

**Best Education Practices (BEPs) for Water Outreach Professionals**  
**Defining BEPs, Refining New Resources and Recommending Future Actions**

***POSTER PRESENTATION***

**Presenter(s): Mike Mecke, Texas CIHO Extension And Texas Water Resources Institute**

**Title: "Water For West Texas" A New Extension Program**

Abstract: WEST TEXAS! What a wild, scenic and yes, often desolate area it is. and what a rugged, self-sustaining and pioneering-type of person settled West Texas! From the earliest paleo-Indians, Apaches, Comanche, Jumanos or Pueblos - to the Spanish and Mexican settlers, later, the first Anglo ranchers – all learned to know, respect and preserve the rare and precious waters or perish. West Texans never had to be taught that their water resources, whether flowing in the Pecos or Rio Grande Rivers or from a spring or lying below ground in an aquifer, were precious – this is instinctive to people living and working in dry, arid climates and in deserts. Truly here, “Water IS Life!” or, “Agua ES Vida!”

Historically, considerable irrigation water was produced by both the Pecos and Rio Grande Rivers. Increased upstream demands for irrigation and domestic uses, plus saltcedar invasion and a ten year drought, has resulted in less water and poorer quality water for river irrigators. The balance of the irrigation is from ground water or from still healthy flowing springs. Other historically large springs in the region once produced pure, cool irrigation waters and provided recreation for many, but now are dried up due to overuse of the aquifers. This new program has been developed to assist the residents of the region through a variety of methods including: educational exhibits and presentations, demonstrations, workshops and seminars, applied research programs, publications, media articles and through collaborative efforts with a diverse group of agencies, governmental units and non-profits.

Target Audience(s): Diverse, include all listed plus irrigation dists and groundwater cons dists in West zone.

Educational Purpose:

Contact Information:  
PO Box 1298  
Fort Stockton, TX 79735  
432-336-8585  
mbmecke@ag.tamu.edu

