

17th Annual RiversEdge West

RIPARIAN RESTORATION CONFERENCE

FIELD TRIP OPTIONS | PAGE ONE



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Choose one of the following five field trip or workshop options when registering for the conference. Field trips must meet a minimum number of attendees and will depend on weather conditions. Refunds will be offered if a field trip is cancelled.

OPTION 1

DESERT BOTANIC GARDEN TOUR
9:00 AM—10:30 AM | DESERT BOTANICAL GARDENS
FREE

A tour of the Research and Conservation programs at the Desert Botanical Garden: This 90-minute tour will give you a behind-the-scenes look at the Desert Botanical Garden's Research and Conservation facilities. The guided tour will pass through the Schilling Library, the herbarium that houses 83,000 accessioned specimens, the state-of-the-art 1200 square foot molecular lab, and the 85,000 square foot Hazel Hare Center for Plant Science greenhouse and plant propagation area used to study and maintain nearly 400 threatened and endangered desert plant species.

OPTION 2

RUSSIAN OLIVE PANEL AND WORKSHOP
9:00 AM—12:00 PM | DORRANCE CENTER
FREE

An expert panel forum will be held in the Dorrance Center at the Desert Botanical Garden to discuss the state of the science pertaining to Russian olive control along western riparian systems. Topics, which will be addressed by a cadre of scientists and policy specialists, include management implications, treatment prioritization, policy, and research advancements. In order to set the stage for a more engaged discussion, presentations by leading experts will be provided during Day 2, February 6th, of the conference. Results from this panel and ensuing discussions will be used to inform a Scientific and Technical Report, to be published by Colorado Mesa University. The intent of this report is to provide synthesized recommendations to help guide land management decisions.

OPTION 3

TRES RIOS TOUR
WITH THE CITY OF PHOENIX
8:00 AM—12:00 PM
\$20

The City of Phoenix staff will lead a tour of the Tres Rios Wetlands Project along the Salt River. The site visit will leave from the Desert Botanical Garden at 8am and will return around 12 pm. The site is about a 45-minute drive from the Desert Botanical Garden.

The tour will provide a behind the scenes look in the Flow Regulating Wetlands (FRW) which is closed to the public. The FRW serve as a polishing treatment for the effluent before it is discharged to the Salt River. The Overbank Wetlands Area includes two and a half miles of constructed wetlands, riparian connectors, and a mesquite bosque. The diverse habitat provides an ideal structure for a wide variety of wildlife and an exciting recreation opportunity for the visiting public. The final stop will include a view of the restoration efforts and challenges with managing an active river corridor (the Salt River).

Tres Rios removed large tracts of salt cedar and replaced it with native cottonwood/willow riparian corridors. In some areas, where the salt cedar is very thick and will be impossible to replace, staff will try to use mechanical means to cut the stems and flood the area with water. As a last resort, staff will strategically utilize herbicides, treat salt cedar, and revegetate with native vegetation. A key component of the restoration was the re-establishment of native riparian vegetation and the promotion of additional habitat for threatened and endangered species including the Yellow-billed cuckoo, Yuma Ridgeway's Rail, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

A project of this size and complexity contains a variety of challenges ranging from water quality permitting, security and vandalism, scope of operations and maintenance for only five (5) full-time employees. Additionally, salt cedar is rampant in the seed bank which requires constant attention. [Learn more here.](#)

17th Annual RiversEdge West

RIPARIAN RESTORATION CONFERENCE

FIELD TRIP OPTIONS | PAGE TWO



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Choose one of the following five field trip or workshop options when registering for the conference. Field trips must meet a minimum number of attendees and will depend on weather conditions. Refunds will be offered if a field trip is cancelled.

OPTION 4

ROCKHOUSE SITE TOUR
WITH SALT RIVER PROJECT
8:00 AM—2:00 PM
\$20

Salt River Project (SRP) staff will lead a tour of their Rockhouse Site along the Salt River. The site visit will leave from the Desert Botanical Garden at 8am and will return around 2pm. The site is about a 2-hour drive from Phoenix. Prior to arriving at the site, we will stop at the Tonto National Forest Roosevelt Lake Diversion Dam, this will provide the only restroom facilities for the site visit.

The Rockhouse site is a 20-acre riparian area that was created as part of SRP's Roosevelt Habitat Conservation Plan mitigation. The site was created to offset impacts to two federally protected bird species: the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Flycatcher) and the threatened Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo (Cuckoo).

SRP's objective for this project was to develop and maintain a dense stand of suitable breeding habitat for these bird species using native riparian tree and shrub plantings. Both potted plants and cuttings of Fremont cottonwood, Goodding's willow, seep willow, and coyote willow were planted over a four year period beginning in 2004. A flood irrigation system was installed to sustain the plantings and to provide the appropriate breeding conditions for these birds. SRP first found Cuckoos using the site during the 2009 breeding season and they have been found at the site regularly ever since. Flycatchers were first detected in 2010, when five territories were documented, including two nesting pairs. Numbers continued to increase with 2015 yielding 49 individual Flycatchers at 25 territories and 2017 41 individuals at 21 territories. Since the initial plantings we have seen good recruitment of native vegetation across the site and have seen regular utilization of the site by both Flycatchers and Cuckoos as well as many other riparian bird species throughout the years.

OPTION 5

VERDE VALLEY TOUR
WITH FRIENDS OF THE VERDE RIVER
8:00 AM—2:00 PM
\$20

Friends of the Verde are hosting a field trip to the Verde Valley. The field trip will leave from Phoenix at 8am and return around 2pm.

During the field trip, we will visit a restoration site where the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition has removed invasive plant species from along the river and see how the native plant species have flourished following treatments. This site had Southwestern Willow Flycatchers last summer, and we will discuss the invasive plant treatment and restoration plans. We will also visit a restoration site on the Yavapai-Apache Nation where they removed tamarisk and planted willows for erosion control. At the final stop, we will visit Shield Ranch and see some of the innovative activities that Sinagua Malt Co. have employed.