

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!

Please visit our Website!

[www.kerrcountyswcd.com](http://www.kerrcountyswcd.com)

It includes: Important updates on upcoming events, review of past events, District information, links to other websites, and more!

Our newsletter (and past newsletters) can be found on our website in PDF form. You can also request to be added to our email list!

Find information on our fish sales, tree sales and annual workshops!

### From UGRA:

**The Streamside Landowners Workshop** – Understanding Riparian Areas was held on Friday, June 7, 2013 at Kerr WMA and was a great success. We had 47 participants and a total of 56 gathered including staff and presenters. The group of about 40 that attended the afternoon field trip were lucky to enjoy cool temperatures, overcast skies and even a few sprinkles as well as a diverse sampling of riparian plants. And we all enjoyed the delicious lunch and dessert prepared by Jack Clarke and the Kerr County SWCD.



## 2013 Youth Range Workshop & George Holekamp Award



The Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District once again provided lunch for the Youth Range Workshop on their field trip to the Kerr WMA. Almost 40 campers enjoyed the air conditioning and a hamburger lunch on Thursday, June 27.

The District also presented the 3rd Annual George Holekamp Award at the lunch. This Award is given to the camper that shows outstanding public speaking skills in a contest held on the next to last day of camp. It is given in honor and memory of George Holekamp, who served the District and his community for over 50 years, and his dedication to conservation. His wife, Mary Virginia Holekamp, and their daughter attended the lunch and presented the award to the winner. Kadden Kothmann was this year's recipient of the George Holekamp Award.



The District presents a Certificate of Award and a Belt Buckle in honor of this Award. Our directors feel that it is important to encourage our youth to get involved and learn conservation ethics and practices. The Youth Range Workshop is a week long camp that not only teaches its campers about rangeland ecology and management, but leadership and communication skills. If you are interested in learning more about this camp, please visit their website at : <http://www.rangelands.org/texas/youtheducation.htm>.

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### Dates of Interest:

- August 2 : Kerr WMA 1st Friday Tour
- September 6 : Kerr WMA 1st Friday Tour
- October 3 : Kerr WMA 1st Friday Tour
- November 9 : Kerr SWCD Tree Sale

### NEW PROGRAM IN KERR COUNTY : Water Quality Management Plan Program (WQMP)

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.

## Region II Award Winners From Kerr County



The H.E. Butt Ranch was this year's recipient of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Texas Region II Absentee Conservation Farmer/Rancher of the Year Award. Kenneth Grosbeck, the ranch manager, and the H.E. Butt Ranch have implemented several conservation practices over the years to create a beautiful example of what good, native rangeland should look like, even in drought years. The tall, native grasses and plant diversity are testament to the type of stewardship they have shown the land. We are proud to honor them with this nomination and award!



Cherry Creek Ranch was awarded Wildlife Conservationist in 2013 for its efforts in implementing multiple conservation practices. Mr. Jonathan Letz has exceptional land stewardship for the sustainable resources on his ranch, and looks forward to continuing his efforts for many years to come. The Letz family signed their first district agreement with Kerr Co. SWCD in 1952 and has partnered with many agencies over the years to help sustain the family ranch for generations to come.

## 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.

Kerr Co SWCD is hosting a

# TREE SALE

Come out and select from Native Tree Species, grown here in the Hill Country! All are in 5 gallon pots. Please contact the office or watch our website for more info !

**NOVEMBER 9 @ 10 a.m.**

At The

**Kerr County Youth Exhibit Center**

**Species Available:** Anaqua, Big Tooth Maple, Burr Oak, Cedar Elm, Chinkapin Oak, Golden Ball Lead Tree, Lacey Oak, Mexican Plum, Mexican White Oak, Roughleaf Dogwood, Texas Redbud

### Local Workgroup Meeting

A Local Workgroup Meeting will be held on August 1 at 10 am by the Kerrville NRCS Office and the Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District at the Kerr WMA. This meeting is to discuss and rank local resource concerns and conservation practices for Kerr County for the fiscal year 2014. All landowners and land managers in Kerr County are encouraged to attend and participate in this meeting. This open discussion public meeting will focus on identifying area natural resource concerns that can be addressed using conservation programs and activities. Please call the Kerrville NRCS Office for more details on this meeting at 830-896-4911 x 3.

### Kerr Wildlife Management Area

*Presents its 1st Friday Tours*

**August 2 : 1-5 pm.** This first seminar of 3 will deliver the central components in management of any wildlife species: food, water, and cover. Join us for programs addressing the diets of native and exotic species, water use, development strategies and cover requirements. Outdoor tour of sites at the Management Area will follow demonstrating topics covered indoors.

**September 6 : 1-5 pm.** The second seminar of the series will deliver natural history, behavior and research focus concerning collared peccary and feral swine. Join us for programs covering what we have learned and are investigating regarding these species. Outdoor tour of sites will follow.

**October 4 : 1-5 pm.** Finding a cure rather than treating a symptom. The third and final seminar will discuss white-tailed deer management, grazing management, prescribed burning, brush control and endangered species. The seminar will also include over 30 years of nutrition and genetics research conducted in the Donnie E. Harmel White-tailed Deer Research Facility. Outdoor tour will once again follow.

The same programs will be given at the Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area on different dates. Please contact the respective WMA for more details. RSVP's are required. Programs are free of charge.

**Kerr Wildlife Management Area : 830-238-4483**

**Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area : 325-347-5037**