

Headwaters at the Comal launches February programming

By Keri Heath The Herald-Zeitung | Posted: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 12:00 am

After opening phase one at the Headwaters at the Comal, the New Braunfels Utilities (NBU) project will begin programming this weekend.

Programs on Feb. 17 and Feb. 18 will focus on birding in honor of a nationwide event called the Great Backyard Bird Country.

Lauren Stack, assistant manager of the headwaters, said the National Audubon Society organizes this event, to raise awareness about migration routes, among other areas.

Weekend programming will contain events for both experienced birders and amateur avian enthusiasts.

“In the morning, we’re going to have a smaller event that’s just for more experienced birders to come out ... when it’s quieter to walk around,” Stack said.

This event, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., will be led by members of the San Antonio Audubon Society and requires advanced registration. Stack said the event is open to all ages.

“You don’t have to be an expert, but it is for people who have done it before and don’t need a ton of guidance,” Stack said.

The main event of the day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., is meant to give all skill levels and ages the chance to learn about birding.

Different stations, like a binocular boot camp and an urban bird spotting area, will give attendees the chance to learn about how birds interact with the community.

Stack said the event will also help staff at the Headwaters at the Comal establish a baseline for species in the area. She said staff can refer back to this in upcoming years.

“It’s an interesting time for us because we’re at ground zero right now,” Stack said. “We can use this birding event to see how much growth we have on the site.”

The afternoon programming will also feature short lectures on topics such as how to plant a bird-friendly garden.

The Headwaters at the Comal will also host a book talk on Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This lecture will focus on “The Big Year,” a book in which Mark Obmascik recounts his journey to document as many bird species as possible in one year.

Lynn Thompson, a librarian at the New Braunfels Public Library, will give the talk.

Stack said that next month, programming will focus on the theme of water and that details about those events should be released soon.

The Headwaters will also participate in the Big Give fundraising day on March 22 to raise money for more programming and phase two of the project.

Registration for the weekend's events and the book discussion on Feb. 22 can be found online at headwatersatthecomal.com. Tickets to the 8 a.m. event are \$5. Tickets for the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. programming is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.