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The Kerr Co. SWCD offers camp scholarships to conservation-oriented camps such as the Texas Youth Range Workshop or Texas Brigades Camps for youth!

Teacher scholarships are also available for the "Studies in Natural Resources" Workshop!

Please contact us for more information!

## Recap of April's Field Day

April's Range & Wildlife Field Day hosted by the Kerr County SWCD at the Kerr WMA was an informative day of speakers and a tour of the WMA. We appreciate our sponsors and the Kerr WMA staff who helped make the event a success! We're already looking forward to next year!



# KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District July 2012 Volume 3, Issue 3

## Kerr Co. SWCD Tree Sale

KERR COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S

# NATIVE TREE SALE

Date: Saturday, November 10, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Kerr County Ag Barn

ALL TREES SOLD HAVE BEEN GROWN LOCALLY AND ARE NATIVE SPECIES.

QUANTITIES LIMITED, COME EARLY!

SPECIES AVAILABLE :

BURR OAK	ANAQUA
LACEY OAK	BUTTONBUSH
CHINKAPIN OAK	SPICEBUSH
MONTERREY OAK	MEXICAN PLUM
ROUGHLEAF DOGWOOD	DESERT WILLOW
CEDAR ELM	BIGTOOTH MAPLE
KIDNEYWOOD	TEXAS REDBUD
ESCAPMENT CHERRY	CAROLINA BUCKTHORNE
BLANCO CRABAPPLE	

## Plant Native, Drought Resistant Trees!



For More Information Please Contact:  
Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Deanna Pfeffer, Technician  
deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com or  
830-896-4911 x 3



### Felix Fisher Memorial Scholarship

The Felix Fisher Memorial Scholarship was awarded to a very deserving graduating senior in May. Amanda Weaver, of Center Point, was this year's recipient. The Kerr County SWCD is proud to be a part of this and administer this scholarship every year to a student in Kerr County. We wish Miss Weaver good luck in her collegiate endeavors!

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#### Dates of Interest:

- July 26-28 : TSGRA Annual Meeting, Kerrville
- July 28 : UGRA's River Clean Up
- August 3 : Kerr WMA 1st Friday Seminar
- September 7 : Kerr WMA 1st Friday Seminar
- October 5 : Kerr WMA 1st Friday Seminar
- October 10-12 : TSSRM Annual Meeting, Fredericksburg
- November 10 : Native Tree Sale

## 2012 Youth Range Workshop's Field Day at the Kerr WMA

Each year the Kerr County SWCD provides lunch at the Kerr WMA for the campers at the Youth Range Workshop when they come for their field day. This year was no different, as the directors cooked hamburgers and fries with all the fixings!



The Kerr County SWCD also presented the 2012 George Holekamp Award to the camper who showed outstanding public speaking skills. This year's award was especially memorable to the directors since Mr. Holekamp recently passed away. Everyone involved was very honored to remember him and his dedication to conservation through this award. This year's winner was Heston Henry, seen here giving his speech and receiving the award from Director Charles Bierschwale.



## Kerr WMA's 1st Friday Seminars

The Kerr Wildlife Management Area will be hosting monthly tours on the 1st Friday of August, September, and October addressing resource concerns in the Edward's Plateau. The first seminar in the series will be on Friday, August 3 and is titled "Elements of Habitat." It will deliver the central components in management of any wildlife species: food, water, and cover. Other programs include addressing the diets of native and exotic species, water use, development strategies and cover requirements. An outdoor tour of sites at the Kerr WMA will follow demonstrating topics covered indoors. On September 7, the second seminar will be "Natural Resources: Addressing

Critical Issues in the Edward's Plateau." This seminar will emphasize recent investigations, updates, and conclusions involving rangeland water conservation, feral swine, and censusing white-tailed deer in small acreages. The final seminar in the series, "Ecosystems Management, Putting It All Together," will be on October 5. It will cover white-tailed deer management, grazing management, prescribed burning, brush control and endangered species. The seminar will also include over 20 years of nutrition and genetics research conducted in their research pens. Please contact the Kerr WMA office to make reservations or for more details at 830-238-4483.

## USDA-NRCS Programs Available

Several programs are available for Kerr County residents to apply for and receive assistance in implementing management practices for agricultural land.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is designed to assist agricultural producers in enhancing their land with

certain management practices. Practices that address and improve water quantity and domestic animals are given high priority in Kerr County and include such practices as brush management, livestock water systems, fencing, and seeding. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is designed for landowners

who focus more on wildlife management than agriculture and most of the practices involved are the same as EQIP's. The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a program designed to improve grazing management and protect rangeland from development with either rental or easement

options. The NRCS office accepts applications for all of these programs year round and more information can be gained by contacting the Kerrville office at 830-896-4911 x 3 or visit the NRCS Texas homepage at: [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## UGRA's 9th Annual River Clean Up

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority is hosting the 9th Annual River Clean Up at Louise Hays Park on Saturday, July 28th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers can pre-register now or just show up at 8 a.m. on July 28th. The first 200 volunteers will receive a free River Clean Up t-shirt. Refreshments will also be provided and prizes will be raffled off. For more information please contact UGRA at 830-896-5445 or visit [www.ugra.org](http://www.ugra.org).

### Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association

#### Annual Meeting

July 26-28, 2012

Inn of the Hills, Kerrville

For more details please contact:

[tsgra@wcc.net](mailto:tsgra@wcc.net) or 325-655-7388

### Texas Section of the Society for Range Management

#### Annual Meeting

October 10-12, 2012

Inn on Barons Creek, Fredericksburg

This meeting is geared towards wildlife management on Texas rangelands with the theme of "Building on the Past to Prepare for the Future."

For more details please visit their website at:

[www.rangelands.org/texas/](http://www.rangelands.org/texas/)

## Conservation Tip: Managing During & After A Drought

When we all got some of that blessed rain in May, many thought the drought was over. Boy were they wrong. Two months later, some in Kerr County still have not had any measurable rain since then. The drought may have taken a few months break, but it's still here.

Management techniques for ranching and farming operations obviously have to change or conform when there is a drought in the land. Even intermittent drought combined with grazing can change the species composition on rangeland, and overgrazing can cause long term decline in herbaceous production. Unpalatable plants in the community soon equal or take over the number of palatable plants for livestock, and poisonous plants can increase to dangerous levels with a little precipitation, as we saw here this spring. Those plants that are preferred by livestock, such as the tall and mid grasses, are directly related to the ecological conditions and will thus decline during a drought. Also, summer grazed pastures tend to take a harder hit on these same palatable grasses. Reduction of plant cover and litter can also cause a lack of infiltration of precipitation and result in run-off or erosion problems. This is especially prominent in pastures with slope or with thin soil layers, both seen in areas of Kerr County.

Both during and after a drought, vegetation recovery should be a primary focus for land manag-

ers. It should become the most important management objective for your ranch until it is recovered. The rate of recovery often depends on pre-drought range conditions and the actions taken to help the land recover.

Most importantly, rest and deferment are often needed to help restore range conditions. Spring and summer stocking rates should be reduced or eliminated. This rest of the land is needed when the air temperature and soil moisture is optimal for plant growth. Recovering plant growth and cover on the ground will also improve the utilization of future rainfall by most species. Implementing a rotational grazing system can be helpful to provide pastures with rest during certain parts of the growing season, or changing which season a pasture is grazed each year. This can optimize plant growth and allow roots a stronger base. Top growth in a plant is proportional to its root growth.

Some local ranchers completely eliminated their livestock herd last year. While this was a smart move in the future recovery process, it devastated some operations. Many were looking to restock this spring with the spring rains, but market prices held them back. If you are truly concerned about range conditions and recovery, waiting to restock or progressive restocking is your best choice. Learn options to restock both permanent and disposable livestock so that you

are flexible on the number you are running. Also learn different techniques to monitor range conditions so that you understand your land's recovery. Utilize resources and staff from your NRCS, TPWD, and Agrilife Extension Offices. These professionals can help you with those aspects of management. Also, learn the stocking rate for your specific area. It can vary greatly! Take ALL animals into account, not just your domestic livestock. And know the feed needs for all of your animals so that you don't get caught off guard during the next dry spell. (1000 lb cow consumes 30 lb of air dried forage; calculate 2.5-3% of body weight for lbs of consumption on any livestock) Animal unit charts for livestock and wildlife are available from various sources. And finally, take the financial health of your operation into consideration. This is a good time to sit down and assess every aspect. Use your personal and business goals and your assessment to determine which parts of the operation are profitable to you and what you would like to change or get rid of. Take current market prices into account, but remember that those change due to many outside factors.

Be smart in managing your ranch or farming operation. Plan for the future by taking care of your land today and making sure it will be productive for years to come! Being a steward of the land is priceless!