

Workshop Descriptions

Workshops — Group W

Friday: W-1 through W-5

Saturday: W-6 through W-10

On– your– own tours:

A list of open yards and gardens will be provided at check-in for touring any time Friday or Saturday, or 8:00 – noon Sunday.

Friday Workshops

W-1. Using GPS units to create usable GIS layers for resource management

Participants should leave this introductory workshop with a basic knowledge on how to use Garmin GPS units for natural resource field work. In particular we will cover how to navigate in wildland settings and how to capture different types of natural resource data for use in desktop GIS systems. We will briefly discuss how that data can be used for site analysis. Participants should bring their own GPS unit. A Garmin etrex H series will be used by the instructor.

Note: Participants may also be interested in field trip B-12 led by this speaker, to Rainbow Valley Conservation Area, providing an opportunity to practice those new skills.

Daniel Dietz, Stewardship Director, Texas Land Conservancy

Bob O'Kennon, Research Associate, Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)

Friday – time TBA

Attendance limit: none

W-2. Irrigation Efficiency

and

W-3. Drip Irrigation

(two back-to-back related but independent workshops)

All future landscapes must conserve water to be sustainable. Plant selection, maintaining a mulch layer and irrigation efficiency are the keys to sustainable landscapes. Water use increases 35 to 60% during the summer months. This increase is attributed to irrigation. 90% of the turf problems brought to Extension offices are due to over watering. Currently 95% of households use automatic irrigation with spray heads. If not maintained, spray irrigation is the least efficient method of irrigation. Most people do not want to over water and have high water bills. Most people just do not know how an irrigation system works, how to set an irrigation controller and how to check that the system is working efficiently. New irrigation technologies are available to make irrigation more efficient. Drip irrigation is 90% efficient. This program will cover with power point and demonstrations how to check a system and make minor repairs, set a controller, convert to new technologies including drip irrigation.

Dotty Woodson, Ed.D.

Extension Program Specialist–Water Resources, Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M System; Dallas Research and Extension Urban Solutions Center, Sustainable Growth Texas

Irrigation Efficiency – Friday pm

Drip Irrigation – Friday pm

Attendance limit: 50

W-4. Rain Garden Installation

As a follow-up to her talk, Carrie Dubberley will lead participants in building a rain garden at a local Denton site.

Note: Carrie's Sunday field trip D-10 should also be of interest.

Carrie Dubberley

President, Dubberley Landscape, Inc.

Friday pm

Attendance limit 20

W-5. Texas Smartscape: A Gardening Tool to Help Protect Water Resources, Save Money, Beautify the Local Environment, and Provide Critical Habitats

Texas SmartScape® is an interactive, online how-to-guide that teaches concepts of landscaping with native and adapted plants. SmartScaping goes beyond basic xeriscaping principles to provide design, care, and plant search tools that are smart for the North Central Texas and West Texas regions. Texas SmartScape plants require less water and little to no fertilizers and pesticides to thrive in the Texas heat, thereby conserving water and keeping harmful chemicals out of the environment. The beautiful array of plants will provide an aesthetic value as well as attract native butterflies, hummingbirds, and other wildlife. The Texas SmartScape program is designed to benefit numerous groups such as homeowners, landscapers, educators, city planners, and nurserymen.

This presentation will introduce the concepts of the Texas SmartScape program, walk the audience through the online tools, as well as discuss opportunities for partnership and expansion.

Erin Blackman

Environment and Development Planner, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Friday pm

Attendance limit: none

Saturday Workshops

W-6. Conservation Development Design Charrette

This is a hands-on workshop in which participants will ultimately work in groups to design a conservation development using a set of zoning/land use parameters, conservation development design principles, and a site aerial photograph. The workshop will be broken into three sections. The first section will introduce several

concepts necessary for designing and constructing conservation developments, including: conservation easements, cluster developments, zoning regulations, habitat evaluation, environmentally sensitive areas, incentives, and restrictions. The second section will allow participants to examine a completed conservation development and see how all of the key concepts were considered during the design and development process. The final section will allow participants to use the information they have learned to design a conservation development on a raw piece of property with specific constraints and requirements.

Note: Field trip D-9 led by Jared will be the perfect follow-up.

Jared Martin

**Environmental Review Analyst, Environmental Services Department,
Town of Flower Mound**

Saturday pm

Attendance limit 30

W-7. Creating Sustainable Outdoor Learning Centers in Elementary Schools

How do you make sustainable Outdoor Learning Centers in elementary schools? Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalists, Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County 4-H under the auspices of Texas AgriLife Extension have partnered with Denton ISD to make Outdoor Learning Centers (OLC) in elementary schools a sustainable, critical component of the third grade curriculum. Science With Attitude (SWAT) is the name of this partnership which offered Level 1, a three-day teacher training in-service in Summer 2009. The goal of the training is to empower the teachers to manage their OLC and to use it as an outdoor classroom for all disciplines. Level 1 focused on how to build raised beds in an OLC, container gardening, native Texas plants, funding resources, considerations for an OLC such as incorporating ponds, theme gardens, and summer management. Level 1 also introduced the Junior Master Gardener program and core curriculum to the teachers which is TAKS correlated. Level 2 will focus on incorporating wildlife in the OLC, nature activities and insects. In this presentation, Cheryl Kesterson will explain the goals, successes and failures of the SWAT project thus far and how it can be replicated in your community.

Cheryl Kesterson

Education Chair, Elm Fork Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist

Saturday pm

Attendance limit: none

W-8. Making the Soil Food Web work with your Native Plant Areas: A Guide

Discover a 'new/old' understanding of where native plants prefer to live in the scheme of bacteria to fungi ratios. Then learn how to influence and manage that ratio. Whether a small or large yard, an acre or large rural acreage, Betsy will share 10 steps to guide you to successful planting and care of Texas Native Plants. Understanding all those 'under ground' critters and their communities is the key to managing the different 'above-ground' spots in your yard. Learn the answers to 'How much water is too much water? Not enough water?' And, "Mulch? Or not?" For more fun in looking at all the different native plants, learn to recognize some new signals they are sending us about their care and maintenance.

Betsy Ross

CEO, Sustainable Growth Texas, LLC
Saturday pm
Attendance limit: none

**W-9. Running the NICE! Program in Your Chapter
(Chapter Development Workshops A – E)**

What is involved in organizing the NICE! program? Come hear and take home notes to your chapter for all the "how to." Trinity Forks Chapter has worked with as many as 13 different nurseries in five counties in the north Texas area, and has featured a Texas native every season beginning with spring 2006. With the help of 14 chapter volunteers to provide our NICE! Materials to the North Central chapter to reach even more nurseries and plant users.

Kathy Saucier & Marilyn Blanton, co-chairs, NICE! Committee, Trinity Forks Chapter
Saturday pm
Attendance limit: none

W-10. Dried for Design: Gathering and Preserving Native Plants for Floral Designs

Have you ever wondered how you could expand your enjoyment of native flowers and grasses beyond the growing season? With proper care and handling, dried arrangements of native plants can retain their beauty for years. This workshop will share special harvesting and drying techniques acquired from thirty years of experience with native plants.

Maggie Livings studied at the Benz School of Floral Design at TAMU. She assists in the creation of the floral designs that grace the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and has taught classes at the Wildflower Center and other organizations.
Saturday pm
Attendance limit: none