

Education/Outreach



Rachel

RACHEL VIRDEN HULSCHER 1974-2009

Rachel Elizabeth Virden Hulscher was an exceptional young woman dedicated to protecting wildlife, both in her profession as a wetlands biologist and as a volunteer monitoring wildlife in the Pacific Northwest.

Fellow volunteers described Rachel as “a true joy to be around” and spoke of her “deep compassion and love of nature”. The co-leader of her monitoring team, Marlo Mytty, spoke of “Rachel’s passion and fun and positive attitude (that) really shone through.”

The Alliance founded its Outreach Program in memory of Rachel, to inspire upcoming generations to share her concern for our natural world.



Texas Conservation Alliance has launched a new Outreach Program founded in memory of Rachel Virden Hulscher, an exceptional young woman who was dedicated to wildlife conservation. The Alliance anticipates multiple projects under the umbrella of “Rachel’s” Outreach Program.



The pilot project for the Outreach Program is an exciting partnership with the Science Club of Eastfield College in Mesquite. Eastfield science students inventory species in the Big Thicket National Preserve “Thicket of Diversity” project, help raise money to purchase a threatened grove of rare pyramid magnolias, and often attend Pow Wow or other Alliance events. Now they’re partnering with the Alliance to develop programs on nature and conservation to give in Dallas-area middle schools and high schools. The project has stirred up such interest that there is already talk of similar programs at other colleges.

For the pilot project, the Alliance has developed a presentation on the natural water cycle, how humans plug into the water cycle, and the importance of using water resources efficiently. From past experience, we anticipate that it will spark the enthusiasm of middle school and high school to have college-age speakers present the water conservation message. Members of the Eastfield Science Club are working with us to adapt the program for area schools. Alliance staff and Eastfield faculty are helping the students hone useful public speaking skills while learning about key natural resource issues.



Pine Marten

We anticipate several presentations before the end of the semester, some of them as part of schools’ Earth Day events.



Rachel’s monitoring confirmed pine martens near Stevens Pass in Washington.