



September 2022 NEWSLETTER

friends of
LAGUNA ATASCOSA
national wildlife refuge

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- Upcoming Events
- Creature Feature

MEET THE NEW WEBSITE

NEW DOMAIN
NEW LOOK
NEW EVENTS
NEW COMMUNICATION
NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FLANWR.org

Friends has a brand new website! Check out flanwr.org to find out about upcoming events, volunteer needs, and how you can help support us!

OPERATIONAL HOURS

Visitor's Center
Wednesday - Friday
7:00am-2:00pm

Nature Store
Thursday-Saturday
8:00am-4:00pm

Refuge Access
Sunday - Saturday
Sunrise to Sunset



New Youth Programs

Friends is kicking off the fall season with new programs and events. We will have two new youth programs, events, and membership-only clubs.

New youth programs will include a monthly Wild Friends Storytime and Homeschool Science Series.

The Wild Friends Storytime, geared for six and under, will include feeding the birds, a story featuring a native animal or habitat from the Refuge, and a craft. Our first Storytime on September 3 will feature the book: "Just Like Us! Birds" by Bridget Heos. Students will learn all about bird nests and make their own bird nest craft.

The Homeschool Science Series, geared for elementary and middle school students, will include hands-on activities that will provide a more in-depth understanding of Refuge habitats and wildlife. Our first event will be a Family Fish Camp at Bahia Grande on September 23. At this event, students will learn about fish identification, habitat, rules and regulations, fishing equipment, and get to fish at the Bahia Grande!

EVENTS

9/3 - 9am (VC)
**Wild Friends Storytime
and Feed the Birds**

9/8 - 6pm
**Bahia Grande
Documentary**
at Quinta Mazatlan

9/10 - 9am (VC)
**Feed the Birds and
Docent Walk**

9/17 - 9am (VC)
**Feed the Birds and
Docent Walk**

9/23 - 9am
Family Fish Camp
at Bahia Grande

9/24 - 9am
**National Public Lands Day
Cleanup**
at Steve Thompson Wildlife
Dr

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Kiskadee Cruisers Run Club

Garden Club

Oct 9-15 National Wildlife
Refuge Week

for more information and registration flanwr.org/events



Creature Feature: Rio Grande Chirping Frog

You might wonder what kind of animal makes a sound like squeaky shoes in the middle of the night. This secretive little creature is actually a tiny frog which most people have never heard of let alone seen. The Rio Grande Chirping Frog can only be found in the lower Rio Grande Valley and south into a small portion of the Mexico border. These spotted, mottled, olive-green and brown amphibians are barely a half inch long. Although they have been introduced into various locations in Texas, this is likely due to inadvertent transportation from the plant nursery business. They prefer heavy leaf litter and vegetation, while also having a preference for seeking shelter under large rocks and flower pots. The warmth received from the rocks is likely the reason why these frogs are able to survive outside of their usual habitat and have developed populations in cities such as San Antonio and Houston, to name a few. The most interesting feature about the Rio Grande Chirping Frog is their breeding habits. During spring and early summer, females lay 5-13 tiny eggs barely underneath the surface of moist soil. This is highly unlike other species of frogs, which deposit their eggs in the water. After about 15 days, the eggs hatch into tiny froglets, undergoing metamorphosis inside the egg. This unique process is known as direct development. Due to their small size, their main diet consists of tiny insects such as flies, spiders, and springtails. Next time you are sitting outside on a warm summer night, listen for the squeaky calls of the chirping frogs, and maybe, just maybe, you will have the privilege of observing these amazing creatures in their natural habitat.

SUPPORT US

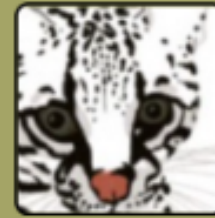
Save Texas Ocelots
License Plates



The Nature Store @
Laguna Atascosa

GO SHOPPING!

Adopt an Ocelot



Members-Only Events on the Horizon

Looking for another reason to become a member of the Friends? In October, Friends will be starting members-only clubs! We will be starting with a run club, the Kiskadee Cruisers Run Club, and a Garden Club.

The Kiskadee Cruisers Run Club will have its kickoff event with a 5k run for the Walk for the Wild on October 15 during National Wildlife Refuge Week. During this event, participants will run a guided 5k (3.1 mile) route through a Refuge trail. This trail will begin adjacent to Laguna Atascosa Lake and feature three ponds for wildlife viewing. A water station and selfie station will also be present. The event will start at 6 am at Osprey Overlook on Saturday, October 15.

Friends is starting a members-only Garden Club that will meet monthly to revitalize the garden in front of the Refuge Visitor's Center. Activities will include weeding, planting native pollinator plants, and watering. Our first event is Monday, October 3 at 9 am.

In addition to being invited to members-only clubs, members are entitled to 1 vote per member bundle and can attend the membership Annual meeting, are eligible for a position on a committee & on the board of directors, receive a 15% discount on merchandise purchased at the store (must show card), and receive early-bird announcements for major events.

To find out more about how to become a member, go to flanwr.org/members

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