#### **TEEAC Providers 2017-18**

# The Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee

The Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC) coordinates with other state regional and local agencies that are charged with the development of environmental education materials. TEEAC cooperates with a network of providers of environmental education professional development, including universities, state agencies, museums, and nature centers. This network of TEEAC Providers helps ensure that teacher professional development offered by formal and nonformal providers is educationally sound and consistent with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

To receive a TEEAC Certificate of Recognition, teachers and other educators take approved workshops offered by TEEAC Providers. At the completion of the workshop, participants receive stickers that are placed on a Coursework Verification Form. When 45 hours of professional development are completed and documented by the accumulated stickers, the Coursework Verification Form is mailed to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). A current list of TEEAC Providers is found below. Please directly contact a provider for upcoming workshop information. TEEAC Providers may apply for workshop approval by completing a Program Description Form. Request a form from Irene Pickhardt by e-mail at <a href="mailto:Irene.pickhardt@tea.texas.gov">Irene.pickhardt@tea.texas.gov</a>.

#### **TEEAC Providers 2017-18**

## Alamo Area Master Naturalist, Starting Out Wild Advanced Training,

Alamo Area Master Naturalist (AAMN) provides a two-hour workshop for early childhood educators that teach toddlers (1-3 years old). Each nature based workshop provides access to online resources and curriculum for the Starting Out Wild program created in San Antonio, Texas educators will be provided resources online to learn and apply strategies for leading toddlers in using their senses to conduct indoor and outdoor investigations safely. At the end of the training, the educator participants will be able to demonstrate toddler activities that facilitate children's experiences through movement and using all their senses. In addition, vocabulary, literacy and nature concepts with analogs for learning with this age group and engage parents as well as toddlers in indoor and outdoor nature activities. Healthy snacks and educational based crafts are also included. Participants will be able to introduce nature song and movement to children. Contact: Contact: Susan Campbell, Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center, 8400 NW Military Hwy. San Antonio, TX. 78231, 210-207-3280 or 210-492-7472, www.philhardbergerpark.org, http://txmn.org/alamo

## Angler Education Instructor Workshop, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Program

This free 4-5 hour workshop is open to anyone 18 or older interested in teaching fishing skills in their communities. The program provides the curriculum, equipment, materials, and support to help volunteers successfully introduce youth and their families to fishing. Topics include: fish identification and fish habitats; stewardship of aquatic resources; equipment, knots and tackle assembly; casting techniques; fishing safety, ethics, and regulations. Ideal for teachers, youth group leaders, after school or camp staff, and community volunteers.

Contact Karen Marks, Aquatic Education Manager, 512-389-4732, karen.marks@tpwd.texas.gov

#### **Artist Boat**

Artist Boat offers field lab activities to teachers and students who can travel by kayak, vessel, and

foot to places of natural significance on Galveston Bay. Students participate in a workshop and kayak adventure that includes hands-on and feet-in instruction and experiential learning to interact and learn about estuarine ecology, plein-air water coloring, water quality testing, paddling and safety instruction and collection of data. A model of the Galveston Bay Coastal Waters Institute curriculum, which consists of 24 pre- and post interdisciplinary classroom lessons. In addition, students can engage in service learning at Artist Boat's Coastal Heritage Preserve, which is over 600 acres of prairie, saltwater, and freshwater wetlands on West Galveston Island. Students will learn about the importance of preserving and restoring the threatened Texas Coastal Prairie habitat while working in our nursery or green house, planting native plants or removing invasive species. Contact: Amanda Rinehart, 409-740-0722, arinehart@artistboat.org, www.artistboat.org

# **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies serves as the national office for Project WILD and related programs. Texas Parks and Wildlife administers professional development for Project WILD (focusing on wildlife), Aquatic WILD (aquatic species and habitats), and Growing Up WILD (early childhood). Partners in various cities in Texas provide Flying WILD, including Houston Audubon. These cross-curricular programs range in grade levels from Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and include topics in wildlife, habitat, water, migratory birds, and learning outdoors. Contact: projectwild@fishwildlife.org, projectwild.org

#### **Audubon Texas**

Audubon Texas is the lead, driving force in the state for bird conservation. By integrating science, conservation, advocacy, and education, Audubon's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, while connecting people to nature in Dallas, San Antonio, and the Texas Gulf Coast. Our coastal science team and four Texas nature centers based in Cedar Hill, Dallas, San Antonio and Brownsville offer diverse programming including field trips and outreach for school and youth groups, birding and hiking, outdoor leadership programs, kayaking, family festivals, adult events and workshops, and much more. Audubon Academy brings STEM-based classroom lessons to life in the field, taking a fun, hands-on approach to developing future conservationists, while reinforcing knowledge essential to student success in school. Plan your next nature-based adventure and visit tx.audubon.org today to find the center or program closest to you. Contact: Email audubontexas@audubon.org, http://tx.audubon.org/

#### **Austin Nature and Science Center**

The Austin Nature and Science Center (ANSC) provides educational and recreational opportunities to increase awareness of and appreciation for science and nature in an informal setting. Professional development for teachers is offered at teacher workshops at the Austin Nature and Science Center site in Zilker Park. The workshops are designed to help teachers meet the science standards for their students in a natural, fun, hands-on learning environment. ANSC also offers TEKS aligned Life Science and Earth Science onsite and outreach programming. Contact: Barbara Croom, 512-974-3888 or visit the website <a href="www.austintexas.gov/ansc">www.austintexas.gov/ansc</a>

#### **Austin Watershed Protection Department**

The City of Austin Watershed Protection Department focuses on Austin's 68 watersheds and the Edwards Aquifer, and provides K-12 field trips, kits, curriculum, and teacher training in the Austin area.

Contact: Sara Heilman, Susan Wall, 512-974-3540; 512-974-6571, or at

## www.austintexas.gov/Watershed/YouthEd

#### **Austin Youth River Watch**

Austin Youth River Watch is an after-school and summer program that transforms and inspires youth through environmental education, community engagement, and adventure. Our students, the River Watchers, collect, analyze, and publish water-quality data from Austin-area streams and rivers, and report their data to local and statewide agencies. Additionally, River Watchers are guided through learning experiences with community partners to design and implement service projects that improve water quality and quantity through ecological and hydrological enhancement activities. Finally, River Watchers experience adventures such as camping, canoeing, and caving. Contact: Melinda Chow, 512-767-4719, melinda@riverwatchers.org, http://riverwatchers.org/

## **Bayou Preservation Association**

Bayou Preservation Association focuses on Houston's 22 watersheds and their connection to Galveston Bay by providing 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade guided bayou field trips, classroom presentations on various watershed- related topics, curriculum, volunteer service-learning opportunities, adult lectures, an annual symposium, and educator workshops such as Project WILD and Aquatic WILD.

Contact: Amanda Brown, Director of Education at 713-529-6443 or abrown@bayoupreservation.org, http://www.bayoupreservation.org

#### **BRIT Education**

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT), through their SEED School, offers a variety of student, teacher and family programs that help children and adults renew their sense of wonder and discover the natural world around them. Located in Fort Worth's Cultural District, BRIT offers educational field trips that connect students to the environment through STEM, family story times, unique teacher professional development, exploratory summer camps and more. Contact: Kimberly Whitlock, 817-546-1958, kwhitlock@brit.org, www.brit.org/education

### The Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research, Baylor University

The Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research (CRASR) is a research and education partnership between Baylor University and the City of Waco focused on aquatic resources. CRASR provides water education and outreach experiences and teacher professional development through a variety of activities and workshops.

Contact: Melissa Mullins 254-710-2382, <a href="Melissa\_mullins@baylor.edu">Melissa\_mullins@baylor.edu</a>, <a href="http://www.baylor.edu/crasr/">http://www.baylor.edu/crasr/</a>

#### Children's Museum of Houston

The EcoStation exhibit at Children's Museum of Houston (CMH) provides opportunities for museum visitors to engage in ecological studies and explore environmental issues. EcoStation features a native plant garden, woodland area, pond, and research pavilion as well as hands-on activities and educational programming that changes weekly. In addition, CMH provides opportunities for educators and students including professional development, school field experiences, outreach programs, and online classroom curriculum.

Contact: Alleigh Stewart, 713-535-7251, astewart@cmhouston.org, www.cmhouston.org

#### Cibolo Nature Center & Herff Farm

Located in Boerne, Texas is a 162 acre nature preserve and historic homestead provides science and agriculture oriented education and recreation for children and adults. Attend adult education and teacher workshops, family and children's programs, summer camps, field trips, citizen science research, volunteer opportunities, a farmers market, and more.

Contact: Jennifer Wyle, 830-249-4616, www.cibolo.org

# The Collins Academy

The Collins Academy in Jefferson, TX offers educational opportunities through project-based learning opportunities emanating from local environmental science and cultural history issues. Led by professional educators, industry experts, and professional volunteers, programs include natural science and conservation, history and preservation, and career and community development. The Collins Academy works in cooperation with public and private landowners and agency scientists to solve problems which are important to students and their communities. Curriculum resources include Project WILD; Texas Stream Team, Junior Historians, the Big Cypress Bayou Restoration Project, the Paddlefish Reintroduction Education Initiative, and the Monarch Joint Venture.

Contact: Gary Endsley at 903-665-2900 or info@collinsacademy.com

## **Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program**

Delta Discovery's *Coastal Bend Environmental Science* teacher workshops provide educators with added insight into the issues affecting bays and estuaries, a sound knowledge base of the local ecology, and supplies and curriculum that translate into successful science experiences for their students. Educators may choose from fall or spring one-day workshops or summer intensives.

Contact: Education Department Staff at 361-673-6829 or <a href="mailto:education@cbbep.org">education@cbbep.org</a>, <a href="mailto:http://www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org">http://www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org</a>

# **Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grant**

Looking for a way to fund your off-site field investigation trips? We may have the answer! The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) is a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grant program. CO-OP's mission is to build relationships with non-traditional constituencies who have been under-represented in TPWD activities and programs. CO-OP grant funding is available to schools and any tax-exempt organization to provide community outdoor recreation and environmental education experiences. Funds can be used to funding programming expenses such as transportation, staff, food, scientific or outdoor recreation equipment and program materials. Application deadline is February 1, 2018. Visit the website for more information and the application. <a href="https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants">https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants</a>

Contact: Cappy Smith, 512-389-8254, cappy.smith@tpwd.texas.gov

#### **Cypress Historical Society**

Cypress Historical Society, located at Harris County Cypress Top Historic Park, provides guides for the park. It also offers a variety of workshops for teachers and learning experiences for students and youth groups. Programs focus on the local geography including watersheds, resources and the changing human environment.

Contact: Jay Gavitt, 281-758-0083, cypresshistsociety@att.net

## **Cypress Top Historic Park**

The Harris County Precinct 3 Cypress Top Historic Park museum complex has eight historic buildings, including a general store, dance hall, family house, service station, and barbershop. We offer guided tours, hands-on examination of historical artifacts, genealogical exhibits, and opportunities to learn about the history of the local area. Students are encouraged to compare and contrast their lives and community today with those of Cypress families a hundred years ago. The park is also available for history-related workshops for teachers.

Contact: Jim Wilson or Linda Martin-Rust, 281-357-5324, <a href="mailto:cypresstop@Pct3.com">cypresstop@Pct3.com</a>, <a href="mailto:http://www.pct3.com/parks/cypress-top-park">http://www.pct3.com/parks/cypress-top-park</a>. The website for the monthly newsletter for the park is <a href="http://www.pct3.com/publications/">http://www.pct3.com/publications/</a>

#### **Dallas ISD Environmental Education Center**

The Dallas ISD Environmental Education Center is a 500-acre academic facility located in Seagoville, TX. The center includes more than four miles of nature trails, a 26,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility with interactive exhibits, a 70-seat ecology theater, four science laboratories, a live animals laboratory, an outdoor classroom, a fossil pavilion, a working barn with a variety of livestock, vegetable, flower, and herb gardens, and a recently added astronomical observatory. The center's TEKS-aligned programs are designed to help science teachers at all grade levels meet the Texas Education Agency's requirement that students plan and implement both laboratory and field investigations during science instruction. Its goal is to provide quality outdoor educational experiences to improve student achievement in science and develop an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the natural world.

Contact: Mark Broughton at 972-749-6900 or <a href="mbroughton@dallasisd.org">mbroughton@dallasisd.org</a>, <a href="http://www.dallasisd.org/Domain/96">http://www.dallasisd.org/Domain/96</a>

## Dallas Zoo and Children's Aquarium at Fair Park

The Dallas Zoo and the Children's Aquarium at Fair Park offer a variety of educator workshops PK-12 which include hands-on activities designed to engage teachers in science TEKS content. Teachers gain knowledge, activities, and curriculum based on wildlife and the environment to utilize in their classrooms. Upon completing one of our workshops, participants will receive six hours of CPE (and thirty hours upon completing our week-long Summer Science Institute). Stay tuned for dates for our Texas Horned Lizard Expedition in the summer of 2018 (14 hours of CPE). Please visit <a href="www.DallasZoo.com/Education">www.DallasZoo.com/Education</a> to find the educator workshop that fits your schedule.

Contact: 469-554-7300 or Education@DallasZoo.com

#### **Earth Matters**

Earth Matters is an organization based in Kaufman County that is dedicated to assisting educational instructors with making the journey through soils and land use interesting and exciting for students. The soils program meets TEKS for K-5 while introducing ecosystems, entomology, vermicomposting, and plants. To make great use of the day, educators may schedule a second workshop to include Plants, Food and Fiber for Texas. Earth Matters presenters will travel to most areas of the state to provide training at your school to best accommodate busy schedules utilizing workdays.

Contact: Lisa Nalls, 214-729-4756, earthmatters.ln@gmail.com

## **Edwards Aquifer Authority**

The Edwards Aquifer Authority's (EAA) education program offers a wide range of resources for students and educators to explore the Edwards Aquifer system and related issues such as water conservation, endangered species, and aquifer protection. Additionally, the EAA has geologists, hydrologists, biologists, mathematicians, and engineers who can discuss STEM careers and how they are vital to the EAA's mission of managing, enhancing and protecting our aquifer. All presentations, materials, and resources are provided free of charge to schools and organizations within our jurisdiction.

Contact: Sarah Valdez, 210-222-2204, education@edwardsaquifer.org, www.edwardsaquifer.org

## Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center/Aquatic Sciences Adventure Camp

The Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center at Texas State University offers week-long and 2-day summer camps for students ages 9-15. The program emphasizes the principles of and field experiences in aquatic biology and water chemistry. Professional development is offered to teachers who assist Texas State University staff with camp activities.

Contact: Aaron P Swink, 512-245-3541, <a href="http://www.eardc.txstate.edu/">http://www.eardc.txstate.edu/</a>, <a href="http://www.eardc.txstate.edu/education-center/camp.html">http://www.eardc.txstate.edu/education-center/camp.html</a>

## **Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and World Birding Center**

A 40-acre wetlands oasis in the midst of a lively urban landscape, the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands offers watchable wildlife year-round in a setting friendly to birds, butterflies and other waterloving creatures. We offer programs for pre k-12 students in a diverse array of topics in the environmental and natural resource sciences. The Center offers a 3.5 acre native butterfly garden, a variety of wetlands and outdoor classrooms, an interpretive center and more. Trained staff can offer introductory and advanced birding courses, wetland courses, insect and reptiles courses, plant courses and more. We also offer professional development courses for educators. Contact: Veronica Guzman. 956-381-9922. vguzman@cityofedinburg.com

www.Edinburgwbc.org

## **Elm Fork Education Center, UNT Denton**

Elm Fork Education Center is the public education branch of the University of North Texas' environmental programs. The mission of the center is to develop and present premier environmental education programs that provide investigative encounters for students of all ages in field and discovery experiences through school day field trips, family science events, summer science camps, and professional development opportunities. Elm Fork Education Center is a Project WET Host Institution, and a Texas Aquatic Science Certified Field Site.

Contact: Brian Wheeler, 940-565-4912, Marti Lathrop, 940-369-8936, <a href="mailto:elmfork@unt.edu/">elmfork@unt.edu/</a>, <a href="https://efec.unt.edu/">https://efec.unt.edu/</a>

# **Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH)**

The Environmental Institute of Houston offers a variety of workshops for educators and members of the community. We focus on a wide array of environmental programs including the development, use and upkeep of school habitat gardens; Wonders Of Wetlands (WOW), Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree curricula; and Rain Water harvesting and Rain Garden workshops. We offer summer camps; programs and field trips for scouting, school, and church

groups; and a monthly Youth Birding Program. Our site, with demonstration Habitat Gardens, indoor and outdoor classrooms, and large nature preserve campus is ideal for hiking and birding. EIH also administers the Texas Envirothon program, a state-wide environmental education competition for high school students.

Contact: Wendy Reistle, 281-283-3045; <a href="www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute/education/T">www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute/education/T</a> https://www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute/education/

#### Fort Worth Zoo

Education is an important component to conservation at the Fort Worth Zoo. As an educator, the value of resources is important for students' understanding of animals, science, and conservation. There are beneficial resources (which correlate to the TEKS) for you at the Fort Worth Zoo. We want the Zoo to be a useful resource for educators and a learning experience for students. Explore our website and discover what the Zoo can do for you!

Contact: Kathy Dorris, Education Director, 817-759-7200, education@fortworthzoo.org

#### **Gilmont Outdoor School**

Located in east Texas, just north of Tyler, Gilmont Outdoor School provides a Residential Program (4 days and 3 nights) for fifth graders and Day Programs for K-12 students. Nature is the classroom as trained teachers guide classes through data collection, team building, problem solving, and drawing conclusions about the natural world through aquatic biology, astronomy, forestry, pioneering, orienteering, and geology activities. Professional development for teachers is offered in partnership with school districts.

Contact: Marie Nelson, 903-797-6400, <a href="marie@gilmont.org">marie@gilmont.org</a>, <a href="http://gilmontoutdoorschool.weebly.com/">http://gilmontoutdoorschool.weebly.com/</a>

# **Growing the Seeds**

Growing the Seeds of Environmental Education Conference and occasional workshops are provided at Houston ISD's Outdoor Education Center near Trinity, Texas. The conference is usually held in March or April, and the workshop dates vary. The conference focuses on hands-on activities, natural history, and environmental education development and sharing.

Contact: Al Bartell, 936-594-7074, abartell@houstonisd.org

### **Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)**

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority offers a wide variety of water resource opportunities, both outdoor and classroom, for students and teachers in the Guadalupe River Basin. Contact: 830-379-5822, http://www.gbra.org/education/

#### **Gulf of Mexico Foundation**

Coastal Environments/Rigs to Reefs. Educators may gain up to 6 CPE credits by participating in outdoor workshops and presentations comparing coastal environments of North America with an emphasis in on the Gulf Coast. "Rigs to Reefs" brings environmental steward ship to a new level by examining the benefits of converting oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico to artificial reefs. Teachers benefit by suggestions relating to student led discussions and problem solving. For traditional and non-traditional educators of all levels.

Contact: James R. Jones, Gulf of Mexico Foundation, 361-779-0537, <u>jrjones@gulfmex.org</u>, <u>www.gulfmex.org</u>

## The Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary

Located north of Dallas in Collin County, The Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary 's 289 acres of wooded, prairie and wetland ecosystems allows for a variety of programs that help connect families, students, and teachers with nature. In addition to self-guided visits to our museum and trails, we offer live animal presentations, guided trails including monthly seasonal bird walks, TEKS-aligned "field investigations," Magic Planet digital projection globe programs, preschool and homeschool classes, scout workshops, teacher workshops, outreach programming, and seasonal special events.

Contact: Angela Baron, Education Coordinator at <a href="mailto:abaron@heardmuseum.org">abaron@heardmuseum.org</a>, www.heardmuseum.org

# Houston Audubon - Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center

Houston Audubon provides educational programs on birds, bird conservation, and Texas wildlife. Programs are available for all ages including youth (pre K- 12), college students, educators and adults. Programs feature live birds of prey and other wildlife. Outreach programs are delivered across the region. Flying WILD workshops for educators take place at the nature center along with a unique badge for brownie and junior girl scouts. Live virtual programs are also available via video conferencing equipment.

Contact: Mary Anne Weber, 713-640-2407, <a href="mailto:maweber@houstonaudubon.org">maweber@houstonaudubon.org</a>, www.houstonaudubon.org

#### The Houston Museum of Natural Science

Generate a love of learning at the Houston Museum of Natural Science! We have created new and dynamic TEKS-aligned curriculum for each of our nine permanent Exhibit Halls, Butterfly Center, Giant Screen Theatre, and the world's finest Planetarium! The main location is adjacent to Hermann Park with satellite venues located in Sugar Land and the George Observatory in the wildlife friendly Brazos Bend Park. Discounts for field trips to any of the venues are heavily discounted when booked in advance for a minimum of 10 or more. HMNS offers numerous staff development opportunities throughout the year for area educators, including Shell Educators' Previews, Teacher Saturdays, GT workshops, and our annual Educators Event.

Contact: Cathy Walton, Lead Marketing Coordinator, 713-639-4617, <a href="mailto:cwalton@hmns.org">cwalton@hmns.org</a> www.hmns.org

#### **Houston Zoo**

The Houston Zoo offers enriching professional development opportunities for teachers including full day workshops and conference-style events in a one-of-a-kind 55-acre outdoor classroom. Throughout all our programs and workshops, the Houston Zoo Conservation Education team ties TEKS-related material and classroom instruction to actions that save animals in the wild. Contact: Joanne Baptista, Educator & Adult Programs Coordinator, 713-533-6500, education@houstonzoo.org, https://www.houstonzoo.org/education/educators/

## **HummerBird Celebration in Rockport and Fulton, Texas**

Educators are invited to celebrate the fall migration of the ruby-throated hummingbirds and all birds during this 4-day event focused around birds. Learn at field trips, lectures, boat trips, bus trips, vendor halls and outdoor exhibits. Educators can visit the backyards of Hummer Homes on a

self-guided Hummer Home Tour. School groups welcome. Contact: Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, 800-242-0071 tourism@1rockport.org, www.rockporthummingbird.com

## Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center

The Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center's (SOLC) mission is to provide an educational experience for all ages in a natural setting. SOLC provides a variety of opportunities for educators, students, and youth groups. Our programs include field trips that focus on environmental science and outdoor adventure activities. SOLC also offers teacher professional development, team building, and high/low ropes courses.

Contact: Gregg Sparks, 830-379-7652; ilsolcenter@gmail.com; www.seguinolc.org

#### John Bunker Sands Wetland Center

The John Bunker Sands Wetland Center is located in the middle of a 2000 acre constructed wetland and offers in-depth field study experiences to middle and high school students in the areas of wetland ecology and water conservation. All our classes are TEKS aligned. We also offer teacher development workshops such as Project WET, Wonders of Wetlands, and Project WILD. Contact: Linda Dunn, Education Manager, 972-474-9100, <a href="mailto:ldunn@wetlandcenter.com">ldunn@wetlandcenter.com</a> <a href="https://www.wetlandcenter.com">www.wetlandcenter.com</a>

# **Keep Austin Beautiful**

Keep Austin Beautiful leads hands-on educational activities focusing on protecting watersheds and proper recycling practices, loans tools and cleanup supplies for service projects, and mobilizes the Austin community to raise awareness and promote environment stewardship. Contact: to Alecia Casper, 512-391-0617 x 709, <a href="mailto:alecia@keepaustinbeautiful.org">alecia@keepaustinbeautiful.org</a>, <a href="mailto:www.keepaustinbeautiful.org">www.keepaustinbeautiful.org</a>

#### **Kleb Woods Nature Preserve and Historic Farm**

The 133-acre Harris County Precinct 3 Kleb Woods Nature Preserve and Historic Farm includes trails, a nature center, and a historic homestead. We offer guided nature walks, history tours, and nature journaling classes. We have regularly scheduled *A Closer Look at Nature* and *A Closer Look at History* classes for school-aged children. These opportunities improve observation skills, encourage students to take a closer look at the natural world, and enhance their appreciation of local history. The nature center is also available for history and science-related workshops for teachers.

Contact: Jim Wilson or Kendra Kocab, 281-357-5324, <u>klebwoods@Pct3.com</u>, <u>http://www.pct3.com/parks/kleb-park/</u>. The website for the monthly newsletter is <u>http://www.pct3.com/publications/</u>.

#### **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is in southwest Austin and is an organized research unit of the University of Texas at Austin. It provides educational programs for children and adults that teach people about their natural surroundings and how to grow native plants in their own backyards. We conduct professional development classes that provide CPE hours.

Contact: Julie Graham, 512-232-0249, jgraham@wildflower.org,

https://www.wildflower.org/learn

## Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Outreach programs for Cameron and Willacy County schools, field trip opportunities (tours on your bus or custom programs), Project WILD educator training workshops, Ocelot Discovery Trunk loaner program.

Contact: Marion Mason, <u>Marion\_Mason@fws.gov</u>, 956-748-3607 x119, https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Laguna\_Atascosa/visit/for\_educators.html

# LISDOLA (Lewisville ISD Outdoor Learning Area)

LISDOLA offers learning experiences for LISD students and the community using the 84-acre site featuring comfortable walking trails, an outdoor interactive watershed model, Earth History interactive center/trail, team building stations, and flexible curriculum options. LISDOLA provides fun and powerful learning in a classroom without walls.

Contact: Suzanne Barnard, Environmental Learning Supervisor, 469-446-8946 <u>lisdola@lisd.net</u>, <a href="http://www.lisd.net/Domain/76">http://www.lisd.net/Domain/76</a>

#### **Lubbock Lake Landmark**

Lubbock Lake Landmark reveals 12,000 years of continuous human occupation as an active archaeological and nature preserve. Through environmental education curriculum the Landmark promotes environmental literacy and provides K-12 and higher education students and educators with tools that encourage lifelong learning, science inquiry in a natural environment, and a greater understanding of the Southern High Plains.

Contact: Susan Rowe, 806-742-1116; www.lubbocklake.musm.ttu.edu

# **McDonald Observatory**

The University of Texas at Austin's McDonald Observatory provides K-12 teacher professional development workshops for educators in astronomy, earth and space science, and physics. Workshops vary by theme, but all include hands-on TEKS-aligned activities, night-sky observing, and visits to research-class telescopes. McDonald Observatory also offers K-12 student field experiences on site, and remote video-conferencing with classrooms.

Contact: Keely Finkelstein, <u>keelyf@astro.as.utexas.edu</u>, 512-471-3339, http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/learn

## **McKinney Roughs Nature Park**

Situated just east of Austin, nestled among the Lost Pines of Bastrop County and the Texas Colorado River, McKinney Roughs Nature Park is a special place where the natural resources of several ecosystems converge. McKinney Roughs Nature Park, owned and operated by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), is home to hundreds of plant and animal species living within 1,100 acres of rolling box canyons, wildflower meadows, and lazy river bends of the park. We offer a variety of single or multi-day natural science education programs related to wildlife, water conservation, land stewardship, and renewable energy, as well as recreation activities like rafting, kayaking, and challenge course. Onsite dormitory housing is available for groups.

Contact Erin Holley, 512-303-5073, <u>outdoorprograms@lcra.org</u>, <u>https://www.lcra.org/parks/Pages/mckinney-roughs-nature-park.aspx</u> https://www.lcra.org/parks/Pages/default.aspx, erin.holley@lcra.org

## **Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District**

Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District provides a one day hands-on professional development opportunity for teachers in grades 3-5 and 6-8. This learning experience will provide educators with student centered activities and TEKS based curriculum that can be easily implemented into the classroom to reinforce the water cycle and emphasize the importance of groundwater conservation. The educator will also be provided with technological resources that coincide with the curriculum.

Contact Stephanie Keith, 254-965-6705, <a href="mailto:mtgcd4@centurylink.net">mtgcd4@centurylink.net</a>

#### The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment

The Meadows Center at Texas State University inspires research, innovation, and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the environment and all humanity.

<u>Texas Stream Team (TST)</u> trains citizen scientists, including teachers and students, to collect water quality data on Texas waterways. TST provides teachers with tools to support students in the fields of math, science, and social studies and also leads water resource education and outreach activities for schools, families, organizations, and other groups.

Contact: 512-245-9201; txstreamteam@txstate.edu,

http://txstreamteam.meadowscenter.txstate.edu/

<u>Spring Lake Educational Field Trips</u> Students have the chance to explore the beauty of historic Spring Lake and learn about the importance of preserving our natural resources through a glass-bottom boat tour, wetlands boardwalk, discovery hall aquarium exhibit, and hands-on activities. We specialize in interpreter-led tours that can be modified to meet your specific learning goals. Contact 512-245-7540; Email <u>springlaketours@txstate.edu</u>,

http://www.meadowscenter.txstate.edu/Education/EducationalTours.html

## The National Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The National Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offers teacher training workshops throughout the year. These dynamic professional development workshops are presented in a fun, interactive format and feature the TEKS-aligned, easy-to-implement and evidence-based JMG school gardening curricula. Trainings events focus on one or more of the JMG elementary and middle school curricula and cover a broad range of horticultural/environmental education topics. Popular topic areas include: student-led gardening projects, literature connections, garden-based STEM learning experiences, family engagement, and creating successful, stainable school gardens.

Contact: Randy Seagraves, JMG Curriculum Director <u>Seagraves@tamu.edu</u> or visit JMG Training Calendar at <a href="http://JMGkids.us/Trainings">http://JMGkids.us/Trainings</a>

# National Microscale Chemistry Center, NMCC (previously South Central Regional Microscale Chemistry Center, SCRMCC)

The National Microscale Chemistry Center (NMCC) promotes the use of microscale chemistry as a means of eliminating toxic waste at the source. One way we do this is by promoting hands-on environmentally friendly experiments and professional development for educators to share with them the advantages of using microscale techniques in the classroom. This is accomplished by offering workshops on site, conference presentations, and online presentations. Our goal is to is to help schools see that students learn more by doing instead of through demonstrations and that microscale makes that possible through safe, environmentally green experiments that are also user friendly for the teacher. We have also provided training on stockroom and classroom safety.

Contact: Dr. Byron Howell; 903-510-2528; bhow@tjc.edu, http://www.nationalmicroscalecc.com/

# **Nature Discovery Center**

Nature Discovery Center provides scientific investigations for primary students through its curriculum, Nature At Your Doorstep, as well as educator workshops such as Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, Growing UP WILD, Project Learning Tree, and Wet In the City. Located in a 4-acre park, the center offers children's classes and camps, field trips, adult lectures, and Discovery Presentations at off-site locations.

Contact: Anne Eisner, Program Coordinator at 713-667-6550, <a href="mailto:aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org">aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org</a>, <a href="mailto:www.naturediscoverycenter.org">www.naturediscoverycenter.org</a>

#### The Outdoor School

The Outdoor School is an overnight field trip venue for schools. The school focuses on students in grades 4 - 8, and the program is both academic and adventure-based. All courses correlate with the TEKS. The mission is to use the outdoors to awaken others to the potential within and around them.

Contact: Darren Smith, 325-446-2301, dsmith@outdoorschool.com, www.outdoorschool.com

#### **Perot Museum of Nature and Science**

The Perot Museum offers innovative learning experiences that focus on equipping teachers with tools and skills to ignite student enthusiasm for science. Our workshops include highly interactive TEKS-aligned activities that can be easily reproduced in the classroom.

Contact: Vashunda Warren 214-756-5821, <a href="www.perotmuseum.org">www.perotmuseum.org</a>, <a href="mailto:teacherworkshops@perotmuseum.org">teacherworkshops@perotmuseum.org</a>

## Phil Hardberger Park

Phil Hardberger Park offers family and student-friendly programs on the 1<sup>st</sup>-and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month. Various environmental education classes are offered during the week such as Starting Out Wild, Growing Up WILD, Explorer Elementary and Middle School classes. School field trip opportunities are available by request. Starting Out Wild and Growing Up WILD workshops are available annually for educators. Summer half-day camps are also offered. Contact: Susan Campbell, Education Coordinator, 210-207-3280, Susan.Campbell@sanantonio.gov, www.philhardbergerpark.org

# Plano Environmental Education Center and Nature Explore Classroom

The Environmental Education Center educates and involves children, adults, families, community leaders, and educators in environmental activities and demonstrate sustainability concepts and practices. The certified Nature Explore® Classroom reconnects young children with nature through activities engaging skills in science, math, music, movement, language, literacy, and art. The gardens engage children and adults in exploring and interacting with the natural world as part of their daily lives, helping to develop a lifelong sense of wonder.

Contact: Heather Merchant, 972-769-4111, <a href="www.livegreeninplano.com">www.livegreeninplano.com</a>, <a href="http://www.plano.gov/706/Locations-Gardens">http://www.plano.gov/706/Locations-Gardens</a>

# **Project E<sup>3</sup>- Expanding Energy Education Workshops**

Project E<sup>3</sup> workshops provide cross-curricular, hands-on activities related to earth science/energy

focusing on STEM activities which are correlated to state and national standards. Professional development is offered in Galveston at the Ocean Star Museum, in Houston, and arranged in partnership with area school districts.

Contact: Doris Tomas at 2817831711 or dtomas@oceanstaroec.com, www.oceanstaroec.com

## Project Learning Tree, a program of the Texas Forestry Association

Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators who work with youth from preschool through grade 12. PLT activities can be integrated into lesson plans for all grade levels and subject areas, especially STEM, reading, writing, and social studies. PLT's TEKS-aligned activities are practical, hands-on, and fun. Topics range from forests, wildlife, and water, to community planning, waste management, and energy. Project Learning Tree certification is available through professional development workshops conducted by Texas Forestry Association and partners throughout the state.

Contact: Misty Bowie, 936-632-8733, <a href="mailto:pltexas@texasforestry.org">plttexas@texasforestry.org</a>, <a href="http://www.plttexas.org/">http://www.plttexas.org/</a>

## Project WILD, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) sponsors a suite of Project WILD programs; Project WILD (K-12), Aquatic WILD (K-12) and Growing Up WILD (3-7yr. old's). Each offers a special iteration of this hands-on approach to learning. The Texas Project WILD Suite is a Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade environmental and conservation education program emphasizing awareness, appreciation and understanding of wildlife and natural resources. It is interdisciplinary and supplementary and can be used to teach basic skills in science, social studies, language arts, math, art, music and physical education. TPWD offers Project WILD through hands-on workshops for educators.

Contact Kiki Corry, 512-389-4369, <u>Kiki.Corry@TPWD.Texas.gov</u>, <a href="http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/project\_wild/">http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/project\_wild/</a>

#### **REAL School Gardens**

REAL School Gardens in a not-for-profit organization that creates learning gardens that grow successful students. For a teacher, a garden is more than a beautiful place or a veggie patch. It is a powerful learning tool, as critical to a student's academic success as a computer or a microscope. To help students succeed, REAL School Gardens creates learning gardens at elementary schools and trains teachers how to use them to improve student engagement and academic outcomes. Programs also serve schools that already have outdoor classrooms/gardens. The Texas staff can serve schools in North Texas, Austin, San Antonio, and Houston.

Contact Scott Feille, Vice President, Regional Operations and Impact, 817-348-8102, <a href="mailto:sfeille@realschoolgardens.org">sfeille@realschoolgardens.org</a>, <a href="www.realschoolgardens.org">www.realschoolgardens.org</a>

#### **Rosewood Arboriculture**

Rosewood Arboriculture is based in Austin and serves the Central Texas area with educational programs for children and adults that teach people about trees, the benefits of the urban forest, how to be stewards of this natural resource, and how to engage all the senses for mindful relaxation experiences in nature. April provides custom workshops, teacher trainings, tree identification hikes, mindfulness hikes, as well as Project Learning Tree PreK-8 professional development classes that provide CPE hours.

Contact: April Rose, 512-785-5968, april@rosewoodarboriculture.com, Rosewood Arboriculture

## San Antonio River Authority

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) provides educational and recreational opportunities to increase awareness of and appreciation for the San Antonio River's Watershed. SARA aims to inspire action for healthy creeks and rivers. Teachers can request a free presentation or field trip regarding watersheds and river ecology. Professional development for teachers is offered as teacher workshops.

Contact: The Education Specialist, 1-866-345-7272, www.sara-tx.org

#### The San Antonio Zoo

The San Antonio Zoo is the perfect experience for students of all ages. Whether you choose to explore the zoo on your own or enhance your field trip with a Real.Wild.Classroom. program, your students are sure to stay engaged during an experience of a lifetime! Zoo visits compliment your curriculum and TEKS initiatives with hands-on learning in a nature-based environment, full of adaptations, habitats, and food webs, as well as opportunities for observation, story-telling, new vocabulary, geography and career exploration.

Contact: School Visits Coordinator, Kathryn Takow <u>Kathryn.takow@sazoo.org</u>, http://sazoo.org/education/teachers-and-schools/

## Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge's mission is to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, plants, and wildlife, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge offers year-round educational and interpretive programs for K-Adults. We also offer educator workshops like Flying WILD, Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, Growing up WILD, the Leopold Education Project, and more.

Contact Christine Donald, Outdoor Recreation Planner South Texas Refuges, 956-784-7575, <a href="mailto:Christine\_Donald@fws.gov">Christine\_Donald@fws.gov</a>, <a href="mailto:www.fws.gov/refuge/Santa\_Ana">www.fws.gov/refuge/Santa\_Ana</a>

# **Stephen F. Austin State University Gardens**

SFA Gardens offer hands-on science learning excursions for K-12 grade students, weekly after-school programs for elementary students, outdoor weekend family adventure programs, and summer day camps for 4-15 year-olds. Adult programming includes garden tours, hands-on seminars, lectures and biannual plant sales.

Contact: Elyce Rodewald, 936-468-1832, <a href="mailto:erodewald@sfasu.edu">erodewald@sfasu.edu</a>, <a href="http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu">http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu</a>

#### **Teacher Enrichment Initiatives (TEI)**

TEI provides free, TEKS-aligned curriculum written by teachers with support from University of Texas Health San Antonio (UTHSA) scientists. These health-related activities engage students with real-world applications of science standards. Lessons are complete and downloadable and contain teacher and student background information, learning objectives, and all necessary handouts. The TEI provides free Teacher Professional Development workshops for K-12 teachers, featuring scientists, educational researchers, and master teachers. Workshops for teachers are free and are offered year-round in San Antonio at the UTHSA.

Contact: Rosemary Riggs, 210-567-4477, riggsr@uthscsa.edu

The Partnership for Environmental Education and Rural health (PEER) in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences offers professional development for middle and high school teachers statewide on how to use STEM curriculum related to animals to address learning standards that are difficult to cover. Teachers learn technology as they are exposed to resources directed at hands-on learning and engaging activities. This includes a Teacher-Requested Resource opportunity for teachers to obtain free customized lessons directed at STEM learning standards and a complete science curriculum for 6-8 grades.

Contact: Larry Johnson, Ljohnson1@tamu.edu, 979-845-9279, http://peer.tamu.edu

## Texas Aquatic Science, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Program

Texas Aquatic Science is a comprehensive aquatic science curriculum, from molecules to ecosystems, and headwaters to ocean, for middle school and high school students. The curriculum consists of an online student textbook, a teacher guide, specially produced videos, and supplementary materials. All activities are aligned with the state curriculum standards, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for sixth through eighth grade, and for Aquatic Science and Environmental Science courses for high school. Texas Aquatic Science Certified Field Sites provide field experiences for visiting school groups at 60 sites around the state.

Contact: <u>JohnnieSmith@tpwd.texas.gov</u>, 512-389-8060, http://tpwd.texas.gov/education/resources/aquatic-science

# Texas Association for Environmental Education (TAEE)

The Texas Association for Environmental Education is a professional organization that supports and promotes a community of Texas environmental educators by providing content, connections, certification, and communication. TAEE offers certification for environmental educators. TAEE is dedicated to supporting and promoting quality environmental education opportunities by facilitating communications, coordination and professional development among the varied EE programs in the state. TAEE organizes an annual conference for environmental educators. Contact: Linda Bartley 972-235-7820 info@taee.org www.taee.org

## **Texas Brigades**

Texas Brigades offers 8 summer leadership development programs for youth, ages 13-17. With 25 years of experience, our summer camp programs develop life skills for a future in any field, while featuring various topics of wildlife and natural resources. Choose from our Bobwhite, Buckskin, Bass, Waterfowl, Ranch, and Coastal Brigade programs. Each five-day camp introduces science-based concepts (i.e. ecology, biology, and technology), conservation fundamentals, as well as public speaking and teamwork challenges. The state's leading wildlife and fisheries biologists, producers and land managers serve as instructors. Avenues for continued education are available. Come join us outdoors!

Contact Natalie Wolff, natalie@texasbrigades.org, 210-556-1391, www.texasbrigades.org

# Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Take Care of Texas offers free educational publications for students and teachers on the topics of energy and water conservation, air and water quality, recycling, and waste reduction. The website offers Kids, Teens, and Teachers sections and features animated videos, quizzes, contests, lesson plans, fact sheets, infographics, and more.

Contact: Dana Macomb, 512-239-3929, educate@tceq.texas.gov, TakeCareOfTexas.org

## **Texas Discovery Gardens**

Texas' first certified public organic garden has education opportunities for all ages, with 7½ acres of gardens and a two-story tropical butterfly conservatory. From 'Stories and More' for the preschool set, to the EarthKeepers curriculum for PreK through 8th grade, all the way to professional development for teachers, our students will discover and learn to sustain the natural world.

Contact: Erin Shields, <u>EShields@texasdiscoverygardens.org</u>, 214-428-7476 ext. 270, https://txdg.org/field-trips/

# **Texas Forestry Association's Teacher Conservation Institute (TCI)**

TCI is a week-long professional development camp that focuses on the environmental, social, and economic well-being that results from the scientific management and stewardship of Texas' forest resources. Educators are provided with TEKS-correlated curriculum that will empower them to effectively teach about the forest life cycle and forest ecosystems in the classroom. Field trips include the Texas Forestry Museum, a seedling nursery, family-owned tree farm, and forest product manufacturing facilities. Participants receive Project Learning Tree educator certification and 40 CPE hours.

Contact: Misty Bowie, 936-632-8733,

plttexas@texasforestry.org, https://www.texasforestry.org/educators/teacher-conservation-institute

#### The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center \*

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) encourages exploration of aquatic ecosystems of Texas. Field trips for student groups and teacher workshops are available. TFFC includes a visitor center with aquaria and museum, wetlands trail, fishing ponds, working freshwater fish hatchery, classroom and meeting facilities.

Contact: Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, 903-676-2238, <u>zoeann.stinchcomb@tpwd.texas.gov, www.tpwd.texas.gov/tffc</u>

#### **Texas Memorial Museum (TMM)**

Texas Memorial Museum's mission is to inspire a life-long interest in science in learners of all ages. The museum's exhibits focus on Texas wildlife, paleontology and geology. TMM provides a variety of resources and opportunities for learning, including: field trips, curriculum guides, exhibit-based activities, loaner kits, and educator professional development programs. Museum educators also offer Project WILD workshops.

Contact: Pamela R. Owen, 512-232-5511, p.owen@austin.utexas.edu, www.texasmemorialmuseum.org

# Texas Mining and Reclamation Association's Resources and the Environment Workshops

TMRA offers free professional development summer workshops for educators which consist of a week full of classroom activities to stimulate students' thinking skills with hands-on labs that are TEKS and STAAR correlated. Educators will learn about renewable and non-renewable energy sources and the environmental issues surrounding their usage. Tours of operating mines and areas of restored land and tours of power plants are part of the 5-day workshops. There is a workshop for coal mining, one for uranium mining and one for Industrial Minerals which focuses on how natural resources are mined and used today.

Contact: Francye Hutchins, Director of Education, 512.431.2610, <a href="mailto:geowiz@tmra.com">geowiz@tmra.com</a>, <a href="mailto:http://www.tmra.com">http://www.tmra.com</a>

# Texas Nature Trackers, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Program

Texas Nature Trackers, part of the Wildlife Diversity Program, tracks the status of wild populations of plants and animals throughout Texas with the help of local citizen scientists. Workshops and events which highlight skills and tools are available and posted on the Texas Nature Tracker website.

Contact: Marsha May, 512-389-8062, <a href="http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/trackers">http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/trackers</a>

#### **Texas Outdoor Education Association**

The Texas Outdoor Education Association's (TOEA) purpose is to include the outdoors in lessons whenever possible. We want to get all people outside. We approach this mission by offering short classes for core subject areas, fine arts, and recreation that build an appreciation for nature, and generate curiosity for outdoor environments. Classes give ideas to educators on what to teach and how to teach it, inside or outside their classrooms. Formal and informal instructors alike can participate in accredited professional development sessions, and earn hours toward a TEEAC certificate at a fun and exciting workshop at the HEB Foundation Camps near Leakey, Texas. Contact: Keira Quam, <a href="https://www.toea.org">www.toea.org</a>

# **The Texas Space Grant Consortium**

The Texas Space Grant Consortium is a group of 59 institutions that are joined to ensure that the benefits of space research and STEM education at all levels are available to all Texans. TSGC provides opportunities for Higher Education and K-12 Education educators and students, within a formal and an informal environment.

The main objective of TSGC's Higher Education Programs is to enhance understanding and appreciation of the benefits of space exploration and space based research. The main objective of the K-12 Education Programs is to enhance students and teachers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields and/or provide understanding of the benefits of space exploration and space based research. The 3 flagship programs are the biannual Design Challenge, NASA STEM Enhancement for Earth Science (SEES) and LiftOff, PD at NASA for teachers. Contact: Pam Knab, Outreach Coordinator, 512- 232-5781, <a href="mailto:knab@csr.utexas.edu">knab@csr.utexas.edu</a>, <a href="http://www.tsgc.utexas.edu">http://www.tsgc.utexas.edu</a>

### **Texas State Aquarium**

The Aquarium introduces visitors to the aquatic wonders of the Gulf of Mexico. Students and teachers participating in programs will be immersed in hands-on, learner-centered STEM activities that promote investigation, critical thinking, and creativity. Aquarium programs are age-appropriate, TEKS-aligned (K- 12), and conducted within the aquarium's own diverse habitats, classrooms, and nearby marine environments. Programs include classes, tours, camps, workshops, and overnights.

Contact: Education (363) 654-1452, <a href="https://texasstateaquarium.org/">https://texasstateaquarium.org/</a>

## **Texas Tech University Outdoor School**

Texas Tech University Outdoor School is located on 411 acres just outside Junction, Texas. The

South Llano River, mesquite thickets, pecan bottoms, open grassland, riparian areas, and a big dark sky provide the perfect classroom for K-12 students and teachers. All curricula units are STEM-based, TEKS aligned, and full of inquiry based field experiences. Professional Development Workshops are available to assist teachers and other environment-related partners to gain knowledge, cultivate place-based curriculum, and incorporate a variety of hands-on activities to use in their classroom. As one student shared, "Everyone was really nice to us and the activities were interesting because we could see how the concepts learned in school." Contact: Koy Coffer, 806-834-5625, <a href="mailto:outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu">outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu</a>,

http://www.depts.ttu.edu/junction/outdoorschool/

## **Texas Water Development Board - TWDB Kids**

The Texas Water Development Board offers free professional development workshops providing CPE hours focused on water science and conservation. Teachers will leave the course confident in their knowledge of water science and equipped with numerous Texas-specific activities and resources that can improve classroom instruction while engaging both hands and minds. The "TWDB Kids" website includes flexible TEKS-aligned lessons from Major Rivers (grades 4 & 5), Raising Your Water IQ (6-8), and Water Exploration (9-12), plus groundwater videos, maps of our water resources, and much more.

Contact: Dr. Mindy Conyers, 512-463-5102, consedu@twdb.texas.gov, www.twdb.texas.gov/kids

## **Texas Wildlife Association (TWA)**

Texas Wildlife Association believes that today's children are tomorrow's decision makers, therefore have made it their mission to create an awareness of conservation, water, wildlife, agriculture and the importance of quality land stewardship. This is done by implementing various programs in the classroom and out in the field that enable educators to meet their goals while fostering a consciousness of the natural world. TWA's programs are all TEKS-aligned and range from grades K-12. TWA also offers professional development workshops and trainings held across the state.

Contact: Kassi Scheffer, 210-826-2904, <u>kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org</u> or Leslie Wittenburg, 512-680-6000, <u>lwittenburg@texas-wildlife.org</u>, <u>www.texas-wildlife.org</u>

# The Texas Zoo- Victoria, TX

The Texas Zoo connects people with wildlife from Texas and the rest of the world, and advances conservation through education, recreation, science, and action. Throughout the year we offer K-12 educational programs including field trips, home school programs, outreaches, and summer camps.

Contact: Katie Boughal, 361-573-7681, <a href="mailto:kboughal@texaszoo.org">kboughal@texaszoo.org</a>, <a href="mailto:www.texaszoo.org">www.texaszoo.org</a>, <a href="mailto:www.texaszoo.org">www.texaszoo.org</a>,

# Tree Trails, a Texas A&M Forest Service Program

Tree Trails is a program highlighting the significance of trees in our communities, and includes lesson modules and an online mapping application. Lesson modules using urban forestry education goals, guide educators in creating and incorporating a Tree Trail in their program. By selecting, mapping and identifying trees students create "trails" and investigate topics that help them learn about their local trees and forests. The Tree Trails online application is an open-source project where students enter their identification and measurement data to map their trees. The application then calculates the value of the benefits these trees provide. Tree Trails is aligned with state standards. Professional development training and assistance is available.

Contact Leslie Kessner, Conservation Education Coordinator, <u>lkessner@tfs.tamu.edu</u>, 979-458-6600, <u>http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/treetrails/</u>

#### **Turtle Island Restoration Network**

Turtle Island Restoration Network leads hands-on educational activities focusing on the Gulf of Mexico, the watershed that sustains it, and the impact of human activity on our ocean. Programs focus on decomposition of litter in the marine environment, point source and non-point source pollution, and the effect of plastics in the environment.

Contact: Joanie Steinhaus, 409-795-8426, joanie@tirn.net, www.seaturtles.org

## **Urban Harvest, Inc.**

The Edible Academy workshop provides educators, youth garden coordinators and parents with hands-on lessons, techniques and curriculum for using your school garden and Outdoor Classroom as exciting educational tools. Participants will explore lessons in gardening and culinary arts that support TEKS objectives in the core subjects . . . making learning memorable and tasty too!

Contact: Carol Burton, 713-880-5540, www.urbanharvest.org

# The University of Texas Marine Science Institute and the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve

The University of Texas Marine Science Institute and the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve offer a wide variety of STEM learning experiences for 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers. Our TEK-aligned programs immerse learners in inquiry and place-based activities that inspire curiosity, connect to research, promote stewardship, and refine STEM process skills. Program offerings include R/V Katy excursions, field investigations, classes/labs, presentations, professional development, and self-guided tours.

Contact: Kristin Evans, Education Coordinator, klevans@utexas.edu, https://utmsi.utexas.edu/

# WaterWorks Education Center, City of Houston

WaterWorks Education Center is a one-of-a-kind water destination designed to inspire citizens of all ages to conserve drinking water resources and protect the environment. Located in Northeast Harris County, at the City of Houston's Northeast Water Purification Plant, the WaterWork's mission is to promote water education, conservation, and stewardship. The Center offers free field trips and tours for visitors of all ages (Monday-Friday) in a unique environment with interactive exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Reservations are required. For more information, visit <a href="www.facebook.com/waterworkseducationcenter">www.facebook.com/waterworkseducationcenter</a>. Educating citizens about Houston's water resources, and explaining how the city and residents can work together to ensure an adequate and safe water supply for the future, is the goal of the WaterWorks Education Center and the Water Education and Outreach Program. Educator and teacher trainings utilizing Project WET and Project WILD are also available to schools and education agencies.

Contact Jerrel Geisler or Susan Smyer, 832-395-3791, waterworks@houstontx.gov

#### **Welder Wildlife Foundation**

The Welder Wildlife Foundation is a 7,800 acre wildlife research and education refuge location in south Texas. We provide nature based programming for K-12 students, universities, teachers, landowners, and a variety of adult groups. *Rangelands, A Conservation Education Guide* is a 448-

page TEKS aligned curriculum composed of 27 lessons for grades K-6. The science based curriculum is distributed through our *Home on the Range* educator workshops. The goal of our programs is to provide participants with positive hands-on learning experiences in the outdoors in effort to increase environmental awareness and stewardship.

Contact: Dr. Selma Glasscock or the Conservation Education Program Coordinator, 361-364-2643, <a href="mailto:sglasscock@welderwildlife.org">sglasscock@welderwildlife.org</a> or <a href="mailto:conservationeducator@welderwildlife.org">conservationeducator@welderwildlife.org</a>, <a href="https://www.welderwildlife.org">www.welderwildlife.org</a>

## **Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center**

Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center offers programs at Westcave Preserve in Southwest Travis County. Weekday school programs provide guided hikes into the Preserves' canyon, grotto, and cave areas. Programs focus on geology, conservation, habitat, water, and the history of Westcave. "Best field trip ever" is a common phrase said by visiting students. Typical timing is 9:45am arrival, 10am program, 12:30pm Picnic Lunch (on your own) then departure around 1:15pm. Alternative timing is available. Public tours are available every weekend, weather permitting. Professional development opportunities occur during the year by hosting various workshops.

Contact: 830-825-3442 or email paul@westcave.org, www.westcave.org