

Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Project
CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program
TSSWCB Contract No. 12-07

Quarter no. 3 From 07/01/13 Through 9/31/13

I. Abstract

In this quarter the project work primarily focused on advertising, coordinating, and conducting two workshops in September and preparations for one in October and November. This included coordinating the workshops with agency partners and the Planning Team, to put together instructors, updating the course, website and advertising materials. Work also continued on contacting watershed coordinators to plan future workshops across the state. Tasks also included updating webpages, gathering educational materials/presentations/evaluations, and visiting with some of the watershed coordinators about this program. To advertise the new program we conducted a presentation at the Texas Watershed Coordinators Roundtable held in Dallas on July 2013. Nueces River Authority has been working on digital tools and updating the Remarkable Riparian Website.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Objective and Task

OBJECTIVE 1: PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Administer, coordinate and monitor all work performed under this project including technical and financial supervision and preparation of status and final reports.

Task 1.1: Project Administration –TWRI/IRNR will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for submission to TSSWCB. QPRs shall document all activities performed within a quarter and shall be submitted by the 15th of January, April, July and October. QPRs shall be distributed to all project partners.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The QPR for the last quarter was submitted on 6/12/13 date.

32% Complete

Task 1.2: TWRI/IRNR will perform accounting functions for project funds and will submit appropriate Reimbursement Forms to TSSWCB at least quarterly.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI and OSRS submitted reimbursement forms for the last quarter.
- b. TWRI has processed invoices from NRA.
- c. TWRI has processed invoices from Texas A&M Forest Service.

32% Complete

Task 1.3: TWRI/IRNR will host coordination meetings or conference calls, at least quarterly, with project partners to discuss project activities, project schedule, communication needs,

deliverables, and other requirements. TWRI/IRNR will develop lists of action items needed following each project coordination meeting and distribute to project personnel.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has conducted multiple meetings and teleconference calls with members of the Planning Team over the quarter including:
 - Calls with Dr. Georgianne Moore, ESSM Planning team member 09/27/13, 09/25/13, 09/21/13, 09/16/13, 09/04/13, 08/28/13, 07/26/13, 06/18/13 and 6/4/13.
 - Conference Calls and emails with Steve Nelle occurred for planning and coordinating Riparian Workshops on 9/26/13, 9/14/13, 9/11/13, 8/31/13, 8/15/13, and 7/1/13.
 - Calls with Russell Castro and Kyle Wright with NRCS to be instructors at workshops 4/17/13.
 - Calls with Tom Arsuffi, LRFS on 9/30/13, 9/23/13, 9/3/13, 7/25/13, 7/9/13, and 7/2/13 about the workshops and planning of workshop at Junction
 - Melissa Parker, TPWD on 4/25/13 about the workshops and planning of workshops.
 - Calls with Sam Silvers CEA for Junction on 9/3/13, 8/12/13, and 7/25/13.
 - Calls and emails to Ward Ling on the Seguin Workshop on 9/16/13, 9/9/13, 9/5/13, 9/3/13, 8/3/13, 8/20/13, 7/10/2013.
 - Riparian Conference Call from 10-12 on May 16, 2013.
 - Calls/emails with Hughes Simpson, TFS on forestry presentation, website links and CEUs contacts for forestry 7/ /13, 8/6/13, 9/13/13, 9/27/13.
 - Emails and calls with Ward Ling on Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed Training 04/10/13, 4/15/13, 6/4/13 and 6/6/2013.
 - Call with TRA and TXSER to discuss annual joint meeting with Riparian workshop on Friday in November 2013, through emails and the listserve.
 - TRA Board Business Emails multiple throughout quarter that discussed website and joint annual meeting.
 - NRA emails discussing the websites and tools occurred during the quarter.
 - TFS conducted several calls with Nikki Dictson regarding the project and the Junction Riparian Workshop.

24% Complete

Task 1.4: TWRI/IRNR will attend and participate in meetings, as appropriate, in order to communicate project goals, activities and accomplishments to affected parties. Such meetings may include, but are not limited to, Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committees, Texas Watershed Planning Short Course, Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtables, and the TSSWCB Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has initiated scheduling presentations to advertise the new program including the following scheduled events during the next quarter.

- Nikki Dictson delivered a presentation to advertise the Riparian Workshop at the Texas Watershed Coordinators Roundtable in Dallas on July 2013.
- b. TWRI has developed a Workshop flier/registration form (see attached Leon, Seguin and Junction).

32% Complete

Task 1.5: TWRI/IRNR will develop (Month 1-3), host and maintain (Months 4-36) a website to serve as a public clearinghouse for project-related information. This website will serve as a means to disseminate information to stakeholders and the general public.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI/IRNR has initiated the project website as a part of the Texas Riparian Website – texasriparian.org and the TWRI/IRNR trainings website will manage all of the training RSVPs/registrations.
- b. The training registration site was developed, with the newly scheduled dates and has been made available for attendees to RSVP to the workshops.
- c. These websites are coordinated and linked to RemarkableRiparian.org website that is being managed by Sky Lewey - Nueces River Authority and will have the online educational delivery as discussed in Task 3.
- d. Texas Forest Service provided information and website links to TWRI for the Project website – now located under Resources.
- e. TexasRiparian.org website had 2,414 visitors for the quarter and 6,199 since January 2013.
- f. The TexasRiparian.org website has 99 subscribed to the website and posts.
- g. TWRI set up a twitter feed on the TexasRiparian.org website.
- h. TWRI set up a facebook and currently has 93 likes at <https://www.facebook.com/TexasRiparianAssociation>
- i. Materials continue to be developed and added to the websites weekly including an entire section about the Nov. 1-2, joint TRA and Texas Society of Ecological Restoration Annual Meeting and voice over powerpoints videos of the workshop presentations are on both websites.

32% Complete

Task 1.5: TWRI/IRNR will develop a final report covering all project activities.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activities to report during this quarter.

0% Complete

OBJECTIVE 2: COORDINATE AND DELIVER RIPARIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Deliver riparian education programs to targeted watersheds to promote healthy riparian areas, thus healthy watersheds, by increasing citizen awareness, understanding, and knowledge about

the nature and function of riparian zones, their benefits, and BMPs for protecting them and minimize NPS pollution.

Task 2.1: TWRI/IRNR will employ an Extension Program Specialist who will serve as the Riparian Education Program Coordinator and will be responsible for the general oversight and coordination of all project activities and for promoting, coordinating, and delivering riparian education training events and web-based tools.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. An Extension Program Specialist II, Nikki Dictson has been hired to serve as the Riparian Education Program Coordinator.

100% Complete

Task 2.2: TWRI/IRNR will establish a Riparian Team to direct this synergistic project. This Riparian Team will include TWRI/IRNR, ESSM, TFS, TPWD, NRA, NRCS, TRA, and TTU-LRFS. This Riparian Team will assist with program development, marketing, and delivery. This Riparian Team will serve as the primary pool of instructors to deliver the Riparian Education Program. The Riparian Team will meet as frequently as needed, likely quarterly in year 1 and semi-annually in years 2-3.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has established a Riparian Team of specialists that includes *TWRI/IRNR, ESSM, TFS, TPWD, NRA, NRCS, TRA, and TTU-LRFS*.
- b. Multiple emails and calls occurred with riparian planning team members and instructors throughout the quarter.
- c. Multiple calls and emails were conducted with Watershed Coordinators (Mike Marshall, Ward Ling/Debbie Magin, and Tom Arsuffi) about the logistics, RSVPs, and the agenda.

20% Complete

Task 2.3: The Extension Program Specialist will compile the amassed body of work utilized by the various entities for riparian workshops and conferences. In conjunction with the Riparian Team, the Extension Program Specialist will select the most appropriate educational materials and resources for use in identified priority watersheds. Although existing resources and guides will be used for trainings; where possible, regional information and curriculum will be developed by the Extension Program Specialist and Riparian Team. TFS will be integral for both adapting the program and delivering it in East Texas. NRA will be integral for adapting the program and delivering it in the Texas Hill Country and South Texas and providing the Riparian Team their valuable experience of program delivery in the Nueces watershed. As possible, TWRI/IRNR and the Riparian Team will work with cities to adapt the program for delivery in urban areas as well.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Texas Forest Service developed and submitted presentation content for the Junction riparian workshop.

- b. Workshop agendas and presentations are being tailored as appropriate for each program. Agendas are attached.
- c. TWRI has contacted members of the Austin Watershed Program to attend and present at the Joint Annual TRA and TXSER and many will be presenting. TWRI plans to continue this discussion of an Urban Workshop with them at the meeting.

24% Complete

Task 2.4: TWRI/IRNR will work in concert with TSSWCB, TCEQ, TPWD, NRCS, TFS, and other state and local organizations to select locations for the riparian education training events. This project will deliver riparian education programs to targeted watersheds across the state. Priority watersheds will be selected in collaboration with TSSWCB, and with input from TCEQ and others, and primarily represent those with approved WPPs or TMDLs and those developing or planning development of WPPs or TMDLs. Initial priority shall be given to Buck Creek, Cedar Creek Reservoir, Dickinson Bayou, Geronimo Creek, Hickory Creek, Lampasas River, Pecos River, Plum Creek, San Bernard River, and Upper Llano River. Other watersheds may be selected based on need and in response to collaborations with other groups and organizations, including river authorities, SWCDs, local citizen groups/watershed associations, etc. Watersheds will be selected consistent with the State's implementation of the Texas NPS Management Program. Additional watersheds will be selected based on impairment status, environmental sensitivity, and/or other priority issues. TWRI/IRNR and TSSWCB will periodically make collaborative decisions to re-prioritize and add to/remove from the list of watersheds.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI continues to coordinate with TSSWCB and TCEQ on the list of watersheds for workshops across the state.
- b. TWRI has been contacting watershed coordinators to determine when would be most appropriate to hold a workshop in their area.
- c. Workshops conducted:
 - a. Leon River Watershed on September 12, and
 - b. Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed on September 17, 2013.
- d. Future workshops planned:
 - a. Upper Llano River Watershed is planned for in October 16th,
 - b. Carters and Burton Creek Watershed is planned for November 21, 2013.
- e. TWRI has been contacted by Tiffany, Brazos River Authority with interests in conducting riparian workshops in their basin.
- f. TWRI has been contacted by a representative of Buffalo Bayou Watershed with interest in a Riparian Workshop for stakeholders.
- g. TWRI has been contacted by both the TPWD Matador Wildlife Management Area and the County Extension Agent for the County about having a riparian workshop.
- h. TWRI has been contacted by the County Agent about having a workshop at a landowners place along the San Saba River.
- i. TWRI will continue to contact watershed coordinators to discuss the best future date for workshops in their watershed.

24% Complete

Task 2.5: The Extension Program Specialist will work to establish CEU credits for the riparian education program to encourage participation by landowners and water resource professionals.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has sent program materials to potential CEU providers so that they can review the agenda and information and evaluate the program to the following:
 - a. Texas Water Resources Institute – 1 hour
 - b. Texas Floodplain Management Association – waiting for response
 - c. Texas Nutrient Management Planning Specialists – Approved for 6 hrs.
 - d. Texas Master Naturalists – approval required at the chapter level each time – approved for Lockhart training.
 - e. Texas Master Gardeners – approval required at the chapter level each time
 - f. Texas Forestry Association – approved for up to 6 hrs approved
 - g. Society of American Foresters – approved for up to 4.5 hrs
 - h. Texas Board of Architectural Examiners does not approve courses but said we should advertise as “Acceptable for HSW” – or good for State CE hours.
 - i. TWRI will coordinate with County Extension Agents in each county for Texas Department of Agriculture – Pesticide Applicators – approved for 3 hrs.
 - j. The program may also be used for CEUs for Professional Engineers.
 - k. TFS continued to participate in discussions regarding the development of a “Riparian Certification” program.
- b. TWRI will continue to look into additional CEUs for the program.

32% Complete

Task 2.6: TWRI/IRNR, with assistance of the Riparian Team, will actively market riparian education trainings through news releases (AgriLife News and local media outlets), internet postings, newsletter announcements, public/conference presentations, flyers, etc., to enhance awareness and utilization. TSSWCB must review and approve all project-related content in any materials prior to distribution.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI advertised the workshops on the Websites and Facebook account.
- b. TWRI has developed the RSVP system online to track attendance at the workshops.
- c. TWRI coordinated with watershed coordinators and county extension agents to develop press releases on each of the workshops to advertise them.
- d. TWRI advertised the Leon, Geronimo and Alligator, and Junction Workshops on the TRA listserve the Texas Watershed Coordinators listserve, and facebook.
- e. TWRI worked with the County Extension Agent and Watershed Coordinators and provided them the registration form and materials to advertise.
- f. TWRI developed a press release to advertise the Leon, Geronimo and Alligator, and Junction Workshops with the local county extension agents (see attached).

24% Complete

Task 2.7: TWRI/IRNR, with assistance of the Riparian Team, will deliver 25, daylong riparian education training events in prioritized watersheds (Subtask 2.4) during the project period. Five programs are planned for delivery in year 1 and 10 each year during years 2 and 3. Certificates of completion will be provided to all participants in the trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has been in contact with the watershed coordinators on the list of watersheds.
- b. Five trainings have been scheduled with dates:
 - a. Plum Creek in Lockhart on June 25, 2013.
 - b. Leon River in Moody on Sept. 12, 2013.
 - c. Geronimo and Alligator Creek in Seguin on Sept. 17th, 2013.
 - d. Upper Llano River on October 16th, 2013.
 - e. Carters and Burton Creek on November 21, 2013.
- c. Additional trainings are looking at future months for workshops and the watershed schedule will be continually updated.

20% Complete

Task 2.8: TWRI/IRNR in collaboration with the Riparian Team will develop a series of riparian education presentations of various lengths (15/30/45/60 min.) and provide them to a variety of audiences and venues statewide such as those listed in Subtask 1.4, but also including county and multi-county Extension programs, landowner workshops, SWCD programs, and other suitable venues. Further, key elements of the program will be incorporated into presentations delivered by TFS, TWRI/IRNR, and others on the Riparian Team and delivered to a variety of audiences throughout the state.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI is working to schedule presentations about the program to a variety of audiences including:
 - TWRI advertised the Riparian Workshops at the July 30, Texas Watershed Coordinators Roundtable Meeting.
- b. TWRI will continue to work on presentations of differing lengths about the program for advertising of the program.

24% Complete

Task 2.9: TWRI/IRNR will coordinate annual 2-day agency trainings on assessing proper functioning condition with the NRCS State Riparian Service Team. These programs will provide detailed training on proper functioning condition for agency personnel including TPWD, NRCS, CEAs, TSSWCB, TXDOT, TCEQ, SWCDs, GLO, TWDB, River Authorities, USFWS, and NPS personnel.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI discussed these professional trainings and it was well received by the planning team. TWRI is working with Russell Castro and Kyle Wright of NRCS to start the process of reviewing and updating the materials to be able to have these in the future.

- b. TWRI talked with Janice Statts of the National Riparian Service Team on PFC trainings – they are also updating the materials of their training, but they are out of the Northeast.
- c. NRCS was working through the materials on stream sites after the Seguin Workshop in Central Texas.
- d. TWRI, TPWD and NRCS plan to meet once the government shutdown is resolved and NRCS returns back to work.

15% Complete

Task 2.10: TWRI/IRNR will coordinate two statewide riparian conferences in coordination with the Texas Riparian Association, professional organizations, River Authorities, or other entities annual meetings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has been planning discussions on holding a riparian workshop at the annual meeting of the Texas Riparian Association and Texas Society for Ecological Restoration in November 2013.
- b. TWRI will present a brief presentation on the workshops that have been planned and conducted at the TRA Business Meeting during the Texas Riparian Association and Texas Society for Ecological Restoration in November 2013.

10% Complete

OBJECTIVE 3: CONDUCT DEVELOP WEB-BASED RIPARIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

To expand the reach and participation in the Riparian Education Program via web-based resources.

Task 3.1: Using non-federal funds from private foundations, the NRA will provide web-based, digital delivery of comprehensive riparian information through development of the Remarkable Riparian website. NRA will work with TWRI/IRNR and the Riparian Team to produce high quality audio-visual presentations, targeting both rural and urban audiences, for inclusion on the website. This will expand participation in riparian education programs by 1) supporting different adult learning styles and preferences, 2) providing flexible learning opportunities for interested citizens who have time and/or mobility constraints, and 3) enabling ready access to program resources statewide.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. NRA has updated materials and links on the [remarkableriparian.org](http://www.remarkableriparian.org) multiple times during the quarter.
- b. NRA is working on updating YouTube educational materials for the website.
- c. NRA has created voice over powerpoint videos for the workshop presentations and they are on both the <http://www.remarkableriparian.org/> and <http://texasriparian.org/>.

24% Complete

Task 3.2: NRA will track usage of Remarkable Riparian website and report it with each quarterly report.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Visitation counter installed on remarkable.riparian.org: had a total of 1,313 visits recorded this quarter, including 447 visits from 183 unique visitors in April, 419 in May with 161 unique visitors, and 447 visits in June with 177 unique visitors.

20% Complete

Task 3.3: The Nueces River Authority will also participate on Riparian Team assisting with development, marketing, and delivery of riparian landowner programs, annual conferences, and other trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Provided Remarkable Riparian Books to the attendees at the Seguin Workshop.
- b. NRA discussed strategies for development, marketing and delivery with TWRI during multiple calls and through correspondence during the quarter.

20% Complete

OBJECTIVE 4: EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RIPARIAN EDUCATION TRAININGS AND WEB-BASED RESOURCES

To measure both knowledge and behavior changes of individuals participating in the program.

Task 4.1: TWRI/IRNR will conduct pre- and post-training evaluations (for both group instruction and web-based trainings) to assess increased knowledge of participants on the nature and function of riparian zones, their benefits, and BMPs for protecting them and minimize NPS pollution; to evaluate participant satisfaction with the program; and to evaluate participant's intentions to change their behavior as a result of the program. Additionally, TWRI/IRNR will deliver a follow-up assessment via email (6-month follow-up for both watershed-based and computer-based trainings) to ascertain behavior changes actually adopted by participants.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TFS sent TWRI a sample post forestry workshop evaluation form to measure participant understanding.
- b. TWRI has developed a set of questions based on the materials, a set of demographic questions and a survey of the program for the pre and post-surveys.
- c. TWRI conducted pre and post surveys at the Lockhart Workshop on June 25, 2013.
- d. The 6-month post survey is now being developed.

24% Complete

Task 4.2: TWRI/IRNR will analyze results obtained from the pre-/post-tests and 6-month follow-up assessment using descriptive, correlational, and analysis of variances statistical procedures. Results will be used to periodically evaluate and modify riparian education program materials and incorporated into the final report.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Plum Creek Results have been compiled and are included in this quarterly report.
- b. Leon and Seguin Workshop results have been compiled and are included in this quarterly report.
- c. The workshop results are being analyzed.

16% Complete

Expected Work for the Next Quarter:

- TWRI will continue to work on preparing educational materials for upcoming workshops.
- TWRI will conduct workshops in Junction and Bryan/College Station.
- TWRI and NRA will continue to develop the websites for the program and the online educational tools.
- NRA will be at the Junction meeting and will record the TFS presentation to create a video.
- TWRI will evaluate the results of the evaluations for the Lockhart, Leon, Seguin, and Junction.
- TWRI will continue conducting presentations for a variety of audiences as needed.
- TWRI will continue contact with watershed coordinators to continue scheduling workshops across the state.
- TWRI will schedule a Riparian Planning Team Meeting to discuss and plan upcoming workshops.
- TWRI and TFS will attend the TRA/SER Joint Annual Meeting in Junction in November.
- TFS will present at both the Junction and Bryan/College Station riparian workshops in October and November 2013.

Appendix A: Riparian Workshop Registration Forms

Appendix B: Agenda's of Meetings Advertising Riparian Workshops



Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Workshop

Upper Llano River Watershed

October 16, 2013
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Texas Tech Univ. Junction Llano River Field Station
254 Red Raider Ln.
Junction, Texas 76849

Online RSVP and Agenda: naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule

For more information and to register please contact Nikki Dictson at 979-458-5915 or n-dictson@tamu.edu.

Continuing Education Units available: Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicators License – 3 CEUs; Texas Water Resources Institute – 1 CEU; Texas Forestry Association –6 hours; Society of American Foresters –4.5 hours; Texas Nutrient Management Planning Specialists –6 hours; Texas Board of Architectural Examiners “Acceptable for HSW credit”; and may also be used for CEUs for Professional Engineers.

The workshop will include both indoor classroom presentations and an outdoor field portion at the river to discover how they function and the role of riparian vegetation in properly functioning stream systems by viewing the river in action. RSVPs will be required by October 11, 2013 and please remember to select if you would like the catered lunch (cost of \$10 cash at the door) or if you will bring your own lunch and drink. To RSVP by mail, please complete the form below and send to 1500 Research Pkwy, Ste 110, College Station, TX 77843-2260.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Org./Employer: _____ Lunch Options: ☐ I would like the catered lunch
☐ I would like to bring my own





Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Workshop

Leon River Watershed

September 12
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Grove Community Center and Mother Neff State Park
5554 TX Highway 236
Moody, Texas 76557

Online RSVP and Agenda: naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule

For more information and to register please contact Nikki Dictson at 979-458-5915 or n-dictson@tamu.edu.

Continuing Education Units available: Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicators License – 3 CEUs; Texas Water Resources Institute – 1 CEU; Texas Nutrient Management Planning Specialists –6 hours; Texas Board of Architectural Examiners “Acceptable for HSW credit”; and may also be used for CEUs for Professional Engineers.

The workshop will include both indoor classroom presentations and an outdoor field portion at Mother Neff State Park to discover how streams function and the role of riparian vegetation in properly functioning stream systems by viewing the river in action. RSVPs will be required by September 6, 2013 and please remember to select if you would like the catered lunch (cost of \$10 cash at the door) or if you will bring your own lunch and drink. To RSVP by mail, please complete the form below and send to 1500 Research Pkwy, Ste 110, College Station, TX 77843-2260.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Org./Employer: _____ Lunch Options: ☐ I would like the catered lunch
☐ I would like to bring my own



Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Education



Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Agenda

- 8:00 Meeting Registration
- 8:30 Workshop Introductions
- 8:35 Program Overview, Watershed Management and Water Quality
 - Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 9:00 Riparian and Watershed Management Principles
 - Steve Nelle, Retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 9:45 Stream Processes and Hydrology
 - Melissa Parker, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Riparian Vegetation and Hindrances to Healthy Riparian Areas
 - Steve Nelle, Retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 11:30 Management Practices and Local Resources
 - Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:15 Lunch time Presentation
- 1:15 Questions and Complete Post Survey
- 1:30 Trip to the River for Stream Walk (Split into 2 or more groups)
 - Lane's Balance Demonstration Activity
 - Ag. Nonpoint Source Incentive Programs: K. Wright & R. Castro, NRCS
 - Feral Hog Education: Jared Timmons, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
 - Photo Monitoring of stream locations: Dictson, TWRI
- 4:00 Wrap up and Head for Home!

<http://texasriparian.org/> and

<https://www.facebook.com/TexasRiparianAssociation>



Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Education



Leon River Agenda

- 8:00 Meeting Registration
- 8:30 Workshop Introductions
- 8:35 Program Overview, Watershed Management and Water Quality
 - Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 9:00 Riparian and Watershed Management Principles
 - Steve Nelle, Retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 9:45 Stream Processes and Hydrology
 - Ryan McGillicuddy, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Riparian Vegetation and Hindrances to Healthy Riparian Areas
 - Steve Nelle, Retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 11:30 Management Practices and Local Resources
 - Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:30 Lunch time Presentation: Leon Watershed Protection Plan Overview
 - Mike Marshall, Institute of Renewable Natural Resources
- 1:15 Questions and Complete Post Survey
- 1:30 Trip to the River for Stream Walk (Split into 2 or more groups)
 - Lane's Balance Demonstration Activity
 - Agricultural Nonpoint Source Incentive Programs
 - Feral Hog Education: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
 - Photo Monitoring of stream locations: Dictson, TWRI
- 4:00 Wrap up and Head for Home!

<http://texasriparian.org/> and
<https://www.facebook.com/TexasRiparianAssociation>



Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Education



Upper Llano River Watershed Agenda

- 8:00 Meeting Registration
- 8:30 Workshop Introductions – Tom Arsuffi, Llano River Field Station Director
- 8:35 Program Overview, Watershed Management and Water Quality
 - Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 9:00 Riparian and Watershed Management Principles
 - Steve Nelle, Retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 9:45 Stream Processes and Hydrology
 - Gary Garrett, Program Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Riparian Vegetation and Hindrances to Healthy Riparian Areas
 - Steve Nelle, Retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 11:30 Management Practices and Local Resources
 - Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:15 Lunch time Presentation: Riparian Forestry BMPs
 - Lori Hazel, Texas A&M Forest Service
- 1:15 Watershed Conservation Program and Landowner Incentive Program
 - Joyce Moore, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- 1:30 Trip to the River for Stream Walk (If large group split into 2 or more groups)
 - Lane's Balance Demonstration Activity
 - Ag. Nonpoint Source Incentive Programs: K. Wright & R. Castro, NRCS
 - Photo Monitoring of stream locations: Dictson, TWRI
- 4:00 Wrap up and Head for Home!

<http://texasriparian.org/> and
<https://www.facebook.com/TexasRiparianAssociation>



riparian and stream ecosystem education program

texasriparian.org

Texas has more than 200,000 miles of streams and riparian areas—the green vegetation zones along streams, rivers and lakes—that provide great economic, social, cultural and environmental value to the state. These ecosystems play an important part in the water issues that face Texans today and in the future.

Management of watersheds, riparian areas and streams directly influences water quality and quantity, peak and base flow rates of streams and rivers, and recharge to aquifers and lakes. For example, how much rainfall runs off and how fast it runs off the land depend on the amount and type of vegetation, soil type, slope, intensity and duration of rainfall and land management. Properly functioning riparian areas are highly beneficial buffer zones that provide recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, increased water supply and improved water quality by filtering debris and pollution. A healthy watershed maintains high quality water for aquatic ecosystems, downstream users and coastal wetlands and estuaries.

Riparian and stream ecosystem degradation is common in Texas rural and municipal landscapes due to natural and human-induced disturbances. Increases in human population along with industrial, commercial and residential development place heavy demands on stream corridors. In many cases, riparian areas are purposely degraded or channelized to allow stormwater to move quickly downstream to reduce local flooding. These degraded and/or

channelized riparian areas reduce the recharge of groundwater and base flow and increase the frequency of flooding. Excessive flows from poor management upstream can degrade otherwise healthy riparian zones downstream. Many cities have found that improving creek and floodplain protection is needed to prevent unsustainable public expense to maintain drainage infrastructure.

It is important to monitor the health of streams to protect, maintain and restore healthy riparian and stream ecosystems in Texas. Proper management, protection and restoration of riparian areas will decrease bacteria, nutrient and sediment loadings to water bodies; lower instream temperatures; improve dissolved oxygen levels; and stabilize banks, reducing erosion and protecting ownership boundaries and land values. Healthy riparian areas will also have fewer invasions of exotic undesirable riparian species, improved aquatic habitat and improved fish and aquatic communities.

Riparian education programs are needed to improve the management of these sensitive and vital ecosystems. Through the *Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem*



texas **water** resources institute

twri.tamu.edu



riparian and stream ecosystem education program

Education Program, partners and staff will deliver educational workshops about the nature and function of riparian zones and vegetation. The workshops will also cover local technical resources and best management practices (BMPs). Through education, landowners and other citizens can improve their management of riparian and stream ecosystems, which will reduce nonpoint source pollution (NPS) and provide tremendous ecosystem service benefits and direct economic benefits to communities.

Objectives

- Promote healthy watersheds and improve water quality through riparian and stream ecosystem education programs with a focus on priority watersheds
- Increase citizen awareness, understanding and knowledge of the nature and function of riparian zones, their benefits and BMPs to protect them and minimize NPS pollution
- Enhance interactive learning opportunities for riparian education across the state and establish a larger, more informed citizen base working to improve and protect local riparian and stream ecosystems
- Connect landowners with local technical and financial resources to improve management and promote healthy watersheds and riparian areas on their land

Collaborators

- Texas Water Resources Institute
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Texas Riparian Association
- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Nueces River Authority
- Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Ecosystem Science and Management Department
- Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station

Funding Agencies

- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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make every drop count twri.tamu.edu

Appendix C: Riparian Workshop and Sign-in Sheets

RECERTIFICATION ATTENDANCE FORM

Please furnish in accordance with recertification requirements, the items below and have delivered promptly to the address listed above. Attendants must receive a certificate upon course completion as a receipt of attendance.

[illegible]

Revised 2/16/06

Leon River

Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Course

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<i>Jack Wall</i>	24	Jack	Wall	Coryell County Commissioner	
<i>Richard Spindle</i>	25	Richard	Spindle		
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Bubba TPWD
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TAMU - Extension

nrcs

September 12, 2013

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Linda Williams
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Leon River

Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Course

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Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Course

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Kylie
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WDA NRCS
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June 25, 2013

Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Course

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September 17, 2013

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Society for Range Management

CPRM-CEUs

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Appendix D: Riparian Workshop Press Release and online RSVP

Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program kickoff

Texas has more than 200,000 miles of streams and riparian areas—the green vegetation zones along streams, river and lakes—that provide great economic, social, cultural and environmental value to the state. These ecosystems play an important part in the water issues that face Texans today and in the future. TWRI has partnered with the EPA, TSSWCB, TPWD, TFS, USDA-NRCS, Texas Riparian Assoc., and Nueces River Authority among others on the Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program. The program includes a website with resources and upcoming trainings that will focus on the nature and function of riparian zones, the benefits and economic impacts of healthy riparian zones, best management practices (BMPs) for enhancing and protecting riparian zones, and technical and financial resources and incentives available for implementing riparian BMPs and riparian protection measures. The first of these 1-day trainings in watersheds across the state was conducted in Lockhart in the Plum Creek Watershed on June 25, 2013 and included indoor classroom presentations and outdoor field sites and stream walks from the multi-agency team of instructors. The workshop had a total of 65 attendees and survey response results had 100% were mostly or completely satisfied with the overall course and materials, would recommend it to others, and 94% anticipate adopting best management practices as a result of the program. Future workshops are scheduled September 12, in The Grove for the Leon River Watershed, September 17 in Seguin for Geronimo and Alligator Creek watersheds, and October 11 in Junction for the Upper Llano River watershed. More information can be found at <http://texasriparian.org/>.

Riparian and stream ecosystem program workshop set for Sept. 17 in Seguin

View all articles by Paul Schattenberg →

August 28, 2013

SEGUIN – The Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program will host a workshop relating to the Geronimo and Alligator creeks watershed from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Sept. 17 in Seguin.

The no-cost educational program will focus on how streams function and the role of riparian vegetation in properly functioning stream systems. The morning session will be held at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's River Annex, 905 Nolan St. The afternoon field portion will be held at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, located on the banks of Geronimo Creek, 1865 U.S. Highway 90 East.

"Riparian education programs like this lead to informed landowners and members of the public more inclined to use practices that improve the management of riparian and stream ecosystems," said Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute Extension program specialist and program coordinator. "Proper management, protection and restoration of these vital areas directly influence water quality and quantity, plus stabilizes stream banks and improves fish and aquatic habitats and communities."

The program is managed by the [Texas Water Resources Institute](#), part of [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#), [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) and the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#) at [Texas A&M University](#). It is funded through a Clean Water Act grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A riparian zone is the land area adjacent to the bank of a stream, creek, river or lake, Dictson explained. Geronimo Creek and its Alligator Creek tributary are located in Comal and Guadalupe counties and lie within the larger Guadalupe River Basin. The watershed has been the focus of water quality improvement planning efforts by stakeholders.

"Stakeholders recognize that successful implementation of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan requires a variety of management strategies," said Ward Ling, AgriLife Extension program specialist and watershed coordinator. "The riparian and stream workshop is an educational event supporting this effort."

Dictson said the workshop will include classroom and field presentations by representatives from AgriLife Extension, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The afternoon will include a field visit to a Geronimo Creek site and additional presentations on riparian vegetation and management practices.



A Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program on the Geronimo and Alligator creeks watershed will be held from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. Sept. 17 in Seguin. The no-cost educational program, managed by the Texas Water Resources Institute, will focus on how streams work and the role of riparian vegetation in properly functioning stream systems. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo)

A sandwich box lunch is available for \$10 cash at the door, but an RSVP is required to have an accurate count. Participants must RSVP by Sept. 10 by contacting Dictson at 979-458-5915 or n-dictson@tamu.edu, or go online to <http://naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule>.

Travis Franke, AgriLife Extension agent for Guadalupe County, said the workshop offers three continuing education units — two general and one integrated pest management — for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide license holders. It also offers one unit from the Texas Water Resources Institute and six hours for Texas Nutrient Management Planning specialists. The program is acceptable for health, safety and welfare credit from the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners and may also be used for continuing education units for professional engineers.

For more information, contact Dictson or visit <http://texasriparian.org>.

Riparian, stream ecosystem workshop for Leon River watershed set for Sept. 12

View all articles by Paul Schattenberg →

August 12, 2013

MOODY — The Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program will host a workshop on the Leon River watershed Sept. 12 near Moody.

The no-cost educational program on how streams function and the role of riparian vegetation in stream-system function is set for 8 a.m.–4 p.m., according to Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute Extension program specialist and program coordinator.



The program is managed by the [Texas Water Resources Institute](#), part of [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#), [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) and the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#) at [Texas A&M University](#). It is funded through a Clean Water Act grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The morning session will be at The Grove Community Center, located 5.5 miles from Mother Neff State Park near 5554 Texas State Highway 236. The afternoon field portion will take place at Mother Neff State Park, 1680 Texas State Highway 236, Moody.

The Leon River, a 190-mile stream in north Central Texas, is the focus of watershed planning efforts by area stakeholders.

Dictson said the workshop will include indoor classroom presentations and presentations in the field by representatives from AgriLife Extension, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and Mike Marshall, AgriLife Extension associate and Leon River watershed coordinator.



The Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program will be holding a workshop Sept. 12 near Moody. The workshop will focus on the Leon River watershed. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Mike Marshall)

Afternoon activities will include a field visit to stream sites to see the Leon River and the riparian vegetation at Mother Neff State Park.

“Riparian education programs like this lead to informed landowners and members of the public more inclined to use practices that improve the management of riparian and stream ecosystems,” Dictson said. “Proper management, protection and restoration of these vital areas directly influence water quality and quantity, plus improve stream banks, fish and aquatic habitats, communities and more.”

“Stakeholders recognize successful implementation of a watershed protection plan requires a variety of management strategies,” Marshall said. “The riparian and stream workshop is an educational event supporting this effort.”

A catered barbeque lunch is available for \$10 cash. Participants must RSVP by Sept. 6. To register online, go to: naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule.

Pasquale Swaner, AgriLife Extension agent for Coryell County, said the workshop offers three continuing education units — two general and one integrated pest management — for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide license holders, one unit from the Texas Water Resources Institute and six hours for Texas Nutrient Management Planning specialists. He said the program is acceptable for health, safety and welfare credit from the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners and may also be used for continuing education units for professional engineers.

For more information, please contact Dictson at 979-458-5915 or n-dictson@tamu.edu or visit texasriparian.org.

Riparian, stream ecosystem workshop set Oct. 16 in Junction

View all articles by Paul Schattenberg →

September 11, 2013

JUNCTION –The Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program will present a workshop relating to the Upper Llano River watershed from 8 a.m.– 4 p.m. Oct. 16 in Junction, said Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute program specialist and coordinator.

The free educational program on how streams function and the role of vegetation in properly functioning stream systems will be at Texas Tech University's Llano River Field Station, 254 Red Raider Lane.



Dictson said the workshop will include indoor classroom presentations in the morning, while the afternoon will include a field visit to stream sites.

The workshop will include presentations by representatives from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas A&M Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and Texas Tech University.

“Riparian education programs like this lead to informed landowners and members of the public more inclined to use practices that improve the management of riparian and stream ecosystems,” Dictson said.

A riparian zone is the land area adjacent to the bank of a stream, creek, river or lake, she explained.

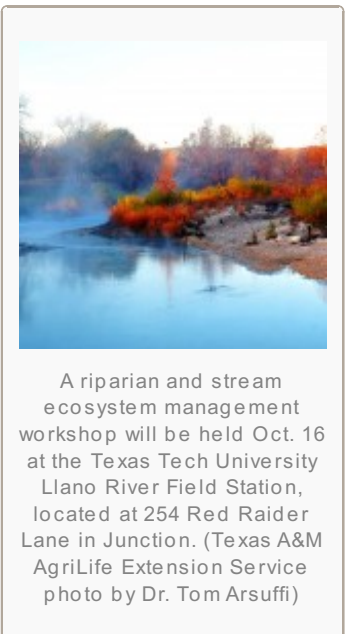
“Proper management, protection and restoration of these vital areas directly influences water quality and quantity, plus stabilizes stream banks, and improves fish and aquatic habitats, communities and more.”

“Surface water in the Llano River is a critical source of water in the area,” said Dr. Tom Arsuffi, director of the Llano River Field Station. “The Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan aims to address potential threats before they become a problem, thus making sure the watershed remains healthy.”

“The workshop is an educational event to support the watershed protection effort,” said Sam Silvers, AgriLife Extension agent for Kimble County.

A catered lunch is available for \$10 cash at the door, but an RSVP is required to have an accurate count. Participants must RSVP by Oct. 11 by contacting Dictson at 979-458-5915 or n-dictson@tamu.edu, or go online to <http://naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule>.

The workshop offers seven types of continuing education units including three units— two general and one integrated pest management — for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide license holders. It offers one unit from the Texas Water Resources Institute, six hours for Texas Nutrient Management Planning specialists, six hours from the Texas Forestry Association, and 4.5 hours from the Society of American Foresters. The program is acceptable for health, safety and welfare credit from the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners and may also be used for continuing education units for professional engineers.



A riparian and stream ecosystem management workshop will be held Oct. 16 at the Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station, located at 254 Red Raider Lane in Junction. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Tom Arsuffi)


The program is managed by the [Texas Water Resources Institute](#), part of [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#), [AgriLife Extension](#) and the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#) at [Texas A&M University](#). It is funded through a Clean Water Act grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, contact Dictson or visit texasriparian.org.

Appendix E: Riparian Agenda and Sign-in Sheets

Appendix E: Riparian Workshop Press Release and online RSVP

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Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Workshop - Plum Creek Watershed

June 25, 2013

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[Flyer](#) 

First Lockhart Baptist Church
315 West Prairie Lea
Lockhart, Texas 78644 [map](#)

Please complete the form below to RSVP for the Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Workshop, June 25, 2013 at the First Lockhart Baptist Church.

A catered lunch from Chiselm Trail is being sponsored by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Land Trust. Please select if you would like the catered lunch or if you will bring your own lunch and drink.

For more information or questions please contact Nikki Didson at 512-455-5915 or n-didson@tamu.edu

Personal Information

First name:

Last name:

Email address:

Phone:

Organization/Employer:

Lunch:
☐ I will have lunch on my own 