

Four Friday Field Trips

November 13, 2015

9:00am – 4:00pm – *Grassland Restoration Techniques – Hixon Ranch*

Visit the Hixon Ranch, a private ranch located 6 miles east of Cotulla where research to manage and replace non-native grasslands has been ongoing since 2008. This trip will tour sites across the ranch aimed at managing structure of non-native grasses for wildlife through grazing. Participants will also visit research plots exhibiting the largest and most successful native plant community and wildlife restoration plots in buffel-grassland to date.

Leaders – Eric Grahmann, Assistant Professor for Research, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and Mike Hehman, Wildlife Biologist and Ranch Manager at the Hixon Ranch. Meet in the parking lot of Alamo Stadium by Trinity University. Carpool - Requires high clearance vehicles; 2 wheel drive is fine. Activity level = moderate. [Register on Eventbrite.](#) [Bag Lunch Included.](#) Field Trip Fee = \$40.

9:00am – 4:00pm – *Restoring Riparian Habitat – San Antonio River Authority*

Visit Mission Reach with staff of the San Antonio River Authority to learn about the SARA's Ecosystem Restoration & Recreation Project along 8 miles of Mission Reach. The project includes reconfiguring the channel to create improved aquatic habitat, planting hundreds of acres of native grasses and wildflowers, removal of invasive species, and restoring 334 acres of riparian woodland habitat.

Leader – Lee Marlowe, Sustainable Landscape Superintendent, San Antonio River Authority. Meet in the parking lot of Alamo Stadium by Trinity University. Carpool - Requires high clearance vehicles; 2 wheel drive is fine. Activity level = moderate. [Register on Eventbrite.](#) [Bag Lunch Included.](#) Field Trip Fee = \$30.

9am – 2pm - *Douglass King Seed Co. - Native Seed for the South Texas Region*

Douglass King Seed Co. entered into an agreement with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and South Texas Natives in 2009 to help produce and reintroduce seed of selected native species for the South Texas Region. These once important species had become all but forgotten and commercial seed supplies were non-existent. From the start in 2009, with 6 species on 11 acres, the collaborative program now boasts over 25 species on 325 acres. Attendees on this trip will visit the production fields and learn in detail how this private/public program is a model of success for production of restoration plant material. Field trip participants will be treated to lunch in Castroville by Douglass Kind Seed Co.

Leader – Dean Williams, President, Douglass King Seed Co. and Keith Pawelek, Assistant Director, South Texas Natives, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. Meet in the parking lot of Alamo Stadium by Trinity University. Carpool – Requires high clearance vehicles; 2 wheel drive is fine. Activity level = easy. [Register on Eventbrite](#). Field Trip Fee = \$25

1:00pm – 4:00pm – *Urban Restoration - Phil Hardberger Park*

Visit Phil Hardberger Park to learn about large-scale savanna restoration efforts that are converting Ashe juniper and persimmon brush to a savanna of native grass, wildflowers, and interspersed trees. As part of the project, staff are mapping, documenting and removing exotic invasive species while monitoring the impact on bird, reptile and mammal populations in this urban setting.

Leader – Gail Gallegos, Nature Preserve Officer, Phil Hardberger Park, San Antonio Parks and Recreation. Meet in the parking lot of Alamo Stadium by Trinity University. Carpool – Requires high clearance vehicles; 2 wheel drive is fine. Activity level = easy. [Register on Eventbrite](#). Field Trip Fee = \$20.