

## Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter Meeting April 27, 2015

**Speaker:** Josh Helcel, who is an extension associate for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service who is headquartered out of Gatesville, Texas.

**Topic: Feral Hog Program** – Josh will present a one hour feral hog educational program. Josh will also cover the early introductions, biology, water quality impacts, riparian impacts, agricultural damages, economic impacts, control strategies, emerging technologies, and management implications associated with feral hogs in the state of Texas. After the program, time will be allotted for any questions and concerns specific to the audience regarding feral hogs, their impacts, and effective control strategies.



Josh Helcel

Josh provides educational programs and landowner assistance across the 13-county Cross Timbers region as part of the Lone Star Healthy Streams Program and he works with the program's feral hog component. Josh also conducts watershed-based educational programs focused on feral hogs and provides technical assistance to landowners to help them determine a feral hog population reduction strategy that is specific to their needs and their property.

Prior to working for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, Josh worked as an interpreter and public hunting coordinator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in wildlife ecology and management from Texas A&M University.

Josh covers the Geronimo Creek Watershed in Guadalupe and Comal counties, Gilleland Creek Watershed in Travis county, Lake Granbury Watershed in Hood, Parker, Palo Pinto, Ranger, Erath and Jack counties; the Lampasas River Watershed in Bell, Burnet, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills and Williamson counties; and the Leon River Watershed below Proctor Lake and above Belton Lake in Comanche, Hamilton, Erath, Coryell, Mills and Bell counties and the Plum Creek Watershed in Caldwell, Hays and Travis counties.

Josh Helcel is a native Texan and developed a lifelong passion for the outdoors at a young age. His distinct educational and personal background led him to his career in the wise use and management of natural resources, and these experiences provide him with a unique perspective for tackling wildlife challenges.

Josh Helcel's position is funded through a Clean Water Act non-point source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency.

Josh Helcel can be reached at 254-248-0562, [josh.helcel@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:josh.helcel@ag.tamu.edu) .

For more information on feral hogs, see: <http://feralhogs.tamu.edu> <http://feralhogreports.tamu.edu> and [www.extension.org/feral\\_hogs](http://www.extension.org/feral_hogs) .

The monthly meeting of the Master Naturalist is free and open to the public. Meetings are held at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall, located at 125 Lehmann Dr. in Kerrville. Socializing begins at 6:30pm, with the program starting at 7:00. For questions regarding this presentation, please contact our program coordinator, Paul Person (210)-275-4522.