



**Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District**



2104 Memorial Boulevard  
Suite 103  
Kerrville, Texas 78028  
Tel: 830-896-4911 x 3  
Fax: 830-896-3336  
E-mail: [kerrcountyswcd@tx.nacdn.org](mailto:kerrcountyswcd@tx.nacdn.org)  
[www.kerrcountyswcd.com](http://www.kerrcountyswcd.com)

**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!**

## USDA OFFICE RELOCATION

The Kerrville NRCS Field Office, the Kerr/Bandera Co. FSA Office, and the Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District Office have moved locations. We are now located at 2104 Memorial Boulevard in Kerrville. Find us between Schreiner University and MG Building Supply!

## Pedernales River Water Supply Enhancement Project

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board along with your Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform you of the Pedernales River Water Supply Enhancement Project. There is a small portion of the Pedernales River Watershed in the North Eastern part of Kerr County. This project's main target is the removal of Ashe Juniper, or cedar as it's more commonly referred, for the purpose of yielding additional water into Lake Travis.

Money has been allocated for the purpose of cost-share assistance to willing landowners choosing to remove cedar from their properties. Up to a 70% reimbursement incentive, not exceeding a max cost, is being offered to participants of the program. Funding is limited and participant's property must be in the Pedernales River Watershed.

Interested participants may contact The Water Supply Enhancement Project Planner at **830-459-1701** to verify eligibility.

# KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District April 2014 Volume 5, Issue 2

KERR COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE  
&  
KERR COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
PRESENT OUR

## SPRING FIELD DAY MAY 16, 2014

Location: Flagler Ranch, 438 Flagler Ranch Road, Mountain Home, TX

Registration starts at 8:45 a.m. with program starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15/person

Topics to Include:

Brush Management & Follow Up Treatment

Chemical IPT Laws & Regulations

Water & Sediment Control Basins & Waterway Regulations

Dietary Needs of Native Ungulates

FIELDVISIT: Prescribed Burning, Plant ID, Best Management Practices

3 CEU's will be available!

RSVP with Name and Phone Number as Follows by May 9th:

[deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com](mailto:deanna@kerrcountyswcd.com) or 830-896-4911 x 3

### Driving Directions:

From Kerrville, take I-10 West to Exit 490. Take Hwy 41 West 32 miles to gate on right. Entrance is 4 miles from the Hwy 83 intersection.



FLAGLER RANCH  
A NON-SMOKING RANCH.

### OUR SPONSORS INCLUDE:



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### Dates of Interest:

- April 4: New Landowner Series, Kerrville
- April 23-25: Bennett Land Trust Stewardship Program
- **April 25:** Fish Sale Delivery
- May 9: New Landowner Series, Stonewall/LBJ Ranch
- **May 16:** Kerr SWCD Field Day
- June 13: New Landowner Series, Stonewall
- July 11: New Landowner Series, Boerne
- September 12: New Landowner Series, Kendalia

## Bennett Land Trust - Stewardship Program

The first Bennett Trust Land Stewardship educational program, "Protecting the Legacy of the Edwards Plateau," will be hosted by Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service April 23-25 in Kerrville. The event will be at the Inn of the Hills Resort & Conference Center, 1001 Junction Highway, Kerrville. It is designed to 'bring the best and wisest, accomplished stewards, visionaries and legacy-leavers together as educators.'

The first day will include discussions on recognition and management of encroaching plants, native tree health and care, water as wealth and managing competition between wild and domestic herbivores. There will also be a workshop entitled "Retaining Your Piece of Texas—Creating/Sustaining a Heritage."

Day 2 of the conference will allow attendees to take one of three behind the scenes tours. Tour A will center on natural resource stewardship and includes a visit to the historic Hillingdon Ranch in Kendall County, with a pasture walk and demonstration of various types of equipment in brush management and how live oak is combated. Tour B visits sustainable vineyards, orchards and gardens in Fredericksburg and Gillespie County to provide a glimpse of essential elements for stewardship success. Tour C will highlight wildlife management and the hunting industry in the Edwards Plateau, featuring landowners with a reputation for being good stewards of their wildlife resources. The final day of the event will feature insight on keeping a legacy alive by focusing on legacy threats such as protection from wild fire and how to use prescribed fire to enhance both livestock and wildlife habitat. In addition, vendors and exhibits will be available for participants to visit with throughout the event.

Registration is \$95 and can be completed at <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/> or by going to <http://bennetttrust.edu>, selecting the "Events" tab and choosing either of two links on the page. A conference rate of \$99 per night will be available at the Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center until March 23. Please email Roy Walston at [rwalston@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:rwalston@ag.tamu.edu) for more information on the event as well.

For more information on the Bennett Trust, established through a posthumous endowment provided by Eskel & Ruth Bennett to AgriLife Extension, can be found at <http://bennetttrust.tamu.edu/>.

## USDA-NRCS & TSSWCB 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 NRCS office accepts applications for this program 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).

The Water Quality Management Program (WQMP) is a state-funded program made available through Senate Bill 503. It is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by the local soil and water

conservation district for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The main goal of these plans is to abate agricultural and/or silvicultural nonpoint pollutant contributions to impaired or threatened waters as prioritized. A WQMP covers the entire operating unit and includes required practices applicable to the planned land use. The first step in obtaining a WQMP is to contact the Kerr County SWCD. There is no charge for the development of a WQMP, but there may be costs for implementing required practices outlined in the

WQMP.

Financial assistance is available at this time in the form of a cost-share program for WQMPs in Kerr County. You may read more on this program at TSSWCB's website at: [www.tsswcb.texas.gov](http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov) (click on Programs, then select WQMP). You may also contact the Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District's office at 830-896-4911 x3 and ask for Deanna (SWCD) or Laura (NRCS) for assistance or to start the application process.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

## UGRA's Rain Barrel Program

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) has a rebate program to promote water conservation and watershed stewardship through rainwater harvesting. The Rainwater Catchment System Rebate Program is available to anyone with a Kerr County address and will reimburse eligible applicants up to \$50 when they provide proof of purchase of rainwater catchment system equipment.

This incentive program is open to businesses or individuals who will initiate rainwater harvesting in Kerr County. Purchases of rainwater catchment system equipment made after March 24, 2011 are eligible for the rebate and payment by UGRA is subject to the availability of funds. For more information, contact UGRA at 830-896-5445 or visit their website at



## New Landowner Series

The multi-county 2014 New Landowner Series, presented by Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service, will be held in 4 counties from March –September. A total of six sessions will be held in Blanco, Gillespie, Kendall and Kerr counties. "These sessions are designed for the novice who just acquired property or is looking into purchasing land in the Hill Country. At these sessions, attendees can meet and speak with some of the top experts in their respective fields, as well as get hands-on experience in learning how to get the most out of their property," says Brad Roeder, Extension Agent in Gillespie county.

All programs begin with registration from 1-1:30 p.m. and presentations from 1:30-5:00 p.m. Specific session sites are being determined and will be provided to attendees before each session. The cost is \$30/session or \$100/person or \$150/couple for the entire series, payable in advance or at the door. Advance notice for each session is requested. For more information, please contact the **AgriLife Extension Office in Gillespie County at 830-997-3452**.

April 4 : Kerrville; Oak Wilt, Home Use Pesticides, Turf, Tree and Landscape Maintenance, Rainwater Harvesting.

May 9 : Stonewall/LBJ Ranch; Forage Production, Livestock Production and Handling, and Crop Production. **(2 CEU's)**

June 13 : Stonewall; Commercial Horticulture, Vineyards, Orchards, Produce (hands-on pruning). **(2 CEU's)**

July 11 : Boerne; Back to Basics, Home Gardening, Chickens, Natural vs. Organic.

September 12 : Kendaia; Wildlife and Range Management, Brush Work and Sculpting. **(2 CEU's)**

## Pecan Grafting and Production Workshop

A Pecan Grafting & Production Workshop is scheduled for April 22nd at 9 a.m. at Bill Hathaway's Orchard. This will be an informative and educational opportunity for those pecan producers interested in grafting pecans. Early season insect and fertilization management will also be discussed by Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Horticulturist from Uvalde.

The orchard is located on Texas Highway 173, approximately 4 1/2 miles from Kerrville-Schreiner State Park. Turn left on Center Point River Road and enter the first gate on the right; signs will be posted. Three hours of CEU's will be offered to Private, Commercial, and Non-Commercial applicators.

Anyone interested in learning more about pecan production will benefit from this field-day. Registration for the field-day is \$10 and is payable at the field-day. Please contact the Kerr County Extension office to pre-register for the field-day at 830-257-6568