

# Educating Educators

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Photo by CONSERVATION LEGACY



Workshop attendees build a “Web of Life,” a hands-on model that demonstrates consumer/producer relationships and how everything is connected.

Behind every student educated in natural resources, conservation and land stewardship is an educator who opened their minds – ‘their’ being two-fold – the educator’s and the student’s. While the end-goal of the youth programs of Conservation Legacy is educating the students, the vision of Conservation Legacy is “Educating generations of Texas land stewards.” The middleman (the educator, whether formally or informally trained) is the crucial component that is often overlooked or taken for granted.

Conservation Legacy has embraced the mantra of “educating the educators,” as educators have the ability to share their

knowledge with generations of students. The more educators who TWA can impact with its natural resource lessons and heritage of land stewardship, the larger the casted net. All education products and programs of TWA are designed to help educators reach classroom goals while teaching students about the environment, natural resources, conservation, wildlife, wildlife-related issues and the importance of private land stewardship. Studies show students retain more information through hands-on experiences; therefore, many of the in-class and field activities “get students involved.”

Conservation Legacy offers two varieties of educator schooling, correlating with

the two subsets of Learning Across New Dimensions in Science (L.A.N.D.S.) youth programs: L.A.N.D.S. Intensive Teacher Trainings and L.A.N.D.S. Outreach Teacher Workshops. Both are open to formal and informal educators as well as volunteers.

#### L.A.N.D.S. Outreach Teacher Workshops

- Designed for Grade K-8 Educators
- Six-hour workshops offering State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) hours
- Free





Workshop participants are introduced to TWA and the in-class and outdoor lessons and activities of L.A.N.D.S. Outreach. They learn how to incorporate natural resources into classrooms or programming. Each six-hour workshop guides teachers through 10 lessons, allowing them to experience each one as if they were the students. The more involved the teachers are, the better they will understand and the more likely they will incorporate the lesson into their classrooms. Each participant leaves with a flashdrive containing more than 30 Outreach lessons and activities.

A sampling of science units covered are Conservation and Land Stewardship, Characteristics of Environments, Structure/Function and Survival, Basic Needs, Inherited Traits and Resemblance, Ecosystems — Biotic and Abiotic, Groundwater, Surface Water and Watersheds, and Populations and Communities.

Outreach Workshops are currently hosted in the counties surrounding DFW (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise), surrounding Houston (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller), and in the Rio Grande Valley (Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr and Willacy). Any educator across the state is welcome to register.

**COMMENTS FROM EDUCATORS**

*"Being able to see the lessons taught and prepared for was invaluable. It allows me to gauge time more efficiently and to see how the lesson is taught. It was so helpful to see someone else present the lesson."*

-Teacher from Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD, Fort Worth

*"I like being able to use a lot of these lessons cross-curricular since I teach ELA (English Language Arts) and Social Studies. I can take a lot of these lessons that I know my partner teacher will be doing with our classes and extend them in reading, writing and even in social studies. I'm excited for this new material!"*

-Teacher from Fort Bend ISD, Sugarland

*"This was one of the best workshops I have*

*attended - the scope is far-reaching, more than any STAAR, although the content is fulfilling requirements. The content will be super engaging for children and life altering to their perspective on conservation. The info was very well researched. New perspectives are advantageous to Texas as a whole."*

-Teacher from Chico ISD

**L.A.N.D.S. Intensive Teacher Trainings**

- Designed for Grades 6-12 Educators
- 2 1/2-day trainings held on private Texas ranches offering 12 hours of SBEC credit
- Cost varies from \$150-\$175 to cover lodging, meals and all class materials

TWA staff and professional partners lead sessions on Texas ecosystems, natural resources, native wildlife, water conservation and the importance of private land stewardship. Participants take part in more than a dozen in-class and outdoor hands-on activities, as well as a few laboratory

studies. To round out the training, TWA staff members and participants discuss what is being taught in their classrooms now and how to incorporate L.A.N.D.S. into their existing curricula so that it benefits the students. Participants leave with a notebook full of critical-thinking and inquiry-based lessons to incorporate into the classroom. Implementing L.A.N.D.S. Intensive lessons into the classroom increases the intensity of learning with in-class necropsies and reinforcing follow-up trips to privately owned lands for Field Investigation Days (all at no cost to the school).

Workshop activities include Wildlife in Scientific Inquiry, Lab Investigations, Anatomy and Adaptations (Necropsy Demonstration), Niches and Food Webs, Soils and Plant Identification, Wild about Technology (Radio Telemetry and GPS) and Land Management Tools.

Intensive Teacher Trainings are open to any statewide educator and each year are held in different areas of the state. 🌍

**2016 L.A.N.D.S. OUTREACH TEACHER WORKSHOPS  
SUMMER SCHEDULE**

**DFW Area**

- June 7 - Chico Elementary School – Chico
- June 9 - Fort Worth Nature Center – Fort Worth
- June 10 - Region 10 Education Service Center – Richardson
- June 13 - City of Plano Environmental Education Center – Plano
- June 15 - W.S. Ryan Elementary – Denton
- June 17 - Mineral Wells State Park – Mineral Wells
- June 20 - Rockwall ISD – Rockwall
- June 25 - Fort Worth Zoo – Fort Worth
- June 27 - Region 10 Education Service Center – Richardson
- June 29 - Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center – Cedar Hill
- June 30 - Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park – Dallas
- July 12 - Fort Worth Botanic Gardens – Fort Worth
- July 13 - Bunker Sands Wetland Center – Seagoville
- July 15 - Denton County AgriLife Extension Office – Denton
- August 2 - Botanical Research Institute of Texas – Fort Worth
- August 3 - River Legacy Living Science Center – Arlington
- August 5 - Trinity River Audubon Center – Dallas
- August 8 - Perot Museum of Nature and Science at Fair Park – Dallas

**Harris County Area**

- June 7 - Sea Center Texas – Lake Jackson
- June 9 - WaterWorks Education Center – Humble
- June 14 - Galveston Island State Park – Galveston
- June 15 - WG Jones State Forest – Conroe
- June 16 - Brazos Bend State Park – Needville
- June 27 - Region 4 Education Service Center – Houston
- July 7 - Jesse Jones Nature Center – Humble
- July 21 - Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens – Humble
- July 26 - Spring Branch ISD Science Center – Houston
- August 4 - Environmental Institute of Houston – Houston
- August 10 - WaterWorks Education Center – Humble
- August 11 - Jesse Jones Nature Center – Humble

**Rio Grande Valley**

- June 15 - Resaca De La Palma State Park – Brownsville
- June 29 - Sabal Palm Sanctuary – Brownsville
- July 6 - Estero Llano Grande State Park – Weslaco
- July 21 - Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park – Mission
- August 3 - Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center – Edinburg
- August 10 - Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge – Alamo

Participants can register for workshops online by visiting the 'Events' section of the TWA website.

**2016 L.A.N.D.S. INTENSIVE TEACHER TRAININGS SUMMER SCHEDULE**

- June 21-23 - Warren Ranch – Santa Anna\*
- August 2-4 - Falcon Point Lodge – Seadrift

Participants can register for trainings online by visiting the 'Events' section of the TWA website.

\*Registration for the June training has closed, as the event is full.

