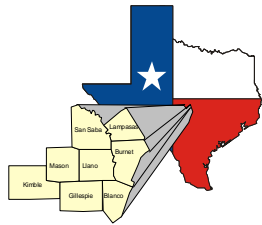




Hill Country Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Travis Herring
Vice-Chairman,
Lampasas County

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Member At-Large, Mason County

Staff

Tori Dutton
RC&D Coordinator

Barbara Walker
Administrative Assistant

Spring/Summer 2009 Newsletter

Renewable Energy Topics Discussed at 2009 Annual Sponsorship Meeting in Llano

Travis Brown, Renewal Energy Program Manager for the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), Austin, presented a very interesting and informative program entitled "Renewable Energy: A Windfall for Rural Texas." Nancy Watson, Regional Director for Congressman Mike Conaway, updated the group on Congressional happenings. Elisha Kuehn, Asst. State Conservationist, San Angelo Field Office, gave an update on Zone 2.



Pictured left to right above, Nancy Watson, Grady Gibson, and Travis Brown, Keynote Speaker. Above far right is Elisha Kuehn.



Hill Country RC&D officers elected for 2008 will remain the same in 2009: Grady Gibson, Chairman, Burnet County; Travis Herring, Vice-Chairman, Lampasas County, and Katy Murrah, Secretary-Treasurer, Blanco County.

Update on Hill Country RC&D SEP Projects

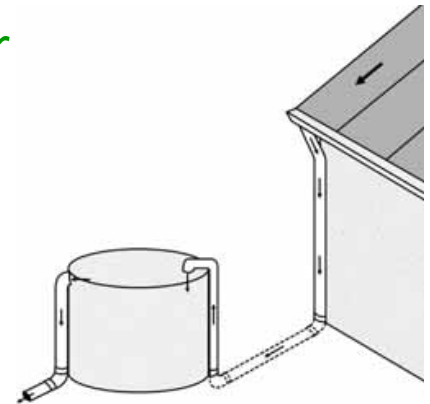
Hill Country RC&D currently has two SEP Projects underway. A Household Recyclables Collection & Clean Up Day is being held for Mason County residents on March 28. In addition, an Abandoned Dumpsite Clean-up in Lampasas will be completed in 2009. The SEP Program (Supplemental Environmental Project) allows organizations being fined by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to direct the money to a local project with direct environmental benefits. This program is now funding about \$2 million a year through RC&Ds across the state.

The City of Mason Recyclables Collection is being funded by a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The City of Mason entered into an agreement to create an SEP as the result of settlements of an environmental enforcement action brought by TCEQ.

Hill Country RC&D to Sponsor Rainwater Harvest Seminar April 17

Billy Kniffen, Water Resource Specialist at the Texas Agri-Life Extension Service in Menard will present a program on Rainwater Harvesting on Friday, April 17, at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Social Hall in Mason. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., the program at 9:45. The program will end at 1:30 p.m. with lunch being served at noon. Billy will discuss watershed management on rangeland acreage, runoff reduction in the landscape, rainwater collection for home and livestock use, and how to construct a wildlife guzzler that is 4'x8' that uses a 30-gallon container.

The registration fee is \$10.00. To register, please call 347-5005 no later than April 10.



A typical rainwater harvesting system uses a roof, gutters, downspout and pipes underground, and backup into the top of the collection tank. This prevents livestock from damaging the pipes and allows the tank to be much further away from the shed. Unless there is a drain along the lower pipe, the standing pipes will contain water that is susceptible to freezing.

Matching Grant Application Deadline April 24, 2009

Hill Country RC&D Area, Inc. is currently taking applications for the 2009 Matching Grant Program. Applications must meet at least one of the following the criteria: Community Growth & Development; Education & Technology; Natural Resources; and/or Economic Development. Applications for the Spring selection must be received in the Hill Country RC&D office by the close of business (or post-marked) on April 24, 2009. The 2009 Spring selection grants will be awarded in May. To request an application packet, call our office at 325-347-5005 or e-mail us at hillcountryrcd8@gmail.com. Also, you may download an application from our website: <http://www.hillcountryrcd.org>

RC&D Councils Preparing for 2009 National Conference in Albuquerque in June!

RC&D Council members & staff from across the nation will meet in Albuquerque June 14-18, 2009. This year's theme is:

RC&D: Partnerships Delivering Positive Change in America's Communities



2009 Texas Association of RC&D Council's Annual Training Conference in Paris, Texas in April



“Our Heritage-Our Future” is the theme for this year’s State training conference to be held in Paris, Texas on April 19-21, 2009. Topics to be discussed are:

- Biodiesel as an alternative fuel choice
- Organic Farming and Products
- Water Rights
- Financial Planning

Farm Safety Days.....

Llano—March 20

Lampasas (for Lampasas and Lometa 5th graders)- May 7

Blanco (for Blanco & Johnson City 5th graders)—May 8

Junction/Mason—May 13



Spring is filled with Farm Safety Days!!!... Sponsors include Hill Country RC&D, Progressive Farmer, LCRA, NRCS & SWCD. These very important events teach 5th graders about Fire, Water, Seat Belt, Tractor, Lawnmower, ATV, Food, Electrical Safety, and whenever possible, students are given the opportunity to see a DPS Search & Rescue or Air Evac helicopter landing! The Junction/Mason Farm Safety Day will be held in Junction this year.

Claudette Primeaux, Kimble County, Joins Hill Country RC&D Council



Claudette Primeaux moved to the London area in Kimble County in 2000 from the aerospace business and an active real estate sales career in Houston/Clear Lake. Although she had some reservations about such a drastic move, Claudette came to the Hill Country full of expectations and plans for a happy retirement. That has not exactly happened as Claudette has found more than ever to keep her busy. To aid in her education about the ways of the country, she has worked in the Kimble County Extension office for seven years. She has become involved in London activities, including the Community Association as treasurer and the Volunteer Fire Department as secretary. Claudette has been working for the past several months to obtain a non-profit status for the Association and helped start a local farmer’s market. Claudette also writes a weekly article called ‘London Bridges’ for The Junction Eagle Newspaper to help bring recognition to the little community. This venture with RC&D promises a new chapter of learning, doing and helping others in the Hill Country way.

Hill Country RC&D Area, Inc.
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E-Mail: hillcountryrcd8@gmail.com



April

12

VISIT
OUR
WEBSITE!



<http://www.hillcountryrcd.org>

Our next Hill Country

RC&D Quarterly Meeting:

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

NRCS Office

Mason, TX

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend a meeting of the Hill Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. and who may need auxiliary aids or services, are requested to call (325) 347-5005 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



Celebrate.....

Soil & Water Stewardship Week

April 26—May 3, 2009

National Association of Conservation Districts

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