



Summer Teacher Institute Gulf Coast Expedition

Greetings!

Thank you for joining us for this fun and informative expedition. The workshop is open to all current and previous Groundwater to the Gulf participants and will include presentations and field investigations to enhance your knowledge about the lower Colorado River and Matagorda Bay.

Our ultimate destination will be the LCRA Matagorda Bay Nature Park (http://lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/matagorda.html) located on the mouth of the Colorado River on the Matagorda Peninsula. The 1,600-acre park and preserve has about two miles of Gulf of Mexico shoreline and two miles river frontage and hundreds of acres of coastal marshes and dunes. Participants will receive 22 hours of SBEC credit.

The workshop is funded by a grant from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) and conducted by TPWD and LCRA.

Registration is limited, and available on a first come, first serve basis.

Please complete the registration and submit your \$50 deposit by June 10, 2011.

COST: Free. Upon completion of the workshop, registration deposits will be refunded. Lodging, transportation and other meals are the initial responsibility of the workshop participant and are indicated by the **\$\$** icon. **Upon receipt of GOMA grant funds in fall of 2011, each participant will be paid a stipend of \$250.00 to help defer travel expenses.** No deposit refunds for cancellations.

WORKSHOP DETAILS:

TRIP LEADERS:

Betsy Terrel, LCRA Matagorda Bay Nature Park
Carolyn Meredith, City of Sunset Valley, Environmental Services Manager
Karen Marks, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept, Outdoor Learning Training Specialist
Kris Shipman, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., Coastal Expo Coordinator
Marsha May, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept, Texas Nature Trackers Coordinator

LODGING (\$\$):

A block of rooms, under Kris Shipman (non-smoking, double beds) have been reserved for workshop participants at:

Hampton Inn & Suites
4617 7th Street, Bay City, TX 75455
Hotel Front Desk: 1-979-245-7100

Special room rates of \$89 plus tax/day have been arranged. Check in is at 3:00 pm and check-out is at Noon. If your organization is tax-exempt, please bring your tax exempt certification form with you. Make sure it has your tax id number and is signed. The hotel provides a free hot breakfast bar and high-speed internet, and has a pool and fitness center. The room block will expire on June 20, 2011.

MEALS:

Breakfast is provided each morning at the Hampton Inn. Guests can get a hot breakfast in the hotel lobby or grab a breakfast bag to go.

Lunch will be provided each day at the Matagorda Bay Nature Center.

Dinner Monday evening will be provided by the Matagorda Bay Nature Center.

Dinner Tuesday evening will be at the K-2 Steak House, 1701 8th St., Bay City. (\$\$)

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

Monday, June 27th

8:00 am	Registration/Check-In at LCRA Matagorda Natural Science Education Center
8:30 - 3:00 pm	Coastal Investigations (2hrs in kayak & 2 hrs in classroom & 1 hr lunch)
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Oyster Ecology
6:00 pm	Dinner

Tuesday, June 28th

8:00 am	Registration/Check-In at LCRA Matagorda Natural Science
8:30 am – 12:30	Oyster Boat Field Trip in Matagorda Bay
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 3:30 pm	NOAA activities
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Aquatic WILD activity
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Break
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Group Dinner in Bay City (\$\$)
8:00 – 9:00 pm	Amphibian Watch presentation and monitoring, Matagorda County Birding Nature Center

Wednesday, June 29th

9:30 am	Registration/Check-In at LCRA Matagorda Natural Science Education Center
10:00 - Noon	Field trip to Simon DeSoto's Colorado Lock Facility
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 3:30 pm	Aquatic WILD activities
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Wrap-up, evaluations and certificates

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS:

Amphibian Watch: Amphibians are more important than you might think. Texas Amphibian Watch gives you a chance to help us understand what frogs and toads are telling us about the world around us. Learn how to identify Texas frogs and toads, and participate in scientific research. (TPWD Staff)

Coastal Investigations: After plotting your course by GPS, explore the river and estuary by kayak for two hours, collecting water quality and plankton samples along the way. Back in the classroom, examine your collection samples and learn about dune defense and beach processes. Dress to get wet and wear weather-appropriate gear. Bring a change of clothes for remainder of the day. It will be an easy paddle in relatively "flat" shallow water (on the bayside--no river rapids to navigate) -- ideal for beginners. A group review of basic kayak skills will be conducted before hitting the water. (LCRA Staff)

Oyster Ecology: Not just for eating! Learn about the life history of this mollusk and why it serves as an indicator species for freshwater inflow, the commercial importance and other issues affecting oysters. (TPWD Staff)

Oyster Field Trip: Survey oyster beds in the bay with TPWD biologists on their motorboats. (TPWD Staff)

Aquatic WILD Activities: Using hands-on activities learn creative ways to teach adaptations, food webs and marine debris concepts. (TPWD Staff)

NOAA Activities: Explore current and relevant topics such as oil spills and coral biology. (TPWD and Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary staff)

Simon DeSoto's Colorado Lock Facility Field Trip: The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is a 1,300-mile system of channels and tributaries spanning the US Gulf coast from Brownsville, TX to S. Marks, FL and provides a vital transportation route for more than 123 million tons of cargo each year. See the engineering marvels of a lock facility with this up-close view of a section of the Gulf Intracoastal canal during our visit to the Colorado Lock Facility! (USACE Staff)

WHAT TO BRING:

- Comfortable, casual clothing and shoes
- Clothing suitable for kayaking
- Hat, Sunscreen & Insect repellent
- Coffee cups (refillable)
- Water bottle (refillable)
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Camera, binoculars & bird or shell field guides (optional)





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GROUNDWATER TO THE GULF: SUMMER INSTITUTE GULF EXPEDITION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration and deposit deadline is June 10, 2011.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____, TX zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____ Do you use text-msg? Yes No (for use during trip only)

Email: _____

Teaching Grade Level & Subject: _____

How many students do you teach per year? _____

Special Dietary Needs or Food Allergies:

In Case of Emergency, please contact:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: (____) _____ or (____) _____

Please complete and return the registration form and your \$50 deposit by **June 10, 2011**.

Make deposit checks payable to: Keep Austin Beautiful

Mail registration form and payment to:

Carolyn Meredith, Environmental Services Manager

City of Sunset Valley

3205 Jones Road

Sunset Valley, TX 78745

Phone: 512-891-9103