

Texas Conservation Alliance

Uniting Texans to Protect Our Natural Resources

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Alliance Annual Meeting Joins Forces with Living Green Symposium

Texas Conservation Alliance will hold its Annual Meeting, in conjunction with the 2nd Annual *Living Green: A Sustainability Symposium*, on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at Harvey Convention Center in Tyler, Texas. The Symposium, co-hosted by the Alliance, Keep Tyler Beautiful, and the City of Tyler, will bring "green" conservation opportunities to Texans.



September 11, 2010
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Harvey Convention
Center, Tyler

We have an exciting agenda planned! The Alliance will hold its meeting through the day, breaking away for portions of the Symposium. Get Alliance updates and forecasts, attend a wide-array of informative presentations and visit green exhibitor booths, and participate in for-all-ages activities. Everyone will enjoy the Kid's Korner with critters and Therapets.

Join us!

Double reason to attend this year's event. Save the date now!

Fun, interactive, and educational. More info at TCAtexas.org!

Preliminary Schedule Annual Meeting

- 9:00 - 12:00 Tour Green Exhibits and hear Symposium speakers
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunches can be purchased at food vendor kiosks
- 1:00 - 4:00 Alliance Annual Meeting Program on Existing Reservoirs Symposium Activities intermixed

Symposium Schedule

- 9:00 - 4:00 Green Exhibit Booths Speakers every half hour

A small \$5 Symposium entrance fee is your ticket to a great day!

Public Meetings Scheduled with Wild and Scenic Rivers Specialists

Representatives of the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service will appear at public meetings in Beaumont and Lufkin to answer questions about designating a river as Wild and Scenic.

"The purpose of the meetings is to get the facts about Wild and Scenic Rivers out to the public so we can all make an informed decision," said Mack Turner, Chairman of Texas Conservation Alliance. "These meetings will give East Texans the opportunity to hear the facts straight from the horse's mouth."

The first meeting will be in Beaumont, Monday, July 26, at 6:00 p.m. at the Dishman Art Museum on the Lamar University campus. The second will be in Lufkin Tuesday, July 27, at 6:00 p.m., in the City Council chambers.

Contact: 903-592-0909
Website: TCAtexas.org



Membership Subscription: \$35/Year
July 2010 Issue 255



... from the Board

by Mack Turner, Chairman

The article on Page 4 (*Conservation's Best Kept Secret*) highlights a crucial fact about the future of water development in Texas – that there is enough unused water in existing reservoirs to meet future municipal and industrial demands.

One of the most beneficial things you could do for the future of Texas is to help get the word out that we already have enough water developed to have a bright water future!

There are more details on the Alliance website, TCAatexas.org. We urge you to take time to acquaint yourself with this crucial issue – and help us spread a message that will protect people and wildlife along Texas rivers.

When you are with friends, family, or meeting people, ask them what they think about future water needs. Almost all will tell you there is a need for new reservoirs in Texas. This will give you the opportunity to tell them about existing reservoirs like Texoma, Wright Patman, and Toledo Bend. This will go a long way toward getting the word out that Texas does not need new reservoirs.



Mack

Outreach Texas

by Cheryl Roy
Outreach Director



This Summer Sprinkle Your Yard with Conservation

Once a week deep soaking should do it for the lawn. Water early morning or early evening avoid evaporation and disease.

Mulching flower beds helps hold moisture.

Choose native and low-water-use non-native plants.

Reduce fertilizer use.

Overwatering is wasteful.

Driveways and streets don't need it!



Alliance News Updates

Alliance Launches New Outreach Program



The Alliance has launched a new Outreach Program founded in memory of Rachel Virden Hulscher, an exceptional young woman who was dedicated to wildlife conservation, both in her profession as a wetlands biologist and as a volunteer monitoring wildlife.

Pilot initiatives for the Outreach Program are centered around water issues. Members of the Science Club at Eastfield College in Mesquite worked with the Alliance to develop a program on the natural water cycle, how humans plug into the water cycle, and the importance of using water resources efficiently. Science Club students gave presentations to middle school and high school classes, some of them in association with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. The programs spawned dozens of enthusiastic questions and an adaptation of "The Water Cycle Boogie".



The water cycle boogie goes round and round.



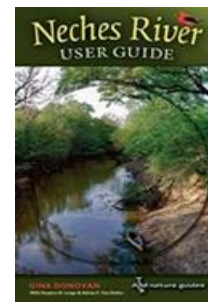
The water cycle boogie goes up and down. Evaporation! Condensation! Precipitation! Filtration!

Another element of "Rachel's" Outreach Program is a program given by Alliance representatives to civic groups. The program focuses on the future of water development in Texas. With it, we're helping get the message out – that with sensible conservation and water recycling (reuse), and the tapping of *existing* sources, Texas already has water developed to meet anticipated growth in municipal and industrial demand.

Get Your Copy!

Neches River User Guide

A Project Of
Texas Conservation Alliance



To order, go to:

<http://www.tcatexas.org/book.php>, call 903-592-0909
or email Cheryl@TCAatexas.org

Adrian Van Dellen
Conservation Hero of the Year 2010

Texas Conservation Alliance names
Dr. Adrian Van Dellen
Conservation Hero of the Year 2010!



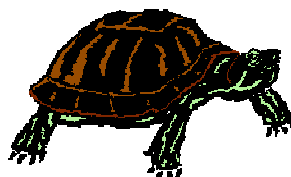
Retired military veterinarian pathologist...
 avid canoeist...acclaimed photographer... dedicated
 conservationist...nature guide...author...
 and volunteer extraordinaire!

**Alliance Responds to Misleading
 Statements About Neches River Proposal**

Texas Conservation Alliance is responding to misinformation that has been circulated regarding the proposed study of adding the Neches River to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Key points:

- The proposed Wild and Scenic River designation would *protect private property* by *preventing land condemnation* for new reservoirs. It *does not affect timber, agriculture, hunting, fishing, or other activities* typical of the Neches.
- *The federal government would not be given any authority to direct management on private land.* There would be *no condemnation of private property.* The designation *would not allow anyone to trespass on private land.*
- The designation would apply *only to those river segments named in the legislation,* not to tributaries to the river.
- The purpose of designating the Neches as a Wild and Scenic River is to *stop unneeded damming of the river. Other activities would continue.*

Dams proposed for the Neches would inundate tens of thousands of acres of private and public forest land. The Wild and Scenic River designation would preclude damming the Neches, protecting a river rich in history and biological diversity.



**Alliance Helps Organize
 Guardians of the Navasota River**

When a relatively-small long-time reservoir project that wasn't going anywhere suddenly morphed into a proposal to inundate 71,000 acres of the Navasota River bottom early this year, folks in Brazos, Madison, Grimes, and other counties in the area called on Texas Conservation Alliance for help.

As part of the Texas water plan update, the Region H Water Planning Group (Houston area) recommended a much larger version of Millican Reservoir. This prompted a strong and rapid reaction from the people in the area, who quickly formed Guardians of the Navasota River to oppose the new project.

Alliance executive director Janice Bezanson spoke to more than 100 people, giving them background on the water planning process and how other groups have stopped boondoggle reservoir projects. Over the following weeks, the Alliance helped them understand how to organize, what information was needed, and what strategies were worth pursuing.

"The result was amazing," says Janice. "Within three weeks the Guardians of the Navasota River had 500 members!"



In the past three months, the Guardians have garnered public opposition to the reservoir from the local state senator, two state reps, four county commissioners' courts, a city council, and other community leaders. Newspapers and TV stations in the region have covered the issue extensively. The individual comments sent to Region H total 400 pages on the Region H website.

Emphasis has been on getting Region H to remove its recommendation for Millican Reservoir, before the draft regional water plan is incorporated into the State Water Plan.

"It's always a delight to work with landowners and other concerned citizens to help them focus their opposition," Janice added. "The Guardians of the Navasota have once again shown the what a difference citizen input can make in public decisions."

Conservation's Best-Kept Secret

One of the biggest resource decisions Texans will be making over the next few decades is how to provide water to the eastern third of the state, where most of the population resides.

The best kept secret in water development is *there is enough water in existing reservoirs to supply this whole region's future demand, including growth.*

You've probably heard discussions about whether conservation alone can provide enough water to satisfy future demands. Conservation is unmistakably a good thing – less expensive than most water supply options and leaves resources untapped for future generations. Reuse – whereby we use ultra-filtration, created wetlands, and other techniques to clean up effluent to drinking water standards – is almost always the lowest-cost option available for cities and a number of cities are pursuing this option.

Still the debate remains, even among conservationists and certainly between conservationists and water developers, whether conservation/reuse alone is enough.

It doesn't matter.

An analysis of the official water supply and demand figures produced by the Texas Water Development Board shows that *existing reservoirs in North and East Texas have more than adequate supply to meet the projected growth in the region's demand.*

Water developers in the Dallas-Fort Worth-North Texas area are proposing four new reservoirs. Underutilized existing reservoirs such as Wright Patman, Texoma, and Toledo Bend could supply the same market. Nearly half of the Houston area's future water demand is projected to be for cooling water for manufacturing, steam electric, and irrigation. Reusing municipal effluent is the most cost-effective way to supply that demand.

With these three together – conservation, reuse, and existing reservoirs – Texas has a bright water future without building any new reservoirs.

Pow Wow 2010



Scot McClure's fascinating program about the Dallas Safari Club's educational programs, Dr. Neil Ford showing us how exciting mussels are, great guides, paddling training by the Outdoor Adventure Club, a terrific meal from the Dutch Oven Cookers, Marya Fowler's NWF update, honoring Adrian Van Dellen, and Pete Gunter's singing. The 2010 Pow Wow just couldn't get much better than that!



REMINDER...

2010 membership renewals
are past due.
We need your continued support!



Texas Conservation Alliance is proud to be the State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.



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