

Detecting Invasive Plants and Monitoring Rare Plants in the National Forests and Grasslands of Texas

Four National Forests and two National Grasslands comprising more than 675,000 acres in 15 counties make up the National Forests and Grasslands of Texas (NFGT). The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service National Forests and Grasslands in Texas to train citizen scientists to assist U.S. Forest Service staff in their conservation efforts in the NFGT. The goals of this program are to

- 1) Improve the health and biodiversity of Texas National Forests and Grasslands through citizen science monitoring programs,
- 2) Develop a network of citizen scientists that can report and detect invasive species on National forests and grassland properties and surrounding communities,
- 3) Train citizen scientists to assist in rare plant location and monitoring, and
- 4) Increase local community involvement in National Forests and Grasslands in Texas.

To that end, we are offering two free workshops open to the public. The first day of each workshop will be spent indoors and include training in invasive species detection and reporting and rare plant monitoring. The second day of each workshop will include a field trip to one of the National Forests where citizen scientists will become familiar with target plant species (both rare and invasive), practice using GPS receivers and digital cameras, and learn established protocols. Workshops are from 9AM to 4PM each day and are free and open to the public. Participants are asked to provide their own transportation and bring a camera, sack lunch, and GPS (if available).

WORKSHOP I

September 23, 2011 - Ellen Trout Zoo, Lufkin, TX

September 24, 2011 – Davy Crockett National Forest

WORKSHOP II

March 23, 2012 - Livingston-Polk County Chamber of Commerce, 1001 US Highway 59 Loop North, Livingston, TX

March 24, 2012 - Angelina National Forest (meet at Boykin Springs Campground)

WORKSHOP III

April 13, 2012 - Martin Dies State Park Dining Hall, 634 Park Road 48 South, Jasper, TX

April 14, 2012 - Sabine National Forest (meet at Mission Delores Visitor Center at 701 S. Broadway San Augustine, TX 75972)

TO REGISTER

If you are interested in attending one of the workshops, please contact Minnette Marr (mmarr@wildflower.org) or call 512-232-0140.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

DAY 1 (inside)	TOPIC	LEADER	RESOURCE
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and Introductions	SL	
9:15 – 9:30	Field Preparation	IC	CSH 3
9:30 – 10:30	Sensitive Species in the National Forests	FB	Handout
10:30 – 10:45	Break		
10:45 – 11:45	Texas Natural Diversity Database	PC	Handout
11:45 – 12:00	Selecting Focus Areas in National Forests	PC	
12:00 – 12:30	Sack Lunch		
12:30 – 1:00	Invaders of Texas Program	IC	CSH 1
1:00 – 1:30	Introduction to Invasive Species	IC	CSH 2
1:30 – 1:45	Species Selection	FB	CSH 4
1:45 – 2:00	Break		
2:00 – 2:45	Data Collection	IC	CSH 5
2:45 – 3:15	Digital Imaging	IC	CSH 7
3:15 – 3:45	Data Entry Tutorial	IC	CSH 8
3:45 – 4:00	Arrangements for Field Trip	FB	

DAY 2 (outside)	ACTIVITY	LEADER	RESOURCE
10:00 – 10:15	Review of Safety Practices and Target Species	SL	
10:15 – 11:15	Field Trip to Sensitive Plant Community	FB	
11:15 – 12:00	Observations for TXNDD	PC	Handout
12:00 – 12:30	Sack Lunch		
12:30 – 1:30	Using GPS	IC	CSH 6
1:30 – 2:30	Observations for Invaders Database	IC	
2:45 – 3:00	Workshop Evaluation	SL	

KEY

CSH – Citizen Scientist Handout

FB – Forest Botanist

IC – Invaders Coordinator

PC – Plant Conservationist

SL – Satellite Leader