



a Citizen Science program of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Do you want to help slow down the spread of harmful invasive species and reduce their ecological and economic damage?

Become a member of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Invaders of Texas Volunteer Citizen Scientist team!

Citizen scientists are volunteers who receive expert training to identify and track important invaders in our area.

What are the Invaders of Texas?

Invaders of Texas is an innovative campaign whereby volunteer "citizen scientists" are trained to use a specially developed Invasive Species Early Detection and Reporting Kit. The program empowers the public to become involved and help slow the spread of harmful invasive species and reduce their environmental and economic damage. Volunteers will detect invaders' arrival and dispersal in their own local areas entering the data into an early detection database. The data you collect will be shared with managers on the ground for use in pest and weed management planning & eradication.

What Is An Invasive Species?

These are organisms that evolved in one area of the world and become problematic in other areas, and are becoming increasingly worrisome. One reason behind the worry is that humans are major intentional and or unwitting agents of transportation for these marauding plants and animals.

How Serious Is The Problem?

Invasive species aggressively overtake or displace native species, and their ecological and economic impacts can be enormous. Experts estimate the annual cost of invasive species to the US economy alone is over \$135 billion.

What Will I Learn?

You will be learning to identify invasive species, use GPS units, and enter your detection data via the web.

Being An Invaders Volunteer

We hope you will find volunteering in the Invaders Program an opportunity to learn as much as possible about invasive species in Texas.

Goals of the Program

- Begin to develop a baseline occurrence map of target invasive species in Texas.
- Develop partnerships with regional resource management agencies to guide us toward sites where we can focus our early detection and reporting efforts.
- Provide information to these partners that helps lead to the control and/or eradication of invasive species where possible, and through these connections, provide our volunteers an opportunity to help in these eradication efforts.
- Bring our cohort of Invaders volunteer trainees to a level at which they feel comfortable training other citizen scientists in the future.

**April 10, 2010 at the Karnack High School.
8:30am-4:00pm**

FREE TO ATTEND AND LUNCH PROVIDED

**If you are interested in attending please RSVP with
Vanessa Adams, 903-679-9817 or Vanessa.adams@tpwd.state.tx.us**

Or

Gary Endsley, 903-665-2900 or gendsley@hotmail.com

www.texasinvasives.org