Welcome to the Lake Conroe Area!
After Texas Forest Expo, relax on beautiful Lake Conroe, tee up on our challenging golf courses, take in a show at the Crighton Theatre, shop ‘til you drop at the Outlets of Conroe or visit the birthplace of the Texas Flag in Historic Montgomery. For special rates on lodging, mention Texas Forest Expo when reserving a room.

www.lakeconroecvb.org
**New land, new landowners**

_WUI becoming home for millions of Texas residents_

A new type of land has emerged in Texas and along with it, a new type of landowner.

The Wildland Urban Interface — or WUI — is the place where urban development meets untamed wildland and it’s springing up all over the state.

As a result, WUI landowners are facing new challenges. And so is the Texas Forest Service, the agency responsible for protecting and conserving the state’s trees and forests.

The new WUI territory is populated by homeowners, landowners and business owners who typically have not owned forestland before.

It’s the responsibility of Texas Forest Service to reach out to those living and working in the interface and offer them access to nearly a century of expertise in forest, land and natural resource management.

Southeast Texas — with more than 15,000 miles of Wildland Urban Interface and 5.6 million people — has been identified by the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment as one of the state’s highest-risk regions.

With new landowners and new challenges, Texas Forest Service recognizes the need to find new ways to communicate with residents and across interagency programs.

While proud of its long history of working with landowners, the agency is challenged to find ways to impact larger groups of people at one time. What better way to do that than with an expo?

The event is designed to teach landowners and homeowners new and innovative ways to protect their families, properties and communities from wildfire. It also aims to teach them how to sustain their forests, trees and natural resources so they remain healthy for future generations.

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### Texas Forest Expo 2009:
**Building forests one backyard at a time.**

Learn the best management and protection methods.

Take a class. Visit with a vendor.

Got a question? Ask one of our experts.

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### FRIDAY: VENDOR BOOTHS AND EXHIBITORS ONLY (NOON TO 5 P.M.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>San Jacinto 1</th>
<th>San Jacinto 2</th>
<th>Yellow Rose 1</th>
<th>Yellow Rose 3</th>
<th>Yellow Rose 5</th>
<th>Stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 to 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Timber Taxation &amp; Estate Planning</td>
<td>Common Tree Health, Disease &amp; Insect Problems</td>
<td>Wildscaping: Attracting Birds, Butterflies &amp; Bees</td>
<td>Feral Hogs &amp; Nuisance Animals</td>
<td>Avoid a Second Strike from Hurricane Ike</td>
<td>Chainsaw Selection, Usage &amp; Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Landscape Design with Trees in Mind</td>
<td>Trees &amp; Energy Conservation</td>
<td>How to Control Undesirable Vegetation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 to 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Carbon Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Better Plants for Firewise Landscapes</td>
<td>How to Plant &amp; Care for your Trees</td>
<td>Wildscaping: Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Bees</td>
<td>Feral Hogs &amp; Nuisance Animals</td>
<td>The Texas Trails Network</td>
<td>Chainsaw Selection, Usage &amp; Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>How to become a Firewise Community USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Native Plants Demonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 to 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Family Fire Safety &amp; Prevention</td>
<td>Quiet Invasion: Invasive Species Taking Over</td>
<td>Bird Watching 101</td>
<td>Small Tract Forest Management</td>
<td>Avoid a Second Strike from Hurricane Ike</td>
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</table>

### SATURDAY CLASSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>San Jacinto 1</th>
<th>San Jacinto 2</th>
<th>Yellow Rose 1</th>
<th>Yellow Rose 3</th>
<th>Yellow Rose 5</th>
<th>Stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 to 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Timber Taxation &amp; Estate Planning</td>
<td>Nature Realized: Connecting Your Children to the Land</td>
<td>Mushrooms: A Walk through the Fungal Jungle</td>
<td>The Texas Trails Network</td>
<td>Wildlife Management</td>
<td>Chainsaw Selection, Usage &amp; Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Landscape Design with Trees in Mind</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 to 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Avoid a Second Strike from Hurricane Ike</td>
<td>Feral Hogs &amp; Nuisance Animals</td>
<td>How to Plant &amp; Care for Trees</td>
<td>Oil &amp; Gas Leases</td>
<td>Better Plants for Firewise Landscapes</td>
<td>Search &amp; Rescue Dog Demonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Conservation Easements</td>
<td>Wildscaping: Attracting Birds, Butterflies &amp; Bees</td>
<td>Quiet Invasion: Invasive Species Taking Over</td>
<td>Carbon Credits</td>
<td>Family Fire Safety &amp; Prevention</td>
<td>Native Plants Demonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to 3:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Landscape Design with Trees in Mind</td>
<td>Bird Watching 101</td>
<td>Small Tract Forest Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>Safe Burning Practices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Note: CEU credits & Advanced Training Hours available for most classes. For more information, go to texasforestexpo.tamu.edu._
Finding the right tree for your yard

Looking for the perfect tree for your yard? You’ve come to the right place. Texas Forest Service will have experts available during Texas Forest Expo to answer all your tree questions.

Trees come in all shapes and sizes. When selecting a tree, consider the following:

- Tree placement
- Soil conditions
- Fall color
- Deciduous or evergreen

For more help, visit the Texas Tree Planting Guide at http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu.
Creating your own backyard, wildlife habitat

Your backyard might be neatly landscaped and manicured, but is it hospitable for four-legged critters and their winged counterparts?

Texas Wildscapes is a habitat restoration and conservation plan for rural and urban areas that allows Texans to develop habitats where they live, work and play.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife program provides the necessary ingredients — food, water, shelter and space — for creating a habitat suitable for birds, small mammals and other wildlife.

By planting and maintaining native vegetation, installing bird baths and ponds, and creating some structure, wildlife have a place to eat, drink, escape from predators and raise their young.

Creating a backyard habitat can be done by replacing part of your lawn with native plants, a measure that benefits wildlife and also is cheaper and easier to maintain. And native plants are hardy and drought-resistant, so they need little or no water or care.

Learn from Texas Parks and Wildlife experts how to create a backyard habitat that also follows Firewise principles that aim to prevent destructive wildfires.

Or, call Texas Forest Service for a hands-on, one-on-one tour of wildscape and pollinator gardens created at W. Goodrich Jones State Forest in Conroe by The Heartwood Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists in Montgomery County. The gardens are open daily. Call 936-273-2261 to schedule an educational tour.

Managing your land

Plans key for healthy forests

Forest management may seem complicated, but it’s not.

Management and stewardship plans simply outline the best methods for keeping land in good shape.

It doesn’t matter if your land is a source of income, a habitat for wildlife or simply a place for you to go and relax. Texas Forest Service has experts who can develop a plan that suits your needs.

When you’re ready to start planning, go to http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu and click on the Landowners link.

From there, you’ll click on the link: “Begin drafting the future of your property today!”

For more information, e-mail flmplanning@tfs.tamu.edu or call 979-458-6650.

Thank You!

Texas Forest Expo thanks the City of Conroe Parks & Recreation Department for helping place banners and information throughout the city and its recreational facilities. Expo also thanks the volunteers who helped make this event a success!

- Heartwood Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists
- Montgomery County Master Gardeners and Junior Gardeners
- Montgomery County Beautification Association
- The Community Associations of The Woodlands Parks & Recreation Department
Meet the Texas Forest Expo 2009 speakers

Anita Ashford, Certified Texas Master Naturalist specializing in wildscape and pollinator gardens.

Dr. Warren Conway, associate professor at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Judon Fambrough, senior lecturer and attorney with Texas Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University.

Diana Foss, Texas Parks and Wildlife urban biologist known for her expertise in bats, native flora and fauna and wildscape and pollinator gardening programs.

Mark Klym, Texas Parks and Wildlife. He is renown for his knowledge of native plants and animals.

Jennifer Lorenz, executive director of Legacy Land Trust in Houston.

Teri MacArthur, Certified Texas Master Naturalist and one of the region’s premier environmental educators on mushrooms and other fungus.

Jason McKenzie, owner of The Pineywoods Nursery & Landscaping in Shenandoah, Texas. He specializes in native southeastern plants with focuses on reforestation of woodlands and native habitat gardening.

Bud Melton, vice president of Dallas-based Bowman-Melton Associates, bicycle mobility specialist and founding member of Texas Trails Network.

Derek Monell, Blue Mountain Equipment.

Wayne Pflugier, co-owner of Lone Star Forestry consulting firm in Conroe. He has more than 15 years experience in the East Texas Piney Woods.

John Rath, Texas Trails Network.

Linda Tschirhart-Hejl and Jerry Falke, wildlife damage management biologists with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services.

Matt Ward, resident fisheries biologist for Total Lake Management in Bryan. He holds a bachelor’s degree in biology and master’s degree in biochemistry, both from Texas A&M University.

Mary Anne Weber, education director for the Houston Audubon Society.

Ryan Witt, forester with Raven Environmental in Huntsville. He focuses on vegetation control including prescribed burning, mulching and herbicide application.

Texas Forest Service speakers:

Jan Fulkerson, urban wildland interface specialist focusing on neighborhood and community planning.

Mahlon Hammeter, fire prevention specialist focusing on the Piney Woods region.

John Warner, urban district forester with 18 years experience designing and installing landscapes. Also: Staff Forester Mike Murphrey, Forest Economist Dr. Yanshu Li and Entomologist Joe Pase.

The Children’s Exploration Room

Meet new friends. Play games. Learn about trees and the critters that live in the forest.

Come explore our indoor forest maze and find something awesome to see and touch around every corner.

Start your adventure by signing up for a chance to win a great door prize provided by Hobby Lobby of Conroe. Then follow your feet to the left or right and see what’s waiting just around the bend. Will it be a turtle to touch or paper to make? Could it be learning about the different tracks critters leave behind or the life cycle of butterflies through time?

Keep walking and meet new friends like Casper the Friendly Snake and Smokey Bear. Smokey’s friends will help you learn about fire safety, while Casper’s friends — Friends of the Forest (Los Amigos Del Bosque) from Stephen F. Austin State University — will teach you about reptiles and amphibians.

Learn about trees and the many forest products we get from them. Make your very own tree cookie name tag. Then wander just a bit farther and you’ll find some feathered friends from the forest. Play the “Just Ducky Migration Game” to learn more about birds, and get an up-close look at a live screech owl from the Houston Audubon Society.

Then tiptoe into Insectopia, but watch your step! There will be big bugs, small bugs and even bugs for you to make.

Don’t miss this amazing adventure!

Montgomery-Harris County Forest Landowners Association

1279 Russell Lane ★ Conroe ★ Texas ★ 77304
Education – Scholarship – Stewardship
Serving landowners since the 1980s

We are your source for tree health!

Rainbow Treecare Scientific provides training, products, and equipment to help arborists and property owners manage all Texas tree health problems.

contact
Shane Hrobar
Certified Arborist TX-3246A, Texas Oak Wilt Certified TOWC-0003
832-457-2504
shrobar@treecarescience.com
The best wildfire? The one that never happens

The top causes of wildland fire in 2008

1. Outdoor burning is ill-advised and, at times, illegal. Residents are urged to check daily for burn bans.
2. Welding and grinding frequently was the cause of large wildfires during the 2008 fire season. Be sure to post a lookout and have water handy.
3. Driving or stopping your vehicle in tall, dry grass. Hot catalytic converters including automotive diesels (2007 and later) start grass fires. Avoid driving or stopping in such areas.
4. Human action along roadsides. Wildfires frequently are ignited by sparks from driving on a tire rim. Sparks from dragging chains and carelessly discarded cigarettes also are an extreme wildfire threat during this dry season.
5. Barbecues and coals can stay hot for days. Soak with water before disposing them.
6. Mowing and shredding, like many outdoor activities, can cause wildfires during a drought. Be careful when using any agricultural machinery. Motors or blades that strike metal or rocks can create sparks, which can easily lead to a wildfire.
7. Electric Fences cause wildfires. Make sure the fence is tight and not sagging. Keep vegetation and all other objects from touching the electric wires.
8. Hay balers should be kept free of debris. Ranchers need to be extra careful and be sure a fire extinguisher is readily available in case a fire breaks out.
9. Obey burn bans. A large percentage of wildfires are started by careless debris burning. Following bans reduces the chance of these fires, allowing firefighters to concentrate their efforts on wildfires started by natural causes.
10. Safety is our No. 1 priority. Remember, the safest wildfire is the one that doesn’t happen.

Wildfires no longer just a problem for rural folks

Wildfires burned across more than 1.4 million acres during the 2008 Texas fire season.

Nearly $200 million worth of property was lost during that year alone.

And 85 percent of those wildland fires burned within two miles of a community.

What does that mean? Wildfires can no longer be considered simply a rural problem.

As the population continues to swell, more residents are moving into an area known as the Wildland Urban Interface, or WUI.

Previously rural and uninhabited, the interface is becoming home to many who don’t know the potential dangers they face or how to protect themselves.

The Firewise Communities/USA recognition program is designed to help teach people across the country how to safeguard their property.

The program aims to help communities protect their property from wildland fire while also maintaining a sustainable ecosystem balance.

When adequately prepared, a home has a chance at withstanding a wildfire without intervention from the fire service.

The program is based on an easily adaptable, three-legged template.

Wildland fire officials first provide to the community tailored information about coexisting with and mitigating wildfires.

The community then determines its risk, creates a network of homeowners, agencies and organizations and implements solutions.

 Communities who complete the process get national recognition as a Firewise Community/USA and priority funding for projects.
Ecosystem services: Good for you, good for trees, good for the environment

Forests provide clean air and water. They prevent flooding. They recharge aquifers. They provide wildlife habitats.

All these ecosystem services are beneficial.

But forests also serve a greater purpose — maintaining the carbon balance in the Earth’s atmosphere.

And as a landowner, you now may be able to profit from it.

Healthy, growing trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, release oxygen and store carbon in their wood. This can offset the negative effects caused by the release of greenhouse gases when fossil fuels are burned.

Landowners now can profit from the carbon stored in their forests. Once the amount of carbon stored by the trees is determined, it can be sold on the open market as “offset credits.”

The Chicago Climate Exchange allows these credits to be traded similar to the way stocks are traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Member companies must buy additional credits if they can’t meet voluntary guidelines. Those additional credits can come from offsets produced on your land.

The carbon credits program is designed to increase the amount of forested land, promote sustainable forests and encourage carbon storage in wood products.

Go to http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu and click on the Sustainable Forestry link to learn more information about carbon credits and how you can benefit.

Are your trees under attack?

How to protect against pests, floods and fire

Trees in Texas face many challenges in order to survive, grow and reproduce.

Droughts, floods and wildfires all take their toll.

In urban settings, trees must overcome threats from soil compaction, construction and even weed eaters.

Biological agents — various insects, diseases and invasive plants — also may hamper growth and survival.

In the East Texas Piney Woods, three types of insects periodically attack the pine forests. They include insects that feed on the foliage, insects that infest the inner bark and insects that bore into the wood.

The southern pine beetle, a bark beetle, has been a notorious killer of pine trees growing in unmanaged, overly-dense forests.

Much of the damage caused by bark beetles and other forest pests can be avoided if landowners use prevention methods designed to promote vigorous tree growth. Periodic thinning of dense pine stands reduces the risks of loss from pest and fire.

In urban environments, keeping trees well-watered and avoiding injuries will reduce the occurrence of pests.

A more recent concern in East Texas is the spread of non-native invasive plants. These are plants that are not native to Texas but have become established and are spreading, often jeopardizing native plants.

Chinese tallow, Japanese honeysuckle and Chinese privet are examples of well-established, non-native plants. Cogongrass, Japanese climbing fern, giant Asian dodder and kudzu also have been detected more recently in East Texas.

Landowners and homeowners should learn to recognize and remove these plants.

When establishing a new plant, make sure it’s native to Texas. Doing so can help landowners avoid pest problems and save money in the long run.

For more information about pest management, go to http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu and click on the forest management link.
Hurricane Ike wreaked havoc when it roared across Texas last fall, downing power lines, trees and anything else in its way.

More than six months later, the massive storm could once again impact the state — this time with unexpected consequences.

The thousands of fallen trees that remain scattered on private property throughout the state could fuel dangerous wildfires.

The risk of wildfire increases as landowners burn hurricane debris on their property — particularly with the state in the midst of an ongoing drought, said Justice Jones, mitigation and prevention coordinator for Texas Forest Service.

The potential for a catastrophic wildfire also has increased, Jones said, because there is a massive amount of dry vegetation strewn through the forests.

“It’s created longer response times and more difficulty for fire departments to access areas,” Jones said. “Our heaviest dozers can’t access parts of the woods.”

When fighting wildfires, crews now have to back off to nearby roads. As a result, it’s become more difficult to extinguish the wildfires.

While most of the debris has been cleared from public lands, private landowners often don’t have the resources to do the same. But there is help at Texas Forest Expo 2009.

The Avoid a Second Strike from Hurricane Ike class will teach landowners how to safely and effectively remove debris from their property. It also will focus on proper tree pruning that can be done both before and after the storm.

See the schedule on Page 2 for specific class times.