

MEDIA ADVISORY

Visit the Great Trinity Forest and join us for "Celebrate Birds Fest" Saturday, April 2, 2011

WHAT: A free eggstravaganza for the whole family awaits bird enthusiasts and nature lovers at the Trinity River Audubon Center. As the country looks toward Earth Day, "Celebrate Bird Fest" will showcase the power and diversity of birds with an opportunity for children and adults to meet owls, hawks, and egrets up-close! Build bird houses. Fly homing pigeons. Dissect owl pellets. Try out binoculars & spotting scopes. Learn how to help birds in north Texas and around the world. Take a guided birding hike. Create bird art. Make bird feeders. Help with an exciting new effort to count every bird species along our Trinity River.

WHO: Trinity River Audubon Center and the City of Dallas' Trinity River Corridor Project

WHEN: Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Trinity River Audubon Center, 6500 Great Trinity Forest Way (I-45 South to Loop 12

East) only 8 minutes from downtown Dallas - www.trinityriveraudubon.org. Contact Ben

Jones at 214-309-5810 for more details.

WHY: 1) Get your family outside! Studies show kids who spend time outside are healthier,

happier and smarter.

2) With 636 of the 957 bird species in North America, Texas is for the birds! Birds are some of the most beautiful, interesting, and pleasing things in nature and are a window

into the environmental health of a community.

3) Free is good.

Trinity River Audubon Center (TRAC) opened October 2008 and serves as a flagship location for the National Audubon Society's mission to conserve and restore ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife and their habitat for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. TRAC is located just eight minutes from downtown Dallas on 120 acres of the Great Trinity Forest – the largest urban bottomland hardwood forest in the United States. TRAC offers programs throughout the year related to local ecology, habitat study and stewardship. Built on top of a reclaimed, former landfill, TRAC is the first major signature development for the Trinity River Corridor Project www.trinityrivercorridor.org a \$2 billion City of Dallas public works project. TRAC is one of Dallas' newest and most unique destinations for recreation and education where visitors can connect with nature.

From the rain harvesting system for irrigation to recycled blue jeans as insulation and boardwalks made of recycled milk jugs, the Center is pursuing LEED Gold Certification. Coupled with its aesthetic beauty, the Center is a true gem in Dallas. The building, designed by Antoine Predock, mimics a bird rising into flight over the forest. The center is managed by the National Audubon Society. Go to www.trinityriveraudubon.org for up-to-date activities or

call 214.398.8722. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. On the third Thursday of each month, the hours are 9 a.m.-9 p.m., with free admission. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission is \$3 children ages 3-12; \$4 seniors 60+; \$6 adults ages 13-59, free on the third Thursday of each month. Group discounts, private guided tours, and facility rentals are available. Memberships start at \$60.



The Trinity Bird Count, sponsored by the Trinity Commons Foundation in association with the Trinity River Audubon Center and others, is a creative new project to find out what birds visit the Trinity River during all four seasons of the year. For more information, or to get involved, call 214.320.1154 or go to www.trinitybirdcount.com.