



Texas Wildlife Association



Learning Across New Dimensions in Science (L.A.N.D.S.)

The Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) believes that today's children are tomorrow's decision makers and have thus made it our mission to create an awareness of wildlife and wildlife related issues among Texas youth. The Conservation Legacy program within the Texas Wildlife Association empowers and educates Texans with the knowledge of fundamental, science-based ecological principles, fostering a connection to the land, and facilitating natural resource literacy by creating tangible relationships with the outdoors. These programs serve as a catalyst for conservation partnerships and active habitat management. TWA's Conservation Legacy program immerses both youth and adults in the marvels of natural Texas from the classroom to the back sendero, using the land as the guide.

Conservation Legacy's focus of youth stewardship runs through the Learning Across New Dimensions in Science (L.A.N.D.S.) initiative. The L.A.N.D.S. program includes classroom curricula, special presentations, field investigation days, classroom necropsies, learning modules, and interactive video conferencing programs all of which are readily available to teachers and students across Texas.

WASHINGTON COUNTY PROGRAM ←

Texas Wildlife Association has been actively involved with the students from Washington County since 2006 through the L.A.N.D.S. program implemented through the Brenham Junior High School Science department for grades 7 and 8.

Beginning in the 7th grade, Brenham Jr. High students participate in the L.A.N.D.S. program and are provided with an innovative combination of in-class lessons, necropsies, and hands-on field investigation days led by both TWA staff and community volunteers. Using bobwhite quail as the instructional species, the middle school Science students study key ecological principals such as food webs, adaptations, and natural resource issues, such as habitat fragmentation. Also included with the curriculum, the Texas Wildlife Association, through its partnerships with multiple community organizations from Washington County, holds two special events each school year, a quail necropsy and a quail field investigation day.

At the quail necropsy, usually occurring in the Fall, the students have a chance to get an up-close look at the external and internal anatomy of a bobwhite quail. This experience allows the students to understand the basic principles of a bird's anatomy, its difference from a mammal, some of the forms and functions of the body parts, and why it is important for a wildlife biologist or land owner to understand their target species from the inside-out.

In the spring, the students participate in a bobwhite quail focused field investigation day that is held at either a local park or private ranch. During this six-hour field investigation day, the students have the opportunity to learn firsthand from multiple wildlife and natural resource professionals from the Washington County area about the animals and plants that they have studied in the classroom. Volunteers from state and federal agencies, colleges, and area businesses and non-profit groups come together to share their experiences and knowledge with the students of Brenham Jr. High through guided stations that focus on everything from radio telemetry, plant identification, quail nest predation, and rainwater simulation to soil identification.

The L.A.N.D.S. program in Brenham has expanded to include the 8th grade students with a focus on white-tailed deer. This extension of the L.A.N.D.S. program and expansion of the curriculum and resource activities has been possible through the efforts of the Science teachers at Brenham Jr. High, the educational staff at TWA and the extensive network of volunteers from in and around Washington County.

Started in 2009, the white-tailed deer curriculum is currently offered in only the 8th grade Advanced Placement classes at Brenham Jr. High. As with the quail, the students continue the L.A.N.D.S. model using the deer as the focus species throughout different disciplines and activities within the classroom.

In the fall semester, the students attend a field investigation day that is presently being held at Kerr Creek Farm in Burton, TX. Just as with the quail field investigation day, the students spend six hours rotating through guided stations that emphasize the education and conservation of our natural resources. Stations held at the deer field investigation day include fetal deer aging, rumen exploration, 'deer on the half shell' (internal anatomy), and deer behavior. A deer heart and lung dissection also occurs in the spring semester.

➔ **WASHINGTON COUNTY INVOLVEMENT**

Texas Wildlife Association's L.A.N.D.S. program is informing the future decision makers of Washington County about natural resource and habitat conservation issues with on the ground, hands-on learning and a higher level of critical thinking than any other program in the state of Texas.

★ To this date, a total of **2,473** students from the Brenham Jr. High School have participated in the L.A.N.D.S. program since its inception in 2006.

★ During the 2011-2012 school year:

★ **375** – 7th grade students learned about the bobwhite quail as a target species in conservation management of the private lands of Texas and

★ **136** – 8th grade AP students expanded their conservation education with the white-tailed deer as a focus species.

The L.A.N.D.S. program in Washington County relies on a broad support system with a variety of community organizations to support the program through their volunteer man power and expertise. The L.A.N.D.S. program in the Washington County area has been supported by a team of over **137** volunteers during the last **six years**. The volunteers in the community have also shown their support through their fundraising efforts to supply the program with field and classroom resources.

Washington County L.A.N.D.S. Community Partner Organizations

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	Blue Bell Creamery
AgriLife Extension Service	Brenham ISD
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service	Blinn College
Washington County Wildlife Society	Creekside Veterinarian Services
Texas Master Naturalists	Washington County Animal Clinic
And other private companies and individuals.	

For more information on the L.A.N.D.S. program throughout the state of Texas or within the Washington County area, please contact:

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