

Prairielands eLine

Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District
www.prairielandsgcd.org



Winter 2016

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On the Road with PGCD!

The Prairielands education trailer and staff members, Shawn Davis and Karen Siddall, headed to southern Hill County in December to take the district's water conservation message to Penelope High School



Education administrator, Karen Siddall, discusses water conservation measures in the home.

On the agenda was a visit with students from Ms. Tammy Christian's Agriculture classes.



Field technician, Shawn Davis, explains how he measures water depth in the aquifer through water wells.

Students learned about aquifers, how water wells access groundwater, and how to conserve water in the home. After the presentations, a question and answer session was held where older students discussed how these concepts

could be shared with younger students and members of their families.

The education trailer is available for school presentations as well as civic events, club meetings, and public festivals.

To schedule an event, contact PGCD at (817) 556-2299.



The education trailer can be set up onsite for students to tour the various exhibits which include a working model of an aquifer, a water well, and a home water conservation demonstration.

Special points of interest:

- Public education trailer ready for school or public events.
- Next board meeting set for Mar 21.
- New real estate disclosure required.
- Plants fairs & sales planned for spring.
- Springtime is the perfect time to fix leaks.

Prevent Water Well Problems Later With a Checkup Today

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before peak water use season begins, according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA).

An annual checkup by a qualified water well contractor is the best way to ensure problem-free service and quality water.

Also, preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency

maintenance, and good well maintenance – like good car maintenance – can prolong the life of your well and related equipment. NGWA further recommends you test your water whenever there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the system is serviced.

Wells can provide high-quality drinking water, and about half the U.S. population receives its drinking water from wells. But with well ownership comes the responsibility of keeping the water well in good working order.

A check of your well by a qualified water well contractor may include:

- A flow test to determine system output, along with a check of the water level before and during pumping (if possible), pump motor performance (check amp load, grounding, and line voltage), pressure tank and pressure switch contact, and general water quality (odor, cloudiness, etc.).
- A well equipment inspection to assure it's sanitary and meets local code.

See Checkup, page 4

Did You Know ...?

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors holds regular monthly board meetings which are open to the public.

Meetings are normally scheduled for the 3rd Monday of the month in the Board Room of the Liberty Hotel, 205 S. Caddo St., Cleburne, TX. (Board meetings that fall on a holiday are scheduled for an alternate date.)

The Board's Work Session typically begins at 8:30 a.m. with the actual Board Meeting following immediately after. As mentioned before, both are open to the public, however, certain restricted topics

may be discussed by directors only during a closed Executive Session.

Meeting notices and agendas are publicly posted prior to the date of the meeting at the PGCD office and on the district's website at www.prairielandsgcd.org.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting is set for Monday, March 21, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.

March 21: Board of Directors Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Liberty Hotel, Board Room, 205 S. Caddo St., Cleburne, TX, 76031

New Real Estate Sellers' Disclosure

As of January 1, 2016, property and home sellers are required to disclose to buyers whether any portion of the sale property is in a groundwater conservation or subsidence district.

Of course, if any portion of the property is located in Ellis, Hill, Johnson, or Somervell counties, a seller must disclose that it is in the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District.

For other areas in the state, the Texas Water Development Board has pro-

vided an online tool – the Groundwater Data Viewer – on their website that can help sellers identify whether a specific location is in a disclosure area.

The website address is www2.twdb.texas.gov/apps/waterdatainteractive/groundwaterdataviewer.

Simply click on the "Identify" tool in the rectangle on the upper left hand side of the screen (the letter "i" inside a

circle) and then on the map where the property is located.

Additional information provided includes the name of the aquifer underlying the property, water planning region, groundwater management area, and more.

If the information box DOES NOT list a groundwater conservation or subsidence district, the property is located in an unprotected area.

Texas SmartScape™ Plant Sales & Fairs To Be Held

This spring, Prairielands GCD, the cities of Burleson, Cleburne, Waxahachie, Cleburne's Weaver's Nursery, and area Home Depots will once again partner together to promote Texas SmartScape™ and offer residential do-it-yourselfers great savings on low-water-



The Kids' Clinic in Burleson featured a planting activity for younger shoppers.

use plants that thrive in our climate and soils.

Shoppers will have the opportunity to talk with master gardeners; irrigation specialists; city, district, and Home Depot staff to get ideas and tips for landscaping in North Central Texas. Home Depot will provide refreshments and activities for kids with each Home Depot holding a Kids' Clinic.

For information on these events, go online to www.txsmartscape.com.



Johnson County resident, Daniel Ripley of Ewe Got It Farm, demonstrated how to build a rain barrel during the Cleburne event.

Event dates:

March 19: Home Depot—Cleburne
April 2: Weaver's Nursery—Cleburne
April 30: Home Depot—Waxahachie
May 7: Home Depot—Burleson

Fix A Leak Week is Here

Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District, along with many North Texas cities and regional water providers, have coordinated with Home Depot to provide over 60 free Fix a Leak Workshops on Saturday, March 19.

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week is March 14 through 20, 2016. Fix a Leak Week promotions encourage everyone to help put a stop to the more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted from household leaks each year.

“According to the USEPA, a good way to check for leaks is to examine your winter water usage.



Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.

It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month,” explained public relations and education administrator, Karen Siddall.

To help, Prairielands GCD is asking water users to check and replace:

- Check for leaks. Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, sprinklers, and other fixtures. Also check for toilets with silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank, waiting 10 minutes, and seeing if color appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and outdoor faucets too.
- Replace the fixture if necessary. Look for WaterSense labeled faucets, showerheads and toilets, which are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

If you have a leak or want to replace your fixtures, learn more about your options at the free Fix a Leak Workshops hosted by Home Depot. All North Texas Home Depot stores in the following counties are participating in the free workshops: Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro,

Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wichita.

Free Fix a Leak Workshop Schedule

All North Texas Home Depot Stores
Saturday, March 19, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

10:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.: Repair/replace leaking faucets

10:40 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.: Repair/replace problem toilets

11:20 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Repair/replace faulty sprinkler heads

For more information on Fix A Leak Week, go to the EPA WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak or call Karen Siddall, public relations and education administrator, Prairielands GCD, at (817) 556-2299 or karensiddall@prairielandsgcd.org.



March 14–20, 2016

Fix a Leak Week

EPA WaterSense

Prairielands GCD

Mailing Address:
PO Box 3128
Cleburne, TX 76033
Phone: 817-556-2299

Office Location:
205 S. Caddo Street
Cleburne, TX 76031
(Inside the Liberty Hotel)



**Prairielands Groundwater
Conservation District**

Conserving, protecting, and enhancing
groundwater resources in Ellis, Hill,
Johnson, and Somervell counties

We're on the web at
prairielandsgcd.org.



In 2008 & 2009, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality designated large areas over the Trinity Aquifer from the Red River to Central Texas as Priority Groundwater Management Areas (PGMA) due to critical groundwater declines facing the area.

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District was created in 2009 by the 81st Texas Legislature with a directive to conserve, protect and enhance the groundwater resources of Ellis, Johnson, Hill and Somervell Counties in Texas.

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- A test of your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates, and anything else of local concern. Other typical additional tests are those for iron, manganese, water hardness, sulfides, and other water constituents that cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance, and odor.



Have your water well physically examined once a year.

The Texas Well Owners Network also recommends that well owners:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations.
- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its

seal should keep out insects and rodents.

- Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.



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