



Soil for Water

Maximizing the potential of healthy soil to catch and hold rainwater.

Both drought and intense rain storms are here to stay.

What can you do to reduce risks in the years to come?



Healthy soil acts like a sponge: holding rainwater for long periods of time and slowly releasing it to plants, springs, creeks, rivers, and aquifers.

Through proper management it is possible to increase soil organic matter and improve soil health—retaining more water on-site, improving the condition of your ranch, and reducing the effects of drought and flooding.

Grazing can be a powerful tool for improving soil health. Brad Roeder, Gillespie Ag and Natural Resources County Extension Agent, encourages landowners to participate in this program: “Learn how to graze livestock properly so we can save some grass each year to bank on the future of our groundwater, our livestock, and our wildlife.”

Four **FREE** Soil Talks in the fall of 2015 will teach practical management techniques:

- Improve the soil on your land.
- Increase the water-holding capacity of your soil.
- Recognize key indicators for healthy landscapes.
- Use livestock as a productive management tool.
- Increase profits from your agricultural enterprises.



September 25: Ecosystem Function
Peggy Sechrist, Steve Nelle, and Dr. Richard Teague 9 am–5 pm, Hill Country University Center 2818 E. U.S. Hwy 290, Fredericksburg. This session will focus on the amazing world of microorganisms beneath the soil, and how that world determines the condition of our landscape. Free lunch to the first 25 RSVPs. Others are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch.

October 9: Ecosystem Monitoring
Peggy Sechrist, Steve Nelle, and Dr. Richard Teague 9 am–5 pm, Lyndon B. Johnson Group Dining Hall 199 State Park Road 52 (off HWY 290 E.), Stonewall. The group dining hall is across the road from the tennis courts and swimming pool area in LBJ State Park. How do you know if your land is improving? Learn to assess land health, measure change, and use management techniques that improve the condition and function of your land. Free lunch to first 25 RSVPs. Others are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch.

October 23: Grazing Planning
Peggy Sechrist and Dr. Tim Steffens 9 am–5 pm, Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Building 95 Frederick Road, Fredericksburg. There is a way to manage grazing livestock to improve soil’s water holding capacity and maintain excellent livestock performance. This session is all about that! Free lunch to first 25 RSVPs. Others are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch.

November 13: Financial Sustainability
Peggy Sechrist and Walt Davis 9 am–5 pm, Hill Country University Center, 2818 E. U.S. Hwy 290, Fredericksburg. How can agricultural enterprises manage for improved soil function and greater profit at the same time? Expert Walt Davis shares his experience and wisdom. Free lunch to first 25 RSVPs. Others are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch.



Soil for Water is a project of NCAT in collaboration with the Hill Country Alliance. Supported by Dixon Water Foundation.



Lone Star Water Forum

Desalination in Texas

The Ultimate Solution?

When: October 3, 2015, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Washington County Fair Grounds Event Center 1305 East Blue Bell Road, Brenham

Cost: \$25 — Preregister by September 19, 2015 (Includes lunch and refreshments)

\$10 — Live Video Broadcast (may register at any time)

All proceeds benefit outdoor education at Brenham ISD

Agenda

8:30am to 9:00am - Registration

9:00am to 9:30 am - Welcome & Speaker Introduction

9:30am to 10:30am - *An Update and Outlook for Desal in Texas*; Kyle Fraser, Executive Director, Texas Desal Association

10:30am to 10:40am - BREAK

10:40am to 11:40am - *A Report of GBRA's Study of a Seawater Plant for Texas*; Jim Murphy, Executive Manager for the Blanco River Authority

11:40am to 12:30pm - LUNCH

12:30am to 1:30am - *Brackish Water Desal Plants in Texas*; Darrell Peckham, P.G., Sr. Consulting Hydrogeologist, Water Quest Inc.

1:30am to 1:40pm - BREAK

1:40pm to 2:30pm - *Practical Pros and Cons of Desal*; Charles R. Porter, Professor at St. Edwards University, Historian; Author of *Sharing The Common Pool: Water Rights in the Everyday Lives of Texans*

2:30pm to 3:00pm - Audience Q&A; Questions answered by a Panel of Experts,

(Opinions expressed are those of each speaker and may not reflect those of the organizers or the sponsors)

New This Year — Live Video Broadcast

If you do not have the ability to attend in person, for the first time ever, we will be offering live video streaming of the program.

Just follow the link on the registration page and you can create a unique login to be used the day of the event.

You will be able to see and hear the presentation as if you were sitting in the room, but you can watch from anywhere.

Compatible with Smart Phones, Tablets, Laptops, Desktops, Smart TV and more

Register online at: www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/events/lone-star-water-forum-2015

For more Information, contact Clint Faas at 979-541-9803 or go to cfaas@texas-wildlife.org .

CONSERVATION EASEMENT WORKSHOP

FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 23, 2015

\$15 REGISTRATION

PEDERNALES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Johnson City, TX

WORKSHOP • 10-3 PM
Lunch provided

NETWORK SOCIAL • 3-4 PM
Pecan Street Brewery

WORKSHOP TOPICS

- What is a Conservation Easement (CE)?
- Donation of a Conservation Easement
- Landowner income and estate tax benefits
- The role of the land trust organization
 - Discussions with CE donors

REGISTER ONLINE @

WWW.HILLCOUNTRYALLIANCE.ORG

*For information, please contact:
Workshop Coordinator Carolyn Vogel
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Photo by Melissa Mial

Presented by:



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TEXAS LAND
CONSERVANCY
Protecting the Nature of Texas.



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