

Local Educators Participated in Land Stewardship Workshop in Junction

The Land Stewardship Educator Workshop, a professional development workshop for educators from across the state was held July 17-19 at the Texas Tech Center at Junction. The Upper Llanos Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as many other Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state, offered scholarships to all interested educators to attend the three-day workshop. The workshop provided an interdisciplinary and experiential educational experience focusing on the scientific stewardship of the state's natural resources. The experience offered educators the opportunity to learn about Texas's diverse natural resources, discover current trends in their management, and experience activities that bring this knowledge to the classroom. The goal of the workshop was to provide educators with the knowledge, skills and tools to effectively teach about land stewardship and natural resources management practices. Activities were facilitated by natural resource conservationists, educators, university faculty, and private land owners.

The workshop covered topics in nature journaling, land stewardship and ethics, natural resource conservation, soils, water conservation, land health, rangeland management, and wildlife habitat. Instruction was hands-on, with much of the activities outdoors. The rangeland ecosystem was the setting for integrating multiple subject areas, including environmental, biological, natural resources, and social sciences. Participants received 20 hours of Continuing Education Units from the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) and certification in the Leopold Education Project, an environmental education curriculum focused around land stewardship.

The sponsors of the Land Stewardship Educator Workshop were the McCulloch, Menard and Upper Llanos Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Texas Tech Center at Junction, and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Association. Due to the success of the event, plans are being considered for additional workshops.