

Providing water resource solutions and protecting the waterways of the Neches River Basin since 1935.

General Education & Outreach Overview

The past year was a busy and exciting period of education and outreach opportunities.

During this time, in addition to improving and completely updating our website and social media presence, ANRA staff participated in various inperson events and meetings that significantly furthered the reach of the CRP program by strengthening ties with existing partnerships and developing relationships with new organizations.





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Stranger Things Found in Our Waterways...



ANGELINA & NECHES RIVER AUTHORITY

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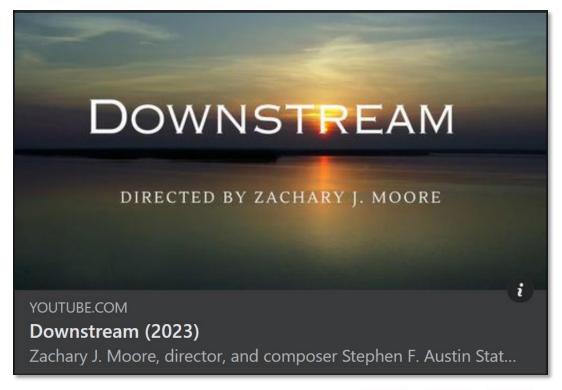


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Documentary

Zachary J. Moore, Composer and Arranger, asked ANRA to be a part of his Stephen F. Austin State University master's thesis project, which resulted in the premier of his beautifully-done documentary "Downstream." This was a first for ANRA and something we are very proud to have been a part of and hope to do again.





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Alligator Snapping Turtle Awareness Campaign

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS TURTLE?







Alligator snapping turtles are a threatened species and protected in Texas. We are asking for help reporting sightings of these turtles. Alligator snapping turtles have a large triangular head and three distinct ridges on their shell.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO INTENTIONALLY KILL, INJURE, OR HARASS THESE TURTLES.

If you accidentally catch one, it should be returned to its habitat, as close as possible to the spot where it was caught.

Report alligator snapping turtle sightings (live or dead) along with a photo, GPS coordinates, and any measurements to the Angelina & Neches River Authority at:

www.anra.org

wildlife@anra.org

tpwd.texas.gov

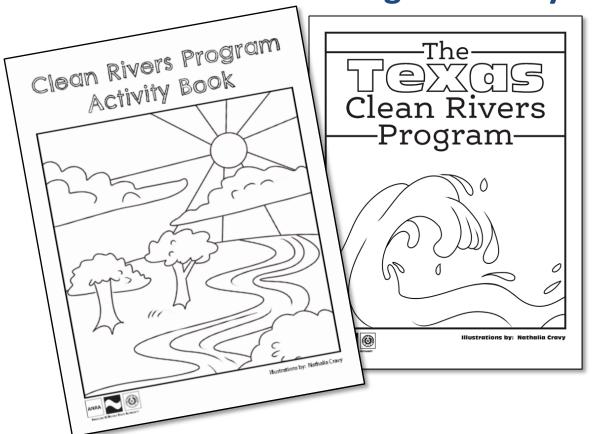


In partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, this project is to raise awareness of the listing status of the Alligator Snapping Turtle. Data is reported to the East Texas Species of Concern database.



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Nearly 1,000 distributed in 2023

Version 2.0 coming Spring 2024



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Meetings & Partnerships

Nearly 50 different meetings with individual volunteers and program and community partners, including, Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful, Texas Master Naturalist – Longleaf Ridge Chapter, Lufkin High School, Nacogdoches Homeschool Association, Diboll ISD, Hackberry Bunkhouse & Kayak Rentals, Angelina Beautiful/Clean, Keep Whitehouse Beautiful, Keep Jasper Beautiful, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, Texas Master Gardeners, Huntington All-Around 4-H, U.S. Forest Service – National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, Stephen F. Austin State University, and more!



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Presentations & Public Outreach

ANRA staff made eight water quality presentations and participated in general outreach efforts to more than 1,500 students, parents, teachers, and community members at multiple locations and events, including Diboll Career Day, Lufkin High School's environmental science classes, Longleaf Ridge Texas Master Naturalists monthly meetings, Huntington All-Around 4H Club meeting, and provided a talk and tour of ANRA's Central Office Facility and Environmental Laboratory to students at St. Cyprian's School.







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Texas Stream Team



Staff attended E. coli training in San Marcos and also trained 32 volunteers at four and trained two trainers-in-training at throughout the year, in various locations in the Upper Neches River Basin and in the Lower Neches River Basin, in partnership with the Lower Neches River Valley Authority.

In addition, ANRA received two sponsorships (one still in progress) allowing us to house 10 TXST kits for volunteer use.

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Stash Your Trash Litter Bag Campaign

In Fall 2022, ANRA partnered with four Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates to educate the public about the negative effects and widespread problem of litter in the Neches River Basin.

Currently, about 20 different businesses, including gas stations, parks and recreation departments, and marinas, are also helping to distribute litter bags to the public. In less than one year, 6,000 have been distributed!













STASH YOUR TRASH!

Special thanks to our program partners!





Keep Jasper Beautiful

GRAB IT!

STASH IT!

TRASH IT!

Grab one (or more!)
of our free litter bags
and you're one step
closer to helping
prevent and eradicate
waterway litter!
Woo-hoo! Don't
forget to tell others
about our bags!

Stash your trash in the bag when enjoying outdoor recreational events such as swimming, boating, fishing, and hiking - and stash any litter you find, even if it's not your own.

Reuse your bag (or repurpose it!) or properly dispose of it in a public-use trash receptacle or with your own household garbage. (Please don't return bags to ANRA!)

Thanks for helping us keep our waterways clean, healthy, and safe!

STASH YOUR TRASH!

Thank you for keeping our waterways litter-free when enjoying outdoor recreational activities!

Paddling



Boating







Camping



Fishing





Bags NOT intended to be used in place of regular household garbage trash bags!

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Stash Your Trash Events

ANRA sponsored and hosted a "Stash Your Trash" competition at two separate fishing tournaments on the Neches River, with more than 1,500 participants involved.

More than 1,000 pounds of litter was collected at these events.









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Stash Your Trash & Cleanup Events

Bags were also distributed at events, including Earth Day activities in partnership with Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful and the Nacogdoches Public Library and at the Whitehouse Farmer's Market, in partnership with Keep Whitehouse Beautiful.

ANRA staff also participated in a four roadway, urban area, and stream clean up events in partnership with Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful at the Banita Creek Reserve, the Texas Blueberry Festival in downtown Nacogdoches, and general roadway areas.





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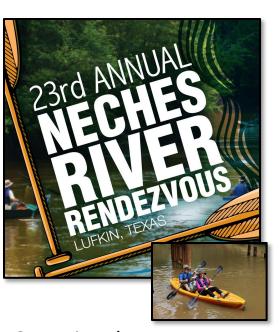


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Recent & Upcoming FY 2024 Activities







Texas Stream Team trainings - Internship program - Summer Camp involvement - Coloring & Activity Books (version 2.0) - Improved Stash Your Trash campaign - Battle of the Banks - Neches River Rendezvous

