

Native Landscaping & Restoration in Houston-Gulf Coast Region

A **Regional Native Landscaping and Restoration Q&A Roundtable** will take place on the below topics, with a moderator directing the Q&A with the audience. Objectives of the roundtable include providing a forum for peer-to-peer and experienced peer-to-interested party discussion on native landscaping issues in a structured format.

- Breakfast refreshments and coffee will be available starting at **9 am**
- The presentation speakers from **9:30 - 10 am** are:
 - Kelly McDowell (FWS) - NWRs' approach to regional prairie restoration and seed harvesting and regional examples
 - Dennis Markwardt (TxDOT) - TxDOT's Pollinator Habitat Program and regional seed mixes
- The roundtable-style Q&A participants from **10:00 am - noon** are:
 - Kelly McDowell (FWS)
 - Dennis Markwardt & Erica Swenson (TxDOT)
 - Andy Sipocz (TPWD biologist at Sheldon Lake SP)
 - Bill Neiman (Native American Seed)
 - Pat Merkord (Native Prairie Assn of Tx)
 - Aaron Tjelmeland (The Nature Conservancy)

Topics for the Q&A Roundtable are:

(1) Kick-starting prairie restoration and gardens - small vs. large landscape protocol options:

- Invasives control
- Use of native vs. non-native plants and seeds - grasses
- Mixes of seeds and plugs
- Coastal prairie lands vs. riparian areas
- Pollinator plants
- Availability of native seeds and plant plugs
- Setting realistic expectations
- Regional examples of small gardens, beds and riparian areas

(2) Restoration Processes:

- Small vs. large landscape restoration
- Soil preparation
- Mowing
- Burning
- Harvesting of seeds
- Aesthetic appearance
- Signage and borders

(3) Purpose of prairie/pollinator restoration:

- Water absorption
- Seed propagation
- Natural look for aesthetics
- Maintenance of the land
- Wildlife protection/enhancement

(4) How and where to plant and sustain native milkweed in Gulf-Houston Region (see more at www.gulfhoustonrcp.org/mfs) – Planning and availability



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December 1st 2016

9:00 AM - NOON

Houston Zoo Auditorium

6200 Hermann Park Dr. Houston, TX

Presentations and Roundtable Q&A on
Native Plants, Pollinators & Processes with:

- **Kelly McDowell** (FWS - Wildlife Refuges)
- **Dennis Markwardt & Erica Swenson** (TxDOT)
- **Andy Sipocz** (TPWD - Sheldon Lake SP)
- **Pat Merkord** (Native Prairie Assn of Texas)
- **Aaron Tjelmeland** (The Nature Conservancy)
- **Bill Neiman** (Native American Seed)



Up to 2.5 CE hours