

PRESS RELEASE

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LAURA W. BUSH TO SPEAK AT EARTH DAY DALLAS

Former first lady to kick off the festival's Green Talk Speaker Series

DALLAS (March 27, 2012) – Earth Day Dallas (EarthDayDallas.org) is honored to announce that Mrs. Laura Bush, former first lady of the United States, will commence the 2012 festival's Green Talk Speaker Series. The series will feature two full days of advocates, experts, business executives and elected officials from across the country. Each will share their knowledge about an array of environmental topics. Mrs. Bush will discuss her new Taking Care of Texas initiative focused on importance of land stewardship and its direct correlation to the quality of life, economic growth and ecological integrity of Texas.

"Through education and advocacy, Earth Day Dallas is encouraging Texans to improve upon their communities' conservation efforts," said Mrs. Bush. "Texans are already on the leading edge of conservation, and it's time for us to showcase their good works."

In July 2011, Mrs. Bush announced the creation of a statewide initiative to promote the mutual benefits of economics and conservation — Taking Care of Texas. Its board of actively engaged leaders brings business minds to conservation matters and conservation minds to business matters. The goal is for Texas to be known for the best practical, scientific and citizen-led innovations in conservation in the country.

President and Mrs. Bush support native prairie restoration efforts and the education of Texans about the importance of conserving the state's resources. Currently under construction in Dallas, the George W. Bush Presidential Center will feature a 14-acre native prairie landscape.

In addition to her advocacy of education, human rights and health care, Mrs. Bush is a hiking and camping enthusiast and strong supporter of national parks. She is an honorary chair of the National Park Foundation and has worked to promote Junior Ranger Programs, which encourage children to become active national parks stewards. Mrs. Bush also helped start Preserve America (preserveamerica.gov), a national initiative to protect the country's cultural and natural heritage. In 2006, she announced President Bush's designation of the largest single area dedicated to conservation in the history of the United States, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument.

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Other notable speakers include:

- Kay Bailey Hutchison, senior U.S. Senator from Texas
- Michio Kaku, theoretical physicist, futurist and scientist
- Jim Woolsey, former Director of Central Intelligence at the CIA
- Robert B. Laughlin, Stanford University physicist and Nobelist
- Andrew Dessler, professor of atmospheric sciences, Texas A&M University
- The Honorable Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army
- Pete McCloskey, former U.S. State Representative
- Mark Armentrout, Texas Technology Partners CEO, former Board Chair of ERCOT
- Michael Slattery, Professor of Geology, TCU
- Dr. Al Armendariz, EPA Region 6 Administrator
- Andrea Thomas, Senior VP of Sustainability, Walmart
- The Honorable Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas
- Will Rogers, The Trust for Public Land, President and CEO
- Todd Staples, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture

For a complete list, and to learn more about the 2012 festival, visit EarthDayDallas.org.

About Earth Day Dallas

Earth Day Dallas begins April 21, 2012, with a two-day festival at Fair Park. Events will focus on entertaining, inspiring and educating North Texans with various ways to think, work and live green by showcasing emerging green technology, providing eco-friendly family activities, presenting enlightening lectures from environmental leaders, hosting a variety of musical acts and much more. Find out more at EarthDayDallas.org, follow us on Twitter at @EarthDayDallas or visit our [Facebook page](#).

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