



# The Arbors Preserve at Fair Oaks Ranch

Natural Resources Survey One  
March 6, 2017  
(revised 6/26/2017)

# Participants

## Debra Grandjean

- FORHA Board of Directors

## Donna Taylor

- Fair Oaks Resident x 14 years
- Environmental Research Scientist, Cibolo Nature Center
- Trustee, Cibolo Preserve
- Owner, Cisebsi Limited Company – Environmental Consultants

## Desíree D'Orsogna

- Fair Oaks Resident X 31 years
- Texas Master Naturalist
- Member, San Antonio Audubon Society
- Historian, Albert and Bessie Kronkosky SNA

## Tara M. Randle

- Texas Master Naturalist
- Team Leader, monthly bird and annual Golden-cheeked warbler surveys, Albert and Bessie Kronkosky SNA

# Preliminary Findings

Bird species: 29

Plant species: 29

Insect species: 6 including 4 butterfly

Herp species: 3

Mammalian species: 1

Invasive species: 3

Reef remnants & other fossils

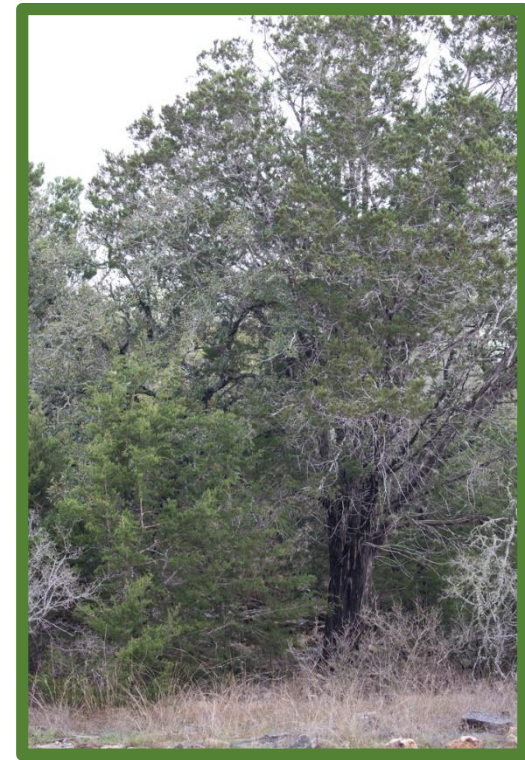


Photos by Tara Randle

Photos by Donna Taylor

# Assessments & Suggestions

- The adjacent Camp Bullis habitat can support nesting and breeding sites for the endangered Golden-cheeked warbler and is widely known to do so. **The Arbors Preserve** contains the necessary elements to do likewise: oak/juniper savanna with a mixture of mature Ashe junipers (peeling bark necessary for nest-building) and immature junipers (whose budworms and other insects are necessary for feeding fledglings). But, as the map shows, the habitat is fragmented on the Preserve, and the density of the canopy is much less than that of Camp Bullis. A survey should be undertaken during the time period March 15<sup>th</sup> thru May 31<sup>st</sup> to ascertain whether any GCWAs are nesting and/or using **The Arbors Preserve** to support their young.
- Tara Randle also believes that some of the succession habitat might support *the previously* endangered Black-capped vireos. We can survey for these birds concurrently with the Golden-cheeked warblers.



## Assessment & Suggestions (continued)...

- There is an unexpected diversity of animal and plant life on The Arbors Preserve. At least one endemic plant was seen, and others are expected. Additional naturalists should be recruited to aid in the identification of these species. For instance, the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) of which there are two local chapters, is willing to catalogue plants. Reptiles and mammals can probably be identified through photographs. We can handle the bird identification and GCWA and BCVI surveys.
- There are a number of fossils as well as beautiful cuts through the limestone bedrock within the Cibolo Creek. We know a Texas Master Naturalist who has a special interest in Geology who might be willing to identify fossils as well as determine the strata of limestone that are visible on the property.
- Three invasive species were encountered: Nandina, which we could eliminate ourselves; feral hogs (about 32 were seen) which FORHA will have to eliminate; and fire ants which we might have to endure.

## Assessments & Suggestions (continued)...

- Texas Parks and Wildlife also has experts who specialize in Urban Ecology. We know several of these local experts who service both Bexar and Comal Counties. At the very least, they will be an excellent reference source.

Thanks to the Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners' Association

and to Debra Grandjean for allowing Donna, Tara and me to experience this beautiful Preserve! Donna and I are available on a regular basis; Tara might be able to consult from time-to time.

End