

Dear GEAA Members, Friends, and Teachers,

To follow are some great opportunities to learn about nature and to get out and enjoy the Hill Country.

Have a great weekend - and a great summer!

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director

John Knox Ranch (JKR), a camp, conference, and retreat center between Wimberley and Canyon Lake is offering *NEW* opportunity. For 10+ years JKR has quietly hosted educational programs, which we now call **Field-trips in Natural Environments (FiNE)** experiences for K-12 educators ([see flier](#)). Our success with this program is allowing us to begin expanding the offering. We are available to individuals, organizations, and schools who want to take advantage of the perfect combination of natural wonders, outdoor classrooms, and adventure settings found only at JKR.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, AUGUST 11th – FiNE Educator Summit, hosted by John Knox Ranch

*This **FREE** event will be a half-day seminar about outdoor education and opportunities found at JKR. Additionally, excellence training in environmental curriculum development and facilitation of outdoor education programs will be provided (CPE credit hours available). Learn more about our half-day, full-day and overnight stays, the facilities, and our amenities. Our FiNE experiences are tailored to match a variety of academic standards and are designed to demonstrate how experiential outdoor education can be a powerful addition to any curriculum. { [REGISTRATION LINK](#) }*

Families invited too! Bring your family along to enjoy the 300+ acres of the ranch, the Blanco River and Carpers Creek, our artesian-spring fed swimming grotto, and miles of hiking trails.

FiNE PROGRAM FACILITATOR TRAINING COMING SOON! *For qualified individuals who wish to be instructors or to assist in delivering programs, 2-day training will be provided Fall 2012.*

For more information contact:

Matt Heinemann

Program Coordinator at John Knox Ranch

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The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society invites high school students to the best week of their summer! The 18th annual Wildlife Conservation Camp will be held July 8-14, 2012 at Camp Tyler near Tyler, Texas. The registration deadline has been extended to May 15, 2012. This camp has been opening doors for college-bound students interested in the outdoors. Regardless of their career path, campers will develop an appreciation for the outdoors, an understanding of the natural world, and priceless memories they will carry forever.

During the week-long camp, campers will enjoy interacting with wildlife professionals from across the state, and representing a variety of wildlife and conservation related fields, including wildlife biologists, foresters, rangeland scientists, researchers, land managers, college professors, game wardens, and more.. This hands-on camp allows students to study wildlife and plant identification, wetland habitats, hunting as a management tool, biodiversity, conservation ethics, wildlife capture and census techniques, wildlife tracking, predator-prey dynamics, white-tailed deer management, fishing, hunter safety, shooting skills and much more.

Campers will spend their time exploring 300 acres of pine forest and prairies along Lake Tyler. Housing includes comfortable on-site cabins and meals will be provided at the camp's dining facility. Camp Tyler has been providing experiences in outdoor education for over 60 years! Campers will have the opportunity to observe and study an abundance of mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects inhabiting this unique ecosystem.

For additional information please contact Michelle Wood-Ramirez, 2012 Camp Director, at michelle@dwc-inc.com or any of the following Past Directors for in-person interviews

Athens/Tyler: Terry Bedford, theresa.bedford@gmail.com
Austin: Richard Heilbrun, Richard.Heilbrun@tpwd.state.tx.us 210-688-6447
San Antonio: Mandy Corso, mcorso@audubon.org 210-628-1639 x301
Corpus Christi: Megan Dominguez, MKDominguez@ag.tamu.edu
Houston: Michelle Wood-Ramirez, michelle@dwc-inc.com

The City of San Antonio invites you to send your child, grandchild or any child ages 7-12 to the [Wild Weeks summer camp at Friedrich Wilderness Park](#). These half day camps are 9 a.m.–12 noon June 18 – 22 or June 25 – 29, 2012. Cost: \$75 per session (Limited partial scholarships available)

Activities include mineral testing, sand CSI, investigating stream formation, flint knapping, looking for bugs of the soil, studying decomposition and slime, mud painting, making 'fossils' and sedimentary rocks. Presented by the San Antonio Natural Areas and the Friends of Friedrich Wilderness Park. This is a great opportunity to give a child an unforgettable experience with nature!

For more information, contact:

Peggy Spring

Education Coordinator

COSA Natural Areas

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High school students invited to State Youth Water Camp in Monahans

The [2012 State Youth Water Camp](#) will be **July 8-12** at the Bentley 4-H Center in Monahans. The camp is open to high school students who are interested in water conservation and water issues and is co-sponsored by the [Texas AgriLife Extension Service](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and Upper Pecos Soil and Water Conservation District.

According to organizers, the five-day educational camp is planned to teach the importance of water stewardship, train them in water conservation and preservation and illustrate how Texas' water resources are being used by industry, agriculture and municipalities. Activities include hands-on experiences, guest speakers and field trips.

Applications and information are available at ward.agrilife.org or from any AgriLife Extension office. Applications must be received in the AgriLife Extension office in Ward County by **May 18**. Participants will be informed of their acceptance by **May 31**. Registration is \$150 and is due by **June 8**. Soil and water conservation districts, ground water conservation districts and youth organizations are sources of scholarships. The water camp is open to all Texas youth, but space is limited so organizers encourage early registration. Adult project leaders may also apply but must pass a background check before participating. For more information, call the AgriLife Extension office in Ward County at 432-943-4112 or visit ward.agrilife.org.

The camp is partially funded through the [Rio Grande Basin Initiative](#), which is administered by the [Texas Water Resources Institute](#).