



News of the WILD



A Newsletter of Project WILD, Communications Division

February 2010



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Edited by Karen Marks and Genevieve Lung

Kiki's Comments

Greetings, WILD Ones!

We have had a rollicking year--thanks to our fabulous team efforts! And speaking of team, please welcome our newest member, Genevieve Lung, who joined us in June 2009 as our new administrative assistant.

This summer WILD gave birth to an adorable new member of the WILD family, **Growing Up WILD**. To date we have 81 folks who have become Growing Up WILD facilitators. Growing Up WILD has won a Family Choice Award!



In January 2010 a small group of dedicated WILD folks gathered for a long weekend to work on correlating all of the WILD activities to the new TEKS, and completed about 70 percent of the work!

Although it has been a wonderful year overall, nonetheless our WILD team has suffered some losses. In June we lost Burnie Battles to a car accident. He had been WILD since 1986 and offered WILD through his recreation classes at Baylor University. This winter our dear friend Phyllis Kirkpatrick succumbed to lung cancer. Her work through the U.T. Dana Center has been huge. Project WILD in Texas will feel their absence deeply, but more than that, we mourn the loss of our friends. Let's carry the achievements of this new "banner year," as well as inspiration from Burnie and Phyllis, into 2010 to keep Texas growing ever WILDer!

~Kiki

Welcome, New Facilitators!!! *Also certified as a Growing Up WILD Facilitator

Name	City
MARNI SAENZ	APO AE
BEVERLY LANGFORD	ARGYLE
MIKE LANGFORD	ARGYLE
NANCY PALMER	ARLINGTON
CHRISTINA CID	AUSTIN
BECKY HALUSKA	AUSTIN
LAURA NASKI	AUSTIN
TANYA PHILLIPS	AUSTIN
CHEVAUN MCCRAY*	COLLEGE STATION
MARY GOMILLION	FAIR OAKS
LAURIE CONNALLY	HORSESHOE BAY
JESSICA CUTSHALL*	HOUSTON
ARLEVIA DAVIS	HOUSTON
CAROL KNEPP*	HOUSTON
GABRIEL MORIN	HOUSTON
LINDA SCOTT*	HOUSTON
CATHEY WHITENER*	HOUSTON
ALEJANDRA WORSHAM	HOUSTON
JERREL GEISLER	HUMBLE
DENISE MAY	HUMBLE
ALAN RUNION	HUMBLE
PEGGY EDDY*	KINGWOOD
PATRICIA GLAESER*	LEAGUE CITY
YVONNE COUCH	MARION
SHONA LONGENECKER	MCALLEN

Name	City
MICHELLE SIEGLE	MCKINNEY
KIRSTEN SHELBY	PFLUGERVILLE
VICTORIA CORNWELL	PIPE CREEK
KATHY HEATH*	PLANO
JENNIFER MARBURGER	SALADO
MARY SLATTON	SAN ANGELO
ANA GRAY	SAN ANTONIO
ANGIE HERNANDEZ-TORRES	SAN ANTONIO
NINA LITTLE	SAN ANTONIO
SHAWNA LOPEZ	SAN ANTONIO
LANA REYNOLDS*	SAN ANTONIO
JENNIFER WALKER	SAN ANTONIO
CINNAMON WARNER	SAN ANTONIO
JANIS BRUNNER	SPRING
JASON CHADWICK	SPRING
ANGELA FRISTOE	SPRING
ALETHA PRICE	SPRING
TERI-RAE ALTENBAUMER	SULPHUR SPRINGS
JENNIFER HOLT	SULPHUR SPRINGS
CAROLYN PHILLIPS	TEMPLE
SHIRLEY WORSHAM	TOMBALL
ARNALDO NOYOLA	VON ORMY
VICKI PILLOW	WILLIS

New Growing Up WILD Facilitators:

Name	City
SARAH SHEFFIELD	ALPINE
TERRY CARVER	ARLINGTON
SUE ELLEN PARKER	ARLINGTON
TERRY POWELL	ARLINGTON
ZESHAN SEGAL	ARLINGTON
HEIDI COBLE	AUSTIN
JUDY WALLACE	AUSTIN
LUCINDA WISE	AUSTIN
AMANDA ADAIR	BEAUMONT
VICKY BURKE	BEDFORD
MARY ANN BEAUCHEMIN	BELLAIRE
MARY ALICE PARTAIN	BLANCO
KATHLEEN WARD	BOERNE

Name	City
KATHY WILSON	BOERNE
SUSAN CRONE	CEDAR CREEK
BRETT JOHNSON	CEDAR HILL
MICHELLE VARNELL	CEDAR HILL
JUDY PARSONS	COPPELL
ADRIANA REZA	CORPUS CHRISTI
DONNA BULLIS	CROWLEY
SALLY EVANS	DALLAS
JENNA HANSON	DALLAS
HANNAH KOLNI	DALLAS
HEIDI KUTCHIN	DALLAS
CHRISTY MCLAUGHLIN	DALLAS
DORIS PRANGE	DALLAS

Name	City
SARA RAMIREZ	DALLAS
SANDRA STINSON	DALLAS
STEPHANIE TIMKO	DALLAS
FRANCES HOWARD	DELEON
DEBORAH VERNON	FORT WORTH
SHERYL CHENAULT	GARLAND
ALLISON NULSTEAD	GRAND PRAIRIE
VIANN SAWYER	HARLETON
CRISTINA CASABURRI	HOUSTON
ANNE EISNER	HOUSTON
BEATRICE LONG	HOUSTON
LISA SMITH	HOUSTON
MARGARET SWEENEY	HOUSTON
JENNIFER VAUGHN	HOUSTON
SANDRA BOUNDS	HUNTSVILLE
BETTY MORGAN	JEFFERSON
KOY COFFER	KERRVILLE
LISA CHAPPA	LAREDO
SYLINA VALDEZ	LEANDER
CONNIE PETRUSKEVICH	LYTLE
LYNDA FOLTS	MABANK
ANGELA BARON	MCKINNEY
KAREN MCCOLLISTER	MCKINNEY

Name	City
CASSIE COX	PILOT POINT
JENNIFER ALLRED	PLANO
AUBURN CARPENTER	PORTLAND
LINDA DUNN	RED OAK
LELA GARNETT	RED OAK
ROSE BANZHAF	RICHARDSON
PAULINE SCHAFER	RICHARDSON
CARI BENTON	SAN ANTONIO
SUSAN CAMPBELL	SAN ANTONIO
JACQUELINE FOGLE	SAN ANTONIO
CHRISTINE MOSELEY	SAN ANTONIO
KAY SIMPSON	SAN ANTONIO
DANIELLE WARNER	SAN ANTONIO
ELLEN WHITE	SAN ANTONIO
MICHELLE SAGER	SOUTHLAKE
PURNELL HARVEY	SPRING
GAYLE LOVVORN	STAMFORD
DIANE COONEY	TEMPLE
BARBARA PARMLEY	TYLER
JOE ROACH	TYLER
BOYD SANDERS	TYLER
ZANE LAWS	VALERA
JAN HODSON	VALLEY VIEW

For Facilitator's Eyes Only



Hey WILD ones... are you on Facebook? Texas Project WILD is now on [Facebook!](#) We established our presence to help bring together Project WILD workshop facilitators. Become a Facebook fan to receive up-to-the-minute WILD info.

Connecting Resources with Project Wild Activities

Please share your classroom or workshop success stories with us. E-mail them to Karen.Marks@tpwd.state.tx.us

Scout Correlations

Many state Project WILD programs have correlated the Project WILD K – 12 Curriculum and Activity Guide and the Project Wild Aquatic K – 12 Curriculum and Activity Guide to Girl Scout and Boy Scout Badge Requirements. Please see the completed correlations below.

- [Boy Scout Correlations](#)
- [Girl Scout Correlations](#)

Science and Civics:

CEE has posted pdf files of the [student pages](#) for *Science and Civics* on the Project WILD Web site.

Science and Civics: Then and Now

Use Google Earth to download aerial photos/maps years apart. For more information, see the Complete Guide to Using [Google Earth in the Classroom](#). If your campus has a plotter, you can print the maps to poster size.

Science and Civics: Presidential Prerogatives

Glenn Buckley, PW Facilitator in East Texas, shared this helpful resource: History of U.S. Forest Service DVD, "The Greatest Good." Check with your local library or order from the [U.S. Forest Service](#).

Fire Ecologies and Smokey Bear Said What?

Check out this TPWD YouTube video, "[Prescription To Burn](#)," which explains the difference between wildfire and prescribed fire, and how the latter is an important habitat management tool.

Litter We Know and What's In the Water?

Check out this story in [Discovery News](#) about cigarette-butt litter on beaches and in waterways, and its toxic effects on fish.

Turtle Hurdles

Make this activity relative for Texas students:

KEMP'S RIDLEY SEA TURTLE BREAKS TEXAS NESTING RECORD! Padre Island National Seashore reported that a record 197 nestings of Kemp's Ridley sea turtles have been reported on Texas beaches in 2009. This species is the world's smallest and most endangered sea turtle, which only nests on Gulf of Mexico beaches in Texas and Northern Mexico. For more information about Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle's or to schedule a field trip, contact [Padre Island National Seashore](#).

As an artful extension activity, make a [paper plate turtle](#) or download a Sea Turtles of the Gulf of Mexico [poster](#) or Sea Turtle [fact sheet](#).

"A Struggle to Live—The Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle" is a new DVD offered at cost of mailing to teachers and other groups interested in educating students and the public about these endangered sea turtles. To order a copy, contact Gulf Director Carole Allen at carole@seaturtles.org or 281-444-6204.

Supplemental publications and resources about Seagrasses:

- [FAQ about Seagrasses](#)
- For teacher background or older student research background: [Seagrass Conservation Plan](#) for Texas; see page 16 for information about the various species found in Texas. See page 31 for information about the value of seagrass beds.
- Additional Seagrass publications: [Seagrass Protection Regulation Brochure](#)
[Redfish Bay State Scientific Area Brochure](#)

World Travelers

Research one of the newest invaders of Texas. Invasive zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) have been confirmed to have spread from Lake Texoma into the head waters of Lake Lavon, and experts fear they could eventually spread throughout the Red River and Trinity River watersheds. Check out TPWD's [campaign about Invasives](#).

Keep Texas WILD!

We are excited to present "Keep Texas Wild," a magazine section for kids.



The kid-friendly section includes fun facts presented with a lively writing style, eye-popping photos and a creative, whimsical design. The topics are Texas-specific, with special attention to conservation issues.

"Keep Texas Wild" includes hands-on activities that cross the spectrum of curriculum (including art, math, science and social studies) and a call to action that encourages students to get outdoors and get involved. The companion Teacher Resource Web page includes background information, vocabulary lists, ideas from naturalists, additional reading lists and supplemental Project WILD activities.

Also, because you are a teacher, you can reserve extra classroom copies of any issue for only \$1 each.

TEKS and TAKS Online Database for Project WILD Activities

Teachers ... Don't forget to check out our searchable [online database](#), where you can search by TEK objective, grade level, subject or Project WILD activity to discover the connections!

Workshop, Conference and Continuing Education Announcements

For a listing of Project WILD workshops, see the [WILD Calendar](#).

Don't forget to check [TPWD's calendar](#) of events to find fun activities for you, your family and friends. Better yet, sign up for [automated e-mails](#) on specific subjects or activities.

ISEA (Informal Science Education Association) Annual Conference

March 3 – 5, 2010

ISEA's mission is to support partnerships among informal and formal science educators to improve science education in Texas. This year's conference theme is "Science for All: Engaging Diverse Populations," with keynote speaker, Cecilia Garibay of the Garibay Group, Chicago IL, and will be held at the U.T. Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. Visit the [ISEA Web site](#) for registration information.

Youth Development Initiative Conference

April 5 – 6, 2010

The YDI is hosting a Statewide [Youth Professionals Conference](#) in Austin April 5 – 6 at the Hilton Austin Airport. This two-day event will offer presentations and workshops on a variety of youth development topics. Youth development practitioners and researchers from across Texas will have the opportunity to interact and collaborate. A limited number of reduced-price student registrations are available.

Texas Monarch Monitoring Project Training

April 9 – 10 and September 24 – 25, 2010

Held at the [Cibolo Nature Center](#) in Boerne, TX. This workshop trains teachers, youth leaders, citizen scientists, and park naturalists from throughout Texas to conduct monitoring activities at their own local sites. The training will enable participants to knowledgeably tag monarchs, monitor milkweed for monarch life stages, and collaborate with international monarch research. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Friday; 9 a.m. – noon on Saturday. Cost: \$30. Pre-registration required. Call 830-249-4616.

Groundwater to the Gulf Summer Teacher Institute

June 22 – 24, 2010

Free [summer institute](#) for 4th – 8th grade central Texas educators, held in Austin, TX. Experience water-related field investigations with local experts. Receive free curricula, TEKS-aligned activities and resources. Earn 22 CEUs. Topics include hydrogeology, groundwater, urban watersheds, water quality and water protection. Pre-registration required. Registration opens March 1 and ends April 30.

Teacher Workshops at McDonald Observatory

Summer 2010

McDonald Observatory's TPD [summer workshops](#) are held at a world-class research campus in the beautiful Davis Mountains of West Texas. All workshops include daily hands-on activities in a classroom setting, interaction with astronomy professionals and researchers, tours of research telescopes, night-time telescope observations (weather permitting), and lodging in the scenic Davis Mountains State Park. Twenty hours or more of Continuing Education credit will be awarded to all participants. There are copious scholarships available for teachers to attend the workshops, especially at the high-school level. Apply soon!



Voices from the Land

June 10-11, 2010

What is [Voices from the Land?](#) Explore the origin of language and celebrate its use in modern life. Participants work with leaves, sticks, ice, snow, mud, stone, sand, pine cones. ... They use color, form, shape, light, shadow, and pattern to create art and rediscover the simple miracles of everyday life. Workshop location: Palo Duro Canyon, 15 miles outside of Canyon, TX. More information about this workshop and registration information will be available in the spring.



Environmental Education Courses

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point offers four online courses for students and professionals in the field of environmental education:

- [Making EE Relevant to Culturally Diverse Audiences](#)
- [Leadership Development in Natural Resources: Strategic Planning and Implementation](#)
- [Fundamentals of Environmental Education](#)
- [Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation](#)

In the News

Let 9,000 People Know About Your Next Project WILD Workshop!

The Texas Parks and Wildlife [Calendar page](#) gets about 9,000 hits a month. If you send us your workshop information, we can post it on the calendar so that those 9,000 people will know about your workshop and organization. It's free advertising and a great way to reach a larger audience. We like to post workshops well in advance so it gives plenty of time for folks to plan to attend. So, as soon as you know when you want to do a workshop, let us know and we'll get it posted. Check it out!

Texas Partnership for Children and Nature

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Education Agency, the Department of State Health Services and the Texas Department of Agriculture have agreed to form a public-private partnership, the Texas Partnership for Children in Nature, to develop a plan to increase the opportunities for children to connect with nature and better understand the natural resources of Texas. The Partnership will develop a strategic plan to inform legislators, stakeholders and communities about recommended and actionable goals and objectives to connect Texans with nature. Join the [Texas Children and Nature Google group](#) or become a [Facebook fan](#).

Nature Rocks

The [Nature Rocks](#) Web site is an ideal tool for parents to plan vacations that involve healthy outdoor activities, or simply to find nearby resources that both kids and adults can enjoy. Nature Rocks identifies affordable and fun nature-themed activities that promote family bonding and nurture happier, healthier and smarter children.



Video Game Takes Kids Outside

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is launching a new online video game aimed at encouraging kids to go outside and learn about the environment. Designed for children ages 8 to 11 years old, Neighborhood Explorers is accessed through the Service's Let's Go Outside! [Web site](#).

President Obama announces National Lab Day

In his speech to the National Academies of Science, the President made this call to action:



"I want to encourage you to participate in programs to allow students to get a degree in science fields and a teaching certificate at the same time. I want us all to think about new and creative ways to engage young people in science and engineering, whether it's science festivals, robotics competitions, fairs that encourage young people to create and build and invent -- to be makers of things, not just consumers of things."

[National Lab Day](#) is a platform to scale hands-on learning across the country and include outdoor learning labs too. National Lab Day will be celebrated the first week of May 2010.

Grants and Awards

Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grants

Deadlines are February 1 and October 1

The [CO-OP grant](#) helps introduce underserved populations to the services, programs and sites of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This is not a land acquisition or construction grant; this is only for programs. Grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations, schools, municipalities, counties, cities and other tax-exempt groups. Minimum grant requests are \$5,000, and maximum grant requests are \$50,000.

Nominate an Outstanding Teacher

Deadline April 1, 2010

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is accepting nominations for outstanding K – 6 mathematics and science teachers in for the 2010 awards. Recipients of the award receive the following: a citation signed by the President of the United States; a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events, gifts from program sponsors from around the country; and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

Keep Texas Beautiful Youth Awards

Deadline: May 11

The [KTB](#) Youth & Educator Awards honor extraordinary people working to improve and beautify their communities. Awards are given in a number of categories, to elementary through college-level youth as well as educators and youth organizers. Applications for the 2010 awards will be available online soon.

2010 Celebration of Children & Nature Awards

Deadline: May 1, 2010

Nominate a Central Texas child, adult, organization or group who is doing exciting, innovative, successful work to offer solutions to the problem of the "nature-deficit disorder," a term coined by bestselling author Richard Louv in his book *Last Child in the Woods*. Applications and additional information are available on [Westcave Preserve's Web site](#).

Grants for Educators

The [NEA Foundation](#) supports new ideas and practices to strengthen teaching and learning. The goal is to fund and share successful strategies to educate and prepare children for bright and rewarding futures. Grant amounts and deadlines vary. See their Web site for more information.

Captain Planet Foundation Grant

Deadlines: March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31

The [Captain Planet Foundation](#) funds and supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youth ages 6 – 18. Its objective is to encourage innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Grant amounts range from \$250 to \$2,500.

Intel Community Grants

Deadlines: Quarterly submissions, February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1

[Intel](#) vigorously supports education through grants for programs that advance science, math and technology education, particularly for women and underserved populations. Intel is also committed to the responsible use of natural resources, and funding for environmental programs will be considered. Within this broad category, Intel continues to give priority to programs with educational and technological components.

American Honda Foundation Grants

Deadlines: Quarterly submissions, February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1

[American Honda Foundation Grants](#) are provided in the fields of youth education and science education to the following: educational institutions, K – 12; accredited higher education institutions (colleges and universities); community colleges and vocational or trade schools; scholarship and fellowship programs at selected colleges and/or universities; and many other organizations.

The Braitmayer Foundation

Deadlines: summer, June 1; and fall, November 15

[The Braitmayer Foundation](#) offers two grant categories: up to \$10,000 and up to \$35,000 to K – 12 campuses throughout the United States. Previous recipients received grants for curriculum supplementation, curriculum development incorporating local history, teacher recruitment in math and science, mentoring programs and similar curricular and school reform initiatives. Also included were preparation of and professional development opportunities for teachers, particularly those which encourage people of high ability and diverse background to enter and remain in K – 12 teaching.

General Announcements

Field Investigations Guide

Field Investigations: Using Outdoor Environments to Foster Student Learning of Scientific Processes was created to help K-12 teachers introduce students to the methodologies used for scientific field research and guide them through the process of conducting field studies. In particular, this volume demonstrates how to use descriptive and comparative methodologies for field studies. This is brought to you courtesy of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. To download your copy, visit the [AFWA conservation education toolkit](#).

EnviroScape Nonpoint Source Pollution Model

[Keep Texas Beautiful](#) has all of the materials you need to teach students how to live environmentally healthy lifestyles packaged and ready to go! All you have to do is ask. Enviroscapes can be rented from Keep Texas Beautiful for a cost of \$50 to cover shipping and wear and tear. There are five models to choose from.



EPA Toolkit Promotes Environmental Education

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has partnered with six other federal agencies to encourage middle school-aged students to become stewards of wildlife and ecosystems. The Climate Change, Wildlife, and Wildlands [Toolkit](#) was developed in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The kit includes case studies and activities based on climate science, environmental education and stewardship information.

Earth Day Celebration

A national outpouring of concern for cleaning up the environment led to the celebration of the country's first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Looking for some fun ways to celebrate Earth Day on your school campus? Check out this new resource, [Earth Day Suggested Activity List](#) from TPWD. It has links to activities, crafts and so much more!

Carbon Calculator



National EE Week offers a [carbon calculator](#) specifically designed for students. Built by Zerofootprint, the EE Week Carbon Calculator encourages students, classrooms, and entire schools to measure and manage their own carbon footprints while developing creative ways to curb their carbon output and slow climate change.

Resources for Earth Sciences and Geography Instruction

This [Web site](#) contains links which are organized alphabetically around the sequence of topics typically taught in an introductory earth science or physical geography class. Links are also available for environmental science, earth science/geography education, career opportunities, and more. The sites selected are based on image quality, ease with which lesson plans can be developed, organization, authenticity, scope, and format.

Digital Library for Earth System Education

The [Digital Library for Earth System Education](#) (DLESE) is a distributed community effort involving educators, students, and scientists working together to improve the quality, quantity, and efficiency of teaching and learning about the Earth system at all levels. DLESE supports Earth system science education by providing:

- Access to high-quality collections of educational resources
- Access to Earth data sets and imagery, including the tools and interfaces that enable their effectiveness.

Disney's Planet Challenge

The Walt Disney Company and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) recently announced the launch of a national project-based environmental [competition](#) for fourth, fifth and sixth grade students. The competition—a collaboration between Disney and the NSTA—provides a fun way for students to learn about science, conservation and teamwork. The competition is a project-based learning program that will empower students to positively impact the world around them. Tools and resources are available at no charge.

Texas Coast Children's Art Contest

Deadline: March 1, 2010

Open to all Texas students (public, private, and home-schooled) in grades K – 6.

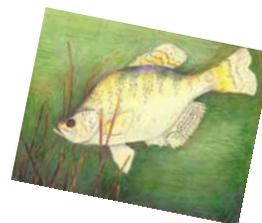


Sponsored by [Adopt-A-Beach](#). Entries must incorporate the slogan, “Trashing Texas Beaches Isn’t Cool”. Ten winners will be chosen from each of four grade-level categories (K – 2, 3 – 4, 5, and 6) for a total of 40 winners. One grand-prize winner will be chosen from among the 40 finalists.

State Fish Art Contest

Deadline: March 31, 2010

The State-Fish Art Contest is open to any student in grades 4 through 12 in public, private or home schools. Contest sponsored by [Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center](#). Entries consist of a drawing of an officially recognized [state fish](#) and a one-page essay on its behavior, habitat or conservation. A free [lesson plan](#) is available for assisting students who wish to enter the contest.



Environmental Learning Kit

An independent PBS production company has created an environmental learning kit from its new, acclaimed two-hour PBS *Frontline* documentary, “Poisoned Waters.” The materials pair ten five-minute video segments with ten companion essays in a 26-page discussion guide that addresses the state of America’s waterways, new pollution threats, and strategies for combating pollution and habitat disruption. The kit, which comes in a compact packet the size of a DVD box, is suitable for environmental groups, college university and high school science and environmental teachers, park rangers and natural

refuge guides, garden clubs, soil conservation districts, water keepers, and grassroots activities engaged in public education and community organizing.

The producers are particularly trying to reach teachers in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, **Texas** and Georgia. Those interested should contact [Hedrick Smith Productions](#).

Solar Calendar



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) has made a [solar calendar](#) available to the public. The calendar allows users to calculate the angle of the Sun's rays at any location.

Green Thumb Challenge

Between Feb. 1 and August 2010, the [Green Education Foundation](#) (GEF) is calling on school communities and youth groups from across the country to plant 10,000 gardens—the biggest youth gardening initiative in history! Whether you participate in a one-day gardening activity or plant a garden that will come back year after year, your school or youth group can be part of this exciting event. Indoors or outdoors, in flower pots or on vegetable plots, GEF provides everything you need to get kids growing.

The Cultivator

Sign up for *The Cultivator*, the new newsletter for educators from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. This newsletter will share educational resources on native plants and animals, children's gardening, hands-on science lessons and educational opportunities for parents and teachers. [Sign up](#) for this new resource!

Project FeederWatch

Share information about which birds visit their feeders between November and April. Backyard and schoolyard bird watchers can help scientists track changes in bird numbers and movements from year to year.

[Project FeederWatch](#), a citizen-science program from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada, works with all ages and skill levels. Teachers can use it to engage children in nature study and scientific investigation through careful observation and note-taking and asking questions about the natural world.



Be Water and Energy Wise!

Whether you are an educator looking to engage your students and inspire real-world problem-solving in the classroom, a homeschooling parent looking to encourage leadership in your children, or a community leader looking to promote local habitat conservation, participating in EE Week is a terrific way to enhance learning and bring about positive change in your school and community.

In the United States, generating power consumes 3 percent of our nation's water annually and 13 percent of the energy produced in this country each year is used to treat, transport and heat our water. Conserving water saves energy, and vice-versa. The water-energy connection is complex, but it provides an excellent opportunity to get students thinking about the interrelatedness of ecological and environmental concerns. EE Week provides lesson plans and classroom resources on the water-energy connection to help students and educators explore this important topic. Visit [EE Week](#) to access the growing list of resources.

Passport to Texas

[Passport to Texas](#) is a daily radio series from TPWD that highlights myriad aspects of the outdoors from camping to conservation, hiking to hunting, birding to biking, fishing to ... well, you get the idea.

TPWD VIDEO ON YOUTUBE

The [TPWD YouTube channel](#) now has more than 115 videos posted so far, with new video topics added weekly. This is one of four “social media” outlets TPWD is currently piloting, the others being Twitter, Facebook and Flickr. In addition to 73 videos about individual state parks, the agency is posting dozens of other videos about fishing, wildlife, boating safety, how-to topics and news reports on a variety of subjects. The videos are close-captioned for the hearing impaired.

Quick Links

[Project WILD \(Texas\) home page](#)

[Project WILD Workshop Calendar page](#)

[TPWD's Teacher Toolkit](#)

[Council for Environmental Education \(CEE\)](#), National Project WILD home office

[Informal Science Educators Association \(ISEA\)](#)

[Texas Association of Environmental Education](#)

[Texas Center for Service-Learning](#)

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hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation
opportunities for the use and enjoyment of
present and future generations."*

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Web site for detailed information about
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