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NEWS RELEASE



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SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY GOES BATTY!

Free Educational Bat Tours Offered This Summer Along the Museum Reach

With the grand opening of the Museum Reach – Urban Segment in May 2009, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and the public learned that a large colony of Mexican free-tailed bats live under Interstate Highway 35 over the San Antonio River near Camden Street. Last year, San Antonians gathered during the summer and fall seasons to watch the bats emerge from their roost every evening around dusk. It's that time of year again!

This summer, SARA is teaming up with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to offer free educational bat tours. The community can come to the Museum Reach – Urban Segment any night to witness the bats firsthand, but on designated nights, they can also get a free bat lesson as well. Currently, there is one bat tour per month; however, if there is enough community interest, additional days may be added.

The free educational bat tours will begin at the Museum Reach – Urban Segment turning basin by Pearl. A SARA staff member will lead the walking tour (round trip distance is approximately ½ mile) to the bat colony while sharing information related to the San Antonio River and the Museum Reach. A wildlife expert from the TPWD will be present to provide bat education and explain the important role bats have in the South Texas ecosystem. The educational bat tours are scheduled for the following dates/times:

Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 31, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

“The bats were an unexpected, but welcome, addition to the Museum Reach – Urban Segment, and they are one more reason for the community to come out to enjoy this segment of the river. We have added educational signage and more benches for sightseers, and because of the interest in the bats, we are providing free educational bat tours with wildlife experts during the summer,” Suzanne Scott, General Manager, SARA explains.

For more information on the bat tours contact Matthew Driffill at 210-302-3222 or mdriffill@sara-tx.org.

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