

2010 Wildscapes Workshop Speakers

Kelly Conrad Bender, Urban Wildlife Biologist, TPWD

Kelly has been with Texas Parks and Wildlife for 14 years and currently serves as the Urban Wildlife Biologist for the Central Texas area based in Bastrop. During that time she has enjoyed bringing children and adults closer to wildlife and nature experiences. She is author of [Texas Wildscapes](#), published in November 2009, and is a well-known public speaker. Previously, Kelly co-founded and chaired the Capital Area Texas Master Naturalists, served as an officer of the Urban Wildlife Working Group of The Wildlife Society, has been the Texas Wildscapes Backyard Wildlife Habitat program administrator, and the coordinator of the Texas Hummingbird Round-up with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Her MS degree was earned in 1995 at Emporia State University (Kansas), and her BA was earned in 1992 at Southwestern University (Georgetown, Texas).

Cathy Nordstrom, Landscape Designer and Owner, Sans Souci Gardens

Cathy graduated with a Master's degree in Art History, giving her a good eye for design and began using landscape as her medium. Her extensive experience as coordinator of the City of Austin *Grow Green* program and steward trainer with the National Wildlife Federation give her excellent qualifications for teaching at native plant gardening events. Her other experience includes being chosen as the *Green Garden* designer for the *Full Sun* and *Native Shade* gardens at Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin, serving on the NWF national steering committee for backyard habitat training, offering expert advice for the *eNature* website and volunteering as docent at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. She has continued to educate herself by completing the first City of Austin *Green Garden Certification Program* for landscape professionals and the Texas Master Naturalist Program, plus becoming a member of the City of Austin *Green Building Program*, as well as a State of Texas HUB contractor.

Kathy Lyles, Native Plant Society of Texas

Kathy began gardening at age 12, growing marigolds, tomatoes and green peppers. She moved to Texas in 1992, soon after becoming an organic gardener and became interested in native plants. Kathy started raising butterflies in 1996, and has since raised 14 different species of butterflies. She has given presentations on butterfly gardening to the Fredericksburg Garden Club, Center Point Garden Club, the Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center, NPSOT Wildscapes Workshop and Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville. The past two years she has taught the native plant class for the Hill Country Master Gardener Certification Program in Kerrville, as well as planting and maintaining the Dr. John Lipe Garden, a native plant demonstration garden for the NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter, for over seven years.

Rufus Stephens, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Rufus is currently working with landowners in Kendall & Comal Counties to improve and manage the wildlife habitat on their farms and ranches. This includes conducting wildlife surveys and presenting educational programs to landowners and the general public. His previous experience involved improving fish and wildlife habitat in urban areas and the general public's knowledge of fish and wildlife habitat issues by working with governmental agencies and industry on how to balance human needs with fish and wildlife habitat needs. He promoted the Texas Wildscapes program, which is a backyard habitat information and certification program, and was one of the founders of the Texas Master Naturalist volunteer program. He has also worked with developers to create conservation developments, which included the state's first wildscape development located in San Antonio, called "The Preserve." Additionally, Rufus has taught adult and community education classes on wildscaping, including classes on native plants for wildlife gardening and developed programs to help schools develop school habitats, concentrating on local native habitats. He currently resides in Boerne, Texas with his wife and four children.