Under the Boardwalk...

On Friday, August 3rd the City of Austin and The Trail Foundation hosted a celebration to announce the launch of the Riverside Boardwalk project. As you may know, this project will complete the Butler Trail from just east of the Austin American-Statesman building to Lakeshore Boulevard on the east side of IH 35. This project will provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access along a stunningly beautiful section of the public's lake and provide a vital connection between east and west Austin. Construction is expected to begin this September and last approximately 18 months. We will be including photo updates as the construction progresses.

Thanks, Joe!

We were delighted again to partner this year with Maudie's Tex-Mex as the Underwriting Sponsor of our annual Maudie's Moonlight Margarita Run & Gala. Joe Draker, owner of Maudie's, has been committed to this event for the past five years. Below, Joe shares why he continues to give back to the Trail. [Click here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110622188843.html) for the full interview.
Karen & Joe Draker

Maudie's has been a loyal supporter of The Trail Foundation for many years, what makes this partnership successful? We are both community centric, places for people to socialize and be with family and friends. Maudie's and the Trail are kinda like yin and yang. Yin the calories in and yang them out on the Trail.

What is your favorite spot along the Butler Trail? Lou Neff Point, it always brings a smile to my face and warms my thoughts when I stand among Maudie's, my mother Maida's and daughter Monroe's bricks.

Get a Bird's-Eye View

Double-crested cormorant, © David Stephens
It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a bird. Austin is situated on the important and busy central flyway for migratory birds, including waterfowl. Lady Bird Lake and the Butler Trail, with the riparian areas and woodlands, provide our feathered friends with important resting spots, food, and a reliable source of water. The Trail is also a haven for birders (and other nature lovers!) to pursue their favorite pastimes. Fall migrants start arriving in late August. 

[Click here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110622188843.html) to read about migratory birds of Texas.

Of special interest at Lady Bird Lake are the thousands of overwintering waterbirds including American coots and lesser scaup (many other species of ducks can be seen). During winter, hundreds of double-crested cormorants can be seen high up in the huge cypress trees along the stretch of Trail just west of Lou Neff Point along Zilker Park.

Through our [Healthy Trees for the Trail](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110622188843.html) program, TTF continues to plant native trees, not only to beautify and shade our Trail, but also to diversify this precious parkland oasis to better support native and migratory birds.

**Bird Tales...The Untold Story**

In addition to the lovely migratory waterbirds that frequent our Trail, we also have a plethora of pigeons that like to hang out under MoPac. A special TTF tip of the hat goes to this group of 17 volunteers from Dell who spent a recent Friday morning removing organic waste and cleaning the pedestrian bridge under MoPac. That's a dirty job, and we appreciate your willingness to spend time and energy to beautify the bridge - thank you!

**Go the Distance**

We're honored to be the beneficiary of the [2012-2013 Austin Fit Distance Challenge](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110622188843.html). The Distance Challenge is a series of six races starting in October 2012 with increasing distances leading up to the February 2013 LIVESTRONG Austin Marathon & Half Marathon. Participants sign up for the series (separate from signing up for each race) to pursue personal goals, as well as compete for Overall, Masters and age group categories (both male and female). Runners in the series receive special running gear, get special treatment at each race, enjoy a series-end celebration party and have a lot of fun.
Six races comprise the 2012-2013 Austin Fit Magazine Distance Challenge:

- **IBM Uptown Classic 10K** - October 7, 2012
- **Run for the Water 10 Miler** - October 28, 2012
- **ARC Decker Challenge Half Marathon** - December 9, 2012
- **3M Half Marathon** - January 13, 2013
- **Rogue 30K/10K** - January 27, 2013
- **LIVESTRONG Austin Marathon & Half Marathon** - February 17, 2013

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Staff a TTF Information booth:** Help staff a TTF information booth at the lake on **Saturday, September 29 from 9-noon**. Shifts are 1.5 hours - contact [Jenny](mailto:jenny@ttx.org) for more information.

**Help plant trees:** Sign up [here](#) to help plant 150 trees on **Saturday, October 20**.

**Clean the lake:** E-mail [Jenny](mailto:jenny@ttx.org) if you would like to help clean Lady Bird Lake from the water in canoes on **Saturday, October 20 from 9-11 a.m.**

**Support a runner + get a cool tech shirt:** Help cheer on the Decker Challenge runners and offer them race support at the TTF water stop on **December 9**. E-mail [Jenny](mailto:jenny@ttx.org) for more information.

**Kayak Tour for TTF Members**

Interested in learning more about the Boardwalk? TTF members, now's your chance to come along for a kayak tour to see exactly where the new project is being built. We can accommodate 20 people- please go to our [Events](#) page and click on the first link for additional information.

Yes, your Trail-loving dog can join the trip if she likes boating!

**When:** Sunday, September 23  
**Where:** Boat launch ramp behind the Holiday Inn off of IH-35  
**Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Cost:** TTF members - $10 for a rental kayak; Trail Ambassadors and above are free (see membership levels below). Contact [Margo](mailto:margo@ttx.org) if you have questions about your membership.
Not a current TTF member? No problem! Simply click [here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs015/1101789453035/archive/1110622188843.html) and then pick one of the options under Join TTF.

**TTF Membership levels:**
- Trail Patron: $1000
- Corporate: $500
- Trail Ambassador: $240
- Family: $150
- Premium: $100
- Individual: $60
- Starving artist/student: $25

**Drink Bourbon for the Trail**

**Save the date:** Thursday, November 15

**Garrison Brothers Distillery** will present a bourbon tasting benefiting the Trail at 5 p.m. Complete information will be in our September e-newsletter.