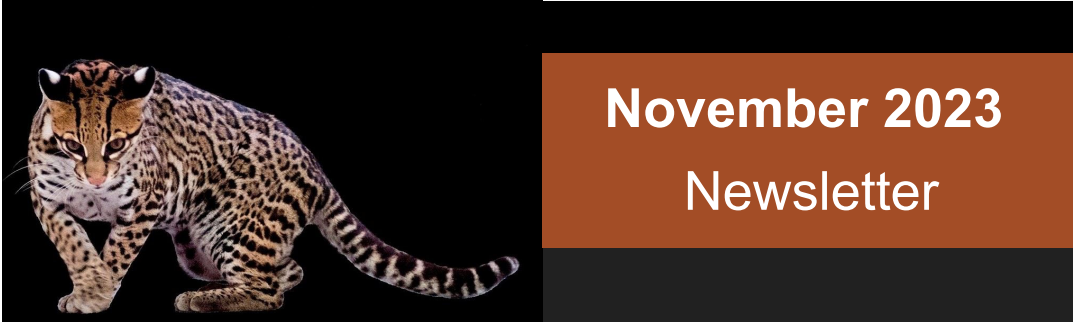


Dear {Contact\_First\_Name},

Below is our latest newsletter, Please feel free to share it!



# friends of **LAGUNA ATASCOSA** national wildlife refuge

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Walk for the Wild Results  
Upcoming events  
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## How we did

Our fundraising ranked 3rd of 46 Refuges  
57 people responded (walked or donated)  
17 walked with us Saturday  
\$3,160 donated by 45 people  
\$22,688 raised by the Amplifier Fund  
\$59,020 total for the Campaign

**WALK  
FOR THE  
WILD**  
**5K finisher**  
*congratulations! you did it!*

*Friends of Laguna Atascosa NWR will receive our raised funds and a percentage of the Amplifier Fund.*

# November Events

03 8a Join the Naturally Native Garden Team

03 11a Wild Friends Story Time: Baby Rattlesnake  
Visitor Center

04 10:30a Wild Friends Story Time: Baby Rattlesnake  
Launga Vista Public Library

04 8a Bike the Wildlife Drive

04 2p Friends Science Series Workshop  
Creatures of the Night

08-12 RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL  
Come visit our booth

11 8a Bike the Bahia Grande

*The following is a member exclusive event JOIN & LOGIN to see details*

18 5p Exclusive FRIENDS member Tour  
Sunset Exploration with the STAR Society @ STEC

**REGISTER:** <https://flanwr.org/eventCalendar>

## SERIOUSLY, WE NEED YOU NOW CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

[EMAIL Amanda](#)





*Join me for the CBC  
Dec. 26, 2023*



Cathy Harrington is a board member and a devoted volunteer of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (LANWR) since 2018.

She has contributed to various conservation and restoration efforts on the refuge, such as fundraising, bird counting, and membership programs. She is also the chairperson of the membership committee and clubs.

Cathy loves to explore the refuge and admire its wildlife through birdwatching, hiking, and photography. She has had many memorable experiences on the refuge, such as witnessing a rare ocelot release and a turtle release at South Padre Island.

She is also eager to join the Audubon Christmas Bird Count on Laguna Atascosa NWR on December 26, where volunteers and experts will record as many bird species as they can for one day. If you want to join this event, you can find more information on the website.

Cathy's goal is to help the Friends of LANWR enhance their outreach and education programs in the next year.

Cathy is passionate about preserving and promoting the LANWR, and she invites everyone to visit and support this wonderful place.

## **The Heartbeat - Youth Spotlight**





October's Wild Friends Storytime featured the book *Peregrine's Sky* where the story traces the early life of a young peregrine falcon and her family. The kids participated in a hands-on activity where they pretended to be birds using various utensils such as spoons, forks, and toothpicks as "bird beaks" in order to pick up various types of food sources in several different habitats. The kids had the opportunity to learn more about bird adaptations and develop an understanding of what is involved for a bird to adapt to its environment in order to survive.

## That's A Wrap!

2023 TMN Annual Meeting was a success!

Stop By Our Booth at the 30th Annual RGVBF and say HI!



## Creature Feature



## **Flamingos at the Refuge!**

***By Michelle Cano, Friends Board Member***

***Photo Credit: M.Cano***

As per an eBird report, flamingos were being seen in Corpus Christi, Texas due to being displaced from a hurricane. Then an anonymous birder reported seeing a flamingo around October 15<sup>th</sup> on the Refuge but many of us never saw that report for some reason. On Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, two more eBird reports from local birders (Evan and Justin) indicated that a flamingo was seen late that evening.

On Monday, I texted several friends the amazing news that a flamingo was seen at the Refuge last evening and we needed to go and see for ourselves. When I got to Osprey Overlook, there were actually two flamingos! They were both immature birds with not a lot of pink yet. They were several yards out surrounded by red head ducks, pintails, and other wading birds. It was so exciting to see!

The winds were blowing over 40 miles an hour and it was hard to get any decent video and photos but we all did the best that we could. It was so incredible to see! Flamingos at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge!

On Tuesday morning, a friend of mine saw them in the same very spot, but by the afternoon, another friend of mine could not locate them. The flamingos haven't been sighted in the last few days, but the refuge is so vast, they could be anywhere.

***The birds are arriving and they are HUNGRY!  
Can you help us feed them?***

***view our [WISHLIST](#)***



# Laguna Blecuna

## Grey Ghost of Laguna

Wed, October 25, 2023 11:28 AM | David & Maryianne

Book view the [BLOG](#)



I would seldom call the refuge a spooky place. But when you stop and think about it, there does exist a certain creepiness about it, especially when the rattlesnakes and tarantulas are out and about. And, certainly, one should be wary of those alligators. But there is more. What about the "Grey Ghost of Laguna?" At least that is what one newspaper reporter called him.

It appears that in 1940 an old hermit was wandering around way under the radar on the northern end of what is now called Horse Island. According to the news article, the census taker, Bill King, was bound and determined to find him. He described the encounter after searching for several days

"at the beginning of nowhere" having spotted the "local legend" squatting by "a lean-to made of the skins of goat, coyote, and bobcat, surrounded by 20-25 lean, scraggly goats." The elderly man approached the census official with a 10 gauge shotgun cocked under his right arm. He did not threaten King, but was obviously not happy to see him. He did not know his birth date or birthplace, but appeared to be in his 80's. King described him as being "about six feet tall, heavy set with a tangled mass of graying hair, and a snarled growth of hair that forms a beard about eight inches long that looks like steel wool." His one room hovel had no running water or electricity. He spoke in broken Spanish, and King wasted no time in heading back across the extensive salt flats when he had successfully added the hermit to his census list. A somewhat spooky tale, but that is not all.

At the northern end of the Mesquite Trail, which begins at the Visitors Center, is a cemetery containing five grave markers used by the old Granjeno Ranch in the late 19th century. Only two of the stones have discernible engravings. One of the two was a twelve year-old boy who accidentally shot himself with a rifle in 1913 while hunting rabbits. The cemetery is maintained by the refuge staff during the daylight hours. If you happen to be there at night, especially during the full moon, you may hear a hair-raising screech. Is it someone calling from the grave or the barn owl that nests nearby? You can be the judge.





## November Inspirational Quote

Veterans Day, November 11

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

-- John F. Kennedy

### OPERATIONAL HOURS

*See you at the Refuge!*

#### Visitor's Center

Monday - Saturday  
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

#### Nature Store

Tuesday - Saturday  
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

#### Refuge Access

Sunday - Saturday  
Sunrise to Sunset

### SUPPORT US

[Save Texas Ocelots  
License Plates](#)



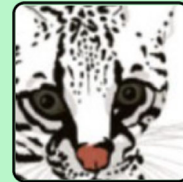
Get Yours Today!

[The Nature Store](#)

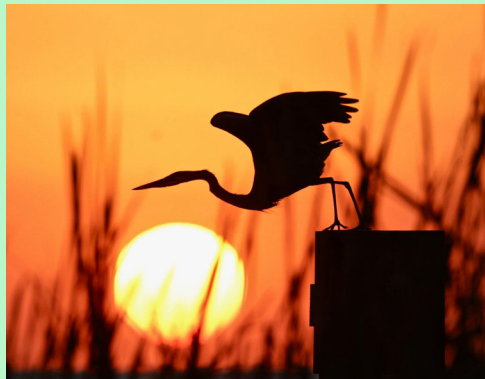


GO SHOPPING!

[Adopt an Ocelot](#)



Adopt Here!



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2022 - 2023**

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