

# Austin Water Center for Environmental Research



Austin Water – The University of Texas – Texas A&M University  
A Partnership for Urban Ecology and Sustainability: Community, Education, Research  
located at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant  
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725  
Website: [www.austintexas.gov/cer](http://www.austintexas.gov/cer)  
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## The CER Lunchtime Lectures 2024

By Dr. Kevin M. Anderson, AW Center for Environmental Research

### Nature and the American Mind:

### The Wild, The Pastoral, The Urban, The New

In 1967, the historian Roderick Nash published a foundational book about the American idea of wilderness entitled *Wilderness and the American Mind*. However, the American Mind contains more concepts of nature than just wilderness, and so, in 2024, we will explore the many aspects of **Nature and the American Mind**. This is a complex story that threads through our history and shapes beliefs, policies, science, and management practices today. We will begin the year by exploring four main **Concepts of American Nature** – wild nature, pastoral nature, urban nature, and the emerging concept of a new nature in the Anthropocene. Through the summer, we will look at **Science and American Nature** – how the development of American natural history, biology, ecology, and environmental/earth systems science has been shaped by these concepts of nature and the unique context of North America. We will finish by exploring the history of the **Management of American Nature** - the early battle between preservationists and conservationists, the past and future of American agriculture, new ecological ideas about cities and urban design, and the emergence of prospective ecology of resilience and the socioecological reality of new nature in the Anthropocene.

#### Concepts of American Nature

January	Wild Nature: The New World and Wilderness
February	Pastoral Nature: Agrarianism and Rural America
March	Urban Nature: Perspectives on Nature and the City
April	New Nature: Discordant Harmony and Ecological Resilience

#### Science and American Nature

May	American Natural History: Thoreau and New World Nature
June	American Biology: Natives, Immigrants and Humboldt's Progeny
July	American Ecology: Stability, Integrity and Leopold's Legacy
August	American Environmental Science: Carson and the Politics of Nature

#### Management of American Nature

September	Saving American Nature: Preservation, Conservation and the Wild
October	Farming with Nature: Sustainable Agriculture and the Pastoral Ideal
November	The Ecological City: Sustainability, Ecology and Urban Nature
December	The End of Nature: Prospective Ecology, Gaia and the Anthropocene

Free and Open to the Public – bring a lunch and learn!

#### Locations, Day of the Month, Times –

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday (except January) – *University of Texas Peter O'Donnell Building (POB) Room 2.302* – 1230-2pm  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday - Austin Water Center for Environmental Research (CER) at Hornsby Bend – Noon-1pm  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday – *Senior Activity Center-Lamar (SAC-Lamar) at 2874 Shoal Crest Ave, South Room* – Noon-1pm

## The CER Lunchtime Lectures 2024 Schedule by Location and Date

UT – Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday (except January) – University of Texas Peter O'Donnell Building (POB) Room 2.302 – 1230-2pm

CER – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday - Austin Water Center for Environmental Research (CER) at Hornsby Bend – Noon-1pm

SAC – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday – Senior Activity Center-Lamar (SAC-Lamar) at 2874 Shoal Crest Ave, South Room – Noon-1pm

**January Lecture – Wild Nature: The New World and Wilderness**

Jan 9 CER  
Jan 11 SAC  
Jan 23 UT

**February Lecture - Pastoral Nature: Agrarianism and Rural America**

Feb 6 UT  
Feb 8 SAC  
Feb 13 CER

**March Lecture - Urban Nature: Perspectives on Nature and the City**

Mar 5 UT  
Mar 12 CER  
Mar 14 SAC

**April Lecture - New Nature: Discordant Harmony and Ecological Resilience**

Apr 2 UT  
Apr 9 CER  
Apr 11 SAC

**May Lecture - American Natural History: Thoreau and New World Nature**

May 7 UT  
May 9 SAC  
May 14 CER

**June Lecture - American Biology: Natives, Immigrants and Humboldt's Progeny**

Jun 4 UT  
Jun 11 CER  
Jun 13 SAC

**July Lecture - American Ecology: Stability, Integrity and Leopold's Legacy**

Jul 2 UT  
Jul 9 CER  
Jul 11 SAC

**August Lecture - American Environmental Science: Carson and the Politics of Nature**

Aug 6 UT  
Aug 8 SAC  
Aug 13 CER

**September Lecture - Saving American Nature: Preservation, Conservation and the Wild**

Sep 3 UT  
Sep 10 CER  
Sep 12 SAC

**October Lecture - Farming with Nature: Sustainable Agriculture and the Pastoral Ideal**

Oct 1 UT  
Oct 8 CER  
Oct 10 SAC

**November Lecture - The Ecological City: Sustainability, Ecology and Urban Nature**

Nov 5 UT  
Nov 12 CER  
Nov 14 SAC

**December Lecture - The End of Nature: Prospective Ecology, Gaia and the Anthropocene**

Dec 3 UT  
Dec 10 CER  
Dec 12 SAC