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The Alliance

Foggy Day on the Neches River
by Adrian Van Dellen [above]

Conservation Progress...

Smarter Water for North Texas

One of the biggest challenges facing Texans is deciding how to allocate our water resources over the next few decades. Residents of the DFW-North Texas area have been told by water developers that they need to spend billions of dollars building new water supply reservoirs. In truth, there is enough water that could be tapped in *existing* lakes to meet the demands projected for the region over the next fifty years.

The Alliance offers programs to civic groups in the DFW area sharing sensible ways to provide for the region's water future. Contact Bobette Brasfield, bobetteb@airmail.net, to schedule your group for a presentation of *Smarter Water for North Texas!*

Smarter Water for All of Texas

Contact your Texas legislators and tell them the good news! There is enough water in *existing* lakes to meet municipal water demands in Texas. Urge your state senator and state representative to support obtaining water from existing reservoirs before condemning people's land for new ones.

What's Going On...

Earth Day 2011!

Kudos to Trammell Crow for expanding Earth Day Dallas over the Arts District to attract thousands of new Texans to *Think Green!* Visit us at the Alliance's booth April 21 – 22.

And tell us about Earth Day in other areas, so we can publicize them as well!

Making Waves

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept has established six paddling trails along the Neches and its tributaries, one on the Upper Neches, one at Village Creek State Park, and four associated with Martin Dies, Jr. State Park.

Check the TPWD website, then go kayaking or canoeing to experience why the Neches should be designated a National Wild and Scenic River!

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES?

By Vivian Todd, Alliance Board Member

Invasive Species and Aquatic Invasive Species are taking over private and public lands and waterways throughout the United States. This threat is very real causing harmful economic and environmental consequences.

The term Invasive Species is defined as an alien or exotic species that is non-native to a particular area or ecosystem. This term is reserved for the most aggressive plants, vines, trees, and shrubs because of the irreparable harm they cause.

How you can help: Early detection is crucial to eradication of these invaders.

Be aware by educating yourself about Invasive Species in your own locale. Urge your local nurseryman not to sell plants/shrubs/trees that are invasive. Plant native species in your own yard.

And please, spread the word by telling your family and friends about this massive problem!

To learn more about invasives, visit **Plantwise at www.beplantwise.org or www.fws.gov/invasives/.**

“Treat the earth well: it is not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

Ancient Indian Proverb

Some of the worst invasive plant offenders:

- Kudzu – The Vine that Ate the South! Kudzu is reported to grow a foot a day and can completely cover houses, buildings, cars, and anything in its path.
- Chinese Tallow trees – a serious threat because of their ability to invade high quality, undisturbed forests and prairies, and even alter the soil conditions with the high amounts of tannins in their leaf litter;
- Chinese privet (privet hedge) – introduced many years ago as an ornamental shrub in yards and fence rows, has recently spread rapidly in natural forests throughout the Southern states, displacing native shrubs and wildflowers;
- Giant Salvinia – an aquatic fern with floating leaves that consumes oxygen and light, causing the death of native plants and food chains in places like the exquisite Caddo Lake;
- Hydrilla – called the fastest growing aquatic plant ever! Hydrilla has blanketed up to 100,000 acres of water, choking out the native plants and aquatic life;
- Water Hyacinth – has an alarming speed of growth and, like the other aquatic invasives, it is spread by boaters.

A Special Way to Contribute

When the Alliance’s Janice Bezanson picked up the phone one day, she heard the voice of Fernando Alborno, NWF director and the Alliance’s newest board member, say, “I want to make a contribution that will encourage others to give as well.”

Delighted and intrigued, Janice waited for more. “I’m going to sign up for Texas Conservation Alliance’s monthly giving program,” continued Fernando. “And I want to challenge others to do the same!”

Automatic giving on a monthly or other periodic basis is a way to make a significant donation to the Alliance, a little at a time. Go to the Alliance website, TCAtexas.org, and click the *Donate* button on the home page. You’ll link to a form that gives you the option of periodic giving.

We appreciate you!



Can you guess the name of this persistent invasive?

Unscramble the letters to find out:

VASINLAI