



Bowie County Citizens Tribune

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Pictured are Craig Thompson, Chairman, National Wildlife Federation, Mack Turner, Chairman, Texas Conservation Alliance, Genie Fritz, Co-founder, Texas Conservation Alliance, Janice Bezanson, Executive Director, Texas Conservation Alliance, Dr. Michael Banks, Co-chair, Friends of the Neches River and Larry Schweiger, President & CEO, National Wildlife Federation.

Marvin Nichols foe honored by NWF

By Kenny Mitchell
DeKalb News

A state organization that has been at the forefront of the fight against the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir has been recognized by the National Wildlife Federation as the 2011 Affiliate of the Year.

The Texas Conservation Alliance was presented the honor at a ceremony held in Washington D.C. Their Executive Director Janice Bezanson has been very active here around DeKalb for the past 10 years, speaking at meetings and informing the public of the possible negative impacts of the proposed 100 square-mile reservoir in the Sulphur River basin, and has worked with the local Sulphur Oversight Society to stay atop all of the political wrangling and legislative decisions impacting not only the proposed lake but all of the water resources in the area.

Bezanson attended some of the very first meetings held locally to oppose the lake's construction, speaking to citizens in those early days ten years ago when the issue first came to light and the struggle to keep the lake out of the state water plan began.

The Alliance website is a wealth of information on water and land issue throughout the state including legislation concerning water rights in both the Sulphur River basin and other East Texas rivers, like the Neches.

"Texas Conservation Alliance has been the Texas state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation for fifteen years," said Bezanson, "It's very special to be honored by our NWF and the 47 other state affiliates in the NWF-affiliate family."

The Alliance is a statewide organization with an exceptional record of protecting rivers, forests, and other wildlife habitat. NWF recognizes the Alliance and its 48-member organizations, citing the remarkable cooperation between sportsmen, landowners, land stewards, educators, and conservation activists.

"It is a great honor to be selected NWF's Affiliate of the Year," Alliance chairman Mack Turner told an audience of more than 350 people. "And a special treat to have with us Genie Fritz, who co-founded the Alliance with her husband, Ned Fritz, a legendary name in Texas conservation."

Added Mrs. Fritz, "Ned would be very proud of how Texas Conservation Alliance has taken off in recent

Read the full story in the May 4 issue of the DeKalb News.