

October 15, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A first of its kind conference is scheduled to be held in the Uvalde High School Auditorium on November 16. Sponsored by the Nueces River Authority, the conference will address the role of land stewardship in water resources protection, focusing on the Nueces River headwaters region.

According to NRA's public outreach coordinator, Sky Lewey, "Several outstanding speakers will discuss topics on how surface water and groundwater systems work and interact; the importance of preserving natural riverine conditions; how to sustain water resources; what current threats there are to water quality and quantity; and, how good land stewardship can lead to abundant, clean, water".

The conference, funded by an EPA grant through the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, is free to the public. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last through mid-afternoon, with a break for lunch. Lewey notes "The conference is designed to benefit landowners, real estate agents, contractors, natural resource consultants, riparian conservationists, and anyone interested in protecting water resources and rivers. Focus will be on the headwater region of the Nueces River Basin, since that is our backyard. What happens to those waters can affect local conditions as well as conditions downstream to Corpus Christi and across the basin to San Antonio".

Participating in the conference will be prominent speakers from Texas Wildlife Association, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Nueces River Authority, Veni and Associates Hydrologists, Texas Parks and Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, Texas Water Development Board, and the Annandale Ranch.

Co-sponsors of the event are the Nueces-Frio-Sabinal Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Winter Garden SWCD, Dimmit County SWCD, West Nueces-Las Moras SWCD, Upper Nueces-Frio SWCD, Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District, Medina County Underground Water Conservation District, Real-Edwards Conservation and Reclamation District, Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District, Rio Grande-Nueces Resource Conservations and Development Council, Environmental Defense and Texas Wildlife Association.

For more information contact Sky Lewey at 830-278-6810 or visit the NRA website at <http://www.nueces-ra.org>.

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