

2104 Memorial Boulevard
Suite 103

Kerrville, Texas 78028

Tel: 830-896-4911 x 3

Fax: 830-896-3336

E-mail: kerrcountyswcd@tx.nacdn.net

www.kerrcountyswcd.com



<https://www.facebook.com/kerrcoswcd>



Meet Sid! I've hidden him inside this
Newsletter. The first person to find him and
post it on the Kerr County SWCD's
Facebook page gets a prize!

~Missie Dreiss, Kerr County SWCD District Technician

Congratulations to our 2022 Scholarship Recipient!



Riley Griffin is a graduate of Ingram Tom Moore High School and plans to attend Tarleton State University. After graduation with a degree in Wildlife Sustainability and Ecosystem Science, Riley's goal is to work for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a Wildlife Biologist Consultant. "I believe this is a great way to give back to my community by helping keep the area beautiful and well managed to support local wildlife.", says Riley. Her background in hunting gave her a great start in knowing the importance wildlife management, but "My eyes were opened quickly to what wildlife

management really was and why it is so important when I was in the ninth grade and joined the Wildlife Judging team through FFA.", she said. "Ms. Griffin has been one of the most involved FFA members we have had over the years. She played multiple key roles on many of our leadership and career development teams such as: Farm Skills, Agriculture Advocacy, Range Evaluation, Plant ID, and Wildlife.", says Mrs. Reeves, Ingram FFA Advisor. "Her Drive and dedication have been very evident in her quest to become the best all-around person she can be. She works relentlessly at successfully representing our school, all the while maintaining a good balance of, athletic, academic, FFA and social success.", says Mr. Steve Marbach of Ingram Tom Moore High School.



Turtle Creek Vineyard

183 Fall Creed Road,
Kerrville, Texas 78028

In 2016, Dan and Sue Schulse purchased 160 acres located approximately 8 miles from downtown

Kerrville. We immediately began planting multiple varieties of olive trees from 2016 through 2020. It was a tough realization that all of our olive tree plantings failed through our Texas winters. In 2018, we began to build grape vine trellis and replant the olives with Merlot, Cabernet and Montepulciano vines. We now have 4 acres of mature grape vines producing at least 2.5 tons per acre. In 2020, we began the project of expanding our vineyard. We built trellis and planted another 3 acres in our valley floor. We developed another 3 acres of trellis and vines on our hillside. Our goal is to reach maximum production of 2400 cases per year of extremely excellent wine that is unique to the terroir of Turtle Creek Vineyard. You can taste our estate wines now at our downtown tasting room at 211 Earl Garrett, Kerrville, Texas. Call them for an appointment for a tasting at 830-896-0010. That's the best place to taste our wines. We do have plans to build a tasting room at the vineyard sometime in the future.

Other agricultural projects at Turtle Creek Vineyard that are already working for us include a peach and pecan orchard, beehives for honey production, and commercial vegetables for local farmers markets. We consider Turtle Creek vineyard a bird sanctuary. We have homemade bird boxes, 7 purple martin boxes, guineas, turkeys, and chickens. These large numbers of birds help us to control insects that introduce disease to a vineyard. Our vines have bird netting so fruit is not damaged by our chickens.

Also, our villa at Turtle Creek Vineyard is available for vacation rentals and special events.

~by Dan and Sue Schulse

District Directors:

Zone 1

Barbara Oates

Zone 2

Jack Thorn, Vice-Chairman

Zone 3

Paula Russ, Secretary

Zone 4

David Symm

Zone 5

Jack Clarke, III, Chairman

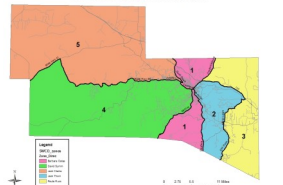
District Clerk

Denise Griffin

District Technician

Missie Dreiss

Kerr County SWCD Zone Map 2018



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Resource Team Leader

Cole Jacoby

Programs Assistant (Farm Bill)

Katy Meador

Soil Conservationists

Nathan Orsac

Preston Stull

Rangeland Specialist

Christian Hopkins

OFFICE HOURS:

NRCS 8:00-4:30 Mon-Fri

SWCD 9:00-3:00 Tues-Thurs

(830) 896-4911x3



George Holekamp Belt Buckle Awarded at the 67th Annual Youth Range Workshop

Once again, the Kerr SWCD participated in the Youth Range Workshop's field day at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. The SWCD served the campers and staff lunch. After lunch, the Kerr SWCD hosts a public speaking contest and awards one camper with the George Holekamp Award. Randen won this year's award, for demonstrating outstanding public speaking skills and knowledge on his chosen ecological topic. The YRW incorporates this contest and award into their program each year. We're proud to present the winner each year with a belt buckle. Pictured with Randen is (L-R) Jack Thorne, Vice Chairman, Barbara Oates, Director and Jack Clarke, III, Chairman of Kerr SWCD.



Youth Range Workshop is held each summer at the Texas Tech University Center in Junction. It provides the opportunity for 32-36 Texas high school students from across the state to learn about range ecology and natural resource management. Any high school student (age 14 to 18) who is interested in learning more about natural resources management is eligible to attend. The purpose of YRW is to prepare students to be knowledgeable leaders in their communities regarding the value of rangelands, the services and products they provide, and the importance of stewardship of our natural resources. Our emphasis is on stewardship, leadership and management of natural resources. These lessons will serve participants well in the future regardless of what career path they choose or where they live. YRW participants are taught by a diverse group of volunteer instructors including ranchers, educators, scientists, conservationists, university professors, young professionals, consultants, certified prescribed burning professionals, and even a couple of grizzled old veterans of range management. The directors and instructors represent a wide range of age, experience, interests, and areas of specialization, but they are all dedicated to the management of Texas rangelands and working with younger generations to help them understand and appreciate the value of our soil, water, plant, and animal resources.

The students spend six days of intense activity in the field and classroom immersed in activities including

- plant identification and plant collection
- studying species composition and plant community dynamics
- conducting forage inventories
- learning the grazing and browsing habits of livestock and wildlife
- learning habitat management principles and techniques for various species of wildlife
- conducting field tests to determine the benefits of vegetation on infiltration and runoff rates as well as soil erosion
- learning about soil health
- assisting with a prescribed burn on a local ranch
- and how all of these things are tied together

Hands-on learning is the focus, whether it is collecting plants, assisting with an actual prescribed burn, clipping and weighing vegetation, measuring soil temperature, participating in the operation of a rainfall simulator, or learning to use the latest phone app for range management.



Meet The Newest Member Of Our NRCS Team Monica Polgar

My name is Monica Polgar and I am joining the Kerrville, Texas NRCS Soil Survey office as an Ecological Site Specialist. I am originally from Cupertino, California, however, I moved to North Dakota in 2016 to complete both my B.S. and M.S. degrees in Natural Resources Management at North Dakota State University. My graduate research involved conducting restoration projects across grassland, wetland, and riparian ecosystems within the Northern Great Plains. Beyond enjoying the much warmer weather here in Texas, I am greatly looking forward to helping develop ecological site descriptions and supporting in conservation efforts.

Riverside Nature Center Environmental Field Day

Every year the Riverside Nature Center connects with local Kerrville schools to put on a series of Environmental Field Days to teach students about plants, animals, and water. Over the course of the four-day event from May 17th – May 20th, the Kerrville, TX MLRA Soil Survey Office and Kerrville Service Center worked together to give a total of 32 educational talks to roughly 400 fourth grade students and their teachers from local Kerrville elementary schools. Monica Polgar, Ecological Site Specialist – SPSD-NRCS, Missie Dreiss, Kerr County SWCD, Christian Hopkins, Range Management Specialist – TX-NRCS, and Preston Stull, Soil Conservationist – TX-NRCS teamed up to demonstrate how water travels into and through an aquifer. Using an aquifer model and different colored dyes, the team traced the condition of aquifers as they were impacted by floods, droughts, excessive well usage, pollution, and pressure changes. Students learned about the two major aquifers in Kerr County and enjoyed watching the lakes and streams change color as they were polluted with food coloring. The talks illustrated where we get our water from, how it is used, and why it is important we keep it clean. The week was filled with lots of learning and many thoughtful questions.



Left Photo: Monica Polgar and Missie Dreiss explaining the water cycle and its connection to aquifers.

Right Photo: Monica Polgar, Preston Stull, Missie Dreiss, and Christen Hopkins showing the differences between Edwards Aquifer and Trinity Aquifer in Kerr County.

~Monica Polgar, Ecological Site Specialist, NRCS Soil Survey

District 10 and 11 4H Soil Judging Contest

During the week of April 18th – 22nd, Travis Waiser and Monica Polgar began preparing for the District 10 and 11 4H soil judging contest. Travis and Monica started the week at Vogel Orchard where they met with Jamie Vogel to discuss soil pit logistics. Once soil pits were kindly dug by Jamie Vogel, Travis and Monica got to work outfitting each pit with the proper materials and boundaries. Travis and Monica analyzed soil characteristics both in and out of the field to accurately populate soil judging answer keys. On Friday, April 22, the soil judging contest took place from 9:00am to 12:00pm. There were 16 students in attendance representing Washington and Comal counties, along with county agents, parents, and coaches, bringing the total attendance to 31 individuals. Once students completed the soil judging contest Travis walked through each pit detailing how soil assessments were made. Following the walk through, awards were given to the top placing students in each judging class. Travis and Monica enjoyed seeing how the soils differed between pits and look forward to future soil judging contests.

~Monica Polgar, Ecological Site Specialist, NRCS Soil Survey

