

Photo by Adrian Van Dellen

## Conservation Progress

April 2011

### Affiliate of the Year Award Ceremony Exciting for the Alliance!



Mack Turner, Genie Fritz, Janice Bezanson, and Michael Banks receive the Affiliate of the Year Award flanked by NWF's Craig Thompson and Larry Schweiger.

### National Wildlife Federation Celebrates 75th Anniversary

In 1936, Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist J.N. "Ding" Darling persuaded President Franklin D. Roosevelt to convene a meeting to discuss the plight of the nation's wildlife. Some 2,000 wildlife enthusiasts from across the country -- farmers, hunters, anglers, garden club members and other outdoorsmen -- united to influence lawmakers. From that meeting emerged the National Wildlife Federation.



Today, 75 years and many successes later, NWF continues to be a leading voice advocating for wildlife and wild places. With an affiliate organization in virtually every state, NWF combines a national presence with strong grassroots input to help ensure that our children and grandchildren can experience the wonders of nature we enjoy.

### TPWD Budget Stalled in Texas Senate

The Texas Legislature has added key provisions to help Texas Parks and Wildlife Department manage its FY 2012/2013 budget cuts, but a vote on the state budget has stalled in the Senate. *To help, see Call to Action below.*

HB 1301 would allow visitors to state parks to contribute to TPWD. This bill is crucial, as money will be removed from the TPWD budget if it doesn't pass.

#### Call to Action:



Urge your state senator to vote HB 1 out of the Senate. If it passes the Senate, we will send an alert re the next step to provide adequate funding for TPWD. Locate your senator at <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>

Also urge your state senator to support HB 1301, to allow state park visitors to contribute to maintaining our parks.

### Alliance Annual Meeting September 24

Join us at Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas  
September 24  
for the Alliance's Annual Meeting!

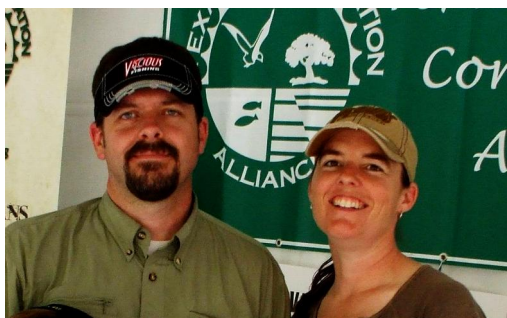


### The Alliance and its Member Organizations Make a Splash at Earth Day Dallas

Texas Conservation Alliance and more than a dozen of its member organizations joined in the fun at Earth Day Dallas April 22 and 23. Dallas ISD bussed 10,000 students in for Friday morning and a total of 48,000 people attended. A delightful time for everyone!



Mack Turner welcomes Dallas ISD students



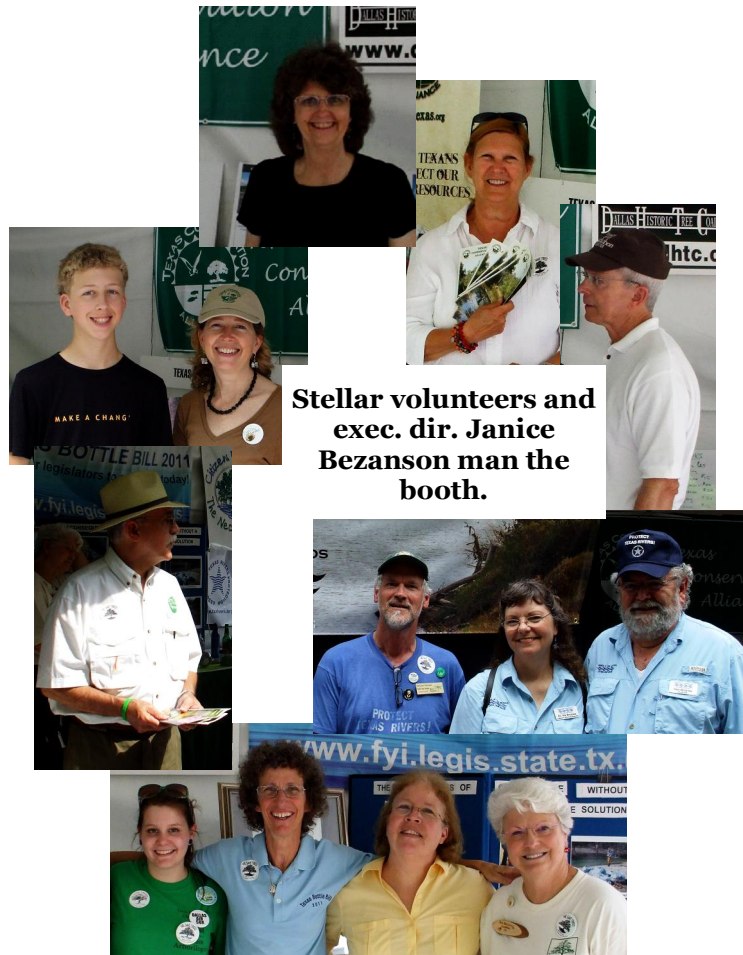
NWF Staffers Steve Bender and GERALYN HOEY help out.

### Bond Authorization Bills Give Blank Check to TWDB

HJR 137 would pave the way for a constitutional amendment to increase the Texas Water Development Board’s bonding authorization to \$6 billion. The funds would be used to make loans to water districts, cities, and other governmental entities for water supply, water treatment, wastewater treatment, and related projects. While many of the projects would be helpful to Texas communities, the money could also be used for huge unneeded reservoir projects such as those proposed on the Sulphur, Navasota, and other rivers.

Of major concern is an “evergreen” provision in the bills. This provision would mean that TWDB could roll the bonding authority over as loans were repaid, maintaining a perpetual funding source, rather than having to go back to the legislature once the initial funds were expended.

**Call to Action:** A companion bill has already passed the Texas Senate. Urge your state rep to vote *against* HJR 137. Find your rep at <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>.



Stellar volunteers and exec. dir. Janice Bezanson man the booth.