



Conservation Progress

June 2011

Texas Conservation Alliance Annual Meeting Scheduled

Join us for the 2011 Texas Conservation Alliance Annual Meeting Saturday, September 24, at the Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas.

Before the meeting, Bobette Brasfield, coordinator of *Smarter Water for North Texas*, will teach a session in how to give the *Smarter Water* program to interested groups. *To sign up, email TCA@TCAtexas.org!*

Annual Meeting Schedule



The Trinity Audubon Center (TRAC) is at 6500 Great Trinity Forest Way (also known as Loop 12)

Before the scheduled meetings, feel free to enjoy TRAC's wonderful exhibits and trails. For details, go to www.TrinityRiverAudubon.org.

Directions: From downtown Dallas, go south on I 45 and exit at Loop 12 East. Go east on Loop 12 approximately two miles. The entrance to TRAC will be on your right.

See you there!



Alliance "Ambassador" Training

Become an ambassador for *Smarter Water for North Texas!*

The Alliance is offering training sessions so you can help spread the word that there is enough water in existing lakes to meet future water supply demands. Contact the Alliance today to schedule a training session for you and your friends.



Contact the Alliance today to sign up for the training session held on Sept. 24 at the annual meeting!

Get Your Smarter Water DVD !

The Alliance has produced a four-minute DVD with the *Smarter Water for North Texas* message:

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

Help spread this crucial message! Preview and order the video at www.TCAtexas.org. Or contact the Alliance at 254-681-7489 or TCA@TCAtexas.org



... from the Board

by Mack Turner
Chairman

Service...

A life of service is the most fulfilling life there is for an individual.

Service can be as simple as greeting a friend or stranger with a smile. Service can be helping a loved one or a co-worker. At Texas Conservation Alliance, we believe that each person reading this is a partner in service with the Alliance.

Our service is to save rivers, forests, coastlines, and other parts of the natural world in Texas.

By your gifts of time and money to the Alliance and to other local conservation groups, you are leading a life of service.

Ponder on this, and realize how much you are truly appreciated. Your fellow Alliance members appreciate you every day. Future generations will be grateful for your service as they watch the swirling eddies of a free-flowing river, hear the scream of a hawk, or experience the cool glades of hardwood forests on a summer's day.

Thank you!

Mack

"Friends" Groups Vital to State Parks and Wildlife Refuges

Volunteers make all the difference in Texas state parks, national wildlife refuges, and other natural areas. Many parks and refuges have a "Friends" group organized to help.

Friends of Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, for example, welcome tourists, develop birding, paddling, and other interpretive trails, conduct nature camps and community outreach programs for schools, hold events, and fight invasive species. Something for everyone.

Send us a paragraph about **your** favorite state park or wildlife area and why you find it special. We'll post it on the Alliance website, TCAtexas.org. *And consider joining the friends group for a park or refuge near you!*

Results of Texas Legislative Session

The Texas Legislative Session was all about budgets and budget cuts, as lawmakers dealt with a revenue shortfall.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept: Thanks to the hard work of key legislators and conservation advocates, no state parks will have to be closed, as was feared when the recent legislative session began. The Legislature passed key measures needed to keep state parks functioning.

Hardest hit at TPWD were the Local Parks Fund, which passes state money through to local communities for parks, and the land acquisition budget. Both were zeroed. Funds for capital equipment dropped almost 75%. The best news was the flexibility the Legislature gave to TPWD to determine where to make cuts.

Texas Conservation Alliance Board Member Mike Coker of Tyler was cited as a significant player in state park funding negotiations. *Thanks, Mike!*

Water Development: The Texas Legislature passed a bill to require consistent counting of water use by cities and other water providers that could help reduce pressure to build reservoirs. Water demand projections used to promote reservoirs are often inflated by projecting off inaccurate counting of current use. Accurate counting today would provide a better baseline for projections of water use in the future.

The Legislature also approved a ballot measure for the November election to provide \$6 billion in loans for water supply and water and wastewater treatment infrastructure. Conservationists have expressed concern that some of the funding might be used to promote unneeded reservoirs.



Photo by Richard M. Donovan