



News of the WILD



A Newsletter of Project WILD, Communications Division

May 2009



In this digest:

- [Kiki's Comments](#)
- [Connecting Resources with Project WILD Activities](#)
- [Workshops, Conference and Continuing Education Announcements](#)
- [In the News](#)
- [Grants and Awards](#)
- [General Announcements](#)
- [Quick Links](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Edited by Karen Marks

Kiki's Comments

Greetings, WILD Ones!

Early in February about eighty of us gathered in Port Aransas for a Project WILD facilitator advanced training. We saw whooping cranes, were joined by Communications Division Director Lydia Saldaña and TPW Commissioner Margaret Martin, toured the UT Marine Science Institute Wetland Education Center, and got good beach sand between our toes. Sessions were offered by experts—some were WILD facilitators, and some were guests. And we all had a WILD time. I hope to offer a facilitators' retreat on a regular basis—probably not every year, but maybe every couple of years.

And speaking of Sara ...

Sara is leaving us at the end of May to join her husband, who has been transferred to Alabama. She has been fantastic and we will miss her. If responses seem a little slow or things seem a little muddled on our end, it is because we will be training someone new and getting to know the new person's talents and interests.

And speaking of new ...

There is a new member of the WILD family of products. *Growing Up WILD* is the early childhood version of Project WILD, designed for children ages 3 – 7 years old. It should be available by July of this year. As soon as I have directions from Council for Environmental Education as to how it will be distributed—workshop length and requirements—I'll start offering workshops and training facilitators to get this resource into the hands of Texas early childhood educators.

And speaking of educators ...

The science teaching community is all abuzz with the adoption of the new science standards (TEKS). The official final draft is not yet posted, but you can see what was accepted by the State Board of Education on the [TEA Web site](#). They will be implemented in the 2010 – 2011 school year. As a WILD one, you will be most interested in some new instructional time verbiage. In the old TEKS, high school students were required to spend 40 percent instructional time in lab and field investigations, but there was no requirement for younger kiddos. In the new document:

- Kindergarten – Grade 1: “Districts are encouraged to facilitate classroom and outdoor investigations for at least 80 percent of instructional time.”
- Grades 2 – 3: “Districts are encouraged to facilitate classroom and outdoor investigations for at least 60 percent of instructional time.”
- Grades 4 – 5: “Districts are encouraged to facilitate classroom and outdoor investigations for at least 50 percent of instructional time.”
- Grades 6 – 12: “Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student, for at least 40 percent of instructional time, conducts laboratory and field investigations following safety procedures and environmentally appropriate and ethical practices.”

What that means for us is that teachers are going to need materials to fill this active investigative time. And we know just the right WILD thing! Although the new TEKS won't be in the classroom for a couple years, administrators are already looking for how to prepare their teachers for the new standards. Dust off your activity guide; it is going to be a WILD time!

Welcome, New Facilitators!!!

ALMA FLEMING	ANTHONY
DIANE PEREZ	ANTHONY
AMANDA ADAIR	BEAUMONT
DEBBIE LOFTUS	BEAUMONT
RICHARD BOTHEL	BEAUMONT
JUAN ARIAS	BROWNSVILLE
KATHERINE MILLER	BROWNSVILLE
SUSAN SMITH-LINGO	BROWNSVILLE
YVONNE GONZALEZ	CANUTILLO
SARA RAMIREZ	DALLAS
MARTI LATHROP	DENTON
ANNIE RALPH	EDINBURG
JAVIER DE LEON	EDINBURG
AMY CANALES	EL PASO
FLOSSIE RICO	EL PASO
JOYCE FORD	EL PASO
LORIE THOMAS	EL PASO
LORRAINE SANCHEZ	EL PASO
MARIA DEL SOCORRO GARCIA	EL PASO
MELISSA CABRAL	EL PASO
NANCY SCARANTINO	EL PASO
SERENA PROFFILT	EL PASO
TOMMIE GIRARD	FLOWER MOUND
SYLVIA DALTON	GRANBURY

ROSE JANICE	HORIZON
NELLY BONILLA	HOUSTON
BELINDA LOWRANCE	JACKSONVILLE
DONNA WISE	JACKSONVILLE
KOY COFFER	KERRVILLE
MICHELLE CROWELL	LAKE JACKSON
CAROL NAVARRO	MISSION
JOSE URIBE	MISSION
JUANITO YOCHUM	MISSION
ELYCE RODEWALD	NACOGDOCHES
SARAH BROWN	PHARR
CATE BALL	PORT ISABEL
HAWAII CORTEZ	RAYMONDVILLE
MAURINE ROSE BANZHAF	RICHARDSON
CHRISTINE DONALD	ROMA
MICHELLE SANTISTEBAN	SAN ANTONIO
SUSAN CAMPBELL	SAN ANTONIO
ANDREW CORTEZ	SAN BENITO
SALLY STREET	SAN BENITO
BOYD SANDERS	TYLER
JENNIFER CHAPMAN	TYLER
ZACHARY CAIN	WARRANT
KYLE O'HAVER	WESLACO

For Facilitator's Eyes Only



The Project WILD Facilitator Handbook and Educator's CD have been updated. Copies were distributed at the WILD advance training held this past February. For those of you who were unable to attend, you may download your copy from the facilitator's Web page.

What's new in the handbook?

- The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Core Concepts for Conservation Education
- TPWD's Priority Issues and Topics of Concern. The state and regional list was the product of multiple focus meetings with leading biologists across the state. A new companion PowerPoint presentation about these issues is available on the Project WILD facilitator's Web page.

What's new on the CD?

The CD has been reorganized and streamlined into new easy-to-navigate sections, with these new features:

- Texas Regional Info Packets
- Image Gallery
- Taking Action

As we developed these documents it became clear that the foremost issue of concern throughout the state is water—both quality and quantity. Habitat, wildlife and people are all profoundly dependent on water. With our increasing population and demands on limited available water resources, connecting people to water issues is more important than ever before.



Operating costs for Project WILD and the manuals is now partially funded through aquatic education funds. Since Project WILD, through you, is one of the more effective ways to reach Texans it is important for you to highlight some aspect of water in all your workshops.

We find that many people are unaware of the water issues in their region, so please use the regional packets on the new Educator CD as a resource. You can also incorporate water within an activity. For example, it could be as part of the habitat in Oh Deer! or with a teaser from Aquatic WILD, or whatever works best for your workshop and audience.

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

Connecting Resources with Project Wild Activities

Project WILD Technology Connections

New “Technology Connections” were incorporated into a number of activities from the Project WILD and Project WILD Aquatic K – 12 Curriculum and Activity Guides. These “Technology Connections” will encourage students to use the Internet, a variety of computer software, video recording equipment, probe-ware and other technologies, while learning about wildlife or sharing what they've discovered. Those with earlier editions of the Project WILD Guides can download the Technology Connections by clicking the links below:

- [Project WILD K – 12 Technology Connections](#)
- [Project WILD Aquatic Technology Connections](#)

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. You can access them [here](#).

Bird Song Survey

As an extension to this activity, build a bird tracker—cheaply! To learn more, check out this [Web site](#) or do some online birding—record your own [eBird](#) data, and explore what others are reporting across North America! Or check out the [Live Eagle Cam](#)

The Hunter

Use this [video](#) about the valuable role that hunters play in conservation as an introduction or extension to Project WILD's activity, The Hunter.

From Bison to Bread: The American Prairie

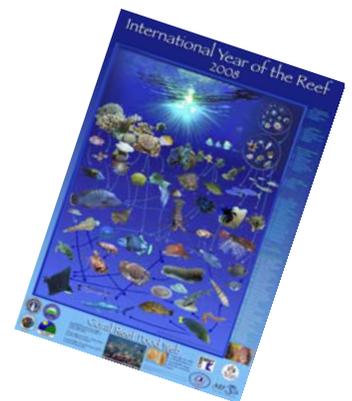
Check out this interesting article about converting cropland to perennial pastures that replicate the native prairies to produce healthier meat and build better soil: [The Amazing Benefits of Grass-Fed Meat](#).

Additional links:

TPWD, [Blackland Prairie Poster](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page)
Native Prairies Association of Texas ([NPAT](#))

Marsh Munchers

Want to adapt this food Web activity for Coral Reefs? Check out the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [Coral Reef Food Web poster](#)! The [Web site](#) also has lesson plans, videos and slide shows too.



Presidential Prerogatives, and Then & Now (Science and Civics)

Glenn Buckley, PW Facilitator in East Texas shared these helpful resources:

1. Presidential Prerogatives: History of U.S. Forest Service DVD, "The Greatest Good." Check with your local library or order from the [U.S. Forest Service](#)
2. Then & Now Activity: Have students compare historical jobs, land use, industry to current jobs, etc. ... How do changes affect water quality, wildlife, etc.

To Dam or Not to Dam

Direct your students to these resources for background research about dams:

- [Dams on the Side](#). By Wendee Holtcamp, TPW Magazine
- [Fish Out of the Water](#). By Larry Hodge, TPW Magazine
- [Save the Monkeyface](#). By Wendee Holtcamp, TPW Magazine
- [Water for the Future](#). By Larry McKinney, TPW Magazine
- [Hatching a Revolution](#). By Larry Hodge, TPW Magazine
- [To Build a Lake](#). By Tom Harvey, TPW Magazine
- [Water or Woods?](#) By Henry Chappell, TPW Magazine
- [The State of Lakes](#). By Larry McKinney, TPW Magazine

Also available on our Teacher Toolkit is a Texas map with the [river basins](#) (multiple sizes are available for download):

Turtle Hurdles

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](#)

Urban Nature Search and Wildlife Is Everywhere

Use this [video](#) about urban wildlife to supplement these WILD activities.

Whale of a Tail

For additional background reading for this activity, check out the TPW Magazine article, [Hidden Giants](#). Learn about the sperm whales that inhabit the Gulf of Mexico.

Where Have All the Salmon Gone?

Adapt this activity to Texas specific species such as the Southern Flounder using these resources:

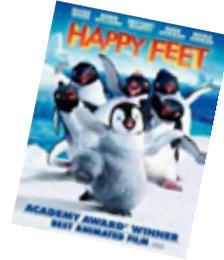
- Status of the [Southern Flounder Population](#) in Texas PowerPoint
- [Flounder Conservation at Hand](#)
- Southern Flounder fact [sheet](#)
- [Flounder Fishing](#) in Texas

Schedule a field trip to a TPWD fish hatchery:

- [Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center](#), Athens
- [Sea Center Marine Hatchery](#), Lake Jackson
- [A E Wood Fish Hatchery](#), San Marcos
- [Dundee Fish Hatchery](#), Electra
- [Jasper Fish Hatchery](#), Jasper
- [Possum Kingdom Fish Hatchery](#), Graford

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

Lovelace, the rockhopper penguin that answers life's questions in the animated film "Happy Feet," probably would be just as stumped as the researchers who reported Friday that the population of his northern relatives has declined by 90 percent over the last 50 years. Read more about the [Northern Rockhopper Penguin decline](#).



What's in the Water?

For older students: View PBS-Frontline's documentary [Poisoned Waters](#) online.

Follow up the activity with a student-led stewardship activity. Students could start a [Don't Flush Your Meds](#) education campaign or [mark storm drains](#) in their school's neighborhood.

Fire Ecologies and Smokey the Bear Said What?

Use these links to help supplement Project WILD's fire ecology activities:

- [FireWorks Curriculum](#) Featuring Ponderosa, Lodgepole, and Whitebark Pine Forests
- [USDA's Learning about fire](#)
- [Life after Fire](#) interactive Web ssite
- TPWD Prescribe Fire [webcast](#)
- TPW Magazine article: [Birds, Brush and Fire](#)

Keep Texas WILD!

We are excited to present "Keep Texas Wild," a magazine section for kids. Thanks go out to ExxonMobil and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation a grant that brings these editions to fourth-grade classrooms and school libraries throughout Texas.



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.

Teachers' Conservation Institute

Session 1: July 5 – 10, 2009; Session 2: July 12 - 17, 2009; Piney Woods Conservation Center (PWCC), near Broaddus, Texas

TCI is a week-long workshop which uses the forest as a theme for environmental education. Activities are led by foresters, educators, natural resource conservationists and industry professionals. Come explore Texas forests from a variety of perspectives! For more information, visit their [website](#).

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!

Fishing 101 Video Series

An outstanding suite of 11 new professionally produced short videos covering various aspects of how to get started fishing can now be viewed on the [TPWD Web site](#). Video topics include Getting Started: Fishing Resources, Safe Fishing, Basic Gear Assembly, Tackle Box and Supplies, Bait and Lures, Casting, Don't Mess With Texas Fish (includes enforcement and resource conservation messages), Freshwater Fishing, Saltwater Fishing, Fishing With the Kids, and Clean and Store Your Catch. The videos were created with help and input from various divisions, including Communications, Law Enforcement and Inland Fisheries. Ann Miller of the Angler Education program led the project and appears in many of the videos. "We have encountered a lot of young parents who want to go fishing and take their kids fishing, but don't necessarily know how to go about it," said Miller. "So, we at TPWD have tried to identify and remove barriers that keep people from getting started fishing." Besides making the videos available online via the TPWD Web site and eventually on YouTube, the video segments will also start airing in October in the department's weekly PBS television series. And, anyone will eventually

be able to get the videos on DVD at a minimal cost by ordering online. The video series was made possible by federal Sportfish Restoration Act funds and a donation from Toyota and the Texas Bass Classic Foundation.

The State of Flowing Water

TPWD's water resource documentary "Texas the State of Flowing Water" can now be seen online. The Web site www.texasasthestateofwater.org now offers streaming video of the documentary broken into eight segments. Viewers can choose to watch them all in one sitting, or watch them individually as their schedules' allow. Topics covered by the eight segments include the introductory segment Texas State of Flowing Water (1:15), Keeping the Flow (9:03), Refuge from a Reservoir (10:07), Reservoirs on the Side (9:30), Lifeline of the Bays (8:52), Water Futures (8:00), Living in the Balance (8:50), and the Conclusion segment (1:15)

A New Deal for Texas Parks

An online exhibit and education center for teachers and students of Texas history, this project was made possible in part through the generous support of a Linden Heck Howell Texas History Grant from Humanities Texas. On the Web site, visitors can flip through the pages of a digital "scrapbook" to explore how individuals, communities and landscapes in Texas were impacted by the New Deal Era, including how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed many Texas State Parks.

For Anyone Who Works with Students or Adults....

From the folks who published *Coyote's Guide to Connecting with Nature*. Take a moment to view this exceptional [video about mentoring](#) ... the entire video is about 30 minutes, but if you can view the first 10 – 15 minutes it really addresses what we all strive to do. The last 15 – 20 minutes is about their training program that they offer (but it still has some good sound advice, like learning to put aside "our agenda" and being in the "teachable moment").

Kids Connecting with Kids

Check out this future "-ologist." His name is Enzo and he is from Central Texas: www.enzoology.com.

Wetlands and Wonder: Reconnecting Children with Nearby Nature

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has produced a 12-minute video, "Wetlands and Wonder: Reconnecting Children with Nearby Nature," that makes a passionate case for protecting urban wetlands as places to experience nature. The film focuses on urban and suburban wetlands as valuable resources to be restored, protected and enjoyed. The video features interviews with Julia McCarthy, Joan Almon, Richard Louv, and Robert Michael Pyle. For additional copies of the DVD, contact the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at (800) 490-9198 or view the [video online](#).

Dept of Interior Establishes Youth Office

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced yesterday that he will establish an Office of Youth to provide department-wide leadership for programs to educate, engage and employ youth. Money from the economic stimulus will be used to hire about 5,000 young people this summer across the country. "The purpose of the office will be to build our programs, to expand opportunities for young people, teach them to hunt and fish,

and coordinate our efforts across the bureaus,” Salazar said. “We can and we must do more to use our great landscapes as classrooms and pathways for opportunity for America’s children of all backgrounds.”

The Office of Youth that Secretary Salazar is creating will coordinate a new department-wide youth program to introduce young Americans from all backgrounds to the beauty, values and importance of our national parks and monuments, refuges, public and tribal lands, consistent with policies established by law, and to promote an ethic of and appreciation for volunteerism and conservation among young people. Salazar cited a similar program he helped start in Colorado, the Youth in Natural Resources Program.

View the [press release](#) from the Department of the Interior.

Grants and Awards

Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grants

The CO-OP grant helps to 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. The application deadlines are February 1 and October 1, with awards on April 15 and December 15.

2009 Celebration of Children in Nature Awards

Westcave Preserve is seeking nominations for the 2009 Celebration of Children in Nature Awards. Nominate a child, adult, organization or group of individuals who are doing exciting, innovative, successful work to offer solutions to the problem of “nature deficit disorder,” a term coined by bestselling author Richard Louv in his book Last Child in the Woods: Saving Your Children from nature Deficit Disorder. For more information and nomination form, see their [Web site](#). Nominations due May 31, 2009.

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.

Big Green Help

The [Big Green Help](#) from Nickelodeon is a global kid-led initiative that provides information and tools to help explain climate change to kids, and educates and empowers kids to make a difference by connecting them to earth-friendly activities in their everyday lives.

Dog-Eared Publications and Social Ecology Press

[Dog-Eared Publications](#) aims to turn young readers into environmentally aware citizens and foster a love of science and nature in the new generation by capturing their interest and engaging them with interactive games, mysteries, puzzles, and stories. Social Ecology Press publishes accounts of human behavior, natural resources, and the environment. Their goal is to provide affordable books for classroom adoption and the natural resource professional community. Check out *Discovering Sharks and Rays*, *Discovering Marine Mammals* and both shark and marine mammal *Wild Stickers* from Dog-Eared Publications. Note that they are offering a generous 40 percent discount; use special offer code Shark209 when ordering. From [Social Ecology Press](#), check out *A Conceptual Approach to Social Impact Assessment* and other publications.

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

[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, Nov 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.

NAAEE Photo Contest

The [North American Association for Environmental Education](#) seeks photos that will inspire people to achieve environmental excellence. Entries may include anything that reflects the theme, *Our Richly Diverse Natural World*. The deadline for entry is August 15, 2009.

National EE Week Photo Blog Contest

[EE Week](#) would like to hear about how you and your organization are bringing environmental education to students. Your story can be about activities either inside or outside the classroom, before, during, or after EE Week. The deadline for entry is May 22, 2009.

Nature of Learning Grants

The Nature of Learning is a community-based environmental education initiative of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation seeks applications from organizations interested in initiating the Nature of Learning in their communities. Programs must involve a partnership among a local school(s), community group (e.g., Refuge Support Group), and National Wildlife Refuge. Programs must promote an understanding of local conservation issues, improve scientific literacy, and conform to appropriate academic standards of learning. Preference will be given to start-up programs that can demonstrate a commitment to sustaining the program over time. The deadline for application is June 15, 2009

Kodak American Greenways Awards Program

The [Kodak American Greenways Awards Program](#) provides seed money to stimulate greenway, blueway, and trail planning and design. Schools are welcome to apply. The program is a partnership project of the Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, and provides small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. The deadline for application is June 15, 2009.

Classroom Earth

www.classroomearth.org is an online resource designed to help high-school teachers include environmental content into their daily lesson plans.

EPA Rachel Carson Contest

Deadline: June 10, 2009

The US EPA, along with the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, Generations United, and the Rachel Carson Council, Inc., are sponsoring the Third Annual Rachel Carson intergenerational [“Sense of Wonder” contest](#). Entries must involve an intergenerational team and describe how this project brought the team in touch with the natural world. This approach reflects Carson’s desire to have adults share nature and discovery with children. Submissions are accepted in the categories of photography, essay, poetry, and dance. Contact: Enesta Jones, (202) 564-4355 x7873, or email jones.enesta@epa.gov

General Announcements

TEXAS OUTDOOR FAMILY



Ever wanted to camp at a state park with your family but felt unsure of what or how to do so? This workshop is designed to teach your family all the basic outdoor skills you'll need to enjoy a great overnight camping experience. You will get hands-on experience learning basic outdoor skills such as camping, outdoor cooking and also be able to get basic instruction on fishing skills and how to use a GPS unit on trail walks. Best of all, no experience is necessary! For more information, visit the [Texas Outdoor Family](#) Web site.

Passport to Texas

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

The New Collection on Aldo Leopold

One of the most important figures in ecology and conservation in 20th-century America, is now online. [The collection](#) provides readers with a sense of who Aldo Leopold was and the broad range of his continuing influence in many fields, including conservation, wildlife ecology, wilderness preservation, agriculture, environmental ethics, and public policy. In addition, see this [two-page summary](#) of Leopold's land ethic, a basis for the modern conservation movement.

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.

Earthcache

[EarthCaching](#), has just been updated for use by teachers! On the EarthCache site there is now a link for educator pages that allow teachers to upload and download lesson plans based on one EarthCache or a general type of EarthCaches (for example, glaciers). Checkout the new [Teacher Guidebook](#) to the Earthcache Web site. The guide includes a chapter on student cache development, too.

Estuaries 101 Online Curriculum

This new online [science curriculum](#) from NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a complete set of estuarine science curricula to help grade 9 – 12 teachers incorporate coastal and estuarine science into any general science class. Each of the four modules tells the estuary story through one of three domains—earth, life, or physical science.

IF IT'S YOUR JOB TO DEVELOP THE MIND, SHOULDN'T YOU KNOW HOW THE BRAIN WORKS?

A WILD facilitator shared this information from a lecture by Ken Wesson (San Jose, CA) about Brain-considerate learning. Using current research from the cognitive neurosciences to plan instruction and student learning based on how humans process and store information. Below are a couple of links he sent for more information. He was a speaker at the NSTA conference in New Orleans in March.

Some highlights from his presentation:

- Concrete learning needs to precede abstraction, in part because the part of the brain that aids comprehension of abstract ideas doesn't develop until ages 9 or 10.
- Humans have always been natural scientists from the need to respond to danger and opportunity.

Today's students:

- Process auditory information slower—lecture no more than 22 minutes.
- Are more team oriented—co-constructed knowledge—thinking out loud helps clarify their thinking
- Drawing during the day does for the brain what dreaming does at night - let students draw to help them understand
- Students need to write—they can listen and read without thinking - writing makes them think about what they've heard and read.
- Gesturing is important for teaching and learning.
- Learners need to have safe, included, interactive, involved and interpersonal environment before learning can occur. Negative emotions preclude all learning (the fight or flight response will drain blood out of a students brain so then they can't think. How many times have you been "put on the spot"??).
- Want to put the brain on "auto-ponder." Allow students to think of possible answers and select optimal response from talking with students.
- Brains are not fully mature until mid to late 20's (25 for females, 29 for males).
- Developmentally appropriate refers to brain development not curriculum development.
- Brain spurts also occur during growth spurts. With the hormonal and chemical changes occurring—it can be like going through chemotherapy.

Here are a few links to Ken Wesson's work:

- [Ken Wesson's home page](#) –see the "NSTA slides set one" for an entertaining presentation on How Children Learn; see "NSTA slides set three" for Inquiry Learning.
- For a more in-depth article by Wesson, [Brain Basics for the Teaching Professional](#).
- [Teaching Science: An Ah-Ha Moment.... A Kansas Teacher Blog](#).

Microdocs: The Short Attention Span Science Video on Ecological Sustainability

This [Web site](#) offers a two-to-four-minute mini-documentary videos on Coral Reefs and sustainability topics such as Why is the sea green?, Diversity, Coral Bleaching, Reef Structure and Gray Whales.

Outdoor Inquiries: Taking Science Investigation Outside the Classroom

This [book](#) was highly recommended by a WILD facilitator: "I attended one of their trainings and then taught a 'Outdoor Inquiries' workshop. Great techniques for including in outdoor programs."



What Tree Is That?



The Arbor Day Foundation offers an [online Tree ID](#) tutorial and field guide.

Teaching with Google Earth

What is Google Earth? Why Teach with Google Earth? How do I teach with Google Earth? All of these questions and more can be found in the Complete Guide to Using [Google Earth in the Classroom](#).

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](#)

Contact Us

Kiki Corry, Project WILD State Coordinator
Phone: 512-389-4369
Email: Kiki.Corry@tpwd.state.tx.us

Nancy Herron
Outdoor Learning Programs Manager
Phone: 512-389-4362
Email: Nancy.Herron@tpwd.state.tx.us

Karen Marks
Outdoor Learning Training Specialist
Phone: 512-389-8833
Email: Karen.Marks@tpwd.state.tx.us

Administrative Assistant
Phone: 512-389-8183
Email: education@tpwd.state.tx.us

Robert Ramirez
Warehouse Fulfillment
Phone: 512-389-4528
Email: Robert2.Ramirez@tpwd.state.tx.us

Fax: 512-389-8673
Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/project_wild/

Executive Director
Carter P. Smith

Editor, *News of
the WILD*
Karen Marks



COMMISSION

- Peter M. Holt, Chairman** San Antonio
T. Dan Friedkin, Vice-Chairman Houston
Mark E. Bivins, Amarillo
Ralph H. Duggins, Fort Worth
Antonio Falcon, M.D. Rio Grande City
Karen J. Hixon, San Antonio
Margaret Martin, Boerne
S. Reed Morian, Houston
Lee M. Bass, Chairman-Emeritus Fort Worth

**TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**
*"To manage and conserve the natural and
cultural resources of Texas and to provide
hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation
opportunities for the use and enjoyment of
present and future generations."*

You may view this publication through the
TPWD Web site. Please notify us by
completing a request form at
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/enews/. Once
verified, we will notify you by e-mail when a
new version of your selected newsletter is
posted at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsletters/.
Your name and address will be removed from
the printed version mail distribution list.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife
Department, 4200 Smith School Rd.,
Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-
1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our
Web site for detailed information about
TPWD programs:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

©2009 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
PWD LF K0700-1390 (5/09)

In accordance with Texas State Depository Law,
this publication is available at the Texas State
Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas
Depository Libraries.



TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies. TPWD is therefore subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in addition to state anti-discrimination laws. TPWD will comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.