

L2510.6
C351
9/2/91

LCRAS

Chalk Talk

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

MAY 4 1991

Depository
Dallas Public Library

A newsletter from the Lower Colorado River Authority
for Central Texas' most valuable resource: our teachers

SPRING

1991

COLORADO RIVER WATCH NETWORK

Approximately 500 students throughout the lower Colorado River basin are learning about water quality in a unique way: every week they're collecting and testing water samples at local sites along the Colorado River and its tributaries and lakes as part of a new LCRA program: the Colorado River Watch Network (CRWN).

Launched last fall as a citizen monitoring program by LCRA and the Clear Clean Colorado River Assn., CRWN already includes 23 schools and 3 volunteer groups along the river basin, from the Highland Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

"CRWN benefits everybody involved," says Dr. Wes Halverson, who pioneered the concept at the Science Academy at Austin's LBJ High School and helped form the network.

"Students get hands-on experience about water quality and how it affects their lives. Teachers have a new way to teach science elements so that they're not just boring concepts buried in a textbook. LCRA gets regular data about water quality at local sites throughout the river basin."

Teachers use students from biology or chemistry classes, or from science or environmental clubs, Halverson says. "There are so many options teachers can use to incorporate CRWN in their teaching plans and getting the students involved."

LCRA plans to expand the number of test sites to 50 by 1992 and include testing below sewage treatment plants. The goal is to have sites in each of the 10 counties in LCRA's water district, which includes



San Saba, Llano, Burnet, Blanco, Travis, Bastrop, Fayette, Colorado, Wharton, and Matagorda Counties.

If your school is in this area, and you'd like more information about joining CRWN, fill out the reply coupon and check item 1. Or call us, toll-free, at 1-800-776-5272, ext. 2341.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS IN THE WORKS

We're planning our summer schedule of teacher inservice workshops, and we've tentatively selected three topics dealing with energy, water and environmental subjects:

• **The "Green" House** (June 11, at LCRA's Wild Basin offices in Austin): This is a home-economics workshop with a twist — we'll focus on how to make future homemakers energy- and water-efficient and sensitive to such environmental issues such as recycling household wastes.

• **Water Issues** (July 23, location to be announced): An overview of water supply, demand and quality, and how these issues affect Texas and the lower Colorado River basin. Teachers will also get to participate in a field exercise with members of the Colorado River Watch Network.

• **Utility Technology** (August 6, Fayette Power Project in La Grange): We'll explore first-hand how LCRA generates and sends electricity to your home and school, and various facets of electric-utility operations, such as fuel supply, environmental issues, and rate-making.

All workshops are one day long, and Advanced Academic Training (AAT) credit is pending for each workshop. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

We've set Wednesday, March 20 as an "Early Bird" registration deadline to give us an idea how many

THIS NEWSLETTER IS FOR YOU!

Feel free to copy and distribute to teachers who may be interested in any of these articles.

To be added to our mailing list, please fill out and return the coupon.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Fill out and return this coupon, or call us, toll-free, at (800) 776-5272, ext. 2341. (If you're in Austin, call us at 473-3227.)

Name _____ Subject or Grade _____
School _____ ISD _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone Number (____) _____
When is the best time to call you? _____

- 1. I'd like more information about the Colorado River Watch Network.
- 2. I'd like more information about your Summer Workshops.
(Specify topic(s): _____)
- 3. I'd like more information about Energy Source.
- 4. I'd like more information about Major Rivers.
- 5. Please send new teacher evaluation form(s).
(Specify units: _____)
- 6. Please send me Program Catalog(s) for my area.
- 7. Please add my name to your mailing list.
- 8. Please change my name and/or address as indicated above.



LCRA Education Program
PO Box 220
Austin, Texas 78767-9946

teachers want to attend each workshop. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, although we may schedule additional dates for some workshops if there's sufficient demand. (We may also cancel any workshops that don't get sufficient demand.)

For more information about any of the workshops, or to register, fill out the reply coupon and check item 2. Or call us, toll-free, at 1-800-776-5272, ext. 2341.

ENERGY SOURCE/ MAJOR RIVERS PROGRAMS

More than 150 schools in the LCRA service area are using our Energy Source and Major Rivers programs this school year — and all of the teachers' evaluations so far have given the programs "Very Positive" or "Positive" ratings.

Energy Source and Major Rivers are creative, colorful approaches to teaching energy and water subjects, while satisfying essential-elements requirements. Each two-week unit is self-contained, complete with teachers' guides, student lesson books, and visual aids. Best of all, they're free of charge from LCRA.

Energy Source is a 7-unit, K-12 program, which ranges from "Offalot," which teaches energy conservation and safety to Kindergartners, to "Energy Choices and Challenges" for high-schoolers. Major Rivers was designed by LCRA to teach 4th-graders about Texas water resources. Both programs are published by Educational Development Specialists of California.

For more information on Energy Source or Major Rivers and how you can use these units next school year, fill out the reply coupon and check item 3 for Energy Source or item 4 for Major Rivers. Or call us, toll-free, at 1-800-776-5272, ext. 2341.

CURRICULUM USERS: SEND IN YOUR EVALUATION FORMS!

A reminder to teachers who are using Energy Source and Major Rivers units this year: Mail back your evaluation forms!

The information on the forms (test scores, your evaluation and comments) helps ensure these programs are effectively meeting your needs and helps us update the materials.

We value (and need) your comments, even if you're reusing materials ordered from previous years. If you need new evaluation forms, fill out the reply coupon and check item 5. Or call us, toll-free, at 1-800-776-5272, ext. 2341. (Please specify the unit(s) you're using.)

LCRA EDUCATION CATALOGS BEING REVISED

We're revising our Education Program Catalogs to make them more comprehensive and easier to use.

The revised catalogs — one for Energy programs, and one for Water — will have more detailed listings and descriptions of our curricula, teaching aids, and other services. A new Index will help you determine at a glance what's available for your grade or subject.

If you'd like a copy of the catalogs when they're available, fill out the Reply coupon and check item 6. Or call us, toll-free, at 1-800-776-5272, ext. 2341. We'll send you either the Energy or Water catalog, depending on whether your school's in our 41-county electric service area or our 10-county water district. (If you're in both areas, we'll send you both catalogs.)

NEW FACES IN LCRA'S EDUCATION PROGRAM

The LCRA Education Program staff has a new look.

John Williams is the new Education Program coordinator, succeeding Wanda McMurray. Marcie Koennecke is the new Education Program assistant, succeeding Donna McCord.

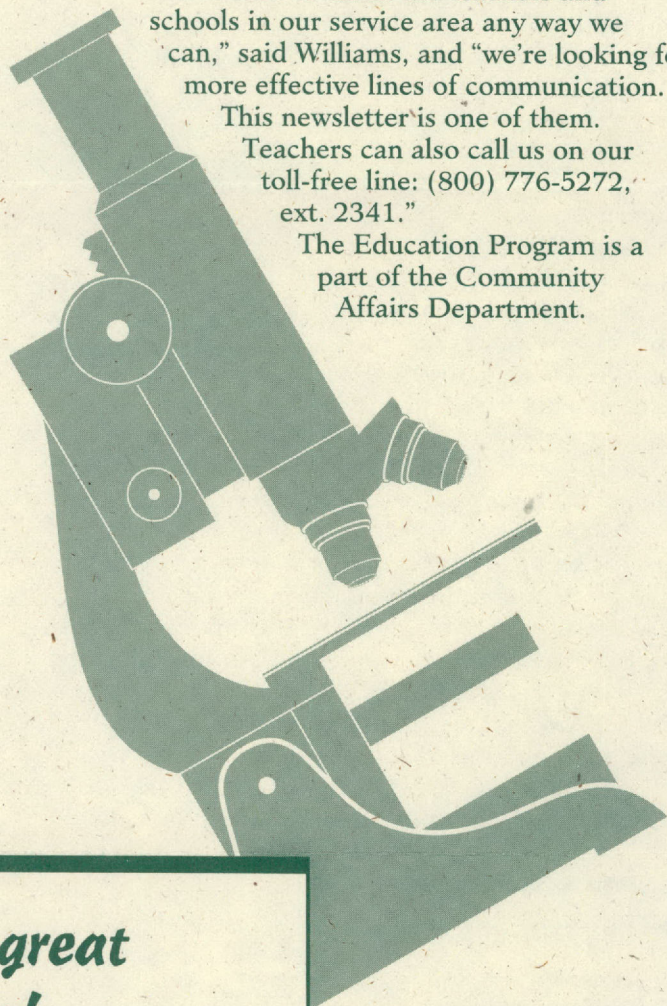
Both staff members are LCRA veterans and are getting acquainted with teachers and administrators.

"We're here to assist the teachers and schools in our service area any way we can," said Williams, and "we're looking for more effective lines of communication.

This newsletter is one of them.

Teachers can also call us on our toll-free line: (800) 776-5272, ext. 2341."

The Education Program is a part of the Community Affairs Department.



Sign up now for these great Summer Workshops!

- **THE "GREEN" HOUSE** • teach students how to be energy and water efficient
- **WATER ISSUES** • teach students how water supply, demand and quality affect Texas
- **UTILITY TECHNOLOGY** • teach students about electric utility operations



printed
on recycled paper