Texas Watershed Stewards: A WATER RESOURCE TRAINING CURRICULUM

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Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable Meeting
Temple, TX
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Texas Watershed Steward Program

- Introductory training in the fundamentals of watersheds and watershed management.
- **Target audience**: individuals representing all stakeholder groups...
  - Agriculture
  - Urban
  - Business/industry
  - City/county officials and personnel
  - Landowners, homeowners
TWS Program Curriculum

1. Program Introduction
2. An Overview of Watershed Functions
3. An Overview of Watershed Impairments
4. Managing To Improve Watershed Function
5. Community-Driven Watershed Protection and Management
TWS CURRICULUM HANDBOOK
TWS EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

• 1-day training (8 hours)
• PowerPoint
• Facilitated discussion
• Interactive ‘stations’
  – Enviroscape
  – NPS containers
  – Rainfall simulator
  – WQ monitoring equipment
  – Macroinvertebrate ID
  – Google Earth...
PROGRAM MARKETING

• Media campaign (3 months in advance)
  • Newspapers
  • Local/regional magazines (Electric Coops, Agriculture)
  • CEA, MG, MN, HOA newsletters
  • TV/radio
  • Word of mouth

• Local events
  • Cleanup Events
  • Field Days
  • Conferences
OUR “CARROTS”

• **FREE** (for now, anyways)

• Educational credits:
  – Certified Planners (7)
  – Professional Engineers (7)
  – Certified Crop Advisors (7)
  – TX Certified Teachers (7)
  – Floodplain Managers (3)
  – Pesticide Applicators (3)

• Lots of free stuff…
PROGRAM EVALUATION

• 2-phase evaluation approach:
  1. Pre-test/post-test
  2. 6 mo. delayed post-test

• To evaluate:
  – Knowledge gained
  – Satisfaction with program
  – “Intentions to change”
RESULTS/IMPACTS:

- **Watersheds:** 13
- **Watershed Stewards:** 718
- **Continuing Education:** 1,600+ hrs
- **Overall Knowledge Gain:** 31%
- **Become a Better Steward:** 99%
13 completed workshops
16 planned through 2011
UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

• July 15th: Ft. Worth (Eagle Mtn.)
• August 25th: Kaufman (Cedar Creek)
• October: Wimberley (Cypress Creek)
• November 10th: Seguin (Geronimo Creek)
• December: Jefferson (Caddo Lake)
Texas Watershed Stewards

A Water Resource Training Curriculum

Produced by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in partnership with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, 2008.
Module 1: Program Introduction

What is Texas Watershed Stewards?

Why is Watershed Stewardship Important, Anyways?

The World’s Water

Water Use in the United States

Texas Water Facts

IN THIS MODULE, YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:
- The Texas Watershed Steward (TWS) program
- Watershed stewardship
- The importance of water
- Water facts
The World’s Water

We live on a water planet. In fact, roughly 75 percent of the Earth is covered by water. However, most of the world’s water is contained in oceans or seas or is tied up in ice caps and glaciers. Less than 0.65 percent of all the water on Earth today is liquid fresh water, amounting to only 0.01 percent of the Earth’s total water resources. For this reason, it is vital that we protect our limited water resources.

You may ask yourself where all of our water is going. About 70 percent of the world’s water is being used for agricultural purposes, primarily for irrigated farming. In the past 40 years, the amount of irrigated land in the world has doubled. Roughly 8 percent of the world’s freshwater resources are used for human consumption and sanitation, while the remaining 22 percent is used by industry.

If all of the Earth’s water (an estimated 325 quintillion gallons) were squeezed into a gallon jug and you poured out what was not drinkable (too salty, frozen, or polluted), you’d be left with only one drop, and even that might not pass U.S. water quality standards.

DID YOU KNOW?
A watershed is an area of land that water flows across, through, or under as it drains to a stream, river, lake, ocean or other body of water.

Each kind of drainage system has its own watershed and all drainage systems and watersheds are connected across the landscape.
THE TEXAS WATERSHED STEWARD PROGRAM

http://tws.tamu.edu

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