER ZOO

OCELOT CONSERVATION DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

RAFFLES | GAMES | ACTIVITIES | EXHIBITS

250 KIDS FREE ENTRY



FIRST 250 KIDS WILL
RECEIVE A FREE ENTRY
TO THE ZOO THANKS TO
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE.

CHECK-IN



CHECK IN WITH THE
USFWS BOOTH AT
THE FRONT OF THE
ZOO WITH THE
OCELOT MASCOT.

H-E-B
Helping Here.



VISIT
Brownsville

STAY IN BROWNSVILLE. BOOK YOUR HOTEL AT **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 ocelot themed 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! Thanks to a donation from the Defenders of Wildlife, the first 250 kids will get in for free!



Creature Feature: Javelinas

Showing up to our bird feeders from time to time, these little creatures are not actually pigs, although they strongly resemble them. They are actually called Collared Peccaries, and are widely populated throughout southwest Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and south into Mexico and Central America and Argentina. With short coarse hair that is lighter around the shoulder area, they have the appearance of a collar around their neck. Sharp canine teeth protrude from mouths on short piglike faces. Weighing only a maximum of 55 pounds, these petite animals are vulnerable to predators such as coyotes, mountain lions, and bobcats, as well as cars and people. The habitat at Laguna Atascosa is perfect for them as they prefer areas of dense shrub and cacti, as well as grasslands and forests. Peccaries are very communal, living in large groups of at least ten individuals. Each family group maintains their own territory and communicates between themselves with a variety of sounds and smells; in fact, you will probably smell them before you see them! Peccaries are herbivores, consuming various native plants including prickly pear cactus and root, although they are also opportunistic and will feed on carrion. Keep an eye out for Peccaries while hiking some of our trails!



Ocelot Sighting!

Check out these amazing photos of an Ocelot and her kitten taken by Jake Strouf at the refuge! These beautiful animals are rarely seen, especially during daylight hours, and it was a very unique opportunity to capture these photos of a healthy kitten alongside it's mother. We are thrilled to see a healthy pair, as South Texas experienced a major drought during the previous year. As a friendly reminder, please remember to observe the 25 mph speed limit along Buena Vista Blvd., as this area cuts through pristine ocelot habitat. You never know, maybe next time you will be fortunate enough to spot one of these stunning cats.



Friends Science Series: Native Plants- Medicinal, Wildlife, and Historical Uses

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Last week we hosted our sixth class in the Friends Science Series. During this class, the kids learned about the medicinal, wildlife, and historical uses of native plants found at Laguna Atascosa. We took a native plant walk, made seed paper, a pretend medicinal "tea" and had native food-themed snacks including mesquite cookies, cactus soup, and prickly pear jam and toast. Special thanks to the Texas Master Naturalists and Palo Alto National Battlefield Historical Site for helping with their expertise! This series is on the third Thursday of each month. Our next one will be All About Ocelots on March 16! Go to www.flanwr.org/eventcalendar to register.

Visitor's Center

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

Nature Store

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

Refuge Access

Sunday - Saturday
Sunrise to Sunset

SUPPORT US

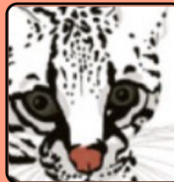
Save Texas Ocelots
License Plates



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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