

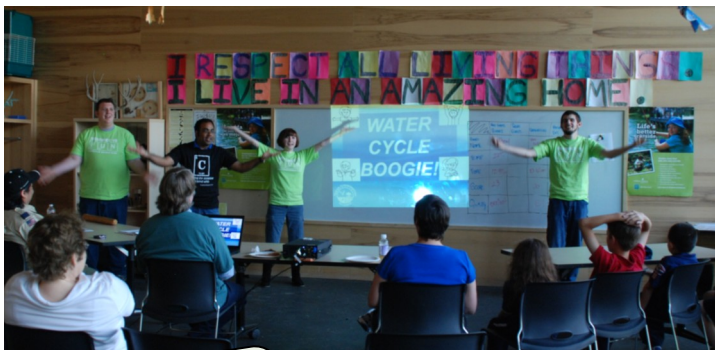


Conservation Progress

May 2011

The Water Cycle Boogie Goes Round and Round!

Eastfield College Science Club students participating in Texas Conservation Alliance's College-to-Classroom program met with great enthusiasm from elementary and middle school students this spring. The Eastfield group taught the water cycle, water conservation, and the *Water Cycle Boogie!*



The Water Cycle Boogie goes round and round.
The Water Cycle Boogie goes up and down.
Evaporation!!
Condensation!!
Precipitation!!
Filtration!!

View the ***Water Cycle Boogie*** video by clicking [HERE](#).



Smarter Water DVD's Available

The *Smarter Water for North Texas* message is now available on DVD:

There is enough water in *existing* lakes to meet future demands for the DFW-North Texas area for at least fifty years!

Using water from existing lakes avoids the huge human and environmental impacts of building new reservoirs.

Help us spread the message to civic organizations, neighborhood groups, nature clubs, and others!

Texas Conservation Alliance will send you a 4-minute DVD to share with friends, neighbors, and groups.

Preview the video at TCAtexas.org and contact the Alliance for your *free* DVD at TCA@TCAtexas.org.

Alliance Annual Meeting September 24

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



Texas Legislature Winding Down

The 2011 Texas Legislative Session will end at midnight May 31. As always the final days are a flurry of activity and long hours as bill sponsors try to meet the deadlines. Under such pressure, amendments often get offered regarding legislation that has failed to move through regular channels.

Conservationists spend the last few days fighting off bad amendments. A bill to almost double the number of member of the Water Planning Groups has already been defeated.



HB 1301 was adopted, to allow voluntary donations for Texas state parks. Due to the way the budget was structured, our state parks would have lost \$1.6 million in funding if it had not passed.

At one point it looked like there would have to be a special session to adopt a budget. Last-minute negotiations look promising that the budget will be passed in regular session. The next newsletter will give details about how the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. budget fared.

Gulf Coast Clean-up

Volunteers from across the state picked up more than 120 tons of trash along Texas' coastlines during the 25th annual "Adopt-a-beach Spring Cleanup" in April. Odd items included a pair of dentures and a frying pan with eggs still in it. Soda cans, water bottles, beach toys, and clothing made up most of the pile.



Tyler, Longview Expand Recycling

Tyler and Longview have added commercial recycling services, reports Cheryl Roy, who served the Alliance as Outreach Director until her recent retirement. Previously, businesses in the area were able only to recycle cardboard.

Cheryl helped develop Keep Tyler Beautiful's recycling committee, which partners with the Alliance on projects.

Aransas Pathways Innovative Approach to Conservation

Aransas County, the Cities of Rockport and Fulton, the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, area historians, and area conservationists joined forces to create Aransas Pathways, an innovative blend of resource protection and tourism.

Started by Stewardship Aransas, one of Alliance's Member Organization, and now funded by county hotel and venue taxes, Aransas Pathways showcases historical sites and hotspots for birding, kayaking, fishing, and other nature-related recreation. A system of pathways links the sites, increasing access and tourist appeal.

Key leaders for the project were Earl and Lonnie Matthew, who head the Alliance's coastal efforts. To learn more about this exciting project, go to AransasPathways.com.

Tree Facts!

Trees make a huge difference in urban life. Some tree facts from the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition, one of the Alliance's Member Groups:



- Neighborhoods can be as much as 11 degrees cooler with mature trees than with young ones.
- One degree in temperature rise equals a 2% increase in peak electricity consumption.
- One acre of trees absorbs enough carbon dioxide to offset emissions by a car driving 26,000 miles.
- Urban forests are home to a wealth of wildlife.

An Undiscovered Treasure

For a decade Texas Conservation Alliance has been saying that the Neches River is "an undiscovered treasure". I've said it over and over myself. When I launched a kayak in the Neches recently and began paddling upstream, I learned just how true it is.

Towering hardwoods lined the banks. The wind and current made beautiful swirls in the water. The air was fresh with the occasional scent of flowers. Bird voices sang a background symphony and hawks screeched overhead. Herons rose ponderously from the water's edge. *Beautiful!*

Janice Bezanson