

"What might climate change mean for conservation in Texas?"

An overview of projected climate change in Texas will be the focus of the September 27th meeting of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist. Dr. Wendy Gordon is a biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and she will discuss the tools and resources available to explore climate change, including a demonstration of Climate Wizard. Her presentation will summarize the types of changes already being documented in the natural world and she will talk about the implications for conservation in Texas.

In addition, Dr Gordon will touch upon phenology, which is a contraction of the word phenomenology and which means the study of natural phenomena that recur periodically and that are related to climate and change of seasons. Two of topics that come under this umbrella are bird migrations and the blooming of flowers. Dr. Gordon will present opportunities for people to get involved through programs like the National Phenology Network."

Dr. Wendy Gordon leads the Nongame and Rare Species Program for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Her team is responsible for monitoring and conserving the state's plant and terrestrial wildlife resources and protecting its threatened and endangered species. Prior to re-joining TPWD, she worked for the state's environmental regulatory agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, in the areas of water quality and water quantity. She spearheaded efforts to improve instream flow protection.

She holds a doctorate in ecology from The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in natural resource policy from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. Her areas of scientific expertise include ecology, hydrology and climate change. She is a co-author of a book chapter on climate change and biodiversity in Texas to be published later this year by UT Press. She currently serves as an editor of the American Geophysical Union's weekly newspaper of the Earth Sciences called *EOS*.

This meeting is free and open to the public. Please join us on Monday, September 27, 2010 at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's lecture hall, located at 125 Lehmann Drive in Kerrville, TX. Socializing begins at 6:30 and the program will start at 7 pm. For more information, please call 830-634-2545.

