Water bodies within a watershed can be affected by many types of nonpoint source pollution. Recognizing these sources of pollution and methods for their control and prevention is critical. The Texas Watershed Steward (TWS) program is a partnership between the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) to provide science-based, watershed education to help citizens identify and take action to address local water quality impairments.

Who Are Texas Watershed Stewards?
Anyone with a willingness to learn and a desire to improve and protect community water resources can become a Texas Watershed Steward. Anyone living in a watershed including homeowners, agricultural producers, decision-makers, and community leaders are all encouraged to learn more about this program and become Texas Watershed Stewards.

Why is Watershed Stewardship Important?
Watershed stewardship means caring for the water, air, and biodiversity in the entire watershed, while acknowledging that everything is connected and is affected by natural and human activities. Water is the most critical component of our life’s existence. Without clean water resources, we simply cannot survive. The quality and quantity of water found within our watersheds are greatly affected by how we choose to live on the land. And since each and every one of us lives in a watershed, good watershed stewardship is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of our water resources for generations to come.

If we become aware of our watersheds, become educated about the needs of our watersheds, understand the effects that our activities have on watersheds, and discover ways to get involved in our watersheds, we will act more responsibly to preserve, protect, and enhance them.

What are the Goals of the Program?
The Texas Watershed Steward program promotes healthy watersheds by increasing citizen awareness, understanding, and knowledge about the nature and function of watersheds, potential impairments, and watershed protection strategies to minimize nonpoint source pollution.

The broad goals of the Texas Watershed Steward Program include the following:

- Increase citizen awareness and knowledge of water issues.
- Protect and improve local water resources.
- Empower individuals to take leadership roles involving community water issues.
- Increase stakeholder involvement in Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) and/or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development processes by educating and organizing local citizens.
What Will You Learn About in a Texas Watershed Steward Training?

The Texas Watershed Steward curriculum consists of 4 different modules designed to provide basic information on the nature and function of watersheds, potential sources of impairment, and strategies for watershed protection. The training modules will be tailored as much as possible to the specific watershed where the training is taking place.

1. OVERVIEW OF WATERSHED SYSTEMS
   - What is a Watershed?
   - Watersheds in Texas
   - How do Texans Use Watersheds?
   - Principles of Watershed Hydrology
   - Natural Watershed Features and Functions

2. OVERVIEW OF WATERSHED IMPAIRMENTS
   - Water Quantity and Quality
   - Point and Nonpoint Sources of Pollution
   - Consequences of Impaired Water Quality
   - How Land Use Affects Water Quantity and Quality
   - Water Quality Law and Policy in Texas
   - Water Quality Testing, Monitoring and Regulation

3. MANAGING TO IMPROVE WATERSHED FUNCTION
   - Using a Watershed Approach
   - Water Quality Improvement Projects (TMDL, WPP)
   - Best Management Practices
   - Water Quality Stewardship on Small Acreages
   - Protecting Water Quality Around the Home

4. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN WATERSHED PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT
   - Importance of Local Watershed Involvement
   - Forming Community Watershed Organizations and Partnerships

How Long Do Trainings Last and Where Will They Be Held?

Trainings for the Texas Watershed Steward program are designed as one-day training events. The ultimate goal is that by the end of the day, participants will have learned enough information to feel empowered and motivated to form a watershed action group, to participate in watershed protection activities, or to become more involved in protecting and enhancing their community water resources.

Find out if a training is being offered near you or request a training by contacting us at the information below or by visiting our Web site at: http://tws.tamu.edu.

Public participation is the focus of the Texas Watershed Steward program. Active public engagement, education, and community involvement in watershed management efforts are vital to addressing local water quality concerns and in making a difference on the ground. Become involved in your watershed today!

CONTACT US:

Galen Roberts
Extension Program Specialist
Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences
2474 TAMU
College Station, TX  77843-2474
Tel: 979.862.8070
Email: galrober@tamu.edu

Mark McFarland
Professor, Extension Soil Fertility Specialist
Dept. of Soil & Crop Sciences
2474 TAMU
College Station, TX  77843-2474
Tel: 979.845.5366
Email: ml-mcfarland@tamu.edu

Nikki Dietson